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NEW APPOINTMENT

Justice Surya Kant to take charge as the CJI

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GREAT NICOBAR PROJECT

Fully aware of the impact on biodiversity, says Centre

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Should AI be introduced in classrooms?

Experts debate readiness, risks, and the road ahead

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AUSTRALIA DETHRONED

Jemimah guides India home in record chase

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Naidu puts loss due to Cyclone Montha at ₹5,265 crore

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has said that the State government's strategic use of technology, advance planning, and coordinated action among departments has greatly reduced the impact of Cyclone Montha, which, despite its severity, caused an estimated damage of ₹5,265 crore across Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing the media at the Secretariat on the cyclone's impact and the government's response on Thursday, he said that the State was able to significantly reduce the scale of destruction through technology-driven preparedness and effective coordination among departments.

Tech edge

"We were able to minimise the cyclone's impact using advanced technology. All government departments worked in coordination, and we managed to restore normalcy to a large extent on the very first day," the Chief Minister said.

Satellite imagery

He said satellite imagery and real-time data from the RTGS Data Lake enabled officials to predict rain intensity, wind speeds, and potential flood zones, facilitating timely warnings and preventive action. "In the past, recovery from cyclones would take over a week, but with better planning and technology, we reduced both loss of life and property," he observed.

Referring to losses, the Chief Minister said preliminary estimates indicate that Cyclone Montha caused damage worth around ₹5,265 crore across Andhra Pradesh.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

India gets 6-month waiver for Iran port

U.S. relief on sanctions against Chabahar in force from Wednesday, says MEA; essential supplies to Afghanistan can now be sent through the port

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI



Major link: India has been associated with Chabahar port since 2005, when it entered into an agreement with Iran. GETTY IMAGES

India has received a waiver on the United States' sanctions against Iran's Chabahar port for six months, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced on Thursday. Officials said that the sanctions waiver had come into effect from October 29.

India has been associated with the Chabahar port at least since 2005, when it entered into an agreement with Iran to develop the port.

Both sides signed an MoU in 2015 to jointly develop the Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar in the hope that it would emerge as a major commercial hub helping India access the markets of Afghanistan, the Central Asian states, and Russia. The port's prospects came under a cloud due to Western sanctions against Iran, but in 2018, the first Trump administration gave a waiver to Indian operations at the Chabahar port as it was aimed at helping the development needs of the U.S.-backed Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

In September, the U.S. Department of State said that it would revoke the waiver for Indian operations that was offered by Donald Trump in 2018. The move exposed anyone associated with the Chabahar project to U.S. sanctions under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act.

However, the latest U.S. decision means that supplies to Afghanistan, especially essential items like food grains and medical products, can still be sent through Chabahar.

Trump cuts tariffs on China after meeting Xi

Associated Press
ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE

President Donald Trump described his face-to-face with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday as a roaring success, saying he would cut tariffs on China, while Beijing had agreed to allow the export of rare earth elements and start buying U.S. soybeans.

Mr. Trump said that the U.S. would lower tariffs implemented as punishment on China for its selling of chemicals used to make fentanyl from 20% to 10%. That brings the total combined tariff rate down from 57% to 47%. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said China agreed to purchase 25 million tonnes of U.S. soybeans annually for the next three years.

'TRADE WAR TRUCE'
» PAGE 14

TRUMP-XI BONHOMIE
» PAGE 8

Hostage crisis ends; 19 rescued, accused killed

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Mumbai Police rescued 19 hostages, including 17 children, from a Powai studio on Thursday after a 50-year-old man held them captive demanding "ethical conversations" with unnamed individuals.

Rohit Arya, who had called the children for web series auditions, released a video saying he had "moral questions" and wanted answers. He was shot during the rescue operation and later died in hospital. Mumbai Crime Branch has taken over the probe.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 8

NEARBY



'Every cyclone-hit farmer will get compensation'

VIJAYAWADA
Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan on Thursday said every farmer affected by Cyclone Montha would receive compensation from the government. » Page 4

Major mishap averted at Sangam Barrage

NELLORE
A major accident was averted at Sangam Barrage in Nellore district on Thursday as three sand boats, which were swept away by heavy currents, were brought back by the officials, preventing them from ramming into the anicut. » Page 4

METRO PLUS » PAGE 13



INBRIEF

Chittoor MP lauds CM's handling of Cyclone Montha

Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao on Thursday said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's timely decisions helped the State minimise the impact of Cyclone Montha. In a press release, the MP said the Chief Minister's early preparedness measures, including the evacuation of vulnerable families and continuous monitoring of the situation, helped prevent major loss of life.He noted that the government announced ₹3,000 as assistance to each family in relief camps and the distribution of essentials such as rice, pulses, oil, and vegetables. The CM also announced ₹5 lakh ex gratia to families of victims and ordered assessment of crop damage on 87,000 hectares.

13-year-old girl swept away in stream at Padmanabham

A 13-year-old girl went missing after she was reportedly swept away in a stream at Tunipalem village under the Padmanabham police station limits on Thursday. According to reports, the girl, identified as Dhanushree had accompanied some villagers to the stream, which was overflowing with floodwater. She accidentally entered the water and was carried away by the strong current. Upon hearing the locals cry for help, villagers rushed to the spot and immediately began searching for the girl, but there was no trace of her. Padmanabham police reached the spot and initiated a search operation.

Family of three rescued from flooded Sarada river

A family of three was rescued by the State authorities after they were stranded in the flash floodwaters of the Sarada river, following breaches in the river's embankment on Thursday. The embankment breach, caused the river to overflow near Kothuru village at Rambilli mandal of Yelamanchili . Three of the same family, K. Prasad (35), Suvaartha (32) and Chandu (14), who were near a palm oil plantation, were caught in the flash flood. District Collector Vijaya Krishnan swiftly aunched rescue operations.

Fisherfolk in Machilipatnam reel under livelihood loss

Many of them have been out of work for the past one week as cyclone warning came right after Deepavali, forcing them to borrow money from boat owners to run their families, pushing them deeper into the debt trap

Nellore Sravani
VIJAYAWADA



Boats anchored at the shore for more than seven days due to the warnings given in view of Cyclone Montha, near Machilipatnam. GIRI KVS

Livelihood loss due to Cyclone Montha has left fisherfolk in Gilakaladindi near Machilipatnam high and dry. Though their boats, anchored at the shore before the weather worsened, were not damaged during the cyclone, owners incurred a loss of around ₹1.5 lakh or more as they could not go for fishing. Workers, too, incurred a loss of ₹10,000 or more. At the narrow creek near Gilakaladindi, over 60 country boats are anchored.

"Our lives are entangled with the sea. If we stay away for a day, we will not have food to eat and we go deeper into the vicious cycle of debt," says Raju, owner of three boats. He incurred a loss of ₹1.5 lakh due to the cyclone.

"The warnings about the cyclone came immediately after Deepawali. It has been six days since we went to work," says Suresh, a driver in one of these boats.

Each boat owner employs eight men, including a driver and a second driver. The team of eight venture out into the Bay of Bengal thrice a month. Each expedition lasts 7-9 days. While the expenditure, including expenses on diesel, ice, food, goes up to ₹1.5 lakh per boat, the income varies, depending on the catch.

"We go as far as Nellore on the one end and Kakinada on the other in search of catch. Sometimes, we get lucky if we get a good catch, which fetches us between ₹2 lakh-₹3 lakh. Sometimes, we return empty handed," he says. The amount is then distributed among the eight workers and owner.

Due to the cyclone, workers and drivers, who do not know any other work, had to borrow money from owners and other people to run their households. "I borrowed ₹5,000 from my owner," says Suresh, who is married with two school-going children. Every time a cyclone strikes, their loans pile up, adds Mr. Suresh, who started going for fishing at the age of 12.

While there is no compensation for fishermen whose boats are not damaged, the State government announced that essential commodities, including 50 kg of rice, would be distributed among families who were put in relief camps and fishermen whose livelihood got affected.

Joint Director, Fisheries, Krishna district, Ayya Nagaraj said while enumeration has not been done yet, over 20,000 fishermen have been affected in the district. There are 63 fishing villages in the district. The loss in the aftermath of the cyclone, including those due to damaged boats and aquaculture ponds, has been put at ₹93.5 lakh, Mr. Nagaraj said.

Minister inspects flooded areas in Prakasam

N.S. Chowdary
ONGOLE

Minister for Social Welfare Dola Sree Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy on Thursday inspected submerged areas, damaged roads and rehabilitation centres in Prakasam district.

He interacted with the district officials and the affected people to assess the aftermath of Cyclone Montha.

He visited the submerged ST Colony at Anantavaram in Tanguturu mandal and and instructed the officials to resolve the problems of the residents. Later, he inspected Mallavarappadu-Karumanchi road, which was eroded due to flood in the same mandal. He directed the officials to repair the road as soon as possible.

The Minister also inspected the rehabilitation centres at Alakurapadu village in Tanguturu mandal and Cheruvukommupalem village in Ongole mandal. He inquired about the government-announced distribution of rice and other essential commodities to the people who had been displaced by the floods.

"The State government has taken all necessary steps to ensure that the victims fully recover from the effects of the cyclone and lead normal lives. The Chief Minister's foresight and the alertness of district authorities effectively dealt with the cyclone," he said.

Traffic suspended as falling boulders block Paderu-Vizag ghat road



Boulders rolled onto the ghat road near Paderu in Alluri Sitharama Raju district on Thursday.

The Hindu Bureau
PADERU

A major landslide occurred in the early hours of Thursday on the Paderu-Visakhapatnam ghat road, due to heavy rains and strong winds under the influence of Cyclone Montha, in Alluri Sitharama Raju district.

Huge boulders and debris rolled down from a hill, blocking the road completely between Damuku - Nimmalapadu disrupting vehicular movement between Paderu in ASR district and Visakhapatnam.

The landslide was reported to the authorities during the early hours and officials immediately suspended traffic on the ghat road by barricading the entry and exit points to ensure safety of commuters, .

Revenue Divisional Officer of Paderu, M.V.S. Lokeswara Rao said that following the directions from the district Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar, teams from the police, Revenue, and Roads & Buildings (R&B) Departments rushed to the spot and began restoration works.

In another incident, boulders fell on the road near Kantamma View Point at Vanjangi in Paderu. As per the authorities, heavy earth movers were used, while workers laboured to clear the debris. The authorities have urged the public to avoid travelling on the ghat roads during the current spell of rains unless absolutely necessary, given the risks of further landslides.

Meanwhile, several culverts and bridges in GK Veedhi, G. madugula, Araku Valley, Ananthagiri mandals were said to be in precarious conditions as floodwaters overflowed them following the rains.

District authorities have urged villagers to remain cautious and avoid venturing near vulnerable areas.

Drones save the day, aid rescue operations

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

The State government officials used drones extensively to carry out relief and rescue operations following Cyclone Montha. The drones helped officials in rescuing stranded people and livestock swept away by the floodwaters.

According to the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA), officials were able to rescue a man, identified as Sheikh Munna, who was being swept away in the floodwaters of a canal at Parchur in Bapatla district.

Police rescued him based on the real-time information provided by the drones. The drones assisted the police and fire department officials in rescue especially in the low-lying, flood-affected areas.

Over 1.2L acres of paddy damaged in Godavari delta

The Hindu Bureau
KAKINADA/AMALAPURAM



District Collector Ch. Nagarani inspecting damaged paddy near Tadepalligudem in West Godavari district on Thursday.

More than 1.2 lakh acres of paddy has been damaged due to heavy winds coupled with rains during Cyclone Montha across the Godavari delta in Andhra Pradesh.

Most of the paddy damaged is ready for harvesting and as a risk of discolouration of the grain.

In West Godavari district, paddy cultivated in above 26,000 acres has been damaged and most of it remains under the sheet of water, by District Agriculture Officer Z. Venkateswara Rao claimed.

Paddy procurement

Meanwhile, West Godavari District Collector Ch. Nagarani has launched paddy procurement drive on Thursday (October 30).

In an official release, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Konaseema District Collector R. Mahesh Kumar said that paddy crop in above 31,000 has been damaged and the crop damage enumeration is expected to complete by Friday.

In Kakinada district, the paddy standing crop in above 45,000 acres has been damaged.

Heavy inflow into Yeleru irrigation system added woes to the farmers.

The officials are enumerating the damage of road connectivity and infrastructure facilities. In Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Konaseema District alone, 37 school buildings have been partially damaged.

Aquaponds

In West Godavari, aquaponds in above 1200 acres have been inundated due to breach of Nalli creek near Narsapuram.

Arrangements made for Krishnamma Harathi at Patalaganga

The Hindu Bureau
NANDYAL

Arrangements have been made for the 'Krishnamma Harathi' at the Patalganga on Friday as part of Karthika Masam festivities.

Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy temple Executive Officer M. Srinivasa Rao said a special puja would be performed to the Krishna river and 'sare' and 10 kinds of Harathis would be offered to Goddess Krishnaveni on the occasion.

Types of harathi

Pujas would be performed at the statue of Krishnaveni at Patalaganga. As per tradition, Eka Harathi, Netra Harathi, Bilva Harathi, Naga Harathi, Pancha Harathi, Sadvojatadi Harathi, Kumba Harathi, Nakshatra Harathi, Radha Harathi, and Karpura Harathi will be offered to the river.

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Tender Notice No. 77 : Construction of Flatted Factory Complex including Electrification and Fire Fighting system at Arempudi (V), Sankhavaram (M), Prathipadu Constituency, Kakinada District under New MSME Scheme
Tender Notice No. 78 : Construction of Flatted Factory Complex including Electrification and Fire Fighting system at Chandragudem (V), Mylavaram (M), Mylavaram Constituency, NTR District under New MSME Scheme
Tender documents download starts from : 29-10-2025 at 11.00 AM
Last date for submission of Tender : 06-11-2025 upto 11.00 AM
Technical bid opening : 06-11-2025 at 11.30 AM
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Sd/- Chief Engineer (North), APIIC Ltd, Mangalagiri

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION &TRAINING
Uttar Pradesh, 6th Floor, Jawahar Bhawan, Lucknow
No. ME-3/2025/2601 Lucknow : Dated 30/10/2025

TIME SCHEDULE FOR "FIRST ROUND"OF UP NEET PG COUNSELING 2025 (M.D./M.S./DIPLOMA & D.N.B.)

In accordance with the schedule issued by the Medical Counseling Committee (MCC), New Delhi for the NEET PG course, the time schedule **for the first round** of online counseling for admission to state quota seats in undergraduate courses (M.D./M.S./DIPLOMA & D.N.B.) in government/private medical colleges/institutions/medical universities is as follows:-

S.No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1.	Date of online registration	From : 06.11.2025 (11:00 AM) To : 10.11.2025 (11:00 AM)	04 days
2.	Date of depositing registration and security money	From : 06.11.2025 (11:00 AM) To : 10.11.2025 (02:00 PM)	05 days
3.	Date of Merit List Declaration	On : 10.11.2025	01 day
4.	Date of On-line Choice filling	From : 11.11.2025 (11:00 AM) To : 14.11.2025 (2:00 PM)	04 days
5.	Date of Allotment Result Declaration	On : 17.11.2025	01 day
6.	Date for downloading the allotment letters & Admission	From : 18.11.2025 to 22.11.2025	05 days

- As per the instructions contained in the government order/brochure of UP NEET PG 2025, candidates should assess their eligibility themselves.
- Only those candidates will be eligible for choice filling who have completed the online registration process, and who have deposited the required security amount.
- The UP NEET PG 2025 information booklet (brochure) and important instructions are available on the websites www.upneet.in and www.dgme.up.gov.in, keep checking website regularly for updated information
- Help Line Numbers - 8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700

Director General
Medical Education & Training, UP

GOVERNMENT GENERAL HOSPITAL, KAKINADA
TENDER NOTICE
Rc.No.3792/CSB/CSR-BPCL/2025 Dt: 30.10.2025
Sealed tenders are invited for **providing a Cancer Screening Bus with Advanced Medical Equipment** for **early diagnosis of cancer** in **Kakinada District** on **turnkey basis.**
Sale of Tender Schedules: From **01-11-2025, 10.00 A.M.** to **14-11-2025, 5.30 P.M.** at the **Office of the Superintendent, GGH, Kakinada.**
For detailed specifications and tender conditions, please visit: **Kakinada.ap.gov.in**
Sd/- SUPERINTENDENT
Government General Hospital, Kakinada

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
CHIEF ENGINEER OFFICE **e - PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**
ADV No.43/D3/CE/TTD/2025-26 Dt:29-10-2025
e-tenders invited on e-procurement for Eighty Two (82) works of TTD Engineering Dept. ●SE-I: NIT No:674 to 699 /SE-II/2025-26(26 works) ●EE-I : NIT No.119 & 120/EE-I/2025-26(2 works) ●EE-III:NIT No.84 & 85 /EE-III/2025-26(2 works) ●EE-V: NIT No.94/EE-V/2025-26(1 work) ●EE-VI: NIT No.138 to 141 /EE-VI/2025-26(4 works) ●EE-XI: NIT No.86 & 87/EE-XI/2025-26(2 works) ●EE-XII: NIT No.175 to 180 /EE-XII/2025-26(6 works) ●EE(FMS)-TML: NIT No.54 to 56 /EE(FMS)-TML/2025-26(3 works) ●DE(Elec)-I:NIT No:203 to 223 /DE (Elec)-I/2025-26(21 works) ●DE(Elec)-II:NIT No:383 to 397/DE(Elec)-II/2025-26(15 works). For details log **www.tirumala.org** and log in **https://tender. apeprocurement.gov.in.** for work details
TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.272) Date:30-10-2025 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, C.V. Raman Nagara Division, 12th Main Road, 8th Cross, Indiranagara, Bengaluru-560038.
No: EE/CVR/Tender-11/Corrigendum-1/2025-26 Dated: 29.10.2025
CORRIGENDUM-01
Sub: Regarding postponement of Tender process dates
Ref:(1) Tender Notification No:EE/CVR/TEND/11/2025-26, Dated:25.08.2025
Ref:(2) The Tender was invited as per reference (1) for 46 works of C.V. Raman Nagara Division, due to technical reasons the said Tender dates are postponed. The postponed tender dates are as fallowes
2. The Tender shall be submitted on or before **10.11.2025** at **4:00 pm** through e-procurement website
3. The Tenders will be opening on **11.11.2025** at **4:30 pm**
More details may be availed from the above office during working hours and also through website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, C.V. Raman Nagara Division

Kurnool bus fire: biker was hit by another bus before V Kaveri: police

The Hindu Bureau
KURNOOL

Police are searching for a private travel bus that had allegedly hit the motorcycle of K. Shiva Shankar of Kurnool much before the V Kaveri bus collided with the bike leading to the flames that killed 19 passengers.

Shiva Shankar's friend Erriswamy, who was riding pillion when the accident occurred, told the police that a Blue bus hit the motorcycle that was lying on the road and dragged it for a few metres. The bike then fell on the middle of the road and the V Kaveri travels bus collided with it.

During the reconstruction of the crime scene also, the police arrived at a conclusion that the bike was dragged for a few metres before the V Kaveri bus collided with it.

Compensation by bus company

The Vemuri Kaveri travels handed over a cheque of ₹40 lakh to Kurnool district administration as compensation to the kin of the deceased and injured in the recent accident involving their bus at Chinna Tekuru in the district. Representatives of the company handed over the cheque to Collector A. Siri in the presence of Minister for Industries and Commerce T.G. Bharath, Panyam MLA Gouru Charitha, Superintendent of Police Vikrant Patil and others. The management had provided ₹2 lakh each to the families of the 19 deceased and ₹50,000 each to the four persons who suffered severe injures.

Alert sounded along A.P.-Telangana border as Munneru stream swells

Health Minister instructs officials to shift villagers from low-lying areas to safer places; NTR district administration has set up 19 rehabilitation camps for cyclone victims

The Hindu Bureau
NANDIGAMA (NTR DISTRICT)

An alert has been sounded at Penuganchiprolu, Keesara and other villages in NTR district on Thursday after Munneru stream swelled due to the incessant rains upstream. The police, revenue, NDRF and SDRF teams were monitoring the flood situation using drones.

Nandigama MLA Tangirala Sowmya, Commissioner of Police S.V. Rajashekar Babu, Collector G. Lakshmisha and other officers visited Penuganchiprolu village. "Drones were being used to monitor the flow of Munneru stream. Police pickets have been arranged to prevent villagers from crossing the overflowing streams and rivulets. If floodwater rises, we are planning to divert traffic bound to Hyderabad via Guntur," said Police Commissioner S.V. Rajashekar Babu.

Locals said the streams were in spate at the low-level bridge between Penuganchiprolu and Madhira, Lingala causeway and also between Penuganchiprolu and Vatsavai, disrupting traffic between A.P. and Telangana. Many streams were overflowing in Khammam, Warangal, Bhadradri-Kothagudem and other districts of Telangana owing to Cyclone Montha, the officials said.



NTR District Collector G. Lakshmisha and Police Commissioner S.V. Rajashekar Babu monitoring the flood situation in Munneru stream from a bridge near Penuganchiprolu village on Thursday.

"About 50 families were shifted to rehabilitation centres as flood water entered villages. NDRF 10th Battalion and SDRF teams have been deployed in the villages as a precautionary measure," the Commissioner of Police said.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav visited the flood-hit villages along the Krishna river bund in NTR district and asked the officials to shift the villagers from low-lying areas to safer places.

Mr. Satya Kumar, who is also the in-charge Minister for NTR District, visited Lingala and Itavaram villages and Keesara bridge, along with Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath, Jaggaiahpet MLA Sriram Rajagopal, Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad and Nandigama MLA Tangirala Sowmya . He enquired about the crop damage due to Cyclone Montha.

Meanwhile, the NTR district administration has set up 19 rehabilitation camps for the cyclone victims. Food, drinking water, milk, electricity and other facilities were provided at the camps, said Collector G. Lakshmisha.

All train services restored after cyclone

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The South Central Railway (SCR) has restored all trains cancelled in various routes due to Cyclone Montha. "All the train services are running as per schedule in SCR Zone," said Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) A. Sridhar on Thursday.

Indian Railways has developed monsoon preparedness to tackle calamities, which helped to prevent losses during the cyclone. "Rescue teams, patrolling teams and emergency response teams have been deployed to monitor the condition of bridges, culverts and tracks during rains and floods," the CPRO said.

Guntur residents urged to boil water before drinking

The Hindu Bureau
GUNTUR

As floodwaters from the Krishna River entered the Prakasam Barrage following heavy rains triggered by Cyclone Montha, Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC) Commissioner Puli Srinivasulu has advised the citzens to boil the water before drikning for the next two to three days.

The Commissioner said in a statement on Thursday that due to the inflow of muddy water into the Prakasam Barrage, the turbidity levels in the water supply have increased.

He assured that the GMC Head Water Works is continuously monitoring and maintaining the prescribed standards of alum and chlorine levels to ensure safe water supply across the city.

Water samples

Mr. Srinivasulu instructed the officials of the municipal corporation to collect at least 10 drinking water samples from their respective limits and conduct chlorine level checks to ensure quality compliance.

Further, the municipal Commissioner urged the citizens to remain vigilant on the quality iofi water supply.

They must immediately report any cases of contaminated water supply or pipeline leakages by calling the GMC helpline number 0863-2345103, the civic chief said.

INBRIEF

Repalle FRO caught 'taking' bribe of ₹1.25 lakh

The ACB officials trapped Repalle Forest Range Officer (FRO) of Bapatla Forest Division, V.V. Ramana Rao, when he was allegedly accepting ₹1.25 lakh as bribe on Thursday. The accused FRO demanded money from the complainant for clearing bills from the Forest Department. Acting on the complaint, the Guntur ACB team registered a case and caught the accused red-handed. The accused officer would be produced before the ACB Special Court in Vijayawada, said a release.

Rail electric traction system to be upgraded

The Ministry of Railways has approved the proposal of upgradation of electric traction system in Guntur-Pagidipalli and Motumari-Vishnupuram sections, estimated at ₹188.31 crore. The electric traction system was now operating with 1x 25 KV capacity, and the system will be upgraded to 2x 25KV capacity, which connects the capital region of A.P. and eastern parts of the country, said SCR CPRO A. Sridhar in a release. Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who sanctioned the project said that Secunderabad-Vijayawada was a very busy railway route. The Guntur-Pagidipalli and Motumari-Vishnupuram will be an alternate route between Secunderabad-Vijayawada. The 337 route kilometre project falls in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (October 31, Friday), the following articles are available:

- What will power AI data centres? **newsth.live/aipowercentreexp**
- Shorter, simpler breast cancer treatment: where evidence meets practice **newsth.live/cancertreatment**

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

City hospital announces discounted services

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Aster Ramesh Hospitals in Vijayawada on Thursday announced free and discounted neurology services for one year on the occasion of World Stroke Day. According to a release, the hospital organised awareness activities, walkathons, Basic Life Support training sessions and free health camps Koduru and Gudivada. Patients are advised to book their appointments through the "Call Ramesh App" or by contacting the Call Centre at 0866-2463463 for scheduling.

Teacher unions push for amendment to RTE Act for relief from TET

P. Sujatha Varma
VIJAYAWADA

Teacher unions in the State are advocating for an amendment to Section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, (Right to Education Act) 2009 for exemption to the in-service teachers hired before 2010 from the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET).

The request follows a recent Supreme Court ruling that made TET mandatory for all teachers to continue in service, including those who were appointed before the implementation of RTE. The unions argue that this ruling will cause job losses and mental stress for experienced teachers.

"The State has around 1 lakh teachers who fall into this category. They have been in teaching profession for several years and have gained expertise in their respective subjects. The Supreme Court ruling at this juncture asking them to prove their proficiency or face termination is raising serious concern and they are worried and anxious about their jobs," said Andhra Pradesh Teachers' Federation (APTF) State president G. Hrudaya Raju.

The Minister for Human Resource Development Nara Lokesh, meanwhile, announced that the State government would file a review petition in the apex court. The government is, however, going ahead with the conduct of the examination and a notification has already been issued.

Recognising the Supreme Court's firm stand that TET is a constitutional necessity for quality education and that statutory rules must be followed, the unions are now coming together and pushing for a new amendment to the RTE Act to exempt in-service teachers and those who joined before 2010 from the TET.

"Subjecting experienced in-service teachers to a new exam is unfair and ignores their years of service and on-the-job expertise. They have undergone relevant and adequate training, written and passed tests for promotions and increments. Asking them to qualify TET now is unjust," says N. Venkateswarlu, State president of Andhra Pradesh United Teachers Federation (UTF). He says if such senior teachers get busy preparing for their own exams, who would take care of the classroom teaching in schools.

Besides Andhra Pradesh, States like Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya and West Bengal have expressed willingness to seek alternatives to the apex court ruling.

The Supreme Court, in its verdict on September 1, said TET is an essential component of teacher qualification under Article 21A of the Constitution and emphasised that a right to free and compulsory education also carries an inherent expectation of quality, which mandates qualified teaching personnel.

The court's decision is in line with the statutory rules set by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) which issued notifications in 2010 and 2011 explicitly stating that TET is a minimum qualification for teachers appointed to Classes 1 through 8. The ruling applied the TET requirement retrospectively to in-service teachers, arguing that it was a necessary step to standardise teacher quality across the country.

As per the court ruling, teachers with more than five years of service remaining have a two-year window to clear the TET. Failure to do so will result in compulsory retirement or termination.

Timings
VIJAYAWADA

FRIDAY, OCT. 31		
RISE	06:05	SET 17:38
RISE	13:49	SET 00:45
SATURDAY, NOV. 01		
RISE	06:05	SET 17:37
RISE	14:27	SET 01:40
SUNDAY, NOV. 02		
RISE	06:05	SET 17:37
RISE	15:07	SET 02:35

Vijayawada Weather	max	min
Machilipatnam	28	23
Guntur Town	25	20
Vijayawada City	25	23

Vijayawada City Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Spell of light rain and thundershower with strong winds may occur.

Vijayawada City Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day wil be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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AHUDA chief asks officials to act tough on illegal layouts

The Hindu Bureau
ANANTAPUR

Anantapur Hindupur Urban Development Authority (AHUDA) chairman T.C. Varun said every layout in the limits should be regularised. He directed officials to take stern action against illegal layouts. Mr. Varun was receiving petitions as part of the weekly grievance day, along with Joint Collector and AHUDA vice-chairman Shiv Narayan Sarma. Mr. Varun said they are holding the grievance day on Thursdays to redress the problems of the people residing within the AHUDA jurisdiction.

35th ANNIVERSARY



Pranams at the lotus feet
of my beloved Guru
Padma Bhushan awardee, Sangita Kalanidhi
Dr. M.L. VASANTHAKUMARI
Smt. SUDHA RAGUNATHAN

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BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED
(A Mini Ratna Company)
(A subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
NOTICE
All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCCL www.bcclweb.in, Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in.
*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

VIT CHENNAI 15
technoVIT
31st October to 2nd November, 2025
TechnoVIT'25 – INTERNATIONAL TECH FEST OF VIT-CHENNAI
THEME
HEALING WITH INTELLIGENCE
INAUGURATION 31st October, 2025 (Friday), 9:30 am



DRONE SHOW
ROBO SHOW
CHIEF GUEST
MR. RACHA ARIBARG
Consul - General,
Royal Thai Consulate - General, Chennai
GUEST OF HONOUR
MR. PRINCE JAYAKUMAR D
Executive Vice President, HCLTech
DR. G. VISWANATHAN
Founder & Chancellor
will preside
100+ INNOVATIVE & PREMIUM EVENTS Covering Technology, Innovation, and Creativity
50+ DOMAINS & TRACKS From AI, Robotics, Fintech, Gaming, to Green Tech
NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION Students, Startups and Industry Leaders
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From Page One

Naidu puts cyclone loss at ₹5,265 crore

Of this, losses in agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, and roads were estimated at ₹2,079 crore, while the power and water resources departments sustained a damage of about ₹207 crore. A comprehensive report on the losses would be sent to the Central government shortly, he said.

Mr. Naidu appreciated Ministers, officials, and people's representatives, including coalition MPs and MLAs, for visiting affected areas and reassuring the public. He further noted that Ministers Nara Lokesh and V. Anitha closely monitored the situation from the RTGS Command Centre, while field-level teams took swift action in coordination with district administrations.

The Chief Minister added that technology was being used not only to monitor cyclone intensity but also to identify crop losses and inundated areas. Criticising those spreading misinformation online, he remarked, "Some people seem unhappy when the government uses technology to protect lives and prevent suffering. Their attitude is unfortunate."

INBRIEF

CM to disburse pensions at Pedannavaripalli tomorrow

Sri Sathya Sai district Collector A. Shyam Prasad and Superintendent of Police S. Satheesh Kumar on Thursday reviewed the security arrangements at Pedannavaripalli village of Talupula mandal in Kadiri division ahead of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's visit on November 1. The Collector said the Chief Minister would participate in the NTR Bharosa pensions distribution programme at the village.

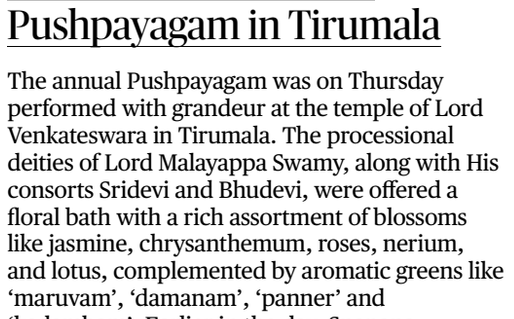


Fervour marks annual Pushpayagam in Tirumala

The annual Pushpayagam was on Thursday performed with grandeur at the temple of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala. The processional deities of Lord Malayappa Swamy, along with His consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi, were offered a floral bath with a rich assortment of blossoms like jasmine, chrysanthemum, roses, nerium, and lotus, complemented by aromatic greens like 'maruvam', 'damanam', 'panner' and 'kadambam'. Earlier in the day, Snapana Tirumanjanam was performed to the deities. Over nine tonnes of flowers was estimated to have been used for the ceremony.

GoM to oversee conduct of Sathya Sai's birth centenary

The State government has formed a Group of Ministers (GoM) for the successful conduct of the birth centenary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba as a State function at Puttaparthi on November 23, 2025. A G.O. released to this effect on Thursday designated the Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture Department as the nodal department to coordinate with all other government wings for the successful conduct of the celebrations. Revenue Minister A. Satya Prasad is the Chairman of the GoM, while Ministers P. Keshav (Finance), Satya Kumar Yadav (Health), S. Savitha (BC Welfare), K. Durgesh (Tourism) and A. Ramanarayana Reddy (Endowments) are members.



Karnataka jealous of A.P.'s rise, says Yamini Sarma

BJP spokesperson Sadineni Yamini Sarma has lashed out at the Karnataka government, accusing it of "weeping over Andhra Pradesh's progress," instead of focusing on attracting investments. Addressing the media in Vijayawada on Thursday, Ms. Yamini Sarma said A.P. offered what investors look for – a vast coastline, world-class infrastructure, including roads, airports, and ports, green energy, and global connectivity. "There is political stability and confidence in governance. This is the speed, stability, and strength of a double-engine government," she said.

Every farmer affected by Cyclone Montha will get compensation: Pawan

As per preliminary estimates, crops in 1.38 lakh hectares have been damaged, the Deputy CM says, adding that advanced preparations and meticulous planning helped contain losses

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA



Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan inspecting the damaged crop at Koduru in Avanigadda constituency on Thursday.

Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan said on Thursday that crops in 1.38 lakh hectares were damaged in the State due to Cyclone Montha, 46,000 ha in Krishna district alone, as per preliminary estimates.

Nearly 56,000 farmers were affected in Krishna district alone, he said during a visit to the cyclone-hit areas in Avanigadda constituency, when he assured that every affected farmer would receive compensation and all support extended to them.

Inspecting agricultural fields and locations where the cyclone wreaked havoc, Mr. Kalyan said the government could effectively deal with the calamity due to advance preparations. The damages could be mitigated due to meticulous planning done under the stewardship of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, he asserted.

Mr. Kalyan said officials tracked the movements of the cyclone round the clock, and took necessary precautions. Monitoring the situation through the RTGS Centre played a key role in tackling the impact of the cyclone. About 1.16 lakh people were shifted to rehabilitation centres and their safety was ensured, he said, promising to take problems faced by the tenant farmers to the Chief Minister's notice.

Roads damaged

He said 274 km of roads under the jurisdiction of the PR&RD Department were initially found to be damaged and a comprehensive assessment was underway.

Stagnated water in the low-lying areas was being cleared, and super sanitation and super chlorination drives were launched in the villages to prevent the outbreak of diseases. Mr. Kalyan said the damaged outfall sluice on the sea embankment at Koduru would be reconstructed with NABARD support and that the Edurumondi-Gollamanda Road, which provides access to the Edurumondi island, would be reinforced at a cost of approximately ₹14 crore to benefit the people of five villages. Ministers Kollu Ravindra and V. Subhash, MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry, MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad, APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao, Krishna District Special Officer & AP Tourism Development Corporation MD K. Amrapali, District Collector D.K. Balaji, and SP V. Vidyasagar Naidu were present.

Madhav's promise

Meanwhile, BJP State president P.V.N. Madhav said in Anantapur that the government tackled Cyclone Montha effectively and mitigated the suffering of the people by taking effective measures. Speaking to the media, Mr. Madhav said the crop loss was immense and the NDA government was enumerating the losses. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also enquired about the losses, and that the Centre would support the State in all ways.

Naidu abandoned farmers: Jagan

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA



Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of abandoning the farming community and creating a "man-made calamity" in the agriculture sector.

Addressing a video-conference with regional coordinators and district presidents at the party's central office at Tadepalli on Thursday, Mr. Jagan reviewed the situation in the districts affected by Cyclone Montha.

The YSRCP regime had implemented a free crop insurance scheme covering 85 lakh farmers and 70 lakh acres, with the State paying the premium. Over ₹7,802 crore was disbursed as compensation to 54.55 lakh farmers in five years, he said.

In contrast, under the coalition government, insurance coverage shrunk to 19 lakh farmers and 19 lakh acres, limited only to those who took bank loans, he alleged. "For two years, not a single season's premium has been paid by the government. The rest of the farmers have been left exposed – where is crop security now? This is clearly a man-made calamity," he said.

Mr. Jagan charged that the TDP-led government failed to provide even basic input subsidies. Key initiatives such as e-Crop registration and Rythu Bharosa Kendras were dismantled, and farmers were deprived of fair prices and procurement support.

He listed unfulfilled promises, including chilli procurement at ₹11,781 per quintal, mango at ₹12 per kg, onion at ₹1,200 per quintal, and the promised ₹50,000 per hectare compensation for crop loss. "Under Annadata Sukhibhava, farmers were supposed to receive ₹40,000 but got only ₹5,000, a clear act of cheating by Mr. Naidu," he said.

Farmers betrayed, alleges Sharmila

Meanwhile, in a post on X, APCC president Y. S. Sharmila demanded that the Centre declare Cyclone Montha a national calamity and release adequate assistance to help State undertake relief operations. "The cyclone has caused unprecedented devastation and more than 20 lakh acres of land is submerged. In the kharif season, 30% of the crop yield has been lost and around 10 lakh farmer families have been displaced," she said

She accused Mr. Naidu of under-reporting the damage by claiming that crops in only 2.88 lakh acres were lost. She said Mr. Naidu's act was tantamount to "betrayal" of farmers.



Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu inspecting the flood flow at Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada on Thursday. K.V.S. GIRI

Officials issue second flood warning at Prakasam Barrage

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Water Resources Department issued the first and second flood warnings in five hours at the Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada on Thursday, following extremely heavy rainfall triggered by Cyclone Montha.

Several rivulets and tributaries in the Krishna Basin overflowed, leading to a rapid rise in inflows from the upper catchment areas.

By Thursday evening, the flood level at the barrage reached about 15 feet above the crest. The first warning was issued at 1.45 p.m. when the inflow crossed 3.97 lakh cusecs, followed by the second warning at 6.45 p.m. as the flow surged beyond 5.67 lakh cusecs.

The Pulichintala Project also recorded inflows exceeding 5 lakh cusecs, prompting the officials to release around 5.50 lakh cusecs downstream by fully opening all the crest gates. KC Division Executive Engineer and River Conservator Ravi Kiran said all the 69 crest gates of the Prakasam Barrage, except one that was under maintenance, were lifted.

Major mishap averted at Sangam Barrage in Nellore

N.S. Chowdary
NELLORE



Rescue teams using ropes to pull a boat at Sangam Barrage in Nellore district on Thursday.

A major accident was averted at the Sangam Barrage across Penna river in SPSR Nellore district in the wee hours of Thursday. Three boats used for sand collection were swept away by heavy currents following the rains during Cyclone Montha and were seen moving towards the barrage. However, the district administration, with collective efforts, brought the 35-tonne boat to the shores preventing it from ramming into the anicut, thus preventing a major disaster.

According to the sources, the water level at the dam reached 11 feet at 3 a.m. on Wednesday due to a sudden increase in the flow of water from the Biraperu and Boggeru streams. The ropes of the three boats tied to the bridge railing snapped due to the rising floodwaters. With this, the freed boats quickly moved towards the barrage.

One of the three boats reached the sand jetty area and got stuck, while another reached the Kanigiri Reservoir area. The third boat was stuck at the crest of the old dam, about 400 metres upstream of the barrage. The teams of 30 NDRF members, 30 SDRF members, 100 police personnel, Krishnapatnam Port Patrol staff, Fire and Irrigation officials managed to bring the 35-tonne boat to the shores on Thursday morning. District Collector Himanshu Shukla, Superintendent of Police Ajitha Vejendla and other officials reached the spot and monitored the situation. The NDRF swimmers and other team members worked for about 12 hours to pull the boat out. The other two boats also were towed down to the shores by the rescue team. If the teams couldn't control the boats that were swept away, there would have been massive destruction to the barrage and the low-lying areas would have been inundated.

Efforts appreciated

Lauding the efforts of the district administration on social media platform X, Minister for HRD N. Lokesh said, "Collector and SP made arrangements on a war-footing basis to remove the boat without causing any damage to the barrage. Hats off to your efforts in averting a major waterlogging with teamwork."

SIT arrests close aide of ex-TTD Chairman

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged ghee adulteration case has arrested Chinna Appanna, a close aide and former personal assistant of TTD's former Chairman and Rajya Sabha member Y.V. Subba Reddy.

Mr. Appanna has been named as accused No. 24 in the case being investigated by the CBI team.

He was arrested at Alipiri here on Thursday, produced before the ACB court in Nellore, and sent to judicial remand till November 11.

As per investigation, Mr. Appanna allegedly sought details of all the ghee suppliers from the general manager of the TTD's procurement wing, and contacted some of them, demanding a commission of ₹25 per kg of ghee supplied to the TTD.

When representatives of the Bhole Baba dairy declined to pay the commission, he allegedly insisted upon the officials to conduct a physical inspection of their plant once again, in a bid to get them disqualified from participating in future tenders.

After the dairy got eliminated from further round of tenders, Mr. Appanna allegedly played a key role in getting Premier Agri Foods into the ring, which quoted a price of ₹467 per kg of ghee, a whopping ₹138/kg higher than Bhole Baba dairy's ₹329. After inspecting Mr. Appanna's call records and bank statements, the officials found that he had received kickbacks to the tune of ₹50 lakh in various forms, including Hawala channels.

Launch 'Naipunyam' portal in Partnership Summit: CM

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has instructed officials to launch the 'Naipunyam' portal, which is meant to impart skills to the youth and show them job opportunities, during the CII Partnership Summit. He has also directed them to conduct Job Melas in all constituencies every month from now on.

Addressing a review meeting on skill development, at the Secretariat on Thursday, he said the officials should work towards realising the government's goal of creating 20 lakh jobs by 2029.

HRD Minister N. Lokesh informed the Chief Minister that action plans were prepared for imparting training in the sectors such as space, aquaculture, and quantum technologies in tune with the emerging industry needs. Mr. Naidu directed the officials to collaborate with the national and international institutions for skill enhancement. Officials said the portal was designed to use AI in order to help the candidates create resumes and provide job updates regularly via WhatsApp.



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu chairing a review meeting on skill development, at the Secretariat on Thursday.

SIT's probe edges closer to serving and retired TDB officials

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala High Court-appointed special investigation team (SIT) probing the misappropriation of gold-plated artefacts from the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple reportedly held a meeting in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday, as the probe appeared to be edging closer to serving and retired Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) officials, including two former TDB presidents, both political appointees.

Officials privy to the probe said Additional Director General of Police, Crime Branch and Law and Order, H. Venkatesh chaired the meeting purportedly to plan the next phase of the probe, which might entail more arrests and confiscation of materials pertaining to the case.

The closed-door meeting at the Crime Branch office in Thiruvananthapuram also assumed significance against the backdrop of the arrest of Unnikrishnan Potti, a former temple helper with high social connections, who volunteered to restore the covering the stone carvings and sculptures at the temple to their original sheen with the backing of wealthy donors.

Meanwhile, the SIT produced Mr. Potti before the Ranni magistrate's court after 14 days of police custody and remanded him to the Thiruvananthapuram District Sub Jail later.

Vizag Port to build major ship building cluster in Tirupati

Visakhapatnam Port Authority inks pact with A.P. to develop the project, which also includes a ship repair cluster and has potential to generate a large number of jobs, at ₹29,662 crore

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

The Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) has signed an MoU with Andhra Pradesh for establishment of a 'major port cum ship building and ship repair cluster' at Dugarajapatnam in Tirupati district, at an investment of ₹29,662 crore, according to an official communication from the VPA here.

The project will generate large-scale employment, strengthen India's self-reliance under the Make in India framework.

HD Korean Shipbuilders Offshore Engineers Ltd. had an interaction with the officials of the VPA and the A.P. government on the current development on the Dugarajapatnam mega shipbuilding cluster and salient technical features during the India Maritime Week-2025, being held at Mumbai till October 31.

The VPA also signed an MoU with MECON India, valued at ₹3,000 crore, with focus on developing modern stack yards and railway sidings. The initiative seeks to optimise multimodal logistics, enhance port efficiency, and promote seamless regional connectivity.

The VPA partnered with NBCC under a ₹500-crore self-financing scheme for the monetisation and integrated development of the underutilised land in Harbour Park.

A collaboration with HUDCO worth ₹487.38 crore will drive the mechanisation and modernisation of cargo berths, incorporating advanced handling technologies to improve productivity, ensure environmental sustainability, and support ongoing efforts toward excellence.

The VPA joined hands with Rail Vikas Nigam Limited through a ₹535-crore MoU for developing internal flyovers within the port premises. At the IMW, the VPA highlighted its comprehensive land monetisation programme designed to bolster investment and infrastructure.

"Collectively, the MoUs and development programmes are set to attract over ₹39,216 crore in new investments. These projects supports regional economic growth, job creation across Andhra Pradesh focussing on the National Logistics Policy, Maritime India Vision 2030, and the nation's commitment to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2047," the release said.

The IMW brought together delegates from over 100 countries, highlighting India's vision to become a global maritime hub through advancements in port infrastructure, shipbuilding, inland waterways, and green shipping initiatives.



Visakhapatnam Port Authority Deputy chairperson Durgesh Kumar Dubey and Pakhi Mahawar of MECON India at India Maritime Week-2025 in Mumbai.

HC stays probe in Dharmasthala burials case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday stayed the investigation based on the FIR registered in July on a complaint of alleged mass burial of bodies of sexually assaulted women in Dharmasthala based on a 'voluntary' statement given by a person by named Chinnaiah. The stay order was passed on the plea filed by four activists, who are at the forefront of a campaign for registration of criminal case on the allegation of burials, and for constitution of a Special Investigation Team. The SIT had recently issued notice to them under Section 35 (3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, suspecting them to have indulged in cognisable offence in projecting a false case, instead of treating them as witnesses as done earlier.

Justice Mohammad Nawaz initially ordered that the SIT should not harass the petitioners in the guise of probe.

RSS march in Karnataka: HC orders another meet on Nov. 5

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday directed the Kalaburagi district administration to hold one more meeting on November 5 on the issue of granting permission to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to conduct its route march in Chittapur.

This was after the court was informed that an earlier meeting, held on October 28, remained "incomplete" owing to the absence of a petitioner, who had approcahed the court against the denial of permission for the march.

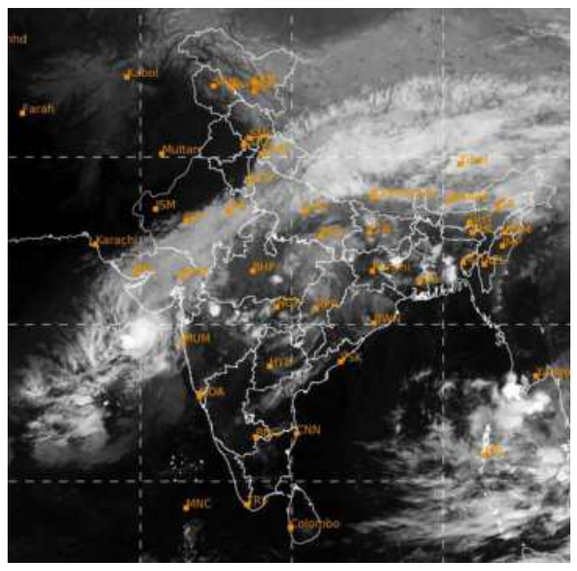
Justice M.G.S. Kamal passed the interim order after Advocate-General Shashi Kiran Shetty pointed out that the petitioner, Ashok Patil, convener of the RSS route march, Chittapur, did not appear for the earlier meeting.

However, senior advocate Aruna Shyam M., appearing for the petitioner, pointed out to the court that he had sent his three representatives, owing to a bereavement in his family.

Mr. Shyam said that the district administration did not ask the petitioner's advocates to attend the meeting, even though there was a court directive in this regard, while adding that it was a cordial meeting. The petitioner's representatives had made it clear that they had no objection for allowing other organisations to hold their rallies on different days.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Bihar, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Konkan & Goa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.1	25.0	Kozhikode	2	33.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	25.5	24.5	Kurnool	0.1	32.5	22.1
Aizawl	—	31.2	19.4	Lucknow	0.2	23.9	22.8
Allahabad	0.5	26.5	21.6	Madurai	—	36.4	23.4
Bengaluru	—	28.5	18.9	Mangaluru	—	31.0	23.6
Bhopal	—	24.0	19.2	Mumbai	—	30.3	24.5
Bhubaneswar	4.6	31.2	24.6	Mysuru	—	29.0	17.0
Chandigarh	—	32.0	16.9	New Delhi	—	27.0	20.1
Chennai	—	35.1	25.6	Patna	2	24.8	22.5
Coimbatore	—	32.4	22.2	Port Blair	27	29.2	25.2
Dehradun	—	29.5	16.4	Puducherry	—	33.8	26.0
Gangtok	4	16.0	13.8	Pune	27.4	30.3	21.1
Goa	66	32.2	23.5	Raipur	0.8	28.1	23.3
Guwahati	—	29.4	23.7	Ranchi	10	26.1	21.4
Hubballi	—	28.0	19.0	Shillong	38	21.0	14.6
Hyderabad	35	29.6	21.8	Shimla	—	24.2	13.2
Imphal	—	31.1	23.1	Srinagar	—	23.2	3.7
Jaipur	2	24.3	20.6	Thiruvananthapuram	8	32.0	24.5
Kochi	17	31.2	24.2	Tiruchi	—	35.1	24.0
Kohima	—	24.4	18.3	Vijayawada	4.3	31.4	24.2
Kolkata	51	31.8	24.5	Visakhapatnam	21	30.4	23.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.25	..32	.32	70	73	
Bengaluru	..—	..23	104	48	68	
Chennai	.15	..22	.37	...130	98	
Delhi	.46	100	.74	...401	...372	
Hyderabad	.14	..19	.38	56	97	
Kolkata	...7	..59	.27	16	26	
Lucknow	...8	..71	.38	87	89	
Mumbai	.21	3	169	2	19	
Pune	..—	..26	.21	...116	...126	
Visakhapatnam	.17	..53	.14	53	70	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Rohtak, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 426 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kunjemura, Chhattisgarh recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

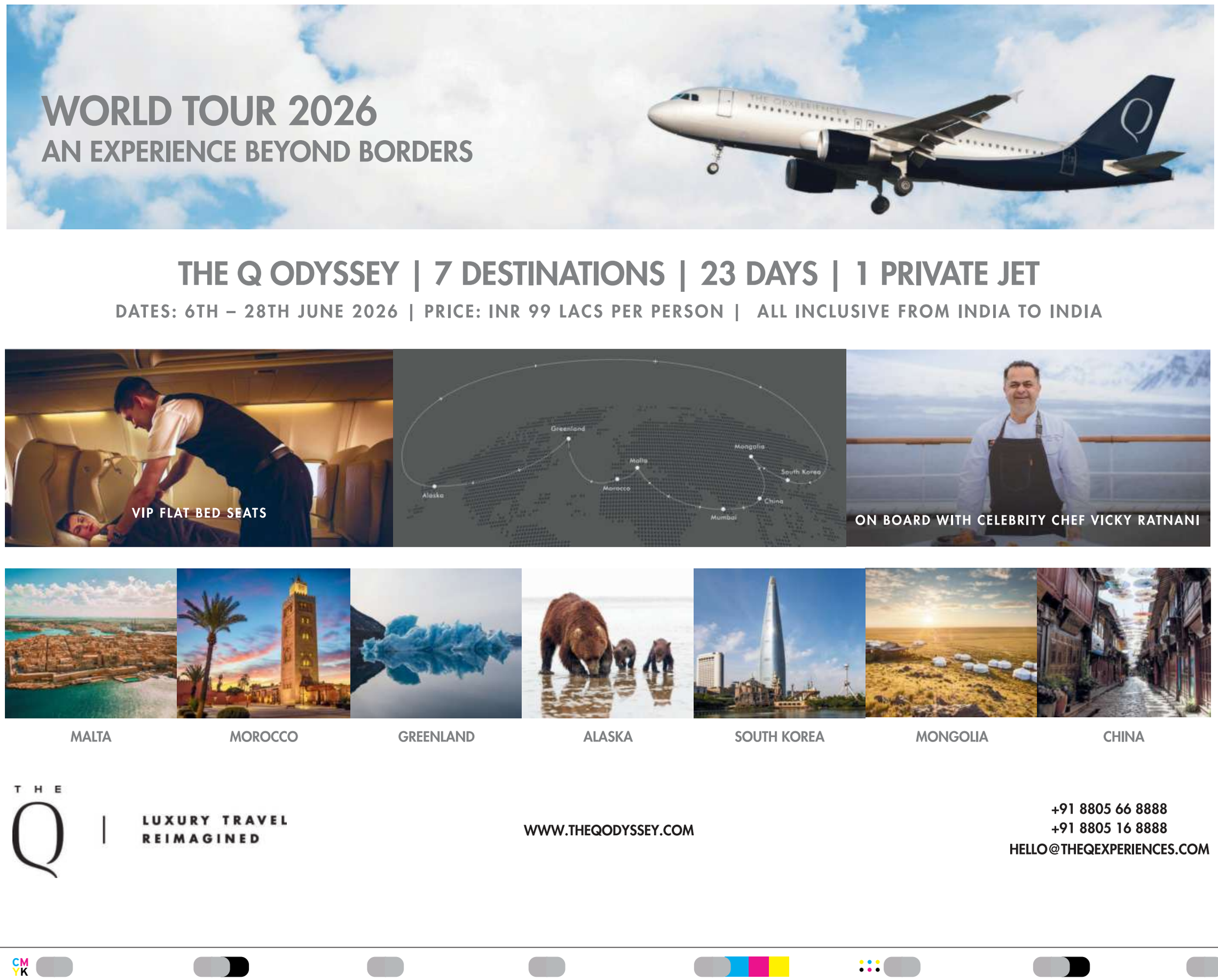
Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

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



Meaningless truce

Netanyahu is making a mockery of the ceasefire agreement

When the U.S.-brokered ceasefire took effect in Gaza on October 10, a big question that loomed over all parties was whether Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who accepted the truce under pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump, would honour his commitments once the hostages were released. Barely three weeks later, Mr. Netanyahu, who had vowed to destroy Hamas, found a convenient pretext to resume strikes. He accused Hamas of violating the ceasefire, and claimed that the remains returned by the group were the body parts of a hostage already retrieved. Several hostages are believed to have been buried under the rubble, while Gaza's officials and Egyptian excavators continue struggling to locate and identify bodies of captives. On Tuesday, Israel said militants fired anti-tank missiles at soldiers in Rafah, southern Gaza, killing one soldier – Hamas has denied any involvement. Mr. Netanyahu ordered retaliatory strikes, killing 104 Palestinians overnight, including 46 children and 20 women. After the assault, Israel announced that the ceasefire was back in effect – but what kind of a ceasefire is Israel observing if it has the freedom to carry out devastating attacks on Palestinian civilians?

While the ceasefire offered a respite to the Palestinians from daily Israeli bombardments and allowed the release of hostages and Palestinian prisoners, the absence of any credible enforcement mechanism makes it extremely fragile. Israeli troops still control roughly 55% of Gaza's territory. It would be unrealistic to expect that the Palestinians, who were bombed and displaced repeatedly over 24 months, would quietly accept the Israeli military occupation. Hamas has enforced its control in the rest of Gaza. Within Israel, Mr. Netanyahu's far-right coalition allies want the war to continue and Gaza ethnically cleansed of Palestinians. Despite the deep mistrust, all sides agreed to the ceasefire largely under U.S. pressure – Hamas needed a reprieve and Israel wanted its hostages back. The next stage of Mr. Trump's peace plan is even more controversial as it calls for Hamas's disarmament, which it has not agreed to. If Mr. Trump is serious about the peace push, he must own his plan and build mechanisms that ensure both sides adhere to their commitments. His boastful talk about peace will mean little if he allows Israel to continue to kill Palestinian civilians with impunity, while claiming that the ceasefire remains in place. For any truce to endure, Israeli troops must withdraw from Gaza and a new Palestinian administration should be in charge of the enclave. What Palestinians in Gaza desperately need is assistance for recovery, resettlement and reconstruction – not more bombs.

Out of the fortress

Tiger conservation policy rightly sees people as stakeholders, not trespassers

A new Union Tribal Affairs Ministry policy framework is a reminder that India's conservation strategy is not a fortress conservation model but one in which protecting the country's tigers is a social contract. The policy's foremost virtue is reiteration that people living near or inside forests cannot be relocated until the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 process has been completed, affirming that they are stakeholders, not trespassers. This view has sadly been falling out of favour with a government that is increasingly seeing forests solely for their climate utility and a judiciary keen to settle long-standing disputes. The policy casting relocation as an "exceptional" measure also overturns the 2024 National Tiger Conservation Authority directive to remove villages en masse from tiger reserves. Instead of treating humans and tigers as mutually exclusive, the framework promotes research and pilot projects on sustainable co-habitation that could help redefine tiger conservation through a more socially legitimate, and possibly more resilient model. Its invocation of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for unlawful evictions and a three-tier system for redress also provide a safety net rarely available to these communities.

This said, forest-dependent communities have varied needs: some expect hospitals and schools while others fight to preserve traditional lifestyles. Equally, tigers are sensitive and the reason many conservationists believe human-free core zones are essential to conserve apex predators. A national mission to protect tigers on scientific terms needs to ensure such tracts. Fundamentally, while a national policy protects rights, fine-grained mechanisms sensitive to particular local conditions are crucial for people and tigers to sustainably coexist. Such mechanisms are however beyond the ability of top-level Ministries. The conservation establishment is likely to resist the new policy because it could slow efforts to consolidate tiger habitats and increase the implementation burden, potentially leading to dual policies on the ground. In fact, conservation in India is largely controlled by Forest Departments under the Environment Ministry and States have wide latitude in implementing the FRA. Even in places where local departments wield significant control, forced relocations may continue in States that do not enforce the proposed National Framework for Community-Centred Conservation and Relocation. While existing policy defines compensation criteria and the minimum inviolate area for a sustainable population, their implementation often violates established principles. Just as the fortress model has often been insensitive to people's rights in practice, exiting it should not mean entering one in which India's natural riches can be forsworn.

AI's rewriting of the rules of education



Sakshi Rewaria

is Faculty of Law, Indian Institute of Management, Rohtak, Haryana

India is gearing up to turn its education system on its head by introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to students as early as class three from the academic year in 2026-27. This is no small feat. The Ministry of Education, in synchrony with the National Education Policy 2020, is crafting a comprehensive framework to weave AI learning through the entire K-12 tapestry (kindergarten to class 12). The goal is to arm the future workforce with cutting-edge tech skills to thrive in a techno-driven economy.

Teacher training and pilot projects

But throwing AI into classrooms is not just plug-and-play. The real challenge lies in upskilling a mammoth teaching force of over one crore educators in India. The government is rolling out pilot initiatives allowing teachers to harness AI tools to design lesson plans and teaching resources. Over 10,000 teachers have already been trained since 2019 with help from technology giants Intel, IBM, and government institutes such as the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology. The goal is to equip educators who can impart AI concepts confidently and practically. But how ready are India's teachers to morph into AI guides? What are the obstacles in this massive transition? How ready teachers are will dictate how successful the AI revolution becomes.

AI is not just about introducing new content. It promises a colossal shift away from "one-size-fits-all" education to personalisation. AI-powered platforms analyse student behaviour, learning speed, and comprehension to tailor lessons that meet individual needs. If a student struggles with algebra, the AI tutor offers extra practice and alternative explanations. If a student is good in biology, he can get ready for more advanced challenges, with AI. Such adaptive learning not only boosts engagement but also dismantles barriers for diverse student populations, including those with disabilities or regional language needs.

India's bold initiative to introduce AI in early education is a transformative step, but there are challenges

Despite its transformative potential, AI is designed to augment, not replace, the human element in education. The focus is on enhancing human judgment, creativity and critical thinking through smart tools. AI automates repetitive tasks such as grading and attendance, freeing teachers to spend more time on meaningful engagement with students. It acts as a powerful assistant in personalised lesson planning and real-time feedback, amplifying the effectiveness of educators. So, while AI is shaking up the classroom, there is still no substitute for a passionate teacher who drives learning with empathy and insight.

Opportunity amid disruption

As AI reshapes education, it also signals seismic workforce changes. According to a recent NITI Aayog report, while AI could displace up to two million jobs in India's tech sector over the next five years, it is also projected to create four million new jobs by 2030, jobs that demand new skills and adaptability. This is a dual-edged sword that calls for the urgent preparation of today's learners.

By embedding AI in early education, India aims to create a workforce that is ready for a digital economy, and not left behind by rapid automation. But are students and educators prepared to embrace this whirlwind of change? The question is not just about job loss or creation but about shaping a resilient workforce that can ride the AI wave.

Generative AI technology, which creates new content based on patterns in data, is already gaining traction in Indian education. More than half of India's higher education institutes are incorporating generative AI to enhance teaching and learning. From AI chatbots that answer student queries 24X7 to platforms that create interactive quizzes and personalised study materials, generative AI is making education more engaging and tailored. This explosion of AI tools could narrow the learning gap significantly in India's vast and diverse education landscape. It is a frontier full of promise but also challenges that are related to access, quality and ethics.

Driving inclusivity and accessibility

Perhaps the most heartening impact of AI in education is its role in fostering inclusivity. AI-powered adaptive learning and language processing tools break down barriers for non-native speakers and learners with disabilities. The customisation of educational content can create equitable learning environments. In countries that are multicultural and multilingual like India, this AI-driven push for inclusiveness could rewrite the rules of who gets to learn and how. Could AI be the great equaliser that education systems worldwide have long sought? The signs are promising, but deliberate design and policy are critical.

India's bold initiative to weave AI into early education signals a massive transformation in how knowledge is imparted, how teachers teach, and how students engage with learning. The revolution comes with challenges: teacher training at scale, ensuring equitable access to AI tools, and preparing students for jobs that do not even exist.

Are Indian schools truly ready for this AI overhaul? Can the education system keep pace with rapid technological advancements without leaving disadvantaged communities behind? Only time will tell. But one thing is clear: the rules of education are being rewritten right before our eyes, and AI is the pen scripting this brave new world.

Language belongs to a different realm



Nidhi Arora

teaches Spanish at The Shriram Millennium School, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

From sails to steam engines, from bullock carts to motor cars, from huts to skyscrapers, every stage of human history has been marked by breathtaking technological progress. Each new invention has made life faster, easier and more comfortable. Yet, amid all this change, one aspect of human experience has remained strikingly constant: how we communicate.

The medium has evolved dramatically – from messengers and handwritten letters to telephones and instant messaging, but the essence has not. It is still one human being reaching out to another. The town crier's drumbeat in the village square has become a digital notice on a government website, but both are acts of connection. The tools have changed but the impulse to communicate has not.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now rewriting the rules of learning and work. It solves equations, drafts essays, designs buildings and composes music. It can act as a tutor, a translator, a researcher, and even a companion. In subjects that rely on logic, structure and fixed systems – mathematics, physics, engineering – AI has already become transformative. Students can now get instant explanations of complex formulas or visualise difficult scientific concepts at the click of a button.

What a machine cannot feel

Language, however, belongs to a different realm. It is not only a system of rules but also a living, breathing expression of culture and emotion. AI can process grammar and vocabulary, but it cannot capture humour, irony, affection or hesitation. A sentence translated by a machine may be correct in words, yet wrong in spirit. When someone says "I miss you" or *"Te extraño"*, the meaning is inseparable from emotion, something a machine cannot feel.

The process of learning a language will outlast every technological revolution

Technology has made translation almost effortless. A Hindi email can appear in flawless English; a Japanese article can be read in French in seconds. Yet, these translations, however precise, may sound sterile. The tone, the rhythm and the subtle warmth that define human speech are easily lost. Translation can transfer meaning but not experience. Understanding a language requires more than decoding its words. It demands entering its world.

In the lived moments

That is why learning a language has always been different from learning a formula. It is not an abstract skill but a human interaction. It happens in conversation, in laughter, in mistakes. It happens when someone struggles to express a thought and is gently corrected, or when a joke finally lands after weeks of practice. These small, lived moments build confidence and connection, something that no app or chatbot can replicate.

AI tools can certainly assist. They can correct pronunciation, explain grammar and offer personalised practice. For teachers, they make lesson planning and feedback faster and more efficient. But they cannot replace the very heart of language learning, the emotional effort of trying to be understood by another person. Fluency is not achieved by perfection alone, but by empathy. To speak a language well, one must also learn how others think and feel.

Moreover, languages constantly evolve. Slang, idioms and even tones of politeness change from year to year. A machine can record these shifts, but it cannot belong to a community. It can predict usage, but it cannot participate in the living rhythm of speech. True mastery requires being part of that rhythm – listening, adapting, responding.

The biggest risk

Perhaps the greatest risk is not that AI will replace language learning, but that it will make people believe they no longer need to learn. If machines can translate instantly, the temptation to skip the effort grows. Yet, in doing so, we would lose something vital: the humility and the patience that come from learning another's tongue. When we learn a language, we do not just acquire words. We learn another way of seeing the world.

AI will continue to build our bridges, design our cities, and analyse our data. But when it comes to building bridges between people, it will remain an assistant, not a substitute. The process of learning a language – slow, emotional, and deeply human – will outlast every technological revolution.

Technology can help us talk across borders, but only effort and empathy can help us truly understand one another. And that is something no machine, however intelligent, will ever be able to automate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The 'Trump' card

While U.S. President Donald Trump often boasts about his "close friendship" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi — referring to him as a "nicest looking guy... he's tough as hell" — his imposition of unprecedented punitive trade tariffs on India contradicts this notion (Front page, October 30). This use of "friendship" while simultaneously undermining India's economic interests reveals a profound lack of diplomatic credibility. Mr. Trump's recent speeches and policy decisions on the global stage, often driven by a perceived need to assert his position as the "tallest leader", create an alarmingly unpredictable environment for U.S.-India relations. His pattern of commending a leader one day and criticising him the next demonstrates a deeply unreliable diplomatic stance. The most striking evidence of his double standard lies in his trade policy. Indian diplomacy must not be swayed by these sweeping, ephemeral praises directed at India's Prime Minister. The government must instead seriously consider the implications of Mr. Trump's dual-policy approach.

C. Raghavan,
Chennai

The heading of the report may sound positive — "U.S. is doing a trade deal with India, says Trump" — but Mr. Trump is indeed blowing hot and cold over the trade deal issue. His effusive praise for the Prime Minister can only be taken with a pinch of salt. This seems to be the precursor to another round of shenanigans in order to confuse India. Much to New Delhi's chagrin, Mr. Trump has once again repeated his alleged claim of 'stopping the India-Pakistan war'. Perhaps Mr. Trump is fishing for an acknowledgement from Mr. Modi for his oft-repeated claim. It is imperative that India treads cautiously with Washington while striving for a mutually beneficial trade deal with the U.S.

Aanya Singhal,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

American policy

In the Trump era and the American administration's stand on immigration, I am reminded of Arthur Miller's play, *The Crucible,* as an allegory for the Red Scare, that drew parallels between the 1692 Salem Witch Trials and the political persecution of the 1950s McCarthy era to critique the mass hysteria. Is not the same paranoia being recreated today by the Trump administration in the name of securing America's sovereignty and territorial integrity? The restrictive "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA) signed into law, arbitrary policies such as suspending the entry of people suspected of posing a public health risk, mandatory detention, rolling back parole, and terminating temporary protected status for countries such as Haiti, the Honduras and Nicaragua preclude/precluded the possibility of safe passage or humanitarian assistance to migrants fleeing war and persecution. In the cloak of safeguarding its national interests, what is happening in America borders is nothing less than jingoism as it is directing massive funds toward systemic detentions and deportations of so-called "removable aliens".
Let America's history of invasion, removal and oppression not repeat itself in the garb of reformist migration policies.

Sunaina Jain,
Chandigarh

The idea of American exceptionalism is a sham. Borrowing from Achille Mbembe's concept of "necropolitics" — which discusses the colonising propensities of democracies as they tend to construct the "other" within themselves in order to exercise their exclusionary politics in the name of development — it can be argued that Mr. Trump's idea of an ideal nation too is based on marginalising and dehumanising a few people as "immigrants" in the name of development in order to exercise his so-called agendas. By rendering lives precarious as if they never mattered, he has challenged the very discourse of 'liberalism' that America thrives on.
A set of people who, until now, have been diligently contributing to the 'liberal' status of the United States are suddenly mere outsiders. This not only makes us wonder how knowledge and discourse are produced and re-produced by people in power, but also how certain lives are categorised as invaluable by people in power as and when they wish.

Ashima Gupta,
Patiala, Punjab

Island project

The Great Nicobar Project forces us to ask the question, "what is true development"? It is evident that the project is driven more by economic goals than by ecological or human concerns. Decisions of this kind, which have far-reaching repercussions, are taken with hurried clearances, minimal public debate and almost no regard for the voices of those affected.
Communities are reduced to mere statistics, and the environment is treated as an obstacle. Yet, we speak proudly of sustainability. Real progress should strengthen the bond between a land and its people, by preserving biodiversity and respecting the lives of those who inhabit it.

Nishana C.M.,
Katpadi, Vellore, Tamil Nadu

Cloud seeding, pollution

Every winter, Delhi's air quality deteriorates, and this year is no exception. The flawed experiment with cloud seeding suggests that experiments alone cannot address the deep-rooted causes. There must be structural and sustainable changes — stricter emission controls, greener transport and better urban planning.

Fawaz Hamza,
Kozhikode, Kerala

'Ro-Ko', retirement

In the third ODI match against Australia, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli single-handedly led India to victory, saving the team from a whitewash. Although it is true that the series was lost, talk about their 'retirement' should end. Fans now expect the duo to fulfil the dream that they narrowly missed last time — winning India its third World Cup in the 2027 World Cup.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar,
Mumbai

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

Should AI be introduced as part of school curricula?



Aparajita Bharti

Co-founder of the public policy firm The Quantum Hub and of Young Leaders for Active Citizenship



Viplav Baxi

Founder of EdTech platforms AmplifiU for teachers and Edulyst AI for higher education institutions

PARLEY

Recently, the Ministry of Education announced that an Artificial Intelligence (AI) curriculum would be introduced from Class 3 onwards for the next academic year (2026-27). Earlier, in July, the government had launched the 'Skilling for AI Readiness' initiative, under which thousands of CBSE schools will offer AI as a skill subject starting from Class 6. Should AI be introduced as part of school curricula? Aparajita Bharti and Viplav Baxi discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Sruthi Darbhamulla**. Edited excerpts:

What do you think about the proposal to introduce AI as a foundational subject from a young age?

Aparajita Bharti: When we talk about AI education, we have to make a distinction between AI literacy and AI skills. AI literacy is the ability to understand how AI works and to apply critical thinking while evaluating its responses. AI skills refer to developing AI tools, AI products, or being somewhere in the AI value chain. From what we have reviewed (of the curriculum), we see that in Class 6, for example, the focus is on AI literacy. But in Classes 11 and 12, it is on AI skills, such as Python programming and natural language processing. Students can develop these skills and then enter STEM careers. My sense is that if the curriculum is being introduced in Class 3, its focus should be on AI literacy, alongside the emphasis on basic numeracy, literacy, language, and critical thinking skills.

Viplav Baxi: Technology is changing so rapidly that the idea of having a curriculum around it in the traditional sense is difficult to imagine. For example, prompt engineering will probably disappear in a couple of years' time. Another reason why designing a curriculum around it is fraught with problems is that tech can create divides. Imagine millions of children trying to figure out their first AI prompt. Do we have the infrastructure or even the connectivity for that? The models are not available in local languages. Without hands-on training, what is the point of teaching tech? And if the motivation is mitigating job shifts, that itself is a moving target. We can't say that so many millions of jobs will be displaced and therefore you have got to be ready for new jobs. Because by the time they graduate, that picture will have moved.



Students look at their mobile phones. GETTY IMAGES

What impact will this type of curriculum have on work ethic and student learning?

AB: In some studies, students, as soon as they had answered something with AI, were asked to replicate that and explain it in their own language. And they failed to do so. Professor Stuart Russell from the University of Berkeley said how humans deal with AI in education is the litmus test of humanity's ability to be able to regulate and handle AI development for its own good. Education is one of the trickiest use cases, because AI holds a lot of promise for aiding learning. But on the other hand, it is also systematically taking away that incentive to learn. He used the term "dis-education." He is worried that we might lose intergenerational learning. Because until now, whatever AI is doing is actually based on all the learning that humanity has had. But the next generation may not have the right incentives to actually push themselves to keep on learning. What does that mean for humanity?

VB: Historically, whether it was with radio, or TV, or the Internet, we have heard the same concern, which is: are we dumbing down our children? Are we reducing their ability to think creatively or critically? Are we losing agency in front of other tools? Our system should be capable of adapting to every new tech wave. Even our pedagogy has evolved over time; we have moved from behaviourist and cognitivist teaching methods to more constructivist teaching methods. Our systems have to adapt to these new realities. One of the ways we can do that is by treating tech as native to the process of education itself.

Given concerns about the potential psychological impact of AI, what is the right stage to introduce children to AI?

> We are doing a disservice to students by giving them chatbots when the underlying tech is not proven and when the underlying data is biased and it is not tested.
> VIPLAV BAKSHI

AB: Children are not only learning AI at school. They will get exposed to AI, whether schools introduce AI or not. For example, Meta AI is embedded in WhatsApp. What we do need to think about is that as children get exposed to AI, some risks come with it. We did the Youth Pulse Survey with Youth Ki Awaaz, with 500 students who are already using AI. Around 88% of the school students who took that survey are already using AI study companions. But 57% of those students have also started using it to have general conversations. 42% of students also said that some of the things they have been sharing with AI chatbots are things they would have otherwise shared with a person in their life.

We need some guardrails around the design of chatbots when children are interacting with them. AI companies are aware of this risk. There have already been some cases in the U.S. where parents have taken these companies to court. There are already laws placing obligations on platforms and intermediaries. There are restrictions on what you can do with children's data. There is a larger ecosystem beyond education which also has to build safety into this.

VB: Misinformation, malpractice, and crime existed before generative AI and everyone is vulnerable to these. Young students and people with information asymmetries and social and economic disadvantages are more vulnerable than others. Therefore, literacy is important. But it is equally important to understand that we are doing a disservice to students by giving them chatbots when the underlying tech is not proven and when the underlying data is biased and it is not tested. Any number of guardrails can't help you. And here we are allowing even teachers to create bots for students when they themselves are not trained on concepts such as guardrails.

What kind of training do teachers require to implement such a curriculum?

VB: Teachers are not a monolithic entity. We have a smorgasbord of styles and constraints, and one approach will not fit everyone. We need to ensure that there is continuous coaching of teachers. About 9% of schools in India have just one teacher and 35% have less than 50 students and two teachers. Half the teachers don't have proper qualifications. There is a large contingent of para teachers. Many schools don't have electricity. Therefore, how would you design content for somebody who does not have electricity or computers? It will have to be an unplugged curriculum. I am worried about sweeping statements that we will introduce anything at scale within the next few months and assume that it will work.

AB: The digital divide is real. And with AI, it can become even deeper. For example, where teachers themselves do not have critical skills to be able to evaluate something that general purpose AI is producing, how would they teach the students to be able to evaluate critically?

We also have to look at teachers as innovators because they are innovating with tech as they go along. There is a shifting goalpost every 6-8 months. Teaching people the ability to think, to work with other people, to organise different resources and produce value, and to be able to upskill themselves their whole lives is what we need to focus on. The ability to learn and continuously innovate is inherent to humans. That is the skill we need to focus on building in this generation that is in school right now.

As a thought experiment, if you were supposed to introduce a child to AI, how would you go about it?

AB: Till age 12, foundational learning is important. A lot of parental supervision is required till that age. That is a critical period to build critical thinking skills and basic alphanumeric literacy. In middle school, we should think about AI literacy. From Classes 9 to 12, if you want to participate in the AI workforce at some point, maybe those skills can be learned. Of course, this is assuming schools have no limitation of economic resources.

VB: We are battling some pressing challenges in the primary education space. Let us focus on making that space more robust. Whatever needs to be added as part of a subject to help children orient themselves better to AI can be added.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Covering a natural disaster

Even amid grief, humanity runs deep

Shrabana Chatterjee



SHRABANA CHATTERJEE

No journalism school or newsroom experience can truly prepare a journalist to report on a natural disaster. Earlier this month, when I set out from Kolkata to report on the devastating north Bengal floods, which killed over 30 people and caused more than 110 major landslides, I had little idea about the harrowing stories I would come across: a woman had lost her only child and another woman, who was buried under debris for over a day, survived to tell the tale even through the crushing pain of losing her daughter.

Articulating these stories is just one of the many challenges. First, there was the issue of navigating unknown terrain and trekking through crumbling landslide-affected areas just to get to the families. Then there was the trauma of seeing the extent of destruction and despair. It took me a while to simply fathom the gravity of the disaster.

When I set foot in north Bengal, a day after the floods, no driver was ready to take me through these high-risk zones. Most of the roads had caved in, bridges were broken, and hills had crumbled. It took frantic calls, plenty of convincing, and promises of more money before a young driver from Siliguri stepped up for the dangerous journey. Throughout the three days of the trip, he and I looked in horror at the scenes of destruction. He became my translator, trekking guide, and the friend with whom I discussed stories at the end of each day. He could not understand why I insisted on going to places from where people were fleeing.

With a list of deceased persons, every morning, at 6 a.m., I went around the villages of north Bengal to find families. I met them at their most vulnerable state, so asking intrusive and pointed questions was not easy. This is a fine balancing act, which can quickly turn into a harrowing experience for the people on the ground if reporters forget to be empathetic in their hunger for stories. I realised that visual cues are important: body language, for instance, is one indicator of when to stop asking questions. No family owes a reporter their story or a "scoop"; they are real people reliving their trauma just for our sake. Yet, many of them were ready to share their stories and their grief.

Some of the families were left with nothing other than the clothes on their bodies, yet they never lacked compassion. As a native of West Bengal, I have taken many trips to these mountains before, but this time around, the experience was different. The mountains were calm, but a sense of gloom hung in the sky. The once-crowded lanes of popular tourist spots were deserted. It seemed like they were mourning the passing of the 30 community members from different parts of the mountains.

In Manebhanjan, a town of 2,300 people at the India-Nepal border, five people had died. Seeing me get down from a car that said 'press', the locals were surprised. It had been three days since the tragedy and no journalist had visited them yet. "Are you really from the media," a man asked me with a hint of disbelief. The whole town then gathered around to tell me how five neighbours had died in their sleep as boulders came tumbling down the mountain and crushed their house. Clothes remained piled on the mud and children's toys were scattered on the ground.

As this was a border town, the citizenship of some people remained in doubt. No media from either side of the border wanted to take the risk of reporting from a high-altitude mountain and get caught in the bureaucracy of talking about cross-border citizens. So, no one showed up.

Before I left, a tea shop owner offered me a cup of tea. When I tried to pay, he said, "Come back when you visit as a tourist. Then you can pay me. Not today." Even amid all the grief, humanity ran deep. Every single person went out of their way to make space for me.

shrabana.chatterjee@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A grand homecoming



A warm welcome being given to National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) leader Thuingaleng Muivah (not in picture) in Somdal in Manipur's Ukhrul district. Mr. Muivah, 91, came home some six decades after he left to join the Naga freedom movement. His homecoming rekindled hope for a settlement of the Naga peace process. ANI

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 31, 1975

Participation by workers at shop floor level

New Delhi, Oct. 30: A new scheme to ensure workers' participation at the shop floor level was announced by the Union Labour Minister, Mr. K.V. Raghunatha Reddi, at a press conference to-day. The scheme envisages the creation of shop councils comprising representatives of employers and workers in manufacturing and mining industries employing 500 or more workers. Mr. Reddi said bargainable issues would be outside the purview of these joint shop councils. The purpose of the new body was to deal with production and productivity and trade unions would continue to deal with bargainable issues.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 31, 1925

Javanese drama

Dr. J.H. Cousins writes: An event of great historical and artistic importance will take place in December next, in the visit to India of a troupe of performers of the Wajang Drama from Java. These are coming to the Jubilee Convention of the Theosophical Society at Adyar, Madras.

Sardar Patel's vision and the meaning of national unity today



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Union Minister of Culture and Tourism

Every year, on October 31, India observes Rashtriya Ekta Diwas – National Unity Day – to honour the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Independent India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister. Few figures shaped the foundations of the Republic as decisively as Patel, who brought together more than 560 princely states after 1947 to create a single political entity.

Patel's realism, patience and firmness prevented the subcontinent from fracturing in the wake of Partition. Junagarh, Hyderabad, and Jammu & Kashmir might well have slipped into uncertainty but for his persuasion and resolve. The idea of unity he espoused was never uniformity; it was a federation of minds and hearts bound by shared heritage. That belief remains India's anchor in an age of widening diversities and new aspirations.

The decision in 2014 to commemorate Patel's birthday as National Unity Day recognised that unity is not a settled fact but a continuous act of national renewal. Across the country, schools, civil organisations and citizens reaffirm the pledge to uphold the nation's integrity. Events such as the 'Run for Unity' embody Patel's call for collective action – reminding us that patriotism must move from sentiment to participation.

The 150th birth anniversary that falls this year will be observed with special programmes at Ekta Nagar near the 182-metre-tall Statue of Unity – itself a monumental tribute to Patel's nation-building legacy. Cultural parades, tableaux from States, and performances by over 900 artists will celebrate the idea that India's strength lies in its many voices speaking as one.

Culture as a bond

In a country where languages, faiths and folk traditions coexist in profusion, culture has long served as the most durable bond of unity. Institutions under the Ministry of Culture – from zonal cultural centres to national museums – work to democratise heritage, ensuring that no region feels isolated from the national narrative.

Programmes such as 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' institutionalise this spirit by pairing States and Union Territories for exchanges in language, cuisine, and art. When students in Maharashtra learn Bihu or young performers from Assam stage Lavani in Pune, they practise Patel's idea that knowing one another is the first step to standing together.

Tourism, too, is an instrument of cohesion. The 'Dekho Apna Desh' campaign and an upgraded 'Incredible India' digital platform encourage citizens to explore their own land – from Punjab's Golden Temple to Kerala's backwaters, from Assam's tea gardens to Rajasthan's deserts. In 2024 alone, domestic tourism crossed 294 crore visits, reflecting a surge in curiosity and pride among Indians about India.

Schemes such as Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD go beyond infrastructure to create local livelihoods. When a woman in Nagaland runs a homestay for visitors from Gujarat or an artisan in Jodhpur sells crafts to travellers from Tamil Nadu, they exchange more than goods – they share experiences that knit the Republic closer.

Unity, Patel taught, is a task renewed in every generation. It must be defended against the fragmenting impulses of indifference, ignorance and regionalism.

The 'Panch Pran' – the five resolves of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' – place the pledge of national solidarity at the heart of India's journey towards 2047.

As India marks the sesquicentennial year of Sardar Patel's birth, the true homage to the Iron Man lies not in marble or memory, but in ensuring that every Indian feels part of the same national story. Whether through a cultural performance, a museum exhibit, or a journey across States, each act of participation strengthens the invisible threads that bind this civilisation together.

In Sardar Patel's words and in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reiteration of them, unity remains both the means and the goal of India's destiny – Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

Trump-Xi bonhomie and reference to G-2 may impact India and Quad

External Affairs Ministry non-committal on outcome of U.S.-China summit in South Korea; experts warn of ripple effects in region; after talks, U.S. reduced tariffs on China to 47%, making India and Brazil, at 50%, among nations with highest tariff

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI



New normal: Donald Trump talks to Xi Jinping at the Gimhae Air Base in Busan, South Korea, on Thursday. AFP

The summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Busan, South Korea, ended with several outcomes for bilateral ties between the two countries, but also sent ripple effects to India. As a result of the talks, the U.S. has reduced tariffs on China to 47%, making India and Brazil, at 50%, among the countries with the highest tariffs.

More than the specific outcomes, including a one-year truce on trade tariffs and export restrictions on rare earth minerals, experts said the characterisation by both leaders of the U.S.-China "G-2" or grouping of the two biggest global powers, may have a bigger impact. At the meeting with Mr. Xi, Mr. Trump began by saying, "I think we are going to have a fantastic relationship for a long period of time."

"China and the U.S. can jointly shoulder our responsibility as major countries, and work together to accomplish more great and concrete things for the good of our two countries and the whole world," Mr. Xi said, as per Chinese Foreign Ministry's statement.

When asked about the summit, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal was non-committal. "As far as the question of the latest [Trump-Xi] talks and relaxations that have happened between U.S. and China, as to how it is going to play into our domain, I will come back to you," he told reporters on Thursday.

The G-2 or the idea of creating an exclusive U.S.-China club to work on global issues was floated as a concept about 15 years ago around the summit between U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao in 2009, when trade, climate change and nuclear proliferations were pressing concerns for the U.S.

However, Mr. Obama never used the term, and subsequently as U.S.-China tensions increased, the administration dropped the idea entirely by 2011.

Impact of entente

Another issue is the impact of any entente between the U.S. and China on the Quad and other Indo-Pacific initiatives. India has always been more for a multi-polar world order rather than for a shared hegemony between the top two powers. One has to wonder if this will lead to carving up of the world into "spheres of influence", as that will challenge not only India's stature but also the viability of the Quad.

Speaking to reporters onboard his flight back to the U.S., Mr. Trump said he intended to visit China in April 2026, and host Mr. Xi in the U.S. later in the year. While no date has been sent for Mr. Trump's travel to India to attend the Australia-India-Japan-U.S. Quad Summit to be hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reports suggested that this was unlikely to take place in 2025.

As a result, if Mr. Trump returns to Asia next year, the question won't just be whether he will be part of the Quad summit in India, but also that whether his new "G-2" plans with China will dilute the group's agenda to secure a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Justice Surya Kant to take over as 53rd Chief Justice of India on November 24

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The apppointment of Justice Surya Kant as the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI) was notified on Thursday. He will assume charge on November 24 and will remain CJI for nearly 16 months, till February 9, 2027.

The notification was issued by the Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Surya Kant, Judge of the Supreme Court as the Chief Justice of India with effect from 24th November 2025," Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal wrote on X.

"I convey my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to him," he added.

Justice Surya Kant succeeds Justice Bhushan R. Gavai, who demits office on November 23.



Justice Surya Kant

According to a communique by the Press Information Bureau, Justice Surya Kant was born on February 10, 1962 in Petwar of Hisar, Haryana. He earned his Law degree from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, in 1984. He then began his practice the same year at District Courts, Hisar.

In 1985, he shifted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh, specialising in constitutional, service, and civil matters. On July 7, 2000, he earned the distinction of being appointed the youngest Advocate-General of Haryana and was also designated as a senior advocate.

He served as the Advocate-General until his elevation as a permanent Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on January 9, 2004.

As a judge, he served on the governing body of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) from 2007 to 2011 and, later, earned a first class in his Master's degree in Law in 2011. He was appointed the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court on October 5, 2018, and thereafter was elevated to the Supreme Court of India on May 24, 2019.

Since May 14, 2025, he has been the Executive Chairman of NALSA and also serves on several committees of the Indian Law Institute.

Retired IPS officer moves SC over stay in 41-year-old case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



A former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from Gujarat has moved the Supreme Court challenging a Gujarat High Court order declining to extend the retired officer's exemption from surrendering in a 41-year-old case. The court is yet to list the matter for hearing.

The refusal to extend the exemption by the Gujarat High Court on October 9 prompted a sessions court in Bhuj to issue a warrant for his arrest on October 10.

Kuldip Sharma, a 1976-batch IPS officer of the Gujarat cadre, retired in 2014. He has in the past criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and, as the head of the State CID, probed several cases, including the Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case.

The sessions court in Bhuj on September 24 confirmed a three-month imprisonment under Section 342 IPC (wrongful confinement), originally pronounced by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhuj, on February 10 against Mr. Sharma and former sub-inspector G.H. Vasavada.

Mr. Sharma in his petition before the apex court has said the conviction stems from a private complaint filed on May 8, 1984, alleging simple hurt (Section 323 IPC), wrongful confinement (Section 342 IPC), and criminal intimidation (Section 506 IPC) against Mr. Sharma – then Superintendent of Police, Kutch and SI Girish Vasavada.

The trial court acquitted both officers of all charges except Section 342 IPC.

The officer has contended that the alleged incident took place on May 6, 1984 and involved a person identified as Ibhala Seth, who had several criminal cases registered against him. The person is dead.

Initially, Gujarat defended the accused officers, with its legal representatives appearing in support at both trial and appellate levels. No prosecution sanction was granted for 28 years, and the complaint remained stayed. The decision was reversed in February 2012, with the State granting sanction to prosecute the officers.

A source said, "Ibhala Seth was listed as a smuggler by Customs and flagged as a security suspect by the police. The alleged offence is minor, the evidence tenuous, and the delay extraordinary."

19 hostages rescued from Mumbai studio, captor shot dead by police

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI



Tense turf: People gather at the site where 19 persons, including 17 children, were rescued from a studio at Powai in Mumbai on Thursday. PTI

The Mumbai Police on Thursday rescued 19 people – 17 children aged between 10 and 15 and two adults – from an acting studio in Powai where they had been held hostage by a man armed with an airgun and chemicals. The accused, Rohit Arya, 50, was shot during the police operation and later died at the HBT Trauma Care Municipal Hospital.

The incident occurred around 1.30 p.m. at R.A. Studio. The accused had reportedly been calling the children for auditions for a Web series over the past few days. During the standoff, Arya released a video stating he had taken the children hostage to ask "moral and ethical questions", the police said.

"I am Rohit Arya. Instead of [committing] suicide, I made a plan and have taken a few children hostage. I have very simple demands. Very moral, ethical demands. I have some questions. I want to speak to some people and on their answers, if there are any counter-questions, I want to ask them. But I want these answers. I do not want anything else. I am not a terrorist, nor do I have any demand of money. I want to have simple conversations and for that reason I have taken hostage of these children," he said in the video.

He also warned that any wrong move could lead to harm. "The slightest wrong move from your end may trigger me to set this whole place on fire. Whether I die or not, the children will be unnecessarily hurt, traumatised for sure, I should not be held responsible."

Police intervention

After receiving a call about the hostage situation, Powai police officials, along with a Quick Response Team (QRT), Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad, and a fire brigade team, reached the spot. The police said they had attempted to negotiate with Arya but entered the studio after talks failed. A team accessed the first floor through a bathroom window using a ladder provided by the fire brigade. Arya was shot when he allegedly tried to harm the children and was declared dead at 5.15 p.m. at the hospital, the police said. The Mumbai Crime Branch has taken over the investigation.

Mumbai Congress president and Lok Sabha member Varsha Gaikwad called the incident "deeply disturbing".

"Rohit Arya had worked on major projects with the Maharashtra Education Department, and he claimed he was owed ₹2 crore, for which he had held protests earlier. Due to this negligence on the part of the government, the lives of many children were put in danger today," Ms. Gaikwad said. She criticised the BJP-led Mahayuti government. "What answer will this government give to those children and their parents?" she said.

Later, the School Education Department issued an official clarification on its association with Arya's Swachhata Monitor initiative. It stated the initiative was first approved in 2022, with ₹9.90 lakh disbursed to Apsara Media Entertainment Network, Arya's organisation. In 2023-24, ₹2 crore was sanctioned.

Later, he submitted a fresh proposal seeking ₹2.41 crore for State-wide implementation of the Swachhata Monitor programme in 2024-25, which was put on hold after his company began collecting registration fees from schools, it said.

Former School Education Minister and Shiv Sena leader Deepak Kesarkar said he extended financial help to Arya in the past, after he said the department did not settle its dues. "I did not default on anyone's payment," he said.

Bihar SIR found how many infiltrators, Congress asks Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Jairam Ramesh

The Congress on Thursday hit out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah, questioning whether it was the Election Commission's constitutional duty to determine citizenship and questioned how many infiltrators were detected as part of Bihar's special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The principal Opposition's party stance came after Mr. Shah, addressing a rally in Bihar's Nalanda, had said that after a nationwide SIR of electoral rolls, "all infiltrators will be identified and sent back to the places they came from".

"During elections, the Union Home Minister keeps saying that foreigners on electoral rolls must be detected, deleted, and deported. But will he answer two simple questions? Is it the constitutional responsibility of the Election Commission of India to determine and decide citizenship? And how many such foreigners or infiltrators have actually been detected and deleted as part of the Bihar SIR exercise?" Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh asked in a post on X.

At the same rally Mr. Shah said, "I assure you that if the NDA government is formed again, every infiltrator will be identified and driven out." The Narendra Modi government was committed to "driving out infiltrators who usurp poor people's food grains, jobs and indulge in anti-national activities," he added.

APPEAL



Ms. Ruchika Kirankumar Pawar, Hospital No.**217675P** 6 years 10 months daughter of Mr. Sushmabai Kiran Pawar admitted Christian Medical College has been diagnosed to have Fanconi Anemia. This is a type of blood disorder which is life threatening. The best option for her would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant(PBSCT). The Estimated cost of haploidentical transplant at our centre will come to approximately **Rs.30,00,000/-**

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Ruchika Kirankumar Pawar, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Rahul's remarks reflect his values: Nadda

BJP chief J.P. Nadda on Thursday questioned the values of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in connection with the Chhath festival.

Mr. Nadda was referring to Mr. Gandhi's allegation on Wednesday that Mr. Modi had tried to enact a "drama" by planning to take a dip in the Yamuna on the occasion of Chhath Puja, but the programme was shelved after it was found that a puddle had been created with clean water since the river was filthy. He said that Mr. Modi would do "anything for votes, even dance".

"Rahul's remarks reflect his values and upbringing... The Opposition leaders have lowered the standards of politics," Mr. Nadda said. He said BJP leaders do not make such comments. PTI



J.P. Nadda said that Opposition leaders have lowered the standards of politics. ANI

BJP seeks action against Rahul for PM comment

The BJP on Thursday lodged a written complaint against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with the Chief Election Officer (CEO) of Bihar for his comment that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would do "anything for votes, even dance".

The party sought immediate and exemplary action against Mr. Gandhi. The BJP requested the EC to issue a show-cause notice to Mr. Gandhi and direct him to "tender an unconditional public apology", apart from barring him from "campaigning for a specified period to preserve the sanctity of democratic and electoral decorum".

The Congress hit back at the BJP, asserting that it was the Prime Minister who used terms like *mujra* while targeting his opponents earlier this year. PTI



> The BJP, under a conspiracy, is using Nitish. The INDIA bloc was making him the prime ministerial face. Today, he is only a face for the sake of elections
>
> **AKHILESH YADAV**
> Samajwadi Party president

Rabri hits out at Modi, says PM looted nation

Former Bihar Chief Minister and RJD leader Rabri Devi on Thursday bristled at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's jibe that "vehicles were looted from showrooms" while her party was in power. When her response was sought on the PM's charge, she said, "It is he who should be called a thief. He has looted the nation." PTI



> The truth is, there's no programme, no agenda [for NDA]. They know their time is up... people of Bihar have decided it's time for change
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress leader



Bina Rani, a voter from the Kurhani constituency, with a cow that she purchased using ₹10,000 that she got from the Bihar government. SOBHANA K. NAIR

'Caste-neutral' women voters may rally behind Nitish

Sobhana K. Nair
GAYA/DARBHANGA/PATNA

Leading a black goat to her home in Kafarpur village of Jehanabad district in Bihar, 58-year-old Kiran Devi hears men discussing politics, and pauses to offer her two bits on the topic. "Indira Gandhi showed the country that a woman could lead, but Nitish Kumar gave us the opportunity to lead," she says, summing up the Bihar Chief Minister's legacy in a sentence.

The goat is Ms. Devi's newest acquisition, a purchase made using the ₹10,000 that she received under the Nitish Kumar-led government's Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana last month. Under the scheme, ₹10,000 each has been given to 1.2 crore women between the ages of 18 and 60 years who are associated with Jeevika, a World Bank-aided Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project. So far, ₹12,100 crore – about 4% of Bihar's annual budget – has been transferred into the bank accounts of 1.21 crore women beneficiaries. Of more than 7 crore voters in Bihar, around 3.5 crore are women, meaning that about a third of them have benefited from the scheme.

Ms. Devi is a Chouhan, an Extremely Backward Class (EBC) voter, and her village falls under the reserved Assembly constituency of Makhdumpur. The last time that Mr. Kumar's Janata Dal (United) occupied the seat was in 2010 when former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, then a JD(U) member, won from here. This time, the seat is being contested by the JD(U)'s ally in the ruling NDA, the Lok Janshakti Party, and Ms. Devi is clear that her vote will be in its favour.

Changing lives

Seeing her talk, other women also join in. Kaanti Devi, 48, pipes in to credit Mr. Kumar for making it safe for women to move around. "Went to the fair, ate sweets," she says. On a serious note, she adds, she too bought goats. The women plunge into a discussion of how much they expect to gain from their new purchases by the end of the year, explaining that goats give birth twice a year. If reared well, they could earn a neat sum for their owners.

The government has promised to award ₹2 lakh to high-performing beneficiaries who manage to use the money as capital for their businesses. However, the criteria for assessing such beneficiaries have not been spelt out yet.

According to a senior Bihar government official, the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana had been in the works for nearly six months and is the result of an intense debate within the government.

"Both ideas were weighed: monthly payouts to the beneficiaries verses a one-time payment. After study, it was settled that the second model is financially more viable," a senior Bihar government official said.

Financial viability

Financially viable or not, the scheme is proving to be a game-changer for the women themselves. It also helps to further build up the caste-neutral constituency of women voters that Nitish Kumar has created for himself, with his various women-centric schemes, from increasing reservation for them in panchayats to scholarships and financial aid for girl students. The Jeevika scheme, for instance, gave many women cash in their own hands for the first time, granting them a voice in decisions made both inside and outside the house.

RJD and Congress betrayed people, can never develop Bihar, says Modi

Under the NDA government in Bihar, railway engines are being manufactured, large dairy plants have been set up, and makhana is reaching places around the world, PM says at rally in Muzaffarpur; criticising the RJD, he says 35,000-40,000 kidnappings had taken place during its regime

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hit back at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over remarks he made at a rally in Muzaffarpur a day earlier.

Mr. Gandhi had said on Wednesday that Mr. Modi staged a "drama in the name of Chhath Puja" and can "even dance on stage for votes". "You have seen that your son is busy making the world chant praises for Chhathi Maiya. On the other hand, these Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal leaders are insulting Chhathi Maiya. Can anyone ever insult Chhathi Maiya just to win votes? Can such an insult be tolerated by Bihar, or India? Can my mothers who observe a strict fast without water tolerate it," Mr. Modi asked during a rally in Muzaffarpur.

"How shamelessly the people of the RJD and Congress speak. For them, the worship of Chhathi Maiya is farce and drama. Shouldn't such people be punished?"

"The women who observe such a long fast without water, the women who stand in the Ganga and offer *Arghya* to the sun god... in the eyes of the RJD-Congress, these are all drama. I know that none from Bihar can forget this insult to Chhathi Maiya," Mr. Modi said.

'Guns and corruption'

Mr. Modi asserted that the RJD and the Congress "can never develop Bihar" and that despite these parties ruling Bihar for years, they have "only betrayed people". "The identity of the RJD and Congress members comes from five aspects – gun, cruelty, bitterness, misgovernance and corruption," Mr. Modi alleged.

"Think about it, will those with a history of grabbing land give land to industry? Will those who kept Bihar in the lantern era provide electricity? Will those who looted the railways improve connectivity? Those who broke records in corruption and scams, can they bring rule of law?" Mr. Modi asked.

He said where there is "rule of gun and cruelty", where the law breaks down, and where the RJD and the Congress rule, there is increased bitterness and disharmony. He continued, "Where there is the misrule of RJD and Congress, there is no trace of development, and where there is corruption, social justice is not attained."



On the offensive: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an NDA rally in Chapra on Thursday. Union Minister Chirag Paswan and other leaders are present. ANI

'Good governance'

Praising his party's government, Mr. Modi said that Bihar had witnessed good governance under the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance. He said in Bihar, railway engines are being manufactured, large dairy plants are set up, and makhana is reaching places around the world.

He said one got scared while recalling the era of "jungle raj" and mentioned the Golu kidnapping case of 2001 during the RJD government. "In this same city, while going to school, a child was kidnapped in broad daylight and a large sum of money demanded. When the money could not be paid, these 'RJD thugs' cut the child into pieces," Mr. Modi alleged. He also claimed that 35,000 to 40,000 kidnappings had taken place during the RJD regime.

"The RJD did not care about the wailing parents then, and they have no concern for your joys and sorrows now," Mr. Modi said.

Without naming them, he called Mr. Gandhi and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav "princes who have opened a shop of false promises". "One is the prince of India's most corrupt family and the other is the prince of Bihar's most corrupt family. Both are out on bail in scams worth thousands of crores," Mr. Modi said.

"Those who are *naamdar* [famous] will obviously abuse this *kaamdar* [worker]. A *naamdar* can't digest their food without abusing a *kaamdar*," Mr. Modi said.

After Muzaffarpur, Mr. Modi addressed a rally in Chapra where he again targeted the RJD and Congress over "Jungle Raj". He also recalled that in 1998, a Dalit IAS officer had written a letter to the Governor revealing that RJD goons had raped her for several days and not spared other women in the family either, torturing them as well.

Mr. Modi said that the RJD-Congress combine has not released its manifesto, but its rate list.

Shah hits out

While addressing rallies in Lakhisarai and Munger, senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah too lashed out at the RJD and Congress, saying "Lalu-Rabri [RJD leaders and former Chief Ministers Lalu Prasad and wife Rabri Devi] committed scams in Bihar and their big leader" was Mr. Gandhi.

He alleged that the Congress indulged in scams, scandals, and corruption worth ₹12 lakh crore in 10 years.

Bihar govt. is operated via remote control by Modi-Shah, Nagpur: Rahul

Press Trust of India
NALANDA/SHEIKHPURA

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi lacks the courage to confront U.S. President Donald Trump over the U.S.'s assertion that it stopped the India-Pakistan conflict.

Addressing election rallies in Nalanda and Sheikhpura, Mr. Gandhi alleged that Bihar has now become synonymous with paper leaks and poor health infrastructure.

"The U.S. President has asserted several times that it was because of him the conflict between India and Pakistan stopped after Operation Sindoor... But, our Prime Minister does not have the courage to confront Trump, say that he is lying. Modi was supposed to visit the U.S....but he is not going because he is scared of Trump," he claimed.

"If the PM has the courage, let him say that Trump did not stop Operation Sindoor. He should speak about it in his rallies in Bihar," Mr. Gandhi said.

Rahul recalls Indira

Recalling the tenure of his grandmother, Indira Gandhi, he said the former Prime Minister was an example of a courageous leader. "If you want to understand what a PM should be like, you should look at what Indira Gandhi did in 1971 when she had told the then U.S. president, 'we are not afraid of you'. She was a courageous leader," the Congress leader said.



Hitting out: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a rally in Nalanda ahead of the Bihar Assembly election. PTI

Criticising Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his comments that "there is no land available in Bihar", Mr. Gandhi alleged that "plots were given to an industrial house at throwaway prices" by the State government. But, corporates "close to Modi cannot provide jobs to the youth of Bihar", the former Congress chief asserted at the Sheikhpura rally.

Mr. Gandhi said he wanted to see the 'Made in Bihar' tag on the back of mobile phones and other devices, instead of the 'Made in China' phrase, "but Modi is not capable of making that happen".

Internet data price

He said that Mr. Modi had, in one of his poll rallies in Bihar, said the BJP reduced the cost of Internet data, "but the truth is the money from your reels goes into the pockets of one or two corporates".

"The NDA formed government through 'vote chori' during the last Lok Sabha election... Now, the NDA and the PM are hell bent on destroying the Constitution framed by Bhimrao Ambedkar," he claimed.

"This Constitution is the voice of Hindustan...but the BJP-RSS people want to destroy it. Whatever you have received as rights are gifts of this Constitution. The people of Bihar should ensure that no one can demolish the Constitution," Mr. Gandhi asserted.

He also hit out at the Prime Minister for observing Chhath Puja festivities in a "specially made" pond, while devotees offered prayers in "a polluted Yamuna".

"I will ask the people of the State to give up the illusion that the government is run by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. It is a government operated via remote control by Modi-Shah and Nagpur (RSS headquarters), which does not care for Bihar," he claimed.

"Two Indias have now emerged – one belongs to the common people, and the other to a few corporates and Modi. This is the reason why places like Bihar suffer in poverty," Mr. Gandhi said.

He said that if the INDIA bloc is voted to power in Bihar, it will be a government of the farmers, labourers, Dalits and the weaker sections, with representation from all the communities. "It is because of the anti-labour policies of the Centre and the Bihar government that the youth go to other States for employment. If the INDIA bloc comes to power, Bihar will not remain a State that only supplies labourers," he said.

Poll panel reviews arrangements in State boundary areas

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Enhance checks at inter-State posts to monitor movement of people, materials and money, the poll commission says

In view of the Bihar Assembly election, the Election Commission on Thursday directed senior officials of Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal to ensure heightened vigilance in areas bordering the State with enhanced checks at inter-State posts to monitor movement of people, materials, and money.

The EC gave the direction at a coordination meeting on inter-State boundary issues in Bihar held with the Chief Secretaries, DGPs and Principal Secretaries (Home) of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, along with officers from the Ministries of Home and Railways and all enforcement agencies.

Review of arrangements

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, reviewed law-and-order arrangements in Bihar and its neighbouring States to monitor movement of people, materials and money, including arms, anti-social elements, liquor, narcotics and freebies between States and across the International Border with Nepal.

A special focus was placed on boundary districts and sealing of boundaries to maintain peace and order, an official statement here said.

During the meeting, Mr. Kumar underscored the commission's commitment to free, fair, peaceful and inducement-free elections, calling upon all stakeholders to work seamlessly to uphold the integrity of the electoral process.

The commission reviewed compliance with voter-facilitation directions to ensure a pleasant and smooth experience for voters on the day of polling.

Central agencies, including the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Income Tax Department, Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, were directed to intensify efforts in the run-up to the polls and maximise seizures acting upon actionable intelligence.

INBRIEF



NIA seeks more details from the U.S. on Tahawwur Rana

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has asked for more details from its U.S. counterparts with respect to 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks "mastermind" Tahawwur Rana, according to agency sources. The NIA has sent the request under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, through the Ministries of External and Home Affairs. The queries are based on the interrogation of Rana, after he was extradited from the U.S. to India on April 10 and arrested by the agency in connection with the terror attacks in which 166 people were killed and close to 240 injured in 2008.

India begins major tri-Service drill along Pakistan border

A major tri-Service military exercise, 'Trishul', kicked off on Thursday along the western border with Pakistan, showcasing the joint operational capability and strategic preparedness of the Indian Army, Navy, and the Air Force. The large-scale drills, being conducted from October 30 to November 10, span across Gujarat and Rajasthan, and are aimed at enhancing coordination, and mission readiness among the three Services. The Navy is leading the opening phase of the exercise, followed by the Army and the Indian Air Force. Ahead of the commencement of the exercise, Pakistan announced changes in certain flight routes for the Karachi and Lahore regions.

Fully aware of Great Nicobar project's impact, says Centre

The Centre tells the NGT that no tribal persons will be displaced, noting that the project will cover about 18% of the Great Nicobar area, leaving over two-thirds of its land mass as forests

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Defending the Great Nicobar Island mega-infrastructure project at the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday, the Union government argued that it was fully aware of the project's likely impact on the biodiversity of the surrounding areas, positing that the main issue was whether the government was "alive to this or not".

Noting that the government considers it its duty to undertake mitigation measures, Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati said that the Centre had mandated conservation and monitoring programmes to run for the next three decades as the project was developed. She said that the project "is going to be a national asset".

The submissions came in response to a batch of petitions that have challenged the environmental clearance issued for the ₹92,000-crore project, which will include a transshipment port, an international airport, a township, and a power plant to be built on more than 160 sq. km of land. Of this, about 130 sq. km is forest land inhabited by the Nicobarese and the Shompen communities, both Scheduled Tribes, with the Shompen categorised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.



Mitigation plan: The Centre has mandated conservation programmes during the project's development. GETTY IMAGES

One petition, submitted by activist Ashish Kothari, challenges the clearances obtained for the project, citing violations of the Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) notification, 2019 notification and inadequacies in the environmental impact assessment.

Making its arguments before the NGT Bench now hearing the matter, the Union government submitted that it had considered studies and research conducted over decades before mandating measures to translocate, conserve, and monitor the project activities' impact on the biodiversity of the region.

Coral colonies

Ms. Bhati noted that while plans had been outlined for translocating over 16,000 of the 20,668 coral colonies that are under threat from the project's activities, there is also a plan in place to ensure the monitoring of the remaining 4,500-odd coral colonies. She submitted that there were about 51 active nests of the Nicobar megapode in the project activities' area; though about 30 will be permanently destroyed, there were also plans in place to conserve the remaining nests.

"There is biodiversity all around the islands, and the conclusion was that this region is the most suitable. All other nesting beaches of the leatherback turtles will be protected and conserved," Ms. Bhati argued.

The Centre added that no tribal persons will be displaced or dispersed, noting that the project will only cover 1.82% of the whole island's archipelago area, which amounts to about 18% of the Great Nicobar area, still leaving GNI with over two-thirds of its land mass as forests.

The Centre also defended the environment clearance granted for the project, which has mandated detailed measures to study and monitor the biodiversity of the region as the project is developed, calling it "an alive document" that prescribes conservation measures till 2052.

The next hearing in the matter has been set for November 7.

India ready to help Afghanistan with hydel projects: MEA

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI



Randhir Jaiswal

India is willing to support Taliban-governed Afghanistan in building "hydroelectric projects", the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, said on Thursday.

Addressing the weekly MEA press conference, Mr. Jaiswal said that the two sides can build on a "history of cooperation" on water-related matters and reiterated that India remains "committed" to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

The Taliban side welcomed Mr. Jaiswal's remarks about cooperation in hydroelectric projects.

"As emphasised in the recently adopted India-Afghanistan Joint Statement, India stands ready to support Afghanistan in its efforts to manage water resources sustainably, including with hydroelectric projects," Mr. Jaiswal said.

The Taliban spokesperson for international media, Suhail Shaheen, welcomed the announcement and said, "There are a lot of opportunities for cooperation between the two countries."

"The need is to send delegates from various Ministries to explore the opportunities and areas of cooperation. Hydel power is one of them," Mr. Shaheen told *The Hindu*. Sources here indicated that India would consider sending delegates if the Taliban made appropriate requests.

Cooperation to build hydel power projects was part of a joint statement issued during a visit by the Taliban's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi on October 10.

Referring to Pakistani attacks against Afghan positions along the Durand Line earlier this month and also on the capital Kabul, Mr. Jaiswal said, "Pakistan is infuriated with Afghanistan exercising sovereignty over its own territories."

Parade to mark Sardar Patel's birth anniversary

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday announced that a grand parade will be held every year on October 31, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Shah said that a special event had been organised to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, adding that the Ministry of Home Affairs had decided to institutionalise the annual parade from this year.

He said that the parade was organised to honour all Central Armed Police Forces and State police forces, reaffirming the unity and integrity of the nation. The event will take place in front of the Statue of Unity, he added.

Priyanka Gandhi says NEP 'brainwashing children'; Pradhan slams comments

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Priyanka Gandhi

Responding to Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's remarks that the National Education Policy, 2020 and the Prime Minister Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) initiative had been brought in by the ruling BJP to "brainwash children according to their own ideology", Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday referred to it as a "glaring display of ignorance and political opportunism".

Mr. Pradhan, in a post on social media on Thursday, referred to Ms. Vadra's remarks posted by the Congress's X account, and said, "By making such irresponsible and misleading statements, she not only distorts facts but disrespects the collective wisdom of India's educators, academics, and citizens who shaped these historic reforms."

'Factual inaccuracies'

Speaking to the media in Wayanad, her Lok Sabha constituency, Ms. Vadra accused the government of inserting "so many factual inaccuracies", "removing and changing" historical data, and "ideologically, it's entirely leaning one way". Her statement further said, "That's not healthy for children's education. They should have a large perspective, and if they have different ideologies, they should all be educated about them to ensure they are aware of them."

"We are against it, and we oppose it. I had hoped that the State government in Kerala would have opposed it too, but I'm surprised they haven't," she said.

Mr. Pradhan, in his response, defended the NEP 2020 as the result of "one of the most exhaustive and inclusive consultation processes ever undertaken", further saying that the PM SHRI initiative was a "living embodiment" of the vision outlined in the NEP 2020.

Class 10, 12 Board exams from Feb. 17, says CBSE

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will conduct Class 10 and 12 Board exams from February 17, officials announced on Thursday.

While the Class 10 exams will conclude on March 10, Class 12 exams will end on April 9, according to the final date sheet.

This is the first time that the CBSE released the final date sheet nearly 110 days in advance.

This is the first time that Board exams for Class 10 will be conducted twice in an academic session and is scheduled from May 15 to June 1.

The second phase of Board exams in May will be optional for students who wish to improve their performance. The best score of the two will be retained.

HC cites 'defect' in probe, commutes death sentence of four in CRPF attack case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



The High Court cited defects in the investigation of the case.

Citing "defect in investigation", the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday set aside the death sentence of four persons and life imprisonment of another in connection with a pre-dawn attack on January 1, 2008, on a CRPF camp in Rampur district of Uttar Pradesh. The attack left seven jawans and a rickshaw-puller dead. Eight persons were injured.

The Bench acquitted Mohammad Sharif, Sabauddin, Imran Shahjad, Mohammad Farooq and Jang Bahadur Khan of the charges of murder and others.

The court, however, found the five accused, including Khan who had been sentenced to life imprisonment, guilty under Section 25 (1-A) of the Arms Act and sentenced them to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment. It imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh each on the petitioners who had approached the High Court against the judgment passed by the Additional District and Sessions Judge of Rampur on November 1, 2019, and November 2, 2019. "We are deeply concerned with the magnitude and enormity of the offence and at the same time we are constrained to observe that the prosecution miserably failed to prove the case against the accused for the principal offence beyond reasonable doubt which is a golden rule that runs through the web of criminal jurisprudence," the court noted.

The court noted that the case would have reached a different conclusion had the investigation and the prosecution been conducted by trained police.

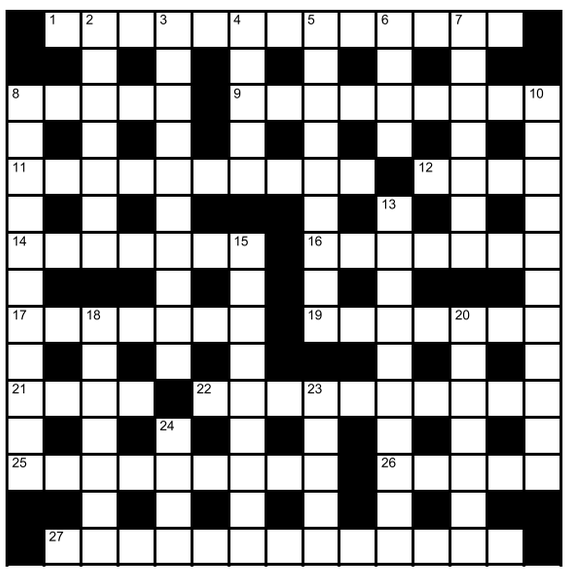
The court pointed out how the FIR stated that prosecution witnesses had never known the accused from before and were never made to identify them through a test identification parade (TIP).

TH CROSSWORD + 14627

(set by Dr. X)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Person driving very fast is drug dealer (5,8)
8 Give birth to a cow in grotto across lake (5)
9 Old pirate's strange device for removing hair (9)
11 Cracked Princeton university's latest process of coding (10)
12 Captain in trouble after onset of storm (4)
14 See 10 Down
16 Excited by performing in drag thus far (2,2,3)
17 Character in the new building, one securing locks (7)
19 Range over which one can hear others fighting around afternoon (7)
21 Enthusiastic about India's opener smashing ton (4)
22 Worker admits messing up task (10)
25 Family crushed by atrocious liars essentially endorsing hooligans in Australia (9)
26 Ace following case of kidnapper in Danish capital (5)
27 Extremely sensitive Conservative fearing parliamentary scrutiny (6,7)

Down

2 Bird in Long Island cracking smooth-shelled nut (7)
3 All enthralled at premiere by extremely slim girl (10)
4 Thick fog around delta (5)
5 Cut clothes for ape (9)
6 Embrace hot lady in retro party (4)
7 Blunder largely negating profit after costs (3,4)
8 Deceive husband, having romp finally with Romeo - ruinous moment of fleeting pleasure (5,6)
10/ 14 What good boxer will do to adapt to adverse circumstances (4,4,3,7)
13 Daren't ask! King's foolishly wearing nothing at all (5,5)
15 Fiesta is fantastic, daughter's delighted (9)
18 Wants cocaine distributed in secret among themselves (5,2)
20 How one cavorts, embracing date in square dance (7)
23 Problem in gluteus, sinew's twisted (5)
24 Chief in office, drinking dry sherry (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS6686 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

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

F	I	Z	G	I	G			
■	N	■	O	■	L			
L	E	G	A	L	L	Y		
■	L	■	I	■	C			
I	T	L	E	P	A	G	E	
I	■	■	■	T	■	R		
N	T	H	E	H	A	Y		
U	■	U	■	S	■	L		
A	M	O	N	D				
G	■	B	■	P	■	H		
I	A	L	■	R	O	U	T	E
B	■	O	■	I	■	N	■	B
N	E	E	D	I	E	R		
D	■	S	■	E	■	E		
E	A	T	H	R	O	W		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

The triumph of dharma

To overcome the evil influences of Kaliyuga, people should listen to and reflect upon epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. Through such contemplation, their minds will become purified and their hearts inclined towards righteousness. In this context, Parimelazhagar in his commentary explains that dharma lies not only in performing the deeds prescribed in the scriptures but also in abstaining from those that are prohibited. The Ramayana exemplifies how one should follow dharma, as illustrated through the life and conduct of Rama. In contrast, the Mahabharata teaches us through the character of Duryodhana how one should not engage in deeds that are contrary to dharma.

Building upon these epic examples, Lanka Sri Jeyaraj said in a discourse that a person who indulges in unrighteous acts will inevitably be punished by nature, one way or the other. On the other hand, nature supports and uplifts those who engage in righteous deeds. Tiruvalluvar says just as the Sun burns the boneless worms, virtue torments the loveless one. By abducting Sita, the worm-like Ravana invited the Sun-like Rama to destroy him, an inevitable consequence of his unrighteous act. Those who walk the path of dharma live in lasting peace and happiness, for righteousness is their constant companion. The unrighteous are, however, never free from fear, for their own deeds become the source of their suffering. This contrast between righteousness and unrighteousness is also evident in the Mahabharata's key events. To uphold dharma, the Lord countered every evil scheme of Shakuni and Duryodhana, ensuring the protection and victory of the righteous.

INBRIEF



Swiggy's Q2 loss widens to ₹1,092 cr. as Instamart in red

Swiggy, which owns Instamart, reported widening of consolidated net loss to ₹1,092 crore for the second quarter, on continuing losses from the quick commerce segment and increase in the company's advertising and sales spend. The food delivery and quick commerce firm had reported a net loss of ₹626 crore for the year-ago period. However, revenue from operations increased to ₹5,561 crore from ₹3,601 crore a year ago, a regulatory filing with the exchanges showed. PTI

Coromandel International Q2 net rises 20% to ₹793 crore

Agriculture solutions provider Coromandel International reported September quarter consolidated net profit rose over 20% to ₹793.44 crore from ₹659.10 crore a year earlier. The higher net profit came on an almost 30% increase in revenue from operations to ₹9,654.13 crore (₹7,432.83 crore). Total income stood at ₹9,771 crore (₹7,498 crore). Fertiliser plants operated at capacity and sales volumes grew by 17% in the six months ended September.

Canara Bank's Q2 net profit rises 19% to ₹4,774 crore

Canara Bank posted second-quarter net profit of ₹4,774 crore, a growth of 18.93%, from ₹4,014 crore in the year-earlier period. The quarter saw the lender's operating profit rise 12.20% to ₹8,588 crore from ₹7,653.83 crore a year earlier. MD and CEO K. Satyanarayana Raju said the bank's asset quality improved in the quarter. Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio improved at 2.35%, from 3.73% in the corresponding quarter in the previous year.

'Over 600 MoUs worth ₹12 lakh crore signed at the Maritime Week'

Agreements were in diverse sectors such as port development, indigenous ship building and container manufacturing: Sonowal

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

More than 600 memorandum of understanding (MoUs) worth over ₹12 lakh crore were signed at the Indian Maritime Week 2025, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said here on Thursday.

Mr. Sonowal said the MoUs were in diverse sectors such as ship building, port development, indigenous ship building and container manufacturing.

"In the last 11 years, whatever transformative journey we could create, we did. Also, in the transformative policy programmes whatever changes we could create, we did. This will ultimately make India globally, the most desirable, favourable investment destination," he said.

Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Vijay Kumar said that of the MoUs signed, 30% were for port development and port modernisation, 20% for sustainable green shipping and green ports, 20% for shipping and ship building, 20% with regard to port-led industrialisation and 10% for trade, business and skilling.

"Maritime sector projects have long gestation periods. Investment comes in, it takes time to get invested. Already 60% of the MoUs entered into at the last summit have been grounded, meaning, the money [has been committed] and has started coming in," he said.

During the event, 11 global CEOs met with the PM.

"They represented different divisions of maritime sectors including, ports, port modernisation, port operators, dredging operators and ship building. In almost all the areas, they promised and committed to invest," Mr. Kumar said.

The event witnessed the participation of about one lakh people and delegates from 85 countries.



Taking stock: Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits a stall during the India Maritime Week 2025, in Mumbai. PTI

India expected to add 6 GW of new wind energy capacity: Joshi

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) Pralhad Joshi on Thursday said 6 gigawatts (GW) of new wind capacity is expected to be added by the end of financial year 2025-2026, the highest-ever annual addition, up from last year's 4 GW.

"[In] this financial year, so far, over 3 GW of new wind capacity has been added," he said in a media interaction on the sidelines of the 7th edition of Windergy India 2025 conference in Chennai.

"India is moving with clear determination towards the goal of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, and wind power will play a major part – contributing 100 GW or more. With 54 GW of installed wind energy and another 30 GW under implementation, we are well on track to meet our 2030 target, Mr. Joshi said.

Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh together contribute almost half of India's total wind capacity of 54 GW, he said.

"India's wind industry already has 70% local content, showing strong domestic capability. Under the Atmanirbhar Wind Mission, our goal is to increase this to 85% by 2030," Mr. Joshi said.

"The GST on wind equipment has been reduced from 12% to 5%, helping reduce turbine cost by over ₹25 lakh per MW," Mr. Joshi said.



An exhibit at the Windergy India 2025 conference in Chennai on Thursday. VELANKANNI RAJ B

"With the approved list of models and manufacturers (ALMM) - wind framework and related initiatives, India can soon meet 10% of global wind demand by 2030 and up to 20% by 2040 and emerge as a global manufacturing hub for turbines and components," he said.

"A study by the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) shows a potential of 1,164 GW at 150 metres hub height across India. To unlock new areas, the government has launched a viability gap funding (VGF) scheme for offshore wind projects, targeting 1 GW in the first phase – 500 MW each off Gujarat and Tamil Nadu," Mr. Joshi said.

MNRE Secretary Santosh Kumar Sarangi said the tender for the Tamil Nadu offshore wind project is expected to be floated by February.

Earlier speaking at the inaugural of the conference, Mr. Joshi said India's total installed capacity was nearing 500 GW, with non-fossil sources contributing over 257 GW.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,404	-0.70
US Dollar	88.69	-0.53
Gold	1,23,400	-0.80
Brent oil	64.98	-0.39

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2526.90	-10.50
Adani Ports	1457.90	3.10
Apollo Hosp	7790.00	-68.50
Asian Paints	2523.50	-15.20
Axis Bank	1238.60	-10.20
Bajaj Auto	8923.00	-111.00
Bajaj Finserv	2114.60	-22.40
Bajaj Finance	1052.30	-10.65
Bharat Elec	409.90	2.70
Bharti Airtel	2066.30	-34.30
Cipla	1540.10	-41.00
Coal India	387.70	5.70
Dr Reddys Lab	1202.20	-48.70
Tata Motors CV	260.75	0.00
Eicher Motors	6889.00	-63.00
Eternal Ltd.	329.35	-1.10
Grasim Ind	2950.40	-8.30
HCL Tech	1549.80	-7.50
HDFC Bank	998.15	-9.70
HDFC Life	746.60	-14.70
Hindalco	861.35	5.10
Hind Unilever	2469.60	-18.50
ICICI Bank	1362.40	-8.00
IntGlobeAvi	5725.00	-88.00
Infosys	1493.80	-16.60
ITC	418.75	-2.85
Jio Financial Servic-es Ltd.	309.80	0.05
JSW Steel	1210.00	2.10
Kotak Bank	2137.20	-13.30
L&T	3987.50	29.40
M&M	3502.10	-32.60
Maruti Suzuki	16206.00	68.00
Max Healthcare	1178.50	-11.00
NestleIndia	1279.90	6.90
NTPC	345.15	-2.35
ONGC	254.53	-1.11
PowerGrid Corp	291.50	-3.85
Reliance Ind	1488.50	-15.70
SBI Life	1968.40	-2.00
State Bank	934.35	-5.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	738.25	-0.20
Sun Pharma	1703.40	-12.50
TataConsumerPro-duct	1176.60	-0.50
Tata Steel	184.35	-0.84
TCS	3035.30	-22.30
Tech Mahindra	1433.80	-18.40
Titan	3750.70	2.40
Tata Motors PV	412.45	1.10
Trent Ltd.	4744.50	-36.10
UltraTech Cement	12053.00	54.00
Wipro	241.92	-0.36

ITC Q2 net up 3% to ₹5,187 cr.

ITC Ltd. reported 3% growth in consolidated net profit to ₹5,187 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025 compared with ₹5,054 crore a year earlier.

Groww app to raise ₹6,632.3 cr. via IPO

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Stock brokerage app Groww, officially known as Billionbrains Garage Ventures Ltd., said it is set to raise ₹6,632.3 crore via an initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO comprises fresh issue of equity shares worth ₹1,060 crore along with an offer for sale (OFS) component of 55.72 crore equity shares by promoters and investor shareholders. The company has fixed a price band of ₹95-100 per share. The bids will open on November 3 and close on November 7.

Hyundai Motor India Q2 net up to ₹1,572 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) reported consolidated net profit for the quarter ended September rose 14% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹1,572 crore.

However, consolidated revenue climbed by a marginal 1% to ₹17,461 crore.

Hyundai said GST rate cut and a vibrant festive boost helped domestic volumes grow 5.5% quarter on quarter. SUV portfolio's contribution to total domestic sales was 71.1% while rural markets contributed 23.6%. Export volumes grew 21.5% and accounted for 27% of overall sales.

"We delivered a strong financial performance for the quarter across key metrics with evident growth in revenue and profitability," said Unsoo Kim, MD.



Unsoo Kim

"The strong EBITDA margins at nearly 14% is a testament to "Quality of Growth" strategy, complemented by robust exports and cost optimisation."

"We aim to keep pace with the industry's growth momentum for the residual part of the year while strong export performance is set to surpass targets for FY26," he added.

'Factory usage has to jump to 79-80% for 35% investment rate'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The capacity utilisation of Indian factories needs to rise to 79-80% and stay at the level for at least three quarters to encourage the private sector to ramp up investment ratio in the economy, as per an analysis.

India's capacity utilisation – a measure of how intensively factories in India are being used – stood at 75.8% as of the April-June 2025 quarter, as per Reserve Bank of India data.

GFCF since 2010

The analysis, conducted by the economics research wing of the Bank of Baroda, looked at India's capacity utilisation rates and compared them with the level of gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) in the economy since 2010.

The idea is the more intensively companies use existing facilities, the more likely they are to invest in additional capacity. "It can be said capacity utilisation rates need to be maintained in the range of 79-80% for three successive quarters to reach a GFCF rate of 34-35%," the researchers pointed out.

The Bank of Baroda researchers pointed out without higher capacity utilisation rate, manufacturing in India would not be able to grow fast enough and so dependence on construction activity to boost GFCF would rise.

DRL's weight-loss drug Semaglutide rollout in Canada suffers a setback

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Setback comes when it is betting on new launches to offset dip in U.S. revenue via Revlimid generic

Generic drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories' (DRL) plans to rollout weight-loss drug Semaglutide in injectable form in Canada is likely to take more time than expected, with Pharmaceutical Drugs Directorate, Canada, issuing a notice of non-compliance (NON) on the abbreviated new drug submission (ANDS).

DRL shares ended the day 4.03% lower at ₹1,202.15 each on the BSE on Thursday after the setback, which comes at a time when the firm is betting big on new launches to offset dip in U.S. revenue from cancer drug Revlimid generic Lenalidomide.

To file response

"The NON outlines requests for additional information and clarifications on specific aspects of the submission. We will submit a response well within the stipulated time period," DRL said in a filing. It is committed to making the therapy available to patients in Canada and other markets at the earliest, DRL said.

In India, a subject expert panel of CDSCO has recommended the approval of Semaglutide injection, a leadership team of DRL announced during interactions with the media and investors following September quarter results recently. While the Drugs Controller General of India nod is the next step, the roll out has to wait till patent expiry in March 2026.

The outcome of a patent infringement lawsuit filed by Novo Nordisk will be crucial for DRL's roll out of the generic version.

"Based on an analysis of past NONs, in best case, we expect a six-month delay in launch. If DRL responds by December, we anticipate an approval by end of Q1FY27, in the best case scenario," said Emkay Research analysts.

RIL, Google to offer Jio users free Gemini AI for 18 months

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries (RIL) and Google will offer Google AI Pro plan to Reliance Jio's wireless subscribers.

The move comes days after OpenAI said it would provide ChatGPT Go plans to India-based users for free for a year. Jio users will get the Google AI Pro plan, comprising newer models of Gemini large language model, related AI tools for images and learning and 2 terabytes of cloud storage free for 18 months.

The sop is a consumer-facing part of a broader pact being signed between RIL and Google, through



Jio users will get the Google AI Pro plan free for 18 months.

Reliance Intelligence, a subsidiary the conglomerate set up in September to build a large data centre infrastructure in Gujarat and lure global AI talent to India. It is unclear if Reliance paid Google for this giveaway; a spokesperson for the tech firm did not respond to queries by *The Hindu*. Users aged 18-25 are eligible, with a wider roll-out planned 'soon,' the companies said.

Enterprise deal

The enterprise side of the tie-up involves a deal with Google Cloud "to broaden access to its advanced AI hardware accelerators, Tensor Processing Units (TPUs)," distributing Google Cloud's enterprise products to Indian firms.

Gemini's enterprise product will also have Reliance as a 'strategic go-to-market partner' to sell subscriptions to companies.

NTPC net flat at ₹4,654 cr. in Q2, to pay ₹2.75 dividend

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Energy producer NTPC's net profit in the September-ended quarter was almost flat on a year-over-year basis amid lower power generation and a slight rise in operating margins.

Standalone profit rose 0.1% to ₹4,654 crore. Gross and commercial generation slid about 5.3% each during the period. Operating margin rose marginally by 8 basis points to 21.15%.

Standalone revenue slid 1.35% to ₹40,689.36 crore. It announced a dividend of ₹2.75 per equity share.

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राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से सा.नि.वि. में **Permanent Resotration एवं Remaining निर्माण कार्यों** हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार संगठनों/केन्द्रीय विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 3 कार्य जिनकी लागत राशि रू. 439.82 लाख है के लिए ई–टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

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निविदा सूचना संख्या 12/2025-2026

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से इस वृत के अधीन स्थाई सड़क मरम्मत के कार्यों हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों जो कि केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग, डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे या अन्य राज्य सरकार/केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ए, ए, बी, श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में प्राप्त की जावेगी। ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in/tenders.asp व http://www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in व http://www.eporc.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

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A woman farmer selling banana and papaya on the Chennai-Mumbai National Highway at Anantharajupeta in Annamayya district. Good road connectivity and easy transport to urban markets has boosted economic prospects of the region. K. UMASHANKER

From reaping riches to facing challenges, horticulture switch leaves ryots in a fix

The growth story of horticultural crop cultivation in the Rajampeta region of Annamayya district inspired many professionals, including those from the software industry, to take up farming. The semi-arid Rayalaseema climate, red sandy loam soils, and ancient tank-based irrigation systems helped farmers – who once relied on rain-fed crops like groundnut and pulses – gradually shift to fruit-bearing trees and vegetables. However, drastic weather changes, recurring crop diseases, and a lack of marketing facilities and government support have left many in distress.

K. Umashanker delves deep into the region's changing agricultural dynamics and its drawbacks

In 2014, Masthan Basha Shaik, 63, arrived at the Dubai International Airport to finally return home after a two-decade-long stint as a truck driver in the UAE. Mr. Shaik, who had saved a considerable amount during his stay in the UAE, was brimming with excitement as he imagined his life as a steel merchant in his hometown, Rajampeta - a prominent trade centre in Annamayya district of Andhra Pradesh.

However, his prolonged stay at the Dubai Airport due to a flight delay altered the course of his plans. With his flight to Chennai delayed by three hours, Mr. Shaik found himself wandering through the terminal until he arrived at a popular juice bar. He noticed a young couple sipping on a papaya smoothie, which tempted him to order one. After enjoying it, he immediately ordered a second. Mr. Shaik soon struck up a conversation with the bar attendant, who introduced himself as Rasool, 32, and mentioned he was from Chitvel – just 25 km from Basha's hometown.

During their conversation, Mr. Shaik learned that the papaya used was imported from Railway Kodur, a town located between Rajampeta and Chitvel in Andhra Pradesh. Piqued by interest, he arrived in Chennai with a new business module focused on papaya cultivation. Within weeks, the would-be steel trader had purchased a three-acre plot in Penagalur mandal.

Today, a decade later, Mr. Shaik's two daughters are settled in Dubai, where their husbands run four juice bars and trade in export-quality fruit pulp across the UAE. "I am not the only Masthan Basha Shaik from Rajampeta who tasted success. There are hundreds like me who returned from the Gulf and are earning a decent living through horticulture," said Mr. Shaik.

The Rajampeta division in Annamayya district had witnessed a remarkable growth in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables over the past four decades. From barely a hundred horticulture farmers in the 1980s to a few thousand by the late 1990s, the region today boasts nearly 40,000 horticulture farmers–a twentyfold increase in just three decades.

The picturesque Rajampeta region is surrounded by the Palakonda (Seshachalam), Nallamala, and Lankamala hill ranges. Forested hills–including the SV National Park and Penusila Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Wildlife Sanctuary–act as natural protective barriers. This unique geography, coupled with diverse soils, irrigation methods, and climatic conditions, has today shaped the region's horticultural identity.

Horticultural revolution

The farmers who had once relied on rain-fed crops like groundnut and pulses, gradually shifted to fruit-bearing trees and vegetables. Horticulture flourished here due to the semi-arid Rayalaseema climate, red sandy loam soils, and ancient tank-based irrigation systems dating back to the Chola and Vijayanagara dynasties.

"This dynamic transformation from traditional farming to a vibrant horticultural economy is unique to Rajampeta," said Garika Venkat (45), a software engineer who manages a five-acre banana plantation near Anantharajupeta village.

According to the scientists at the Dr. Y.S.R. Horticultural University in Anantharajupeta, the horticultural revolution in Rayalaseema began from Rajampeta division, especially after the establishment of fruit nurseries and training centres by the State Horticulture Department, promoting grafted mango varieties such as Banganapalli, Neelum, Totapuri, and Alphonso.

> The typical Rayalaseema dryness is now coupled with sudden cloudbursts and flash floods, which disrupt soil conditions,
>
> **MALLIKARJUNA**
> Farmer from Anantharajupeta

They noted that prior to the 1980s, horticulture was limited to backyard orchards and small vegetable gardens near tanks and streams. Mango and banana crops were scattered across Nandaluru, Obulavaripalle, and Penagalur mandals and depended almost entirely on rainfall, with little irrigation support.

However, between 1980 and 2000, the cultivation of horticultural crops expanded rapidly with the introduction of borewell irrigation and micro-irrigation schemes. In the 1990s, the Cheyyeru and Gunjaneru river basins became a boon farmers, who began experimenting with mango orchards. Around the same time, the Gulf returnees, flush with Dirhams and Dinars, took to banana and papaya cultivation across the alluvial plains near Rajampeta and Obulavaripalle.

In 2022, following the reorganisation of Rajampeta division under the newly formed Annamayya district, horticulture received renewed government focus through schemes like the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), which promoted micro-irrigation, drip and sprinkler systems, and high-density crops.

Mango reigns supreme in Rajampeta, dominating large tracts of land in Penagalur, Obulavaripalle, and Pullampeta mandals. These areas produce commercial varieties such as Banganapalli, Neelum, and Totapuri, which are exported to markets across India and abroad, including Southeast Asia and the Gulf.

Banana and papaya thrive in the irrigated belts of Rajampeta and Nandaluru mandals, supported by borewell and tank-fed systems. These crops significantly contribute to farmers' annual income, often rotated with seasonal vegetables. Farmers are also increasingly cultivating sweet lime, guava, and coconut, adopting mixed farming and intercropping systems that enhance sustainability and soil health.

Growing challenges

Vegetable cultivation became an integral part of the regional economy, with farmers widely growing tomato, brinjal, and chilli in the Railway Kodur and Cheyyeru valley regions. Excellent road connectivity to the Chennai-Mumbai National Highway and easy transport to urban markets further boosted economic prospects of the region. Despite such favourable conditions, the farmers are struggling due to growing challenges like erratic weather, recurring crop diseases, and a lack of marketing facilities and government support.

"Across Penagalur, Obulavaripalle, Nandaluru, and Pullampet mandals, we have seen falling yields for the past five years," said Mallikarjuna (35), farmer from Anantharajupeta. "The typical Rayalaseema dryness is now coupled with sudden cloudbursts and flash floods, which disrupt soil conditions," he added.

> This year, our banana yield was over 70%, but prices crashed to ₹3 a kg—while the same quantity sells for ₹60–70 in the open market. The middlemen are the real winners,
>
> **HUSSAIN**
> Farmer

Pointing to the yellowed papaya leaves, another farmer from Obulavaripalle, Rajasekhar (42), said, "In recent years, temperatures have risen sharply during the day and dropped steeply at night. Papaya cannot tolerate such drastic changes."

The farmers also pointed out that the frequent flash floods along the Cheyyeru and Gunjaneru rivers damage root systems and erode fertile topsoil—particularly devastating for banana plantations. During the peak harvest months of June and July, when the southwest monsoon sets in, pest and fungal infestations worsen.

Mango orchards are attacked by anthracnose, powdery mildew, and fruit flies, while banana crops suffer from sigatoka leaf spot and stem weevil, they said. Farmers also feared that humidity following cyclone "Montha" will aggravate these problems, potentially forcing them to increase pesticide use.

While pointing out the hurdles in selling their crops, the farmers noted that the region produces over 3.5 lakh metric tonnes of mangoes, two lakh tonnes of bananas, and a similar quantity of papaya annually. Still they encounter difficulties selling their produce in the market due to a lack of proper marketing facilities and government support.

Hussain, 30, a young farmer said, "Our 2.7-acre land was managed by my parents till a decade ago. After Covid, cultivation and transport costs skyrocketed. This year, our banana yield was over 70%, but prices crashed to ₹3 a kg–while the same quantity sells for ₹60-70 in the open market. The middlemen are the real winners."

The farmers claimed that until five years ago, traders from the Northern States visited Rajampeta fields to purchase the produce at what local farmers called the "Minimum Decent Price", saving farmers cutting and transport costs. "However, now, we are at the mercy of middlemen," said Ravindra (28), another young farmer from Chitvel. "Agents fix prices as they wish. It is clearly a syndicate," he alleged.

Similarly, Narasimha, 61, who grows papaya in Chitvel, said that the prices have plummeted to ₹5 a kg. "As the fruit is highly perishable, agents wait for our distress calls. We have no choice but to sell at whatever price they quote," he said.

As for mango, the government had offered a ₹4 subsidy on ₹8 per kg price after farmers protested against pulp industries' reluctance to pay more than ₹4 per kg. Though the district administration declared the "unofficial support price" in June, many farmers said that they are yet to receive the subsidy, according to the reports.

However, Annamayya District Horticulture Officer S.S.V. Subhashini clarified that mango, banana, and papaya crops are not covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) system. "The recent price fixation for mangoes was merely a government intervention to ease farmer distress," she said.

A field officer from the horticulture department in Rajampeta said that horticulture took a major hit between 2015 and 2020.

The young farmers who took up agriculture over IT jobs alleged that they did not receive the boost and growth they had hoped for. They recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2014 campaign promise to set up cold storage plants and processing units in the Rayalaseema region. They said that they are reconsidering their decision. "It is better to go back to our jobs than fight a losing battle," said a local banker, adding that his son-in-law, an MS graduate from the U.S., returned to the IT sector after a failed attempt at agriculture.

They further alleged that the presence of Dr. YSR Horticultural University College at Anantharajupeta did not help them with field-level solutions. "The scientists are doing good research, but the fruits of their work never reach our farms due to lack of funding," they alleged.

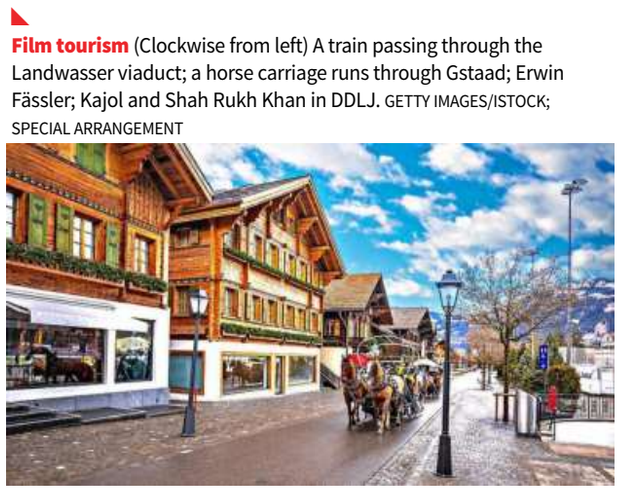






In search of Raj and Simran

Thirty years after *DDLJ*, fans follow their favourite stars, running after imaginary trains and discovering destinations



Film tourism (Clockwise from left) A train passing through the Landwasser viaduct; a horse carriage runs through Gstaad; Erwin Fässler; Kajol and Shah Rukh Khan in DDLJ. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK; SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Priyadarshini Paitandy
priyadarshini.p@thehindu.co.in

Palat...Palat...Palat! If you get this – you have officially watched *DDLJ* an unhealthy number of times. (Like the rest of us). Thirty years on, Switzerland's Saanen bridge still pulls tourists in droves, earning the nickname Palat Bridge.

Bollywood tourism maybe a micro trend in the realm of film tourism but it has seen a steady rise in demand over the years. With location hunters scouring the world for new, exciting destinations, the footfall for this brand of tourism now spans Croatia (*Fan*), Greece (*Chalte Chalte*, *Bang Bang!*), Turkey (*Ek Tha Tiger*, *Dil Dhadakne Do*), the US (*Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna*, *Kal Ho Na Ho*), Scotland (*Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, *Bar Bar Dekho*), Australia (*Dil Chahta Hai*, *Salam Namaste*), Spain (*Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*)...

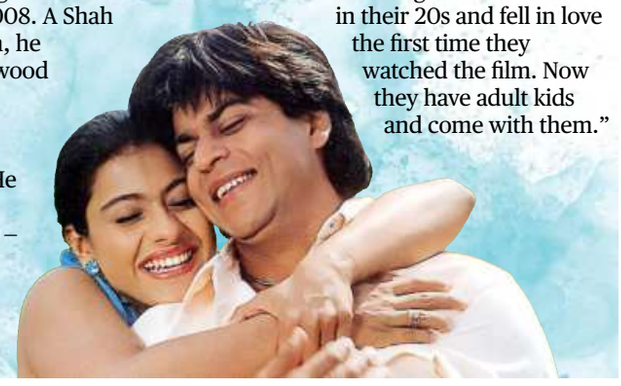
But in the beginning, there was Switzerland. Film maker Yash Chopra brought this scenic landscape – with its rolling hills, wooden chalets, and snow covered peaks – to Indian screens and soon Switzerland became an aspirational holiday and honeymoon spot. His films like *Chandni*, *Darr*, *Dil Toh Pagal Hai* among others had parts of it or songs shot here. There is a bronze statue of the filmmaker in Interlaken, Jungfrau Railway has a train named after him, and Lake Lauenen is referred to as Lake Chopra by many.

According to tour experts and travel guides, it was *DDLJ* – directed by Aditya Chopra (Yash Chopra's son) that started the trend of Bollywood tourism. Youngsters dreamt of setting off on a Euro trip and meeting the Raj/ Simran of their lives, or just dancing and wandering along the cobblestoned streets. Over 300 films have been shot here, including those in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Bengali.

Ipsita Barua, a former resident of Zurich, did a *DDLJ* location visit with Erwin Tours of Switzerland in 2023. She was accompanied by her parents. Her father, she says, is a huge movie buff. But 28 years after the release of the movie then, what was it that drew her to the tour? "I had always fantasised about visiting locations of iconic Bollywood movies," she says adding that during the time of *DDLJ*'s release in 1995, she met her partner in school. Called the Raj and Simran of their school, they are now married to each other. But unfortunately her "Raj" could not join her for the trip, "so there were no flowy chiffon saris or running after missed trains," she laughs. She also visited the hotel in Interlaken that was in the movie *Sangam*, and Gruyere and Castle Hunegg, where a song from *Simmba* was picturised.

Erwin Fässler, who started Erwin Tours in 2012 in Switzerland says he started hunting for these locations way back in 2008. A Shah Rukh Khan fan, he watches Bollywood movies on a German cable channel every Friday night. He offers six different tours – starting in different parts of the country with duration varying between nine hours to two days – and he drives his guests in his Range Rover. The number one tour is the *DDLJ* Tour, he says, followed by the King of Romance tours – a homage to Yash Chopra and Yash Raj films.

Erwin notices interesting patterns during these trips. "Most of my clients are between the ages of 30 and 50. A couple celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary with us and the first movie they watched after marriage was *DDLJ*. There is the generation that was in their 20s and fell in love the first time they watched the film. Now they have adult kids and come with them."



Sounds of Kantara

Ajaneesh Loknath opens up on creating the soundtrack for Rishab Shetty's hit prequel film

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

"Music is really good," said AR Rahman to Ajaneesh Loknath, and for the music composer who grew up listening to the legendary composer's chartbusters, the words of praise for his work in *Kantara: Chapter 1* meant a lot.

Ajaneesh is basking in the biggest success of his career, as *Kantara: Chapter 1* has emerged as India's highest-grossing film of 2025 so far. A decade into his career, the success comes as a fitting milestone for the composer, and it has arrived with his regular collaborator, actor-director Rishab Shetty.

Ajaneesh opens up on the hit 'Brahmakalasha' from *Kantara: Chapter 1* to state Rishab's deep connection with music: "The first 40-50 seconds of the song are enhanced by the use of Alaap [the introductory and improvisational melodic section that sets the tone of a song or a performance]. In the era of musical hooks, it's rare for an actor or a director to allow a composer to use Alaap in a song."

Brahmakalasha is an arresting devotional song. It uses different ragas combined with a soundscape that is authentic to ancient history depicted in the movie. Singer Abby's voice lends further strength to the song, which is also a visual marvel. "Abby's voice is a lot similar to mine, not too masculine. It has a soothing quality," explains Ajaneesh.

'Madana Mana Mohini,' a melodious love track involving Rishab and Rukmini Vasanth, begins in a captivating fashion. "I used *thanam* [an improvisational technique to elaborate a raga] to start the song. The 'Brahmakalasha' song begins with an instrument. So, this had to be different. The song had to have an element of *shrungara* [element of love]. When I placed a *thanam* at the beginning of the song, it had a charming effect, and Rishab loved the idea."



Making of a hit Music composer Ajaneesh Loknath. THE HINDU

The romantic number is sung by Vijay Prakash and Ananya Bhat, the duo that sang the popular 'Singara Siriye' from *Kantara* (2022). "I was worried that people would compare 'Madana Mana Mohini' with 'Singara Siriye.' Vijay *ji* instilled confidence in me. He said that my song has the ability to grow gradually on the listener." Vijay was proven right, as the song has gained popularity after initially being under the radar.

Ajaneesh calls *Kantara: Chapter 1* his most challenging project yet, with the week before the release testing his potential to the maximum: "I struggled to score for the climax portion. It was as if I had reached a dead end. Eventually, I managed to create the background score in 30 minutes. We also had to take the output of 25 songs as the film was dubbed in five languages. Till the last moment, I was awaiting approvals. A divine force helped me sail through these challenges."

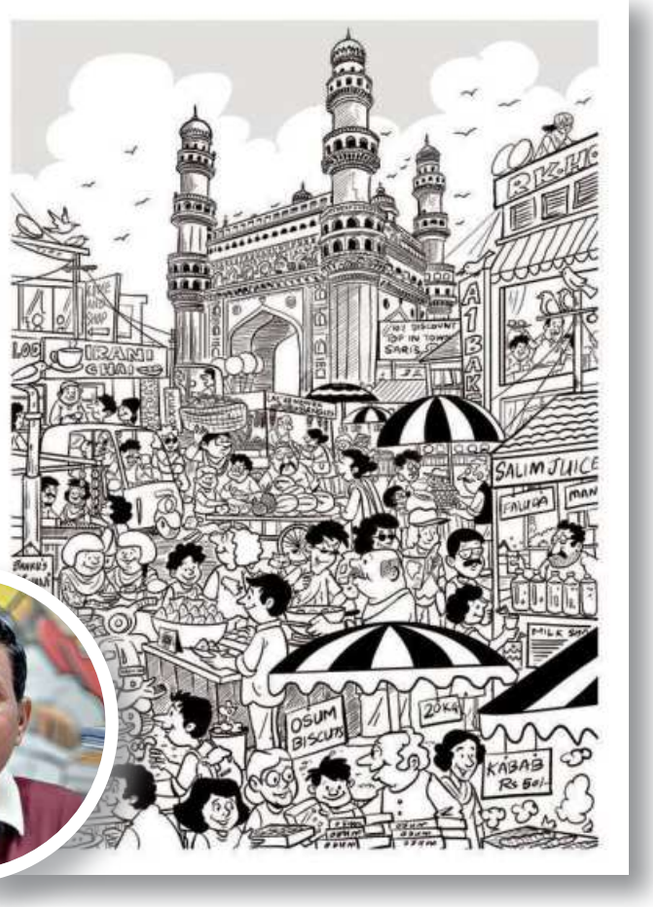
Prabalika M Borah
prabalika.m@thehindu.co.in

Comic Con India makes its return to Hyderabad with its 13th edition this year – a three-day celebration of pop culture running from October 31 to November 2.

Visitors can expect an immersive line-up that brings together the best of fandoms – from cosplay and gaming to films, television, anime and exclusive merchandise.

This year's edition will also feature international guests, including Mike Costa, the writer and executive producer best known for *Lucifer*, and J. Gonzo, the celebrated comic-book artist behind titles such as *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Ghost Rider*, *Aliens* and *The Toxic Avenger*.





"Hyderabad is the first host city for Comic Con this year," says Akshat Rathee, co-founder and Managing Director of Nodwin Gaming, which owns Comic Con India. "From global pop culture icons to India's most passionate cosplay community, from thrilling esports battles to exclusive panels and launches, Comic Con India 2025-2026 will celebrate everything that defines pop culture."

Last year's Hyderabad Comic Con 2024 drew a record-breaking 40,000-plus attendees.

This year, the Indian artist line-up includes some of the country's most recognised illustrators and storytellers: Rahil Mohsin (Hallubol), Savio Mascarenhas (Art of Savio), Faisal Mohammed (Garbage Bin Comics), Shubham Khurana (CorporatComics),and Rajesh Nagulakonda (illustrator and art director), among others. Savio Mascarenhas, the artist behind *Tinkle* and *Amar Chitra Katha*, will be at the event. He spoke about his journey – from being a childhood fan of these comics to now shaping the very characters he once admired, such as Shambhu and Suppandi.

Comic Con time in Hyderabad

Tinkle artist Savio Mascarenhas talks about keeping Suppandi and Shambhu relevant, and what makes Indian storytelling timeless

Tinkle's stars

Savio shared that while he has introduced subtle updates to these beloved figures, the essence of their original personalities remains untouched. "With me taking over, there are slight changes to the characters," he said, "but nothing that distorts their core."

He spoke warmly of the enduring affection that readers have for Shambhu, and of the curiosity surrounding one of Indian comics' longest-running mysteries – his hidden eyes. "I grew up reading *Tinkle* in the 1970s and '80s, and in 1997 I took over sketching the character from Vasant Halbe, the original artist," Savio said. "Around the same time, I also began illustrating Suppandi, aiming to continue their legacy while adding my own touch."



Fun time (Clockwise from far left) Savio Mascarenhas; special Hyderabad poster by Savio; cosplay. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As a lifelong *Tinkle* fan himself, Savio once asked Halbe about the secret behind Shambhu's hidden eyes. "He told me that the covered eyes make Shambhu unique – it sets him apart from other forest rangers," Savio recalled. "Halbe also shared a humorous explanation – that Shambhu keeps his eyes hidden because he's scared of animals!"

In an era ruled by anime and gaming, Savio believes *Tinkle* and *Amar Chitra Katha* remain relevant because of their roots in Indian storytelling. Their audience, he says, now spans generations – adults who once read the comics pass them on to their children as part of a shared legacy.

"It's the Indian storytelling – the subtle messaging around gender equality and childhood issues without stating values outright – that sets us apart," he explains. While the art has evolved with technology, the heart of the stories remains the same: simple, relatable, and deeply human.

Sharing details of upcoming initiatives at Comic Con, Savio mentioned the launch of Suppandi-themed T-shirts, six immersive *Tinkle* stalls, and a 45th anniversary bumper issue of *Tinkle*. "There will also be special city-specific posters and an interactive comic-making activity for children," he added.

Comic Con 2025-2026 will be on from October 31 to November 2 at HITEX Exhibition Centre.

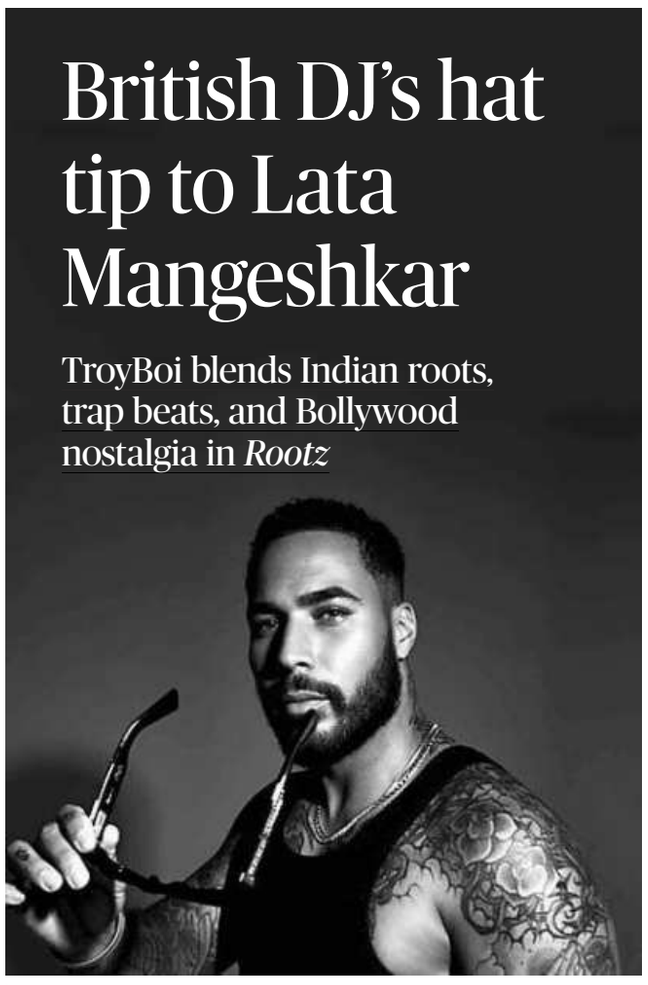
British DJ's hat tip to Lata Mangeshkar

TroyBoi blends Indian roots, trap beats, and Bollywood nostalgia in *Rootz*

Neeraja Murthy
neeraja.b@thehindu.co.in

"It will always be a special year (2025) for me because it marks the release of *Rootz* – a project that means the world to me," says British DJ, record producer, and musician Troy Henry, better known as TroyBoi.

It has been a month since the release of *Rootz*, his most personal and culturally significant EP to date – a five-track project that fuses his signature trap and bass sound with the melodic richness of Indian, Punjabi, house, and hip-hop influences. With a mother of Indian descent, TroyBoi grew up immersed in Indian culture – through food, films, and music – all of which find their way into this deeply personal record. "*Rootz* is a tribute to my Indian heritage, an exploration of dual identity, and a reflection of the sounds that shaped me as a child," he says.



Rhythmic notes TroiBoi is performing in India. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Indian soundscape

What sets *Rootz* apart is its cross-cultural collaborations with Indian and diaspora artistes. The track *Kabhi* samples the voice of Lata Mangeshkar from *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, while *Okay* – a high-energy collaboration with celebrated bhangra artist Jazzy B – showcases a seamless fusion of global sounds. On *Masala* (featuring Amrit Maan), listeners are treated to a vibrant reimagining of contemporary Punjabi music, while *Beggin'* sees him team up with Bombay Mami. The EP's anchor track, *Kamli*, has TroyBoi going solo.

After a decade of artistic evolution, *Rootz* marks a homecoming of sorts. "My Indian heritage is a big part of who I am," he reflects. "I've built a strong foundation with my sound, but now I wanted to go deeper – to connect to my roots and represent my culture in a way that feels authentic."

The EP's release, he says, was "less about relief and more about gratitude." Seeing a project so close to his heart resonate globally has been deeply fulfilling. "It felt like lifting something off my chest. The love it's received has been overwhelming in the best way," he says.

His collaborations came together organically, driven by a shared cultural rhythm. "Working with Jazzy B, Amrit Maan, and Bombay Mami was seamless – they understood the energy and cultural depth I wanted to bring to *Rootz*. When everyone's aligned, the process flows naturally and the music speaks for itself."

Each track, he says, carries a piece of his story. Yet *Kabhi* remains closest to his heart, tied to memories of childhood and his mother. "I must have watched *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham* more than 20 times with my mum," he laughs. "It's a film that reminds me of home – of family, music, and shared moments. Sampling Lata Mangeshkar's voice was my way of honouring that part of my story."

The process, however, was not easy. "Getting the Lata Mangeshkar sample cleared was challenging," he admits. "Her voice is legendary, and rightly so – there are legal and cultural sensitivities around using something so iconic. When it was finally approved, it made the track even more special."

As he prepares for his shows in November and December, TroyBoi is excited to perform in India. "I love Mumbai. But honestly, performing anywhere in India would be special. It feels like bringing the music back home."

WASHINGTON

U.S. caps refugee intake at 7,500, prioritises white South Africans



AP

The Trump administration is restricting the number of refugees it admits into the country to 7,500 and they will mostly be white South Africans, a dramatic drop after the U.S. previously allowed in hundreds of thousands of people fleeing war and persecution from around the world. AP

ANKARA

'Pak.-Afghanistan talks will resume in Turkiye after dialogue deadlock'



AP

Pakistan and Afghanistan are expected to resume peace talks in Istanbul to revive a dialogue that collapsed earlier this week, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and state media in both countries said on Thursday. The new round of negotiations is facilitated by Turkiye and other friendly nations. AP

NAIROBI

Curfew imposed as unrest spreads after Tanzania's disputed election



AP

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets for a second day of demonstrations in Tanzania on Thursday after a disputed election, while Amnesty International reported that two people have died. The government shut down the internet, imposed a curfew and deployed the military to the streets. AP

KATHMANDU

Nepal PM holds first talks since protests with parties and 'Gen Z'



AFP

Nepal's interim leader Sushila Karki on Thursday held the first talks between political parties and youth representatives since last month's deadly protests that toppled the previous government. "We have succeeded in creating an environment of cooperation by ending the state of lack of dialogue," Ms. Karki said. AFP

Trump, Xi seek trade war truce, ease fight over tariffs, rare earths

U.S. President said he would cut the fentanyl tariffs from 20% to 10%, and that China would buy 'tremendous amounts of soybeans', and ease export restrictions on rare earth minerals; Xi Jinping said the two reached an 'important consensus'

Agence France-Presse
BUSAN



U.S. President Donald Trump with Chinese President Xi Jinping and others during a bilateral meeting in Busan on Thursday. REUTERS

Donald Trump and Xi Jinping agreed on Thursday to calm the trade war between China and the U.S. that has roiled global markets, with Washington cutting some tariffs and Beijing committing to keep supplies of critical rare earths flowing.

Mr. Trump called his first meeting with Xi in six years a "great success", while the Chinese leader said the two reached an "important consensus" towards solving the fight between the world's two top economies.

"I thought it was an amazing meeting," Mr. Trump said after the talks in Busan, South Korea, praising Mr. Xi as a "tremendous leader of a very powerful country" and saying he would visit China in April. Mr. Trump added that the deal included China immediately buying "tremendous amounts of soybeans and other farm products".

The U.S. leader said the talks yielded an extendable one-year deal on China's supply of crucial rare earths, materials that are essential for sophisticated electronic components across a range of industries.

Easing curbs

Beijing's Commerce Ministry also confirmed it would suspend for one year certain export restrictions, including on rare earth materials, a sector where China is hugely dominant. "All the rare earths has been settled, and that's for the world," Mr. Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One. Mr. Xi said a "consensus" had been reached and urged "follow-up work as soon as possible".

Mr. Trump added that the Chinese leader had also agreed to "work very hard to stop the flow" of deadly opioid fentanyl, a trade in which Washington has accused Beijing of being complicit.

"I put a 20% tariff on China because of the fentanyl coming in... and based on his statements today I am going to reduce that by 10%," Mr. Trump said.

And in social media post after leaving South Korea, Mr. Trump declared "Our Farmers will be very happy!" with the outcomes of the talks.

He went on to say in the post that Beijing would "begin the process of purchasing American Energy", potentially involving oil and gas from Alaska. Officials from the United States and China would meet to hash out that "energy deal", he added.

Israel hits Gaza again after claiming ceasefire is back

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY



Broken deal: Smoke billowing during an Israeli strike on the besieged Palestinian territory on Thursday. AFP

Israel said it struck an arms dump in Gaza on Wednesday, hours after the deadliest night of bombing since the start of a U.S.-brokered truce, warning it would continue to operate to take out perceived threats.

The military announced it had carried out a precision strike on a site in the Beit Lahia area of northern Gaza where it said weapons were being stockpiled for "an imminent terror attack".

Israeli troops, it said, would remain deployed in "accordance with the ceasefire agreement and will continue to operate to remove any immediate threat".

Hamas-run Gaza's civil defence agency said that one Palestinian was killed in the latest strike – and that 104 – including 46 children and 24 women – had died in the previous night's bombardment.

The Israeli military launched a wave of bombing after one of its soldiers was killed in Gaza on Tuesday. By mid-morning on Wednesday it said it had begun "renewed enforcement of the ceasefire".

Both U.S. President Donald Trump and regional mediator Qatar said they expected the ceasefire to hold, but inside Gaza displaced families were losing hope.

United Nations rights chief Volker Turk said the report of so many dead was appalling and urged all sides not to let peace "slip from our grasp", echoing calls from Britain, Germany and the European Union for the parties to recommit to the ceasefire.

Dissanayake launches nation-wide drive to end Sri Lanka's drug menace

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO



Anura Kumara Dissanayake

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Thursday launched an island-wide programme aimed at ending the country's enduring drug problem that, he said, some in the police force are part of.

Speaking at an event to mark the launch of the initiative, titled 'United as a Nation – National Drive', the leftist leader, whose government came to power a year ago, warned police officers reportedly involved in narcotics networks of tough action. "Leave immediately! Otherwise, we will remove you," Mr. Dissanayake said, adding that the prevalent opinion that the drug menace could be resolved if the police department is cleansed "is true".

Located along a crucial shipping route, Sri Lanka has been grappling with the entry of narcotics substances over many years. While the island was earlier used mostly as a transit hub by international pedlars, the problem of trafficking and drug use within the island has grown significantly over the last few years, according to officials. Youth, in particular, have been affected.

Mass arrests

According to data published by the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, Sri Lanka police made 228,450 drug-related arrests last year, including through a controversial operation launched by the last government, where thousands were arrested amid concerns of rights violations.

This year, nearly 200,000 individuals have been arrested, according to police records, for alleged possession of narcotic substances, including heroin, cocaine, 'Ice' or methamphetamine and cannabis.

On October 26, an Indian national was apprehended at the Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo with a stash of heroin, weighing nearly 3 kg and worth millions, concealed in his luggage. He was travelling from Malaysia, police said.

"Much of the drugs entering Sri Lanka come from Pakistan and Afghanistan," a senior official told *The Hindu*, requesting anonymity, citing sensitivity of the government's new initiative. "Some types come from Europe and India as well. We now have the support of the international community to target these networks both in land and sea in our respective territories," he said.

Not just the police, but Sri Lanka's military has also been accused of being complicit in narcotics networks. In a recent parliamentary address, Tamil National People's Front (TNPF) leader and Jaffna District MP Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam said members of the military played "a central role" in drug peddling and use across Tamil-majority districts in the island's north and east, "deliberately fostering" drug addiction among Tamil youth.

Drug use took root in Jaffna after it came under military occupation in 1995, and worsened after 2009, when the civil war ended, the legislator said, contending that the use of drugs was "non-existent" when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) controlled the areas. "It is affecting our society like a cancer," he said.

Resume testing U.S. nuclear weapons immediately, Trump orders Pentagon

Reuters
BUSAN



Donald Trump

U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the U.S. military on Thursday to immediately resume testing nuclear weapons after a gap of 33 years, minutes before beginning a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Mr. Trump made the surprise announcement on Truth Social while he was aboard his Marine One helicopter flying to meet Mr. Xi for a trade negotiating session in Busan, South Korea. He said he was instructing the Pentagon to test the U.S. nuclear arsenal on an "equal basis" with other nuclear powers.

"Because of other countries testing programs, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis. That process will begin immediately," Mr. Trump posted. "Russia is second, and China is a distant third, but will be even within 5 years."

A senior Russian lawmaker said Mr. Trump's decision would herald a new era of unpredictability and open confrontation, state news agency RIA reported.

China's Foreign Ministry called for the U.S. to abide by its commitment to a moratorium on nuclear testing and uphold the global strategic balance and stability.

On his way back to Washington, Mr. Trump said testing was needed to ensure the U.S. keeps up with its rival nuclear powers.

Swift reactions

The reaction to Trump's announcement on testing was swift. Representative Dina Titus, a Democrat from Nevada, said on X: "I'll be introducing legislation to put a stop to this."

Daryl Kimball, director of the Arms Control Association, said it would take the United States at least 36 months to resume contained nuclear tests underground at the former test site in Nevada. "Trump is misinformed and out of touch," Kimball said on X.

Russia blasts Ukraine's power grid

Associated Press
KYIV

Russia on Thursday launched massive drone and missile attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, causing power outages across all regions of the country and killing two people.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko describing Moscow's tactic as "systematic energy terror."

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking),Sankaramangalam,Kollam 691583
Phone : 0476-2651215 to 217, E-Mail :md@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No	Tender Id	Items
1	2025_KMML_816539_1	Supply of Vacuum Formed Ceramic Fibre Embedded Heating Element Semi Cylindrical Heater Modules
2	2025_KMML_816429_1	Power and control cables of various sizes
3	2025_KMML_816408_1	For supply of Compensating cable and Triad
4	2025_KMML_816801_1	For the supply of Motor Control Center (MCC2)
5	2025_KMML_816984_1	For the supply of Plate Inconnel 600
6	2025_KMML_809645_1	Drilling of two numbers of deep tubewell

Chavara 30.10.2025 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता जल संसाधन (उत्तर) हनुमानगढ़
नजदीक तिलक सर्किल, हनुमानगढ़ जक्शन-335512 | फोन नं.: 01552-260607, ई-मेल आईडी- cewrdhmh@gmail.com
क्रमांक: 5916 Date: 18.10.2025

Notice Inviting Bid (NIB Code: WRN2526A0107)
Bids for 01 No of Work as shown in the below table invited from prospective bidders up to 24.11.2025 time 6.00 PM.

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost in lacs	UBN No.
1	Renovation & Modernization of Ghaghar Sub Branch Link (GGR) km 0.000 to 11.073, Jorkiya Distributary (JRK) km 0.000 to 26.617, Mammarkhera Distributary (MMK) Km 0.000 to 37.098, Morjanda Distributary (MJD) Km 0.000 to 37.004 & Lalgarh Minor (LLG) Km 0.000 to 11.889 of Bhakhra Canal System District Hanumangarh.	11350.64	WRN2526 WLOB00324

Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, of the state and www.water.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.

(Pradeep Rustagi) Chief Engineer, Water Resources (North) Hanumangarh

DIPR/C/15773/2025

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD (TIDCO)
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NOTICE NO. TIDCO/EoI-CCS-02/2025 **Date: 31.10.2025**

Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO), intends to develop an **International Cricket Stadium and a commercial complex (Project) in Coimbatore,** on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

Expression of Interest is invited from the interested applicants and requested to submit their proposal with a conceptual Plan and a suitable project structure for implementation of the Project under PPP mode. The last date for submission of the application is at or before 5 PM on 24.11.2025.

Interested firms can download the EoI document from **https://tidco.com; https://tntenders.gov.in**

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd
19-A, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.
E-mail: cmd@tidco.com , Website: https://tidco.com

DIPR/5924/Tender/2025

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252613 005335	Imported Wood Chips in Bulk (Thickness less than 6MM) Species : Eucalyptus	10.11.2025

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Notification for Admission into

M.Sc.(Hort.)/M.Sc., Courses and Ph.D. (Hort.)/Ph.D., Courses - 2025-26

Advt.No.1/(PGS) Acad./2025 Dated: 31-10-2025

Applications are invited for admission into various disciplines of **M.Sc.(Hort.)/ M.Sc., Courses** from candidates of Andhra pradesh and others and States (Outside State quota) and **Ph.D(Hort)/ Ph.D., Courses** from the candidates of Andhra pradesh who qualified and secured rank in subject group of ICAR-AIEEA (PG)-2025 & ICAR-AICE-JRF/SRF (Ph.D)-2025 respectively. For Application forms and other details, please visit website: **https://drysrhu.ap.gov.in.**

DIPR 4530PP/CL, Dt.:30-10-2025 Sd/- B.SRINIVASULU, REGISTRAR

LIKE A DREAM

‘It wasn’t about my 50 or 100... it was about making India win’



EMMANUAL YOGINI

It feels like a dream and it still hasn’t sunk in. I did not know I was batting at No. 3 and just told them to let me know. Five minutes before we entered the field, I was informed that I was batting at No. 3. Today was not about my 50 or 100... it was about making India win — Jemimah Rodrigues.

CAPTAINSPEAK

‘We trust that any player can win any match from any situation’



EMMANUAL YOGINI

I am feeling great as we crossed the finish line, something that we have been looking to do for so many years. We fully trust that any player can win any match from any situation. We made a few mistakes but have been learning from them. Playing in a World Cup at home is special. — Harmanpreet Kaur, India skipper.

BELOW PAR

If you do not turn up, anyone is going to get you: skipper Healy



EMMANUAL YOGINI

We did not finish with the bat well, did not bowl that great, dropped chances in the field and were ultimately outdone. India played really well, held their nerve and got themselves across the line. The semifinal is a knockout game and if you do not turn up, anyone is going to get you — Alyssa Healy, Australia captain.

MAKING HISTORY

Litchfield is youngest and fastest to score a century in WC knockout tie



EMMANUAL YOGINI

Australian opener Phoebe Litchfield became the youngest to score a century in a Women’s ODI World Cup knockout match. The left-hander, aged 22 years and 195 days, smashed 119 off 93 balls against India on Thursday. She also registered the fastest hundred in a knockout tie in the event, reaching the landmark off 77 balls.

Jemimah’s gem helps India knock out Australia

The No. 3 adds 167 for the third wicket with captain Harmanpreet; the Women in Blue pull off the highest successful chase in the 50-over format and will meet South Africa in the final

ODI WORLD CUP

Amol Karhadkar
NAVI MUMBAI

A belter of a track. Close to 680 runs scored in a single day. Two magnificent centuries. And a record crowd at the D.Y. Patil Stadium witnessed a dream come true as India stunned defending champion Australia to storm into the Women’s ODI World Cup final on Thursday.

India had never successfully chased more than 265 in ODIs. No team had ever chased down 339 in the 50-over format. But, thanks to Jemimah Rodrigues’ masterclass (127 n.o., 134b, 14x4) India pulled off the impossible – winning by five wickets with nine balls to spare – to book a title clash with South Africa at the same venue on Sunday.

Jemimah’s 167-run partnership with captain Harmanpreet Kaur (89, 88b, 10x4, 2x6) first steadied the innings, then kept the home side in the hunt, and finally turned the tide.

Jemimah was in imperious touch – gliding cuts, elegant cover drives, delicate ramps and running quickly between the wickets – all in a sublime blend of grace and grit.

While Jemimah anchored, Harmanpreet played second fiddle early on before shifting gears once she crossed fifty. Her dismissal off a tired shot, caught by Ashleigh Gardner at deep mid-wicket, briefly tilted the game back in Australia’s favour. But with 113 needed off 88, India’s belief didn’t waver.

Cameos from Deepti Sharma (24, 17b, 3x4) and Richa Ghosh (26, 16b, 2x4, 2x6), who cleared the ropes with effortless ease, ensured the run-rate never got beyond the host’s reach.

When Amanjot Kaur’s square-cut off Sophie Molineux raced to the boundary, Jemimah was engulfed by jubilant teammates – fittingly the moment of the night.

If India was sloppy in the field – conceding at least 20 extra runs and missing chances – Australia, too, crumbled under pressure. Skipper Alyssa Healy dropped Jemimah on 82, and Tahlia McGrath spilled another chance on 106, both proving fatal as the centurion guided India home.

Earlier, Phoebe Litchfield’s classy 119, aided by Ellyse Perry’s 77 and Gardner’s 63, had powered Australia to 338. But India rewrote the record books to script a historic victory.



One for the ages: Jemimah showcased her range of strokes and combined with Harmanpreet to deliver in the big game. EMMANUAL YOGINI

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA
Alyssa Healy b Kranti 5 *(15b)*, Phoebe Litchfield b Amanjot 119 *(93b, 17x4, 3x6)*, Ellyse Perry b Radha 77 *(88b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Beth Mooney c Jemimah b Shree Charani 24 *(22b, 3x4)*, Annabel Sutherland c & b Shree Charani 3 *(6b)*, Ashleigh Gardner run out 63 *(45b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Tahlia McGrath run out 12 *(7b, 2x4)*, Kim Garth run out 17 *(17b)*, Alana King c Richa b Deepti 4 *(4b, 1x4)*, Sophie Molineux b Deepti 0 *(1b)*, Megan Schutt (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-11): 13; Total (in 49.5 overs): 338.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-25 (Healy, 5.1 overs), 2-180 (Litchfield, 27.2), 3-220 (Mooney, 33.6), 4-228 (Sutherland, 35.5), 5-243 (Perry, 39.2), 6-265 (McGrath, 41.4), 7-331 (Gardner, 48.3), 8-336 (King, 49.2), 9-336 (Molineux, 49.3).

INDIA BOWLING
Renuka 8-0-39-0, Kranti 6-0-58-1, Shree Charani 10-0-49-2, Deepti 9.5-0-73-2, Amanjot 8-0-51-1, Radha 8-0-66-1.

INDIA
Shafali Verma lbw b Garth 10 *(5b, 2x4)*, Smriti Mandhana c Healy b Garth 24 *(24b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Jemimah Rodrigues (not out) 127 *(134b, 14x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur c Gardner b Sutherland 89 *(88b, 10x4, 2x6)*, Deepti Sharma run out 24 *(17b, 3x4)*, Richa Ghosh c Garth b Sutherland 26 *(16b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Amanjot Kaur (not out) 15 *(8b, 2x4)*; Extras (b-4, lb-6, nb-1, w-15): 26; Total (for five wkts. in 48.3 overs): 341.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-13 (Shafali, 1.3), 2-59 (Smriti, 9.2), 3-226 (Harmanpreet, 35.2), 4-264 (Deepti, 40.5), 5-310 (Richa, 45.6).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Schutt 6-0-40-0, Garth 7-0-46-2, Gardner 8-0-55-0, Molineux 6.3-0-44-0, Sutherland 10-0-69-2, King 9-0-58-0, McGrath 2-0-19-0.

Toss: Australia; **PoM:** Jemimah.
India won by five wickets with nine deliveries to spare.
The Final: Nov. 2, India vs. South Africa, Navi Mumbai, 3 p.m.

India ready for Australian challenge at the MCG

INDIA IN AUSTRALIA

Press Trust of India
MELBOURNE

Formidable India has its tails up as it heads to the MCG for the second T20I against Australia here on Friday, thanks to the influx of young talent and the return to form of skipper Suryakumar Yadav.

Entering the opener of the five-match series under scrutiny, Suryakumar, however, roared back to form with a 24-ball unbeaten 39.

However, rain had the last word in Canberra as the match was abandoned-with India strongly placed at 97 for one after 9.4 overs.



Big plus: The return to form of Suryakumar would have gladdened the Indian team management. ANI

The teams (from): Australia: Mitchell Marsh (Capt.), Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Mitchell Owen, Josh Philippe, Tanveer Sangha, Matthew Short, Marcus Stoinis.
India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Shubman Gill (Vice-capt.), Tilak Varma, Nitish Kumar, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Varun Chakaravarthy, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar.
Match starts at 1.45 p.m. IST.

Teenaged Aussie cricketer dies after being hit by ball

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

A promising 17-year-old Australian cricketer died on Thursday after being struck by a ball, with his family saying they were “utterly devastated”.

Ben Austin was in the nets with a helmet on before a Twenty20 game in Melbourne on Tuesday when he was hit in the neck while facing a ball-throwing device.

He was rushed to hospital in critical condition.

“We are utterly devastated by the passing of our beautiful Ben, who died earlier on Thursday morning,” his father Jace Austin said in a statement.

“This tragedy has taken Ben from us, but we find some comfort that he was doing something he did for so many summers – going down to the nets with mates to play cricket.”



Austin. X@CRICKETCOMAU

The teenager was not wearing a stem guard, which protects the neck, said ABC News.

Austin was an emerging bowler and batter, considered by his Ferntree Gully Cricket Club as a “star cricketer, great leader and an awesome young man”.

Players from both teams wore black arm bands for the Women’s World Cup semifinal on Thursday between Australia and host India.

Indian challenge ends as Shrivalli, Sahaja bow out

CHENNAI OPEN

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Janice Tjen of Indonesia, seeded four, endured difficult weather conditions to outlast defending champion Linda Fruhvirtova of the Czech Republic 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals of WTA 250 Chennai Open at the SDAT-Nungambakkam Stadium here on Thursday.

The Indonesian’s triumph was certainly a lesson in endurance and the art of fighting back against odds.

Indian’s Sahaja Yamalapalli and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, both wild card entrants, lost in contrasting fashions in the round of 16.

Sahaja went down tamely 6-2, 6-2 to Croatia’s Donna Vekic, seeded third, while Shrivalli lost to seventh-seeded Kimberly Birrell of Australia 7-5, 7-6 (2) as the Indian challenge in singles ended.

The Vekic-Sahaja match was one-sided.

Shrivalli was fearless as she produced heart-tugging forehand winners. She broke the Aussie’s serve in the eighth and 10th games to level it 5-5.

However, when it mattered most, she couldn’t hold her serve in the 11th game while Kimberly held hers in the next game to close out the set. Shrivalli took the second set to a tie-breaker, which she lost eventually.



Marching on: Birrell held off a Shrivalli’s challenge. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The results (second round):
Singles: Janice Tjen (Ina) bt Linda Fruhvirtova (Cze) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; Donna Vekic (Cro) bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-2, 6-2.

Arina Rodionova (Aus) bt Storm Hunter (Aus) 1-6, 6-4, 7-6(9); Polina Oatcenko bt Katarzyna Kawa (Pol) 6-2, 6-3.

Kimberly Birrell (Aus) bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 7-5, 7-6(2).

INBRIEF



Teenager Ilamparthi becomes India's 90th Grandmaster

A.R. Ilamparthi on Thursday became India's 90th Grandmaster, securing his final GM norm at the Bijeljina tournament in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The 16-year-old Chennai-based player, who achieved his first GM norm at the Hanoi tournament in Vietnam in December 2023 and scored his second norm at the Singapore International Open in 2024, had crossed the 2500 Elo mark at the 2024-25 Rilton Cup.

Anahat's dream run at Canadian Open ends

Anahat Singh's impressive run at the Canadian Open squash came to an end with straight-game defeat to World No. 10 Gina Kennedy of England in the semifinals. The 17-year-old went down 5-11, 8-11, 10-12 in 30 minutes in the last-four stage of the $96,250 PSA Silver event on Wednesday.



Shah and Coventry discuss cricket's return to Olympics

ICC Chairman Jay Shah met IOC President Kirsty Coventry in Lausanne recently and discussed the road to the Los Angeles Games and cricket's return to the Olympic Games. They reflected on the progress made so far and the significant role the game can play in the growth of the Olympic movement.

Ayush, Kiran, Lakshya, and Rakshitha in quarterfinals

Ayush thrashed former World champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 21-11, 21-11 and Kiran George knocked out World No. 13 Toma Junior Popov of France 18-21, 21-18, 21-19 to enter the quarterfinals of the $475,000 Hylo Open Super 500 badminton at Saarbrucken on Thursday. Earlier, Lakshya Sen and Rakshitha Ramesh also booked last eight berths with contrasting wins. Lakshya eased past Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian 21-14, 21-11, while Rakshitha beat Shriyanshi Valishetty 19-21, 21-8, 21-13.

Wednesday's results (first round): Men: Ayush Shetty bt Victor Lai 21-11, 4-21, 21-18; Jonatan Christie bt Tharun Mannepalli 21-11, 21-12. **Doubles:** Christo Popov & Toma Popov bt Pruthvi K. Roy & K. Sai Pratheek 21-15, 21-18. **Mixed doubles:** Rohan Kapoor & Ruthvika Gadde bt Jonathan Lai & Crystal Lai 21-18, 21-13.



Juve bounces back; Roma, Inter keep pace with Napoli

Juventus snapped an eight-match winless streak with Wednesday's 3-1 success over Udinese, as Roma and Inter Milan stayed on Serie A leader Napoli's tails. Roma beat Parma 2-1 while Inter defeated Fiorentina 3-0.

The results: Bologna 0 drew with Torino 0; Como 3 (Douvikas 9, Posch 62, Vojvoda 90+2) bt Verona 1 (Serdar 25); Genoa 0 lost to Cremonese 2 (Bonazzoli 4, 49); Inter Milan 3 (Calhanoglu 66, 88-pen, Sucic 71) bt Fiorentina 0; Roma 2 (Hermoso 63, Dovbyk 81) bt Parma 1 (Circati 86); Juventus 3 (Vlahovic 5-pen, Gatti 67, Yildiz 90+6-pen) bt Udinese 1 (Zaniolo 45+1).

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs India: 2nd T20I, Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 1.45 p.m.
Tennis: WTA Chennai Open, Eurosport, 3 p.m.
Chess: World Cup, FIDE *YouTube* channel, 3 p.m.
Zimbabwe vs Afghanistan: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 5 p.m.
Bangladesh vs West Indies: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 5.30 p.m.
Tennis: Paris Masters, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 6.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.



Timber!!!: Subrayen has no answer to a delivery from Kotian. K. MURALI KUMAR

Kotian's four-wicket haul restricts South Africa-A

The off-spinner pulls things back for the host after Jordan Hermann, Hamza and Rubin Hermann hit half-centuries; Suthar claims two; the visiting side ends the opening day at 299 for nine

INDIA-A VS SA-A

Tarun Shastry
BENGALURU

A tinge of grass on the surface and a steady lateral breeze provided ideal bowling conditions, and India-A captain Rishabh Pant's decision to bowl first was vindicated as South Africa-A ended the opening day at 299 for nine in the first multi-day match at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Grounds here on Thursday.

Pant's move paid off early when pacer Anshul Kamboj struck in the fourth over, drawing opener Lesego Senokwane into a drive outside off-stump and inducing an edge to first slip.

The other opener, Jordan Hermann and Zubayr Hamza, then steadied the innings with a disciplined partnership.

Jordan looked fluent, pulling a short ball crisply to the square-leg boundary, while Hamza opened his account with a thick edge past third-man.

Hamza grew in confidence, driving elegantly through the covers, executing deft late cuts and reverse sweeps, and running hard between the wickets to bring up a half-century.

The visiting team went to lunch, strongly placed at 108 for one.

After the break, medium-pacer Gurnoor Brar surprised Hamza with a sharp, rising delivery that brushed the edge on its way to Pant – a marginal decision that ended a solid 132-run second-wicket stand.

Skipper Marques Ackerman joined Jordan, and the pair kept the scoreboard moving before off-spinner Tanush Kotian turned things around.

Kotian removed Ackerman to a sharp catch at short mid-wicket and trapped Jordan (71, 140b, 8x4) in front just before tea.

Post-interval, Rivaldo Moonsamy fell cheaply to Manav Suthar, reducing the visitors to 197 for five. Tiaan van Vuuren counter-attacked, adding 72 runs for the sixth wicket with Rubin Hermann, before Kotian struck twice – castling both Rubin and Prenelan Subrayen – to bag his fourth.

With wickets tumbling, Van Vuuren's attempted hoick resulted in a top-edge to short fine-leg, and left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed struck late, trapping Lutho Sipamla plumb in front as India-A ended the day in front.

The scores:
South Africa-A 299/9 in 85.2 overs (Jordan Hermann 71, Zubayr Hamza 66, Rubin Hermann 54, Tanush Kotian 4/83) vs India-A.
Toss: India-A.

Kotian credits his good performance to domestic experience



Turning it around: Kotian struck four times to bring his side back into the contest. K. MURALI KUMAR

Tarun Shastry
BENGALURU

There was a light-hearted moment during the afternoon session on day one of the India A-South Africa-A opening 'Test' at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Grounds. Skipper Rishabh Pant encouraged off-spinner Tanush Kotian to keep tossing the ball, telling him not to worry about getting hit as long as he bowled tight lines.

Kotian responded, striking four times to bring his side back into the contest.

Speaking to the media after the day's play, Kotian credited his domestic experience for helping him find rhythm and confidence.

"In the morning, there wasn't much help, but after lunch, we came up with a plan to bowl tighter lines around the stumps. That worked – we got nine wickets by the end of the day," he said.

Mumbai factor

Kotian highlighted how bowling in the Mumbai Ranji set-up has sharpened his skills.

"In our team, there are some of the best batsmen against spin. Bowling to them really helps – they guide us on what troubles them and discuss tactics and field placements. Having senior players like Ajinkya Rahane and Shardul Thakur makes a big difference," he added.

"When I get a good seam position, it helps me extract bounce and turn. Maintaining consistency and building pressure with dot balls gives me confidence that I'm contributing, even if I'm not taking wickets," said the 27-year-old.

Indian boxers' medal rush continues at Youth Asiad



Striking it rich: Chandrika, Kushi and Ahaana were the stars as India completed a golden hat-trick. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Press Trust of India
BAHRAIN

Indian boxers continued their impressive show at the Youth Asian Games, clinching three gold and one silver medal, here on Thursday.

Khushi Chand (46kg) opened India's medals tally with a 4-1 victory over China's Luo Jinxiu, Ahaana Sharma (50kg) forced a Referee Stopped Contest (RSC) in Round One against North Korea's Ma Jong Hyang, and Chandrika Bhoreshi Pujari (54kg) completed the golden hat-trick by dominating Uzbekistan's Muhammadova Kumriniso with a 5-0 decision.

In the boys' category, Lanchenba Lanchenba Singh Moibungkhongbam (50kg) narrowly lost his bout against Nurmakhan Zhumagali of Kazakhstan.

Dabang Delhi to lock horns with Puneri Paltan in PKL title clash

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Dabang Delhi K.C. and Puneri Paltan, the two standout teams in the 12th season of the Pro Kabaddi League, will lock horns in the final at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium on Friday.

When they met in Qualifier 1 on Monday, Dabang Delhi, champion of the eighth edition, edged past Paltan 6-4 in a tiebreaker after the scores were locked 34-34 in regulation time.

Led by Ashu Malik, the team from the national capital has shown grit in crunch moments.

Paltan, however, bounced back in style, winning Qualifier 2 against Telugu Titans to seal its third appearance in the final in four seasons. Under Aslam Inamdar's leadership, Paltan has a very balanced squad at its disposal.



The big prize: Delhi skipper Ashu and his Pune counterpart Inamdar will be eyeing glory. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

All three duels between these teams this season have required a tie-breaker. It suggests that another close contest is on the cards.

Dabang Delhi head coach Joginder Narwal said his team's entry to the final is a result of belief and togetherness. "I'm extremely proud of this group - we've grown together. From the young players to the senior ones, everyone has stepped up.

"The way they've fought through challenges and stayed united makes me believe this team deserves every bit of success it gets," Narwal said.

Obieta's strike does it for Blasters, BFC eases past Mohammedan Sporting

SUPER CUP

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
BAMBOLIM

Koldo Obieta scored a late winner as Kerala Blasters (KBFC) started its AIFF Super Cup campaign on a high with a 1-0 win over a 10-man Rajasthan United FC in their Group D match at the GMC Stadium here on Thursday.

KBFC tried to find an opening through set pieces and almost got one in the 22nd minute when Danish Farooq headed Adrian Luna's corner kick against the outside of the woodwork.

Eight minutes later, from another corner, Muhammed Saheef's header was cleared by Gursimrat Singh Gill just in front of Rajasthan's goal-line.

But after the restart, another Gursimrat intervention proved costly.



Job well done: Obieta celebrates after scoring for Blasters. THE-AIFF.COM

The defender pulled down Nihal Sudheesh, who was running through on goal after a pass from Obieta, earning a straight red card.

As the clock ticked past the 80th minute mark, Rajathan looked to see the match out with a point.

Just then, the combination of Juan Rodriguez and Obieta found the breakthrough. The defender set up Obieta, who headed the ball past a diving Bhabindra Malla, scoring his first goal for the club.

The win took Blasters to second in Group D, with Mumbai City FC, level on points with KBFC, topping the table on goal difference. KBFC plays bottom-placed Sporting Club Delhi next, while Rajasthan locks horns with the Islanders, with both matches on November 3.

Later, youth – Taorem Kelvin Singh (19) and experience – Sunil Chhetri (41) – both bore fruit for Bengaluru FC as it beat Mohammedan Sporting 2-0 in their Group C match at the PJN Stadium in Margao.

Kelvin steered Braian Sanchez's pass into the net with a right-footed curler while Chhetri converted from the spot after he was brought down by Pukrambam Meitei in the 85th minute.

The results:
Rajasthan United 0 lost to Kerala Blasters 1 (Obieta 87), Bengaluru FC 2 (Kelvin 34, Chhetri 86) bt Mohammedan Sporting 0.

Dalwinder suspended for two years for using prohibited substance

TENNIS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) on Thursday suspended 2017 national champion Dalwinder Singh for using prohibited substance morphine.

In line with precedent and TADP rules, a two-year suspension was proposed to the player, which was acceded to and became effective on October 22, 2025. The period of ineligibility will end on October 21, 2027.

Dalwinder, who reached a career-high world singles ranking of 791 in April 2017, tested positive for morphine in March 2025 while competing in an ITF World Tennis Tour event in Chandigarh.



Dalwinder. FILE PHOTO

Following correspondence with the ITIA, Dalwinder admitted to the ADRV, asserting that they believed the source of the morphine to be a pain-relief medication taken on the day of their positive test.

However, Dalwinder was unable to provide further information to support their account, including any packaging, receipts, prescriptions.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

ARM Branch, Circle Office, D.No. 54-15-4B, Ground floor, Lakshmi Avenue, Srinivasanagar Bank Colony, Ring Road, Vijayawada, AP-520008. Ph: 8331011695, E-mail: armvij@canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

[SECTION 13(4)] (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The under signed being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank, ARM Branch Vijayawada** under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **18.08.2025** calling upon the **Borrowers : Sri Bolla Subbarao, S/o Venkateswara Rao and Smt Koneru Sravanthi, D/o Omkar** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.55,55,129.28 (Rupees Fifty Five Lakh Fifty Five Thousand One Hundred Twenty Nine and Paise Twenty Eight Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and public in general, that the under signed has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him /her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules on this **28th day of October of the year 2025.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank** for an amount of **Rs.56,60,193.28 (Rupees Fifty Six Lakhs Sixty Thousand One Hundred Ninety Three and Twenty Eight Paisa Only)** respectively and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

SCHEDULE-A : All that part and parcel of the property situated in Krishna District, Vijayawada Registration District, in the Jurisdiction of Patamata Sub Registry, Penamaluru Mandal, Kanuru R.S.No.197/2A, 197/2C, 196/6, Plot No.3, regulated by VGTM UDA, vide R.L.P.No.18/2010/VJA. **Bounded by : East :** 33.0 feet wide Road - 36.0 ft, **South :** Plot No.4 belongs to Jagarlamudi Rajyalakshmi - 53.0 ft, **West :** Property of others - 36.0 ft, **North :** Plot No.2 - 53.0 ft

In this four boundaries an Extent of 212.0 Sq.yds or 177.25 Sq.mts Undivided Share of 55.0 Sq.yds or 45.98 Sq.mts.

SCHEDULE-B : In the above said total extent of A-schedule site, Group House have been constructing under the name and style of "NITHIN HEIGHTS" in which total First Floor. **Bounded by : East :** Stair Case, Lift and Corridor, **South :** Open to Sky, **West :** Open to Sky, **North :** Open to Sky.

In between the above Boundaries total First Floor, admeasuring 1310 Sq.fts of Plinth area, 258 Sq.fts Balcony, 212 Sq.fts Common and 120 Sq. Feet of Car Parking Area, and with joint rights in water, drainage, staircase and lift along with other co-owners and with all common facilities, and with all easement rights.

Title holder : Sri Bolla Subbarao, S/o Venkateswara Rao and Smt Koneru Sravanthi, D/o Omkar.

Date : 28.10.2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Vijayawada **Canara Bank**

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.12,16,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh and Sixteen Thousand only)** as on **10-09-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **11-09-2025** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. M. Mahaboob Basha, S/o. Mohammed Khasim, House No.53-B, Railway Quaters, Adoni, Kurnool - 518301. Also At, Mr. M. Mahaboob Basha, S/o. Mohammed Khasim, Door No.21/5, Shiva Shankar Nagar, Near Sai Baba Temple, Adoni, Kurnool - 518301. Also At, Mr. M. Mahaboob Basha, S/o. Mohammed Khasim, No.27/2-15-7B, SKD Colony, 7th Road Extension, Adoni, Kurnool - 518301. Also At, Mr. M. Mahaboob Basha, S/o. Mohammed Khasim, House No.43, First Floor, 3rd Cross, Near Veera Siddivinayaka Temple, N M H Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Chikkabanavara, Bangalore North, Karnataka - 560090. No.2) Mrs. S. Haseena, W/o. M. Mahaboob Basha, House No.53-B, Railway Quaters, Adoni, Kurnool - 518301. Also At, Mrs. S. Haseena, W/o. M. Mahaboob Basha, No.21/5, Shiva Shankar Nagar, Near Sai Baba Temple, Adoni, Kurnool - 518301. Also At, Mrs. S.Haseena, W/o. M. Mahaboob Basha, No.27/2-15-7B, SKD Colony, 7th Road Extension, Adoni, Kurnool - 518301. Also At, Mrs. S.Haseena, W/o. M. Mahaboob Basha, House No.43, First Floor, 3rd Cross, Near Veera Siddivinayaka Temple, N M H Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Chikkabanavara, Bangalore North, Karnataka - 560090.**

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. M. Mahaboob Basha, S/o. Mohammed Khasim)

House Bearing Door No.21/2/15/7/B, situated in SKD Colony, constructed in Plot No.46, On Western Side Portion in Sy.No.378B and 379B vide L.P.No.3/83, in Mandigiri Village, Within Adoni Town and Municipality, in Sub-Registration District of Adoni and Registration District of Kurnool with the following particulars. Boundaries : East : Remaining Portion of Donor, West : Sy.No.376 Land, North : House Bearing Door No.21-2/15/7 constructed in Plot No.45, South : 40 Feet Wide Colony Road. Measurements : East - West : 22 Feet or 6.70 Mts., North-South on Eastern Side : 48 Feet or 14.63 Mts., North-South on Western Side : 45 Feet or 13.71 Mts., Total Area : Ground Floor 1,173.28 Sq.Ft., RCC.

Reserve Price : Rs.36,00,000/-
(Rupees Thirty Six Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
19-11-2025	City Union Bank Limited, Adoni Branch, 79/1A, ESI Hospital Road, Behind NTR Statue, Adoni - 518301, Kurnool. Telephone No.08512-222611, Cell No.9393098158.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Adoni Branch, 79/1A, ESI Hospital Road, Behind NTR Statue, Adoni - 518301, Kurnool. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.08512-222611, Cell No.9393098158. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 29-10-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

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IndianOil

IndianOil CIN-L23201MH1959GOI011388 IndianOil

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Under Order V Rule 20 CPC – Substituted Service by Paper Publication)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI
(Civil Jurisdiction)
A.S. No. 253 of 2025

Between:
Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Undertaking by Government of India, Southern Pipeline Division of Yadamari,
Rep by Deputy General Manager (Security) Sri R Mastaniah Naidu.
…. Appellant/Plaintiff

And:

1. Razia Begam W/o G.Md. Kaleemulla, aged about 49 years, Muslim House-wife, residing at D.No. 17-163, Kummara Street, Chittoor Town District.
2. Munwar Sultana, w/o late Yacoob Sharif, aged about 45 years, Muslim, House-wife, residing at Melvishram, Vellore Taluk & District, Tamil Nadu State.
3. A. Rajendran, S/o Arjuna Modiliyar, aged about 52 years, Hindu, Business. R/o L.G.B. Buildings, Kattamanchi, Chittoor Town and District.
4. R. Sarumathi W/o A. Rajendran, aged about 64 Years, Hindu, House-wife, R/o L.G.B. Buildings, Kattamanchi, Chittoor Town and District.

… Respondents/ Defendants

To,

Respondent(s) No. 2 to 5

(Names and last known addresses as per the case records)

Whereas, an Appeal Suit bearing AS NO 253 of 2025 is filed against the Decree and Judgment, dated 30.12.2024, passed in O.S No. 18 of 2017, on the file of VIII Additional District Judge, Chittoor, notice/summons was ordered to you but could not be served in the ordinary manner, and this Hon'ble Court has been pleased to direct service of notice on you, by way of substituted service through publication.

Therefore, you, the said Respondent(s), are hereby called upon to appear in person or through an Advocate before the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravati and show cause, if any, why the relief prayed for in the petition should not be granted.

In default of your appearance, the matter will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given on this 31st day of October, 2025.

Counsel for the Appellants

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT VISAKHAPATNAM

Gr. & 1st Floor, Sri Narayana Bhavan, Sai Baba Street, Dabagardens, Visakahapatnam - 530020

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.

O.A. No. 852 / 2025

Between:

State Bank of India, Junction Road Branch, D.No. 7/49, Venkateswaraswamy Kovel Street, Nuzvid, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh-521201. Rep. by its Chief Manager ....Applicant

And

1. M/s. Ankitha Enterprises, Rep. by its prop: Sri Gudimella Ravi Kumar,
2. Sri Gudimella Ravi Kumar ....Defendants

To,

1. M/s. Ankitha Enterprises, Rep, by its prop: Sri Gudimella Ravi Kumar, D.No. 5-29, Near Ambedkar Statue, Regunta Village, Yanamandala Post, Nuzvid Mandal, Krishna District - 521201.
2. Sri Gudimella Ravi Kumar, D.No. 5-29, Near Ambedkar Statue, Regunta Village, Yanamandala Post, Nuzvid Mandal, Krishna District - 521201.

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION.

WHEREAS, OA/852/2025 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 24/11/2025.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against your for recovery of debts of **Rs.29,43,276.00/-** (Application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

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

(i) to show cause with in 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 and disposal of the application for attachment of properties.

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

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

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Presiding Officer / Registrar on **24.11.2025** at **10.30 AM.** Failing the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 29/10/2025

Signature of the Officer Authorized to Issue summons.

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IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-59/1306/2025-26 Date: 30.10.2025

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible (Civil) Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Formation of Industrial Layout, including Construction of Roads, of RCC Side Drains, RCC Ducts, RCC Cross Drainage Works, Retaining wall, Nala Training Works, HDPE Dual Water supply pipe line, OHT, GLSR, Borewell, Raising Main & RWH at Sector-5 in Devanahalli General Industrial Area Phase-2 (ITIR Phase-2), Doddaballapura & Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. (2nd Call)

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **24.11.2025** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

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DIPR/CP/3518/NR/2025-26

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TAMILNADU POLICE DEPARTMENT

G.O.(D) NO. 444 Home (Police-XII) Department 07.04.2021

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Phone : 0422 2300250 invites E-Tender for SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF 1400 CCTV CAMERAS IN COIMBATORE CITY. Tender Document may be downloaded from our website **https://www.tenders.tn.gov.in**

Value of the Work	Rs. 16,05,29,910/-
EMD	1% (Rs. 16,05,299/-)
Period of Tender	180 Days
Date of Viewing & Downloading of Tender Documents	05.11.2025 / 10:00 Hrs
Due Date for the submission of E-tender	06.12.2025 / 17:00 Hrs
Opening Date of E-tender	**09.12.2025 / 11:00 Hrs**
Tender Inviting Authority :	Deputy Commissioner of Police Traffic, Coimbatore City.

DIPR/5923/TENDER/2025 **Commissioner of Police, Coimbatore City**

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

UTTAR PRADESH, 6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW.

No. ME-3/2025/2605 Lucknow, Dated: 30.10.2025

RE-REVISED TIME SCHEDULE FOR "THIRD ROUND" OF UP NEET UG COUNSELING 2025 (M.B.B.S./B.D.S.)

In accordance with the REVISED schedule issued by the Medical Counseling Committee (MCC), New Delhi for the NEET UG course, the **Re-Revised schedule for the third round** of online counseling for admission to state quota seats in undergraduate courses (MBBS/BDS) in Government / Private Medical / Dental Colleges / Institutions / Medical Universities is as follows:-

S. No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1	Date of Allotment Result Declaration	On 04-11-2025 or 05-11-2025	01 Days
2	Date for downloading the allotment letters & Admission	From 05-11-2025 To 08-11-2025 & 10-11-2025	05 Days

- As per the instructions contained in the government order/brochure of UP NEET UG 2025, candidates should assess their eligibility themselves.
- The UP NEET UG 2025 information booklet (brochure) and important instructions are available on the website **www.upneet.in** and **www.dgme.up.gov.in**. Keep checking websites regularly for updated information.
- The said counseling will be subject to the final orders passed by the Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad, Lucknow, Bench in Special Appeal No. 295/2025, Uttar Pradesh State & Others vs. Sabra Ahmad.

Helpline Numbers : 8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700

Director General
Medical Education & Training, UP

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

ARM Branch, Circle Office, D.No.54-15-4B, Ground Floor, Lakshmi Avenue, Srinivasa Nagar Bank Colony, Ring Road, Vijayawada, AP - 520008. **Ph: 8331011695, E-mail: armvij@canarabank.com**

E- AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

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

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

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

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

Borrower/Guarantors & Branch Details (All Accounts Transferred to ARM, Vijayawada Branch)	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTIES	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	EMD (10% of Reserve Price)
ARM Branch, Vijayawada M/s. Subham Krafts Papers (p) Ltd, represented by: 1. Managing Directort: Smt. Lingisetty Nagarajeswari, W/o Venkata Swamy, 2. Director: Sri. Lingisetty SrinivasS/o Venkata Swamy, 3. Director: Smt. Lingisetty Subbalakshmi W/o Srinivas, 4. Director: V Rama Koteswari, 5. Guarantor: L Chandra Shekhar S/o Venkata Swamy, 6. Guarantor: M Mohan Rao S/o Rosaiah, 7. Guarantor: Durga Kumari W/o Mohan Rao, 8. Guarantor: G Subbarao S/o Narasaiah, 9. Guarantor: G Bharathi W/o Subbarao. **Total Liability : Rs.27,01,82,398.94 Ps + interest + other expenses**	**Property no.1:** Narasaraopet Registration District, Narasaraopet Sub Division, Nadendla Mandal, Gorijavole Village, D. No. 28/A-A to an extent of Ac. 1- 69 cents out of Ac.2-77 cents, An extent of Ac.0-08 cents out of Ac.2-64 cents in D. No. 29, An Extent of Ac.0-01 cents of poora land in D No. 51/B, An Extent of Ac.1-72 cents out of Ac.1-90 cents in D No. 50/C, An extent of Ac.0-23 cents in D No. 28-A-B1 out of Ac.1-23 cents, An Extent of Ac.0-77 cents out of Ac.2-45 cents in D No. 27/A-3 - Total extent of all these items comes to Ac.4-50 cents and **Boundaries : As per Deed.**	**Rs. 237.00 lakhs**	**Rs. 23.70 lakhs**
	Property no.2: All that part and parcel of Plant & Machinery situated at M/S Subham Kraft Papers Pvt Ltd Mill, D Nos: 28/A-A, 29, 51/B, 50/C, 28/A-B, 28/A-B1, 27/A & 27/A3, Gorijavolu Village, Nadendla Mandal, Guntur District.	**Rs. 52.00 lakhs**	**Rs. 5.20 lakhs**

Date & Time of Inspection of the Property : 18.11.2025 at 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Chief Manager, ARM Branch, Vijayawada, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 8331011695 during office hours on any working day.

*** Dues/taxes, if any, known/not known to the Bank are to be borne by the auction purchaser and the same is exclusive of the final bid amount. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiplies of Rs 10,000/- for Reserve Price up to Rs.25 lacs, in multiplies of Rs 25,000/- for reserve price above Rs.25 lacs and up to Rs.50 lacs, in multiplies of Rs 50,000/- for reserve price above Rs.50 lacs and up to 100 lacs and in multiplies of Rs.1,00,000/- for reserve price above Rs.100 lacs. The bidder who submits the highest bid (above the Reserve price) on closure of "Online" auction shall be declared as successful bidder.**

E-Auction Process and Terms & Conditions, contact Service Provider : M/s. PSB Alliance (baanknet), web portal : "https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb" (Contact No.7046612345/6354910172/8291220220/ 9892219848/8160205051, E-mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com.

Date : 27-10-2025, Place: Vijayawada **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank**

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I, **MAHENDRU HARPAL SINGH (Old Name)** S/o. (Late) MAHENDRU MOHINDER SINGH, Residing at Door No.54-1-7/22, Flat No.205, Blue Sky Brundhavanam Apartment, Mahanadu Road, Vijayawada Urban - 520 007, Andhra Pradesh, India., i have Changed my name as **(New Name) HARPAL SINGH S/o. (Late) MOHINDER SINGH.** Hereafter my name is known as **(New Name) HARPAL SINGH S/o. (Late) MOHINDER SINGH.**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MALLU NARASA RAMI REDDY, S/o Late M. Penchal Reddy, D.No. 5/17, Ramakkapalli Village, Appayya-rajupet Post, Pullampet Mandal, Annamayya District, A.P- 516107. I Worked as Ex- SUBEDAR MAJOR, Army No. JC199955H, In My Service Records & PPO No.212200800096, My Wife Name Mentioned as **N. AMARAVATHI**, Her Correct Name is **MALLU AMARAVATHI** as per Aadhaar.

PERSONAL

MESSAGES

CHANGE OF SURNAME & DATE OF BIRTH

I, S.Ravi, Ex-JC/Army, No:13971301K, D.No:505, Padmavathi Residency, Renigunta Road, Tirupati, Tirupati Dist., A.P., India - 517501. In my service records my Wife Name and Date of Birth mentioned as P.Hemalatha, DOB: 26-12-1970 instead of **RAVI HEMALATHA and Correct DOB: 30.08.1969.**

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AVULA SUBBAIAH, S/o Late A. V. Subbaiah, D.No. 6/70, H. Cherlopalli Village and Post, Rajampeta Mandal, Annamayya Dist, A.P – 516126, I Worked as Ex-HAV , Army No.4271878W, In My Service Records & PPO No.213202000287, My Daughter Name Mentioned as **SUJITHA**, Her Correct Name **AVULA UMA DEVI** as per Aadhaar.

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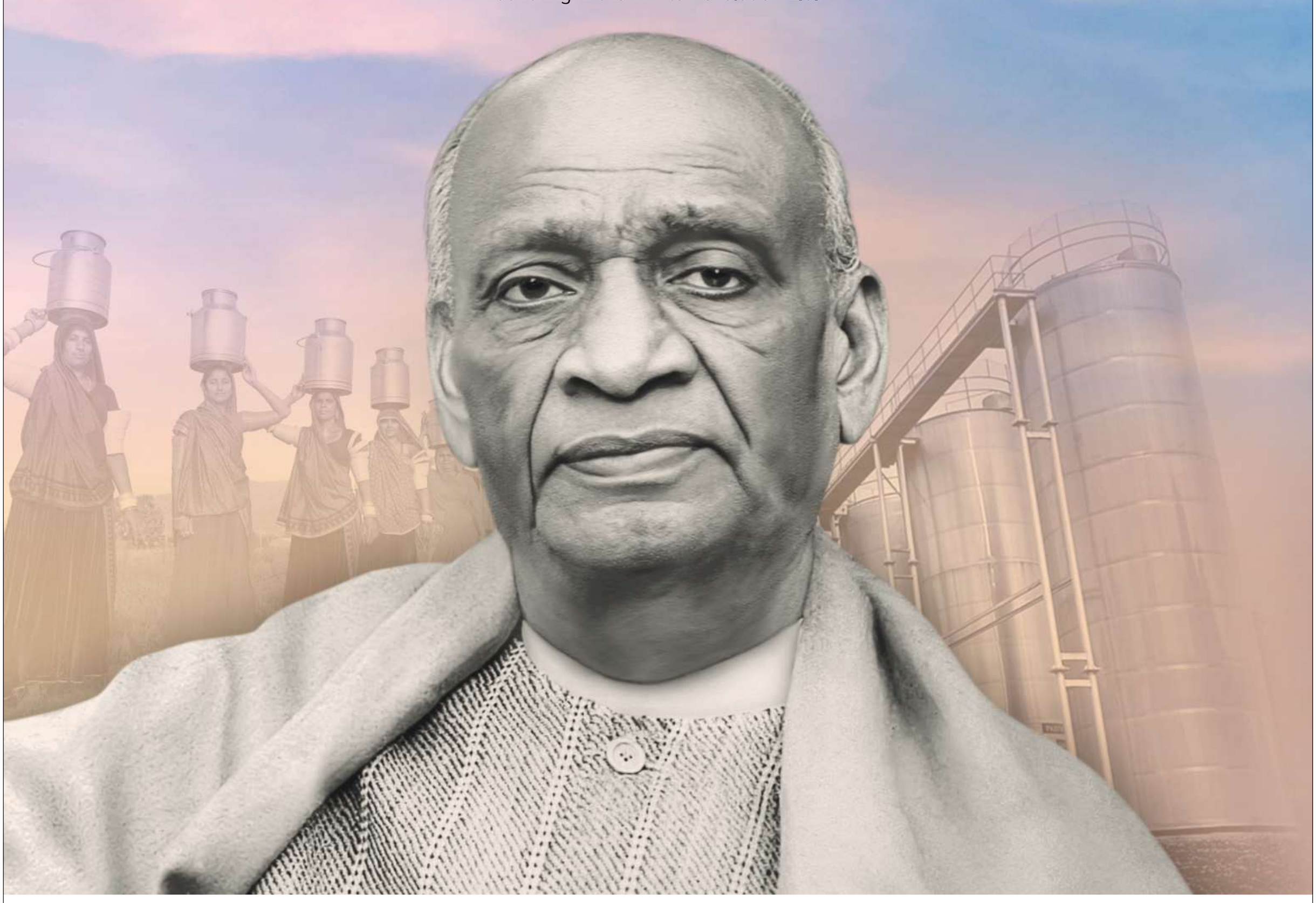
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It's time skipper Suryakumar let his bat do the talking

From being the most feared batter in the 20-over game, there has been a dramatic, alarming fall from grace; his knock in the first T20I against Australia in Canberra showed that he was back in breathtaking run-making mood

R. Kaushik

Suryakumar Yadav's last Twenty20 International half-century came more than a year ago, in his seventh game as India's full-fledged skipper. In 15 subsequent innings, he has topped 20 just three times, been dismissed before reaching 10 on eight occasions and failed to tickle the scorers thrice.

If this doesn't paint the picture of a captain in strife, nothing else will. For close to two years, the right-hander from Mumbai was the most feared batter in the 20-over game, seemingly possessing more than one stroke to each delivery, taking on the bowling with no compunctions, 'expressing' himself with a flair and authority that comes only to a very few. But since then, there has been a dramatic, alarming fall from grace; the 35-year-old is now placed only eighth in the ICC rankings for T20I batters, the top slot he once occupied unchallenged now held by his intrepid young opening colleague, Abhishek Sharma.

As recently as a month back, a couple of hours after leading India to the T20 Asia Cup crown, Suryakumar wished away concerns about his slump. "I am not out of form, I am just out of runs," the captain insisted. A nice line that, backed up by his assertion that so long as he knew what he was doing and so long as he was following his processes, he didn't need to worry about the returns.

For all his obvious nonchalance, he must have felt the pinch. In the T20 firmament, he was succeeding Rohit Sharma, the tone-setter whose aggressive starts in the PowerPlay often decided matches in their infancy. Rohit was a wonderful role model in that he didn't ask of his teammates what he wouldn't do himself. Once he identified a no-holds-barred approach as the way to go in both limited-overs configurations, he took it upon himself to translate into deeds the words he had espoused in the changing room. The assiduous accumulator of the past, him with three ODI double-hundreds, gave way to an ultra-attacking batter who thought little of taking calculated risks with the field restrictions in place.

Because the leader put his money where his mouth was, the rest needed no goading to fall in line. Suryakumar himself was one of the prime beneficiaries of the backing and the support of the management group, which was happy to overlook failures in the pursuit of adhering to team plans.

Having inherited (some might say unexpectedly) a World Cup-winning unit from Rohit, who retired from T20Is immediately after receiving the trophy in Bridgetown in June last year, Suryakumar's brief was clear – to carry that brand of play forward while infusing his own ideologies, in conjunction with new head coach Gautam Gambhir. Unlike the 50-over World Cup which comes around every four years, its younger and shorter sibling is a biennial event, so the plans for the next extravaganza had to be worked out post-haste. Adding to the drama was the fact that the tournament would be staged in India (mainly) and Sri Lanka, which means India will be tasked with defending the crown in their own backyard.

A seismic shift in personnel was necessitated by the retirements of Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja too after the last World Cup. In one fell swoop, India lost plenty of experience and wisdom, but if there is one format where these attributes are a little more expendable, it is the abridged one.

There is no shortage of international experience in the current side – Suryakumar himself, Hardik Pandya (who was Rohit's deputy at the World Cup but eventually lost the captaincy race), potentially Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Shivam Dube, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh. By the time of the World Cup, joining that list will be Shubman Gill, Suryakumar's designated vice-captain, his opening partner Abhishek, the precocious Tilak Varma and Varun Chakaravarthy.

Strong core

This was the core group that facilitated India's triumphant, all-win march to the Asia Cup in Dubai and Abu Dhabi last month, this is the core group that will lead India's charge at the World Cup next year. There are bound to be a couple of omissions due to form and fitness, a couple of additions owing to the former more than the latter. It's a formidable unit, as evidenced by results over the last several months in a format that doesn't always encourage consistency. Therefore, for more reasons than one, Suryakumar must be feeling the pressing need to pull his weight, to string together the kind of scores that once made him owner's pride and neighbour's envy.

India pride themselves on having a flexible, floating batting order beyond the openers. They also have shown a certain obsession with having a left-right combination together at the crease for as long as possible. The presence of accomplished left-handers Abhishek, Tilak, Dube, Axar, Washington Sundar and Rinku Singh has supplemented the right-handed complement of Gill, Suryakumar, Samson and Pandya, with Nitish Kumar Reddy (more injured than available in recent times) throwing up another interesting, exciting option when he is not in the infirmary.

But it won't be the worst idea, both from an individual and a team perspective, for the skipper to make the No. 3 position his own for the time being, at least, so that he can control the innings, maybe take a few deliveries at the start if needed, and then open out. Suryakumar doesn't need seven fielders in the ring to strike at 150 runs per 100 deliveries faced; he is a fabulous amalgam of power and placement, of force and timing, and has the uncanny knack of finding even the tiniest of gaps. Some of his strokes defy not just words but also imagination, such as the pick-up shot from outside off that can go anywhere between mid-wicket and fine-leg. But as the last year has shown, Suryakumar too is only human, and at least for now, a buttoned-down batting berth could be the way for him to find the runs that his touch deserves.

Perhaps the think-tank too is aligned to that line of thinking, because in Canberra on Wednesday in the first of five matches against Australia, he walked out at No. 3, at the fall of Abhishek's wicket, to join Gill. In normal course, India would have injected the left-handed Tilak into the mix to replace a left-hander; Tilak is a wonderfully composed, creative and correct batter whose situational and game awareness is second to none, as he exemplified during a tense run-chase in the Asia Cup final against Pakistan. His title-clinching unbeaten 69, after India slumped to 20 for three in pursuit of 147, was as impeccable a knock under immense pressure as one can hope for.

Tilak had asked for and been given Suryakumar's No. 3 slot during the tour of South Africa last November, and he justified his request with back-to-back centuries. But maybe now, given his recent travails, Suryakumar should pull rank and continue to bat at one-down because that is in both his and his team's best interests.

Good signs

Before the rain cruelly intervened, there were signs in Canberra that Suryakumar was back in breathtaking run-making mood. There was a trademark whip-flick fourth ball, from Josh Hazlewood, that screamed over square-leg for six, a delivery after being opened up and comprehensively beaten by the outstanding Aussie quick. After the first rain break, there was a crunchy sweep against left-arm spinner Matt Kuhnemann, and three glorious boundaries in as many legal deliveries from Nathan Ellis before the final rain stoppage – an upper-cut and a drive over mid-off, both for fours, followed by a disdainful swing over mid-wicket for six. It was exhilarating, it was long overdue, it was lapped up with glee by another predominantly pro-Indian audience that made it seem like yet another home game for the men in blue.

The entertainment was rudely cut short by the elements, but the gauntlet has been thrown down. The Suryakumar that was slightly tentative and found ways and means of courting disaster in the Emirates wasn't on view; instead, it was the vintage version fans have come to know and love. As the runs mounted, the swag returned and one could almost feel the mood lift in the dugout. Suryakumar's final tally read 39 off 24, three fours and two sixes. Impressive, but not impressive as the manner in which he got there. The signs are promising, Australia have been forewarned.

Suryakumar has proved an able successor to Rohit when it comes to stacking up victories. Wednesday's no-show dented his record slightly – he has now led the country to 23 wins in 30 matches as leader, first in a stand-in capacity and now on his own steam in the last 15 months – but only slightly. With the World Cup just a few months away, the emphasis will be less on the results and more on greater role-clarity and ironing out the inevitable creases, but in a result-driven setup such as Indian cricket, it is impossible to plan for the future alone at the expense of immediate outcomes.

India now have 14 more matches before they embark on the defence of the World Cup – four in Australia, and 10 against South Africa and New Zealand at home, which in all considered ways is the ideal lead-in to the mega bash. Suryakumar has already left an indelible imprint on *his* team in the last year and a quarter, but the greatest of challenges lies ahead.

Only a handful of Indians have had the privilege of leading the country in a World Cup in their own backyard – Kapil Dev, Mohammad Azharuddin, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Rohit – and Dhoni apart, no one else has been able to take the team all the way. Ahead of Suryakumar is a glorious opening to emulate the charismatic Jharkhandi and wend his way into the World Cup pantheon. For that to eventuate, his bat must possess the loudest voice. No one knows it better than Suryakumar himself.



GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

Suryakumar's last T20I half-century came more than a year ago, in his seventh game as India's full-fledged skipper. In 15 subsequent innings, he has topped 20 just three times, been dismissed before reaching 10 on eight occasions

It won't be the worst idea, both from an individual and a team perspective, for the skipper to make the No. 3 position his own for the time being, at least, so that he can control the innings, maybe take a few deliveries at the start if needed, and then open out

With the World Cup just a few months away, the emphasis will be less on the results and more on greater role-clarity and ironing out the inevitable creases

Shorter, simpler breast cancer treatment: where evidence meets practice

Studies show that injection-based delivery of HER2 drugs matches IV infusions in safety and efficacy — while saving time for patients and hospitals alike; even as the benefits of subcutaneous therapy are well established in major hospitals, experts say that access remains uneven across India's mixed healthcare system.

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

When Vrinda Thakker was diagnosed with metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer in December 2021, her doctors postponed surgery and began targeted therapy the next month – an intravenous combination of trastuzumab and pertuzumab, the standard regimen for this form of disease. The drugs were delivered through a chemoport, a small device implanted under the skin to allow repeated infusions directly into a central vein.

"Each session took a couple of hours, including the time to flush the line so it wouldn't block," she said. The routine was repetitive and time-consuming, and even a single cycle meant hours at the hospital.

After several months, she discussed switching to a subcutaneous option with her oncologist, in which the same drugs are injected under the skin rather than through an intravenous line.

"A subcutaneous injection can be painful at first because about 10 millilitres of the drug are given under the skin of the thigh," said another patient, who also opted for the subcutaneous method, describing the difference between the two treatment modes. "But the whole process takes only two or three minutes. Once you're used to it, you walk in, take the injection, and leave." She added that the switch also eliminates risks linked to chemoports, such as infections or blood clots, and replaces a four-hour infusion with a five-minute injection.

These experiences reflect a broader shift in oncology: replacing long intravenous infusions with shorter subcutaneous delivery that maintains the same therapeutic outcomes while reducing time in hospital.



Shining the spotlight: People taking part in a breast cancer awareness rally organised by a hospital in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is observed annually in October. PTI

Science behind the switch

Trastuzumab, a monoclonal antibody that targets the HER2 receptor, has been a mainstay of treatment for HER2-positive breast cancer for more than two decades. Traditionally, it is given intravenously every three weeks, often with pertuzumab – a schedule that is effective but time-intensive for patients and oncology units.

A subcutaneous formulation of trastuzumab was developed using recombinant human hyaluronidase (rHuPH20), which temporarily breaks down hyaluronan in the tissue, allowing large molecules to be absorbed through the skin. Clinical studies such as the HannaH and FeDeriCa trials showed that fixed-dose subcutaneous trastuzumab, alone or combined with pertuzumab, matched intravenous infusion in safety, efficacy, and drug absorption.

A time-and-motion substudy from the ADEPT trial found that subcutaneous dosing cut the time patients spent in the treatment chair by about an hour, and pharmacy preparation by a little over an hour.

The fixed-dose combination of pertuzumab and trastuzumab, marketed as PHESGO, delivers both antibodies together in a single subcutaneous injection.

In India, the first real-world report on PHESGO showed similar outcomes across early and metastatic disease. Most patients reported fewer hospital visits and preferred the subcutaneous route, citing comfort and convenience.

While these data establish the clinical equivalence of the two delivery routes, the practical difference becomes clearer when seen in how much time patients actually spend in hospital.

Why shorter treatments

The time needed for drug preparation and administration has long shaped the experience of breast cancer therapy. In the *ADEPT* study, the mean time in the treatment chair fell from about 85 minutes with intravenous administration to around 20 minutes with subcutaneous dosing. Total hospital time, including waiting and observation, was shorter by nearly 80 minutes.

Meenu Walia, a senior oncologist at Max Super Specialty Hospital, Patparganj, said the time factor affects patients and families in direct ways. "Between travel, waiting, and the procedure itself, it's almost a full-day commitment," she said. "Long hours at the hospital can be especially hard for daily-wage earners or elderly caregivers. Any approach that shortens that time makes a tangible difference."

Shona Nag, a cancer specialist at Sahyadri Group of Hospitals, Pune, who led the Indian PHESGO study, said the time saving is especially meaningful for women balancing work or care giving responsibilities.

The hospital side

On the hospital side, shorter sessions are changing how oncology units schedule and staff treatment days.

Niti Raizada, principal director of medical oncology at Fortis Cancer Institute, Bengaluru, said that subcutaneous delivery had streamlined patient flow. "When procedures take less time, we can manage more cases efficiently without crowding our infusion units," she said. "Subcutaneous fixed-dose therapies require less loading and preparation time, saving time not only for patients, but for hospital staff too. It's one of the few innovations that improves efficiency without losing the human element of care."

For oncologists, shorter and simpler treatment modes are not just about efficiency – they change how patients experience care

Raja T., senior consultant at Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, noted that this trend fits into a wider evolution of cancer treatment toward minimally invasive, less intrusive approaches. "When it comes to medicines, we are looking at how we can avoid too much intravenous medication – whether we can treat patients with under-the-skin subcutaneous medicines and tablets – making the whole journey easy and comfortable so that they can go back home or to work as soon as possible," he said.

Uneven access

While the benefits of subcutaneous therapy are well established in major hospitals, experts say that access remains uneven across India's mixed healthcare system. Dr. Raja said that facilities and staff training vary widely. "In major cities, good hospitals and infrastructure are available. Then you move to Tier 2 towns and smaller areas where such high-tech care is not available." He added that patients from smaller towns often have to travel repeatedly to larger centres for months of therapy. "They have to stay near the hospital – that's a big challenge," he said. "Insurance and employer support have helped many, but not everyone benefits equally."

Dr. Raja also noted that public hospitals face high patient volumes, which can make it difficult to introduce newer delivery modes that need specific handling and training. "Government hospitals are doing an excellent job," he said, "but the sheer numbers they see make it difficult to provide that kind of care to everyone."

Experts said broader adoption in public hospitals would depend on drug availability, staff training, and inclusion in government oncology programmes.

More time for life

For oncologists, shorter and simpler treatment modes are not just about efficiency – they change how patients experience care.

Dr. Nag said the traditional infusion process can be physically and emotionally draining. "The long time they spend in the hospital – the indignity of being pricked several times, the discomfort of hours of hospitalisation, and the long wait after the infusion for observation – all interfere with their daily routine, especially if they have young children or are working women," she said. "When it is subcutaneous, they are in and out of hospital – no IV pricks – done very quickly." She added that being able to continue treatment outside hospitals helped during the pandemic. "During COVID, we were able to continue these subcutaneous sessions at the home of the patient so they could complete their treatment," she said.

Ms. Thakker is continuing her treatment. She encourages anyone who is starting or undergoing treatment to seek out the subcutaneous route, adding that it costs less than IV in her experience.

Other small measures also play a part. "When we offer treatment to women, hair loss is an issue. Now, we have things to protect the hair, such as scalp cooling devices. We also use precision surgery, radiation, and medications with fewer side effects," Dr. Raja said.

The ultimate goal is not just treating the disease, but making the process less intrusive and more comfortable for patients.

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from Delhi. anirban.genetics@south.du.ac.in)

THE GIST

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BIG SHOT



A health worker handing over medicines to a boy at a shelter camp at Gilakaladindi, near Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. Several people were shifted to camps in view of the Cyclone Montha. K.V.S GIRI

How advances in screening, stenting techniques have made it possible to prevent many strokes

WORLD STROKE DAY

Athira Elssa Johnson

Every October 29, World Stroke Day serves as a reminder that stroke is both a medical emergency and, in many cases, a preventable one. While most awareness efforts focus on the "golden hour" after a stroke – the crucial first few hours for treatment – doctors now say the real focus should be before the major event occurs. Advances in imaging, screening, and stenting techniques have made it possible to prevent many strokes long before they strike.

Early signals

"Nearly 80% of strokes are preventable," says Pradeep Balaji, senior consultant neurosurgeon, Iswarya Hospital, Chennai. "But we often miss the warning phase – the days or weeks when the brain gives early signals in the form of transient weakness, speech issues, or vision loss."



Stenting can help in stroke prevention and treatment by restoring blood flow to the brain.

These warning episodes, called Transient Ischemic Attacks (TIAs) or "mini strokes," are temporary but serious. Specialists stress that a TIA should be treated as a full-blown emergency. "Evaluation should be done immediately, ideally within 24 hours," says Prabash Prabhakaran, director and senior consultant, neurology, SIMS Hospital, Chennai. "The earlier we find the blockage, the better our chances of preventing a bigger stroke."

"Just as cholesterol deposits can narrow the arteries of the heart, they can also affect the vessels supplying the brain," explains Srinivasan Paramasivam, senior consultant neurosurgeon and head of neuro-endovascular Surgery, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai. "If the narrowing is mild, we manage it with medicines. But when it crosses 70% or causes neurological symptoms, we treat it with a stent or surgery.

Shrivarthan R., consultant Neurologist at MGM Healthcare, Chennai, adds that intervention is typically considered when there's more than 50% narrowing. "Every patient first needs lifestyle modification, blood pressure and sugar control, and antiplatelet therapy. If a significant block remains, we choose between surgery or stenting depending on the patient's condition and vessel anatomy." A brain stent is a tiny mesh tube that keeps narrowed or blocked arteries open, restoring blood flow to oxygen-starved regions.

"These procedures are done to prevent a major stroke before it happens – what we call secondary prevention," says Dr. Srinivasan. "They're performed once we detect early signs of reduced blood supply or small transient attacks."

Modern neuroimaging has transformed stroke diagnosis and prevention. Routine screening for everyone, doctors say, might not be cost-effective. But identifying and monitoring high-risk individuals can make a difference.

(athira.elssa@thehindu.co.in)

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of civilians who have fled Sudan since Sunday

36 In thousand. Thousands of civilians have fled the city since Sunday, when the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) captured the army's last stronghold in the Darfur region, triggering warnings from the UN and humanitarian groups of possible mass killings and ethnic cleansing. AFP

The share of women in Sri Lanka's population in 2024

51 In per cent. Women constitute over half of Sri Lanka's 21.7 million population, according to the results of the 2024 Census of Population and Housing. On the ethnic composition, 74.1% of the population are Sinhalese, 12.3% Sri Lankan Tamils, 10.5% Muslim, and 2.8% Indian-origin Tamil. PTI

Number of people shifted to shelter homes in Warangal

2,000 Following heavy rains that lashed different parts of Telangana on October 29 due to the impact of the cyclonic storm 'Montha', flood shelter homes have been arranged in nine places in Warangal and four places in Hanamkonda. PTI

Estimated amount of damage caused by Cyclone Montha

603 In $ million. A severe cyclone that battered India's eastern coast this week caused damage estimated at nearly ₹53 billion ($603 million), as farms, roads and buildings were flooded in the State of Andhra Pradesh, authorities said on Thursday. REUTERS

Number of BJP leaders who joined Jharkhand Mukti Morcha

5 Barely a few hours later, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State headquarters issued a statement to the media about the expulsion of the five leaders for "anti-party activities". The expulsion order was signed by State general secretary Manoj Kumar Singh. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What will power AI data centres?

How much energy and electricity do AI data centres use when compared to traditional enterprise servers? Why are such data centres being pushed towards low-carbon energy sources? Are Small Modular Reactors safe? What are its advantages?

EXPLAINER

Kalyan Mangalapalli

The story so far:

For the past two decades, India's electricity demand growth rates remained relatively flat at around 5%. While energy and electricity demands have been traditionally managed through forward planning, the rollout of data centres, Electric Vehicles (EVs), green hydrogen and 5G/Internet-of-Things (IoT) programmes are key drivers which will steadily increase electricity consumption.

Why does India need data centres?

The demand for data centres in India is being driven by the need for data storage given the government's Digital India and data localisation policies, increased data consumption, and 5G roll-out which is expected to enable adoption of data intensive technologies such as IoTs and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Although India boasts of 2x internet users than Europe, it lags on the data centre capacity front (1.4 GW versus 10GW). However, as data privacy rules come into effect and AI adoption grows, India's data centre capacity might grow by two to three times in the near term (2027) and over five-fold in the long term (2030), based on a low buildout and an aggressive buildout scenario, respectively (including large AI infrastructure).

How much power is required?

The energy consumption of AI data centres is monumental and presents a critical challenge. These facilities are not just large storage units; they are computational powerhouses utilising Graphic Processing Units (GPUs) with individual racks consuming 80-150 KW compared to 15-20 KW for traditional enterprise servers. This computational intensity drives an insatiable demand for electricity, making AI the most significant driver of increased energy consumption within the data centre sector. Projections indicate that global electricity generation for data centres could surge from 460 terawatt-hours (TWh) in 2024 to over 1,000 TWh by 2030, reaching 1,300 TWh in 2035. A good example would be China, which is witnessing a 25% year-on-year growth with respect to base load electricity due to Generative AI and Large Language Model (LLM) usage. China's data centres' power consumption could reach 400+ billion kWh in 2025 (~4% of total power consumption), with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 18% in 2023-2030, much earlier than the original forecast of reaching 400 billion kWh only in 2030.

Another example is from the Dominion service territory in Virginia, U.S. which has total electricity demand and peak demand growth rates projected to exceed 25% within the next five years, due to the GW-scale data centres it hosts.

Where are data centres being built?

The U.S. leads with 51% of the global data centre capacity in Texas, Wisconsin, Northern Virginia, Phoenix, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Other countries planning such AI infrastructure include China, Norway, the U.K., Germany, Japan and Malaysia. In India, Visakhapatnam and Jamnagar have recently been chosen by Google and Reliance Industries respectively for their GW-scale AI data centre ambitions.

Companies such as Yotta, AdaniConneX, Sify and CtrlS are also planning AI data centres in Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, and Hyderabad. The Indian government's "IndiaAI mission" and substantial private investments are further accelerating this expansion, highlighting a national commitment to fostering a thriving AI ecosystem.



The future: Superclusters of data centres under construction in Texas, U.S., on September 23. REUTERS

What are the power sources?

The push by AI data centres towards low-carbon energy sources is driven by corporate decarbonisation targets, soaring energy demands, and increasing pressure from regulators and investors. As AI workloads rapidly increase, major tech companies are investing in diverse renewable energy strategies and new technologies to meet climate goals.

Current power mixes rely on multiple sources – intermittent renewables with developing storage solutions, onsite green hydrogen and natural gas for grid reliability, and emerging alternatives like geothermal energy and nuclear fusion. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) represent another source of low carbon that has caught the attention of Big Tech companies. SMRs provide crucial benefits such as flexible sizing in the range of 1 MW to 300+ MW; factory manufacturing capability for cost savings; passive safety enhancements; and 24/7 stable baseload power production. Around $15.4 billion has been invested in SMR development worldwide – $10 billion (public funding) and $5.4 billion from private investment.

While legacy challenges like safety, waste disposal and regulatory hurdles persist, the evolving public perception of SMRs is becoming more favourable, especially with technological advancements enhancing safety. Moreover, SMRs do not need expensive transmission infrastructure as it is positioned close to consumption hubs. AI data centres across the world are urgently looking to secure reliable baseload power for its own centres as utilities might not have the budget to create the necessary infrastructure by the 2030 timeframe.

How can India capitalise on SMRs?

India's 2025 budget initiated the Nuclear Energy Mission with a ₹20,000 crore ($2.4 billion) outlay with the aim to reach 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047, and putting at least five indigenously manufactured SMRs into operation by 2033. The current development includes Bhabha Atomic Research Centre's BSMR-200 pressurised heavy water reactor with slightly enriched uranium fuel and a variant of 55 MW for remote areas in isolated mode.

India's approach rests on complete reforms. The government is planning to introduce amendments to the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 to draw in around $26 billion worth of private investment and bring India in line with international legal provisions. India must leverage SMR technology transfer agreements with Holtec International USA and other international partners to position its technology for domestic as well as international opportunities. State governments can assist with identifying and pre-approving existing coal sites and green hydrogen hubs for nuclear projects; investing in demonstration projects; facilitating land acquisition; offering training for regulators; and helping to re-skill the coal workforce. Additionally, collaborations between nuclear SMR vendors, AI data centre players, and renewable energy companies could unlock large-scale opportunities.

How do SMRs enhance safety?

SMR designs incorporate advanced safety features aiming for performance comparable to or better than existing reactor designs. Modern SMRs rely heavily on inherent and passive safety systems requiring fewer external electricity sources and reduced human intervention. These passive systems ensure SMRs provide secure, reliable, and sustainable energy. The inherent design characteristics lead to reduced likelihood of core-damaging accidents, and reduced consequences, if accidents do occur, due to less radioactivity and thermal energy. The smaller size simplifies safety measures during emergencies.

SMR designs leverage several advantages: smaller reactor cores with smaller quantities of nuclear material; passive safety features like natural convection enabling automated shutdown; accident-tolerant fuels maintaining structural integrity at higher temperatures; longer event sequences (hours or days) providing extra time for mitigation; and the combination of lower nuclear material quantities and passive features leading to smaller offsite emergency planning zones.

What about SMR regulation?

The business case depends heavily on responsive regulatory environments, but regulators face challenges with licensing processes originally developed for larger light-water reactors. Existing regulations often don't apply to advanced technologies proposed for new SMRs, necessitating new regulations. However, such regulatory processes are typically time-consuming, expensive, and opaque. A specific concern is how regulatory bodies will handle design iteration after initial certification.

Global SMR regulatory reforms focus on six key areas – (1) technology-neutral frameworks replacing large reactor-specific rules; (2) streamlined licensing including fleet approvals and combined construction-operating licences; (3) modular manufacturing accommodation with factory fabrication certification; (4) international harmonisation through International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards and mutual design recognition; (5) risk-informed requirements adjusting emergency planning zones and staffing proportional to smaller facility risks; and (6) accelerated deployment pathways for follow-on units. The U.S. ADVANCE Act (2024), Canada's Vendor Design Review, and the U.K.'s regulatory sandbox exemplify these reforms, with most jurisdictions targeting framework completion by 2026 and first commercial deployment by 2030.

Moreover, international cooperation is essential for timely deployment of safe and secure SMRs. The IAEA offers comprehensive support through its platform on Small Modular Reactors and their Applications. The Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative (NHSI) facilitates safe and secure development by promoting regulatory harmonisation. The IAEA hosts the SMR Regulators' Forum for sharing experiences and best practices among regulatory authorities worldwide. The Safeguards by Design Programme helps stakeholders make informed design choices incorporating international safeguards while optimising economic, operational, safety, and security factors.

What are the concerns related to transportation and waste of SMRs?

New regulatory approaches are needed for SMR transportation and waste streams. Since SMRs are factory-fabricated and transported, this creates security vulnerabilities and radiation leakage risks, especially for fuel-loaded systems. Regulations are needed to address liability in transportation accidents.

Advanced SMR designs using new fuel concepts (like HALEU) or coolants other than water may generate new forms of radioactive waste requiring new disposal and storage plans. SMR companies are developing plans to store spent nuclear fuel indefinitely in interim on-site storage facilities, as a clear national pathway for long-term disposal remains a concern.

The author is an Energy and Emerging Technologies expert.

THE GIST

- The demand for data centres in India is being driven by the need for data storage given the government's Digital India and data localisation policies, increased data consumption, and 5G roll-out which is expected to enable adoption of data intensive technologies such as IoTs and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) represent another source of low carbon that has caught the attention of Big Tech companies. SMRs provide crucial benefits such as flexible sizing in the range of 1 MW to 300+ MW; factory manufacturing capability for cost savings; passive safety enhancements; and 24/7 stable baseload power production.
- Advanced SMR designs using new fuel concepts or coolants other than water may generate new forms of radioactive waste requiring new disposal and storage plans.

IN THE LIMELIGHT



A still from *Vaazhai*.

How Mari Selvaraj has portrayed Dalit lives within Tamil cinema

Mari Selvaraj's formative years were spent in what was then a part of Tirunelveli, a southern district of Tamil Nadu, that has been a hot-bed of caste-violence and caste-based mobilisation through the 1990s, including widespread rioting across neighbouring districts

Udhav Naig

Filmmaker Mari Selvaraj's rise in Tamil cinema as one of its top filmmakers from humble beginnings and his evolution as a master craftsman is a story by itself. It wouldn't be a stretch to state that Mr. Selvaraj along with filmmaker Pa. Ranjith filled a yawning gap in Tamil cinema by ensuring that Dalit protagonists and Ambedkarite politics of emancipation formed the central core of their films, serving as an anathema to the persistent normalisation of violence and oppression by dominant castes in the name of valour and history in Tamil cinema.

It has been 13 years since filmmaker Pa. Ranjith burst onto the scene with *Attakathi* and seven years since Mari Selvaraj's first film, *Pariyerum Perumal*, released in theatres to positive reviews and success at the box office, dispelling the notion that films about caste discrimination set in the deep south are akin to a spark in the powder keg. Yet, crucial differences between the two filmmakers haven't been emphasised enough. Except for *Attakathi*, Mr. Ranjith largely shies away from making films with significant autobiographical elements while Mr. Selvaraj situates his autobiographical episodes in historical contexts, save for *Maamannan*.

Unique tone

Mr. Ranjith's point of view has been informed by a different political tradition in northern parts of Tamil Nadu, where fight for rights would mean large scale political mobilisations, street protests and litigations. However, Mr. Selvaraj's formative years were spent in what was then a part of the Tirunelveli district, a southern district of Tamil Nadu, that has been a hot-bed of caste-violence and caste-based mobilisation through the 90s, including widespread rioting across neighbouring districts, known as the '*Thenmaavatta Kalavarangal*'. Young and middle-aged taxi drivers hailing from southern districts but making a living in Chennai, Bengaluru or Mumbai could tell you how the smallest of provocations, say, in restrooms, in cinema halls, in public buses (as in *Bison: Kaalamaadan*), or in tea shops could snowball into a major incident of violence. Irrespective of which community they hail from, most of them find the prevailing environment toxic and are realising that it is not worth contributing to violence and spending one's life entangled in court cases.

This is perhaps why Mr. Selvaraj's point of view appears to look like he is striving for a negotiation, often resorting to dialogue even with his worst enemy, despite the fact that Dalit communities in the south of Tamil Nadu often fight back and resist oppression violently. During a visit to Tirunelveli before the 2021 State Assembly elections, this author asked political activists within the Devendrakula Vellalar community about Mr. Selvaraj's first film *Pariyerum Perumal*. They were quite critical of the film. "It is not our film. It is a film made for you people," a political party office bearer said jokingly. He meant that the film was meant to tug at your heart, and not aimed at his throat.

However, Mr. Selvaraj quickly changed his tone in *Karnan*, featuring Dhanush, in which he wove a story around a painful historical incident of police brutality to etch a rather spirited story about how a regular, everyday youth uses revolutionary violence in pursuit of justice. "This is more our film. We fought back...and now everybody knows that," the same activist, told me over the phone after the release. In four of the five films that Mr. Selvaraj has made so far, it is clear that he has been struggling to make sense of his personal experience with caste and the social machinations around him. Questions have been asked, not just by those who don't like the politics in his films, but also by those who take him seriously as a filmmaker.

Questions of conscience

Many have spoken about how Mr. Selvaraj has mastered the art of representation – the way women tie their sarees in his films, how dominant castes strut around and throw their weight in villages and towns, and how the smallest of scuffles could snowball into a conflict involving whole communities. After an uncomfortable outing in *Maamannan*, which had some decent ideas, Mr. Selvaraj returned to his familiar surroundings with *Vaazhai*, telling us a story of characters hailing from his world, with episodes from his life. Its message was that caste-based labour exploitation has a role to play in accidents, too.

With *Bison: Kaalamaadan*, Mr. Selvaraj plonks his protagonist, *Kittan*, an aspiring Kabaddi player, who is asked to stay out of trouble by his father, in the midst of a raging, violent war between two community leaders – one fighting to ensure that the social balance remains tilted in his community's favour and the other, fighting to create equilibrium. In *Bison*, Mr. Selvaraj continues to open himself up to the criticism that his films often tries to appeal to the good conscience of the oppressor castes. A writer who is well-informed about the politics in the south said, "Except for *Karnan*, protagonists in Mari's films have sought equality with the oppressor castes by showcasing the struggles of the protagonist and appealing to their good side. However, nobody in Tamil cinema today has been able to capture how the dominant castes try to maintain their dominance in the caste society. He is exceptional in that case."

While one need not speculate about his motivations, it is true that the idea of seeking parity by appealing to the good conscience of dominant castes sits uncomfortably with the larger Dalit community who remember their struggles in the south differently. It is perhaps understandable that cinema, being an expensive mainstream art, necessitating the need to recoup money in the market, imposes certain restrictions such as creating a sense of balance in representation and so on. The movement that began with Pa. Ranjith and Mari Selvaraj, finds itself at an inflection point: can mainstream cinema be used to build bridges and force a change of mindsets in other communities while telling stories of oppression the way it must be told?

Bison could be seen as a move towards that. By bringing the life and struggles of Manathi Ganesan, a Kabaddi player, on the silver screen, Mr. Selvaraj has shown his intent to celebrate not just those who fight for the rights of people, organise protests and so on, but also heroes from the community who quietly break glass ceilings and set benchmarks, not just for young people within the community but for Tamil society as a whole.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

S. Upendran

"Spectator. Audience. What's the difference between the two?"

"A 'spectator' is someone who goes somewhere to watch an event. When you go to a sports event, for example..."

"...then you would be a spectator. There were many spectators at last Sunday's game."

"That's a good example. If you are a spectator, usually there is no direct participation involved. For example, you could be walking down the road and see two people fighting. You would be a spectator to their fight."

"If my friends and I went to the studio to watch Madhuri Dixit shooting, then we would be spectators, right?"

"Right!"

"When do I become part of an audience, then?"

"When people gather in order to listen to someone or something, then they become part of an audience. Here the primary focus is on 'listening', not on 'seeing'. For example, if you were to go to Parade Grounds to listen to our MLA.."

"…. I would never do that!"

"Just giving an example, silly. When you attend a talk given by someone, then you become a member of the audience. Similarly if you went to the theatre...."

"... to see a movie or a play?"

"It could be a movie, a play, or even a concert. When you go to the theatre, you become part of an audience. For example, some people in the audience whistled when the hero first appeared on the screen."

"When Elton John began to sing, the audience went wild."

"Good example."

"And if you listen to radio, you're part of an audience, I guess."

"That's right. When you listen to the radio, you become..."

"... listen to the radio?"

"Yes, you listen to the radio. You hear something on the radio. But you watch television."

"I see. So you 'watch television' and not 'watch the television'."

"Right again. For example, my mother says that watching too much television isn't good for your eyes."

"Suresh, watching too much television could turn us all into idiots."

"That's why television is called the idiot box."

"You're absolutely right. But coming to the point, you 'watch television', and 'listen to the radio'. What about tapes and records? Do you 'listen to the tapes', or 'listen to tapes'?"

"Both are acceptable. But they don't mean the same. For example, if you say, 'I listen to tapes every evening', it means that you are in the habit of listening to some tapes in the evening. It could be any tape. One day, you may listen to songs sung by Kishore Kumar, and the next day, you may listen to the Beatles."

"The tape or tapes may be different, but I listen to something every evening."

"That's right. If on the other hand you say, 'I listen to the tapes every evening', it means that you listen to a specific set of tapes every evening."

"In other words, I listen to the same tapes every evening."

"Exactly!"

Published in The Hindu on July 28, 1998.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On October 24, advertising legend Piyush Pandey died at the age of 70. A quiz on some of his iconic campaigns and advertisements

Radhika Santhanam

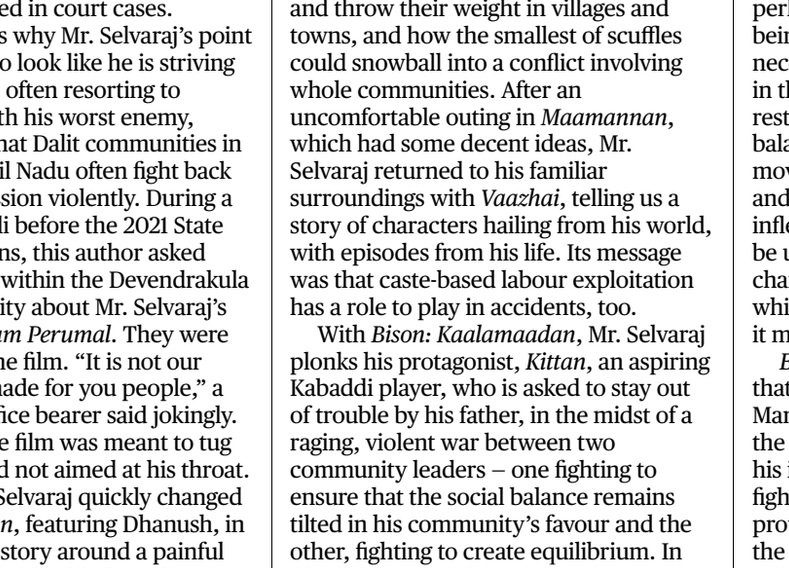
QUESTION 1
Pandey coined the slogan for the BJP in 2014. What was the slogan?

QUESTION 2
X became a phenomenon in India thanks to an ad by Ogilvy & Mather. The price of X and the demand for X shot up and even triggered some concern among animal rights activists who argued that X is not native to India. What is X?

QUESTION 3
A series of ads, helmed by Pandey, created awareness about the importance of immunising children below the age of five against a certain disease. India became free of this disease in 2014. Name it.

QUESTION 4
A classic ad of the 1990s, scripted by Pandey, was remade a few years ago by the company. The new version, which reversed gender roles, concluded with the hashtag #GoodLuckGirls. Name the company and the event for which the ad was wishing them good luck.

QUESTION 5
This company paid tribute to Pandey after his death by featuring just his signature moustache on a blank background. The ad conveyed Pandey's power of simplicity. Name the company.



Visual question:
This is a snapshot from an ad. What was the ad for?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The official Soviet designation for the Tsar Bomba. **Ans: AN602 (also called Product 602)**
2. The name of the island where the test was conducted. **Ans: Severny Island in Novaya Zemlya**
3. This individual oversaw the Tsar Bomba project at Arzamas-16. **Ans: Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov**
4. The CIA's code name for the Tsar Bomba test. **Ans: JOE 111**
5. The day the Tsar Bomba was first tested. **Ans: October 30, 1961**
Visual: The height of the mushroom cloud. **Ans: The mushroom cloud was about 67 kilometres (42 miles) high, which is nearly eight times the height of Mount Everest**
Early Birds: C. Saravanan| Arun Kumar Singh| Prashansa Lohumi| Anil Warrier| Arjun Debnath

Word of the day

Capricious:
changeable; determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason

Synonyms: impulsive, whimsical

Usage: *Authoritarian rulers are frequently capricious.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/capriciouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kəˈpɹɪʃəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'