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Tara Murali passes away in Chennai

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CERT fixes flaw exposing data of organ donors

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Russia's Taliban gauntlet

Rationale behind Moscow's choice to legitimise the regime in Kabul

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

President's invitations get east Indian touch

NEWS » PAGE 13

Eight killed in stampede at temple in Haridwar

30 injured in the incident; rumour about a snapped electric line led to panic among devotees gathered along a stairway; rescue efforts continued for hours; magisterial probe ordered

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Eight people were killed and 30 injured in a stampede at the Mansa Devi temple in Haridwar of Uttarakhand on Sunday morning. Officials said the stampede occurred around 9 a.m. after a rumour of a snapped electric line spread panic among the massive crowd that had gathered along the stairway route of the temple, located 1,770 feet above sea level on the Sivalik Hills, the southernmost mountain chain of the Himalayas.

People from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttarakhand, aged between 12 and 60, were among those who died. A video showed a massive crowd stranded between barricades at a point on the stairway, with many carrying children and gasping for breath, with no space to move at all. The devotees were seen frantically asking for help as the crowd swelled from all directions. While some managed to climb the wall along the stairway, many ran over others while make way for themselves.

Tragic steps: Police and SDRF personnel at the site of the stampede in Haridwar on Sunday. PTI

Slippers, puja items, and clothes were seen strewn on the temple premises after the administration cleared the way.

Rescue and relief
Pramendra Singh Dobal, Senior Superintendent of Police, said that teams from the police and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were rushed to the spot immediately, and the rescue efforts continued for hours. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, who expressed grief,

announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh each to the kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 each to the injured. He met those admitted to a hospital and assured them of all possible help from the government. "The news of a stampede at Haridwar's Mansa Devi temple is extremely saddening. SDRF, local police and other rescue teams are on-site and engaged in relief and rescue operations," he wrote on X.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences to

those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon," he said.

Haridwar District Magistrate Mayur Dixit ordered a magisterial inquiry. The investigation team will be headed by a Sub-Divisional Magistrate who has been asked to submit a detailed report on the stampede in 15 days.

Ravindra Puri, president of the Mansa Devi temple trust, announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh each to the families of the deceased and ₹1 lakh each to the injured.

Chola dynasty's legacy provides road map for modern India: PM

The Hindu Bureau
GANGAIKONDA CHOLAPURAM

The PM at Brihadisvara Temple in Ariyalur on Sunday. PIB

Paying glowing tributes to the military might and administrative acumen of Rajendra Chola I and his father Rajaraja Chola, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the heights reached by the emperors were a source of inspiration, providing an ancient road map for India to become a developed nation.

"The economic and strategic advancements during the Chola era remain a source of inspiration to modern India. To become a developed nation, we must prioritise unity, strengthen our navy and defence forces, and look for new opportunities, while safeguarding our core values," the Prime Minister said at the valediction of the Aadi Thiruvathirai festival marking the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I.

Mr. Modi also released a commemorative coin in honour of Rajendra Chola I. The king had built Gangaikonda Cholapuram, the ancient capital of the Imperial Cholas, along with the Brihadisvara Temple and the Chologangam, a massive lake, after his victorious expedition to the Gangetic plains about 1,000 years ago.

Mr. Modi said the Centre would install grand statues

of the two emperors in Tamil Nadu to serve as pillars of the country's historical consciousness. "The legacy of Rajaraja Chola and Rajendra Chola is synonymous with India's identity and pride. The history and heritage of the Chola Empire proclaim the true potential of India," he said.

Rajaraja Chola built a powerful navy; his son Rajendra Chola I strengthened it. The Cholas strengthened local administration and established extensive trade and cultural links. The Chola rulers extended their diplomatic and trade relations to Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Southeast Asia, he said.

'Decisive response'
India, too, accorded the highest priority to national security, he said, adding that during Operation Sindoor, the world witnessed the firm and decisive response of the country to any threat to its sovereignty.

IN BRIEF

'CAPF troops with severe injuries to get full benefits'

NEW DELHI
Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel who get severely injured during operations will be allowed to continue in service till their retirement with all benefits, the Union Home Secretary said on Sunday. » Page 12

ED searches end at firms linked to Anil Ambani

NEW DELHI
Reliance Group firms linked to Anil Ambani on Sunday said the ED had concluded searches on their premises and they would continue to cooperate with the agency. » Page 12

CAA: no clarity yet on grant of citizenship

NEW DELHI
Over a year after the Citizenship (Amendment) Act took effect, the Home Ministry has refused to share data on the total number of people who were benefited by the Act. » Page 13

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGES 2 & 3

INDIA wants SIR stopped, says it has become a tool to establish citizenship

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) on Sunday urged the Election Commission (EC) to refrain from "institutional arrogance", and stop the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar, saying it has effectively become a process of establishing citizenship.

Speaking at a joint press conference, along with Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Manoj Jha, and Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Nilotpal Basu, Congress Rajya Sabha member A.M. Singhvi said it was not an issue of "political obstinacy" or "institutional arrogance". "I humbly urge the Election Commission... it is not a matter of political obstinacy or institutional arrogance (in Bihar). The attempt to squeeze the entire process within two-three months was resulting in several errors, Mr. Singhvi said.

Stating that the SIR had become a process of establishing citizenship, he asked if the EC was authorised to do so. The Congress leader cited a 1995 Supreme Court judgment to say that detailed legal provisions should be followed to take away anyone's citizenship.

I humbly urge the Election Commission... it is not a matter of political obstinacy or institutional arrogance. Please reconsider it... everyone is urging you
A.M. SINGHVI
Congress leader

Some 10 elections had been held after 2003 and till then, all the ID cards had been valid throughout. "In that case, what was the urgency in initiating the process in June-July, link it to an election," he asked, adding that the exercise could have been undertaken after yet another election (in Bihar). The attempt to squeeze the entire process within two-three months was resulting in several errors, Mr. Singhvi said.

Deletion concerns
Mr. Bhattacharya said the EC's "self-congratulatory" statements were confirming the INDIA bloc's apprehensions. After the process started, the number of possible deletions from the vo-

They [EC] are making all kinds of self-congratulatory and misleading claims... basically corroborating our apprehension
DIPANKAR BHATTACHARYA
CPI (ML) Liberation leader

ters' list kept increasing, and now it was about 65 lakh, he said.

The Opposition parties had flagged concerns over about two crore alleged deletions.

"The EC has made one very misleading and false claim that it has shared this with the political parties. We have received block-level data about pending enumeration forms, which were not submitted...had the details been shared with us, we could have cross-checked them before the draft was prepared...." Mr. Bhattacharya said, stating that no door-to-door visits had been made during the EC's exercise.

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91.69% voters submitted forms for SIR in Bihar: EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Sunday said 91.69% of electors on the 2025 voter list in Bihar had submitted enumeration forms as part of the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and these voters will be included on the draft list to be published on August 1.

Of the 7.89 crore registered electors as on June 24, over 7.24 crore had submitted enumeration forms indicating overwhelming participation, the poll body said in a statement.

This, in effect, means the names of 65 lakh voters registered in the July 2025 list would not make it to the draft list which is scheduled to be published on August 1. Of these voters, 22 lakh were deceased, 36 lakh had permanently shifted or were not found, and 7 lakh were enrolled at multiple places, the poll body said.

CONTINUED ON
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Manipur town gets a sliver of hope from Myanmar children

Rahul Karmakar
MOREH

A border town in ethnic conflict-scarred Manipur is seeing a faint revival of activity, aided by a few education-seeking children from civil war-affected Myanmar.

A couple of pre-primary schools in Moreh, a town located on the India-Myanmar border, about 110 km southeast of Manipur's capital Imphal, began enrolling children from Myanmar in January. These schools, which offer free education, are run by the Border Trade & Chamber of Commerce and the Tamil Sangam.

The Tamil Sangam is an association largely comprising descendants of Tamils who fled a crackdown on non-natives following the 1962 military coup in Burma, now Myanmar.

Ethnic harmony
In line with Moreh's multi-ethnic character, the two organisations established three free educational centres named the All Community Welfare School in 1997. At present, two of these schools are operational. Most of its students were Meiteis who left with their families after conflict between the Meitei

Myanmar women sell rice during school hours, waiting for their wards. RITU RAJ KONWAR

and Kuki-Zo communities broke out on May 3, 2023.

"We did enrol 10 Myanmar students in 2024, but their attendance was erratic due to the situation on either side of the border. The 15 Myanmar students we admitted in January this year have been regular," Hempo Haokip, headmaster of the school in Ward No. 6, told *The Hindu*. The regular attendance of these children, and a few others at the second school in Ward No. 3, is attributed to their mothers, who accompany them to school at 8 a.m. and sell rice, vegetables, and other farm products while waiting for their classes to end at 1 p.m.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Maharashtra halts Ladki Bahin aid for 26.34 lakh beneficiaries

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government said on Sunday that it had temporarily suspended monthly payments under the Ladki Bahin scheme to 26.34 lakh beneficiaries whose eligibility for the payment will have to be verified.

"The benefits for 26.34 lakh applicants were temporarily suspended starting June 2025 while 2.25 crore eligible beneficiaries received the payments," State Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare said on X, adding that the suspended beneficiaries' eligibility would be verified by the respective District Collectors.

She said even men had applied for the scheme, which is intended to provide financial support of ₹1,500 a month to women from low-income groups.

"Payments will resume for those found eligible after the verification while action will be taken against fraudulent beneficiaries who availed themselves of benefits through improper means," Ms. Tatkare said.

The scheme for women was launched in August 2024 ahead of the Assembly election in November.











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INBRIEF



Fringe elements trying to derail progress in J&K: Rijiju

Asserting that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are extremely positive and want progress, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday said some fringe elements from outside the country are trying to derail peace and development in the Union Territory. He said a strong India is incomplete without a strong Jammu and Kashmir and assured the local youths that “we will make you proud by giving you full space to echo your voice”. The Ministers, who was addressing the alumni meet at Kashmir University, stressed that politicians must forget differences in the interest of the country. PTI

Odisha school teacher held for ‘molesting’ girl students

A teacher of a government-run high school in Odisha’s Kendrapara district was arrested on Sunday for allegedly molesting five girl students on campus, the police said, adding that the incident took place recently. The headmaster of the school lodged an FIR in this connection on Saturday and the accused teacher was arrested on Sunday, a police officer said. The accused, who has been booked under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, was sent to judicial custody after a court in Kendrapara rejected his bail application, the officer said. PTI

Jammu ‘shoot-out’: suspended policeman’s rifle seized by SIT

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Facing an uproar over the killing of a 21-year-old civilian in police firing, the J&K police’s Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Sunday seized the service rifle of one of the two suspended policemen. The victim, Mohammad Parvez, 21, a resident of Javed Nagar, Nikki Tawi, suffered bullet injuries and died at Surey Chak area in Jammu’s Satwari amid con-

flicting reports on July 24. The police said the policemen were chasing drug peddlers in the area and that the victim died in a “shoot-out”.

‘Fake encounter’

The family of the victim accused the police of “fake encounter”. The SIT visited the site on Sunday and questioned local residents and their statements were recorded. The area was also searched for clues. Head Constable Baljin-

der Singh and Constable Pawan Singh, who were placed under suspension pending inquiry, were also taken to the site.

The police said one service rifle was also seized as part of the investigation.

The two-wheeler, carrying the victim and his relative, was also taken into custody. The police also tried to piece together the sequence of events to establish the circumstances under which the youth got killed, officers said.

Chirag’s remarks on Bihar crimes show his weakness: Tejashwi

Press Trust of India
PATNA

A day after Union Minister Chirag Paswan slammed the Nitish Kumar government over the law and order situation in Bihar, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday claimed that the Hajipur MP’s comment showed his “weakness” as a ruling NDA partner, and alleged that he has “no real concerns” for the State.

Mr. Yadav was reacting to the remarks of Mr. Paswan, chief of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), which drew a sharp reaction from Mr. Kumar’s Janata Dal (United), exposing cracks in the NDA.

Mr. Paswan had on Saturday said, “I regret having to support a government which is unable to prevent crimes. The situation of Bihar has, indeed, become scary.”

SPOTLIGHT

Abhinav Deshpande

Alka Kodarvi smiles shyly when asked about her wedding plans. She is sitting inside a newly built house at Mota Pipodara, a quiet village tucked away in Gujarat’s Banaskantha district near the Rajasthan border. “Maybe in a month or two,” she says, glancing towards her partner, Bhojbhai.

For the 27-year-old mother of a two-year-old boy and her partner, both from a tribal community, marriage is not the beginning of their story – it’s just another chapter in a life shaped by survival and exile. Since 2019, the couple has lived together, raising a son without registering their bond as a marriage. “For us, marriage is just a ritual,” Alka says matter-of-factly.

Both are from the Kodarvi tribe, which had been exiled in 2014 after another tribe, following a tradition called *chadotaru*, had forced them out from their traditional lands. After over a decade of wandering and uncertainty, the Kodarvis returned to their native village earlier this month, following a hard-earned truce between communities and crucial support from the district police.

Among the Kodarvis – and in many tribal groups – ancestral villages are more than just a place to

live. They are central to rites of passage like marriage and death. Couples marry only in their native village. People are buried there too. So, when Bhojbhai lost his home in the village, he also lost the ground on which a wedding could take place.

A tradition of ‘justice’

Back in 2014, nearly 300 people from 29 Kodarvi families fled their homes in Mota Pipodara in the dead of night. Taking only what they could carry, they left their houses, livestock, and fields behind after the Dabhi tribe from the same village had declared *chadotaru* against them.

In Gujarat, *chadotaru* is a tribal tradition of informal justice that carries the weight of vengeance, often targeting entire families or communities when one of their members is accused of a grave offence, such as murder, sexual assault or an extramarital affair.

The declaration followed the killing of a Dabhi man, allegedly by someone from the Kodarvi community. “The victim, Naranbhai, was stoned to death, and the villagers said it was Rajubhai Kodarvi who did it following a drunken brawl in the middle of the night on April 6, 2014. He was arrested and *chadotaru* took place for days,” the police say.

In Gujarat’s tribal belts and in Rajasthan, *chadotaru* still influences the way disputes are resolved. Traditionally, it involved com-

The return of the native

Over a decade after they were banished from their land in Gujarat’s Banaskantha district because of a tribal tradition, the Kodarvis have returned after the district police brokered peace between two warring clans



(Clockwise) Police officer Jayshriben Desai showing a ransacked Kodarvi tribal house in Mota Pipodara village; Alka Kodarvi, Bhojbhai and their son; Jagabhai’s family, including his son Prakash. VIJAY SONEJI

Join FREE Telegram Channel https://t.me/+JjTMT8EJrk5ZTQ1 community elders or *panches* (elected members) coming together to mediate and reconcile differences through mutual agreement. But over time, this custom has morphed into a harsh practice: imposing hefty monetary penalties, forcing exiles, and threatening violence.

The clan’s exile

Once a *chadotaru* is declared, the clan prepares for confrontation – women and children lead the procession while the others follow, armed with swords, sticks, and whatever weapons they can gather. The beating of *dhol-nagara* (traditional drums) signals their advance as they move towards the rival clan’s



homes to strike. “When *chadotaru* is declared, the entire community of the accused is often forced to pay the amount awarded by the *panch*, or flee,” Assistant Superintendent of Police (Danta division) Suman Nala explains. “Their homes are vandalised, crops torched, and cattle either looted or left to stray.” In cases of murder, blood money is demanded. If unpaid, violence may follow.

Alka is Nala’s cook. In a casual conversation, Nala remembers asking how often Alka visited her *sasural* (in-laws’ home). What followed left Nala stunned. “I’ve never seen my *sasural*,” Alka had told her. She went on to explain that her



partner’s clan had been ostracised after *chadotaru* was declared against them. It not only forced the community into exile, but also shattered their social and economic fabric.

Since then, the families had been scattered. Many ended up as daily wage labourers in Danta, Palanpur, Surat, and other places in Gujarat, earning barely ₹200-₹300 a day. Meeting each other became rare; survival became routine.

Nala brought it up with her superior, Banaskantha Superintendent of Police Akshay Raj Makwana. Just days before Alka’s conversation with Nala, a man called Jagabhai Kodarvi and his wife Ambaben had

Mahadayi row: now, Bommai condemns Goa CM’s statement

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

BJP MP and former Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said efforts are being made to obtain the required clearance for the Mahadayi project from the National Board for Wildlife after meeting Bhupender Yadav, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

He was addressing members of Malaprabha-Mahadayi Kalasa Banduri Raita

Horata Okkuta in Navalgund of Dharwad district after visiting their protest site and receiving a memorandum from them on Sunday.

‘Incorrect statement’

Mr. Bommai termed the statement of the Goa Chief Minister on the Union Minister’s assurance of not allowing Mahadayi project as incorrect and that he condemns it strongly. All efforts required will be made to protect the interests of Karnataka, he added.

Mr. Bommai said that when he was the Water Resources Minister ₹300 crore was allocated for the project and the canal project work was initiated.

The work that is remaining now is only to link the Kalasa canal to the Banduri stream, for which the Siddaramaiah government has to take steps, he said. Mr. Bommai said it was during the BJP tenure that the detailed project report was approved and even environmental clearance was given.

now bear the criss-crossed imprints of police jeeps and tractors that have rolled in and out over the past few weeks.

As the four-wheeler slows to a crawl, ruins of stone and mud walls covered in weeds, mark where homes once stood before they were torn down in 2014. When the vehicle finally stops, the Kodarvis emerge from under makeshift tarpaulins, from behind tree trunks, from the open field and a newly built house.

Rebuilding connections

Among them is Prakash, 22, son of Jagabhai and a final-year diploma student. He was just 10 when his family fled the village, never imagining they would return. “It was a moment of joy and excitement, a reunion I had dreamt of since the day we left,” he says, recalling the grand ceremony on July 17, when the Minister of State for Home, Harsh Sanghavi, formally welcomed them back. “Every one had tears in their eyes.”

Over the years, Prakash’s family moved across Surat, Mehsana, Vadgam and other towns as his parents worked as daily wageers. The constant movement made schooling difficult but he remained committed and never dropped out, he says.

“We were all dressed up. There were so many relatives I didn’t even recognise. They were asking whose son I was and where

we had been all these years,” says Prakash, his eyes lit with the excitement of return as the rain continues to soak him. “During the exile, we lost touch with most of them. I was thrilled to meet some of my cousins I hadn’t seen since we left, and their children who were born after 2014. They were just as happy to see my eight-month-old son and my partner, Kailash, too.”

Prakash says he had vowed to marry only in his native village. Now, that moment has finally arrived. “I’ve always seen my parents longing to return. It consumed them for years. They pleaded with the panchayat, the State administration, even the police. Finally, our prayers were heard and we’re back home,” he says.

As the drizzle continues, Lukabhai Bumbadia – one of the *panch* members involved in the alleged murder case – arrives. For him, like many tribals, Hindi remains a distant language, one he neither understood well nor spoke. Lukabhai now says it was the joint effort of the *samaj* (community) and *sarkar* (government) that made the return of the Kodarvis possible.

“Chadotaru should have no place in today’s time. This practice must be abolished,” he says.

deshpande.abhinay@thehindu.co.in



MNS chief Raj Thackeray greets his cousin, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, on his birthday in Mumbai on Sunday. ANI

Raj Thackeray visits Uddhav on birthday amid buzz of a tie-up

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

With speculation rife on a potential alliance between the parties led by them, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray visited Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav at his residence on Sunday on the former Chief Minister’s 65th birthday.

The cousins spent at least 20 minutes together.

Mr. Uddhav called it an “overwhelming moment”, while Sena (UBT) leader Bhaskar Jadhav said, “It is the happiest and hopeful moment from the Marathi *manos*’ perspective.”

The meeting is seen as significant as it comes at a

time when the Thackeray cousins are reportedly in talks to reunite for the local elections in Maharashtra.

Mr. Jadhav reiterated that the meeting was a full stop to all the doubts about whether the cousins would come together.

“Besides, alliance talks need to be confidential and held with utmost seriousness,” he added.

Second meeting

This is the second time within a month that the Thackeray cousins had shared a political stage. They held a “victory” rally in Worli on July 5, after raising their voice on the issue of Marathi identity and “imposition” of Hindi.

Sharda University didn't file complaint on student's death, top court informed

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has been informed that the Sharda University in Greater Noida, where a girl student allegedly died by suicide, did not filed a police complain in the incident but her parents did and that security guards recovered her body from the university's hostel.

The information was given in a status report filed by senior advocate Aparna Bhatt, who has been appointed amicus curiae in the matter by the apex court to assist it.

A Bench headed by Justice J. B. Pardiwala is likely to hear the case on Monday.

In her 30-page report, Ms. Bhatt said that the FIR was registered after the de-

ceased parents' complain, and two persons allegedly named in the suicide note have been arrested.

"The university officials admitted that the warden did not call anyone - neither university authorities nor the police or a hospital for an ambulance. The warden eventually called the parents to tell them their daughter was in a serious condition.

A 20-year-old dental student of the university was found dead in her hostel room on July 19. A police officer said in a note recovered, she had alleged "mental duress" she had been put through by two of her teachers.

(Those in distress may contact Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health suicide prevention helpline 011-40769002.)

Delhi govt.'s move to amend labour laws will strip lakhs of workers of their rights, say experts

Nikhil M Babu
NEW DELHI

Trade union leaders and experts have criticised the Delhi government's move to amend at least two labour laws as part of its 'Ease of Doing Business' policy, saying the amendments will strip lakhs of workers of several rights.

The first pertains to changing the applicability of the Delhi Shops and Establishments Act, 1954, to establishments with 10 or more employees. Currently, the Act, which includes several safeguards for employees, such as leaves, weekly holidays, and a month's notice for dismissal, is applicable even to establishments with one employee.

"Right now, if a person working at a small bakery or garment shop is fired illegally, he or she can file a complaint under the Act. Once the minimum threshold is increased to 10,



According to an expert, the labour codes could provide protection in cases of wages, but not in illegally firing workers. FILE PHOTO

workers at thousands of establishments with fewer than 10 employees will be placed outside the ambit of the law and left without any protection," said Anurag Saxena, CITU general secretary (Delhi).

A senior Delhi government official said once the four Labour Codes, which were passed in Parliament in 2019 and 2020, are implemented, workers in smaller establishments will be provided with "some level of protection".

However, Mr. Saxena

said, "The labour codes could provide protection to employees in case of wages, but there is no safeguard for workers at a small establishment who are fired illegally."

Concurrent List

The government is also planning to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, which applies to commercial units across the country, as labour is part of the Concurrent List.

Currently, the Act provides protection to work-

ers in the event of retrenchment and closure of firms employing 100 workers or more, as prior permission is required from the government or notice is to be given for such actions. The Delhi government plans to amend the Act to cover only establishments employing 300 or more workers.

Directions were issued to senior officials at a review meeting on June 30, chaired by Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena and attended by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, to make these changes, said a source. However, the government is yet to release any official statement on the matter.

Professor Surajit Mazumdar at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, said an employee's rights do not depend on the size of the establishment.

"As things stand, many

labour laws meant to protect employees are not enforced properly. And now if you remove the workers from the ambit of the law itself, the workers won't be able to even fight for their rights," he said.

"The total number of employees in establishments with less than 10 workers in Delhi, who will be affected by the change in law, will be in the range of 7 to 20 lakh and the actual figure will be closer to 15 lakh," said Mr. Mazumdar. He used the data from the Economic Census, 2013-14 and Delhi Economic Survey 2023-24 to arrive at the conclusion.

Brijesh Goyal, chairman of Chamber of Trade & Industry, said the figure will be around 18-20 lakh workers, and Sucheta De, AICTU national vice president, said the figure will be around 15-17 lakh workers.

When reached out, the CM's office did not offer any comment.

Man held for grenade attack on police

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man was arrested by Delhi Police for his alleged involvement in a grenade attack on a police station in Punjab and arms trafficking in Delhi, an officer said on Sunday.

The accused, identified as Karanbir, was arrested on Saturday in Gurdaspur.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) (Special Cell) Amit Kaushik said the accused was an active member of the banned Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) outfit and was involved in the April 7 grenade attack on Qila Lal Singh Police Station in Batala, Gurdaspur. "During interrogation, the accused confessed that he was in touch with an agent of Punjab origin settled abroad and has been receiving money to manage tasks in India," said the DCP.

☀️🌙 Timings	
DELHI	
MONDAY, JUL. 28	
☀️ RISE 05:41	🌇 SET 19:15
🌙 RISE 08:55	🌇 SET 21:33
TUESDAY, JUL. 29	
☀️ RISE 05:41	🌇 SET 19:14
🌙 RISE 09:51	🌇 SET 22:00
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 30	
☀️ RISE 05:42	🌇 SET 19:14
🌙 RISE 10:44	🌇 SET 22:27

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	37	29
Safdarjang	37	29
Palam	35	28

Delhi Palam Today
33°C The weather will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower to occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
32°C Morning will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

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State Level Programme

Chief Guest
Sh. Nayab Singh Saini
Chief Minister, Haryana

July 28, 2025 | Time: 2 pm | Ambala

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Madan Gopal Vachar (Advocate)
Ch. no. 234, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Court, New Delhi-110054.

Naidu invites foreign firms to invest in ports, renewables

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

In a major step toward deepening international partnerships and boosting foreign investments, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Indian High Commissioner to Singapore Shilpak Ambule on Sunday, the first day of his official visit.

The discussions centered on transformative opportunities across sectors such as defence, electronics, aerospace, green energy, and quantum technologies.

During the high-level meeting, Mr. Shilpak Ambule referred to the “CBN Brand” in Singapore’s diplomatic and industrial circles, underscoring the respect and recognition it commanded.

He noted the alignment between Andhra Pradesh’s development goals and Singapore’s strategic strengths, expressing optimism about the potential for robust bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Naidu emphasised that Andhra Pradesh was rapidly emerging as a premier investment destination, backed by forward-looking policies and sector-specific incentives. He highlighted that the State was implementing a range of investor-friendly reforms aimed at attracting companies from Singapore and beyond, particularly in the areas of ports, renewable energy, and industrial corridors.

Referring to past collaboration on the Amaravati



N. Chandrababu Naidu

capital city project, Mr. Naidu acknowledged the setback experienced during 2019-2024, but reiterated his commitment to reviving and strengthening the ties.

Re-establish trust

“This visit is an opportunity to clear misunderstandings, re-establish trust, and forge a renewed vision for development,” Mr. Naidu said.

The Chief Minister outlined Andhra Pradesh’s ambitious goal to generate 160 gigawatts of green energy. He revealed that green hydrogen projects had already commenced in Visakhapatnam in collaboration with the NTPC, and another was under way in Kakinada. He shared plans for India’s first Quantum Valley in Amaravati under the India Quantum Mission, reinforcing the State’s commitment to futuristic innovation.

Highlighting the strategic importance of regions such as Rayalaseema, he invited Singaporean firms to invest in high-potential sectors such as defence manufacturing, aerospace, electronics, and automobiles.

Liquor ‘scam’: SIT searches properties in Hyderabad

Police teams visit offices, industrial units, and other properties in and around the city; the SIT, which is investigating the alleged multi-crore scam, has so far arrested 12 accused in the case

Rajulapudi Srinivas
VIJAYAWADA

A special investigation team (SIT) has searched the properties in Hyderabad of the accused who have been arrested in the alleged liquor scam. The SIT, which is investigating the alleged multi-crore scam in Andhra Pradesh, has so far arrested 12 accused in the case.

Multiple police teams searched the offices, industrial units and other properties of the accused in and around Hyderabad on Saturday night. The investigating officers seized documents and other technical evidence related to the crime.

“Searches were under way on the properties of Kessireddy Rajashekar



On trial: Kessireddy Rajashekar Reddy, one of the 12 accused in the scam, being produced in court in Vijayawada in June. K.V.S.GIRI

Reddy, Buneti Chaniky and Balaji Govindappa, who are in judicial custody,” a senior police officer told *The Hindu* on Sunday on condition of anonymity.

It was alleged that the accused framed a new liqu-

or policy during the YSR Congress Party regime, encouraged manual sales, collected commissions from the distillery companies, routed the ill-gotten money into shell companies. and allegedly caused

about ₹3,500 crore loss to the government.

The Crime Investigation Department (CID), which filed the preliminary chargesheet in the ACB Special Court, said around 48 people were involved in the scam.

The police said the accused purchased villas, luxury cars, land, and jewellery and transferred the money to shell companies and benami accounts.

“The role of some other officers of A.P. State Beverages Corporation Limited [APBCL], Excise, Revenue and other department officers is being probed,” the police said. A senior police official on condition of anonymity said they were questioning public representatives and bureaucrats in the case.

LDF, UDF condemn arrest of 2 Kerala nuns over forced conversion charges

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The arrest of two Keralite nuns on charges of human trafficking and kidnapping for forced religious conversion at the Durg railway station in Chhattisgarh on Friday has drawn sharp criticism from Church leaders, the ruling Left Democratic Front and the Op-

position in Kerala.

Fr. Robin Rodrigues, a spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI), told presspersons in Raipur on Sunday that the nuns were travelling with three other women, from Durg to Agra when persons, suspected to be Bajrang Dal workers, accosted them angrily.

He said they accused the

nuns, Sister Vandana Francis and Sister Preeta Mary, of taking women to Agra to convert them to Christianity. CBCI Women’s Council secretary Asha Paul said the women were travelling with the sisters on their own volition.

All India Congress Committee general secretary (organisation) and MP K.C. Venugopal said the arrest

of the nuns on “trumped-up” charges was the latest incident in the long series of persecution of minorities in BJP-ruled States in North India.

LDF leader Jose K. Mani, MP, posted on social media that he hds sought the urgent intervention of Prime Minister to stop mob attacks against Christians in BJP-ruled States.

Rajasthan govt. to demolish unsafe school buildings

Press Trust of India
JAIPUR

Two days after a portion of the Piplodi Government School in Rajasthan’s Jhalawar district collapsed, killing seven children, the State government on Sunday announced a series of urgent measures, including closure and demolition of unsafe school buildings, GIS-mapping of all vulnerable structures, and use of Artificial Intelligence to monitor structural safety.

School Education and Panchayati Raj Minister Madan Dilawar, who chaired an emergency meeting with senior officials from both the departments, said a proposal of ₹150 crore under the disaster management fund has been prepared for repair works in 7,500 schools across 170 tehsils, officials said.

The move comes amid growing concerns over the vulnerability of school infrastructure, especially during the monsoon season in southeastern Rajasthan.

Mr. Dilawar said a statewide survey is being conducted by the district collectors to identify the dilapidated school buildings. “Buildings found to be structurally unsafe will be marked with a red cross and shut down immediately. These will be demolished on priority, and temporary classrooms using container units will be arranged as an interim solution,” Mr. Dilawar said.

In a statement, the Mi-



Rajasthan Education Minister Madan Dilawar

nister said the State will create a GIS-based application linked to the Shala Darpan portal to catalogue all dilapidated and repairable buildings. The platform will also integrate AI-based monitoring to assess building safety and guide budget allocations.

The Minister also announced the creation of a quality control unit within the *Samagra Shiksha* scheme to supervise school construction, and ordered that all construction materials and workmanship be tested through PWD-certified labs. In case of substandard construction, the contractor and engineers will be held financially liable, he said.

In a move extending beyond government institutions, Mr. Dilawar also said that private schools across the State will also be surveyed for safety compliance.

To bridge funding gaps, the Minister said all MLAs and MPs in the State will be asked to contribute 20% of their development fund towards school safety measures.

In full flow



Flood alert: Water gushes out of the Tungabhadra dam in Hosapete in Karnataka as authorities begin controlled release following a sharp rise in the inflow on Sunday. People residing in low-lying areas and near riverbanks have been asked to exercise caution. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Farmer on night watch killed in attack by wild elephants in Chittoor district

The Hindu Bureau
CHITTOOR

A farmer, Ramakrishna Raju, 55, was killed on the spot when a 16-strong herd of wild elephants attacked him in a field at Kothuru village of Somala mandal in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh late on Saturday night.

The incident triggered panic in several villages in the vicinity, as the herd was reportedly camping at a waterbody nearby.

As per information, the herd emerged from the nearby thickets, strayed into the field, and attacked the unsuspecting victim who was on night watch. The sudden charge left the farmer helpless.



Tragic demise: Ramakrishna Raju, the farmer who was trampled to death by elephants.

The villagers informed the forest officials that the herd had been resorting to crop raids after dusk for the past three days.

Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan condoled

the farmer’s death and expressed solidarity with the family members. He announced that ex gratia would be given, and directed the forest officials to initiate corrective measures to prevent wild elephants from venturing into human habitations.

Meanwhile, the incident led to angry protests on Sunday, with the villagers staging a blockade on the Tirupati-Punganur Road along with the body of the farmer, blaming the Forest Department for its “gross negligence”.

No tangible action

Raising slogans such as “Where are the Kumki elephants”, the villagers urged Chief Minister N.

Chandrababu Naidu and Mr. Kalyan to immediately intervene and do justice to the bereaved family. They demanded that a scientific action plan be worked out to put an end to the vexed man-animal conflict in the western mandals of the district.

The villagers alleged that despite their repeated alerts about the movement of the wild elephants, there was no tangible action from the Forest Department.

Senior forest officials rushed to Kothuru and pacified the agitators by assuring them compensation and corrective measures. The farmer’s body was later shifted to the area hospital for autopsy.

Congress, BJP engage in a war of words in Telangana over shortage of urea for farming

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Urea politics in Telangana touched a peak on Sunday with the ruling Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) engaging in a war of words to pin the blame on each other, as a challenge for an open debate was thrown by both political parties.

BJP State president N. Ramchander Rao went on the offensive, rejecting the government’s claims of shortage of urea and challenging Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao for a debate on the supply and availability in



The State government says Centre has not supplied allocated urea on time.

the State. Speaking in Mahabubnagar, he accused the Congress of misleading farmers, alleging that the ruling party in the State was spreading misinforma-

tion to tarnish the Union government’s image.

However, Agriculture Minister hit back with specific figures, stating that the Centre had not supplied the allocated quantity of urea on time. The Minister claimed that shortfalls in Central supply have created bottlenecks at the distribution level, despite the State’s preparedness.

In a letter addressed to Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers J.P. Nad-da on Saturday, Mr. Rao said there was a 36% deficit in supply to Telangana. The deficit supply was seen in all the months, he said.

Activists demand Devadasi survey in Karnataka without condition of age limit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As preparations are under way for the third survey of Devadasis in Karnataka, members of the community have urged the State government to conduct the door-to-door survey without fixing any age limit to identify the Devadasis.

The Bengaluru-based National Law School of India University (NLSIU), which is spearheading efforts to bring new legislation for Devadasis, has also petitioned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah against any age limit.

While the fresh survey – a long-pending demand of the community – had been announced in the 2024-



Rights discourse: Members of the Vimukta Devadasi Mahila Mathu Makkala Vedike at a press meet in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

2025 Budget, the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission recently directed the government to complete the survey and come out with recommendations before this October.

It is learnt that the survey is being planned to be

conducted through the offices of taluk-level child development officers, where Devadasis are expected to go and provide their details.

While circulars so far have been silent on the age, community members have been pointing to past

surveys which were conducted similarly from offices and had kept out women aged below 45.

The centuries-old practice of dedication of women to temples as Devadasis has been banned in the State since 1982 when the Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act was enacted. Subsequently, the government conducted surveys in 1993-94 and 2007-08, when 22,873 and 46,660 Devadasis, respectively, were identified.

However, Yamunurappa, coordinator of Vimuktha Devadasi Mahila Mathu Makkala Vedike, claimed that a similar number of Devadasis have remained outside the list owing to several issues.

Jail escape: prison officer suspended over remark

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Amid mounting criticism over systemic failures in the prison system following the sensational escape of rape and murder convict Govindachamy from the Kannur Central Prison, the Kerala government on Sunday suspended a prison official for publicly commenting on the case.

Deputy Inspector General of Prisons (South Zone) Dinesh B. ordered the suspension of Abdul Sattar A., Deputy Prison Officer of Kottarakara Special Sub-Jail, pending inquiry, over the remarks he made on a news channel.

Detention of migrant workers: TMC takes out rallies across W.B.

Ruling party protests against detentions based on suspicion of being illegal Bangladeshi immigrants; says BJP is against Bengal; party raises concerns over possibility of SIR in the State ahead of Assembly poll, calls it 'back-door entry for NRC'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday condemned the “targeting” of migrant workers in BJP-ruled States, claiming that members of a migrant family were beaten up by the police in Delhi.

“Atrocious!! Terrible!! See how Delhi police brutally beat up a kid and his mother, members of a migrant family from Malda’s Chanchal. See how even a child is not spared from the cruelty of violence in



Trinamool workers at a protest rally in Kolkata on Sunday. PTI

the regime of linguistic terror unleashed by BJP in the country against Bengal!” the Chief Minister said in a social media post.

On Sunday, protest marches were organised

across the State in line with plans announced by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief. Ms. Banerjee had on July 21, at a Martyrs’ Day rally, announced the start of a “language

movement” against the targeting of migrants in the BJP-ruled States. She had called for protests every weekend until next year’s Assembly poll.

‘Language movement’

From the streets of Kolkata to districts across the State, hundreds of people participated in the protests, which the TMC has described as a “language movement”. Some protesters also held posters highlighting the Bengali alphabet, implying that BJP-ruled States are targeting migrant workers for speaking in Bengali.

Migrants from West Bengal have been detained in different States like Odisha, Haryana and Delhi on suspicion of being Bangladeshi nationals.

The TMC has also raised concerns about the possibility of a SIR (special incentive revision) in the State. “The protest against SIR isn’t just a reaction, it’s a rejection of BJP’s plan to introduce the NRC through the back door! BJP is targeting poor, marginalised citizens with illegal notices. It’s a calculated attack on Bengal’s identity,” the ruling party said in a social media post.

Woman, son ‘beaten up’ by Delhi police

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

A migrant worker from West Bengal’s Malda district alleged that she and her minor son were detained and beaten up by Delhi Police on suspicion of being Bangladeshi nationals living illegally in India.

Sajnur Bibi said her son was playing at a parking lot in Pandav Nagar in East Delhi when Delhi Police picked her along with her son on Saturday. The sanitation worker alleged that she was beaten on her back, hands, legs by a baton. Her family also alleged that they had to “pay” ₹25,000 to Delhi Police officials to release the mother-son duo.

The police have not yet commented on the allegations.

Detainees let go but drive against ‘illegal immigrants’ still on: Gurugram police

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

In a major crackdown, the Gurugram police have detained individuals for allegedly staying in the city without valid documents, as part of a special drive being carried out in adherence to orders from the Ministry of Home Affairs to identify and deport ‘illegal immigrants’. Over the past week, hundreds of suspected ‘illegal immigrants’ were reportedly sent to detention centres for verification of documents.

However, the drive has drawn widespread criticism over the alleged harassment of detainees and targeting of Bengali-speak-



A community centre in Gurugram’s Sector 10A designated as a special holding centre by the administration. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ing migrant workers from Assam and West Bengal.

A visit on Sunday to the special holding centres designated by the district administration showed that many detainees were being released.

The special holding

centre in Gurugram’s Sector 10A, a dimly-lit hall at a community centre, stood empty with only a pile of carpets and a few packets of ‘pav (bread)’ lying in a dark corner.

“There were around 70 Bengali-speaking people

kept in this room three days ago. Most of them were from Assam and West Bengal. They were all kept locked inside this room with four policemen keeping guard outside. But they were all let off two days ago,” said Krishna, the security guard at the community centre.

Four detention centres

Three other such centres have been set up in Gurugram’s Sector 40, Manesar’s Sector 1, and Badshahpur to detain Bangladeshi nationals and Rohingya refugees found to be staying illegally in the country.

The holding centre at Manesar is also currently

empty. According to the security guard, 35 of the 45 detainees were released by the police a couple of days ago, while 10 were taken away in a police vehicle. A constable deployed at the centre said despite the reduced number of detainees, 10 police personnel remained deployed there.

“The holding centre has not been shut. No fresh raids are being carried out as the police are busy holding the two-day Common Eligibility Test across the State. More detainees could come on Monday,” said the constable.

Gurugram Police spokesperson Assistant Sub-Inspector Sandeep Kumar confirmed that the drive

was still ongoing and suspects would be brought to the holding centres for further probe.

“Only those without identity documents or found making calls to Bangladesh, raising suspicion, are detained for further investigation,” he said.

‘Inhuman drive’

Meanwhile, Nuh legislator and former Haryana Transport Minister Aftab Ahmed condemned the detentions, calling it “inhuman, shameful, and unfortunate”.

Mr. Ahmed also alleged that the drive was creating an environment of fear, forcing people to flee Gurugram.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Tara Murali

October 2, 1949 - July 26, 2025



Tara Murali, 75, well-known architect who was also known for pursuing public causes and promoting civic rights, consumer protection, heritage conservation, and environmentalism, died at her home in Chennai on Saturday, July 26, 2025. Thoroughly secular and modern in outlook, she had varied interests: music, literature, environment, heritage, consumer action, and sport, especially table tennis.

Tara is survived by her husband, N. Murali, Director at *The Hindu* Group of Publications and President of The Music Academy; their son, Krishna Murali; their daughter, Kanta Murali; three grand-children, and her elder brother, Ramesh Pattabhiraman.

The cremation will take place at the Besant Nagar Crematorium at 11.30 a.m. on Monday, July 28.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

14th ANNIVERSARY

NAVALPAKKAM RAJAGOPALAN
(Retd Sirsilk Ltd)
D.O.B: 10.11.1916 D.O.D: 28.07.2011

LOVINGLY REMEMBERED BY
Sons: Raghavan, Krishnamurthy and Sampath.
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Daughters: Radha and Kalyani
Sons in Law: Selvakumar And Suryanarayanan
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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Bihar govt. to set up panel for welfare of sanitation workers

Press Trust of India
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday announced the State government would soon constitute a ‘Safai Karmachari Commission’ for the socio-economic upliftment of sanitation workers.

He announced the decision in a post on X.

“I am pleased to inform that I have directed officials to constitute the Bihar State Safai Karmachari Commission to ensure the protection, welfare, rehabilitation, social upliftment, grievance redressal, and monitoring of various welfare schemes for the rights and interests of sanitation workers in Bihar,” the Chief Minister said.

The commission will provide suggestions related to the interests of sanitation workers, advise the government on the protection of their rights, and take appropriate action to review and implement welfare schemes related to those engaged in sanitation work, he added.

“The Bihar State Safai Karmachari Commission will consist of one chairperson, one vice-chairperson, and five members, including one woman/transgender. This commission will play a significant role in integrating the deprived sections of society engaged in sanitation work into the mainstream and contributing to their social and economic development,” Mr. Kumar said.

The State Assembly election is due later this year.

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Himachal Pradesh, Jal Shakti Vibhag

E-Procurement Notice

*** NOTICE FOR Bids (IFB) ***

No-JSV-EE-Jagatkhana-CB-TA-E-Tender/2025-2133-2232 Dated:-25.07.2025

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Vibhag, Division Jagatkhana, District Bilaspur (H.P.) on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invite the item rate/lump sum contract bids from the eligible contractors/Firms. Bidders should be registered with Central Govt. or State Govt. or Central Govt. or State Government undertakings. The Contractor/Firm who have experience in construction of similar work and have established organization for taking up such work and who satisfy the qualification criteria of bid document need only apply. The scope of the work will be as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender form	Time Limit
1.	Sewerage System Interception and Diversion works under Swatch Bharat Mission for Municipal Council Naina Devi, District Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh (Under Water Management Component under SBM(U) 2.0).	Rs. 2,11,04,005/-	Rs. 2,86,040/-	Rs. 5000/-	Two years

1. The offer should be for the complete job.
2. Availability of bid document and mode of submission:- The bid documents is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website https://hptenders.gov.in. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying Authorities (CA). *Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPIPH may obtain the same from the website https://hptenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

1.	Key dates:- a) Date of online publication b) Period of availability of bidding documents on website https://hptenders.gov.in c) Downloading of e-tender Document d) Date of submission of e-tender	26-07-2025 26-07-2025 to 06-08-2025 From 26-07-2025 at 11:00 AM upto 2:30 PM 06-08-2025 From 26-07-2025 at 11:00 AM upto 3:00 PM 06-08-2025
2.	Opening of bids. The bids will be opened online by the authorized officer at the appointed time.	06-08-2025 at 3:30 PM

Executive Engineer JSV Division Jagatkhana
HJP/2071/25-26 him scuchana avam jan sampark

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HPPWD., Division Nadaun District Hamirpur H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invite item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class for the works as detailed below on the table below:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost(Rs)	Starting Date for down-loading Bid	EMD (Rs.)	Deadline for submission of Bid
01.	Annual maintenance plan link road to village Gauna (SH- P/L bituminous concrete 25mm thick in km 0/00 to 2/670 with paver finisher) PKG No. HP-03-43 (Under PMGSY incentive with five year maintenance) Time Limit- Three Months cost of tender form- 2000/-	48,51,534/-	31-07-2025 from 10:30 AM	80,300	06-08-2025 upto 10:30 AM

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website.

Executive Engineer, Nadaun Division, HPPWD, Nadaun, Pin Code 177033
Telephone No. 01972-298570, e-mail: ee-pwdrdn-hp@hp.gov.in
HP / 2065/25-26 On behalf of Governor of Himachalpradesh.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

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 properties 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.22,81,749/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Eighty One Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Nine only)** as on 16-06-2025 together with further interest to be charged from 17-06-2025 onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the Borrowers / Guarantors No.1) Mr. Chaman Kumar, S/o. Late Sh. Harish Chander, No.51/80, Main Market, Badarpur, Jaitpur, South Delhi - 110044. No.2) Mrs. Rajwati, W/o. Chaman Kumar, No.51/80, Main Market, Badarpur, Jaitpur, South Delhi - 110044. No.3) Mr. Rajat Raxwal, S/o. Chaman Kumar, No.51/80, Main Market, Badarpur, Jaitpur, South Delhi - 110044.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank (Property Owned by Mr. Chaman Kumar, S/o. Late. Sh. Harish Chander)

Property bearing No.28-B, measuring 150 Sq.Yards, i.e. 125.42 Sq.Mtrs., consisting of Ground Floor with Roof Rights, comprising in Khasra No.42/27, situated within extend Abadi of Lal Dora at Badarpur, New Delhi and bounded as under East : House No.29-B of Shri. Mahesh, West : House No.27-B of Shri. Sonu, North : House No.28-B Shri. Mahesh.

Reserve Price : Rs.22,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS	
Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
19-08-2025	City Union Bank Limited, New Delhi- Lajpat Nagar Branch, M-17, Ground Floor, Lajpat Nagar II, South Delhi, New Delhi - 110024. Telephone No.011-29840034, Cell No.9310085382.

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, New Delhi-Lajpat Nagar Branch, M-17, Ground Floor, Lajpat Nagar II, South Delhi, New Delhi - 110024.** (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.011-29840034, Cell No.9310085382.** (5) The properties 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 : 24-07-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287,**
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Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, a State University established by the Government of NCT of Delhi invites applications for admissions to its various PG programmes under different School of Studies in Kashmere Gate, Karampura, Lodhi Road & Qutab International Area Campuses for the academic session 2025-26.

Particulars	Last Date to apply online
Special Drive for SC/ST/OBC	1st August 2025 (Friday)

For the latest admission related information, kindly visit university website **www.aud.delhi.gov.in**
Dated: 24.07.2025 **www.aud.delhi.gov.in** Registrar

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Not the way

Criminalising adolescent sex will undermine the aim of the POCSO Act

The key objective of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 is the protection of children, but over the past few years, courts around the country and rights activists have called for some exemptions. Noticing a trend that adolescents, above 15 years but under 18, in voluntary relationships and having consensual sex were often being persecuted, the courts sought a review. In that backdrop, senior advocate Indira Jaising’s written submission to the Supreme Court that consensual sex between teenagers aged 16-18 years must not be criminalised is a welcome move. She was appointed *amicus curiae* and her submissions are part of a petition filed by advocate Nipun Saxena. Her brief challenged the designation of 18 years as the age of consent. She said the only solution lies in declaring that sex between consenting adolescents between the age of 16, an almost universal age of sexual maturity, and 18, is not a form of ‘abuse’. Ms. Jaising called for this exception to be read into the POCSO Act and Section 63 (sexual offences), of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). “Such an exception would preserve the protective intent of the statute while preventing its misuse against adolescent relationships that are not exploitative in nature,” she said.

In a 2023 report, the Law Commission had said that it was against changing the age of consent. It advised “guided judicial discretion” instead, while sentencing in cases that involve children between 16 and 18 years in a voluntary, consensual relationship. Under the POCSO Act and under several provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the BNS, whoever commits a penetrative sexual assault on a child – who is anyone below 18 years – can face stringent punishment under Section 6 of the POCSO Act, Section 9 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, and provisions of the IPC and BNS. A 16-year-old is considered a “child” under Section 2(d) of the POCSO Act and hence her consent does not matter. But caveats have to be put in place so that the broad intent of the law is adhered to, as the Madras High Court suggested in 2021, in *Vijayalakshmi vs State Rep.* The High Court said the age difference in consensual relationships should not be more than five years to ensure that a girl of an impressionable age is not taken advantage of by an older person. Educating adolescents about the law on sexual offences and its consequences is a must too. Criminalising normal adolescent behaviour is not the way to protect against non-consensual, exploitative sexual offences.

State for the stateless

The West must follow France in recognising Palestinian statehood

France’s decision to recognise Palestinian statehood, in September, reflects President Emmanuel Macron’s deep frustration with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the ongoing war on Gaza, as well as his willingness to adopt a more pro-active and constructive approach towards finding a durable solution. Of the 193 members of the UN, 147, including India, China and Russia, have already recognised the Palestinian state. But powerful western nations, with close ties to Israel, have always stopped short of granting official recognition even if professing support for a two-state solution. But this position began to shift after the Gaza war in October 2023, with more European countries taking formal steps towards its recognition. Last year, Spain, Ireland, Norway and Slovenia recognised Palestine’s independence. If Mr. Macron follows through, France will be the first G-7 member nation to do so. Such a move may not have an immediate, direct impact on the peace process. That more western European countries are now ready to take irreversible measures in favour of Palestinian statehood, ignoring strong opposition from Tel Aviv and Washington, marks a clear change in sentiment towards one of the modern world’s most contentious conflicts.

Mr. Macron’s announcement comes at a critical juncture for the Palestinians. The war has devastated the enclave with confirmed deaths reaching 60,000 in 21 months – roughly 2.5% of its total population. In the West Bank, settler violence has displaced tens of thousands of Palestinians. Israeli Ministers have openly threatened to ethnically cleanse Gaza and annex the West Bank. Images of starving and malnourished children, which came out of Gaza last week, have jolted global conscience. Even Israel’s closest allies, including Britain, Canada and France, issued a rare joint statement, urging Mr. Netanyahu to “immediately end the humanitarian catastrophe”. Under mounting pressure, Israel has announced ‘tactical pauses’ in its attacks. But this is far from sufficient. What Gaza urgently needs is a complete end to the bombings and shelling, and the full opening of its borders to humanitarian aid. Given that pressure is the only language Israel appears to understand, and with the Donald Trump presidency showing no willingness to apply it, Europe must do more. Efforts to end the war, which in terms of mass killings, devastation and displacement is comparable to the 1948-49 Nakba, must be accompanied by initiatives to ensure that such a catastrophe is never repeated. There should be concrete measures from the international community to pursue a durable political solution, which is the two-state solution. The first step in that direction is the recognition of Palestinian independence and statehood. France has promised to join, though belatedly, most member-countries of the UN in the statehood push. Other nations in the West must follow.

It is fundamental that unless a person is a citizen of India he cannot be an elector. Consequently, he cannot become a legislator also. Therefore, it is very surprising that some seasoned politicians have raised objections to the Election Commission of India (ECI)’s Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar (where Assembly elections are expected shortly) that citizenship should not be verified. It only demonstrates that they have absolutely no knowledge of the Constitution and the working of the system. Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the “superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of Electoral roll and the conduct of all elections ... shall vest” in the Election Commission. The preparation of electoral rolls is a continuous process, and is revised from time to time irrespective of there being elections or no elections (*Lakshmi Charan Sen and Ors Etc vs A.K.M. Hassan Uzzaman and Ors. Etc., AIR 1985 SC 1233*).

Clarity on being a citizen

Article 326 of the Constitution of India provides that “the Elections to the House of People and the Legislature of every State shall be on the basis of adult suffrage, that is to say, every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than 18 years of age in such State, as may be fixed in that behalf, by or under any law made by the appropriate legislature and is not otherwise disqualified under this Constitution or any Law made by the appropriate Legislature” on certain grounds. Therefore, it is clear that unless a person is a citizen of India, he is not entitled to be registered as a voter in any election.

Pursuant to the enabling provisions, Parliament enacted The Representation of The People Act, 1950, which deals with the preparation of electoral rolls and delimitation. The Preamble to the 1950 Act reads as follows: “An Act to provide the allocation of seats in, and the delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of election to, the House of the People and the Legislatures of States, the qualifications of voters at such elections, the preparation of electoral rolls, the manner of filling seats in the Council of States to be filled by representatives of Union territories, and matters connected therewith.”

Part-IIA of the 1950 Act deals with the Officers of the Commission which includes Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers. Part-IIB deals with Electoral Rolls for Parliamentary Constituencies and Part-III deals with Electoral Rolls for Assembly constituencies.

Section 15 of the 1950 Act deals with preparation of Electoral Rolls for every Constituency under the superintendence,



G. Rajagopalan

is a senior advocate and, formerly, Additional Solicitor General

The political objections being raised on the issue of citizenship reveal a lack of knowledge of the Constitution, legislation and the working of the electoral system

direction and control of the Election Commission. Section 16 of the 1950 Act deals with disqualifications for registration in an Electoral Roll, and in specific, Section 16(1)(a) provides that if a person is not a Citizen of India, he shall be disqualified for being registered as a voter. Further, Section 16(2) provides that the name of the person who is so disqualified, even if registered, shall be struck off from the electoral rolls. Besides this, Section 20 of the 1950 Act also provides who is “ordinarily resident” in a constituency. Section 21 deals with preparation and revision of electoral rolls, while Section 22 deals with correction of entries in electoral rolls. Section 23 deals with the inclusion of names in electoral rolls, and Section 24 provides that if anybody is aggrieved by an order of inclusion or exclusion, they can prefer an appeal to the authority referred to in the Section.

The only period during which no amendment, transposition or deletion is permitted, is referred to under Section 23(3) of the 1950 Act, which provides that no amendment, transposition, deletion or inclusion, shall be made after the last date for making the nominations for an election in that constituency.

Therefore, it is fundamental that unless a person is a citizen of India, their name cannot be included in the electoral roll. And if it is erroneously included, it can be deleted under the provisions, as stated above.

Under the duties of the Election Commission

In fact, it is the duty of the ECI to verify whether the name of any non-citizen has been included in an electoral roll, if a complaint or doubt in this regard has been raised. In fact, to put it otherwise, the ECI or its officers, have no jurisdiction to include a non-citizen’s name in the electoral roll; if it is so, it is null and void. Therefore, if an application is made for inclusion or a complaint is received that a non-citizen’s name is included in the electoral roll, it is the duty of the ECI to conduct an inquiry as necessary to ensure that non-citizens’ names are rejected and deleted from the list. If the ECI fails to do so, it would be failing in its constitutional duty and the purpose for which the power has been granted under Articles 324 and 326 would be defeated.

In the same line, if you probe further, to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly or a Member of Parliament, one has to be a voter in a constituency; if he is not a citizen of India, he cannot be a member of Parliament or a State Legislature. In fact, Article 102 of the Constitution provides for disqualification of membership of either House of Parliament, while Article 191 provides the same for a State Legislature. It is very clear under Article 102(1)(d) that a person

Understanding Russia’s Taliban gauntlet



Harsh V. Pant

is Vice President, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi



Aleksei Zakharov

is Fellow, Eurasia, Observer Research Foundation

in Afghanistan reached an impasse and the U.S. began to consider withdrawal, Moscow established unofficial contacts with the Taliban through its closer engagement with Pakistan in the early 2010s. This enabled Russia to protect its security interests in Afghanistan (with a focus on ensuring the safety of Russian citizens), collaborating against the Islamic State Khorasan Province (IS-K) and combating drug trafficking.

Additionally, in a balance act between the Afghan government and the Taliban, Russia stepped up its diplomatic efforts to position itself as a venue for resolving the Afghan crisis. Despite being blacklisted by the UN and outlawed in Russia, the Taliban representatives were invited to participate in the Moscow Format and intra-Afghan conferences, as Russia attempted to increase its own regional influence and edge the U.S. out from Afghanistan.

With the Taliban’s takeover of Kabul in August 2021, even as many other countries evacuated diplomatic personnel amid the lingering turmoil, the Russian Embassy in Kabul remained in operation – Moscow remained confident that the Taliban are capable of putting things in good order. Despite Russia’s good rapport with the Taliban’s dispensation, the persistent instability in Afghanistan has severely compromised its security interests, with terrorist attacks against the Russian Embassy in Kabul in September 2022 and the Crocus City Hall in Moscow in March 2024, purportedly carried out by the IS-K. There has been no meaningful progress in the economic projects either, though the Russian authorities continue to harbour hopes that Afghanistan will emerge as a conduit for Russian exports to South and Southeast Asia.

The basis

Russia’s official recognition of the IEA government reflects Moscow’s conviction that the Taliban are “an objective reality” and the only political force capable of controlling power in Afghanistan. This is further reinforced by the perception of the Taliban as Russia’s “allies in

“shall be disqualified for being chosen as and for being a member of either House of Parliament, if he is not a citizen of India, or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State or if he is under acknowledgment of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State”. Article 191, which applies to the State Legislature, also provides the same. If someone contends that a non-citizen would be a voter, they are also contending that a non-citizen can be a member of Legislature, which is nothing but absurd.

Therefore, if questioned, one has to prove to the satisfaction of the authority, that he is a citizen of India, and that he satisfies the provisions of The Citizenship Act, 1955. Though Section 7A of the 1955 Act provides for the registration of overseas citizens in India, Section 7B(2) of the said Act clearly provides that an Overseas citizen of India Cardholder shall not be entitled to the rights conferred on the citizens of India with regard to the registration of a voter.

Therefore, the constitutional and statutory scheme clearly provides that unless a person is a citizen of India, his name cannot be included in the electoral roll. And even if he is included, the authority of the ECI can order deletion of their name under Section 16(2) of the 1950 Act.

It is relevant to note the decision of the Supreme Court of India (reported in *Dr. Yogesh Bhardwaj vs State Of U.P. And Ors, 1990 3 SCC 355*), which dealt with admission in a medical college. In the said judgment, it has been observed in paragraph 20 that it is only lawful residence that can be taken into account, and if a man stays in a country in breach of immigration laws, his presence there does not constitute ordinary residence.

The Aadhaar card and citizenship

One more issue which has to be dealt with is whether any person who has an Aadhaar card can be a citizen of India. A reading of the provisions of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, in particular, Section 9, clearly provides that the “Aadhaar Number or the Authentication thereof, shall not, by itself, confer any right of, or be proof of, citizenship or domicile in respect of the Aadhaar number holder”. Section 3 of the Act, which deals with enrolment, only provides that “every resident shall be entitled to obtain an Aadhaar number by submitting his demographic and biometric information by undergoing the process of enrolment”. Therefore, mere possession of an Aadhaar card is not proof of citizenship, and despite the constitutional requirements, if the names of foreigners are retained in the electoral roll, the rolls to that extent would be void *ab initio*.

countering terrorism”, which seemingly laid the foundation for their de-listing in April 2025. It should be noted though that the Russian Supreme Court only suspended the ban on the Taliban activities, and the grouping is still on the Russian unified federal list of terrorist organisations. This suggests that the Russian security apparatus is not fully convinced by the Taliban’s track record in combating terrorism, leaving scope to reverse the decision if the alliance with the Taliban proves to be a false dawn.

The IEA’s recognition is a symbolic gesture that does not bring Russia any immediate benefits and does not guarantee any upgrade to Moscow’s position in Afghanistan or the wider region. While some Russian officials are insisting on supporting the Taliban, including “arming them”, it remains to be seen how far Moscow is willing to go and whether the joint fight against the IS-K will yield tangible results.

As Russia has set a precedent by recognising the IEA, some Central Asian states and even China may well follow suit, especially given that the Taliban’s expectations of their partners will certainly increase. Moscow’s free pass to the Taliban regarding the inclusivity of their government, as well as women’s and minority rights, may become a new template for other regional players who will prioritise pragmatism over value-based approach.

Ties with India

India will unlikely be seriously affected by the Russian move. New Delhi has fostered its own incremental improvement in diplomatic ties with the Taliban, having recently found common ground with them on the issue of terrorism in Kashmir. It is likely that New Delhi will keep up diplomatic communications, trade and humanitarian cooperation with the IEA, without deviating from its stance on the legitimacy issue. Engagement without formal recognition still seems to be the likely trajectory of India’s Afghanistan policy.

Sharp contrast

The narrative in the article, “On a tight leash in Mumbai” (Magazine – ‘Openpage’, July 27), evoked no surprise, as the stray dog menace exists across India. Last year I had been to Tennessee, in the U.S. to visit my son. There are no street dogs there but only pet dogs. When they are taken out for a walk there is

a proper leash. The owner has to pick up waste with a scoop, which is then transferred to a cover and placed in a waste bin that is marked for such waste. A lot is to be learnt from foreign countries.

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

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Decoding the Jan Suraaj Party hype

CM
YK

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Mobile towers to be installed in certain areas of Chhattisgarh

4,000 State-run BSNL is working on a plan to install 4,000 new mobile towers in Naxalite-affected areas of Chhattisgarh, the Minister of State for Telecom and Rural Development Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar said on Sunday. PTI

Number of polio cases in Pakistan this year despite global efforts

17 Three more cases of polio were detected in Pakistan, raising the countrywide tally to 17. Pakistan is one of the last two countries in the world, alongside Afghanistan, where polio remains endemic. Despite efforts to eradicate the virus, challenges such as security issues have slowed progress. PTI

Losses suffered by Himachal Pradesh since monsoon started

1,500 In ₹ crore. Since the onset of monsoon in the State on June 20 till date, Himachal Pradesh has suffered losses of over ₹1,500 crore, officials said on Sunday. So far, 88 people have died and 35 have gone missing in rain-related incidents. PTI

Number of persons evacuated in Turkey due to wildfires

3,604 A wildfire broke out in a forested area between the Gursu and Kestel districts of Bursa, home to much of Turkey's auto industry. Some 1,765 people in Bursa's Kestel district were evacuated, Agriculture and Forestry Minister Yumaklı said. PTI

Number of employees to be laid off by TCS this year

12,261 India's largest IT services firm, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), is set to lay off about 2% of its global workforce this year, with the majority of those impacted belonging to middle and senior grades. PTI

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How is India preparing against GLOF events?

How many Glacial Lake Outburst Flood events has Nepal witnessed in recent times? What are the two most prominent types of glacial lakes found in the Indian Himalayan Region? How is the National Disaster Management Authority mitigating risks associated with GLOF events?

EXPLAINER

Safi Ahsan Rizvi

The story so far:

In July 8, Nepal experienced a catastrophic Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) event which caused a flash flood along the Lende river, flowing from Tibet to Nepal, and washed away a China-built friendship bridge. The bridge had serviced the 10-year old inland container port at Rasuwagadhi in Rasuwa (north of Kathmandu). The catastrophe is also reported to have made four Nepalese hydro-power plants along the Bhote Koshi river unusable, obliterating 8% of the country's power supply. With rising temperatures and subsequent glacial melt, the increased risk of GLOFs is threatening life and property in the higher Himalayas.

Do trans-boundary watersheds diminish possibilities of early warning?

While Chinese authorities have as yet refrained from confirming the cause, most Nepalese scientists and officials confirmed a GLOF event in Tibet, where a supra-glacial lake had burst, diminishing its surface area to 43 hectares from 63 hectares a day before. Nepalese officials were quoted lamenting in local media that neither did the Chinese authorities provide an early warning, nor was there an established system of doing so, despite a recent increase in supra-glacial lakes on the Tibetan side.

Hours later, on the same day, another GLOF event occurred at a moraine-dammed lake in the northern part of the Mustang district in Nepal (north-west of Kathmandu). Two months before, two glacial lakes in the Humla district (far-north corner of Nepal) had witnessed significant GLOF events, while in 2024, a GLOF in the Solukhumbu district had destroyed the Thame village in Nepal, the base camp for Mount Everest climbers. The need for trans-boundary collaborations in setting up early warning protocols seems paramount, given that Nepal has lost many lives and much infrastructure in successive GLOF events.

Similar events have impacted Nepal regularly, including the GLOF in Cirenma Co, a glacial lake, in Tibet in 1981, which released 20 mcm of water raising the Bhote Koshi river by 30 metres. Several decades later the same lake was reported to have rejuvenated and was rated high-risk. Other significant events include the Digi Tsho GLOF event in 1985, and the Tama Pokhari GLOF event in 1998. In response, Nepal has conducted risk mitigation works on the Imja Tsho and Tsho Rolpa lakes by drawing down water levels through artificial channels, a challenging task at heights above 5,000 m, and has further plans to target half a dozen more at-risk glacial lakes.

What is the nature of GLOF risk for India?

As per India's National Remote Sensing Centre, the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is home to 11 river basins and 28,000 glacial lakes. There are two prominent types of glacial lakes found in the IHR. The first are supraglacial lakes, formed in depressions on glaciers from meltwater, highly prone to melting in the summer months. The second are moraine-dammed lakes, formed by meltwater at the toe/snout of a glacier, dammed by loose debris or ice-cores, making them prone to sudden failure.



Definite risk: The south-end of the Shako Cho lake (5,200 m) in north Sikkim. The south-end shows the weak debris that forms its moraine-dam. NDMA

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Almost two-thirds of GLOF events are triggered by ice avalanches or landslides, and the remaining due to excessive meltwater pressure on weak moraine dams and earthquakes.

With 2023 and 2024 being the hottest years on Earth, extreme temperatures in smaller geographies have been higher, thereby causing more glacial melt in certain pockets, making some glacial lakes highly risky.

In addition to rising heat, is the problem of scale. 7,500 glacial lakes are situated in India, with most above 4,500 metres in height, hence approachable for surveys only during a short window in the summer season. There are almost no weather and water monitoring stations in these regions due to inaccessibility, lack of sustainability and cost, leaving this growing risk largely unmapped.

The only credible means is measuring growth in surface area via remote sensing over periods of time, a measure which is post-facto and provides little by way of risk assessment or early warning of any sort.

Additionally, vulnerability of the immediate geography is critical to determining the exact nature of risk. This includes damage to homesteads, livelihoods, biodiversity, bridges and hydro-power projects along rivers that relay GLOFs downstream. The South Lhonak GLOF in 2023 in Sikkim wiped out the \$2 billion and 1250 MW generating Chungthang dam and also intensified the flash flood causing massive silting downstream. Since then, the Central Water Commission has found that the Teesta riverbed has risen several metres, significantly reducing its carrying capacity and increasing the chances of its banks overflowing.

Besides the Sikkim GLOF, one of the most damaging events in recent times was the Chorabari GLOF in 2013, which turned into a cascading disaster accompanied by cloudbursts and landslides, known as the Kedarnath catastrophe – causing hundreds of

casualties and billions in infrastructure damage.

How can India reduce GLOF risk?

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has markedly accelerated its efforts to manage these increasing risks. With respect to mitigation, it has initiated a proactive shift from mere post-disaster response to risk reduction through its Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (CoDRR). This national coordination effort brought together related central scientific agencies, academic and research institutions, and States/UTs to study, monitor, warn, and mitigate GLOF risk in India. As a result, the central government finalised its first national programme of \$20 million, prioritising 56 at-risk glacial lakes. The list has now been expanded to 195, categorised into four risk levels. Following the expected award of the 16th Finance Commission for the period FY2027 to FY2031, there are plans to scale up this programme, significantly.

Objectives of this programme are five-fold – hazard assessment of each at-risk lake; installing Automated Weather and Water Stations (AWWS); establishing Early Warning Systems (EWS) downstream; mitigating risk by drawing down water levels or building flow through retention structures; and community engagement, an essential element of risk reduction. Under the programme, States where glacial lakes are resident were encouraged to take the lead in sending scientific expeditions to 40 of the highest at-risk lakes in the summer of 2024.

One of the critical parameters in the exercise was to encourage Indian technology, systems and scientific expertise, one of which is the science of SAR interferometry – the art of analysing micro-changes in slope stability (upto a centimetre) using remote sensing satellite imagery as high as 10-metre resolution. The near-absence of usage of this scientific method to predict GLOFs and

landslides is an identified gap that needs to be plugged through this programme. Another significant gap is the absence of well-resourced Indian foundations and innovative technology providers in the business of risk reduction in the Himalayan cryosphere.

What is status of mitigation efforts?

Several multi-institutional expeditions returned with success stories, across J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh with a couple of light-hearted tales for their archives. One such expedition lost its way in bad weather, and another had to leave behind an expedition member in the village as security so that the rest of the expedition did not pollute the sacred lake by entering its holy waters. These episodes were evidence of the critical need for community engagement, to integrate the local community in expeditions and the need to convince residents of the credibility and sincerity of the exercise.

The successful expeditions conducted bathymetry to assess the volume of water in the lakes; used Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) to understand the existence of ice-cores under moraine-dams, a key reason for dam breaks; and performed UAV and slope surveys of surrounding land/ice forms. Monitoring stations were installed at two lakes in Sikkim, which relay weather and water data every 10 minutes, with a daily dose of pictures of both ends of the lake and its shoreline. In subsequent summers, States will be installing more such systems, thereby overcoming an oft-repeated data-gap in the IHR cryosphere. In the absence of automated early warning mechanisms, Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) deployments in high reaches have been oriented towards the role of manual early warning. After the monsoon this year, States/UTs are gearing up for another round of expeditions.

Safi Ahsan Rizvi is an IPS officer and adviser to the NDMA.

THE GIST

As per India's National Remote Sensing Centre, the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is home to 11 river basins and 28,000 glacial lakes.

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One of the critical parameters in the exercise was to encourage Indian technology, systems and scientific expertise, one of which is the science of SAR interferometry.

CACHE



REUTERS

Was there a security breach at the crypto exchange CoinDCX?

CoinDCX is a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) registered Indian cryptocurrency exchange founded in 2018. On July 19, CoinDCX reported financial exposure of about \$44 million but stressed that the incident was contained by isolating the affected account

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:
On July 19, the crypto exchange CoinDCX updated users that one of its internal accounts had been “compromised.” The company’s executives reassured panicked investors and traders that their assets were safe and that access to their crypto would not be cut off. Despite assurances, many CoinDCX customers moved to withdraw their assets, perceiving the event could turn into something like the WazirX hack last year.

What happened to CoinDCX?
CoinDCX is a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) registered Indian cryptocurrency exchange founded in 2018 by Neeraj Khandelwal and Sumit Gupta, now counting over 1.6 crore registered users. On July 19, the exchange shared that one of its “internal operational accounts, used solely for liquidity provisioning on a partner exchange, was compromised due to a sophisticated server breach.” Mr. Khandelwal clarified this involved unauthorised access to an operational hot (virtually connected) wallet on a partner exchange.
CoinDCX reported financial exposure of about \$44 million but stressed that the incident was contained by isolating the affected account, which was segregated from the company’s customer wallets. The exchange further added that the exposure was limited to that amount alone and that it would be fully absorbed by CoinDCX through its own reserves.
“The incident has been formally reported to CERT-In, and we are actively working with leading blockchain forensics firms and ecosystem partners to trace the attacker and recover assets,” said CoinDCX in its Incident Report, and provided information about the

cross-chain movement of the stolen assets.
The company also announced a recovery bounty programme.
How were CoinDCX users impacted by the hack?
CoinDCX repeatedly stressed that customers’ funds were secure and unaffected by the hack, as they were placed in segregated, cold wallets that are challenging for attackers to breach. The company also stated that trading, rupee deposits, and rupee withdrawals remained fully functional throughout the period. However, some customers complained that their withdrawal requests took time to be processed, sparking fears that their funds had been frozen. CoinDCX’s founding partner Mridul Gupta said that “operational challenges caused by high withdrawal volumes during non-banking hours” had led to some delays but denied allegations of a freeze. The company later confirmed that all withdrawal requests had been successfully processed.
While crypto withdrawals are not possible for everyone using CoinDCX, this is a pre-existing situation that is part of the company’s risk policy and was not caused by the hack itself.
Furthermore, the exchange faced accusations of a 17-hour-long delay when it came to updating customers about the hack. CoinDCX defended its actions and said it needed to have all the information before issuing a statement to customers but said investigating agencies were immediately informed and onboarded.
“Our first priority is always to act, not just to speak. Before making a public statement, we had to ensure the threat was fully contained, our platform was secure, and all customer funds were safe. Communicating with incomplete or unverified information would have been

irresponsible and could have caused unnecessary panic,” said co-founder Sumit Gupta.
Other CoinDCX users raised complaints about temporary price drops for certain assets, as well as some tokens being under maintenance, which the company also addressed.
How are the CoinDCX and WazirX hacks different?
Just a little over a year ago, on July 18, 2024, WazirX was targeted by North Korean cyber-thieves. That day, a multi-signature wallet that the WazirX exchange was managing with the company Liminal was exploited, leading to the loss of assets worth over \$230 million. This was far greater than the losses reported by CoinDCX; WazirX customers’ assets were directly affected by this breach.
After much delay and confusion, WazirX blocked users’ access to their crypto for an indefinite period of time and acknowledged significant losses. By contrast, CoinDCX has stressed that it is business as usual for the exchange, noting on X that its annual revenue exceeds ₹1,100 crore.
WazirX customers demanded that the company use its own profits or funds to cover losses, but the company said this was not possible, citing an ownership dispute with the international crypto exchange Binance. WazirX further decided to carry out its legal restructuring exercise in Singapore. WazirX users have not been able to access their locked up crypto for over a year and are set to vote for a second time on the amended Scheme of Arrangement. This comes after the first proposed restructuring plan was rejected by the Singapore High Court.
Both WazirX and CoinDCX were criticised for delays in informing their customers about their respective hacks.

What is the lesson for crypto investors in India?
Investors in India should remember that crypto trading is a largely unregulated activity in the country; even users of centralised, FIU-registered exchanges can expect little to no support from the Indian authorities in case of a crisis such as a security breach.
Satnam Narang, Senior Staff Research Engineer at Tenable, explained that if users want full control of their coins, they should consider self-custody options like an offline, hardware cold wallet they directly control. Even here, due diligence is required in order to buy only trusted hardware wallets from legitimate sellers, according to him.
“As more and more exchanges have been set up across the world, we have seen reports of attacks targeting smart contract flaws or other ways to steal funds from these exchanges including but not limited to social engineering, theft of credentials or private keys or targeting a third-party company that works with the targeted organisation,” said Mr. Narang, noting that the CoinDCX hack was one of the largest cryptocurrency breaches since the attack against WazirX last year.
He highlighted that when crypto prices go up, there is also a rise in attacks against both exchanges and customers. Mr. Narang said that traders storing coins on crypto exchanges should use multi-factor authentication and strong passwords, or store their coins securely offline, if possible.
“There is an old adage in the cryptocurrency space that says: ‘not your keys, not your crypto/coins’”. As long as users store their cryptocurrency on an exchange, those coins don’t necessarily belong to them because the exchange could ban their account or an exchange hack could lead to the loss of coins,” explained Mr. Narang.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on the 112th edition of the Tour De France cycle race that concluded on Sunday

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
By winning on Sunday, Slovenia’s Tadej Pogacar has joined five other riders with four or more titles. Who was the last rider to win four titles?
QUESTION 2
This year’s stage winners came from nine different nationalities. Riders from which non-European country claimed Stage wins prior to the last Stage on July 27?
QUESTION 3
What unfortunate distinction is common to Stage winners Philipsen (Stage 1), Mathieu van der

Poel (Stage 2), and Remco Evenepoel (Stage 5)?
QUESTION 4
Apart from getting the yellow jersey, which other jersey did Pogacar win for topping the mountains classification?
QUESTION 5
In a rare change after the start of the event, Stage 19 was cut from 130km to 95km, with two planned categorised climbs dropped, because of what specific reason?
QUESTION 6
What was common to Stages 4, 7, 12, and 13 before the ceremonial finish with Stage 21 on Sunday?



Visual question:
Name this champion who consigned Pogacar to the runner-up spots in 2022 and 2023. AP

Questions and Answers to the July 25 edition of the daily quiz:
1. On July 25, 2007, this woman was sworn-in to the top post in the country. **Ans: Pratibha Patil**
2. The reason why World Embryologist Day is celebrated every year on July 25. **Ans: To mark the birth of the world’s first test tube baby**
3. This woman astronaut became the first woman to perform this activity in space. **Ans: Svetlana Yevgenyevna Savitskaya and space walk**
4. Air France flight 4590 crashed in 2000 here. **Ans: Paris**
5. The painting which is not one of Thomas Eakins’. **Ans: Blue Dancers**
Visual: Identify this iconic movie and its director. **Ans: Sleepless in Seattle; Nora Ephron**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Piyali Tulji| Tamal Biswas| Tito Shiladitya| G. Pavithra



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I flirted with the idea of moving away

He hurled the bag at his friend for not doing chores around the house while he was away

S. Upendran

Is it okay to say ‘flirt with an idea’? (J. Preethi, Kanpur)
When you flirt with another person, you are making it clear that you are attracted to the individual – at least, temporarily. In other words, you are not being very serious about the matter.
It is also possible to flirt with an idea. When you do this, you are merely toying with an idea. For example, you could flirt with the idea of buying an expensive car. When you do this, you consider buying one, but do not really put your heart and soul into it. You do not surf the Net about the types of cars available, the price, etc. You are not very serious about it; so much so, the very idea of buying a new car disappears after a short time.
When my uncle was young, he flirted with the idea of starting a school.
My daughter flirted with the idea of moving to Bengaluru. After driving in the city, she decided against it.

Which is correct? Sense of belonging or sense of belongingness? (A. Ishaq)
Both expressions are acceptable, and both have, more or less, the same meaning. Native speakers of English, however, employ ‘sense of belonging’ much more frequently than ‘sense of belongingness’. When we settle in a new place – perhaps, within our own country or somewhere abroad – what is it that we all wish for? We would like the members of the community to welcome us and accept us with open arms. This feeling of inclusion that we have, makes us feel that we are part of the community. The relationships we build over time make us happy, and give us a sense of belonging.
Playing cricket with my friends, gives me a strong sense of belongingness.

What is the difference between ‘throw’ and ‘hurl’? (S. Mayank)
In both cases, you have something in your hand, swing your arm back, and release the object into the air. The difference between ‘throw’ and ‘hurl’ (rhymes with ‘curl’ and ‘pearl’) is the manner in which you release the object. ‘Throw’, which is the general term, can be used to suggest that the object is being released gently or with force. For example, when we throw a ball to a child, we do so gently, for we do not want the child to get hurt. When we are playing cricket, and the batsman sets off for a quick single, we throw the ball with some heat on it – in other words, we throw it with tremendous force. The act of throwing doesn’t always imply emotion. This is not the case with ‘hurl’; you usually hurl something at someone because you are angry with the individual; and because you are angry, you throw whatever it is in your hand with a great deal of force. The intent in this case is to hurt the individual.
upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Logy:
stunned or confused and slow to react (as from blows or drunkenness or exhaustion)
Synonyms: dazed, foggy, groggy, stuporous
Usage: After only a few hours of sleep, she woke up logy.
Pronunciation: newsth.live/logypro
International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈloʊɡi/

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From Page One

‘SIR has become a tool to establish citizenship’

Mr. Bhattacharya also asked whether the EC’s summary revision held in January 2025 was wrong, and if the claim of 22 lakh deaths was correct.

Describing it as the biggest exercise of “disenfranchisement since Independence”, Mr. Jha said the EC had not consulted political parties on the SIR. The people whose names would be deleted were not being given the right to appeal. “Opacity has become the hallmark of your (the EC’s) functioning,” he said.

No consultation with political parties had been carried out before initiating the SIR exercise, Mr. Basu said. He sought details of the survey on the basis of which the process was being carried out.

91.69% voters in Bihar submitted forms: EC

In the 10-point statement, the EC listed the various aims of the SIR, such as inclusion of every eligible voter, participation of all political parties, inclusion of young and urban voters, and scrutiny of draft rolls and redressal of all grievances during the claims and objections period.

The exact status of these electors will be known after scrutiny of forms by the Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) or Assistant Electoral Registration Officers by August 1. However, genuine electors can still be added back in the electoral rolls during the Claims and Objection period from August 1 to September 1. The names of the electors found enrolled at multiple places will be retained only at one place, the EC said.

The poll body said young electors who have attained 18 years of age on July 1, 2025, or would be attaining 18 years on or before October 1, 2025 are being encouraged to file their application in Form 6, along with the prescribed Declaration Form.

The commission said it would conduct special campaigns across Bihar from August 1 to September 1 to enrol such young electors, so that all eligible electors can be enrolled and no one is left out.

It said that SMSs explaining the SIR process were sent to 5.7 crore registered mobile numbers of all those electors who had registered their mobile numbers. During the enumeration period, the Chief Electoral Officer, District Election Officers and EROs conducted numerous campaigns for spreading awareness among electors about the SIR and also conducted several meetings with political parties to explain the process, and to keep them apprised of the progress of SIR. As per the SIR order, from August 1 to September 1, any elector or political party may fill the prescribed forms and submit claims to the ERO for any eligible elector who is left out or file objections for removal of any ineligible elector.

The SIR order on June 24 had said that the exercise would be carried out across the country beginning with Bihar. The contentious exercise has been challenged in the Supreme Court, with the hearing scheduled on July 28.

Manipur town gets hope from Myanmar children

“A few days after they started accompanying their wards to school, these women sought permission to bring rice, vegetables, other farm products and utility items to sell while they waited for their children. We relented on humanitarian grounds, particularly as people on either side of the border have suffered because of the collapse of business,” said an officer of the paramilitary Assam Rifles, which guards the India-Myanmar border.

Following these women, other traders from Myanmar – some of Nepalese origin – began entering Moreh to sell goods, operating within a four-hour window. These traders formerly operated from Namphalong, an abandoned market complex in Myanmar about 100 metres from the Indo-Myanmar Friendship Gate, once the main point of entry and exit for citizens of both countries.

Security personnel said cross-border movement became more restricted after the Centre announced in February 2024 that the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar would be scrapped. The FMR had permitted border residents to travel up to 16 km into each other’s countries without documentation.

The restrictions were eased after the Centre decided in December 2024 to allow cross-border movement for residents up to 10 km from the international boundary.

A series of blows

Moreh, a key node in the Act East Policy launched in 2014 to deepen India’s economic and strategic ties with Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific, was once a thriving commercial town. However, its fortunes declined first with the COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020, and then further after the February 2021 military coup in Myanmar and the outbreak of ethnic conflict in Manipur in 2023.

“Whatever little trade is happening today is a struggle for survival for people on both sides of the border,” Surinder Singh Patheja, secretary of the Border Trade & Chamber of Commerce said.

Traders in Moreh believe that the Kuki-dominated town can regain its commercial vibrancy only if all stakeholders, including the Meiteis, resume business activity. The Meiteis of Imphal Valley, who once made up 70% of the buyer base, have largely avoided travelling to Moreh since the conflict erupted.

New co-op policy violates Constitution, says SKM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha alleged on Sunday that the National Cooperation Policy, unveiled by Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Friday, violates the Constitution, centralises power, and snatches rights of State governments.

It said the policy lacks the perspective to protect the rights of farmers and workers on livelihood, minimum support price, minimum wage and sharing of surplus. It urged the political parties and State governments to fight against the attack on cooperative federalism.

“The Union Cooperative Ministry is applicable only to the Union Territories and the Multi-State Cooperative Societies. In the true spirit, the Multi-State Cooperative Societies also violate the Constitutional provisions regarding cooperative societies. Such efforts are aimed at seizure of people’s resources by the ruling class parties, especially the BJP-RSS. The trend of centralisation of power needs to be vehemently resisted,” it said.

‘CAPF troops with severe injuries to get full benefits’

Personnel who undergo amputation shall remain in service; the Centre will ensure the best tech and medical facilities for ‘limb replacement surgery’ for the injured, Union Home Secretary says

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel who get severely injured during operations and have to undergo amputation will be allowed to continue in service till their retirement with all benefits, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan said on Sunday.

Mr. Mohan said the government will ensure the best medical facilities and technology available in the world for “limb replacement surgery” for the CAPF officials and jawans, and it will be ensured that loss of limbs is corrected as far as possible.

“Government will also ensure a minimum financial package for such personnel and they will be accommodated in the organisation,” Mr. Mohan said, while addressing the 87th Raising Day of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Delhi.

The CAPF personnel have to adhere to certain



Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and CRPF D-G G.P. Singh (left) at the CRPF Raising Day in Delhi on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

physical standards for timely promotion and services.

On the forefront

At least five CRPF personnel were grievously injured during a 21-day anti-Maoist operations on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border that concluded on May 11. Named ‘Operation Black Forest’, the combing operations were carried out in the Karegutta Hills (KGH).

The Home Secretary added that a large number of CRPF personnel, including women, have been deployed for law and order duty in Manipur after an ethnic conflict erupted in the State in May 2023. He said that during his recent visit to the State, he noticed that the personnel have to move from one location to another and face various hardships due to lack of adequate facilities.

“CRPF Director-General

‘External Affairs Ministry nearly lost the plot during Indus Waters Treaty talks’

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI



Subhash Chandra Garg

The External Affairs Ministry nearly “lost the plot” over the Indus Waters Treaty talks with Pakistan in 2016, as senior Ministry officials entered into a tussle with the World Bank, before the issue was retrieved. The claim has been made by former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg, India-appointed Executive Director at the World Bank (2014-2017), in his latest book, which recounts for the first time the tensions between the Narendra Modi government and World Bank President Jim Kim over the Kishenganga hydropower project.

The point of contention was whether the World Bank, which has a limited role in guiding any disputes or differences between India and Pakistan, would decide to appoint the “court of arbitration”

Pakistan had asked for, or a “neutral expert”, as India wanted.

In his new book, *No, Minister: Navigating Power, Politics and Bureaucracy with a Steely Resolve*, Mr. Garg says he was sidelined during the initial stages of the Indus Water Treaty negotiations in 2016. He also claims that he was told to only attend meetings to be led by India’s Deputy Chief of Mission Taranjit Sandhu.

“[However], by the middle of November, the MEA team was getting nervous.

It was not able to nudge the World Bank team in the direction it wanted, i.e., to appoint a neutral expert and began to sense that the Bank was tilting towards Pakistan,” Mr. Garg wrote. The book claims that Mr. Jaishankar asked Mr. Garg to take charge of matters.

According to Mr. Garg, it was his own intervention, in a one-on-one meeting with Mr. Kim, that eventually helped ensure a neutral expert, Ian Solomon, was appointed, after the World Bank accepted Pakistan’s demand for a court of arbitration at The Hague.

The World Bank had first ruled that having a neutral expert and court together could lead to “contradictory outcomes”.

The External Affairs Ministry did not respond to a request for comments on Mr. Garg’s claims.

(With inputs from Jacob Koshy and T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan)

CERT fixes website flaw that exposed sensitive data of voluntary organ donors

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI



The data leak provided access to all organ and tissue donors registered with the AIIMS.

A critical vulnerability in the Organ Retrieval Banking Organisation (ORBO) website of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, that exposed sensitive data of voluntary organ donors across India along with their identity, health profile and contact details was detected and resolved, thanks to an independent security researcher who flagged the flaw.

ORBO is the nodal facility for cadaver organ and tissue donation-related activities of the AIIMS.

In mid-May, the researcher, Aniket Tomar, came across the vulnerability and alerted the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT).

In an email about the critical data exposure, he said the vulnerability disclosed personally identifiable and medical informa-

identity theft, phishing attacks, and social engineering exploitation.

“Such a data breach from a reputed medical institution not only undermines public trust in digital health systems but also violates data protection principles under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023,” Mr. Tomar said in his alert to the CERT.

“I was able to view several lakh donor entries... The data was not limited to Delhi, the entries appeared to include donors from various regions across India, indicating a nationwide scope,” Mr. Tomar told *The Hindu*.

On June 18, 2025, the CERT wrote to Mr. Tomar appreciating him for detecting the critical vulnerability.

The vulnerability was successfully mitigated and the exposed data were no longer publicly accessible, the researcher said.

Centre rejects Cong. claims about organic cotton scam in M.P.

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Sunday termed the allegations by the Congress that normal cotton was being sold as organic cotton in Madhya Pradesh as being “unfounded, unsubstantiated and misleading”, saying that the Agriculture & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority takes concrete steps whenever wilful violations of organic cotton standards are found.

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Saturday called for a court-monitored CBI probe into an alleged ₹2.1 lakh crore scam in the sale of normal cotton as organic cotton in Madhya Pradesh.

“It may be mentioned

that in a press briefing by an opposition leader yesterday, unfounded, unsubstantiated and misleading aspersions are being cast against the Organic Certification programme, the National Programme of Organic Production,” the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

“Generalised allegations against a robust regulatory system of the country for a particular crop/region/group of operators only serve to undermine the credibility of legitimate regulatory institutions and the broader organic movement in India,” it added.

It said that new procedures have been devised for additional checks for certification of organic cotton production.

TCS to lay off over 12,000 employees this year; mid, senior-level staff to be hit

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI



India’s largest IT services firm, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), is set to lay off about 2%, or 12,261 employees, of its global workforce this year, with the majority of those impacted belonging to middle and senior grades.

As of June 30, TCS’s workforce stood at 6,13,069. It increased its workforce by 5,000 employees in the April-June quarter.

AI deployment

“TCS is on a journey to become a future-ready organisation. This includes strategic initiatives on multiple fronts, including investing in new-tech areas, entering

global workforce, primarily in the middle and senior grades, over the course of the year,” it said.

TCS will provide appropriate benefits, outplacement, counselling, and support to the impacted employees, it added.

The move comes at a time when India’s top IT services companies have delivered single-digit revenue growth in Q1FY26, capping off a somewhat-sobering June quarter as macroeconomic instability and geopolitical tensions weighed on global tech demand and delayed client decision-making.

For TCS, the revenue rose 1.3% year-on-year to ₹63,437 crore, bottomline improved 5.9% to ₹12,760 crore in Q1FY26.

Inter-State synthetic drug syndicate busted, 3 held

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), along with the police in Rajasthan and Maharashtra, has busted an inter-State drug syndicate allegedly involved in the clandestine manufacture of synthetic drugs.

On July 22, several precursor chemicals, including chloroform, ammonium chloride, propylene chloride, toluene and bromine used to manufacture Mephedrone were recovered from a laboratory located in a secluded village in Rajasthan’s Barmer district, the NCB said.

Interrogation of two members held in the raid led to the arrest of one more person by the Raigad police in Maharashtra.

LS debate today; Cong. says those behind J&K attack yet to be held

Better late than never, says Jairam Ramesh on Parliament debate on the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor; from May 10, Trump has claimed 26 times that he stopped Operation Sindoor by threatening to cut off trade, Cong. leader says

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With the Lok Sabha scheduled to start a 16-hour debate on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor on Monday, the Congress on Sunday said the terrorists involved in the attack had not yet been apprehended.

The party also pointed out U.S. President Donald Trump had claimed 26 times that he had ended the India-Pakistan hostilities by “threatening to stop trade with them”.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is likely to speak on Tuesday during the debate. “The INC had been demanding a special two-



The Congress had been demanding a special two-day session of Parliament immediately after Operation Sindoor was abruptly halted. That demand was ignored

JAIRAM RAMESH
Congress leader

day session of Parliament immediately after Operation Sindoor was abruptly halted. That demand was ignored. Nevertheless, better late than never,” Congress’s communications chief Jairam Ramesh said.

“The Pahalgam terror attacks took place on April 22, 2025. The terrorists directly responsible have still not been brought to jus-

tics. Reportedly they were involved in earlier terror attacks in Poonch (Dec 2023) and Gangagir and Gulmarg (Oct 2024),” he added.

“Since May 10th, President [Donald] Trump has claimed 26 times that he stopped Operation Sindoor by threatening to cut off trade with India, and claimed that five fighter

jets may have been shot down. He has hosted the Pakistan Army Chief for lunch which has never been done before. The U.S. Central Command Chief, Gen. Michael Kurilla, had called Pakistan a phenomenal partner in counterterrorism operations. And just day before yesterday the U.S. Secretary lauded Pakistan in his meeting with its Deputy PM,” Mr. Ramesh said.

Referring to points that are likely to be raised by Opposition members in the debate, he recalled that on May 30, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan had made significant revelations in Singapore on tactical mistakes in the first two days of Op-

eration Sindoor, and on June 29, the Indian defence attache in Indonesia, Group Captain Shiv Kumar, had said that political decisions had hampered military operations.

“On July 4, 2025, the Deputy Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Rahul R Singh, revealed that India had actually contended and battled China during Operation Sindoor, both in terms of hardware and software. This was a completely new scenario,” Mr. Ramesh further said.

He said that “the outlandish claims made by sections of the media during Operation Sindoor led to a mockery of whatever serious narrative was sought to be built up”.

Heritage conservationist Tara Murali, 75, passes away

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tara Murali, 75, architect and wife of N. Murali, Director of The Hindu Group of Publications and president of The Music Academy, passed away at their home in Chennai late in the evening of Saturday. She had been ailing for some time.

She is survived by her husband, their son Krishna Murali, their daughter Kanta Murali, three grand-children, and her elder brother, Ramesh Pattabhiraman.

Tara Murali was schooled at Sacred Heart Matriculation Higher Secondary School at Churchpark in Chennai, did her pre-university course at Stella Maris College, and took her Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) degree at the School of Architecture



Tara Murali

and Planning, University of Madras. She had an active architectural practice over four decades and pursued public causes related to town planning, and environmental and consumer protection. Among the causes she has taken up were the conservation of Palani Hills, protection of heritage buildings including the Director General of Police’s office, and Queen Mary’s College.

Thoroughly secular and modern in outlook, she had varied interests: mus-

She was known for pursuing public causes, promoting civic rights, heritage conservation, and environmentalism

ic, literature, environment, heritage and consumer action. She served for several years as a Trustee of the Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG), was a member of the Broadcast Complaints Council and INTACH governing council, and was active in book groups. She was President of the Tamil Nadu Table Tennis Association and also of the Table Tennis Players Welfare Association. She translated Ma. Po. Sivagnanam’s Tamil book on Veerapandiya Kattabomman into English.

The cremation will be at the Besant Nagar crematorium on Monday.

Eastern palette to find expression in President’s invitation for ‘At Home’

Nistula Hebbur
NEW DELHI

The invitation sent in President Droupadi Murmu’s name for her customary evening reception, or “At Home”, on the 79th Independence Day will showcase the skills of craftspeople from Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal – a nod to eastern India, following a similar gesture toward southern India during this year’s Republic Day celebrations.



Unique work: A Sikki grass artisan from Bihar working on the box designed as a part of the invitation kit. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The invitations have been curated by the National Institute of Design (NID) and produced with contributions from artisans across the four States. Most of the artisans, many of them women, worked alongside the NID team. Of them, nine Madhubani artists from Bihar and 15 bamboo artisans from Jharkhand worked out of the NID Bengaluru campus.

Ashok Kumar Biswas, Padma Shri awardee in 2024 and the artist entrusted with producing nearly 750 pieces of Tikuli artwork from Bihar to accompany the invitation, says the brief from NID – which coordinated the initiative with the Rashtrapati Bhavan – was precise.

“They wanted a lightweight example of Tikuli painting, which is usually

based on scenes of rural life in Bihar or cultural and religious motifs, festivals, etc. They asked for three types of samples: on the traditional Tikuli base of MDA [dark brown in colour] with enamel paint, on handmade paper, and on small pieces of cardboard and plywood. I prepared a fourth sample, on paper, made to look like the dark brown Tikuli base, and sent it off. They approved the fourth sample and asked for 750 pieces to be sent in 15 days, which we completed at the Tikuli training centre that I run,” he said.

“It is a matter of great pride for me to be asked to do this by the President of India’s office, for an occasion like Independence Day. It’s a good initiative that places India’s folk art at the centre of the Republic,” he added.

The invitation will be encased in a Sikki grass

box made by artisans from Raiyam village in Madhubani district, with 30 artists involved in the work. Woven delicately from Sikki grass, the box will contain a bamboo frame holding the invitation itself, with painted borders by artists from Dumka in Jharkhand.

In addition to the box and frame, the invitation set includes small artefacts such as a bookmark featuring Madhubani painting, and a tussar stole with Madhubani painting and traditional block printing of symbols such as Matsya (fish), Kamal (lotus), and Basant (spring). Also included are Tala Patachitra paintings by artists from Raghurajpur in Puri, postcard-sized Patachitra paintings by artists from Pingla in West Midnapore, Patikar paintings from East Singhbhum in Jharkhand, and postcard-sized Tikuli artworks from Patna.

No clarity yet on grant of citizenship under CAA

Vijaita Singh
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

More than a year after the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 took effect, the Home Ministry has refused to share data on the total number of those who benefited from the Act.

A BJP MP from West Bengal told *The Hindu* that fewer than 100 people in his constituency had received citizenship under the CAA, though the number of intended beneficiaries, mostly belonging to the Matua sect, was around 1 lakh. There are around 2.8 crore people

from the Matua and Namastara communities who stand to benefit from the CAA in the State.

The CAA Rules were notified on March 11, 2024 to give citizenship to undocumented members of Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Jain, Buddhist and Christian communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh under the Act that was passed in 2019.

Ranaghat MP Jagannath Sarkar told *The Hindu* that the requirement to submit any one document, which will help trace an applicant’s roots to Bangladesh, should be dropped and the cut-off date for applying

under CAA should be amended too. The existing cut-off date is December 31, 2014.

“Most people do not have any of the documents sought by the Home Ministry to fulfil citizenship criteria. These people came to India to escape persecution, with barely any belongings. How will they provide documents?” Mr. Sarkar said.

Following reports from West Bengal, Schedule 1A of the CAA Rules was tweaked on July 8 2024, and the list of nine documents to prove that the applicant is a national of Afghanistan or Bangladesh

or Pakistan was expanded to include any document issued by the State or the Centre or quasi-judicial authority in India identifying or representing the applicant or their parents or grandparents or great-grandparents as a national of these three countries.

Processing applications

Anticipating non-cooperation in Opposition-ruled States, the CAA Rules entrusted Central government officials posted in States, including officials of the Directorate of Census, Postal Department, Railways, National Informatics Centre and Intelligence Bu-

reau, to process applications. On April 2, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in the Rajya Sabha that “thousands were granted citizenship”, while responding to Trinamool Congress member Sushmita Dev’s remarks that merely 350 people had got it. The Minister did not specify the number.

The Ministry has refused to share information on how many people had either applied or had been granted citizenship. *The Hindu* filed a Right to Information Act application in June 2024. In September 2024, the Ministry refused to provide the information.



CAPITAL REGION URBAN TRANSPORT

Govt of Odisha

Plot No 548/1452, Kalarahanga, Patia, Bhubaneswar-751031, Odisha

Phone No. 0674-3501580, E-Mail Id :- crutbbsr@gmail.com

No. 1671

Date: 24.07.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) - BID IDENTIFICATION NO.1671/G.M (Engg.)/CRUT/01 2025-26

General Manager (Engg.), CRUT, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Managing Director, CRUT invites percentage rate bids in **DOUBLE COVER SYSTEM** conforming to the Detailed Tender Call Notice (DTCN) from Electrical Contractors having valid H.T. license registered under Government of Odisha and having PAN, GSTIN Certificate and valid EPP & ESI registration certificate with up to date payment till June/2025 for the item of works as indicated in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Class of Contractor	EMD (In ₹)	Cost of Tender Paper	Period of Completion
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.	Construction of 33KV line & Installation of 2 X 1.6MVA 33/0.4KV Conventional on load tap changing Sub-station to effect power supply 2360KW/3280KVA load at 33KV supply with HT single point metering to CRUT Bus Depot at Naraj, Cuttack. (Under PM e-Bus Seva)	₹ 1,96,32,670.00	H.T. License	1% of the Estimated Cost	₹ 10,000.00 + 18% GST	60 (Sixty days)
2.	Construction of 33KV line & Installation of 2 X 1.6MVA 33/0.4KV Conventional on load tap changing Sub-station to effect power supply 2360KW/3280KVA load at 33KV supply with HT single point metering to CRUT Bus Depot at Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar. (Under PM e-Bus Seva)	₹ 1,96,32,670.00	H.T. License	1% of the Estimated Cost	₹ 10,000.00 + 18% GST	60 (Sixty days)

1. The Bid documents will be available in the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 01.08.2025 to 5.30 P.M. of 21.08.2025

2. Bids shall be received only "On line" on or before 5.30 P.M. of 21.08.2025. The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.

3. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.


4. The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason.

5. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation shall only be uploaded in the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

General Manager (Engg.), CRUT, Bhubaneswar
(on behalf of M.D, CRUT, Bhubaneswar)

C-754

OIPR-13183/11/0048/2526



NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Tender No: ETPK/TC/227/2025-26

e-Tender ID: 2025_ETPK_764002.1

The last date of bid submission for the work of 'Construction of an IT Office building under 'QUAD' project in Technopark Phase IV (Technocity) campus, Trivandrum' has been extended upto 04-08-2025, 5 PM.



For further details, please visit <http://etenders.kerala.gov.in>

Date: 28-07-2025

Trivandrum

Chief Executive Officer, Technopark

D3/556/2025



Er. Arabinda Tripathy
Chief General Manager (P&C)

IDCO/SFP/34/2025

21477

Date: 21.07.2025

BID IDENTIFICATION NO.- P&C/ EST/ E - 32/2025-26

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL OF GOVT. OF ODISHA

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Invites Request for Proposal from renowned Firms/Agencies through e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha for "Operation, Maintenance & Management of Flake Ice Unit and Cold Storage at Primary Processing Centre (PPC) of Sea Food in Kimilo, Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha".

Firms/Agencies having experience in day-to-day operation, maintenance & management of Cold Storage/Block Ice/ shrimp processing business are only invited to submit their proposal. The Bid Document comprising of eligibility criteria, Instruction to Bidders, Scope of the work, BOQ, etc. can be seen in e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha from 17:00 Hours of Dt.02.08.2025 to 17:00 Hours of Dt.25.08.2025.

The pre-bid meeting will be held on Dt.13.08.2025 at 11:30 Hours (Pre bid query must be submitted through mail id cmppc@idco.in before prebid meeting).

The Technical Bid will be opened online on 26.08.2025 at 11:30 A.M. IDCO has the right to accept or reject the Notice/ EOI without assigning any reasons thereof.

sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C)

CAD-1256:

OIPR-14003/11/0219/2526

Tripura: BJP workers injured in attack, ally Tipra Motha blamed

Press Trust of India
AGARTALA

Several Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers were injured after being attacked when they were listening to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ‘Mann Ki Baat’ radio programme in Tripura’s Khowai district on Sunday, the police said.

Three vehicles and 10 motorcycles belonging to the BJP members were also set on fire by the attackers, they said. The incident happened in Purba Taksaiya, a remote tribal village, in the Champahower police station area, and the BJP alleged that members of the Tipra Motha, its ally, were

behind the attack.

The Pradyot Debbarma-led Tipra Motha, a part of the BJP-led government in the State, denied its involvement in the incident, which triggered a political storm in the State.

“A group of BJP workers had gathered at a house to listen to the ‘Mann Ki Baat’ programme. Suddenly, a group of miscreants attacked them, injuring three persons. All of them were taken to a nearby health facility,” Sub-Divisional Police Officer of Khowai Kudiara-sa said, adding that an FIR was lodged, and investigation is under way. No arrest has been made so far, he said.



सी.एस.आई.अर. - भारतीय रासायनिक जीवविज्ञान संस्थान

CSIR- INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY

(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)

4, Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata-700 032 (W.B.) India

CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata, a premier Institute under the aegis of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), is involved in generating cutting edge knowledge and trained human resources in the field of chemical biology, biochemistry, cell biology, genomics, epigenomics, structural biology, bioinformatics and medicinal chemistry to address fundamental and applied biological and biomedical research questions associated with infectious and non-infectious diseases that are relevant to this country and in the global context.

The Institute intends to induct manpower for the following positions by inviting applications from the eligible candidates.

Opening date of online application 28.07.2025		Last date of submission of online application 22.08.2025	
Advertisement No. R&C/605/2025			
Sl. No.	Name of the Post and Vacancy Code	No. of Posts, reservation status, age limit & Pay Level	Essential Qualification
1	Junior Secretariat Assistant (Gen) Vacancy Code : 6052501	Vacancy : 01 (UR) Age : 28 years* Pay Level - 2, Cell - 1 of pay matrix as per 7th CPC	10+2/XII or its equivalent and proficiency in computer type speed and in using computer as per the prescribed norms fixed by DOPT from time to time.
2	Junior Secretariat Assistant (F&A) Vacancy Code : 6052502	Vacancy : 03 UR (Including 01 ex-servicemen) Age : 28 years* Pay Level - 2, Cell - 1 of pay matrix as per 7th CPC	
3	Junior Secretariat Assistant (S&P) Vacancy Code : 6052503	Vacancy : 02 (UR) Age : 28 years* Pay Level - 2, Cell - 1 of pay matrix as per 7th CPC	
4	Junior Stenographer Vacancy Code : 6052504	Vacancy : 02 (UR-01, SC-01) Age : 27 years* Pay Level - 4, Cell - 1 of pay matrix as per 7th CPC	10+2/XII or its equivalent and proficiency in stenography as per the prescribed norms fixed by DOPT from time to time.
Note : The number of vacancies indicated against each Vacancy code is provisional and may increase or decrease.			
*see age relaxation under relaxation column of the detailed Advertisement.			
CSIR-ICB/Govt. of India strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and woman candidates are encouraged to apply.			
For detailed advertisement, Terms & Conditions and to apply online please visit the CSIR-ICB official Website https://icb.res.in/			
Controller of Administration			



BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender
		EMD Amount
Office of The Engineer-In-Chief, 2nd Floor,Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.		
IFT No.:BWSSB/EIC/ACE(UFW/TA(UFW)/2407/2025-26		Date:25.07.2025
1	Operation and Maintenance of EMF Flowmeters and its allied works installed in Phase II network coming under AEE(UFW)-2 Sub Division.	Rs. 398.45 Lakhs
IFT No.:BWSSB/EIC/ACE(UFW/TA(UFW)/2409/2025-26		Date:25.07.2025
2	Operation and Maintenance of EMF Flowmeters and its allied works installed in Phase I network coming under AEE(UFW)-2 Sub Division.	Rs. 398.47 Lakhs Rs. 5.97 Lakhs
IFT No.:BWSSB/EIC/ACE(UFW/TA/2411/2025-26		Date:25.07.2025
3	Mordenization and Remodelling of Water Supply systems in Balajinagar, Bhovi Colony, Jogi Colony in Suddaguntepalya area (missing bits) and Madarsab Layout, Gurappanapalya Main Road, coming under AEE(SE)-6 Sub Division.	Rs. 396.22 Lakhs Rs. 5.94 Lakhs
For all the above works, Last date for receipt of tenders: 11.08.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs. Technical Tenders will be opened on: 12.08.2025 at 16.00 Hrs.		
Sd/- Engineer-In-Chief		
The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.		
DIPR/CP/JA/2035/2025-26		

INBRIEF



Cong. slams govt. over vacant SC, ST posts in universities

The Congress on Sunday slammed the Centre over vacant reserved posts for SCs, STs, and OBCs in central universities and alleged that the “not found suitable” clause was being “weaponised” against these categories to deny fair employment opportunities. Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh cited a written reply by Minister of State for Education, Sukanta Majumdar, to attack the government. In a post on X, Mr. Ramesh said the Modi government has revealed the staggering level of vacancies among SC, ST, and OBC reserved faculty positions in central universities. PTI

Khadse’s son-in-law among seven held in Pune drug raid

The arrest of Pranjal Khewalkar, the son-in-law of NCP-SP leader Eknath Khadse, and six others at a party in Pune over alleged possession of narcotic substances has stirred up a political storm in Maharashtra. The Opposition criticised the arrest, calling it a “message” to those speaking against the government, while Mr. Khadse termed it “a politically motivated conspiracy”. The police said cocaine-like drugs, 70 gm of marijuana, 10 mobile phones, two four-wheelers, a hookah, and liquor were seized.

Textile sector is emerging as strength of the country: Modi

In *Mann Ki Baat* address, PM says start-ups are lending global stature to India’s handloom identity; he also underscores the rising interest in science among children post-Chandrayaan-3 launch

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the textile industry, which was an expression of India’s cultural diversity, now had more than 3,000 active start-ups, and the driving force behind its rapid growth were women from villages, designers from cities, elderly weavers, and young entrepreneurs.

During the *Mann Ki Baat* address, Mr. Modi said start-ups had given global stature to India’s handloom identity. Commenting on the 10th anniversary of National Handloom Day, which is celebrated on August 7 every year to commemorate the launch of the Swadeshi movement in 1905, he said, “Just like Khadi gave new strength to the freedom movement ..., today as the country progresses towards becoming a developed nation, the textile sector is turning out to be the country’s strength.”

“In these 10 years, lakhs



Just like our Khadi gave new strength to the freedom movement... today, when the country is moving towards becoming a developed India, the textile sector is turning out to be the strength of the country

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister



of people associated with this sector have scripted many success stories,” he said, citing the example of Kavita Dhawale from Paithan village in Maharashtra, who, with government support, is now earning three times more by selling self-made Paithani saris. About 650 tribal women from Mayurbhanj (Odisha) have revived the Santhali sari. The family of Naveen Kumar from Nalanda (Bihar), who has been associated with the sector for generations, has incorporated a modern approach to transform the business.

Referring to Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla’s return from space, Mr. Mo-

di said the entire country was filled with pride. He said the Inspire-Manak Abhiyan scheme – in which five children are selected from each school – had promoted innovation among youngsters. After Chandrayaan-3’s launch, the number of children joining the campaign had doubled. The number of start-ups in the space sector grew from 50 to 200 in just five years.

The Prime Minister praised Devesh Pankaj, Sandeep Kuchi, Debdukt Priyadarshi, and Ujjwal Kesari for winning medals in the International Chemistry Olympiad.

Mr. Modi also spoke

about 12 Maratha forts which have been recognised by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites.

Paying homage to Khudiram Bose, the 18-year-old freedom fighter who was hanged on August 11, 1908, in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, Mr. Modi said, “Inside the jail, British officers were preparing to hang a young man. There was no fear on the face of that youth; rather it was full of pride ...”

On wildlife conservation, the Prime Minister said that for the first time, a grassland bird census had been conducted in Kaziranga National Park (Assam) and 40 species were identified using sound recording devices and AI.

On the cleanliness drive, he said this year, more than 4,500 cities and towns had joined and over 15 crore people participated all over the country. “... Amid the showers of Sawan, the country is once again going to be adorned by the fervour of festivals... many best wishes to all of you for these holy festivals,” he added.

NMC bars use of live surgery broadcasts for promotional gain

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Live broadcasts should not be used for promoting the operating surgeon, hospital, or product brand, and surgeons should not have a financial or commercial interest in the equipment or devices used during surgery or procedures, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has said in detailed guidelines issued this week to regulate the conduct and broadcast of live surgeries.

Issuing specific instructions for patient selection, the commission said that patients with high-risk procedures, incomplete investigations, or unusual anatomy should not be included in live broadcasts. Also, financial incentives for participation should not be permitted. The process of informed consent should be conducted by the operating surgeon or team and the patient has the right to withdraw consent at any time.

It added that live broadcasts can be provided for new procedures, while recordings should be preferred for established procedures. Join FREE Telegram Channel <https://t.me/+JJTMT8EJrzK5ZTQ1>



The guidelines say patients with high-risk procedures should not be included in live broadcasts.

cedures or high-risk cases. “Patients can be enrolled in insurance coverage to safeguard against any unforeseen incidents. However, patients should be informed about the availability and limitations of this insurance. Any surgery/procedure-related complications should be managed free of cost,” it said. It added that during surgery or procedures, the operating doctor can broadcast but should not interact with the audience to maintain focus on the patient’s safety. “Relevant step-wise live commentary by an operating surgeon can be permitted without any two-way communication with the audience in special situations,” the directive stated.

‘We have to acknowledge that Mughal period saw violence’

The head of the Curricular Area Group for social science textbooks, which works with NCERT, says previous attempts at writing textbooks have whitewashed such aspects unnecessarily; he says Britain has not recognised sufficiently the tremendous amount of suffering it inflicted not only on India but also on most of its colonies; textbook development team experienced zero political pressure, he says

INTERVIEW

Michel Danino

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Michel Danino, guest professor (archaeological sciences) at the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, and head of the Curricular Area Group for social science textbooks, which works in collaboration with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), speaks about the process of designing new social science textbooks for middle school and the controversies surrounding the portrayal of the Mughals and the colonial era in the new Class 8 textbook. Edited excerpts:

A debate has arisen about the portrayal of Mughals in the new

Class 8 NCERT textbook with their rule being called ‘a blend of both brutality and tolerance’. Elaborate on an attempt to reframe portrayal of Delhi Sultanate and Mughals in the new textbook.

We did speak of brutality and tolerance, though we did not highlight these two words. They were caught by the media. It is a fact that this is a period which sees a lot of violence, and we have been pretty mild about it. If you look at Muslim texts like *Baburnama* or *Akbarnama*, there is no doubt that these conquests were very violent. In the initial stages, this violence was not limited to India. The Turkic, Mughal, and Afghan powers warred against each other, in the Indian subcontinent as well as in Central Asia, sometimes in Persia and beyond. This has to be acknowledged as a fact of history. We feel that preced-

ing attempts (at writing textbooks) often have been whitewashing some of these aspects unnecessarily. We have tried to show the complexity of their personality (the Mughals).

What was the thought behind putting the note on ‘History’s Darker Periods’ at the beginning of the history section. Also, there was an example of the Second World War and Nazi atrocities. Please explain.

It is more of a preparatory note for the student who suddenly would be exposed to unpleasant events of the past. This phase is in the so-called medieval period and the colonial era where there are famines, millions of deaths. The Second World War is the most striking example you can take where there were untold atrocities. And yet we find that a few years after the Second World War,



Germany is on good terms with most of the European powers, including those that Nazi Germany had mistreated. It is possible because the facts were faced and accepted, because there was no attempt to deny them. We are not trying to parallel this with anything in the Indian past, but it’s only by looking honestly at history that you can find the key to healing, you know, the suffering. Because there is a government in place, in the U.K. too. And it is not unknown that there had been trillions of dollars of

drain of wealth that has also been very well documented, from British rule to Britain. I feel that Britain has not recognised sufficiently the tremendous amount of suffering that it inflicted not only on India but also on most of its colonies. I will not discuss the question of reparation, which is a separate question, but at least an honest admission of guilt, of the abuse, atrocities and economic plunder that took place during the colonial period, is something that we have not seen to a desired extent.

The new Class 8 social science textbook, unlike older versions, has no mention of Tipu Sultan or Haider Ali. On the other hand, there is an entire chapter dedicated to the rise of Marathas and Shivaji’s exploits. What was the thought behind introducing a new chapter on Marathas?

For events like the Anglo-Mysore Wars you have to give the student enough context for that event to become meaningful. You can’t just drop names like Tipu Sultan and Haider Ali. However, there are four more years after Class 8 where the working groups can take certain themes (which were missed out), and the gaps will be somewhat filled in the later years, hopefully.

It is very well known among historians that the division between Hindu, Muslim, and then the British period is absolutely not

valid. We wanted to show that this was not a straightforward story and there was a lot of resistance. We could only very briefly mention the case of the Ahoms in Assam and the Sikh Empire.

We selected the Marathas for bigger treatment because it is a fact that they were the ones who ultimately managed to build, though briefly, an empire which spread over a very large portion of India, since their influence extended to Delhi and even beyond to what is today’s Pakistan.

They stymied multiple attempts by Mughals to conquer South India. Aurangzeb spent more than 25 years stuck in the Deccan. He was able to return to Delhi mostly because he was blocked by the Maratha campaigns.

I am just explaining the statement which we made in the textbook that was deliberately a little bit provocative – maybe the Brit-

ish conquered India more from the Marathas than from the Mughals.

There are rumours that there could be interference of the right wing in directing the trajectory of the new textbooks. Does the development of new textbooks mean that there is a reshaping of political ideology?

So the media loves these stories, and finding a political axe to grind is always very tempting. Our textbook development team has experienced zero political pressure from the government or from any right wing channel or personality whatsoever. We have been left free to work the way we thought we should work under the National Education Policy, 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework mandate.

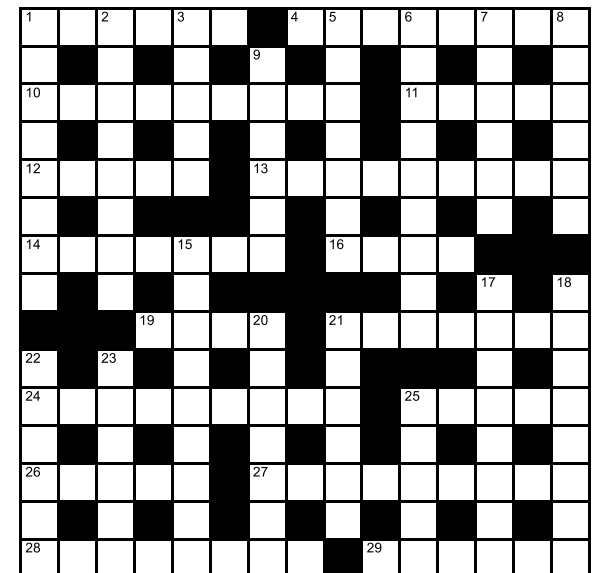
Full interview is available at [newsthlive.com/micheldanino](https://www.newsthlive.com/micheldanino)

THE CROSSWORD+ 14548

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjpTn>

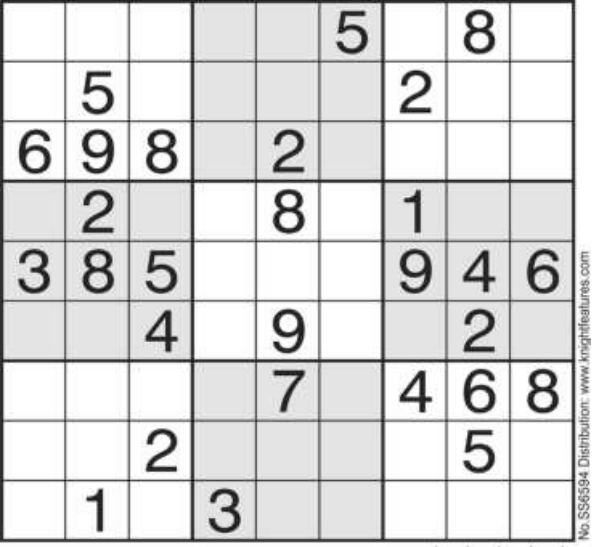
SCAN TO PLAY



- Across
- 1 Sailor and a copper at second counter (6)
 - 4 Avoids Mark in a book shop at the entrance (8)
 - 10 Accuracy of abstract is oddly suspicious for starters (9)
 - 11 Criminal and US General are similar (5)
 - 12 Attempts to reset implement, engineer succeeds as per sources (5)

- 13 Tamil leader’s party led over Labour and advanced (9)
 - 14 Private party in dubious trade is deceived (7)
 - 16 Domestic servant in brothel parties (4)
 - 19 No rules for birds and animals (4)
 - 21 Note; learner in contest is a wonder (7)
 - 24 Disclosed by former media editor (9)
 - 25 Tips, tips to cheat ladies, use emotions slyly (5)
 - 26 Staff are Europeans (5)
 - 27 Your tea is inside, behind sedans, oddly not on furniture (4,5)
 - 28 Sit awkwardly in gown, say causes anxiety (8)
 - 29 Gorilla spotted in Puerto Rico, Sun records (6)
- Down
- 1 Passion of a prince’s small (8)
 - 2 New camera is displaying a landmass (8)
 - 3 Constituents of world organisation has appeal (5)
 - 5 Unbecoming of Ben; digging a hole in the centre of ground (7)
 - 6 Tourist in 13 leaves daughter for lover at last (9)
 - 7 Cold spike causes licorice to lose its core and wither (6)
 - 8 Rates of grains? Add a penny (6)
 - 9 Matched with female with appeal, to enjoy delightfully primarily (6)
 - 15 Teacher (female) replaces a chip in the front in computer, say (9)
 - 17 Perfect car, a cute model (8)
 - 18 Evaluates same combination, will be over for certain (8)
 - 20 Doctor sets my son’s routines (7)
 - 21 Majority of French inside are humble (6)
 - 22 Assisted to pay attention to record stored inside (6)
 - 23 Retreat to borders, heartless lieutenants causes accidents (6)
 - 25 Bean companies active (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

FAITH

Efficacy of Adi Puram

Andal, or Goda, manifested in the Tamil month of Adi, under the Pooram star, in Srivilliputtur, in the tulasi garden of Vishnu Chittar, also known as Periyazhwar, who was devoutly serving the resident deity, Vatapatrasayi. Andal composed the Tiruppavai (30 verses) and Nachiyar Tirumozhi (143 verses). Andal’s Tiruppavai has the essence of all the Vedas, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh.

It highlights the importance of surrendering to Bhagavan, singing His divine names, and being subservient to the devotees of the Lord. Just as Krishna’s discourse is called Gitapanishad, Andal’s Tiruppavai is revered as Godopanishad (the Upanishad of Goda). The great preceptor Ramanuja always used to chant Tiruppavai and hence came to be renowned as Tiruppavai Jeeyar. The verses of Tiruppavai played a vital role in helping Ramanuja explain the tenets of Visishtadvaitam to disciples.

Growing up, Andal expressed her devotion to Lord Vatapatrasayi by adorning herself with the garland meant for the deity, before it was offered to Him. When Periyazhwar found out, he admonished Andal and did not offer any garland to the deity on that day. However, that very night, Perumal appeared in Periyazhwar’s dream and demanded to know why He was not offered the garland. When Periazhwar explained that it was desecrated because his daughter wore it, Vadapatrasayi said, “It is consecration, not desecration,” and sought the Andal-worn garland as a daily offering. When Andal insisted on marrying Ranganannar, the archa murti at Srirangam asked Periazhwar to bring her to His sanctum, wherein She attained eternal service at His lotus feet.

ASKUS

Vaishali R. Venkat

I am a retired bank officer aged 70. I have a health insurance policy with a coverage of ₹4 lakh under a special scheme of IBA (Indian Bankers Association). The maximum coverage for family is ₹4 lakh under the scheme. Top-up to a maximum of ₹5 lakh is available. I want to have a coverage of minimum ₹20 lakh for me and my wife. Kindly advise.

M. GOPINATHAN

The policy, which you have currently, might be a group health insurance policy designed for retired bank staff. The policy might not be customisable or might be subject to negotiations between IBA and unions. Against this backdrop, it is advisable to take a separate individual health policy, in addition to your bank policy, with a basic coverage (Sum Insured) of ₹5 lakh. If you cannot afford this additional individual base policy, you can go with your bank policy itself. But, having a individual health policy has more benefits. For a coverage of up to ₹20 lakh, you can buy a super-top up health insurance policy, with a deductible of ₹5 lakh, if you purchase an individual base policy for this amount. If you prefer to use only the bank policy, then your deductible amount for the super top-up policy must be ₹4 lakh only. There are two top-up policies available in the market viz. top-up and super top-up. Both are completely different. For a complete understanding about the difference between the two policies, you can refer to the Moneywise article titled ‘Top-up vs. super top-up’ dated March 17, 2025. The premium cost for the super-top up health insurance policy is costly when compared with the top-up policy. Still, for your age, it is advisable to buy the super top-up policy to avail maximum benefits. Most health insurance companies offer both the policies, but you need to be careful to check whether you are really buying the super top-up policy. You can also buy an individual health insurance base policy with the Sum Insured of ₹20 lakh but that is highly expensive, and we would not suggest it.

I am 73 years old. I want to sell my 4-cent land purchased in 2007. What will be my tax liability under the Income Tax Act.

SIVANANDAN

In the Union Budget 2024-2025, presented on July 23, 2024, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said long-term capital gains on all financial- and non-financial assets will attract a tax rate of 12.5%. However, in her Budget speech, she did not explicitly mention that the reduced 12.5% (from the earlier 20%) tax rate on LTCGs is without the indexation benefit. Later, on August 7, 2024, the Finance Bill 2024 was passed in the Lok Sabha with an amendment that gave a relaxation to the new capital gains tax on real estate. The amendment was introduced after widespread criticism from various corners, including Opposition parties and tax professionals. As per the amendment, individuals or Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) who purchased houses or other immovable property before July 23, 2024, have two options regarding the treatment of long-term capital gains and they can choose any one option that is suitable for them. First option is they can choose to pay straight 12.5% tax on the capital gains without claiming the indexation benefit. Or the second option is that they can choose to pay 20% tax on capital gains, after claiming the indexation benefit. Further, according to the Income Tax Act and as per the Union Budget 2024-25, if you have owned an immovable property (land) for more than two years (24 months), then it is considered a long-term asset. In your case, you have purchased the land in 2007 and therefore, if you earn capital gains by selling the land, it will be considered Long Term Capital Gain (LTCG). Since you have purchased before the July 23, 2024 window, you can choose any one of the tax rates - 12.5% on capital gains without indexation or 20% on capital gains with indexation benefit. The choice is yours. (The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified wealth manager)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.



ILLUSTRATION: SAINATH B.

India’s emerging shield against the climate crisis

As extreme events become more frequent and harder to predict, conventional insurance models need a fundamentally different approach ; parametric insurance offers an alternative

CLIMATE OF SAFETY

Tarun Mathur

In the span of a few days, Himachal Pradesh was battered by over 20 flash floods, series of landslides, and cloudbursts, events that upended daily life and damaged critical infrastructure in the State. Events like these are now part of an unsettling pattern. The return period for such catastrophic weather events is shortening, making them more frequent, and far less predictable. India recorded 764 major natural disasters since 1900 with almost half of them occurring after 2000. A clear pattern is emerging: climate volatility and global warming are accelerating and with them, scale and complexity of economic disruption. Between 2019 and 2023 alone, India suffered over \$56 billion in losses from weather-related disasters. That's nearly a quarter of all climate losses in the Asia-Pacific during the same period and the highest in South Asia by far. As extreme events become both more frequent and harder to predict, conventional insurance models need a fundamentally different approach. Parametric insurance offers an alternative built for speed and clarity. It pays out the moment a predefined threshold is breached – rainfall crossing a certain mark, seismic activity above a set magni-



Parametric cover is finding applications across transportation, manufacturing and even livestock farming where claim delays can lead to financial stress

tude or wind speed crossing destructive limits. Payouts are triggered automatically, based on independently-verified data, and given within hours.

How it works

At its core, parametric insurance is a simple proposition: it pays out when a pre-agreed index threshold is breached. These thresholds, such as rainfall below a certain level or temperatures above a critical mark, are based on verified data from sources like the India Meteorological Department, NASA MERRA or other accredited global satellite systems. Everything, from trigger to payout, is defined upfront. This is finding application across transportation, manufacturing and even livestock farming where claim delays can hugely compound financial stress. A microfinance institution in Jharkhand, for instance, could structure a parametric policy that automatically covers loan repayments for small farmers if rainfall during the sowing season falls below 300 mm or temperatures cross 40°C. This would help protect



Globally, countries in Africa, the Pacific Islands, and even U.K. have used parametric products to cover everything from droughts and floods to cyclone winds

income during weather extremes, without requiring damage inspections.

Even in emerging sectors like renewable energy, such insurance has a role to play. A solar power firm operating in Rajasthan can link its policy to solar irradiance data. If sunlight hours drop significantly below expected levels for a given month, payouts will compensate for lost output. When climate-linked disruptions strike, liquidity is needed immediately—to buy seeds, cover interest costs, and quickly restore working capital. Parametric models remove subjectivity and replace it with automation.

Where it's working

Parametric insurance is already being deployed across India and beyond. In parts of Rajasthan and U.P, a pilot protected thousands of women small-holder farmers from drought. It used a water balance index and delivered payouts automatically when water availability dropped below a defined threshold. When sowing conditions fail on rainfall deficits or extreme temperatures, the policy triggers loan support – aiding borrowers avoid de-

faults and maintain livelihoods. Globally, countries in Africa, the Pacific Islands, and even the U.K. have used parametric products to cover everything from droughts and floods to cyclone winds and flood depths. The examples prove such insurance works across contexts.

What India needs next

Parametric insurance has demonstrated its ability to deliver fast, transparent relief when climate volatility strikes. The building blocks are already in place—robust climate data, digital delivery platforms, and early success stories across agriculture, energy, and disaster-prone geographies. What's needed now is scale – and a clear framework to finance it. In 2024, Nagaland became the first Indian state to purchase multi-year parametric cover for landslides and extreme rainfall, using disaster mitigation funds. Other States now have the green light to act pre-emptively. India must treat parametric insurance as essential climate infrastructure, much like UPI did for payments. That means expanding data networks, encouraging State-level adoption, and embedding smart cover into public disaster response. In a future shaped by climate uncertainty, it offers something rare viz. speed, trust and financial resilience when it matters most. (The writer is co-founder & CBO, Policybazaar for Business)

How about a relatable risk metric?

THINKINVESTOR

AMCs must disclose risk metric in a way we can relate to information provided. The metric must be standardised for comparison among peer equity funds with track record not new fund offers

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Processed foods typically mention saturated and transfat per serving. But how will you know whether, say, 20 gram of saturated fat per 100 gram serving is too much? You could face a similar situation with investment products. In this article, we discuss whether asset management companies (AMCs) can disclose risk associated with their mutual funds as a relatable metric.

Relatable risk

What if we are informed that burning fat from consuming ice cream would require us to walk, say, five kilometers at a speed of six kilometers per hour? That way, we can relate to the effort needed to keep good health and yet enjoy such food. Can we apply a similar argument to investment products? There are several issues to consider. For one, individuals have different life goals and different time horizons for the same goal. For another, the impact of a shortfall in a portfolio at the end of the time horizon may be different for everyone. Therefore, presenting a standardised set of information could be challenging when you are investing to achieve a life goal. Consider large-cap active funds. The riskometer categorises such funds as high risk. But what does that mean when you are investing to finance your child's college education or making down payment for a house? Note that being conservative and not taking risk could also lead to failure of life goals, unless you significantly increase your savings. It will be easier if AMCs disclose a standardised metric in relation to your goal. Suppose you assume that a fund must give 12% annual return (referred to as minimum acceptable return or MAR) to help you achieve your goal. The riskometer could show the frequency during the last 5, 7, 10 years and since inception when the fund gave a return lower than 12%. That could give a perspective of how risky the fund is in relation to the goal you want to achieve. Note risk is defined as the possibility of earning returns lower than MAR in any year, as that may lead to goal failure. A fund can assume a standardised return regardless of your goals; for MAR is the expected return on equity as an asset class.

Conclusion

AMCs should disclose risk metric in a way we can relate to the information provided. The metric must be standardised for comparison among peer funds. The above argument applies to equity funds with track record, not to new fund offers. (The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.10	6.35	7.10	6.75
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.60	7.25	7.25	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.60	4.75	6.00	5.75
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.20	7.50	7.75	8.20
slice Small Finance Bank	8.50	6.75	8.25	7.75
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.40	7.50	8.15	8.40
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.60	7.50	7.20	7.20
Unity Small Finance Bank	7.75	6.50	7.25	7.25
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.25	8.00	7.50
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	6.60	6.25	6.60	6.60
Bandhan Bank	7.40	7.25	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	6.75	6.75	6.65	6.25
CSB Bank	7.40	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.55	6.30	6.40	6.25
DCB Bank	7.40	7.00	7.00	7.00
Federal Bank	6.70	6.40	6.60	6.25
HDFC Bank	6.60	6.25	6.45	6.40
ICICI Bank	6.60	6.25	6.60	6.60
IDFC FIRST Bank	6.75	6.30	6.75	6.60
Indusind Bank	7.00	6.75	6.75	6.65

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Public Sector Banks				
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.30	6.75	6.75	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	6.85	6.60	6.60	6.60
Karnataka Bank	6.75	6.60	6.25	6.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.60	6.25	6.40	6.25
RBL Bank	7.20	7.00	7.20	6.70
SBM Bank India	7.60	7.05	7.05	7.50
South Indian Bank	6.70	6.50	6.20	5.70
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.05	6.80	6.25	6.25
YES Bank	7.10	6.75	7.10	6.75
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	6.60	6.50	6.50	6.40
Bank of India	6.70	6.50	6.25	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	6.70	6.20	6.20	6.10
Canara Bank	6.60	6.50	6.50	6.50
Central Bank of India	7.00	6.60	6.50	6.50
Indian Bank	6.90	6.10	6.25	6.00
Indian Overseas Bank	6.75	6.60	6.30	6.30
Punjab National Bank	6.70	6.40	6.40	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	6.80	6.10	6.00	6.10
State Bank of India	6.60	6.25	6.30	6.05
Union Bank of India	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.40

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.)		
	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
(In %)			
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	7.50-8.70	7.50-8.70	7.50-8.70
Bank of Baroda	7.45-9.25	7.45-9.25	7.45-9.50
Punjab National Bank	7.50-9.35	7.45-9.25	7.45-9.25
Bank of India	7.35-10.10	7.35-10.10	7.35-10.35
Canara Bank	7.50-10.25	7.45-10.25	7.40-10.15
Bank of Maharashtra	7.35-10.15	7.35-10.15	7.35-10.15
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.55-10.75	7.55-10.75	7.55-10.75
Indian Overseas Bank	7.35 #	7.35 #	7.35 #
Indian Bank	7.40-9.40	7.40-9.40	7.40-9.40
Central Bank of India	7.35-9.40	7.35-9.40	7.35-9.40
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.99 #	7.99 #	7.99 #
ICICI Bank	8.00 #	8.00 #	8.00 #
Axis Bank	8.35-11.90	8.35-11.90	8.35-9.35
HSBC Bank	7.70 #	7.70 #	7.70 #
South Indian Bank	8.30-10.60	8.30-10.60	8.30-10.60
Karur Vysya Bank	8.45-11.40	8.45-11.40	8.45-11.40
Karnataka Bank	8.40-10.86	8.40-10.86	8.40-10.86

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.)		
	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
(In %)			
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
Federal Bank	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.15-9.50	8.15-9.50	8.15-9.50
Bandhan Bank	8.41-15.00	8.41-12.58	8.41-12.58
RBL Bank	8.20 #	8.20 #	8.20 #
CSB Bank	9.39-11.08	9.39-11.08	9.39-11.08
HDFC Bank	7.90 #	7.90 #	7.90 #
City Union Bank	8.25-9.50	8.50-10.00	8.75-10.50
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.49 #	7.49 #	7.49 #
Tata Capital	7.99 #	7.99 #	7.99 #
PNB Housing Finance	8.25-11.50	8.25-11.50	8.25-12.35
GIC Housing Finance	8.80 #	8.80 #	8.80 #
SMFG India Home Finance	10.00 #	10.00 #	10.00 #
Sammaan Capital	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Aditya Birla Capital	8.25 #	8.25 #	8.25 #
ICICI Home Finance	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55 #	8.55 #	8.55 #
#onwards	Rates as on July 23 Source:Paisabazaar.com		

RARE FEAT

Gill first to score four Test tons in debut series as skipper



PTI

Shubman Gill became the only player to register four hundreds in his first Test series as captain. He also joined Don Bradman and Sunil Gavaskar as the only skipper to score four centuries in a series. Bradman did it at home against India in 1947-48, while Gavaskar lit up the 1978-79 home series against the West Indies.

ON A ROLL

Gill joins Gavaskar in 700-run club in a series as India captain



GETTY IMAGES

Shubman Gill is the second India captain after Sunil Gavaskar to notch up 700-plus runs in a Test series. Gavaskar leads the tally with 732 runs against the West Indies in the six-match series in 1978-79 while Gill has 722. Gill is also third behind Gavaskar (774 and 732) among Indians with most number of runs in a series.

CENTURIES GALORE

Washington's hundred takes India's tally to 11 in the England series



PTI

Washington Sundar's hundred in the fourth Test against England was the 11th by an Indian batter, matching the record for most centuries in a Test series (versus West Indies at home in 1978-79). Shubman Gill has scored four, K.L. Rahul and Rishabh Pant two each while Ravindra Jadeja and Yashasvi Jaiswal have one each.

STANDING HIS GROUND

Stokes justifies offer to call off play before the start of final hour



GETTY IMAGES

As soon as they got to a point where a draw was inevitable, I was not going to risk any of our bowlers. We just wanted to get through the period without risking proper bowling options — England captain Ben Stokes justifying his offer to call off play before the start of the final hour.

Steely Washington, Jadeja help India snatch a draw

The two add 203 for the unbroken fifth wicket; Root dropping the latter off the first ball proves to be the turning point; record-breaking Gill registers his fourth hundred of the series

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shavan Acharya
MANCHESTER

It turned out to be a battle between Bazball and India's grit. In the end, demonstrating an indomitable spirit, India escaped England's Bazball domination with a draw, riding on centuries by Shubman Gill, Washington Sundar and Ravindra Jadeja.

With England enjoying a 311-run first-innings lead and openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and B. Sai Sudharsan falling for ducks, not many fancied India's chances. But against an England bowling attack that had very little to offer – barring a fiery opening spell by captain Ben Stokes – the middle-order showed steel.

After Jofra Archer pegged India back with the wicket of Gill (103, 238b, 12x4) at the stroke of lunch, Washington (101 n.o. 206b, 9x4, 1x6) and Jadeja (107 n.o. 185b, 13x4, 1x6) batted with conviction to add 203 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket. India defined its character by saving the Test and keeping the series alive. The teams head into The Oval for the final Test, with the home side leading 2-1.

Buried under a mountain of runs, it was an uphill task, but with Jadeja making the most of a first-ball reprieve, and taking control of the proceedings, the England bowlers struggled.

In two wicket-less ses-



The saviours: Gill led the Indian fightback, while Washington and Jadeja mixed caution with aggression to take the team to safety. PTI, GETTY IMAGES & AP

sions, India capitalised on England's sloppy fielding as Washington and Jadeja forged the team's 10th century partnership in four Tests – the second-most for the side in a series, after 11 against the West Indies in 1978-79.

Starting the second session, Archer extracted un-

even bounce on a few occasions, but both Jadeja and Washington remained unfazed.

After Gill and K.L. Rahul started the Indian fightback, with a 188-run stand for the third wicket, Washington and Jadeja kept the momentum going. England, on the other hand,

failed to convert the half-chances.

There was no dearth of drama at Old Trafford, a venue where England had drawn a Test only once in Bazball era in 2023. Midway into the third session, Stokes walked up to Jadeja and Washington hoping to shake hands. But with both

inching closer to the three-figure mark, the two decided to bat on. Eventually, the teams settled for a draw after Washington got his maiden ton.

While Washington and Jadeja dominated the last two sessions, the morning belonged to Gill. After their dogged stand helped India

overcome a crisis, Gill and Rahul extended their cautious approach, as Liam Dawson started the day from one end and Stokes, despite writhing in pain, bowled from the other.

Overcoming early disappointments, Stokes exploited the uneven nature of the surface and trapped

Rahul in front to break the stand. The Indian think tank promoted Washington to No. 5 and it proved to be a masterstroke.

Gill showed resolve despite being hit on the forefinger of the bottom hand by a Stokes delivery that rose sharply. Playing each ball on its merit, Gill ticked

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
358 in 114.1 overs

ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS
669 in 157.1 overs

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Root b Woakes 0 (4b), K.L. Rahul lbw b Stokes 90 (230b, 8x4), B. Sai Sudharsan c Brook b Woakes 0 (1b), Shubman Gill c Smith b Archer 103 (238b, 12x4), Washington Sundar (not out) 101 (206b, 9x4, 1x6), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 107 (185b, 13x4, 1x6); Extras (b-14, lb-2, nb-6, w-2): 24; Total (for four wkts. in 143 overs): 425.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Jaiswal, 0.4 overs), 2-0 (Sai Sudharsan, 0.5), 3-188 (Rahul, 70.2), 4-222 (Gill, 87.4).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Woakes 23-4-67-2, Archer 23-3-78-1, Carse 17-3-44-0, Dawson 47-11-95-0, Root 19-2-68-0, Stokes 11-2-33-1, Brook 3-0-24-0.

PoM: Ben Stokes.
Match drawn. England leads five-match series 2-1.

Fifth and final Test: July 31 to August 4, The Oval.
Match starts at 3.30 p.m. IST.

along and seemed to be in no hurry as he brought up his ninth Test century and fourth of the series. On the way, he became the first player to hit four hundreds in a debut Test series as captain, going past Warwick Armstrong, Don Bradman, Greg Chappell, Virat Kohli and Steven Smith, who scored three each.

Gill looked set to extend his tally before being caught off Archer. And as Root put down a catch at first slip off the very next delivery, Jadeja survived to script India's comeback story with Washington.

Guys showed a lot of character: Gambhir



Bravehearts: Pant and Jadeja produced gutsy performances in the drawn game. GETTY IMAGES

Head coach Gautam Gambhir stated that past records don't matter for the Indian team.

"They are making their own history. A lot of people wrote us off in this Test, but this is the foundation of this team. These are characters who are sitting in this dressing room, wanting to fight for the country," Gambhir said.

"I don't believe that the team is in transition, because it's still an Indian

team. And this is the best 18 that is going to represent, and more importantly, it's not a transition, it's just a little bit of inexperience," Gambhir said.

"It's only about experience and inexperience. But the most important thing is that these boys are going to learn a lot from what they did, because being under pressure and then batting for five sessions is never easy, especially on a fifth day pitch," Gambhir said. "We've to give it to the guys for the character they showed".

SNAPSHOTS

Pogacar wins fourth Tour de France title

PARIS: Slovenian Tadej Pogacar won his fourth Tour de France title after finishing safe in the final stage won by Belgian Wout van Aert on Sunday. Two-time champion Jonas Vingegaard of Denmark took second place overall with German Florian Lipowitz finishing third.

Tilak to lead South in Duleep Trophy

CHENNAI: Tilak Varma will lead South Zone in the Duleep Trophy tournament that starts on August 28 at Bengaluru. The South Zone selectors have picked a 16-member squad along with six standby players.

The squad: Tilak Varma (Capt.), Mohd. Azharuddeen (Vice-Capt.), Tanmay Agarwal, Devdutt Padikkal, Mohit Kale, Salman Nizar, N. Jagadeesan, T. Vijay, R. Sai Kishore, Tanay Thyagarajan, V. Vyshak, M.D. Nidheesh, Ricky Bhui, N.P. Basil, Gurjapneet Singh, Snehal Kauthankar.

Standbys: Mohit Redkar, R. Smaran, Ankit Sharma, Eden Apple Tom, Andre Siddarth, Shaikh Rasheed.



Ready for shootout: Divya and Humpy have all to play for. FIDE

Divya and Humpy head to a tiebreaker

CHESS

Press Trust of India
BATUMI

International Master Divya Deshmukh held the higher-ranked Grandmaster Koneru Humpy to a draw in the second game on Sunday, taking the FIDE women's World Cup final to a tie-breaker where games of shorter duration will be played to determine the winner.

The tie-breaker, which will be a series of shorter-duration games, will be played on Monday to determine the winner.

Divya, who did not make utmost use of her promising opening in the first game of the match, was far more composed against a Queen pawn opening and faced little trouble playing with black.

During the post-game interaction with the broadcaster, Divya seemed upset with the mistakes she made in game one, where she said she invariably kept making the wrong choices.

China's Tan Zhongyi clinched the second game against Lei Tingjie to win the match 1.5-0.5, claim the bronze medal and secure a spot in the Candidates tournament.

Piastrri wins Belgian GP

FORMULA ONE

Agence France-Presse
SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Oscar Piastrri held off McLaren teammate Lando Norris to win the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday and stretch his lead over the latter to 16 points.

The results: 1. Piastrri (McLaren) 1h:25m:22.601s, 2. Norris (McLaren) +3.415s, 3. Leclerc (Ferrari) 20.185, 4. Verstappen (Red Bull) 21.731, 5. Russell (Mercedes) 34.863, 6. Albon (Williams) 39.926, 7. Hamilton (Ferrari) 40.679, 8. Lawson (Racing Bulls) 52.033, 9. Borteleto (Kick Sauber) 56.434.

10. Gasly (Alpine) 72.714, 11. Bearman (Haas) 73.145, 12. Hulkenberg (Kick Sauber) 73.628, 13. Tsunoda (Red Bull) 75.395, 14. Stroll (Aston Martin) 79.831, 15. Ocon (Alpine) 86.063, 16. Antonelli (Mercedes) 86.721, 17. Alonso (Aston Martin) 87.924, 18. Sainz (Williams) 92.024, 19. Colapinto (Alpine) 95.250; +1 lap: 20. Hadjar (Racing Bulls).

Standings: Drivers: 1. Piastrri 266, 2. Norris 250, 3. Verstappen 185. Constructors: 1. McLaren 516, 2. Ferrari 248, 3. Mercedes 220.

Lights to flag

The journey in numbers after the 44-lap race around Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps

6 McLaren records six 1-2 finishes in a single year after 1988

8 Piastrri, in 58 starts, has the same number of wins as countryman Ricciardo (257 starts)

14 Hamilton goes level with Vettel

Franco m

20 Alonso is the first driver to make 20 appearances at the Belgian GP

PIASTRI

37 Norris overtakes Raikkonen for sixth on the list of most podium finishes with McLaren

COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

A NB-NDE

INBRIEF



Australia wins another high-scoring match

Cameron Green hit an unbeaten 55 and Josh Inglis smashed 51 to lift Australia to a three-wicket win over the West Indies in the fourth T20I at Basseterre on Saturday. Glenn Maxwell, *in pic*, scored 47 runs off 18 balls. The Aussies have a 4-0 lead in the five-match series.

The scores: West Indies 205/9 in 20 overs (Sherfane Rutherford 31, Adam Zampa 3/54) lost to Australia 206/7 in 19.2 overs (Glenn Maxwell 47, Josh Inglis 51, Cameron Green 55 n.o., Jediah Blades 3/29). **Toss:** Australia; **PoM:** Maxwell.

Bhavani Devi bows out of individual sabre event

C.A. Bhavani Devi's campaign in the women's individual sabre at the World fencing championships in Tbilisi (Georgia) ended on Sunday in the round-of-64, when the 31-year-old lost to Japan's Misaki Emura 15-10.

Singles titles for Shi and Wang at China Open badminton

Shi Yuqi surged to victory in the China Open men's singles final on Sunday, bouncing back from a game down to beat Wang Zhengxing 14-21, 21-14, 21-15. The women's singles title decider, which also featured two Chinese players, saw second-ranked China's Wang Zhiyi defeat No. 4 Han Yue 21-8, 21-13. "The impact, speed and strength of younger players are definitely better than mine," said 29-year-old Shi after beating the 23-year-old Wang. "So I can only say that I tried my best to withstand some of his speed." It was Shi's second such win in the prestigious competition.

India loses to Italy in the Rod Laver Junior Challenge

The Indian team was beaten 2-4 by Italy in the opening match of the IC Rod Laver Junior Challenge tennis event in Barcelona. Aradhya Kshitij and Samarth Sahita won their matches while Saanvi Mishra and Rishitha Basireddy lost in straight sets. The Indian boys' and girls' combinations, too, suffered a reverse.

Nehra and Likhith fail to progress at swimming Worlds

India's Aryan Nehra fell short of qualifying for the final while S.P. Likhith failed to make the semifinals at the World aquatics championships in Singapore on Sunday. In 400m freestyle, Nehra finished seventh in his heat and 37th overall in 4:00.39. Likhith clocked 1:01.99 to finish 40th overall in 100m breaststroke event.

Youngsters Dipanshu and Deepika impress amid a slew of absentees

More than 900 athletes had sent in their entries, but the number of participants who actually turned up was much less

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

Dipanshu Sharma returned to winning ways at the site of his best performance this year, improving his personal best to win the men's javelin throw on day one of the Indian Open athletics championships in Sangrur on Sunday.

Junior National record holder Deepika improved her own mark and set a new junior record with a 56.41m throw in women's javelin.

The 19-year-old Dipanshu's 76.03m throw bettered his previous best — set at the previous iteration of Indian Open at the same venue in April this year — by a metre. The result also helped Dipanshu return to the Under-20 top-three in



Dipanshu. RF MEDIA

the world for the year. It was one of the few highlights of the day, as several prominent names failed to turn up.



Flinging it far: Deepika improved her own mark and set a new junior record with a 56.41m throw in javelin. FILE PHOTO: M. VEDHAN

Shivam Lokhare, the newest entrant to the 80m club, and Kishore Kumar Jena both did not participate although, interesting-

ly, Jena's former coach Samarjeet Singh Malhi was among the participants.

More than 900 athletes had sent in their entries,

Ankita clinches women's 3000m steeplechase silver



Final burst: Ankita's push at the end saw her finish a few milliseconds behind Finland's Ilona Maarja. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Press Trust of India

ESSEN (GERMANY)

Steeplechaser Ankita Dhyani came up with a blistering run to clinch silver in the gruelling 3000m event with a personal-best time of 9:31.99 seconds, as Indian athletes ended their campaign in the World University Games on Sunday.

The men's 4x100m relay quartet bagged a bronze while the trio of Munita Prajapati, Mansi Negi, and Sejal Singh finished third in the women's 20km team racewalk.

India ended its cam-

paign with two gold, five silver and five bronze in the showpiece event.

Ankita shaved nearly seven seconds from her personal best 9:39.00s to finish behind Finland's Ilona Maarja Mononen (9:31.86). Adia Budde of Germany took bronze in 9:33.34s.

On Friday, Ankita topped Heat 1 in 9:54.79s to secure her place in the final. A massive 22-second improvement, then propelled Ankita to silver.

The men's 4x100m relay team of Lalu Prasad Bhoi, Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblidhar and Mrutyam



Praveen Chitravel.

Jayaram won bronze in 38.89s behind South Korea (38.50s) and South Africa (38.80s).

Earlier on Saturday, Praveen Chithravel secured a silver medal in the men's triple jump. His best effort of 16.66m on his second attempt saw him finish behind Australia's Olympian Connor Murphy (16.77m).

India's medal winners:
Silver: Praveen Chithravel (men's triple jump), Ankita Dhyani (women's 3000m steeplechase).
Bronze: Sejal Singh, Munita Prajapati, Mansi Negi (women's 20km racewalk team), men's 4x100m relay.



Rich haul: The Indian paddlers won 11 medals — two gold, two silver and seven bronze — in Almaty. x@ULTTATENNIS

Gold for Divyanshi and Priyanuj in WTT Youth Contender

TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Fresh from her U-15 gold medal at the Asian youth table tennis championships at Tashkent recently, Divyanshi Bhowmick claimed the U-19 girls' title at the WTT Youth Contender in Almaty (Kazakhstan) on Saturday.

She overcame Zlata Terkhova of the Russian

Federation 11-4, 8-11, 11-7, 11-2 in the final.

In an all-Indian U-17 boys' final, Priyanuj Bhat-tacharyya rallied to beat P. B. Abhinandh 8-11, 11-9, 11-3, 11-6.

In the U-15 girls' final, Ananya Muralidharan lost 8-11, 8-11, 8-11 to Lu Yu-En of Taiwan.

India wrapped up the Almaty event with a total of 11 medals — two gold, two silver, and seven bronze.

forcing the organisers to make the Indian Open a two-day event, but the number of participants who actually turned up was much less.

The 100m had 14 races with Army's Rohit Gorkha clocking 10.49 seconds to be the surprise fastest while Uttarakhand's Prakhhar Sharma won the 400m in 47.24 seconds across 12 races.

The men's 5000m, with 31 initial entries, saw only 11 runners complete and 13, including former champion Abhishek Pal and National Games gold medalist Sawan Barwal, not starting. Anurag Yadav of Gujarat won in 14:33.61.

Among the women, Dhanalakshmi and M.V. Jilna — both former India sprinters and returning from doping suspension — were the only two to go under 12 seconds in the 100m

The results (winners only):
Men: 100m: Rohit Gorkha (Army, 10.49s), **400m:** Prakhhar Sharma (Utk, 47.24s), **1500m:** Rahul (Del, 3:47.47), **5000m:** Anurag Yadav (Guj, 14:33.61), **High Jump:** Sarvesh Kushare (Mah, 2.26m), **Discus:** Kirpal Singh (ONGC, 54.65m), **Javelin:** Dipanshu Sharma (Reliance, 76.03m).
Women: 100m: Dhanalakshmi (TN, 11.55s), **400m:** Manisha Kumari (HP, 53.81s), **1500m:** Lili Das (Utk, 4:17.48), **High Jump:** Khyati Mathur (UP, 1.76m), **Discus:** Seema (JSW, 55.03m), **Javelin:** Deepika (JSW, 56.41m).

Aryan loses to Varona in semifinals

Sports Bureau

Aryan Shah lost 5-7, 6-2, 3-6 to Nicolas Varona of Spain in the semifinals of the €91,250 Challenger tennis in Segovia, Spain. The 19-year-old Aryan won 22 ATP points and €4,550.

Other results: \$100,000 ITF women, Evansville, USA:
Doubles Semifinals: Arianne Hartono (Ned) & Prarthana Thombare bt Alana Smith (USA) & Kayla Cross (Can) 6-4, 7-5.
\$30,000 ITF women, Monastir:
Doubles Final: Tenika Mcgiffin (Aus) & Elza Tomase (Lat) bt Dayeon Back (Kor) & Vaidehi Chaudhari 3-6, 6-3, [10-8].
\$15,000 ITF women, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain:
Doubles Final: Victoria Allen (GBR) & Angelina Wirges (GER) bt Emma Kamper (Den) & Sravya Shivani 6-1, 2-6, [10-6].

LIVE TELECAST

▼
Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4 & 7 p.m.
Tennis: ATP Masters, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m.
West Indies vs Australia: 5th T20I, 4.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

It's Ashoka vs. Lashka in the first division of Anab E Shahi Plate

RACES

HYDERABAD: Ashoka and Lashka may fight out the finish of the Anab E Shahi Plate (Div. I), the main event of Monday's (July 28) races.

1. KOTHAGUDEM PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 12.35 p.m.: 1. Equine Power (7) P. Sai K 56, 2. Real Thalaivaa (5) Mohit 56, 3. State Man (1) Mukesh K 56, 4. Yuvraj (6) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 5. Divine Secret (2) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 6. Emerald Touch (10) S. Shareef 54.5, 7. Live Legend (9) Gaurav 54.5, 8. Shreshtha (3) B. Nikhil 54.5, 9. Tootsie Darling (4) Trevor 54.5 and 10. Tsarina (8) Afroz K 54.5.
1. TOOTSIE DARLING, 2. REAL THALAIIVAA, 3. DIVINE SECRET

2. P.M. BOKDAWALA MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II) (4,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1.05: 1. Diablo (5) P. Sai K 60, 2. Trishul (7) Surya Prakash 58.5, 3. Mix The Magic (9) B. Nikhil 56.5, 4. Miss Marvellous (3) Shivansh 55.5, 5. Clara (8) Kuldeep Sr. 54, 6. Clefairy (2) A.A. Vikrant 54, 7. Ampere's Touch (6) G. Naresh 53.5, 8. Briar Ridge (1) Kuldeep Jr. 53.5 and 9. Miss Smiley Angel (4) Mukesh K 52.5.
1. DIABLO, 2. MIX THE MAGIC, 3. CLEFAIRY

3. HYDERABAD PLATE (1,200m) (Terms), 3-y-o and upward (Cat. II), 1.35: 1. Berrettini (4) P. Sai K 60, 2. Maverick (3) Santosh Raj 60, 3. Proud Mary (6) Gaurav 58.5, 4. Reigning Beauty (2) Afroz K 58.5, 5. Armstrong (1) A.A. Vikrant 58 and 6. Sopranos (5) Md. Ismail 58.
1. BERRETTINI, 2. MAVERICK

4. ANAB E SHAHI PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 80 and above (Cat. I), 2.05:

1. High Command (7) Kuldeep Jr. 62.5, 2. Siddharth (1) Trevor 59.5, 3. Black Onyx (8) Mukesh 58, 4. One N Only (4) Kuldeep Sr. 57.5, 5. Shadow Of The Moon (5) Afroz K 54, 6. Vivaldo (2) Hindu Singh 53, 7. Star Of Night (3) Ajay K 50 and 8. Lucky Zone (6) Surya Prakash 50.
1. HIGH COMMAND, 2. SIDDHARTH, 3. ONE N ONLY

5. BAKHTAWAR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.40: 1. Top In Class (6) Mukesh K 60, 2. Assured Success (4) Kuldeep Sr. 59, 3. Mark My Day (1) R.S. Jodha 59, 4. Swiss Girl (2) Md. Ismail 57.5, 5. Fashion Icon (11) G. Naresh 56, 6. Federer (8) P. Ajeeth K 57, 7. Star Cruise (9) Kuldeep Jr. 57, 8. Char Ek Char (3) A.A. Vikrant 56, 9. Classy Dame (10) Abhay Singh 55, 10. Glimmer Of Hope (12) Gaurav 55, 11. Muaser (7) H.M. Akshay 51.5 and 12. Battle On (5) P. Sai K 51.
1. FASHION ICON, 2. BATTLE ON, 3. FEDERER

6. P.M. BOKDAWALA MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I) (4,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.15: 1. True Icon (9) P. Ajeeth K 60, 2. Just Incredible (6) Kuldeep Sr. 57, 3. Oliver's Mount (2) Shivansh 56, 4. Cherie Chevalier (5) Suraj Narredu 55.5, 5. Newfound Glory (8) Ashad Asbar 53, 7. Colt Pistol (1) Sonu K 52.5, 8. Catchme If You Can (7) B. Nikhil 51.5 and 9. Juramento (3) Surya Prakash 51.
1. CHERIE CHEVALIER, 2. KRISTALLOS, 3. OLIVER'S MOUNT

7. ANAB E SHAHI PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 80 and above (Cat. I), 3.50: 1. Ashoka (5) Mukesh K 63, 2. Akido (7) R.S. Jodha 56.5, 3. Last Wish (3) Ashad Asbar 55.5, 4. Lashka (6) Trevor 54, 5. Ode To

Nature (1) Mohit 54, 6. N R I Superpower (9) Varun 53.5, 7. Minecraft (8) Rafique Sk. 50.5, 8. Silver Act (2) B. Nikhil 50 and 9. Baisa (4) Nakhat 50.
1. ASHOKA, 2. LASHKA, 3. N R I SUPERPOWER

8. FALAKNUMA CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.25: 1. Quality Warrior (3) Shivansh 60, 2. Divine Destiny (5) Kuldeep Jr. 58.5, 3. Racing Ruler (7) Suraj Narredu 58, 4. Alpine Girl (10) Sonu K 57.5, 5. Perfect Light (4) B.R. Kumar 57.5, 6. Path Of Peace (6) Surya Prakash 57, 7. Elegant Lady (1) Rafique Sk. 54, 8. Peppi (2) Ashad Asbar 54, 9. London Bell (9) Md. Ekram 53.5 and 10. Take A Breath (8) H.M. Akshay 51.
1. RACING RULER, 2. ELEGANT LADY, 3. PEPI

9. BAKHTAWAR PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5.00: 1. Inderdhanush (9) Md. Ismail 60, 2. Sangreal (13) Suraj Narredu 59.5, 3. Cosmico (12) Mukesh K 59, 4. Sucker Punch (2) H.M. Akshay 59, 5. Power Ranger (1) Md. Ekram 58.5, 6. Hoping Star (6) Mohit 57.5, 7. Only The Brave (4) Shivansh 57.5, 8. Alcahol Free (7) Rafique Sk. 56, 9. Blue Pantheress (8) Sonu K 55.5, 10. Eminency (10) Nakhat 55, 11. Exclusive Luck (5) Hindu Singh 53.5, 12. Dal's Champion (11) Surya Prakash 53 and 13. Sadiya (3) Kuldeep Jr. 52.
1. SANGREAL, 2. EXCLUSIVE LUCK, 3. COSMICO

Day's Best: SANGREAL
Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 3, 4, 5 & 6, (ii) 6, 7, 8 & 9.
Trebble: (i) 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 4, 5 & 6, (iii) 7, 8 & 9.
Tanala: All races.

Mayne Magic wins the main event

BENGALURU: K. Kishan Thomas-trained Mayne Magic (Antony up) won the Karnataka Mile Championship Cup (1,600m), the chief event of the races here on Sunday (July 27). The winner is owned by Mr. Eugene Aloysious Mayne & Mrs. Joan Mayne. Jockey Antony won three races on the day.

1. LIVELY EMPREY PLATE (1,200M): MEGHANN (Laxman S) 1, Embosom (G. Vivek) 2, Phoenix Surprise (Pavan) 3 and Princess Jasmine (Suhas K) 4. Not run: N R I Millennium: 3-3/4, Nk and I. Im, 16.19s. 1107 (w), 23, 13 and 39 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 112, FP: 664, Q: 341, Trinella: 9.103/4,876, Exacta: 62,496 (carried over)/13,392. Favourite: Chinky Pinky. Owner and trainer: Mr. Warren Singh.

2. CAMINETO PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): ROYAL DECCAN (Antony) 1, Roadrunner (Abhishek Mhatre) 2, Equalizer (M. Rajesh K) 3 and Cascais (Trevor) 4. 6-1/2, 1 and Snk. Im, 14.70s. ₹42 (w), 16, 24 and 17 (p), SHP: 75, THP: 41, FP: 313, Q: 160, Trinella: 5.679/1,872, Exacta: 17,705/5,836. Favourite: Silcon Star. Owners: Mr. Arjun Mangalorkar, M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr. Rajendran & Mr. Vivek N. Rao. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

3. ESQUIRE PLATE (1,200M): ROMPING HOME (Yash) 1, Konkrah (Sandesh) 2, Solara (Akshay K) 3 and Zephyrine (Arvind K) 4. 7, 2 and 1. Im. 13.14s. ₹17 (w), 13, 16 and 40 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 74, FP: 63, Q: 49, Trinella: 382/286, Exacta: 1,891/599. Favourite: Rumping Home. Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. Hatim A Lakdawala, Mr. Teja Gollapudi, Dr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni & Mr. Anil Saraf. Trainer: Deepesh Narredu.

4. SALAZAR PLATE (1,200M): EXCELLENT LASS (Suraj) 1, Never Give In (Antony) 2, Victoria Doreasani (Sandesh) 3 and Grizzly (Laxman S) 4. 2, 3/4 and Snk. Im 13.54s. ₹19

(w), 16, 18 and 18 (p), SHP: 50, THP: 68, FP: 108, Q: 89, Trinella: 453/164, Exacta: 9,159/2,944. Favourite: Excellent Lass. Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. Teja Gollapudi, M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr. Rajendran. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

5. ADMIRAL HENRY JOHN ROUS TROPHY (1,400M): POWER OF BEAUTY (Antony) 1, Sir Winston (Neeraj) 2, Elfin Knight (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Stravinsky (Angad) 4. Not run: Sensational and Pole Star. Shd, 2-1/2 and 3-1/2. Im, 26.94s. ₹34 (w), 12, 14 and 13 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 31, FP: 263, Q: 177, Trinella: 1,254/516, Exacta: 2,980/1,277. Favourite: Circle Of Dreams. Owners: Dr. C.N. Devayya & Mr. K. Pradeep Annaiah. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

6. KARNATAKA MILE CHAMPIONSHIP CUP (1,600M): MAYNE MAGIC (Antony) 1, Galahad (Trevor) 2, Prana (Suraj) 3 and Monteverdi (Neeraj) 4. 1, 3 and 3-1/4. Im, 39.00s. ₹24 (w), 13 and 12 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 26, FP: 117, Q: 54, Trinella: 85/25. Favourite: Prana. Owners: Mr. Eugene Aloysious Mayne & Mrs. Joan Mayne. Trainer: K. Kishan Thomas.

7. CAMINETO PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): ELEANORA (Suraj) 1, Mutual Trust (Trevor) 2, True Punch (Antony) 3 and Carat Love (G. Vivek) 4. 2, 3 and 2-1/4. Im, 14.18s. ₹34 (w), 16, 10 and 19 (p), SHP: 44, THP: 43, FP: 76, Q: 34, Trinella: 161/193, Exacta: 2,980/1,277. Favourite: Mutual Trust. Owners: Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla, Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Yohan Z. Poonawalla, Mrs. Michelle Y. Poonawalla, Ms. Delna Z. Poonawalla, Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole and Mr. Rishad N. Pandole. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu. Jackpot: ₹1,662 (367 tks.); Runner-up: 144 (1,816 tks.); Treble (i): 154 (74 tks.); (ii): 285 (56 tks.).

Daniel's hat-trick in vain as IAF FT holds South United

DURAND CUP

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Indian Air Force Football Team produced an equaliser in the final minute of added time to hold tournament debutant South United FC 3-3 in a Group-A league match of the 134th Durand Cup at the Kishore Bharati Stadium here on Sunday.

Young striker Makamayum Daniel completed a fine hat-trick giving South United the lead twice in the match but IAF mounted a great fightback to snatch a point in the end.

The 18-year-old Daniel found the target in the ninth and 23rd minutes before Mohammad Akib (26th minute) and Akish Cyril (48th) got IAF back in the mix.

Daniel completed his hat-trick in the 84th minute with a spectacular volley but IAF defender Sankit nodded home the



Fight for possession: South United players try to thwart an Indian Air Force move. DEBASISH BHADURI

equaliser to spoil South United's party.

Earlier, debutant Indo Tibetan Border Police Football Team (ITBP FT) edged past a 10-man local side Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC 2-1 in the Group-D league opener at the SAI Stadium, Kokrajhar.

Lunminlen Haokip gave Morning Star the lead but ITBP FT fought back well

and scored twice through Pulung Diamary and Hemraj Bhujel to secure the win.

The results: Group-A: South United FC 3 (Makamayum Daniel 9, 23, 84) drew with Indian Air Force FT 3 (Md. Akib 26, Akish Cyril 48, Sankit 90+6).

At Kokrajhar: Group-D: ITBP FT 2 (Pulung Daimary 45, Hemraj Bhujel 60) bt Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC 1 (Lunminlen Haokip 30).

Rishabh Pant and the art of conquering pain

After emerging from a life-threatening car accident, the wicketkeeper-batter certainly is more mature; he picks his battles with greater thought than previously, but hasn't gone against his natural grain

R. Kaushik
MANCHESTER

For Rishabh Pant, pain had become a way of life for more than 12 months. A constant, if uninvited companion. A grim reminder of what might have been, a reminder too of how lucky he was to have emerged from a life-threatening single-car accident with all his faculties intact. Pant's horrific road accident of 30 December 2022 is too fresh in memory, too raw for everyone even remotely associated with him, to bear detailed repetition. Suffice to say that to be able to play competitive, professional cricket within 16 months of that terrible episode was tribute to his resilience, to his unmatched determination, to his unyielding desire to make the most of a second chance that only the very lucky get.

If Pant doesn't quite feel the pressure of a cricket match as much as anyone else, it's not without good reason. To him more than anyone else, Keith Miller's famous comments revolving around pressure in Test cricket will resonate readily. The dashing Australian all-rounder fought in World War II against the Germans, flying night missions over Germany and Occupied France as he targeted Nazi rocket bases.

Flight Lieutenant Miller once told Michael Parkinson, the legendary English television presenter, broadcaster, journalist and author, "Pressure? There's no pressure in Test cricket. Real pressure is when you are flying a Mosquito with a Messerschmitt (a German twin-engine fighter and attack aircraft) up your arse!"

Even before his outlook-altering accident, Pant was a free spirit, an unpredictable mass of the unconventional even by the most unorthodox standards. No one quite knew what to expect when he had the cricket bat in his hands. He could dead-bat with felicity, sure, but it was when he put it to more attacking use that he commanded attention. Compelled it. He would sometimes be dismissed doing the most exasperatingly outrageous, just as he would drop jaws with his sheer audacity, with his ability to think out of the box, and to implement that thought process with total disdain for the usual, for reputation, for pedigree.

No different

Pant 2.0 is no different. A lot more grateful and thankful for his second coming, so to say, but no less uninhibited or fearless. He certainly is more mature, he picks his battles with greater thought than previously, but he hasn't gone against his natural grain. He hasn't become conservative, careful or circumspect - all on the cricket ground, in front the stumps, lest we should confuse ourselves - because then, he wouldn't be Rishabh Pant, would he?

And therefore, he reacts with complete equanimity to both 'Stupid, stupid, stupid' and 'Superb, superb, superb'. He has an unabashed admirer in Sunil Gavaskar, the deliverer of both iconic lines but also completely in awe of the package that Pant is.

Twice in this Test series, Pant has overcome the pain barrier with a nonchalance that is uniquely Pant. In the third Test at Lord's, he hurt his left index finger badly on day one, trying to stop a wildly swinging (after it passed the stumps) Jasprit Bumrah delivery that pinged him badly before speeding away for four byes. That was on the first day of the game; it must take something really bad for Pant to shed his wicketkeeping gloves and retreat to the dressing room and cede wicketkeeping responsibilities to Dhruv Jurel, but Pant the batter was back the next day with India on 107 for three in reply to England's 387.

Pant didn't just bat, he batted like the Pant the world knows and loves. With chutzpah and authority and positivity and aggression, without a care for the throbbing pain that was exacerbated by every movement of the willow. He charged and smashed, he fell and pulled or swept, he danced like a ballerina, he made even the hard-nosed, implacable MCC members populating the Long Room cluck and wonder at what he was made of.

For two and a half hours, he toyed with England's best, helping K.L. Rahul add 141 until a brainfade moment designed to put Rahul, on 98, back on strike in the last over before lunch on day three, threw England a lifeline and ended the Pant show on 72. Two days later, on the final morning with India needing 135 more for victory, Pant walked out at No. 6 but it was clear that the injury was troubling



GETTY IMAGES

him even more. He wrung his left hand in discomfort during each of his 12 balls, one of them from Jofra Archer swatted through mid-on as if a pesky fly had got in his eyeline, before Archer had the final say with a peach that knocked his off pole out.

That should have been it, really, but as it transpired, that was merely the teaser, the trailer before the main act. A trailer that showcased his gumption and spunk, which expressed itself with far greater magnitude at Old Trafford on Thursday.

Pant recovered sufficiently from the finger injury in the week-long break between the third and the fourth Tests to start in Manchester in his designated stumper-batter avatar. Alongside Sai Sudharsan, he built on a decent start on Wednesday's first day of the Test with a stand of 72, archetypal Pant, until suddenly, he decided that it was time to ramp it up. As Chris Woakes bustled in, Pant fancied a reverse sweep. It's a shot has he has pulled off with impunity numerous times, it's also a shot that has precipitated his downfall more than once, but when has that ever stopped him?

Painful blow

This time, Pant managed an inside-edge that crashed into the outer part of his right foot, just below the little toe. England missed the edge and burnt a review trying to prise him out, even as Pant was hobbling and wincing and biting his lip in sheer agony. He tried gamely to carry on but couldn't even put the slightest weight on the offending appendage.

When the physio peeled off his sock and then his shoe, it was clear why - there was a swelling the size of a ping pong ball, capped by a smattering of blood. Pant's Test match should have ended then and there - at 37, retired hurt.

Driven off the field in a golf buggy, Pant struggled into an ambulance and went to a nearby hospital for a scan which

confirmed the worst. The next morning, day two, when the team bus trundled into Old Trafford, Pant was nowhere to be seen. Of course, you said. Why would he?

Pant wasn't in his hotel room, moping and brooding and cursing his luck. He wasn't sleeping off the aftereffects. He was back in the hospital for a painkilling injection, after which he went to the dressing room for a few warm-up drills. When Shardul Thakur was sixth batter dismissed, he was stunned to see the stocky figure of his admirable mate making the impossibly arduous walk down the steps towards the middle. Thakur waited respectfully, admiringly, inside the field of play, for Pant to enter the ground. He patted him on the head like an older brother passing on his benevolence, then joined his colleagues on the balcony to watch the little fella smash an Archer slower ball over mid-wicket for six and check-drive a cover-drive off Ben Stokes to the boundary to bring up the most astonishing of half-centuries.

The warrior

Why, Rishabh, you wanted to ask. What were you trying to prove? To whom? Until realisation dawned that he wasn't trying to be a hero. He wasn't attempting what to others might have seemed outlandish. He wasn't seeking to impress anyone. He was just being Rishabh Pant, because this is exactly the kind of thing Rishabh Pant would do, day after day if need be. To bat with an injured index finger is remarkable; to do so with one leg barely available to him, in a manner of speaking - defies logic, beggars belief, stretches the imagination, doesn't it?

When he was dismissed, bowled off-stump again by Archer, Pant limped off to a thunderous applause. Stokes, himself the ultimate warrior, recognised and warmly congratulated his kindred spirit. More than 20,000 people rose as one, the Indian balcony could hardly hide

its emotions, and Mohammed Siraj reprised the Thakur act of 59 minutes earlier, with another warm pat of the helmet. Pant retreated to the sanctum sanctorum, changed into shorts and practice shirt and started fooling around. Just Pant things, you know.

Cricket history is replete with numerous instances of mind over matter, of going above and beyond the call of duty. Followers of Indian cricket will remember Anil Kumble, apparition-like, bowling at the ARC ground in St John's in 2002, his broken jaw wired and held in place by bandages, and snaring Brian Lara leg before. That was scary, surreal, goosebumpy; Kumble bowled because he could, and because he was waiting out the time to board his flight to Bengaluru where he would soon have surgery to fix the broken jaw. What to do with the time? Well, how about 14 overs in unbearable pain? How about the scalp of one of the greatest batters of all time?

For 23 years, Kumble has ploughed a lone heroic furrow. There were others before and after him - Rahul Dravid getting up after being floored by a bouncer to make an unbeaten 144 in the same series at the Bourda Oval. V.V.S. Laxman orchestrating two remarkable run-chases within a couple of months in 2010, at the P. Sara Oval in Colombo against Sri Lanka and at the PCA Stadium in Mohali against Australia when Pragyan Ojha managed what even ill-treating selectors hadn't - make him angry.

Sachin Tendulkar braving crippling pain in his back to nearly, nearly, take his team to the most famous of victories against Pakistan in Chennai in 1999. But they weren't in the same Kumble league for bravery and/or foolhardiness. Until now. In Pant, the 10 for 74 hero has an equally extraordinarily pig-headed champion. Kumble and Pant, chalk and cheese, an odd couple, tied together by the bond of stretching, nay, smashing, the pain barrier.

THE GIST

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