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PIONEER IN SHORT

DEOL FAMILY URGES AGAINST RUMORS

Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra, 89, is stable and recovering in a Mumbai hospital, his family has confirmed, urging the media to stop spreading false reports about his health. Earlier reports falsely claiming his death were dismissed by daughter Esha Deol on Instagram, emphasising that he is responding to treatment and requesting privacy. Actress-politician Hema Malini criticised the “irresponsible” media coverage, calling it disrespectful and asking for respect for the family’s need for privacy. Sunny Deol’s representative also confirmed that Dharmendra is recovering and under observation, appealing for prayers and caution against rumors. The updates follow earlier concerns as Dharmendra was admitted to Breach Candy Hospital and monitored continuously. Several prominent figures, including Rajnath Singh, Yogi Adityanath, and Javed Akhtar, initially paid tribute but later deleted their posts. Family members and friends, including Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Govinda, and Ameesha Patel, have visited the actor at the hospital.

Nuapada by-poll: 2 Presiding Officers suspended

■ Voter turnout 77.79% till 7 pm
■ Counting of votes on Nov 14

RAJEEV RATHAN / PNS
Bhubaneswar / Nuapada

The Nuapada Assembly by-election on Tuesday witnessed strict action from election authorities with two Presiding Officers being suspended for failing to uphold voting secrecy. Odisha Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) RS Gopalan confirmed both suspensions while firmly denying viral claims of large-scale irregularities, calling them “completely baseless”.

However, the CEO said polling was concluded smoothly. Voter turnout till 5 pm was 77.79%. One EVM set at Booth 246 was replaced without affecting the voting process.

The counting of votes and announcement of results will take place on November 14.

At Polling Station 36 in Kuliabandha, Presiding Officer Dhananjay Mallick was removed after CCTV footage showed an elderly voter entering the voting compartment with an attendant, who then allegedly pressed the EVM button even casting two votes. “The presiding officer should have intervened immediately. His failure to prevent the breach led to his suspension,” the CEO said. A reserve officer took charge soon after.

Later, Sandip Kumar Swain, TGT of OAV Timanpur and Presiding Officer of Booth No 46, was suspended by the Nuapada Collector for a simi-

lar lapse. He was attached to OAV Neigipali during the suspension period. His reinstatement will require the CEO’s approval.

Responding to circulating videos and social media posts, CEO Gopalan clarified that no evidence of rigging had been found at any other booth. At Booth No 341, where a woman alleged that someone voted in her name, she neither objected at the booth nor confirmed the identity of the alleged impersonator. At Booth No 250, a viral clip claimed that pressing one button on the EVM lit up another candidate’s symbol. “Mobile phones are not permitted inside booths. No formal complaint under Section 49M was received, and all party agents present confirmed the machine was functioning properly,” Gopalan said.

Polling at Booth No 76 in Mongrapali was briefly affected due to an EVM glitch but resumed smoothly after replacement.

Voter turnout increased steadily throughout the day touching 65.20% by 3 pm.

The by-poll features a high-profile triangular contest between BJP candidate Jay Dholakia, BJD nominee Snehangini Chhuria, and Congress candidate Ghasiram Majhi. A total of 358 polling stations were in operation, including 47 sensitive and 8 highly sensitive booths. Polling teams for the highly sensitive booths were airlifted by IAF helicopters.

Overall, 2,53,624 voters including 1,24,108 men, 1,29,495 women, 3,988 PwD electors, 1,786 senior citizens and 9,429 young voters were eligible to cast their votes.

Odisha on high alert after killer Delhi blast

Govt assures State is safe; vigil stepped up everywhere

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

A day after a high-intensity car blast near Delhi’s Red Fort killed at least eight people and injured several others, the Odisha Government on Tuesday assured that there is no immediate threat to the State. At the same time, the administration has moved into a heightened state of alert tightening security across all districts.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said that although Central agencies have not issued any specific warning for Odisha, the State is not taking chances. Security has been intensified at all major public locations, including the

Jagannath Temple in Puri, Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar, important markets, bus terminals and railway stations.

A high-level review meeting chaired by DGP YB Khurania on Monday night assessed the State’s preparedness. District administrations have been directed to strengthen checking at entry points, deploy additional patrolling teams and maintain close watch on sensitive pockets, tourist hotspots and religious sites. Security at the Biju Patnaik International Airport and key railway stations such as Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur and Bhadrak has also been enhanced.

“We are fully prepared to deal with any situation. All necessary security arrangements have been made for the safety of our people,” the Law

Minister said.

Meanwhile, the investigation in Delhi has intensified, with police probing the explosion under the UAPA and the Explosives Act, indicating a suspected terror angle. Forensic reports point to a high-intensity explosive device, and CCTV footage shows the white Hyundai i20 involved in the blast entering a parking zone hours before it exploded near Gate No 1 of the Red Fort.

The blast, which occurred around 6.52 pm on Monday, completely destroyed the car and damaged several nearby vehicles. Some victims remain in critical condition, and the casualty count may rise. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the vehicle has been identified while Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured strict action against those responsible.

The ByStander



INDIA, BHUTAN EXPAND TIES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed India’s commitment to strengthening ties with Bhutan during his two-day visit to Thimphu, focusing on connectivity, trade, and renewable energy. Modi attended a ceremony marking the 70th birth anniversary of former King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, praising his contributions to democracy, peace, and sustainable development. A major highlight was the inauguration of a 1,020-megawatt hydroelectric plant, boosting Bhutan’s hydropower capacity by 40 per cent, alongside plans to resume another hydro project and expand solar energy collaboration. PM Modi emphasised new rail links between India and Bhutan to enhance trade and economic ties.

TRUMP SIGNALS INDIA DEAL

President Donald Trump said the US is “pretty close” to securing a “fair trade deal” with India and indicated that tariffs on Indian goods would be reduced “at some point.” Speaking during a ceremony where Sergio Gor was sworn in as US Ambassador to India, Trump emphasised that the new deal would differ from past agreements and benefit both countries. While he cited high tariffs previously imposed on India due to Russian oil imports, Trump promised they would be lowered as relations normalise. The remarks come amid ongoing negotiations, with five rounds of talks completed for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement. Indian officials have indicated that both sides are close to finalising the deal.

Assembly Winter Session: Nov 27 to Dec 31

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

The Odisha Legislative Assembly’s Winter Session will begin on November 27 and continue till December 31, spanning 29 working days, according to an official schedule released on Monday evening.

On November 28, the State Government will present the First Supplementary Budget for 2025-26 with discussions on expenditure demands to follow. The Appropriation Bill is expected to be passed on December 8. Private Members’ Business is scheduled for December 3, 12, 19, 24 and 26.

The Assembly is mandated to sit for 60 days annually. With the previous two sessions accounting for 31 sitting

days, the Winter Session will cover the remaining days to meet this requirement.

Looking back at the Monsoon Session, the House met for 17 working days. Opposition parties staged strikes and walkouts over farmers’ distress, rising fuel prices and alleged public project irregularities. Debates intensified over women’s safety, focusing on the FM college Soumyashree burn case and Gopalpur college girl gang rape incident alongside other law and order concerns.

The Winter Session’s final duration may vary depending on proceedings after the Supplementary Budget, a development closely watched by political observers.

Centre hands over Police SI recruitment scam to CBI

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

The Union Government on Tuesday handed over the sensational Police SI recruitment examination scam to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). A gazette notification formally empowered the CBI to take over the case across the State, marking a decisive move after weeks of public outrage and political firestorms.

The case came to national attention on September 30 when the Brahmapur Police intercepted three luxury AC sleeper buses near the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border. What at first

appeared to be a routine travel turned into a stunning revelation as 114 CPSE-2024 aspirants were being quietly transported to Vizianagaram under the guise of “special coaching”. Alongside them were three alleged middlemen who, during interrogation, reportedly spilled details of an organised network promising “guaranteed jobs” in exchange for staggering payments up to Rs 25 lakh per candidate.

Police soon uncovered WhatsApp groups, handwritten ledgers detailing payment splits, route charts and mobile evidence pointing to a meticulously-crafted operation stretching across districts and across State

borders.

As the buses were seized and the detained candidates questioned, investigators realised they were staring at the contours of a sophisticated multi-state racket. What followed was a chain reaction: raids in Ganjam; Khordha, Nayagarh, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar agents detained; coaching operators grilled; and documents seized that hinted at possible insider involvement in compromising the integrity of the CPSE-2024 exam.

The scale of the alleged malpractice from coordinated movement of candidates to possible exam material manipulation forced the

Odisha Police Recruitment Board to postpone the CPSE exam scheduled for October 5 and 6, triggering widespread anxiety among thousands of genuine aspirants.

The Crime Branch registered FIR No 02/2025 invoking multiple stringent sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Odisha Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act. But as the investigation grew murkier and politically hotter, demands grew louder for a neutral, Central probe.

Responding to the clamour, the Centre decided to bring in the CBI citing the inter-State links, organised nature of the racket and the

necessity of restoring public faith. The CBI will now collect all case files, seized digital evidence, interrogation statements and forensic reports from State agencies. Senior officials indicated that more arrests are likely as the agency begins mapping the money trail and probing possible collusion of insiders.

The new development marks the beginning of what could become one of Odisha’s most far-reaching recruitment investigations, a scandal that has already rattled the system and is now set to unfold under the nation’s premier investigative agency.

Mahanadi Boita Race celebrates maritime legacy



Deputy CM flags off two-day festival

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Cuttack

The tranquil waters of the Mahanadi came alive with cheers and rhythmic drumbeats as Deputy Chief Minister Pravat Parida flagged off

the ‘Mahanadi Boita Race 2025’ on Tuesday ushering in a two-day celebration of Odisha’s rich maritime heritage and the historic spirit of Bali Yatra.

Organised by the Odisha Tourism Department in collaboration with the Cuttack District Administration, the event blends sport, culture

and heritage along the river stretch from Garadia Ghat to the Silver City Boat Club.

The race is inspired by the ancient Sadhabas (maritime traders) who once sailed from the Mahanadi to distant lands such as Bali, Java, Sumatra and Sri Lanka carrying commerce, culture and friendship.

After the flag-off, spectators

were treated to a Fly Boat Show featuring spectacular formations and high-speed manoeuvres. The Boat Race Tournament followed with competitions over 1,000m, 500m and 200m, testing the endurance and coordination of participating teams. Fifteen teams, 10 men’s and 5 women’s from Bihar, Delhi, Haryana,

Jharkhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha competed.

Pravat Parida said, “The Mahanadi Boita Race is more than a competition; it honours the courage and enterprise of our ancestors. It connects our glorious past with the aspirations of a vibrant, youthful Odisha today.”

BJD protests woman being denied to vote

Lodges plaint with CEO

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Tuesday lodged a strong protest with the State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) after a woman voter from Singari village in Nuapada was allegedly denied her Constitutional right to vote despite walking nearly five kilometers to reach her polling booth.

According to the BJD’s memorandum, Jayanti Chhatra was turned away at Booth No 351 in Komna block after polling officials claimed her vote had already been cast. Speaking to a news channel, Jayanti showed her fingers on camera to assert that no indelible ink had been applied making it evident she had not voted earlier. She ex-

pressed deep anguish that she was prevented from participating in what she called the “festival of democracy”.

Terming the incident “deeply disturbing”, the BJD said this was not an isolated lapse but pointed to serious administrative failure and potential malpractice. “Denying a genuine voter her ballot is unacceptable and strikes at the core of democratic integrity,” the party stated.

The BJD demanded an immediate inquiry, strict accountability for polling staffs responsible and urgent corrective measures to ensure no voter in Nuapada or anywhere in Odisha is turned away unjustly.

The delegation comprised MP Sulata Deo, Dr Lenin Mohanty, Mihir Ray, Tumbanath Panda, Ritanjali Pradhan, Illa Swain and Jyotsnamayee Parida.

‘No legal hurdle to BeMC expansion’

Says City Periphery Action Committee

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Brahmapur

The City Periphery Action Committee has reaffirmed that there is no legal or administrative obstacle to inclusion of 14 neighbouring panchayats in the proposed expansion of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC). BeMC officials said the corporation has already completed the prescribed C-Format documentation, including maps, field verification reports and annexure and submitted them to the District Urban Development Agency (DUDA). After scrutiny, the file would be sent to the Ganjam Collector and then forwarded to the Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Department for final approval. The entire process must be completed by December

31, after which boundary revisions would be frozen due to Census preparations.

With the deadline approaching, a delegation of the City Periphery Action Committee, led by its president Sanjeba Kumar Pattanayak, met H&UD Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra in Bhubaneswar urging expedited approval. Following this, instructions were reportedly issued to the Collector, DUDA and the BeMC Commissioner to complete the process without delay.

The BeMC Commissioner confirmed that the merger proposal is in its final stages, and the corporation has handed over the complete C-Format package to DUDA.

Earlier, the district administration held meetings with panchayats named in the 2008 Gazette Notification requesting them to pass resolutions supporting their merger.

Panchayats under Kukudakhandi block are Lochapada, Nimakhandi, Jagadalpur, Ankushpur, Lathi, Dakshinapur and Anantei and under Rangeilunda block are Bhabinipur, Haldia Padar, Dura, Ganja and Phulta submitted resolutions. Satakutuni and Bada Gumula and Palli Gumula under Bada Kushasthali panchayat have also given their consent.

While some earlier-listed panchayats, including Rangeilunda, Narendrapur and Golabandha, did not pass resolutions, the committee clarified that this does not affect the legal validity of including panchayats that have submitted their approvals.

Pattanayak dismissed apprehensions of administrative complications as "unfounded", expressing confidence that the new government would move decisively to implement the long-pending expansion.

In Keonjhar

56 trucks seized during raid on sand mafia

Transporters-contractors nexus being probed

PNS ■ Keonjhar

In a major crackdown on illegal sand transportation, as many as 56 Hyva trucks were seized during raids by the Mines Department and police in Anandapur sub-division of Keonjhar district on Monday night.

The action was carried out at two separate locations following a series of complaints about rampant sand smuggling along the Baitarani river.

Reports said that over 35 Hyva trucks and one excavator were seized from the Tampa ghat area under the Ramachandrapur police station, where large-scale illegal sand lifting was underway.

Another 21 Hyva trucks



were intercepted and seized near Rampa Chhak under the Nandipada police station, where sand-laden vehicles were being moved without permits. The raids were conducted

after receiving multiple reports of illegal sand extraction being carried out in collusion with local transporters and middlemen.

During the operation at the

Baitarani river's Tampa Ghat, truck drivers attempted to flee, offloading sand midway to avoid seizure. However, authorities managed to detain the loaded vehicles and later

escorted them to the Saikula police station, where they are currently impounded for verification and further legal action.

Preliminary reports suggested the illegal operations were carried out with the connivance of local operators, causing significant loss to the state exchequer.

Officials said further investigation is underway to identify the transporters, contractors and others involved in the unlicensed extraction and transport of river sand.

Following the seizures, additional police deployment has been made at the Baitarani riverbank and nearby routes to prevent further movement of illegal sand trucks. Check-posts have been put up along key connecting roads, and night patrolling has been intensified.

Woman killed by elephant in Rourkela

PNS ■ Rourkela

Panic prevailed on Tuesday morning in Rourkela after an elderly woman was killed in an elephant attack at C-Block Of Koel Nagar in the city.

The victim, identified as Purnima Dastia (78), had stepped out of her home to pluck flowers when she came face to face with the elephant. The animal lifted her with its trunk, tossed her and flung her to the ground causing her death on the spot.

Reports said that a herd of elephants had strayed into Barakani village in Bondamunda but were driven away by locals. One elephant

got separated. Locals spotted the lone jumbo near Kendriya Vidyalaya and immediately alerted the Forest Department.

The elephant moved through Diesel Colony, crossed the rail yard at Bangomunda and eventually entered Koel Nagar C-block. Forest personnel attempted to guide it away from human settlements, but the animal continued deeper into the city.

As the elephant entered the residential area, Dastia stepped outside her house and was confronted by the animal.

The Jhirpani police reached the spot soon after and sent the body for postmortem.

B'pur Mission HS alumni body holds fest



Fond memories recollected

PNS ■ Brahmapur

The annual celebration of the Queen of the Missions High School (QMHS) Alumni-77 was held on Sunday at the school premises under the co-ordination of association convener, M Akshay.

Akshay said that the purpose of organizing this annual event is to contribute to the academic growth and overall development of their beloved

alma mater.

Introducing distinguished guests and prominent alumni from the 1971 and 1972 batches such as Sunil Mishra (former Chief Information Commissioner), Dr Siddhartha Das (former Principal, SCB Medical College, Cuttack) and Prof BR Murthy (former Principal, Ganjam Degree College), Akshay encouraged the students to draw inspiration from their illustrious seniors.

The session was moderated by Himanshu Jena, who invited the guests to deliver their ad-

dresses.

The dignitaries Sunil Mishra, Dr Sidhartha Das, and Prof B Rajendra Murthy expressed their admiration for the transformation of their alma mater and lauded the efforts of Alumni-77 members, especially the leadership of former DGP Akshay, for their continuous support. They fondly recalled their school days.

Chief guest Birendra Karakara, IAS, in his address, said that this was the second school alumni function he attended since assuming charge as

Director of Secondary Education and was deeply impressed by the vibrant atmosphere of the event.

Brahmapur SP Vivek Saravana M, attending as a guest of honour, said he felt like a member of the alumni.

District Education Officer Ajay Patra, also a guest of honour, advised the teachers to continue working to further improve the school's academic results.

Various competitions were organised and successful ones were awarded.

Youth Conclave at FMU

'Be committed to truth, service for better India'



PNS ■ Baleswar

The Fakir Mohan University hosted an inspiring "Youth Conclave" organised by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Baleswar unit, aimed at promoting national spirit, social service, and cultural values among students.

Dr Krushnachandra Pradhan, Associate Professor, Department of Language and Literature, addressed the gathering as chief guest and said that youth are the true strength of the nation, and their dedication to truth, service, and discipline can shape a better India.

Durga Prasad Sahu, Kshetra Karyabah, RSS, in his

keynote speech, urged students to uphold patriotism and moral values, while Bishnu Charan Nayak, Department Pracharak, and Bijay Kumar Das, Zilla Karyabah, encouraged youth to stay committed to culture and social responsibility.

An exhibition on freedom fighters and nationalist literature was also held, evoking enthusiasm and patriotic fervor among students. Cultural performances by university students added vibrancy to the event. The programme was conducted by Jayaprakash Panda, a student of Department of Geology, and concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Debasish Mishra, Asst Professor (Sanskrit).

Police's Cyber Rath rolls out in Sonepur

Walkathon held

PNS ■ Sonepur

In a major step to promote public awareness on cyber security, the Odisha Police has deployed 16 Cyber Rath (awareness vans) across urban and rural areas of the State. These specially designed vans, equipped with LED panels, display informative videos on cyber safety drawing keen interest, especially from students, and significantly increasing awareness and en-

thusiasm among the public.

According to Odisha Police sources, more than 2.5 lakh citizens have so far participated in various awareness activities, including rallies, seminars, workshops, and public meetings held across districts, contributing to the creation of a safer cyber environment in the State.

The Cyber Rath campaign was launched October 18, by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, where 16

awareness vans were flagged off to mark the beginning of the initiative.

All 34 Police Districts of Odisha are actively participating in the campaign, organising diverse awareness programmes in both urban and rural areas. Over 50 inaugural events have already been conducted, along with workshops in schools, colleges, and public spaces. Pamphlets containing key information on cyber safety are being distributed at promi-

nent locations, while LED screens on the vans continuously play educational videos on cyber security.

In Subarnapur district, a walkathon was organised to promote cyber awareness and a large-scale cyber security event featured street plays by local artistes that effectively conveyed cyber safety messages and drew enthusiastic public participation.

The initiatives have received an overwhelming public response and appreciation.

Fake Facebook account in Aul cop's name

Plaint lodged

RAJESH BEHERA ■ Kendrapada

While the police have been organising cyber safety awareness campaign, they themselves seem not to be safe.

In a recent case, a fraudster has opened a fake Facebook profile of Dheeraj Lenka, IIC of Aul police station and sent a friend request to reporter Pramod Mallick, and later asked Mallick to send his mobile number recently.

The fraudster later asked Mallick by writing in the messenger "one of my friends Sandeep Kumar from CRPF Camp will call you. He is selling his household furniture and electronics items. All furniture items and electronics items are in good condition;

price very cheap. you can take if you like. Don't miss. Ok"

Later, a telephone call came from mobile No. 7850931437 to Pramod. The caller identified him as Sandeep Kumar and stated to the reporter that IIC Lenka asked him to contact him. When the reporter told the caller to make conference with Lenka, the call got disconnected. Mallick later informed the matter to IIC Lenka.

The IIC informed that somebody has opened a fake Facebook profile in his name and has been making several tactics to dupe people known to him of money. He urged everyone not to respond to him. Later, Mallick lodged a formal complaint in this regard.

Near Ganjam

2 Andhra trawlers seized for illegal fishing



PNS ■ Chhatrapur

The officials from the Marine Fisheries Department seized two fishing boats from Andhra Pradesh that were found operating illegally in Odisha waters near Aryapalli coast. Local fishermen had repeatedly complained that large trawlers from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh often enter the area with huge nets, depleting local fish stocks.

Acting on the information, the department detained two trawlers from Kakinada and Visakhapatnam while they were engaged in fishing near Aryapalli and brought them to the jetty. The crews were warned

of action for crossing the State maritime boundary and fishing without permission.

Following official caution, both boats were released, but authorities issued strict instructions to prevent recurrence of such violations. The department also clarified that if such illegal fishing continues, the boats would be permanently confiscated.

The officials reminded that the stretch from Aryapalli to Prayagi remains a "No Fishing Zone" until May 31. According to the local fishermen, large Andhra trawlers often use massive fishing nets, reducing fish availability for small local boats that rely on traditional fishing methods.

In Jeypore

NCC Cadets observe 150 yrs of Vande Mataram

PNS ■ Jeypore

The 15 (O) Battalion NCC, Jeypore, organised a grand event to commemorate 150 years of India's national song Vande Mataram, celebrating its timeless role in inspiring unity, courage, and devotion to the nation.

The programme reflected the spirit of India's freedom struggle and its ongoing journey toward progress. Cadets paid rich tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, and Shaheed Bhagat Singh, whose ideals continue to guide the nation toward peace, self-reliance, and development.



Adding colour and emotion to the celebration, NCC cadets dressed as legendary freedom fighters, recreating historic moments from India's struggle for independence. Their performances evoked patriotic fervour among the audience.

The cadets also performed a nukkad natak (street play) on the theme "Viksit Bharat", depicting India's transformation through youth power, discipline, and innovation. The play carried a powerful message on nation-building and civic responsibility, earning

loud applause from spectators.

The event featured patriotic songs, a mass recitation of Vande Mataram, and motivational speeches recalling the song's influence in uniting the nation during the freedom movement.

The entire event was coordinated by NCC ANO Lakshman Patra.

Ex-CTO MD Shariff played a key role in training the cadets for the nukkad natak and freedom fighter performances.

Commanding Officer of the 15 (O) Battalion NCC, Jeypore, Colonel Pritiranjana Dash addressed on the occasion. The event concluded with a patriotic pledge.

‘Spot Stroke, Save Lives’ awareness drive at BU

Held by IFI Foundation

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Brahmapur

With brain stroke emerging as a major global public health threat, the IFI Foundation, an active member of the World Stroke Organisation (WSO), on Monday organised a youth awareness programme titled 'Spot Stroke, Save Lives' at the Berhampur University (BU) in collaboration with the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication.

BU Vice-Chancellor Prof Geetanjali Dash praised the initiative, stressing the crucial role of youth in public health outreach. "The rising inci-



dence of brain stroke demands urgent attention. Young people can play a transformative role by spreading awareness and promoting healthy habits," she said.

IFI Stroke Initiative Chair Nilambar Rath highlighted the foundation's ongoing Stroke-Mukt Jeevan campaign. "This year, we are preparing students to be 'Stroke Spotters' so that today's youth can become tomorrow's

'Stroke Yodhas,'" he said.

The event opened with a welcome address by JMC Department HoD Dr Bandita Kumari Panda followed by the screening of an audiovisual capsule on stroke prevention and management. Campaign newsletters and posters were also unveiled.

Public health expert Dr Saroj Kumar Misra discussed medical aspects of stroke while PG Council Chairman Prof

Sukanta Kumar Tripathy spoke on the global rise in stroke cases and the importance of prevention.

Students and staffs participated actively, showcasing digital posters created on WSO themes. A Stroke Awareness Pledge was also administered.

IFI Foundation Co-Chair Pranati Parida encouraged students to champion stroke awareness. Amit Kumar Mohanty delivered a vote of thanks, and Sushreesmita Behera anchored the programme.

The event was part of the IFI Foundation's annual Stroke-Mukt Jeevan outreach held around World Stroke Day.

Delhi blast leaves families in shock, mourning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA/
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Lucknow/New Delhi

The powerful explosion near Delhi's Red Fort not only shattered the city's calm but also sent shockwaves through homes hundreds of kilometres away, where families are still grappling with the sudden loss of their loved ones. From the quiet lanes of Shravasti and Deoria to the bustling streets of Meerut, Amroha and Shamli, the victims of the devastating car blast were ordinary people — taxi and e-rickshaw drivers, cosmetic shop owners, DTC bus conductors — all striving to support their families and build better lives. Among the victims was 32-year-old Dinesh Mishra from Ganeshpur village in Shravasti district, who had been working at a printing

press in Delhi's Chawri Bazar to support his wife and three children. His father, Bhure Mishra, said Dinesh had returned home for Diwali. "He was a hardworking man. He wanted to give his children a good education. We still can't believe he is gone," Bhure said, his voice breaking as neighbours gathered to console the family. District Magistrate Ashwini Pandey said Dinesh's body was being brought back to Shravasti and was expected to arrive by Tuesday evening. "We have spoken to the family and assured them of all possible assistance," he said. In Meerut, another family was torn apart not only by grief but also by a painful dispute over where to lay their son to rest. Mohsin, 32, who had moved to Delhi two years ago to earn a living by



(Left to right) relatives of Nouman and others, who died in the blast, outside a mortuary at Maulana Azad Medical College in New Delhi



PANKAJ KUMAR/PTI

driving an e-rickshaw, died in the blast near the Red Fort while ferrying passengers. When his body reached his hometown in Lohia Nagar, an emotional disagreement broke out between his wife, Sultana, and his parents. While Sultana wanted him

family is divided," said a neighbour. After several tense hours and police intervention, Sultana finally took the body for burial. Eighteen-year-old Nauman Ansari from Shamli had gone to Delhi to buy cosmetics for his shop when the explosion cut short

his life. "Nauman was killed on the spot while his cousin Aman sustained injuries and is undergoing treatment at Lok Nayak Hospital in Delhi," his uncle Furkan said. Sonu, a relative working near New Delhi Railway Station, said, "Early this

morning, I got a call from my uncle saying Nauman was no more and asked me to reach LNJP Hospital." Among the other victims was DTC conductor Ashok Kumar, 34, from Amroha district, who had been supporting his elderly parents and two young children through his job in Delhi. In Deoria, 22-year-old Shiva Jaiswal, who ran a small ready-made garment shop in Bhalauni town, was among those injured in the blast. He had gone to Delhi to buy new stock for the festive season when he was caught in the explosion near the Red Fort. His sister, Purnima Jaiswal, told PTI that Shiva had called earlier that day to say he had finished shopping and would visit their aunt before returning home. "Then we heard about the blast on TV and his phone went unreachable.

Later, we found out he was admitted to LNJP Hospital," she said. Shiva's mother, Maya Jaiswal, a local BJP Mahila Morcha worker, said she was relieved that her son was alive but shaken by how close the tragedy had come. "He was lucky this time," she said softly. Another deceased, 22-year-old Pankaj Sahni, operated a taxi in the capital to support his family, originally from Bihar. His relative Ramdev Sahni said a phone call was received from Kotwali police station in Delhi regarding his nephew's death. "He drove a taxi for three years. We were told the back-side of his head was blown off. The car, a Wagnor, was completely damaged," Sahni said while waiting outside the mortuary.

Police register FIR under UAPA, BNS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Delhi Police's First Information Report (FIR) called the explosion near Red Fort "a bomb blast" as it invoked sections pertaining to conspiracy and punishment for a terror attack under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the incident that claimed 12 lives.

Raids are being conducted at multiple locations by the Delhi Police. The national Capital has been placed on high alert with strict vigil being maintained at the airport, railway stations and bus terminals.

According to a senior police officer, an FIR has been registered at the Kotwali police station under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Explosives Act and sections of the BNS. It has been filed under



Security personnel keep vigil near the Red Fort a day after an explosion in the area in New Delhi on Tuesday

PANKAJ KUMAR

Sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, including Section 16 (punishment for terrorist acts) and Section 18 (punishment for conspiracy). Additionally, charges under the Explosive Substances Act, specifically Section 3 for causing an explosion

likely to endanger life and Section 4 for the attempt to cause an explosion, have been added. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has been applied, including Sections 103(1) for murder, 109(1) for attempt to murder and 161(2) for the abetment of assault

on a superior officer.

A high-intensity explosion ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening, killing at least 12 people and gutting several vehicles, officials said.

Sources said the Delhi Police, in its First Information Report (FIR) lodged in connection with the blast near Red Fort, stated, "This is a bomb blast". The FIR also mentions that the wall of a Delhi Police chowki was damaged in the explosion.

The complainant in the FIR is the chowki in charge of the Red Fort, Vinod Nain. According to the FIR, "There was a loud explosion. The wall of the chowki collapsed due to the explosion. The police staff rushed to the site and witnessed cars that were burning, while the injured were lying on the road. All the injured were taken to a hospital."

NEHA MISHRA ■ New Delhi

Two decades after surviving the Sarojini Nagar market blast, Ashok Randhawa once again found himself surrounded by scenes of chaos and desperation — this time helping families gathered outside the LNJP Hospital mortuary to identify their kin killed in the explosion near the Red Fort.

He was the Sarojini Nagar market association president in 2005 when explosions ripped through two busy markets and a bus in the Govindpur area on October 29 that year, killing 62 people and injuring more than 200.

Since then, he has made it his mission to help victims and their families whenever such tragedies occur.

On Tuesday, he was outside the LNJP Hospital, providing food, water, ambulance, and emotional support to family members huddled



Crowd of people and lack of security arrangements in Sarojini Nagar market in New Delhi on Tuesday

PANKAJ KUMAR

at the gates, either heartbroken after identifying bodies of their kin killed in last evening's blast or holding on to hope while waiting anxiously for word about their loved ones.

"I know what they are going through. I have lived through that pain, and I am aware how a blast disrupts

lives and leaves families shattered," said Randhawa (68), who now runs an NGO that supports blast victims and their families.

Randhawa said that he rushed to the hospital early on Tuesday morning to extend help. "I am standing here for the people. If anyone needs help with any-

Silence replaces chaos in lanes around Red Fort

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The centuries-old lanes around the Red Fort, usually echoing with the calls of vendors and the bustle of shoppers, fell into an unsettling silence on Tuesday morning, a day after a deadly blast ripped through the area, leaving behind a trail of destruction and human remains still scattered on the streets. The area, which typically teems with traffic and tourists, has now turned into a cordoned-off zone of mangled metal and shattered calm. Locals said they continued to spot human remains long after the explosion.

"When I was walking through the street, a piece of flesh got stuck to my slipper. I froze for a moment. It was horrifying. I have never witnessed anything like this before," said local shopkeeper Umesh Rai, who also resides in Chandni Chowk.

Rai recalled that he was at his shop when the blast occurred. "It felt like an earthquake. The whole building shook. Within minutes, people began running in panic. I locked my shop and left," he said.

Residents said that some



Media personnel near the cordoned-off area outside the Red Fort, a day after an explosion in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

body parts were flung into a Jain temple adjacent to the site, and they fear that there might be some parts on the terrace of their home or shop. "There might still be some remains on the rooftops as the intensity was huge," said a local shopkeeper.

Large birds, including eagles, were seen circling over the area cordoned off throughout the morning as police and forensic teams continued their inspection.

Another resident, Sohail, said he found a finger near his shop early Tuesday. "I immediately informed a police offi-

cial, who came and collected it. It is painful to even imagine what happened here," he said. A walk through the area revealed shuttered shops and empty streets around Red Fort, a sharp contrast to the usual rush in the Chandni Chowk market.

"This is wedding season. Usually, you cannot find space to walk here," said a shopkeeper who runs a bangle store nearby, adding, "I have been here for seven years and have never seen the market this silent. Since morning, I haven't sold a single item."

False alarms surge after blast panic

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Hours after the bomb blast near Red Fort killing 12 people, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) received five calls about "unclaimed" vehicles and bags, all of which later turned out to be false alarms, an official said on Tuesday.

According to DFS officials, the calls started pouring in soon after news of the explosion spread, reflecting heightened public anxiety across the city.

"The first call was received at 9.15 pm from Bijwasan, reporting an unclaimed bag. We rushed a fire vehicle immediately dispatched to the spot, but nothing suspicious was found," the DFS official said.

He further said that minutes later, at 9.27 pm, another call came from Vasant Vihar about an unclaimed car.

Similarly, one fire tender was sent to the location and returned

around 10.15 pm after verification.

Another was received at 9.34 pm, in which an alert was made from Sector 13 in Dwarka, followed by a 9.35 pm alert from near Kashmere Gate, both concerning unattended cars.

"The final call of the night came from Signature Bridge, Khajuri Khas, at 10.01 pm, also regarding an unclaimed vehicle. All the reported objects turned out to be harmless."

"However, each call was attended to with full seriousness in coordination with local police," the official said. Officials emphasised that the spate of alerts reflected the sense of fear and unease among residents following the Red Fort blast.

People were understandably anxious after the explosion.

Teams responded swiftly to ensure there was no cause for alarm elsewhere, the official added.

Probe hints at links to Faridabad module

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Faridabad

A day after 2,900 kg of explosives and inflammable material were recovered from two rented rooms of a doctor hailing from Kashmir in Faridabad, an extensive combing and search operation was being conducted in parts of the district on Tuesday.

Preliminary probe into the blast near Delhi's Red Fort on Monday evening that left 12 dead and many injured has also suggested links to the alleged terror module uncovered in Faridabad.

Police on Tuesday said a team is camping at the Al Falah University, where the Kashmiri doctor lived for the past three-and-a-half years, and are questioning staff and doctors at the varsity here, a senior police office said.

Several police personnel are conducting search in the Dhauj police station area, he said.

Investigation so far revealed that a cleric here who was detained by police revealed that he had rented out his room to an autorickshaw driver who then gave it to Dr Muzammil for keeping "luggage" in the room.

Eight people, including the man and two fellow doctors were arrested for allegedly being part of a white collar terror module involving the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind and spanning Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, officials said.

Two other doctors, Adeel and Shaheen, have also been arrested in connection with the case. A huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from two rooms rented by Muzammil Ganaie alias Musaib (35) in Faridabad. A native of Koil in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama, he was a doctor working at Al Falah University at Dhauj, around 45 km from Delhi.

The blast in Delhi occurred hours after the recovery of 2,563 kg of explosives and inflammables from Dahar Colony in Fatehpur Taga village here on Monday.

Earlier, around 360 kg of suspected ammonium nitrate and a cache of arms and ammunition were recovered. The recoveries were made from the Kashmiri doctor's rented accommodation in Faridabad, bordering Delhi.

A high-intensity explosion ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal

near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening, killing at least nine people and gutting several vehicles, officials said.

On Monday, Faridabad Police said in a statement that approximately 2,900 kg of inflammables and explosive material was recovered in a joint operation by Faridabad Police and Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Muzammil was arrested after the Jammu and Kashmir Police named him as a wanted person in a case involving putting up posters supporting the Jaish-e-Mohammed in Srinagar.

During the investigation, Muzammil's activities were found to be suspicious, following which a team from the Nowgam police station in Kashmir arrested Muzammil with the assistance of the Faridabad Crime Branch.

Police said that on Sunday, 358 kg of explosive material suspected to be ammonium nitrate, a Krinkov assault rifle with three magazines, a pistol with 2 cartridges, 91 live rounds and two magazines were recovered from the room of a house in Dhauj, located just 500 metres from the Al Falah University.

Police trace blast car's ownership trail

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Gurugram

A man from Gurugram was taken by police for questioning since the first owner of the car that was used in the blast near the Red Fort was their tenant between 2016 and 2020, the landlord's family claimed on Tuesday. The death toll in the explosion near Red Fort rose to 12, with three more people succumbing to injuries.

A joint team of Delhi and Gurugram police on Monday evening detained the Haryana-registered car's first owner, Mohd. Salman, from Gurugram.

Salman had sold his car to a person named Devendra in Delhi's Okhla one and a half years ago, an officer had said.

Later, the vehicle was sold to another person in Ambala, and it was resold to a man named Tariq in Pulwama.

The officer had informed that the police are tracing the people. Meanwhile, the family of Dinesh, who was Salman's landlord from 2016 to 2020, spoke to mediapersons at their Gurugram residence.

Dinesh's mother, Veervati, said her son has been taken by police for questioning. She said Salman lived in their Shanti Nagar house for four years till 2020, after which he shifted to his flat in Gurugram.

"Last evening, some personnel came and took my son. We built our house in 2015, and Salman came in as a tenant in 2016. He lived on

SALMAN SOLD HIS CAR TO DEVENDRA IN OKHLA 1.5 YEARS AGO AND LATER IT WAS SOLD IN AMBALA AND EVENTUALLY ENDED UP WITH TARIQ IN PULWAMA

the upper floor and left in 2020 when he shifted to his own flat in Gurugram," she added.

She said now new tenants live in that house now. Dinesh's brother, Mahesh said they had no contact with Salman after he left in 2020.

"Some personnel came to our house yesterday and took my brother. We were told that he is being taken for

questioning," he said.

Salman lived on rent along with his wife, two children and mother, Mahesh said.

A man who lives in their neighbourhood said Salman was employed in a private company.

A powerful explosion ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening. Till last night, nine people were confirmed dead while 20 others were injured, officials said.

On Tuesday, the death toll rose to 12 as three more people succumbed to injuries. Delhi Police on Tuesday registered an FIR under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Explosives Act in connection

CM announces ₹10 lakh for families of victims

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday announced an ex gratia of ₹10 lakh for the families of each of those killed in the blast near the Red Fort on Monday that claimed 12 lives.

The chief minister said in a statement that a compensation of ₹5 lakh will be provided to those rendered permanently disabled, ₹2 lakh to those who sustained serious injuries and ₹20,000 to those who sustained minor injuries in the blast.

The high-intensity blast took place in a car at a traffic signal near Gate number 1 of the Red Fort Metro station on Monday evening, killing at least 12 and injuring 20



others, officials said.

"An ex gratia amount of ₹10 lakh will be given to the families of those who lost their lives, ₹5 lakh to those who have been permanently disabled, and ₹2 lakh to those who are seriously injured. The Government will also ensure proper and quality medical treatment for all the injured," Gupta

said in a post on X.

The concerned departments have been instructed to prioritise the relief distribution process, and make sure that every eligible person receives compensation without any delay.

"The unfortunate incident in Delhi has left the entire city in shock. In this difficult time, the Delhi Government

extends its deepest condolences to all the families who lost their loved ones and to those injured in the incident," Gupta said in the post.

The incident in the Red Fort area is not only a deep shock to the affected families but also to the entire city, she said. Emphasising that all Delhi residents stand united in this time of grief, the chief minister said the Government will ensure that no affected family feels alone.

The untimely loss of any life is an irreparable tragedy for any family, and it can not be truly compensated, Gupta said, adding that Delhi Government stands firmly with every affected family in this difficult time.

The Congress on Tuesday appointed Ganesh Godiyal as the president of its Uttarakhand unit with immediate effect, replacing Karan Mahara. Mahara was appointed as a special invitee to the Congress Working Committee. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge also appointed chairpersons for the campaign committee and the election management committee of the party's Uttarakhand unit.



Dr. R. S. Varma

Congress general secretary Sachin Pilot on Tuesday said that the BJP Government in Rajasthan has lost public trust in two years of its rule. He said that there are multiple power centres in the party and the Government, and it was not clear who was running the Government. "There is an internal conflict between the Government and the party. It is not clear who is running the Government," he said.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
Patna



Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi

Jan Suraaj leader Prashant Kishor

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 New Delhi

A photograph of Manohar Parrikar, an Indian politician, speaking at a blue podium. He is wearing a white shirt and a blue and white checkered scarf. Behind him is a large banner with the text "MANOHAR PARRIKAR" in a semi-circle and the IAS logo below it.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the Delhi Defence Dialogue 2025 in New Delhi

"The power of technology is not limited to devices or algorithms; it lies in its all-encompassing nature — the way it redefines every process, system, and decision that contributes to national security."

■ States Focus ■



BRING PERPETRATORS TO JUSTICE: SHIVAKUMAR URGES CENTRE

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday urged the Central Government to ensure that the perpetrators behind the blast, near the Red Fort in Delhi that left 12 people dead, are brought to justice.

He also asserted that the country needs to be “careful” about terror activities. Not willing to indulge in any political blame game in connection with the blast, for now, he said, this is not the time for it and pitched for measures across the country to ensure peace and that the lives of people are protected. Speaking to reporters, he said the Congress party condemns the incident and urged the Central Government to investigate and arrest those behind it.



MP CM PAYS TRIBUTES TO DELHI BLAST VICTIMS

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday directed officials to maintain strict vigil in the State in the wake of the blast in Delhi that killed at least 12 persons.

Yadav visited the “situation room” at Mantralaya (State Secretariat) and reviewed the law and order situation virtually by interacting with the district collectors.

Later, Yadav paid tributes to the persons killed in the Delhi blast by observing a two-minute silence at the Panch Sarpanch Mahasammelan. “We have faith in our PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, and culprits (of Delhi blast) won’t be spared”, the CM said.

Mamata flags off 110 ‘mobile medical units’ to cater patients in remote corners

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday flagged off 110 ‘mobile medical units’, which would cater to patients in remote rural areas of the State.

Banerjee, who is also the State’s health minister, launched the units at a programme organised by the health department at the ‘Swasthya Bhawan’, after returning from a north Bengal visit. Describing it as a milestone in the State’s efforts to expand medical access, she said the move reflects her government’s commitment to ensuring that *Maa, Mati, Manush* receive quality healthcare regardless of geographical or socio-economic barriers.

“A total of 210 mobile medical units have been readied. Today, I’m flagging off 110. These units have facilities for blood test, chest X-ray apart from 35 other clinical examinations free of cost. There are over 29 equipment inside these units. This is like *duare swasthya* (healthcare services at doorstep)”, the CM said.

Each MMU functions as a self-sufficient health clinic on the wheels, staffed with doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and technicians, she said.

“These vehicles are designed to reach the most remote corners of the state, including hilly terrains, tribal areas, and backward regions, offering maternal and child care, general consultations, and a wide range of diagnostic tests,” Banerjee said.

Several MMUs deployed in regions like the Sundarbans will also have ultrasonography machines to provide prenatal care and other diagnostic services, she said.

The West Bengal Government has spent ₹84 crore on procuring these vehicles, with around ₹2.5 crore per month required for operational expenses, the Chief Minister said.

Karnataka to set up five aerospace, defence parks: CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday announced that the state Government is developing five world-class aerospace and defence parks in strategic locations across Bengaluru, Belagavi, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Chamaraajanagar.

He said the parks will offer “plug-and-play” facilities to drastically reduce setup time for industries.

“We are developing five world-class Aerospace & Defence Parks in strategic locations — Bengaluru, Belagavi, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Chamaraajanagar. These parks will offer ‘plug-and-play’ facilities to drastically reduce setup time for industries,” Siddaramaiah said.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Collins India Operations Centre developed by Collins Aerospace at the KIADB Aerospace Park in Devanahalli. The Chief



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressing a press conference in Mysuru. Karnataka

Minister said the new 26-acre facility marks a major milestone in Karnataka’s journey as a global hub for advanced aerospace manufacturing.

“The decision by Collins Aerospace, a global major with over a century of aviation legacy, to establish this comprehensive centre in Bengaluru is a powerful

endorsement of Karnataka’s robust industrial ecosystem and its future potential,” he said. “Collins Aerospace is investing \$25 million in Karnataka. This new facility will create over 2,000 skilled jobs in research, development and advanced manufacturing. Karnataka contributes nearly 65 per

HC takes serious note of deteriorating condition of roads in Madhya Pradesh

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has taken serious note of the deteriorating condition of roads and the alarming rise in fatal accidents across the State, issued notices to the Central and State Governments as well as major road agencies. The court’s intervention follows a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) alleging gross negligence and administrative apathy in maintaining road infrastructure, which has resulted in thousands of preventable deaths.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva and Justice Vinay Saraf has directed the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation (MPRDC), and

the Madhya Pradesh Rural Road Development Authority (MPRRDA) to submit detailed reports within two weeks. The reports must outline measures taken to repair critical road stretches, fill potholes, and strengthen road safety mechanisms.

The PIL, filed by retired Indore banker Rajendra Singh and argued by advocate Abhinav Malhotra, paints a grim picture of the state’s road safety record. Citing official data, the petitioner stated that Madhya Pradesh reported 5,840 road accidents in 2023, resulting in 2,161 deaths—a sharp 31.4 per cent increase over the previous year.

The petition described the state’s highways and district roads as “death traps,” where poor maintenance, lack of signage, and unregulated construction have turned commuting into a daily gamble with life.

During the hearing, the High Court expressed deep concern over the systemic neglect and observed that the “poor condition of roads is not merely an inconvenience but a serious public safety hazard.” The bench questioned how such widespread deterioration could occur while toll collection and maintenance contracts continue unabated. “The State cannot abdicate its constitutional responsibility to protect lives,” the court observed, adding that recurring accidents reflect both governance failure and administrative indifference.

The court’s directive mandates a status report identifying accident-prone stretches, ongoing repairs, and accountability for lapses in supervision. The bench has fixed December 15, 2025, as the next date of hearing.

The PIL also highlighted

multiple instances where newly constructed roads developed cracks and potholes within months, indicating substandard material use and weak quality control. It sought judicial intervention to ensure that officials and contractors responsible for such lapses face penalties under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and related provisions.

Officials from the PWD and MPRDC have claimed that inadequate budget allocations and delays in contract renewals have hampered timely repairs. However, the court’s tough stand is expected to trigger stronger accountability and tighter monitoring mechanisms across departments.

For citizens across the State—from Bhopal to Betul and Gwalior to Guna—the court’s notice has come as a step toward safer travel.

Ensure timely implementation of solar programme: Andhra chief secretary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Tirupati

Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary K Vijayanand on Tuesday directed the distribution companies to ensure timely and effective implementation of the NABARD-ADB backed solar rooftop investment programme.

The chief secretary reaffirmed that the State Government is committed to accelerating the rollout of rooftop solar systems to promote clean, affordable, and sustainable energy with financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

“Ensure timely and effective implementation of the NABARD-ADB supported Solar Rooftop Investment Programme (SRIP) across Andhra Pradesh,” said

Vijayanand in an official release. While reviewing the power distribution companies (DISCOMS) along with the representatives of ADB and NABARD, he checked the progress of SRIP under Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PM-SGBY) through the Utility-Led Aggregator (ULA) model.

NABARD has been onboarded as the financial intermediary to provide concessional financing to the state DISCOMS. According to the chief secretary, Andhra Pradesh has accorded high priority to rooftop solar power adoption as part of its broader commitment to clean and sustainable energy.

He said the State has been actively promoting solar energy deployment across residential, institutional, and Government sectors to ensure affordable and reliable power for all.

Emphasising that rooftop solar power is a key pillar in achieving the state’s renewable energy targets and reducing dependence on conventional power, Vijayanand said it contributes to empowering consumers through decentralised power generation.

“The State Government remains fully committed to supporting DISCOMS and collaborating with development partners like ADB and NABARD to make Andhra Pradesh a leader in rooftop solar (power) implementation in the country,” he said.

Delving on the Government’s special focus on solarisation of the Kuppam constituency, represented by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Vijayanand stated that the southern state aims to make it a 100 per cent solar and net zero constituency.

Delhi blast: TMC slams Shah for security lapse

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

The top Trinamool Congress leadership hit out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday for what they called a “severe (security) lapse” that led to 12 deaths in Monday’s terror attack in Delhi.

“My heartfelt condolences go out to the bereaved families, and my prayers are with those recovering from their injuries. It is extremely distressing that such an incident has taken place in the heart of our national capital, Delhi,” TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee said, holding the Union Home Ministry responsible for the tragic deaths.

The Diamond Harbour MP, who is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, said that, as the Delhi Police, which functioned under the Union Home Ministry, was primarily responsible for maintaining law and order of the Capital, it was the Home



Minister to should explain the lapses in security.

“How then, are such grave lapses in security being allowed to occur?” he asked, referring also to the seizure of huge quantity of explosives from Faridabad in Haryana earlier on Monday raising, “alarming questions about internal security and the evident decline in vigilance,” and demanding “an impartial, time-bound investigation,” into the Delhi blast to fix accountability.

Demanding Shah’s resignation, another senior MP,

Kalyan Banerjee, said, “What is going on in the name of security management? Who is handling the security system, and what does Amit Shah have to say about the duty he was entrusted and the duty that he failed to perform? He should accept responsibility for the security lapses and resign.”

Party MP from Krishnagar, Mahua Moitra, too attacked Shah, saying the Delhi blast itself proved that India needed a capable Home Minister. Moitra wrote on social media, “India needs a

capable Home Minister, not a full-time Hate Campaign Minister. Isn’t it... Amit Shah’s duty to protect both our borders as well as our cities? Why is he failing so spectacularly on all counts?”

Meanwhile, Kolkata was on high alert ahead of the India-South Africa test match, which would begin on Friday, with security agencies conducting random Naka checks around the city. This was in response to the Cricket Association of Bengal’s request to the Kolkata Police for additional forces to be deployed in and around Eden Gardens, where the match would be held.

Kolkata Commissioner of Police Manoj Verma, who took stock of the security system at the venue on Tuesday, said that “things are fine and all appropriate steps have been taken to ensure a foolproof security and nothing will be compromised, rampant checking is being conducted everywhere.”

Andhra CM urges release of ₹695 crore under PM-RKVY

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Jammu

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday urged Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to release additional funds of ₹695 crore under the PM Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

According to its website, the scheme was launched in 2007 as an umbrella programme to ensure the holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors by allowing States to choose their development activities based on district and State agriculture plans.

Chouhan called on the chief minister at his camp office, accompanied by Minister of State for Rural Development P Chandrasekhar.

“CM Chandrababu Naidu requested ₹695 crore for fiscal 2024-25 and 2025-26,” said a press release.

Naidu also sought the release of the Centre’s share of ₹100 crore under

the market intervention scheme extended for Totapuri (called ‘Bengalura’) mango farmers.

The chief minister discussed agriculture and minor irrigation in the state and briefed Chouhan on the devastation caused by cyclone ‘Montha’.

Earlier in the day, Chouhan and Chandrasekhar participated in the launch of ‘Watershed Mahotsav’ in Guntur, marking the national celebration of community-led water rejuvenation, soil health enhancement and sustainable rural development.

The union minister lauded Andhra Pradesh’s active participation in watershed initiatives and expressed satisfaction over the successful completion of the Vengalayapalem project.

He also announced that the Centre has sanctioned ₹380 crore for road construction works in the State.

Actor Dharmendra stable, under observation; family requests privacy

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ Mumbai

Amid false rumours about his deteriorating health spread across Mumbai and elsewhere in the country in the early part of the day, the family members of veteran actor Dharmendra—who has been admitted to Mumbai’s Breach Candy hospital—said on Tuesday that he was “stable and under observation” at the hospital.

On a day when the country’s commercial capital woke up to strong rumours about the 89-year-old actor, Dharmendra’s wife and senior actress Hema Malini took to micro-blogging site “X” slammed the “respon-

ble” television channels for putting out “false news about a person who is responding to treatment and is recovering”.

“What is happening is unforgivable! How can responsible channels spread false news about a person who is responding to treatment and is recovering? This is being extremely disrespectful and irresponsible. Please give due respect to the family and its need for privacy,” Hema Malini wrote on “X”.

Her daughter and actress Esha Deol also rubbished the news circulating in a section of the media and also the social media about Dharmendra. “The media seems to be in overdrive and spreading

false news. My father is stable and recovering. We request everyone to give our family privacy. Thank you for the prayers for papa’s speedy recovery,” Esha Deol wrote on “Instagram”.

“Mr Dharmendra is stable and under observation. Further comments and updates will be shared as available. Kindly don’t indulge in spreading false rumours regarding his health. Request everyone to pray for his speedy recovery and respect the family’s right to privacy,” a PR team of the Deol family said.

On October 31, Dharmendra was hospitalised for his routine check-up. He has been undergoing treatment at the Breach



Candy Hospital since then.

On Sunday night, Sunny Deol was seen arriving at Breach Candy Hospital to check on his father. The who’s who of Bollywood, including wife Hema Malini, Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Ameesha Patel, among others, visited the hospital on Monday.

In his six-decade-long career, Dharmendra has acted in more than 300 films. He is known for his memorable performance in films such as Aaye Milan Ki Bela, Phool Aur Patthar, Aaye Din Bahar Ke, Seeta Aur Geeta, Raja Jani, Jugnu, Yaadon Ki Baaraat, Dost, Sholay, Pratiggya, Charas, Dharam Veer, among others.



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Delhi court rejects plea by Lalu, Rabri Devi for daily trial in IRCTC scam case



A Delhi court on Tuesday rejected the plea by former Bihar Chief Minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) President Lalu Prasad Yadav and his wife Rabri Devi's against holding day-to-day trial in the IRCTC scam case in which they have been charged with criminal offences. Special Judge (PC Act) Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Courts said that their prayer was not maintainable, practicable or justified.

The fast track court said that the Constitutional courts have asked trial courts to expedite cases against Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs), avoid adjournments and record evidence on a day-to-day basis. "The court is therefore disinclined to bind and restrict its future daily orders by introducing a negative direction inter alia "not listing the matter before one week after each hearing", as prayed by the applicants," Judge Gogne said.

The CBI charge is that Yadav and his family accepted prime land and shares as bribe for awarding contracts to a private firm when he was the Union Railway Minister.

Former TDB president N Vasu arrested in Sabarimala gold case



The SIT probing the missing gold from the Sabarimala temple arrested former Travancore Devaswom Board president N Vasu on Tuesday, sources said here. Vasu, who had also served twice as Commissioner of the TDB before being appointed its president, was arrested following his interrogation, they said. The arrest of Vasu, who is reportedly close to the top leadership of the State Government, is one of the high-profile arrests in the case. The Kerala High Court is monitoring the SIT probe.

He is an accused in the case relating to the disappearance of gold from the door frames of the sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) of the hill shrine, sources said.

R Venkataramani: India's Attorney General for tumultuous times

J GOPIKRISHNAN
■ New Delhi

When the President of India issued a notification on 26 September 2025 extending Ramaswamy Venkataramani's term as the Attorney General for India for another two years, it was more than a bureaucratic decision: it was a reaffirmation of trust in a man known for his quiet competence, sharp intellect and unimpeachable integrity. The extension, valid until 30 September 2027, signals the Government's faith in his ability to steer the nation through an increasingly complex and politically charged legal environment.

R Venkataramani's journey to the highest law office of the land is a story of perseverance, scholarship and deep respect for the rule of law. Enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu in 1977, he began his career with humility and hard work, soon moving to New Delhi to practice in the Supreme Court of India in 1979. His early years were shaped by his apprenticeship under the eminent constitutional expert, late PP Rao, Senior Advocate, whose influence left a lasting imprint on his legal philosophy. By March 1982, Venkataramani qualified as an Advocate-on-Record at the Supreme Court and in 1997, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the legal profession, he was designated a Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court.

Appointed as Attorney General for India on 28 September 2022, Venkataramani brought with him decades of experience, deep constitutional insight and a reputation for restraint and clarity. His reappointment in 2025 comes at a time when the legal challenges facing the Government are multifaceted, spanning constitutional disputes, international arbitration,



Attorney General of India, R. Venkataramani

political litigation, and the fast-evolving interface between law, technology and governance.

Today's legal landscape is no longer confined to conventional courtroom arguments. It extends into the realm of governance, diplomacy and public perception. The Attorney General's office, as the principal legal advisor to the Government of India, stands at the intersection of law and politics.

Every legal opinion or court submission has the potential to shape not only judicial outcomes but also political narratives. Venkataramani's modesty and meticulous approach make him ideally suited for this high-stakes environment. His style, measured, reasoned and devoid of spectacle, has earned him both respect and trust in equal measure.

The coming years will test his ability to navigate the complex and often turbulent waters of Indian politics and governance. The Modi administration, though led by one of the strongest polit-

ical personalities in recent memory, currently operates as a minority Government. This makes the role of the Attorney General especially critical, as he must delicately balance legal propriety with political pragmatism. In such circumstances, the Attorney General becomes more than just a lawyer, he becomes the moral compass of the administration's legal strategy, ensuring that the pursuit of political objectives remains within the bounds of constitutional discipline.

Venkataramani's challenge extends beyond domestic politics. On the international front, India faces increasing scrutiny over its compliance with trade pacts, investment treaties and environmental and human rights obligations. As global corporations and international bodies become more litigious, the Attorney General must not only defend India's interests in global forums but also ensure that its legal positions align with the principles of fairness and justice that

SC seeks EC response to pleas challenging SIR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday sought separate responses of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on pleas filed by DMK, CPI(M), West Bengal Congress and Trinamool Congress leaders challenging the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal respectively.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi asked the poll panel to respond to the fresh petitions in two weeks.

The Supreme Court asked the Madras and Calcutta High Courts to keep in abeyance any proceedings on petitions challenging the SIR exercise in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

It also allowed the listing of an intervention application filed by the AIADMK in support of the SIR in Tamil Nadu.

During a brief hearing, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing in the court for the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu, said the exercise is being done hurriedly, without following the due process, and different sets of documents are being sought from voters.

He said the northeast monsoon in Tamil Nadu is always heavy during November-December and the coastal districts experience heavy to very heavy rains during this season.

"According to the meteorological department, this year, heavier rain than usual is predicted. Because of this, the common people will be preparing for the same and the revenue officials who are enlisted as BLOs, EROs, AEROS



will have to manage the flood relief as well. Hence, practically, this is not a conducive time for conducting the above exercises," Sibal said.

Justice Kant said in a country as big as India, some states will always face natural calamities. Sibal said there is very poor connectivity in certain areas of the southern state and there will be difficulties in uploading documents.

"Similarly, in West Bengal also, rural connectivity is very poor and much bad with regard to Tamil Nadu," he said.

The bench said, "It appears that the case being projected before us is that for the first time, electoral rolls are being prepared. We also know the ground realities. There is a constitutional authority which is doing the

exercise and it is mandated to do it. Earlier also, it has been done."

Justice Kant said the problem is that everybody wants "status quo". Sibal said the petitioners want the EC to do its work but not in this fashion and hurriedly. The bench said political parties should not be apprehensive of the exercise and the EC will give all details related to it.

"If we are satisfied that there is something wrong, we will annul the entire exercise," the court said.

On the argument that different modalities are being adopted in Tamil Nadu, compared to what was followed in Bihar during the SIR exercise, the bench said it means that the EC has rectified its mistakes. Sibal said the Bihar SIR has nothing to do with the



exercise in Tamil Nadu and the situation and conditions are different in the two states.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing in the court for the EC, sought to file replies to the fresh petitions.

Senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee, appearing for Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Dola Sen, said they too have filed the petition challenging the SIR in West Bengal.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing in the matter for NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, questioned various "procedural irregularities" on the EC's part like issuing a machine-readable voter list in Bihar.

The bench said notices are being issued to the EC on all the fresh petitions and the

court will look into the pleas after the poll panel's response. It told the EC, "You should adopt the best practice and experience of the Bihar SIR in exercises which are to be conducted in other states. However, you should always keep in mind the local conditions."

The court listed the matter for further hearing on November 26 and 27, and said it will hear the arguments on the interim relief sought by different political leaders, such as a stay on the SIR.

Besides Sen, West Bengal Congress leader Shubhankar Sarkar, DMK's RS Bharathi, CPI-M's P Shanmugam and other leaders have filed separate petitions challenging the SIR in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry.

In his plea filed through advocate Vivek Singh, Bharathi has claimed that the exercise is violative of Articles 14, 19 and 21 (rights to equality, freedom of speech and life) and other provisions of the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act and the Registration of Electors Rules of 1960.

The CPI(M) has challenged the constitutional validity of the EC's directive to conduct the SIR in Tamil Nadu, terming the process "arbitrary, illegal and unconstitutional".

Meanwhile, the AIADMK has supported the poll panel's decision to conduct the SIR in the southern State, calling it a "legitimate and necessary" exercise to uphold the sanctity of elections and prevent voter fraud. On October 27, the EC announced the conduct of the second phase of the SIR in 12 States and Union territories between November and February next year. These states and Union territories are — the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and West Bengal are scheduled to go to polls in 2026. The EC has said for Assam, where polls are also due in 2026, the revision of the electoral rolls will be announced separately.

The second phase of the SIR exercise began on November 4 and will continue till December 4. The EC will release the draft electoral rolls on December 9 and the final electoral rolls on February 7.

Stubble burning worsening Delhi-NCR air quality levels, SC told

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Stubble burning has commenced in a big way with impunity in Punjab and Haryana leading to further worsening of air quality levels in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court was told on Tuesday.

A bench headed by Chief Justice BR Gavai, which is scheduled to hear the air pollution case on Wednesday, was urged by senior advocate Aprajita Singh, who is assisting the bench as an amicus curiae, that a response be sought from the Governments of Punjab and Haryana.

Singh referred to NASA satellite images to buttress her point that stubble burning in these two states has commenced and it is contributing to already severe air pollution levels in Delhi-NCR. "The Supreme Court orders are being flouted with



Stubble burning in Amritsar

impunity," she said, adding that these states should respond to the present situation. "We will pass some orders on Wednesday," the CJ said. Earlier on November 3, the Supreme Court directed the Commission for Air Quality

Management (CAQM) to file an affidavit detailing the steps it has taken so far to prevent air pollution in Delhi-NCR from peaking further. The bench, also comprising Justice K Vinod Chandran, was hearing the MC Mehta case and had said that the

authorities must act proactively and not wait for pollution levels to reach a "severe" stage.

Amicus curiae Singh had flagged media reports indicating that several air quality monitoring stations in Delhi were not functioning during the Diwali period. "There are newspapers after newspapers saying that monitoring stations are non-functional. If the monitoring stations are not even functioning, we don't even know when to implement GRAP (graded response action plan)... Out of 37 monitoring stations, only nine were functioning continuously on the day of Diwali," she said.

The amicus urged the bench to ensure that CAQM submits clear data and an action plan. She said the earlier orders mandated pre-emptive measures, rather than reactive steps, once pollution worsened. "The CAQM is required to place on record an affidavit as to

what steps are proposed to be taken to prevent the pollution from turning severe," the bench said in its order. The counsel for the CAQM said that the Central Pollution Control Board is responsible for monitoring data. However, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati assured the bench that the agencies concerned will file the required report.

On October 15, the CJ-led bench permitted the sale and bursting of green firecrackers in Delhi-NCR during Diwali with conditions aimed at balancing tradition with environmental and health concerns. The court had made it clear that use of green crackers will be confined to specific hours on Diwali and a day before. The sale of green crackers was permitted from October 18 to 20.

It had also made clear that the relaxation was only on a "test case basis and it shall be only for the period specified".

have long defined its constitutional ethos. Acting as both lawyer and diplomat, he must maintain India's credibility abroad while safeguarding its sovereignty.

Within India, a surge of politically sensitive cases has blurred the line between law and ideology. The courts have become arenas where political battles are fought by other means. From electoral disputes and constitutional amendments to the validity of administrative actions, the Government faces legal challenges that can have profound implications for its longevity and legitimacy. Venkataramani's calm temperament and deep constitutional grounding will be indispensable in such moments.

Many in the legal community had anticipated a change of guard at the top law office earlier this year. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, known for his aggressive courtroom style and articulate advocacy, was widely seen as the front-runner for the post.

However, sources reveal that when the decision reached the Prime Minister's desk, Narendra Modi preferred continuity and composure over confrontation. The choice of R Venkataramani over a more flamboyant alternative reflects Modi's instinct to rely on steady, unassuming competence, particularly crucial in a phase when legal stability underpins political survival.

Behind Venkataramani's quiet demeanor lies a formidable intellect and an unwavering commitment to the institution of justice. Those who have worked with him describe him as a "lawyer's lawyer", deeply committed to the purity of legal reasoning, yet pragmatic enough to appreciate the compulsions of governance. His professional conduct, coupled with his personal simplicity, has earned him the confidence of both the judiciary and the exec-

utive. Venkatramani, since his student days, has held a reflective admiration for American legal institutions, attorneys and jurists who shaped them. Names such as John Marshall, Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr, Hugo Black, Earl Warren, Louis Brandeis, Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter, William Storey, Thurgood Marshall, William Brennan, and, more recently Antonin Scalia, represent for him a wide philosophical spectrum—where judicial reasoning is not merely technical but rooted in social conscience, moral clarity and constitutional faith.

He regards Attorney Generals like Robert F Kennedy, Elliot Richardson and Edward Levi as figures who demonstrated how law, when anchored in democratic values, can remain both principled and transformative.

For Venkatramani, the appeal of the American legal traditions lies not in replication but in the seriousness with which it attempts to balance liberty, accountability and judicial independence through interpretative discipline and institutional design. India, with its civilisational depth, constitutional vision, and the responsibility of delivering justice to over a billion people, requires legal systems that are transparent, humane and responsive to social complexity.

He has often emphasised that legal thinking must remain compassionate, historically aware, and connected to the lived experiences of ordinary citizens, rather than confined to academic abstraction. This belief continues to guide his intellectual and institutional engagements.

His aspiration is to foster thoughtful dialogue between legal cultures through comparative research programs, shared judicial training, and collaborative professional networks. Such engagement, in his view, does not weaken India's

legal identity; rather, it strengthens it by encouraging clarity, public trust and ethical responsibility.

Thus, his admiration for American juristic traditions is part of a broader commitment to renew and reinforce India's constitutional order, ensuring it remains resilient, purposeful and deeply anchored in the rights and aspirations of its people.

In an era when the credibility of the legal profession is under strain, amid allegations of politicisation, judicial activism, and media trials: the Attorney General's role assumes symbolic importance.

He is the guardian of the Government's legal conscience, the voice that must uphold reason even in the heat of political rhetoric. For Venkataramani, this means ensuring that the Government's actions are not merely defensible in court but also justifiable in principle.

An insider in the Government recently remarked that it is Venkataramani's quiet professionalism and unassuming personality that have inspired the Prime Minister's confidence. In times when the country's legal institutions are often pulled between competing pressures from within and outside its borders, his steady hand offers reassurance.

R Venkataramani's reappointment, therefore, represents more than administrative continuity: it symbolises the Government's faith in sobriety over showmanship, diligence over drama, and principle over personality. As India's foremost law officer embarks on his extended tenure, the nation will look to him not only for legal guidance but also for moral steadiness amid the clamour of courtroom and political battles.

The next two years will not just define his legacy but may also shape the very contours of India's constitutional resilience.

Editor's

TAKE

Delhi bears the brunt of an explosion once again

The explosion is a grim echo of Delhi's violent past. It is a moment not for panic, but for resolve – to ensure such tragedies never repeat

Delhi is in a state of shock. Just when the people thought that Delhi was safe from explosions, a powerful blast near the Red Fort shattered that sense of security. Whether it was a terror attack or a technical glitch that caused the CNG tank in the car to explode, the effect was horrendous. In either case, complacency in governance cannot be ruled out.

For Delhi, it was a heartbreakingly familiar scene – one that revived the discomforting memories of past terror attacks that once shook the national capital. Preliminary reports suggest the blast originated from within the car, though at this point it is not clear what exactly caused the explosion – a bomb or a cylinder blast. Whether it was a mechanical failure, an accidental CNG explosion, or a deliberate act of terror remains unclear. Yet, the timing and intensity of the explosion – coming just hours after the recovery of nearly 2,900 kilograms of explosives in neighbouring Haryana – point towards the possibility of sabotage. Investigative agencies have not ruled out the involvement of a terror module. For Delhiites, this tragedy reopens old wounds. Delhi has endured a long and painful history of bombings – from the serial blasts of 2005 to the 2011 High Court explosion that claimed dozens of lives. Those incidents briefly united the city in grief and outrage, only to give way to complacency, allowing the lessons learned to blur. The capital remains vulnerable to old methods of destruction. If it was an act of terror, it was meticulously planned. The location of the blast - near the Red Fort – a site symbolic of India's independence and national pride, makes the act even more devastating, striking not just at human lives but at the country's collective sense of security. Beyond grief and anger, this moment demands action. The first step must be a transparent, meticulous investigation. Every piece of evidence – from the vehicle's remnants to surrounding CCTV footage – must be examined with scientific precision. The people of Delhi have a right to know – regular, credible updates, not speculation or secrecy. This is essential not only for justice but for restoring confidence in the state's ability to protect its people.

Equally important is a re-evaluation of urban security. High-density zones like Old Delhi, with their narrow lanes and chaotic traffic, require tailored strategies – stricter parking norms, periodic scrutiny of vehicles, and stronger inter-state coordination in monitoring suspicious movements. Public awareness campaigns, emergency drills, and citizen participation can make a significant difference. Finally, there is a need for emotional and civic healing. As Delhi mourns the dead, it must also reaffirm its spirit – the unbreakable resolve of a city that has seen empires rise and fall, yet never surrendered to fear. The explosion near the Red Fort must not become another entry in the long list of tragedies that fade with time. It must become an incident where the city's vigilance was restored and people feel safe once again.

Faith, power, and nationhood in conflict

From British colonial manipulation to Partition, the story of India has been shaped by cycles of conquest, accommodation, and awakening. The roots of today's anxieties lie deep in this complex past



PRAFULL GORADIA

Questions such as whether our Constitution is secular or whether “Vande Bharat” is a patriotic or political slogan are not merely contemporary concerns; they are rooted in centuries of Indian history. To understand current controversies, one must go back to AD 1194, when Mohammad Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan in the Second Battle of Tarain. Some trace the origins even further. Qaid-e-Azam Jinnah once claimed that Pakistan was born the day the first Hindu converted to Islam in the subcontinent. Muslims came to India as conquerors, guests, or converts-few could claim native descent. Among the rulers, some were benevolent, others harsh, and a few destructive. The brightest phase came under Emperor Akbar, whose long and liberal reign brought a rare harmony to India. In contrast, Aurangzeb's intolerance marked the darkest chapter of Mughal rule.

A puzzling feature of Indian history is the absence of a united Hindu resistance to the Sultans and Badshahs of Delhi. Shivaji stands out for his courage and statecraft, yet his influence remained confined to the Deccan. Maharana Pratap, too, fought heroically against Akbar, but his struggle was limited to Mewar. A pan-Indian uprising never materialised. By the mid-18th century, the declining Mughal order gave way to new powers. The reckless Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah, alienated his own officers and merchants, pushing them into alliance with the East India Company. Their support ensured Robert Clive's victory at Plassey in 1757, which opened the gates of Bengal to British domination. Subsequent British victories-over Tipu Sultan in 1799 and the annexation of Awadh under Dalhousie-completed the dismantling of Muslim authority.

The Revolt of 1857 briefly shook British confidence. For a year, large parts of North India were aflame, but the uprising ended in defeat. In 1858, Queen Victoria assumed direct control, and two decades later, in 1877, she was proclaimed Empress of India. The British concluded that Muslims had been the principal instigators and punished them more severely than Hindus.

This perception deepened Muslim resentment and nostalgia for lost power. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, founder of the Aligarh Movement, even argued that when the British eventually left, they should return India to the Muslims from whom they had taken it. Whether this was foresight or delusion remains debatable. Ironically, the Indian National Congress-often branded a “Hindu party” – was not formed by Hindus at all. It was founded in 1885 by a retired English



“VANDE MATARAM” SHOULD NOT DIVIDE INDIANS; IT SHOULD REMIND THEM OF THEIR SHARED SOIL AND DESTINY. HISTORY MAY BE SCARRED BY CONQUEST AND DIVISION, BUT THE FUTURE MUST REST ON REASON AND RECONCILIATION

The writer is a well-known columnist, author, and former member of the Rajya Sabha

 Prafull Goradia
 @prafullgoradia
 The Pioneer

civil servant, Allan Octavian Hume. Yet, by 1906, Muslims had established their own political platform-the All-India Muslim League-reinforcing the belief that while Hindus were traders and cultivators, Muslims were natural rulers. This sentiment persisted even after Mahatma Gandhi entered the scene in 1915.

Gandhi's early political strategy was curious. To bridge Hindu-Muslim divides, he supported the Khilafat Movement, launched by the Ali brothers – Mohammad and Shaukat – to restore the Ottoman Caliphate after World War I. Astonishingly, Gandhi even became President of the Khilafat Committee, formed to defend a Turkish sultan thousands of miles away. Many observers saw this as proof that political power in India still revolved around Muslim leadership. Gandhi's satyagraha, though morally compelling, appeared to many as nothing more than a moral appeal, not really a political challenge to imperial rule.

In 1940, at Lahore, Jinnah declared that Hindus and Muslims were “two distinct nations.” No strong Indian voice publicly disputed this claim. When the premiers of Punjab and Bengal initially opposed Partition, Congress leaders quietly welcomed their stance, believing Jinnah's plan would fail. Yet, by May 1947, Mountbatten announced the Partition, confirming that Jinnah's vision had prevailed. Once again, Muslim political will had triumphed. Partition's aftermath was tragic and uneven. In Pakistan's western wing, Hindus and Sikhs were virtually wiped out by 1948. The eastern wing (now Bangladesh) saw its Hindu population fall from 33 per cent to barely 8 per

cent. Migration was overwhelmingly one-sided-millions of Hindus fled Pakistan, but few Muslims left India. The imbalance revealed the persistent perception that power and initiative in the subcontinent lay largely with Muslims, not Hindus.

This historical backdrop helps explain why, even today, debates such as the one surrounding “Vande Mataram” evoke old anxieties. Some Muslim leaders continue to act as if their community still sets the terms of national discourse. Such illusions are not merely harmless-they perpetuate misunderstanding and hinder social harmony.

India's past is too complex to be reduced to communal binaries. Both Hindus and Muslims have shaped its destiny, for better and for worse. Yet, national progress demands a sober recognition of facts, not romanticised memories of lost empires or imagined privileges. True secularism lies not in appeasement but in equal accountability. The maturity of a nation is measured not by the volume of its grievances but by its capacity to face history without distortion.

In the final analysis, “Vande Mataram” should not divide Indians; it should remind them of their shared soil and destiny. History may be scarred by conquest and division, but the future must rest on reason and reconciliation. Every citizen-Hindu, Muslim, or otherwise-must realise that the power to shape India's tomorrow lies not in nostalgia for the past, but in unity of purpose and respect for truth. Only then can the spirit of Vedanta-of oneness and universality – truly prevail.

The Pioneer

SINCE 1865

The Ostrich Effect cripples classroom progress



SAKSHI SETHI

2ND OPINION

THE PIONEER

In classrooms across the country-urban or rural, elite or modest – there exists a peculiar breed of educators who have perfected the art of selective blindness. These are the practitioners of what might be called the Ostrich Effect: the time – honoured skill of ignoring inconvenient truths while claiming to see everything else with hawk-like precision. They can catch a whispered secret from the last bench with uncanny accuracy, yet fail to notice that half the class has mentally checked out. They spot a passing chit instantly but seem blissfully unaware that their lesson plan, crafted in the pre-smartphone era, now holds the relevance of a typewriter at a coding boot camp.

The Ostrich Effect isn't just a teaching quirk – it's a full-

blown lifestyle choice. For some, every issue in the classroom is blamed on a supposed “decline in student discipline.” When test results disappoint, the stars are at fault-Mercury's retrograde, Jupiter's misalignment, or, of course, the mythical “loss of moral values.” Anything but the possibility that their own approach might need an update. Why explore creative methods or technology-enhanced learning when one can cling to the comforting familiarity of dictation drills and the age-old threat of “I'll call your parents”? The phenomenon shines brightest during classroom observations. Where reflective educators see feedback as a ladder for growth, the ostrich-style teacher perceives it as a personal attack. Suggest a more student-led activity, and the reaction is pure drama: “But this is how I've always taught!” they protest, mistaking longevity for excellence. It's the educational equivalent of bragging about 25 years of driving experience while routinely ignoring traffic lights. Experience, after all, means little without evolution.

Parent-teacher meetings provide yet another stage for this performance. These sessions-ideally moments for collaboration-often turn into exercises in intellectual gymnastics. Faced with poor test scores or unfinished work, some teachers twist and turn until blame lands squarely on the parents. “Your child lacks discipline at home,” they declare, conveniently forgetting their own ungraded assignments or absence of meaningful feedback. The

student sits there silently, still unsure about integers, hoping someone notices. But that would mean lifting one's head out of the sand, and we can't have that, can we? Even professional development workshops-those rare chances to refresh and reimagine teaching-are treated by some with theatrical disinterest. Arms crossed, faces blank, they endure new ideas as if attending a lecture on the history of paper-clips. Student engagement strategies? Emotional intelligence? Digital tools? Surely, they must be fads. After all, if chalk-and-talk worked forty years ago, why change now?

Yet, beneath the stubbornness lies something human: comfort. Familiar methods feel safe. Reflection feels risky. Acknowledging blind spots takes humility and humility is rarely comfortable. But education cannot thrive in comfort zones. Today's learners think, question, and process information differently. They need classrooms that evolve as quickly as the world around them.

If teaching is truly about preparing students for the future, then teachers must model adaptability, curiosity, and courage. The classroom is not a museum of traditions but a living ecosystem. It needs gardeners, not ostriches-educators who nurture growth, tend to changing needs, and take responsibility for what they cultivate. And, unlike ostriches, gardeners keep their heads up.

The writer is an educator and councillor

COP30: Turning promises into action

The 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), being hosted in the Amazonian city of Belém, is expected to deliberate on critical issues such as climate financing, the transition to green fuels, and the escalating global warming crisis. From catastrophic wildfires in California to recurring disasters across the Himalayan ecosystem, the spiralling effects of climate change have become deeply alarming. In this context, host nation Brazil's call to prioritise the implementation of earlier commitments-such as COP28's pledge to phase out fossil fuels-rather than introducing new targets-appears both timely and pragmatic.

Key initiatives like the “New Collective Quantified Goal” (NCQG) and the “Loss and Damage Fund,” launched in previous summits, remain severely underfunded and largely non-binding. Furthermore, the earlier withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, with former President Trump dismissing climate change as a “hoax,” continues to cast a shadow over global unity.

A sharper focus on mitigation strategies, carbon trading mechanisms, and the timely achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be essential to respond meaningfully to the urgent appeals of climate activists like Greta Thunberg.

PRASUN KUMAR DUTTA | WEST BENGAL

A grim reminder of terror's state links

The primary question was answered in the affirmative-if this was someone else's operation executed using Pakistani nationals, then who was the real mastermind behind this terror attack? The truth soon came into the open. The moot point remains that terrorism is not merely religious; it often functions as an instrument of state policy, forming an integral part of statecraft and diplomacy between nations.

Pakistan-based co-conspirators, long involved in orchestrating devastating terror strikes such as the 2008 Mumbai attacks, now appear to have turned their focus elsewhere after Operation Sindhoor. Around 6:52 pm, a slow-moving car halted at a red light outside the Red Fort and exploded moments later. The powerful blast damaged nearby vehicles and triggered a fire that engulfed several others, causing casualties and chaos in the bustling area. Emergency services, including the Forensic Sciences team and the National Investigation Agency, rushed to the site, with the situation closely monitored. Fortunately, the Red Fort's light and sound show, *Jai Hind*, which dramatises India's journey from the 17th century to the present day, was closed for its weekly off. Had it been operational, the toll in human lives could have been far higher.

MANI RAMANI JAYANTHI | UTTAR PRADESH

Chronic kidney disease threatens India

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is rising rapidly across India, yet reliable national data remain unavailable. Experts are calling for a National Mission for Prevention and Early Detection to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment. Recent data from South Asia reveal that nearly 16 per cent of the population is affected-a grave public health concern.

India, now home to over 1.4 billion people, faces multiple health challenges, with CKD emerging as a major threat. Contributing factors include the high prevalence of diabetes and hypertension, pollution, toxic chemicals, and the country's hot climate.

Modern lifestyles have worsened the problem-diets high in sugar and salt, sedentary routines, and poor sleep due to work pressure and constant digital exposure all increase the risk. In some cases, genetic factors also play a role.

Currently, dialysis and kidney transplantation remain the only treatments for kidney failure. Dialysis facilities are limited and costly, while organ shortages make transplants difficult. Although understanding of CKD is improving and modern medicines can slow its progression, many doctors are still unclear about when transplantation should be done.

YASH PAL | DELHI

NATION GRIEVES AFTER RED FORT TERROR EXPLOSION

India is in mourning following the horrific car explosion near the Red Fort Metro Station in Delhi, which claimed over ten lives and left several injured. The powerful blast tore through a Haryana-registered vehicle parked near Gate No 1, leaving behind a trail of devastation. Flames engulfed nearby cars, shattered streetlights, and sent waves of panic through one of the capital's busiest heritage zones.

Emergency services responded swiftly, rushing the injured to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital, with several victims in critical condition. Authorities have since declared a high alert across Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Mumbai, tightening security at metro stations, markets, and religious sites. The attack serves

as a grim reminder of the continuing threat posed by terrorism and the fragile calm that often follows such violence.

This tragedy must not be politicized. It's imperative that all parties rise above partisan divisions and stand united in confronting those who seek to spread fear and destruction. Only through solidarity, vigilance, and decisive action can the nation uphold peace and safeguard its citizens. In times of grief, unity must prevail over division, for national resilience is the greatest answer to terror.

May the victims find peace, and may the nation stand stronger in the face of adversity. Together, we must remain vigilant and committed to protecting the safety and harmony of our communities.

BHAGWAN THANDI | MUMABI

Please send your letter to the info@dailypioneer.com. In not more than 250 words. We appreciate your feedback.

PIC TALK



A captivating scene of gulls flying over the Narmada River at Gwarighat, Jabalpur, enlivening the sky. PHOTO: PTI

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Sustainable future through knowledge and innovation

The future will be shaped not just by what we know, but by how we choose to use that knowledge. Science gives us the tools; wisdom determines their purpose. When guided by ethics and inclusivity, science becomes a bridge between human aspiration and planetary well-being



SATENDRA SINGH

Science has always been the light that guides humankind through the darkness of the unknown. It is far more than a collection of data, laboratories, and formulae — it is a mindset, a way of looking at the world with curiosity, logic, and creativity. As the world celebrated ‘World Science Day for Peace and Development’ on November 10, 2025, under the theme “The Role of Science in Sustainable Societies,” we are reminded that science shapes not just our technologies but our destiny — a destiny rooted in peace, equity, and sustainability.

Science as the Foundation of Human Advancement

From the moment humans discovered fire to the decoding of the human genome, the story of civilisation has been powered by science. It has been the engine behind every leap in understanding and innovation, but at its core, science is not merely about invention — it is about improving lives and ensuring that progress does not rob future generations of their right to thrive.

The United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a blueprint for global well-being, from eradicating poverty to ensuring clean energy and combating climate change. Every one of these 17 goals depends on science. Whether it is increasing agricultural productivity through biotechnology, designing vaccines that save millions, or creating cleaner energy systems, science provides the evidence-based tools needed to turn vision into reality. A truly sustainable society is one that listens to scientific insight and applies it wisely — growing food without degrading the soil, building cities without choking the air, and meeting human needs without harming the planet.

Science as the Key to a Sustainable World

Science allows humanity to understand how the Earth’s systems — air, water, forests, and biodiversity-interconnect. It gives us the means to predict weather, conserve resources, and prepare for natural disasters. India stands as a powerful example. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)



THE THEME OF WORLD SCIENCE DAY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT 2025 — “THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES” — REMINDS US THAT THE FUTURE WILL BE SHAPED NOT ONLY BY WHAT WE KNOW, BUT BY HOW WE CHOOSE TO USE THAT KNOWLEDGE

The writer is a former Executive Director of the National Institute of Disaster Management

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has launched satellites that monitor monsoons, cyclones, and forest fires, while the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has significantly improved forecasting accuracy-saving countless lives.

Agricultural science, too, has evolved through innovations like climate-resilient crops and efficient irrigation systems. Initiatives like NICRA (National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture) by ICAR are helping millions of farmers adapt to extreme climate changes and secure food for future generations. Renewable energy offers another shining example. India’s transformation from a fossil-fuel-dependent economy to a renewable energy leader-through solar, wind, and green hydrogen-demonstrates how science and policy can together turn environmental challenges into opportunities.

Blending Traditional Wisdom with Modern Science

The path to sustainability is not limited to high-tech laboratories. It also runs through the fields, forests, and villages where generations have practised indigenous science.

Traditional knowledge systems-such as organic farming, rainwater harvesting, and herbal medicine-have long sustained communities in harmony with nature. Today, modern science is rediscovering

and validating this wisdom. Farmers combine traditional practices with digital weather forecasts and satellite-based advisories. Ayurveda and modern biomedicine are being integrated to offer holistic health solutions. When traditional knowledge and modern science work together, they create ecosystems that are both resilient and deeply rooted in culture.

Science and Climate Action: A Global Responsibility

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time — and science is our most powerful ally. From uncovering the human causes of global warming to developing mitigation and adaptation strategies, scientific research has guided international action. Global collaboration has strengthened this effort. Nations share satellite data, co-develop early warning systems, and exchange knowledge about disaster preparedness. This is science diplomacy — where cooperation replaces conflict and shared understanding becomes the foundation for peace. India has been an active player in this movement. Initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and partnerships under SAARC and BIMSTEC showcase how scientific collaboration can build regional resilience. When nations connect through science, they build trust-and trust builds peace.

Science as a Bridge for Peace and Diplomacy

“Science for Peace” is not just a slogan; it is a philosophy. Scientific collaboration transcends political boundaries because the problems humanity faces — climate change, pandemics, natural disasters-do not recognise borders.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stands as a symbol of this cooperation. Thousands of scientists across the world contribute to its reports, enabling leaders to make informed decisions for the planet’s collective good. The COVID-19 pandemic further reminded the world that when scientists unite across continents, they can save lives faster than any army or treaty.

Innovation, Industry, and the Path to Sustainability

Science fuels innovation-and innovation drives progress. Across India, young entrepreneurs and start-ups are using science to solve local problems: from recycling waste to developing renewable energy solutions and improving healthcare access. Programmes such as Start-up India and Atal Innovation Mission have nurtured a generation of innovators who view sustainability not as a constraint but as a catalyst for growth. The use of AI in flood prediction, drones in agriculture, and 3D printing in affordable housing are transforming communities. The future will belong to those who innovate responsibly — balancing economic ambition with ecological care.

Science Education and Public Awareness

For science to truly serve humanity, it must move beyond laboratories and reach every citizen.

Science education must be strengthened-particularly in rural and underserved areas — so that children grow up with curiosity and critical thinking. Promoting STEM education (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and encouraging more girls and women to pursue scientific careers will unlock vast reservoirs of talent.

However, beyond education, public engagement is essential. Citizen science projects, environmental clubs, and science fairs can help communities link their everyday actions — such as water conservation and waste segregation-to the broader global goals of sustainability. A scientifically literate society makes better

decisions, demands accountability, and fosters an environment of rational problem-solving.

Science in Policy and Governance

Effective governance must rest on evidence. From urban development to agriculture, policymaking informed by scientific data ensures efficiency and long-term impact. India’s national institutions — such as NITI Aayog and the NDMA — already integrate research into public policy. Geospatial data, satellite imagery, and climate models are increasingly employed to design infrastructure that anticipates future risks. Strengthening the science-policy interface, where scientists and policymakers collaborate directly, is essential for creating adaptive and resilient systems of governance.

The Ethical Compass of Science

As we celebrate the power of science, we must also recognise its ethical boundaries. The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, and nuclear research poses profound moral questions.

Science must always serve humanity, never threaten it. A sustainable society advances knowledge with humility and compassion, using discovery as a means to protect life, preserve dignity, and promote equality. Responsibility must guide every breakthrough.

A Common Vision for the Future

The theme of World Science Day for Peace and Development 2025-“*The Role of Science in Sustainable Societies*” — reminds us that the future will be shaped not only by what we know, but by how we choose to use that knowledge.

Science provides us with the tools; wisdom determines their purpose. When guided by ethics and inclusivity, science becomes a bridge between human aspiration and planetary well-being.

It teaches us humility — for every answer leads to new questions, and every discovery to new responsibilities. Let us, therefore, commit to a culture that values inquiry, respects innovation, and ensures that science always serves peace and sustainability.

As Albert Einstein wisely said, “Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.” And understanding — the true essence of science — remains humanity’s greatest hope for a peaceful and sustainable future.

The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses at 60: The making of strategic thought



UTTAM KUMAR SINHA

When India faced its defining strategic crisis in the early 1960s, it was compelled to rethink what security truly meant. The 1962 War with China exposed not only military shortfalls but also an absence of intellectual preparedness. The young republic, still discovering the grammar of power, realised that ideas could be as critical to defence as armies or arsenals. From that period of national introspection emerged an institution that would shape India’s strategic imagination - the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, now the Manohar Parrikar IDSA. Its establishment in 1965 marked India’s decision to think systematically about power in a turbulent world.

The Institute’s origins lie in a series of encounters abroad. In May 1964, Defence Minister YB Chavan and Defence Secretary PVR Rao travelled to Washington, DC, seeking ideas to modernise India’s defence planning. There, they encountered the RAND Corporation — an institution that applied mathematical precision to questions of war and strategy. RAND’s systems-analysis methods, championed by Robert McNamara’s “whiz kid” Alain Enthoven, demonstrated how data and models could inform complex military decisions. Soon after, Enthoven was invited to New Delhi, where he proposed that India should establish its own RAND. Almost simultaneously, Alastair Buchan, the founding director of London’s Institute for Strategic Studies (now IISS), arrived with a very different idea. Buchan viewed strategy as conversation — an exercise in context, interpretation, and policy dialogue rather than equations. Between these two approaches, India chose the latter. Lacking the resources for RAND’s computational rigour but drawn to the British tradition of policy debate, it adopted the IISS model. That decision gave the Institute its defining temperament — conceptually rich and intellectually vibrant, yet marked by a persistent absence of quantitative rigour that continues to shape its analyses even today.

The mid-1960s were a charged moment in Indian politics. With Nehru gone and Lal Bahadur Shastri navigating post-war anxieties, national confidence required renewal. The 1965 War with Pakistan revived military

morale but also exposed the need for coherent strategic planning. It was in this environment — uncertain yet purposeful — that the idea of an autonomous research body took form: one that could advise, critique, and think alongside the state while remaining independent of it.

On November 11, 1965, IDSA was formally registered as a society, with Major General Som Dutt — fresh from a fellowship at the IISS and formerly Commandant of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington — as its first Director. During his London tenure, he authored two notable Adelphi Papers: The Defence of India’s Northern Borders and India and the Bomb. In the latter, written soon after China’s detonation of three atomic devices in 1966, he argued that India might one day need its own nuclear capability to maintain Asia’s strategic balance.

Within three years, the Institute launched its first publication — the IDSA Journal. In his foreword, Home Minister YB Chavan captured the spirit of a changing era: “In this nuclear age, traditional principles of military operations begin to be in doubt... previous tenets of national security have to be re-examined and fresh ones evolved.”

It was a declaration of intellectual independence - questioning, analytical, and unafraid. The inaugural issue featured PVR Rao’s essay on “National Defence Policy and the Higher Direction of War” and Lieutenant General GG Bewoor’s study on “High Altitude Mountain Warfare,” laying the groundwork for India’s emerging defence discourse. Bewoor would later become the Army’s eighth Chief of Staff.

Under K Subrahmanyam, IDSA began to forge a distinct intellectual identity within India’s strategic community. A civil servant, Subrahmanyam returned in 1968 after a stint at the London School of Economics and a study tour of US institutions — joining first as Director (Programme) and soon after as Director.

At a time when open debate on national security was rare, he transformed IDSA into a forum of rigorous inquiry, insisting that it hold no official line but embrace diverse viewpoints. He often remarked that the Institute’s true strength lay in its ability to sustain disagreement with dignity.

That ethos was tested almost immediately. In 1968, as the world’s major powers - the United States, Soviet Union, and United Kingdom — advanced the draft of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), India faced a critical policy dilemma. At IDSA, the debate was both intense and illuminating. Some argued that accession to the NPT would com-

promise India’s sovereignty and erode its strategic autonomy, while others viewed participation as a constructive step towards reinforcing global norms of nuclear restraint. The Institute, true to its founding ethos, refrained from adopting an institutional position, allowing individual scholars to articulate their analyses independently. This pluralism of thought not only enriched the discourse but also underscored IDSA’s enduring commitment to intellectual freedom and analytical integrity.

Among those who advanced this legacy were PR Chari and Jasjit Singh, who deepened IDSA’s analytical influence through their scholarship and policy engagement. Later, K Santhanam brought a markedly different sensibility to the Institute. A nuclear scientist by training, Santy, as he was fondly known, had been part of the quartet that orchestrated India’s 1998 nuclear tests alongside R Chidambaram, Anil Kakodkar, and APJ Abdul Kalam. When he took over as Director from 2001 to 2004, he infused into IDSA a scientist’s discipline — rooted in modelling, systems thinking, and quantitative analysis — dimensions the Institute had long underplayed. If Subrahmanyam, the civil servant-scholar, had endowed IDSA with conceptual depth and a culture of debate, Santy sought to complement it with empirical precision. Both exemplified a shared conviction that India’s strategic thought must remain informed, autonomous, and unswayed by political expediency.

This intellectual autonomy yielded a substantial corpus of scholarship. In 1977, Strategic Analysis was launched as a monthly journal, later transitioning into a peer-reviewed quarterly in 2002 and, in partnership with Routledge, into a bi-monthly publication in 2007. Over the decades, it has become a principal forum for India’s security discourse, publishing influential analyses on nuclear policy, regional strategy, intelligence reform, and military modernisation.

Sixty years on, the Institute’s founding purpose endures. Yet, despite its considerable contributions, IDSA has been slower to integrate quantitative and interdisciplinary methodologies into its research framework. This methodological gap continues to constrain the infusion of empirical rigour and analytical precision into India’s strategic studies — a limitation that future scholarship must consciously address.

The author is a Senior Fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi

 dailypioneer

 @UKSinha_idsa

 dailypioneer

Twin glitches in India’s sky



AJAY S JASRA

Two breakdowns in aviation rarely occur together by chance; it’s like lightning striking the same place twice. When Delhi’s Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS) failed recently, slowing air traffic operations to a crawl, several pilots also reported GPS anomalies over northern India-signals suggesting possible spoofing of satellite navigation data. Though officially unconnected, the two events are uncomfortably close in time. In a world where both digital and satellite networks can be disrupted-intentionally or indirectly-this coincidence warrants deeper investigation rather than a quick technical explanation.

The AMSS is the nerve centre of air traffic communication, routing flight plans and operational messages between control towers, airlines, and radar units. It functions much like the WhatsApp of aviation, instantly linking every element of the airspace network. When it fails, controllers revert to manual procedures-typing and reading flight data line by line-slowing traffic and increasing workload. Around the same time, aircraft over India and nearby regions reported intermittent GPS errors and position shifts, classic signs of spoofing. Reports of GPS interference near the India-Pakistan border further strengthened the possibility of deliberate interference by state or non-state actors. Pilots flying along certain northern corridors have noted erratic readings, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has reinstated traditional Instrument Landing Systems at Delhi to ensure redundancy when satellite signals are unreliable. In this context, the overlap of a major ground-system failure and a navigation disturbance cannot be dismissed as mere coincidence. The geopolitical proximity to conflict-sensitive regions makes the possibility of spill-over interference entirely plausible. Spoofing, unlike simple jamming, does not block a signal but imitates it. Fake satellite transmissions trick onboard computers into accepting false coordinates, distorting position data. For pilots, this may cause the aircraft symbol to drift on the navigation display, the map to jump, or warnings of “position disagree” to appear.

Such interference has become a global hazard. Data compiled by the international pilot and controller forum OPSGROUP shows a dramatic rise in spoofing incidents-from roughly 300 daily flight disruptions in early 2024 to about 1,500 per day by mid-year. Over one month last summer, more than 41,000 flights worldwide were affected by navigation deception or signal loss. Independent

analytics by Aireon and WTW also confirm that cases of jamming and spoofing have risen by more than 60 per cent since 2021. The surge aligns closely with regions under military tension-particularly the Middle East, the Black Sea, and parts of Eastern Europe-where electronic warfare systems are routinely deployed to mislead drones or missiles, with civil aircraft becoming collateral victims. International regulators have long warned of this trend. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has documented the spread of GNSS interference and urged a unified European response. Its 2024 advisory called for centralised monitoring networks and pilot training in recognising spoofing symptoms.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) recently highlighted GNSS disruption as a rising “safety-of-flight risk” and urged continuous reporting by air navigation service providers. OPSGROUP identified multiple safety concerns and operational risks, noting that spoofing is now common and often impacts several aircraft simultaneously. The Delhi incident reveals broader systemic vulnerabilities, as increased automation in aviation, while efficient, creates dangerous dependence on complex technology. A simultaneous failure of ground networks and satellite links greatly reduces the chances for human intervention. The way forward globally is being defined: ICAO, EASA, and IATA advocate creating real-time GNSS interference monitoring cells-akin to weather centres-to issue alerts swiftly. Airlines are advised to train crews to cross-check navigation sources, maintain proficiency in radio-based navigation, and log interference systematically. Airports are reinforcing conventional aids (VOR, DME, ILS) for non-satellite redundancy.

Crucially, regulators must treat simultaneous system failures as credible scenarios, not hypotheticals. With dense airspace, overlapping civil-military operations, and proximity to high-tension borders, India cannot afford to treat GNSS disruptions as distant or occasional events. A joint civil-military monitoring cell under the DGCA and the Airports Authority of India should integrate pilot reports, satellite analytics, and ground data into a real-time alert network. Strengthening indigenous navigation systems such as NavIC and the GAGAN satellite-based augmentation system will also reduce dependence on foreign GPS signals, enhancing both safety and self-reliance. Delhi’s recent turbulence may be a temporary hiccup, but the lesson endures. “Coincidence” isn’t an adequate explanation for the simultaneous failure of two critical aviation systems in an era of hybrid warfare. The silence carries an urgent question: what truly happened when India’s messages stopped and its satellites started lying?

The writer is an aviation expert

 dailypioneer

 @Jasra_G

 ajay-sahai-jasra-022751167

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WHIRLING POOL

Private-equity firm Advent International is reportedly interested in buying a 31 per cent stake in Whirlpool of India, and take over the company. If a deal is clicked, it may mark a pivotal shift in the large-appliances segment. The billion-dollar purchase may trigger an open offer to the existing shareholders, and make Advent a majority owner. Whirlpool of India will undergo a strategic reset, as the global parent moves away from operational control to focus on licensing arrangement, brand management, and technology agreement.

The new majority owner, if it achieves this objective, will bring higher capital, hopefully sharper focus on India-specific products, closer alignment with local consumers, and faster-paced innovation. But a private equity player will need to access technology, and product lines from the parent, or through partnerships with competitors. There is a signal that the global Whirlpool may be interested in the Indian market, but does not want a solid footing.

An important emerging and crucial factor in the appliances segment is the acceleration of the upgrade cycle. Valued at more than \$75 billion, the business is likely to grow at a compounded annual rate of more than seven per cent. As the Indian consumers move from basic models to inverter-compressor refrigerators, fully-automatic smart washing machines, larger capacity units, and connected appliances brands need to refresh line-ups, launch India-specific models, and introduce new features regularly and quickly.

A change in Whirlpool of India's ownership may set the stage for faster product roster, which will perhaps include shifting from global templates to local-market priority models. The new products may emphasise features such as Wi-Fi connectivity, energy-efficiency, smart-diagnostics, and penetration into smaller cities and towns. The deal can open new doors of manufacturing and localisation. In India, appliances remain in a phase of structural opportunity with rising urbanisation, increasing electricity access, e-commerce channel growth, and policy support for local manufacturing.

Whirlpool has an existing manufacturing footprint, which may expend under the new ownership. There can be efforts to drive cost efficiencies, reduce import dependence, and speed up time-to-market. This is critical as competitors are doing the same. Haier Appliances India, for example, recorded revenues of ₹8,900 crore in 2024, and hopes to add another ₹2,500 crore in 2025. It plans to have a new manufacturing facility in the south India.

The Whirlpool deal, therefore, may enhance these broader shifts in the segment, with global players willing to either step up local manufacturing, or step back a bit, and hand over control to either capital-specific, product-specific, or tech-specific players. For the consumers, these moves may translate into faster introduction of premium models, stronger service networks, even in the smaller cities, and improved spare-parts and maintenance support.

Private equity players have shown considerable in select Indian sectors in the recent past. They bring in capital, but have the ability and flexibility to forge constructive partnerships with existing businesses. The opportunities exist as the appliance market is under-penetrated in many categories such as large-capacity fridges, and smart washers, and is ready-and-steady for heady growth. The entry of structured investments suggests that the capital-focused players believe that there is an intrinsic value to unlock.

The strategies can be varied or multi-disciplinary, and include operational improvement, product differentiation, and distribution expansion. For instance, Reliance Retail acquired the Kelvinator brand from Sweden's Electrolux as part of its push into consumer durable. Reliance and other Indian firms wish to buy a slice of the Haier India, which may be valued at two billion dollars, or more. The market is in a phase of consolidation, global-local re-balancing, and feature-led competition, rather than volume-led growth.

On the demand side, consumers are ready for the next wave of technology-led home appliances. The urge to upgrade, higher disposable incomes, faster replacement cycles, and expansion in smaller cities create a favourable backdrop. But there are likely to be execution risks for the companies. Hence, new owners need to deliver on manufacturing, product roll-outs, service networks, pricing discipline, and consumer trust. In markets like India, this is not easy. The practicality of the potential is invariably a question-mark.

Powerful brands like LG and Samsung lead in the premium segments, and advertise AI features, smart-home integration, and large-door configurations. Whirlpool of India's financials are not-so-good, as indicated by its second quarter results in this fiscal year. Revenues from operations were down almost four per cent, net profits declined by more than 20 per cent, and EBIDTA margins squeezed from over five per cent to 3.5 per cent. The last suggests "challenges in maintaining its operational efficiency during the quarter."

The stock price of the company indicates pressures, and decline in investors' interest. Although the returns over the past one month were over seven per cent, the figure for six-month returns was a negative two per cent, more than 30 per cent year-to-date, more than 35 per cent in the past 12 months, and more than 40 per cent in the past five years. The 52-week high and low has wildly fluctuated between ₹900 and more than ₹2,000. On November 11, 2025, the share price slipped from ₹1,290 to ₹1,248. For investors, the question is whether the financial and stock fortunes will change with the change in ownership. If yes, the Advent-Whirlpool deal can spur the launch of next-generation appliances in India.

The Pioneer



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BUSINESS

10

Expectation, solution, governance

The numbers are a revelation. A recent McKinsey study on ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) finds that such corporate concerns are on the rise. Among 89 large firms in the survey, the ESG-related KPIS (Key Performance Indicators) have increased to 100, a 30 per cent rise in seven years. Media mentions of ESG have soared more than 50 times in a decade (2014-24), even as venture capital and private equity investments in ESG measurement businesses took off by 37 times. "Yet, the rapid proliferation of ESG checklists has crowded out CEO agendas, leading to ESG fatigue," states the survey. Firms are being pulled in opposing directions.

One of the major problems that the global firms face is to find opportunities that align with solutions to local-social issues. Some of the them overstretch, and take on too many issues, which is visible among Indian firms CSR (Corporate Social responsibilities) activities, which may be distinct from, but related to, ESG. Finding solutions require specific tailor-made partnerships that are hard to find, difficult to execute, or tough to sustain. Expectations are generally short-term among the firms, which limit the options. Returns on ESG investments materialise over a long period.

Criteria related to capabilities, and incentives determine the role played by a specific firm. Hence, the ESG fit includes alignment with products, services, and supply lines. Viability is crucial, and in cases where the end users cannot pay directly, there is a need for third-party support. The regulatory and policy environment can impact the environment and ecosystem of a company. Such issues require clarity, streamlined permitting, or cross-sector coordination. In most instances, among the three factors stated, there is a mismatch. Companies that meet the first (capabilities) but not the second (viability) need narrower focus, better collaborations, and long-term outlook. "Conversely,

when all three factors align, business-led solutions flourish rapidly," states the report.

This three-cornered adjustment is dubbed by McKinsey as "horses for courses." The horses are, of course, the companies that can enhance their innovating and scalability only if matched to the right issue, or course. The survey concludes that large companies account for 30 per cent of the value at stake in accelerating progress across 18 issues, and this roughly equal to their share of the global GDP. This is dependent on the share of value-added that provides more of the goods and services. The same is true of negative externalities like emissions, which too is measured in terms of the share of the total.

In 10 out of the 69 industries analysed, there were capabilities to make them the leading candidates to progress on four or more of the 18 issues, and 41 industries had the skills to address merely 1-3 issues. This forces firms to focus narrowly on some issues, which impact the industry in a distorted manner compared to its size. This is the need of the day. "For example, healthcare providers generate just four per cent of revenues across large companies overall, but they could account for 35 per cent of the progress to improve maternal and neonatal health, 25 per cent to reduce non-communicable diseases, 25 per cent to improve mental health, and eight per cent to reduce communicable diseases," states the report.

Such effects can be large relative to the industry's size in dollar terms. In non-communicable diseases, the intervention investments can be \$1 trillion over and above the recent historical rate, of which roughly two-thirds is linked to pharma efforts. This represents a business opportunity that is 40 per cent of the current revenues of large pharma companies. In transportation infrastructure, the additional money required is \$70 billion, of which a quarter goes

to the construction and engineering firms. This is one per cent of current revenues for the large firms in these two segments. The figure is modest but represents significant opportunities.

Obviously, the main hurdle to find the investment sources. McKinsey finds that to enhance progress on the 18 issues to the levels in nations that made the most progress requires \$6 trillion, which is three times the profits earned by Fortune Global 500 companies in 2024. This is an "insurmountable hurdle," unless the society and nations decide to allocate massive public funds, and other resources. Governments need to intervene actively,

as do state-owned entities, as the benefits far outweigh the costs in the long run. In essence, the efforts do pay off admirably, but "often only over decades."

Thus, the think tank pinpoints nations where an issue of the 18 is most prevalent, and clustered them around the prevailing economic contexts such as nations being exiting poor, accelerating empowerment, and transforming mature systems. However, the benefit-to-cost ratios can vary widely between the different contexts, with the issues with the highest annual costs being most prevalent in the high-income nations. Such ratios can help guide the policy-makers, and the firms. The metrics cannot capture everything, especially non-economic factors, and discount rates used. A five per cent rate can be ideal, though it is high for social investments, and low for corporate money. But no standards exist.

"A capabilities-based, horses-for-courses approach requires identifying where and how companies are best suited to address social issues. History is chockablock with examples of the many ways in which companies find business opportunities, all of which have structural similarities when it comes to advancing innovation, and scaling or making business models work in the interests of the societal needs, to help society under many different circumstances. In some cases, companies can act immediately. In others, policy interventions and collaborations are required to adjust the conditions, and enable private-sector participation. Whether to do so is a societal choice about funding, regulation, and coordination," the study concludes, and leaves the crucial questions open.

One of the successes cited in the study is that of Reliance Jio, which began the 4G rollout in 2013. Within two years, India launched the Digital India initiative, which aimed to connect 250,000 villages. The next year, Jio went live nationwide, and offered six months of free 4G data and voice services. In 2017, the Government reduced inter-company charges, which lowered mobile plans. JioPhone was priced at \$20, and 80 million units were sold. By 2021, interconnection charges were abolished. In 2023, JioPhone Next, built with Google, and costing less than \$50, was targeted at 500 million users. There was an additional \$12 version of the model for the poor. Thus, "expanding Internet access rapidly... was spurred by a dynamic iteration of improved technology... and government policy, resulting in low-cost option that delivered access to hundreds of millions."

Should India cope or cop-out?

Most people say that Belem, which hosts COP30 multilateral meet, is a spectacularly beautiful place in Brazil. The event marks the 30th edition of a global alliance, which wants to mitigate the effects of Climate Change, and tackle the looming crisis. Predictably, soon after he was elected for a second term, the US President Donald Trump withdrew his country from the 2015 Paris Agreement. He did the same during his first tenure. Nevertheless, the Brazilian event will continue, even as it struggles to find solutions.

Like most institutions, which are either governed directly or indirectly by the United Nations, its future faces challenges. For India, events like COP30 are of extreme importance for various factors. One, they trigger old and haggard arguments about the double standards, and hypocrisy of the West in Climate Change issues. Two, there is the growing pressure from global activists, actively aided and abetted by what I would call the brown sepoys. Three, although India is successful, particularly since the signing of the Paris Agreement, to grow its share of renewable production, and consumption increases rapidly, it faces stark choices.

Despite the successes, the pressures are mounting. In an article, Anurabha Ghosh, a leading activist, wrote, "The time for promises is now over. COP30 must mark the shift from a bank of promises to a bank of actions where delivery not declarations mark progress. Nowhere is this more important than in South Asia, a region on the front lines of clear climate crisis.... For India, climate action is both a necessity and an opportunity.... But for it to succeed, the world must come together through smarter, more inclusive multilateralism."

Of course, as is the case with global activists, the voice is eloquent, articulate, and passionate. But India's choices cannot be dictated only by the western or global concerns. For example, take the case of the increasing pressure to reduce the use of thermal energy, or of electricity generated by coal. In contrast, the European nations, which are not openly hostile to the Paris Agreement like the US, adopt a peculiar stance on energy sources. As far as they are concerned, natural gas is

good, but coal is dirty, old, and polluting.

It is ironic that gas, like coal, is a fossil fuel, and no matter how one spins it, or liquefies it, gas remains a polluting fuel. One cannot condone the use of one, and condemn the other. Obviously, everyone does not buy the argument. An environmentalist, Sunita Narain of the Center for Science and Environment, pertinently asks: "Why single out coal? Why not natural gas, which is also a fossil fuel, and emits gases that contribute to global warming? I know, I am asking an inconvenient question. But bear with me. I do so, knowing that we need to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions, and fast. But we need clarity on what we are doing and why?"

Now, Narain is not a fan of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, or the ruling regime. She is not a fan of coal, or Trump. When the US president says that Climate Change is a hoax, and a fraud, Narain asks the reasons to single out coal vis-à-vis gas. She is merely harping on the

fact that it is unjust, and cruel to impose restrictions on energy use on the third world countries.

Narain has pointed that the average electricity consumption of an American is 36 times that of an average Indian household. Hence, as the Indian economy grows rapidly, emerges as the fastest-growing major economy in the world, millions will walk out of a life of poverty and destitution, and become part of the new aspirational Indian middle-class generation. These are families that have never used a refrigerator, mixer, or microwave oven, forget about a washing machine, dishwasher, or other gadgets. They need electricity, whatever may be the source, and coal is most obvious one in India.

But the brown sepoy of the global activists have other arguments. They want India to give up coal, adopt gas in the interim period, and accelerate the production and use of renewables, and green energy. While this may be

The Pioneer

SINCE 1865

The author has worked for leading media houses, authored two books, and is now Executive Director, C Voter Foundation



Addressing the Urban Waste Crisis in India



DEEPAK GUPTA

Unfortunately, one of the most prominent features of our urban landscape is overfilled landfills and garbage strewn everywhere. Every single day Indian cities produce 1.6 — 1.7 lakh tonnes of waste of which only half is processed. Treating just 50 per cent of this organic fraction through



decentralised biogas plants could produce more than 15 million tonnes of CBG annually. Yet cities still rely on open dumping and low-grade composting. The volume of waste is going to dramatically rise in the coming years with growing urbanisation. It is estimated that India may need over 60,000ha of new landfill space which itself is going to be almost impossible to find. Meanwhile, this continues to emit deadly methane which is more than 25 times more potent than the CO₂ and poisonous leachate trickles to pollute ground water. We are witnessing a literally rising crisis which threatens to reach monumental proportions. There have been some attempts to collect and process this waste over the years. Many have projects have failed, initially due to technology issues but also due to lack of support from the concerned

urban bodies and lack of a workable financial model. India's waste is a category by itself and collecting and desegregating it is a challenge. Urban local bodies must institutionalise waste segregation, including waste from temples, cattle yards, vegetable markets, ensure that non-organic waste, goes for energy recovery or recycling and channel wet organic waste towards biogas generation. In fact, we need a mission for all components of waste including plastic, bio medical, industrial, e-waste, paper/cardboard/glass etc. This is essentially a management problem. Tipping/transport fee payment to

With the volume of waste rising dramatically, the writers pitch for a National Biogas Mission to tackle all types of waste

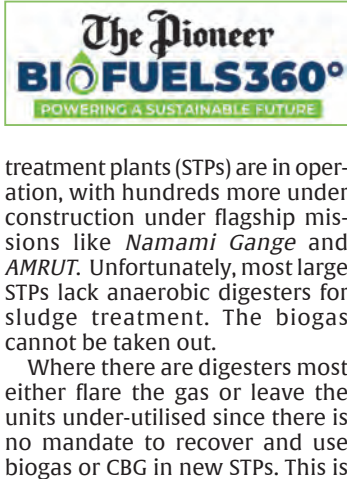


essential service. Incentives across *Swachh Bharat*, *GOBARDHAN*, *AMRUT* and fertiliser subsidy pro-

grams should be aligned to reward them and cities that produce and use both biogas and bio-slurry. In urban India, over 1,250 sewage treatment plants (STPs) are in operation, with hundreds more under construction under flagship missions like *Namami Gange* and *AMRUT*. Unfortunately, most large STPs lack anaerobic digesters for sludge treatment. The biogas cannot be taken out. Where there are digesters most either flare the gas or leave the units under-utilised since there is no mandate to recover and use biogas or CBG in new STPs. This is

a waste in waste. If anaerobic digestion is optimised, sewage can produce 5-10 million tonnes of CBG while recycling over 80 per cent of wastewater, which itself is of great value because of the water crisis which is beginning to overwhelm urban India. The Liquid Waste Management Rules must go beyond drainage and septage to mandate biogas recovery from sewage and organic waste. All STPs above 10 MLD capacity should include anaerobic digesters and plans for gas utilisation which should get suitable incentives. This gas can also be injected into the city gas distribution system. There is a great opportunity waiting to be realised. It requires a bold approach and a clear declaration that we will clean our cities.

Mr Deepak Gupta, IAS (Retd), Ex Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ex-Chairman, UPSC, and Dr D.K. Khare, Ex-Advisor (Bioenergy), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt of India and Incharge of India chapter of World Biogas Association, UK



Tech-led smart agriculture key for building *Viksit Bharat*: Niti Aayog member

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi

Technology-led smart agriculture holds the key to building a *Viksit Bharat*, Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand said on Tuesday. "The agri-tech landscape is evolving rapidly, from genetic modification and precision farming to data science and ICT-based advisory systems," Chand said, while addressing an Assocham event here. He said farmers today must have access to capital, knowledge and partnerships that enable them to adapt to this transformation, according to a statement. "Every technology brings both a solution and a challenge; we must ensure innovation also respects sustainability and environmental balance," Chand said, adding that India is not just a food-secure nation, but one moving towards value addition and climate-smart agriculture. The *Niti Aayog* member said 46 per cent of the country's population is employed in the agricultural sector, making it the largest contributor to the *Viksit*

Bharat mission, with significant growth observed in tier-II regions such as Assam and Madhya Pradesh. Agriculture Commissioner Praveen Kumar Singh said the focus must be on making agriculture both productive and sustainable. Platforms like upag.gov.in are integrating agri statistics, Fasal Bima, crop yield and Kisan Credit Card data should be used to ensure informed decision-making, he said. Waste-to-wealth initiatives, such as converting crop residues into CBG and schemes like *KUSUM*, are linking energy efficiency with crop cultivation. "With digital agriculture and real-time intelligence, we are working to make data available in farmers' local languages, enabling every farmer to benefit from technology — driven solutions," he added. UPL Ltd Global Corporate and Industry Affairs Sagar Kaushik said global initiatives like COP30 and the United Nations' climate agenda remind us that agriculture must be part of the climate solution, not the cause.



Net equity flows in MF schemes drop by 19% in October

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai

Net inflows into mutual funds' equity schemes dropped by nearly 19 per cent to ₹24,690 crore in October, making it the third consecutive month of a decline in the number, an industry body said on Tuesday. On the systematic investment plans (SIPs), the preferred vehicle of retail investors, the overall inflows grew to ₹29,529 crore from September's record high of ₹29,631 crore. Amid the rally in gold prices, gold exchange traded funds saw net inflows at ₹7,743 crore during the month taking the overall assets under management (AUM) in the category to above ₹1 lakh crore, as per data disclosed by the Association of Mutual Funds of India (Amfi). The net flows into equity MFs

long-term value creation and hence tracked closely, stood at ₹35.16 lakh crore as on October 31 as against ₹33.68 lakh crore in the month-ago period. As per previous experience, the beginning of a new quarter saw higher interest in the debt schemes, with net inflows of ₹1.59 lakh crore in October as against an outflow of ₹1.01 lakh crore in September, Chalasani said. The overall MF industry's AUM rose by over 5 per cent to ₹79.88 lakh crore on the back of the positive activity in the debt segment. On the gold ETFs front, the net inflows reduced to ₹7,743 crore in October from ₹8,363 crore in September, and the AUM stood at ₹1.02 lakh crore. Chalasani attributed the continued investor interest in the precious metal to the price increase in the spot prices and also



had declined 9 per cent on-month to ₹30,421 crore in September, after August's 22 per cent decline to ₹33,430 crore, amid corrections in the equity benchmarks. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Amfi's chief executive V N Chalasani asserted that there is no pattern in the investor interest and attributed the fall to higher redemptions because of the profit-booking amid surge in markets. The overall redemptions stood at ₹38,920 crore in October as against ₹35,982 crore in September. However, the funds mobilised by equity schemes declined in October to ₹63,611 crore from ₹66,404 crore in September. The AUM for the equity schemes, which are looked as the favoured vehicle for

its value as a safe haven asset. He said the silver ETFs also saw an inflow of ₹3,000 crore and the category AUM now stands at over ₹42,000 crore, he said. Chalasani said the SIP AUM grew to ₹16.25 lakh crore and now contributes over a fifth of the overall industry's AUM. The total number of active SIP accounts rose to 9.45 crore from 9.25 crore in the month-ago period, he added. The total number of SIP accounts stands at 9.73 crore, he said, pointing out that there were additions of 60 lakh accounts and 45 lakh account closures as well during the month. On the micro SIPs or *chhota* SIPs front, where the regulator Sebi has voiced concerns on the low traction.

Indigenous apps and platforms add to the definition of *swadeshi*



These days, the entire leadership of the country, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is constantly urging citizens to adopt *Swadeshi*. The Prime Minister says that no country can develop as long as it remains dependent on other countries. To reduce this dependence, citizens must use indigenous products. However, we know that the general public uses not only indigenous products but also a variety of services. In recent years, due to new technologies, the use of various foreign apps has increased. WhatsApp for messaging, general calling and video calls; Facebook and Instagram for social networking; Google's Gmail for email; Google Maps for navigation; Amazon, Flipkart-Walmart for shopping and a variety of other apps have seen a tremendous growth in usage. Google charges hefty fees for downloading many apps, while Facebook and many other platforms also offer advertising services and enjoys near monopoly. The surprising thing is that the providers of these services are making huge profits, yet they are not even ready to pay taxes in India.

Advent of *Swadeshi* apps with huge support from the people, is fast changing the digital space in the country. Every country and its citizens have the right to choose what to use and what not to use. The call for *Swadeshi* can truly be seen as a means to increase employment within the country, reduce dependence on foreign countries, and keep the country's wealth within the boundaries of the country. It is not just a slogan, but a life vision that centers self-reliance, self-respect and national interest. Today, when the Indian economy has become heavily dependent on foreign countries, the consequences of which are being borne by the country's economy and the common man, the call for *Swadeshi* has once again become important. It is noteworthy that in the era of globalisation, it had been argued that to provide affordable goods to consumers worldwide, it is essential to eliminate barriers to the global value chain. Components for production can be efficiently manufactured and shipped to different locations in different countries, allowing for higher-quality products to be produced at lower costs. A similar argument was made regarding the movement of



goods; that consumers can access the cheapest goods, only through free trade. Goods that can efficiently be produced in our country and then be sold in global markets through free trade. The logic of globalisation has totally collapsed. The logic of the global value chain was shattered when some countries, especially China, began weaponising their monopoly in global value chains. We haven't yet forgotten the US ban on vaccine supplies during COVID-19, when global production of many goods, including automobiles, came to a standstill due to China's deliberate blockade of semiconductor supplies. Similarly, recently, China began blackmailing other countries, including India, by disrupting the supply of products made from rare earths. For more than seven months, the US President has imposed tariffs on almost all of its trading partners, flouting global agreements. The truth of globalisation has been fully exposed. Consequently, not only India but other countries around the world are now talking about self-reliance.

includes services; in this digital world, digital services in the form of apps, platforms and e-products, among other services, have become increasingly important. Zoho Corporation, an Indian software product company, has developed numerous products, including the messaging app Arattai, ZohoMail for emailing and numerous other e-products developed by several Indian start-ups and companies, which are becoming increasingly popular among our citizens. India and its leadership have now fully realised that if India's industries are to be revived and the Indian economy is to be put on fast growth trajectory, we must minimise our dependence on foreign countries, including China and the United States. Therefore, the age-old concept of *Swadeshi* is being promoted by everyone in the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and this is encouraging people to adopt indigenous products. We need to understand that India is heavily dependent not only on foreign products, but also on digital services, platforms and

other e-products. Therefore, when we talk about *swadeshi*, we should not limit ourselves to indigenous products; it also includes electronic services, both social media and e-commerce platforms and other services related to intellectual property rights (IPR). Therefore, the scope of *swadeshi* is expanding. In this context, two new products have gained the most momentum: Arattai (a messaging app developed by India's Zoho Corporation, which is an alternative to WhatsApp) and ZohoMail, an alternative to Gmail. In addition to individuals and businesses, the Indian Government is also rapidly shifting to ZohoMail for its email. Leading Indian apps, platforms, and e-products in the digital sector, such as social media, messaging, e-commerce and other technological solutions, offer numerous advantages — especially in the context of *Atmanirbhar Bharat* and *Swadeshi* thought process. Indian apps often prioritise regional languages (over 15-20 Indian languages). User data is stored in India, ensuring privacy and compliance with Indian data laws. Indian apps also offer customised monetisation options for Indian customers and small creators. Indigenous social media apps help build a self-reliant digital ecosystem instead of relying on global giants like Meta or Twitter. Zoho's "Made-in-India" messaging app, Arattai, has several advan-

tages over WhatsApp. First, Arattai, being an Indian app, stores user data on servers in India, and being developed by Zoho (an Indian company), it aligns with the Government's "*Atmanirbhar Bharat*" goals. While foreign companies are subject to data being captured by companies under foreign jurisdiction, indigenous apps offer data security. They offer a unique ad-free experience, with the promise that user data will not be used for targeted advertising. Indian platforms have been developed for Indian conditions. For example, Arattai is optimised for low-end devices and poor networks. Furthermore, Arattai includes several features that other apps don't have. Arattai is gaining local support and endorsement being Indian, and is gaining visibility and endorsements from some public figures and celebrities, which helps drive trust and adoption. We must not forget that by adopting these apps and platforms, we will not only save significant amounts of foreign exchange, but also benefit from better security features and the guarantee that user data will be stored in their respective regions and not sold for profit.

Author is a national co-convenor *Swadeshi Jagran Manch* and former professor, PGDAV College, Delhi University

TAIWAN

BOTSWANA

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday left for Botswana on the second leg of her two-nation State Visit after concluding her trip to Angola, where she held discussions on expanding the economic ties beyond the traditional energy business. On the last day of her four-day State Visit to Angola, President Murmu attended the country's 50th Independence Day celebrations before moving to the Angola International Airport, where she was given a ceremonial farewell. Giving details of the visit, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Sudhakar Dalela, said Angola has come forward to partner with India in some "very critical" areas like renewable energy, wildlife conservation and management, and biofuels, which are "very significant" outcomes of the president's visit to the African nation.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
 Washington

House Speaker Mike Johnson urged lawmakers to start returning to Washington "right now" given shutdown-related travel delays, but an official notice issued after the Senate vote said the earliest the House will vote is



Sen. Maggie Hassan and Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine — agreed to vote to advance three bipartisan annual spending bills and extend the rest of Government funding until late January. Republicans promised to hold a vote to

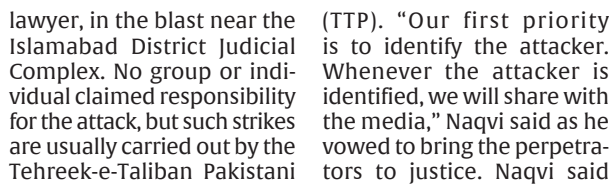
The legislation includes a reversal of the mass firings of federal workers by the Trump administration since the shutdown began on

Tim Kaine of Virginia, home to tens of thousands of federal workers, also voted Sunday in favor of moving forward on the agreement. Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the Number 2 Democrat, Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman and Nevada Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen also voted yes. All other Democrats, including Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York, voted against it. The moderates had expected a larger number of Democrats to vote with them.

Schumer, who received blowback from his party in March when he voted to keep the Government open, said he could not "in good faith" support it after meeting with his caucus for more than two hours on Sunday. "We will not give up the fight," Schumer said, adding that Democrats have now "sounded the alarm" on health care. Chris Murphy.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Islamabad

The minister said that 12 people were killed and 27 others injured, including security personnel and a



Primary election marked

al boycott

Naqvi said Pakistan is clear that Afghanistan should stop terrorism coming from their soil, "otherwise we will have to take action against them."

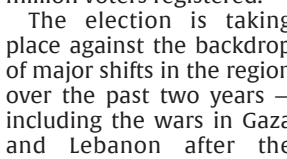
"In this environment, it would be futile to hold out greater hope for successful negotiations with the ruler."

President Zardari strongly condemned the suicide blast and expressed deep condolences to the bereaved families. He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured.

The attack came days after the third round of talks between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban failed to reach any agreement to tackle the issue of terrorism emanating from Afghanistan.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Baghdad

A total of 8,703 polling stations were open across the country for the general election. Members of the security forces and displaced people living in camps cast their ballots in early voting on Sunday. Turnout was sparse in the early hours of Tuesday at polling stations visited by Associated Press journalists. Initial results were expected on Wednesday. Only 21.4 million out of a total of 32 million eligible voters updated their information and obtained voter cards ahead of the

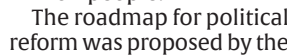


October 7, 2023, Hamas-led attacks on southern Israel, the Israel-Iran war in May and June, and the fall of Syrian President Bashar Assad last December. These developments come as U.S. pressure intensifies on the Iraqi Government to curb the influence of Iran-aligned

armed factions, some of which have candidates participating in Tuesday's vote. Prime Minister Mohammad Shia al-Sudani, who is running for a second term, arrived at a polling station in Baghdad to cast his vote, along with his mother.

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Dhaka

The key demand is for a referendum on the “July National Charter”, which is named after the national uprising that began in July 2024 and led to the fall of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina following a 15-year

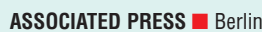


Its provisions would include bringing more checks and balances to the country's political system to avoid authoritarian administrations, including by giving the presidency more authority to balance what had been a powerful prime minister.

The Jamaat-e-Islami party, which has a dark history involving Bangladesh's independence war, has signed the charter and is forging a bigger political platform to contest in the next election in the absence of the Awami League.



He is among tens of thousands of Africans returning home with the help of the International Organisation for Migration, as Europe spends millions of dollars to deter migrants before they reach its shores. The European Union funded IOM program pays for return flights and promises follow-up assistance.



A man accused of calling for attacks on German politicians and officials, seeking cryptocurrency donations to be used as a reward for their killing and publishing instructions on how to build explosives has been arrested, prosecutors said Tuesday. The suspect, a German-Polish dual citizen identified only as Martin S. In line with German privacy rules, was arrested in Dortmund on Monday evening, federal prosecutors said in a statement. He is suspected of terror financing, giving instructions on carrying out a serious act of violence and dangerous dissemination of personal data. Prosecutors allege that the man had been calling for attacks on politicians, officials and other figures in German public life on the darknet since at least June.

Thailand said it has indefinitely paused implementation of a US-brokered ceasefire until Cambodia apologises for a land mine explosion on Monday that injured four Thai soldiers at their border. Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul visited the injured troops at the border on Tuesday as the Thai army accused Cambodia of laying new mines in violation of the truce agreement Thailand and Cambodia signed last month. Territorial disputes between the Southeast Asian neighbours led to five days of combat in late July that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians. Others have been injured by land mine explosions before and after July's combat, and tensions have simmered despite the truce. The Thai army said one soldier lost his right foot after stepping on a land mine.

PROSPECT



Meghalaya Bharat Scouts and Guides celebrated the 75th Foundation Day and the Rajya Puraskar Rally at the lawn of the Raj Bhavan, Shillong. On this auspicious occasion, the Governor of Meghalaya CH Vijayashankar handed over the Rajya Puraskar (Governor's Award) Certificates, the highest State award for Scouts and Guides. A total of 305 recipients (80 Scouts and 225 Guides) from various schools around the State received the meritorious award for their dedication and perseverance

SPIL maintains solid Q2 FY26 results

Shakti Pumps India Limited (SPIL) reported a robust performance for Q2 and H1 FY26, delivering one of the highest quarterly revenues in its history despite operational challenges posed by an extended monsoon and raw material cost increases. The company posted consolidated revenue of ₹666.4 Crores in Q2 FY26, a 5 per cent YoY growth, taking H1 FY26 revenue to ₹1288.9 Crores, up 7.2 per cent YoY. EBITDA stood at ₹136 Crores for the quarter with margins at 20.4 per cent, impacted by a 3-4 per cent rise in prices of copper, steel and solar panels. PAT came in at ₹90.7 crores in Q2 and ₹187.5 crores for H1 FY26. Dinesh Patidar, Chairman & Managing Director, said, "Despite prolonged monsoon conditions and raw material inflation, we delivered one of the highest quarterly revenues in our history. Maharashtra has led strongly in order inflows and our pipeline across states remains robust. Our solar rooftop business is scaling rapidly and emerging segments are showing encouraging growth. With strong execution capabilities, a diversified order pipeline and strategic investments, we remain confident of delivering our FY26 guidance and sustaining long-term growth."

Awfis Q2 profit down 59% to ₹16 cr on high base effect

Realty firm Awfis Space Solutions Ltd on Tuesday reported a 59 per cent decline in its consolidated profit to ₹15.97 crore in the latest September quarter on a high base effect. Its net profit stood at ₹38.67 crore in the year-ago period, helped by an exceptional gain of ₹24 crore. Total income, however, grew to ₹392.97 crore in the July-September quarter of this fiscal from ₹301.95 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year, according to a regulatory filing. Awfis, which has recently been listed on stock exchanges, provides flexible managed office spaces to corporates of all sizes. It takes office space from property owners to establish centres and then sub-lease the workspaces to enterprises.

GOC Spear Corps visits forward areas of Dibang Valley

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Itanagar

General Officer Commanding, Spear Corps, visited Anini and forward air-maintained posts of Dao Division in the Dibang Valley to review operational preparedness, logistics sustenance and troop morale in the challenging high-altitude terrain of Eastern Arunachal Pradesh. During the visit, the Corps Commander witnessed the on-ground validation of the Kill Box and Ashni Platoon—specialised combat teams demonstrating integrated hard kill and soft kill responses against hostile

drone threats. The exercise showcased the Indian Army's growing capability in counter-drone warfare, blending technology with tactical acumen to enhance battlefield resilience. GOC interacted with the troops, commended their professionalism and dedication in extreme climatic and terrain conditions and emphasised the importance of technological adaptation in modern warfare. He reiterated the Indian Army's commitment to operational readiness and the continual evolution of combat tactics to meet emerging security challenges along the Eastern frontier.



World Bank debarred Transformers and Rectifiers shares tanks 28%

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The World Bank's debarring has seriously affected Transformers and Rectifiers (India) Ltd (TARIL). 'The Pioneer' reported on Sunday that the Indian company was debarred by World Bank for fraudulent corruption practices in Nigerian powergrid supply. The company's shares were ₹396 on Friday tanked to ₹313 on Monday after the report and on Tuesday further collapsed to ₹282 in Stock Exchanges.

Interestingly, TARIL shares were only priced ₹7.40 only in January 1, 2020 and in January 2025, the company shares shot up to ₹650. 'The Pioneer' reported that more than 50 Indian companies and individuals were debarred by the World Bank for corruption, bribery and fraudulent practices.

The company CFO Chanchal S Rajora on Tuesday told media that the firm was caught in Nigerian politics. Explaining the issues in supply of equipments in the Nigerian projects, he said that the issues will be sort out in six months.

The World Bank has banned the company for four years till June 2029. Gujarat based TARIL was debarred by the World Bank on November 4 for 486 Million Dollars contract in Nigerian power sector.

Share price of Transformers and Rectifiers (India) Ltd (TARIL) extended their sharp fall on Tuesday, slipping 10 per cent to a one-year low of ₹282.80 on BSE. With this, the stock has lost nearly 28 per



The Pioneer exclusive report on November 09, 2025 on World Bank debarring of Indian companies and individuals

PIONEER PHOTO

cent over the last two trading sessions, following a World Bank debarment notice.

The company issued a clarification stating, "We wish to inform that Transformers and Rectifiers (India) Ltd has received a Notice of Uncontested Sanctions Proceedings dated November 4, 2025, from the World Bank in connection with Sanctions Case No. 788 relating to the Nigeria Electricity Transmission Project (IDA Credit Nos. 6185-NG and 6186-NG)."

TARIL said the communication referred to an earlier Notice of Sanctions Proceedings dated July 30, 2025, which the company had not received. "Accordingly, the Company has initiated steps to contest the matter and will submit

its reply to the World Bank, seeking an opportunity to review and address the allegations in detail," it added. The proceedings have been initiated under the Sanctions Proceedings and Settlements in Bank-Financed Projects, issued by the World Bank on November 30, 2023.

Providing background, TARIL said it had received an order worth \$24.74 million in FY20 for the supply of 70 transformers on a CFR basis to Nigeria. The order was executed in FY22 and as per the terms, 90 per cent payment was received under a letter of credit during the same year.

"During shipment of last consignment, while it was being transported from Nigerian Port to its Storage,

3 Nos transformers got damage due to accident. Claim filed by TCN and Insurance was passed during FY22, but payment was received under the insurance during FY24 in staggered manner, due to shortage of USD in Nigeria. We manufactured new Transformers against the previous 3 Nos damaged and supplied them during FY25 end, against which balance payment of 10 per cent was released by World Bank and received during Q1 FY26."

The company clarified that the debarment relates to "certain alleged irregularities concerning a past supply order executed under a World Bank-funded project for Transmission Company of Nigeria Plc (TCN), Abuja."

It further noted that all required

Dish TV partners with Amazon Prime

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Dish TV, one of India's leading content distribution companies, has partnered with Amazon Prime to offer Prime Lite benefits to its customers, reinforcing its commitment to innovation, convenience and customer value.

The collaboration spans the Dish Group's entire ecosystem — including its DTH services, Watcho streaming platform, VZY Smart TVs and extensive ISP partner network. Eligible Dish customers will gain seamless access to Prime Video's premium entertainment library, featuring award-winning Indian and international Originals, blockbuster films and more, all on a single device of their choice in HD quality.

In addition to unlimited entertainment, Prime members will also enjoy shopping benefits such as free unlimited Same-Day and Next-Day delivery on eligible products, as well as early access to major sales events like Prime Day. This partnership marks another milestone in Dish TV's journey to



transform home entertainment through technology, content and convenience. With a strong presence across both DTH and OTT, Dish TV's ecosystem includes its pioneering DTH brands — Dish TV and D2H — the Watcho OTT Super App and the creator-driven FLIQS platform.

The recent launch of VZY Smart TVs has further expanded its footprint into connected entertainment devices, offering viewers a complete and integrated experience. By integrating Prime Lite, Dish TV continues

to uphold its commitment to delivering unmatched value, innovation and entertainment to millions of Indian households, blending its DTH legacy with next-generation streaming technology to create a truly seamless and immersive viewing experience. Prime Video offers consumers access to one of the largest selections of the latest and exclusive Indian and international movies and TV shows, award-winning Amazon Original series, stand-up comedy, popular kids' shows and more.

Speaking about the collab-

oration, Manoj Dobhal, CEO and Executive Director of Dish TV India Limited, said, "Entertainment today is all about accessibility, simplicity and personalisation. Dish TV has always believed in empowering viewers with the freedom to choose how and where they watch content. Partnering with Amazon Prime, renowned for its vast library of movies, series and acclaimed Originals worldwide, further strengthens our commitment to delivering world-class entertainment experiences across every screen."

DGCA asks pilots, air traffic controllers to report GPS spoofing within 10 mins of occurrence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Aviation watchdog DGCA has asked airlines, pilots and air traffic controllers to report GPS spoofing incidents within 10 minutes of the occurrences, amid recent such incidents at the Delhi airport.

In recent days, incidents of GPS spoofing and interference has been reported in and around the national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), the country's busiest airport that handles over 1,500 flight movements daily.

Against this backdrop, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has decided to put in a place system to ensure real time reporting of GPS interference and spoofing incidents.

Global Positioning System (GPS)/ Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) spoofing and jamming refers to attempts to manipulate a user's navigation system by giving false signals.

"Any pilot, ATC controller, or technical unit detecting abnormal GPS behaviour (eg. Position anomalies, navigation errors, loss of GNSS signal integrity, or spoofed location data) shall initiate real time reporting (within 10 minutes of occurrence)," the regulator said in a three-page circular issued on November 10.

The initial report should compulsorily have details such as date and time of occurrence, aircraft type and registration, airline name, flight route and coordinates of occurrence or area affected.

Also, the watchdog has said the entities should mention about the type of interference as to whether it was "jamming / spoofing / signal loss / integrity error" as well as aircraft equipment affected by the interference.

According to the DGCA, airline operators, pilots and ATS units may include further supporting details such as preservation of system logs, screenshots or

images of the Flight Management System (FMS) and records of effects on connected systems and platforms.

ATS refers to Air Traffic Services. All aircraft operators, flight crew and Airports Authority of India (AAI), including Air Traffic Control (ATC) and Communication, Navigation, Surveillance (CNS) units, operating in and around the Delhi airport have been asked to follow the instructions in the circular.

The CNS is the main function of Air Navigation Services (ANS) and Air Traffic Management (ATM). These critical functions are provided by the AAI.

"In view of the recent occurrences of GPS spoofing and GNSS interference reported in and around IGI Airport, New Delhi, it is imperative that all aviation stakeholders ensure prompt detection and real-time reporting (within 10 minutes of occurrence) of such events to maintain flight

safety and operational integrity," the circular said.

The DGCA is probing the incidents of GPS spoofing at the Delhi airport and is also collecting such occurrences to have a better understanding of the situation.

In India, as many as 465 GPS interference and spoofing incidents were reported in the border region, mostly in the Amritsar and Jammu areas, between November 2023 and February 2025.

Several airlines had reported that aircraft operating in and around Amritsar have experienced GPS/GNSS interference.

Airlines have been reporting GPS interference with their flights in different parts of the world, especially while flying near or over conflict zones.

Both the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) have been looking at the issue of GPS spoofing and jamming and looking at ways to deal with them.



राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुरुक्षेत्र

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Advt. No.26/2025

Admission to Ph.D. Program in Even Semester of Academic Year 2025-26

National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra invites online applications via Google Form from Indian and Foreign nationals for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree Programmes on Full Time (Institute/CSIR-UGC-NET-JRF, Project), Visvesvaraya Fellowship Scheme, Full-Time (Self-Financed), and Part-Time seats for Academic Year 2025-26. Number of Seats, Online Application Form Link, and other relevant details along with Ph.D. Ordinance & Regulations are available on the Institute website: www.nitkkr.ac.in under Admission 2025-> Ph.D. tab.

All interested candidates may fill the Google Form latest by November 24, 2025, 05:00 p.m. If the application is incomplete or any information is found misleading/false at any point during or after the admission process, the candidate's candidature/admission will be cancelled and the application fee will not be refunded in any case.

Please visit Institute website regularly for any announcement or updates in this regard.

Registrar /lc

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

Engineering Department

Tender Notice

Tender Reference No. GNDU/ENGG/2025/11/09-16

The Engineering Department of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar invites online bids for:-(i) Renovate the existing allocated space for centre to make state and art lab facility to conduct research work of centre for basic and translational research in health Science (ii) Providing and Placing Lab Furniture for Modernization of Various Computer and Science Labs (iii) SITC of Modernization Work of Science and Computer Labs in various Department (iv) Purchase of Public Health Material CP 5Braz Fitting Material, Chinaware Material, PTMT Fitting Material Required for Upgradation of Various Toilets (v) Purchase of Civil and Public Health Material for Modernization of Labs Science and Computer in Various Department (vi) Purchase of Civil Work Material Building Material, Wooden Material, Tiles, Adhesive, Granite, Paint Material, Hardware Material, Frosted Glass for Renovation and Upgradation of various Toilets (vii) Upgradation of automatic RF Access Management System for Barrier Gates (viii) Electrical Work of renovation of bathrooms at various departments (Labour Rates basis) Closing date & time: 02-12-2025 for sr. no. 1 and 27-11-2025 for sr. no. 2 to 8 upto 04:00 pm

For details log onto www.eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Any Corrigendum/Addendum to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

2426/12/2025-26/4853 Dated GND :- 11/11/2025



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the Chaparmukh Railway Overbridge- Linking Raha to Chaparmukh Railway Junction and West Karbi Anglong

PIONEER PHOTO

▼ BRIEFLY

SHUBHANKAR TIED 6TH AT DP WORLD QUALIFYING SCHOOL



Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma was placed tied sixth after the fourth round of the DP World Tour Final Stage Qualifying School at Infinitem's Lakes and Hills courses. With rounds of 70-69-66-67 he was 14-under but eight shots behind the leader, Zander Lombard. There are two more rounds left in the six round final stage of the Q-School.

Australian Connor McKinney (67) is solo second at 16-under, while the trio of Quentin Debove, Benjamin Follett-Smith and Matthew Baldwin are tied third at 15-under.

Sharma, who has had a difficult 2025 season in the DP World Tour this year has previously been ranked as high as 64th on OWGR. This year he missed 17 consecutive cuts after the Hero Indian Open held in March. The season saw him lose his tour card and return to the Q School in a bid to retain playing privileges.

The 29-year-old who has previously won two titles on the DP World Tour stated during the DP World India Championships that he has struggled with equipment changes through the year and has yet to find a combination that works for him.

Things have looked better this week, though 36 holes remain to be played.

DEEPIKA, DHIRAJ LEAD INDIA AT ASIAN ARCHERY



Star archers Deepika Kumari and Dhiraj Bommadevara were back to their best after missing out on the team berths, as India secured at least three individual medals in recurve events of the Asian Archery Championships here on Tuesday.

Top-ranked Indians Deepika and Dhiraj, who had failed to make the team events after finishing last among their compatriots in qualification round on the opening day, bounced back strongly when the individual eliminations got underway.

Deepika stunned Shanghai World Cup gold medallist Lee Gahyun of Korea 7-3 to storm into the women's recurve semifinals, where she will face compatriot Ankita Bhakat. Ankita, meanwhile, produced one of the biggest upsets of the day, toppling top seed and former world champion Jang Minhee of Korea 6-4.

Sangeeta too joined the party, defeating Iran's Zare Reyhane 7-1 to enter the last-four, where she will meet Korea's Nam Suhyeon. With Deepika, Ankita and Sangeeta all in the semifinals, India stand a strong chance of completing a clean sweep in the women's recurve individual category.

Vihaan to captain India U19 A in triangular series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Rising talent Vihaan Malhotra was on Tuesday named captain of the India U19 A squad for an upcoming triangular series also featuring India B and Afghanistan's U19 teams.

Hyderabad's Aaron George will lead the India B U19 side in the competition that will be held at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence, Bengaluru, from November 17 to 30. Malhotra was handed captaincy, even as his two superstar teammates Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Ayush Mhatre remain occupied with other engagements. Wicketkeeper



Abhigyan Kundu will be Malhotra's deputy in the three-nation tournament, while Vedant Trivedi has been named vice captain of the India U19 B squad.

Delhi lose to J&K in Ranji for the first time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Delhi cricket hit a new low on Tuesday after a spirited Jammu and Kashmir thrashed them by seven wickets for their first-ever Ranji Trophy victory over the formidable opposition that was powered by opener Qamran Iqbal's superb hundred.

After four games, Delhi coached by Sarandeep Singh, are sixth among eight teams in Group D with seven points and it will take a miracle to qualify for the knockouts with only four points from three home games.

Questionable selections, poor strategies, absence of smart captaincy and a state unit in which teams have suffered due to factionalism and infighting has brought about the team's downfall.

Since 1960, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir have met 43 times and 37 of those games have ended in outright wins for the seven-time champions.

Chasing a target of 179 for victory, J&K needed 124 runs on the final day with opener Iqbal (133 not out off 147 balls) at the crease with night-watchman Vanshaj Sharma (8 off 55 balls).

What looked like a difficult pitch suddenly became placid as Iqbal took it upon himself to use his long levers and big stride to negate any turn off the surface.

The roughs and indents were created on both sides of the track and Delhi's spin-



Players of Jammu & Kashmir and Delhi greet each other at the end of their Ranji Trophy 2025-26 cricket match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi PTI

ners Mannan Bhardwaj and Hrithik Shokeen didn't attack the stumps as much, trying to bowl too fast which also didn't get them any purchase.

Towards the end, Iqbal was hitting one-handed slog swept sixes and lofted boundaries. Even 40-year-old skipper Paras Dogra, the former doyen of Himachal Pradesh cricket, played his part with a first innings hundred.

In his 22nd first class

season, Dogra only second to Mumbai stalwart Wasim Jaffer in terms of runs in Ranji Trophy, scored tons against both Mumbai and Delhi this season.

For Delhi, retaining Sarandeep as the head coach after a disastrous last season due to alleged pressures from a strong DDCA lobby has only ensured that there was no consistency in selection. Skipper Ayush Badoni is scoring some attractive half-centuries but no team in

domestic cricket is in awe of him. Arpit Rana, a top scorer in DPL, has been found wanting against quality seam bowling as Auqib Nabi with his seaming deliveries exposed his poor technique.

A positive opening batter like Priyansh Arya was benched in first two games only to be played out of position at number 4.

Worse, with two good keeper batters in Tejasvi Dahiya and Pranav Raghuvanshi on the bench,

Anuj Rawat, a player with less than 30 average across eight seasons keeps on playing.

After this defeat, DDCA president Rohan Jaitley is expected to crack the whip.

In the last group match to finish on Tuesday, Hyderabad earned three points for taking a first-innings lead after the contest against Rajasthan ended in a draw on the fourth and final day in Hyderabad.

Hyderabad, who had put 364 on board batting first,

Rekhade seals Vidarbha's 100-run win; Jharkhand-Baroda draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Nagpur

Left-arm spinner Parth Rekhade returned with a five-wicket haul as Vidarbha registered a 100-run win over Odisha to move to the top of Group A in the Ranji Trophy on Tuesday.

Chasing 345 for victory, Odisha were bowled out for 244 in 84 overs after a promising 100-run opening stand between Swastik Samal (65) and Gourav Choudhury (47). Vidarbha now lead the table with 19 points, while Odisha remain second from bottom with just one point.

Resuming at 44 for no loss, Samal and Choudhury added 56 more runs before Rekhade provided the breakthrough in the 24th over, trapping the latter leg before wicket.

Samal too became his victim soon after, while Sandeep Pattnaik's painstaking 27 off 105 balls ended



when he was trapped in front by Praful Hinge in the 38th over. Skipper Subhanshu Senapati (28) and Govinda Poddar (46) tried to steady the chase but failed to convert their starts, as Odisha kept losing wickets at regular intervals. Rekhade (5/80) led the bowling effort with Hinge (3/41) providing able support, while Nachiket Bhute (1/50) also chipped in.

In Vadodara, opener Shikhar Mohan struck an unbeaten 102 as Jharkhand reached 226 for four in their second innings before agreeing to a draw with Baroda.

Jharkhand, who bagged three points for their first-innings lead, are placed second in the group with 18 points. Baroda settled for one to be at fifth spot with a total of 9 points.

Denish, Sibsankar salvage draw against Tripura

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Agartala

Skipper Denish Das and senior batter Sibsankar Roy struck defiant centuries to help Assam salvage a draw against Tripura on the fourth and final day of their Ranji Trophy Group C match here on Tuesday.

Resuming on overnight 78 for 3 in their second innings and facing a huge deficit, Assam showed remarkable grit to bat through the day, ending at 367 for 7 when the teams agreed to call off play in the final session.

Captain Denish Das (103 off 197 balls) anchored the innings with a composed century, guiding Assam out of trouble after a shaky start.

He found solid support from wicketkeeper Sumit Ghadigaonkar (54 off 161) as the duo steadied the innings with a 150-run partnership for the fourth wicket.



Assam's Denish Das celebrates his century during Ranji trophy cricket match between Tripura and Assam in Agartala, Tripura PTI

After Denish's dismissal, Roy took charge, batting fluently for an unbeaten 101 off 141 balls, which was decorated with 17 fours and two sixes. His counterattacking approach ensured Assam not only avoided an innings defeat but also batted Tripura out of the contest.

Lower down, Ayushman Malakar (21 not out) provid-

ed valuable resistance as the visitors stretched their lead past 100 before stumps were drawn.

For Tripura, Ajay Sarkar was the pick of the bowlers, claiming 3 for 70, while Swapnil Singh (2/88) and Rana Dutta (2/34) also chipped in with wickets but couldn't bowl out Assam as the pitch eased out.

India adds two silver through Aishwary, Esha and Rana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Cairo

Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar equalled the qualification world record and then won his first-ever individual World Championship medal by settling for silver in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final on Tuesday.

Newly-crowned air pistol world champion Samrat Rana and defending champion Esha Singh also ended with a silver medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team competition, after they went down 10-16 in the gold



medal match to China's Kai Hu and Qianxun Yao. Before that Aishwary, the two-time Olympian, managed 466.9 in the 45-shot final to finish behind China's reigning Olympic champion Liu

Yukun, who ended 0.2 ahead with 467.1. India continued to hold the second position in the medal tally behind China with three gold, five silver and three bronze in their kitty.

Germany seeks compensation for players switching national teams

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Berlin

The German soccer federation (DFB) wants compensation when players opt to represent other countries after representing Germany at youth levels.

"It simply makes no sense to me why a player who has been coached primarily at his club for five years but also by the federation as a junior partner should be able to switch national associations for free," DFB managing director Andreas Rettig told news

agency dpa on Tuesday.

German-born Juventus star Kenan Yildiz is a Turkish international, having played for Turkey's youth teams. Eintracht Frankfurt forward Can Uzun also turned down Germany in favor of Turkey.

Former Hertha Berlin forward Ibrahim Maza, now playing for Bayer Leverkusen, plays for Algeria after appearing for Germany at youth levels. German youth internationals Muhammed Damar and Nicolò Tresoldi are reportedly being courted by Turkey and Italy, respective-

ly, and the Frankfurter Rundschau daily newspaper reported on Sunday that Nuremberg defender Fabio Gruber has chosen to represent Peru. "We're currently checking whether there's a possibility of coaching compensation when players switch national associations," Rettig said. "This issue has not yet been addressed extensively. But coaching must be worthwhile for both sides, the player and the coach."

Germany has long seen players with one or two parents born abroad opt to

represent their country of their roots, while the country has also benefited from immigration as players such as Ilkay Gundogan, Mesut Ozil, Sami Khedira and Gerald Asamoah have contributed to the national team's success.

Cologne teenager Said El Mala was last week called up for Germany's World Cup qualifiers this week and at least 12 players in the latest squad could have chosen to represent other countries. The injured Jamal Musiala chose Germany after playing for England youth teams.



"In Germany 43% of children under five years of age hold dual citizenship. When they're 10 or 12 years older they can decide, do I prefer the (German) eagle or, for example, the (Turkish) crescent moon?" Rettig said.

"We analyzed the squad lists from the under-15s to the under-21s within the federation. The percentage there is significantly higher than the aforementioned 43%. There are age groups in which seven or eight players in the starting 11 have dual nationality.

MP BEAT GOA BY THREE WICKETS IN TENSE RUN CHASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Porvorum (Goa)

Middle-order batter Saransh Jain held firm with a solid 82 not out to help Madhya Pradesh beat Goa by three wickets after a tense run chase on the final day of their Ranji Trophy Group B match here Tuesday.

Madhya Pradesh, who had conceded a 97-run first innings lead to Goa, started the final day at 21 for 1 in pursuit of 328, and wickets fell at regular intervals.

Arriving at 176 for 4, Jain anchored the MP run chase with some support from the lower order.

His unbroken eighth-wicket stand of 65 with Arshad Khan (25) turned it around for MP.

Jain hit nine fours in his 132-ball unbeaten innings. Captain Shubham Sharma got 72 off 134 balls, while Harsh Gawli contributed 54.

The other two matches of Group B — Kerala vs Saurashtra, and Karnataka vs Maharashtra — ended in draws. In Pune, Karnataka took three points and Maharashtra one after the drawn match.

Two-tier WTC model unlikely to take off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Dubai

The much-debated two-tier World Test Championship (WTC) model is unlikely to take off, and, instead, the International Cricket Council (ICC) might give all 12 full members a chance to play in the next WTC cycle starting from mid 2027.

Currently, nine full members are involved in the WTC matches while Zimbabwe, Afghanistan and Ireland are not part of the elite circle despite having the full member status.

An assessment group led by former New Zealand batter Roger Twose did consider the idea of a two-tier system but did not receive enough backing during ICC's quarterly meeting which was held in Dubai recently.

"There was a discussion on the two-tier system but certain members were not convinced about the model, and it felt that a 12-team system should be tried out because it gives more chances for teams to play against each other," a source close to the development informed.

The resistance to the idea mainly came from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the West Indies and Bangladesh who



could have started in tier 2 under the mooted two-segment system.

"Even representatives of some of the top boards too were sceptical of the idea as what happens if a top team goes through a phase of struggle and gets relegated to the second tier? It will affect playing chances and revenue alike," he added.

The England and Wales Cricket Board chief Richard Thompson had indicated similar doubts in August.

"We wouldn't want, as England, we may go through a fallow period, and that means, what, we fall into Division Two and we don't play Australia and India?," he had told BBC.

The sentiment also reflected in the general dismissal of the talks on India, Australia and England finan-

cially supporting those teams which are in the lower tier.

The ICC might also consider reviving the Super League concept in ODIs, which was scrapped after the 2023 World Cup.

It was conceptualised in 2020 to give more context to the ODI format, but the 13-team system did not progress as expected.

Many members who attended the ICC meeting felt that the 50-over format is not near extinction but can survive if provided a proper structure to it.

"The reaction and reach of ICC ODI events tell that there is still a place for 50-over cricket. Just that we need to give some context to it, and ensure that top teams and players are involved in it.

Gill, Jaiswal, Sai clock long net session ahead of SA Test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Kolkata

Transitioning from shorter formats to the rigours of red-ball cricket takes time, and India captain Shubman Gill spent close to an hour and a half at the nets, fine-tuning his technique ahead of the opening Test against South Africa, starting here on Friday.

The Proteas arrive high on confidence, having secured a hard-earned 1-1 draw in Pakistan last month in challenging conditions.

Gill, who struck a fifty and an unbeaten century in the two home Tests against the West Indies last month, has been searching for runs in white-ball cricket.

He managed just one score above fifty — a 46 at Carrara Oval — from eight innings across the ODIs and T20Is in Australia.

Now back to leading the Test side, Gill battled with determination at nets and looked keen to regain rhythm after a lean white-ball run.

Before the nets, head coach Gautam Gambhir and assistant coach Sitanshu Kotak were seen having a long chat with him near the High Court end, possibly discussing his approach.

Gill later joined his teammates for slip-fielding drills before padding up alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal for an intense net session.

Starting with spin, he faced Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar, playing



India's Yashasvi Jaiswal with captain Shubman Gill during a training session ahead of the first Test match between India and South Africa at Eden Gardens in Kolkata

mostly on the ground with occasional sweeps.

Moving to the pace nets, he faced Nitish Kumar Reddy who bowled in tandem with a few local club bowlers as they tested him with seam movement.

A support staff member then used a sidearm to deliver throwdowns from height, giving Gill extra bounce and pace.

After more than an hour in the side nets, he shifted to the central strip for another 30 minutes of throwdowns under the watchful eye of bowling coach Morne Morkel, who himself rolled his arm over to generate sharp pace and bounce.

Fresh from scores of 67 and 156 for Rajasthan in the Ranji Trophy, Jaiswal also had a long stint at the central wicket, facing Morkel and taking throwdowns. The left-hander looked in fluent touch, driving and pulling with assurance.

Another batter to spend significant time at the nets was Sai Sudharsan, who managed just 84 runs in two unofficial Tests for India A against South Africa A.

The team management continues to back him for the number 3 slot, though he is yet to make it his own, with only a 61 against England in Manchester and 87 versus West Indies at home to show

so far in Tests.

His India A teammates — KL Rahul, Jurel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj — skipped the optional practice after joining the squad only a day earlier after a demanding A series in Bengaluru, which concluded on Sunday.

But there was no such 'break' for Sai who batted with full intensity, facing pacers, spinners, and taking throwdowns at the centre strip. The number 3 position remains a talking point, especially with Dhruv Jurel in prolific form.

There's also speculation that Jurel could feature as a pure batter, with Rishabh Pant set to return to wicket-

keeping duties after recovering from his injury.

Jurel, who averages 47.77 in Tests and notched his maiden ton against the West Indies, has been in red-hot form in first-class cricket, scoring three centuries in his last five games, including twin hundreds in the second match against South Africa A.

Among pacers, only Jasprit Bumrah turned up, keeping it light with spot bowling at two stumps for about 15 minutes, targeting the off stump.

In a relaxed mood, he also batted briefly and spent time interacting with teammates.

Bumrah had light strapping on his right knee but bowled under the supervision of Gambhir and Morkel.

Overall, only seven players turned up for the optional practice session, as the likes of Pant, Jurel, Rahul, Siraj, Kuldeep, Akash, Devdutt Padikkal and Axar Patel skipped.

After nearly three hours of training, the team's think tank — Gambhir, Kotak, Morkel, and Gill — gathered at the centre wicket for a long pitch inspection.

Morkel and Gill checked the firmness before summoning curator Sujan Mukherjee for a 15-minute discussion. Judging by their expressions, the management did not appear entirely pleased with the surface. The pitch, which has not been watered for a week now, appeared dry and brown with light grass patches.

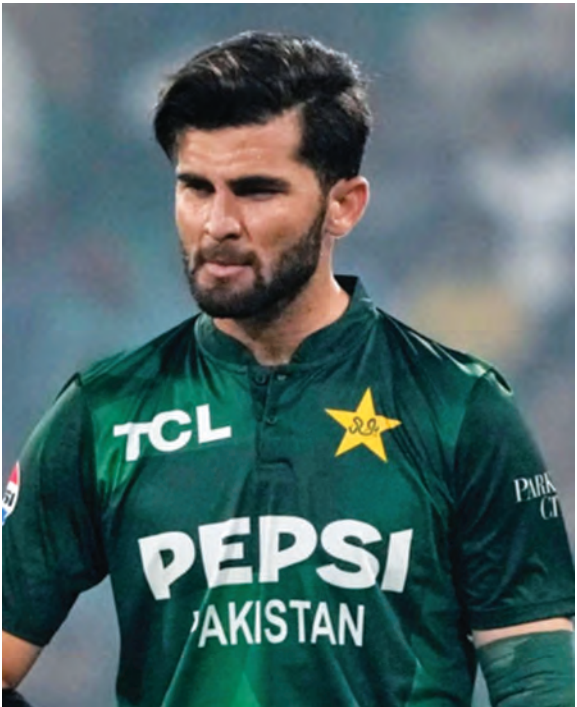
Shaheen accepts captaincy after Rizwan's step-down

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Rawalpindi (Pakistan)

In an interesting revelation, Pakistan's ODI captain Shaheen Shah Afridi has claimed that he only accepted the captaincy after his predecessor Mohammad Rizwan said he would step down.

"I took this responsibility from the Pakistan Cricket Board after discussing the matter with Rizwan," Shaheen told the media on Monday. "Rizwan was the only person I had a discussion with and I asked him how he felt about me accepting the captaincy.

"Rizwan decided himself he would make way for me and that is how things worked out," said Shaheen, who was also appointed national T20 skipper in 2023 but was dismissed after just one series in New Zealand.



Shaheen had taken over as the T20I skipper after Babar Azam resigned following Pakistan's poor run in the Cricket World Cup 2023. However, less than six months after the appointment, Shaheen was removed from the post with Babar being reinstated as the captain.

The left-arm pacer had led in only one T20I series — a five-game encounter against New Zealand away from home — in this period.

Shaheen said Rizwan had assured him of full support. He added that as captain he would back Babar and Rizwan as they were key players in the side with lots of experience.

"I have no ego and I talk to everyone for advice, even our former captains. I don't look at things that happened in the past," he said.

All-rounder Shadab Khan likely to join Pakistan squad for tri-series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Lahore

Pakistan's experienced all-rounder Shadab Khan could be a late addition to the national squad for the T20 tri-series, also involving Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, to be played from November 17 in Lahore and Rawalpindi.

Shadab, who has been rehabilitating from a shoulder surgery, appeared in a practice game in Lahore recently and was watched closely by selectors, including Aaqib Javed who is also the



head of the National Cricket Academy. Shadab, who is also tipped

to eventually take over as the T20 captain from Salman Ali Agha, played the match after

having his final rehabilitation process at the NCA under the supervision of its medical panel. "Shadab appears to have recovered well from his shoulder injury and could be a late addition for the T20 Tri-Series," a source close to the selectors said. Young uncapped fast bowler Ali Reza, who is also recovering from an injury, appeared in the match and bowled well. Reza, a promising Pakistan under-19 player has impressed everyone with his potential during the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

McIlroy seeks 7th race to Dubai title

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ London

The Masters to complete the career Grand Slam. A home Irish Open. An away Ryder Cup.

It has been a year of unforgettable, career-defining wins for Rory McIlroy. There's a good chance it will get even better in Dubai this week in the Northern Irishman's final event of the 2025 season.

The number 2-ranked McIlroy will look to be crowned Europe's number 1 player for a fourth straight year when he competes in the European tour's season-ending World Tour Championship starting on Thursday. If McIlroy holds off Marco Penge and Tyrrell Hatton — the only players in range of overhauling him — he will win the Race to Dubai title for the seventh time in his career and move within one of Colin Montgomerie's record haul.

Montgomerie won his season-long points titles — when it was called the Order of Merit — each year from 1993-99 and again in 2005.

McIlroy is tied on six with the late Seve Ballesteros, and remains committed to tailoring his schedule so he can play as many events on the European tour as possible while also working the PGA Tour calendar.

"There's a wonderful heritage to this tour. I think with the fractured nature of the men's professional game at the minute, this tour needs all of its stars to step up and play in the big events," McIlroy said. "I understand that I am one of those people



and I want to do my utmost to help in whatever way that I can."

McIlroy said he was the happiest he has felt in a long time, on and off the golf course. He attributes some of that to stepping away from the wrangling at boardroom level brought about by the emergence of the Saudi-funded LIV Golf breakaway circuit. From being the face of strident anti-LIV criticism, McIlroy is back to being just a golfer. "I have a clear head and I'm out of all the political stuff in golf, basically, and I can just focus on playing and playing where I want to and making myself competitively happy by playing in the tournaments that I want to play," he said.

"And then having more time to make myself personally happy with doing the things I want to do away from golf. Travelling with my family and showing my daughter different parts of the world and doing things like that I think is a very nice place to be in life." McIlroy leads the Race to Dubai standings. He is around 767 points ahead of second-placed Penge and around 1,720 points ahead of third-

placed Hatton. There are 2,000 points on offer for the winner at the Earth Course.

A win obviously guarantees McIlroy the title, as would finishing second alone.

For Penge — a three-time winner on the tour this year — to overhaul McIlroy he either needs to win and hope McIlroy finishes worse than second alone, or finish in a tie for second and for McIlroy to be down the leaderboard.

Hatton needs to win to stand any chance of an unlikely title. Penge's breakthrough season has already seen him lock down one of the PGA Tour cards on offer for the top 10 players in the Race to Dubai standings who are not otherwise exempt.

The next nine players currently in position are Kristoffer Reitan, John Parry, Adrien Saddier, Alex Noren, Laurie Canter, Li Haotong, Daniel Brown, Keita Nakajima and Jordan Smith.

The European tour announced on Tuesday a new trophy — the Rory McIlroy Award — which will be presented to the player who performs best across all four majors in a season.



OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, HBUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
B-657

File No-B-II-M-122/2021 (P-I-I) Lr.No. 41227 / Bhubaneswar 30th Oct., 2025

Invitation for Bids

Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 28 / 2025-26

1. The Chief Engineer (Buildings-I), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids from reputed Indian firms/ Contractor registered with the State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for the infrastructure works detailed in the table below on turnkey basis (i.e. Architectural planning with detailed design, vetting& execution).

2. Nature of work	Construction of New Odisha Bhawan(3B+G+6) Storey Building at New Delhi on Turnkey Basis.
3. No. of work	01 No.
4. Bid Cost.	₹10,000/-
5. Class of Contractor	Super Class
6. Availability of Bid Documents in the website	From dt.12.11.2025 to 05.30 PM of dt.04.12.2025
7. Pre-bid meeting	Dt.20.11.2025 at 11.30 AM
8. Last date of online submission of bid	Dt.04.12.2025 upto 5:30 PM
9. Last dt. Of Submission of hardcopy (Cover-III).	Dt.10.12.2025 upto 5:30 PM
10. Date of Opening of Bid	Dt.11.12.2025 at 11:30 AM.
11. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.	

Chief Engineer (Buildings-I), Odisha, Bhubaneswar



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION: RAYAGADA
1332-O

e-mail ID: rw_rayagada@yahoo.co.in

GEPNIC e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No: EERWRGD - Online - 09/2025-26

Letter No: 3431 Date: 29.10.2025

1	Name of the Work	Maintenance of Road works
2	Total No. of Works	01 No. (Percentage rate tender)
3	Estimated Cost	20.93 lakhs
4	Class of Contractor	"C & B" Class
5	Time of Completion	Specified in DTGN.
6	Mode of submission of tender	Tender should be submitted only in online https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in
7	Other details	Detailed tender condition specified in DTGN.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of works	Availability of Tender online for Bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Rayagada	EERWRGD Online - 09/2025-26	01 (One) No.	10.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	20.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	21.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Executive Engineer Rural Works Division Rayagada



TENDER CALL NOTICE

MM-268

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, KEONJHAR WILDLIFE DIVISION, ANANDAPUR.
At/ PO- Sataapala, Dist- Keonjhar. Pin- 758020, Telephone- 06713-250232, e-mail id: offo.keonjhar@nicodisha.gov.in

s-Procurement Notice for SMC works Identification No.
Bid Identification No. DFO-KJR WL-02 of 2025-26
E-mail address : dfo.keonjhar@odisha.gov.in
No. 2/23 / Dt. 03.11.2025

1. Name of the work : Construction of Waterbody with masonry outlet and Inlet under OMBAC (Compensation Money).

2. Total No. of works : 4 (Four) Nos. (Percentage rate Tender)

3. Estimated cost : Approx. Estimate Cost 7.36115 lakhs.

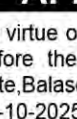
4. Class of Contractor : 'C' Class

5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding From To	Last Date & Time of opening of tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender: Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur.	Date & Place of receipt of bid cost & bid security
1	2	3	4	5	6
Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur	On line DFO-KJR WL-02 of 2025-26	12.11.2025 at 10.00A.M.	25.11.2025 upto 5.30P.M.	24.11.2025 upto 04.30P.M.	26.11.2025 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in & www.tenders.ori.nic.in

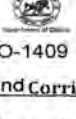
Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur.



AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Balasore, B.B. Dutta on 25-10-2025, I, Smt. Laxmipriya Mantri, D/o Late Panchanan Nayak legally wedded wife of Ghanashyam Mantri, At/Po Kadalia, P.S Baisinga, Dist. Mayurbhanj, Odisha declare that I have changed my name from Laxmipriya Mantri to Laxmipriya Nayak. Hence fourth I shall be known as Laxmipriya Nayak for all purposes including for my husband's service record.

Sd/-
Laxmipriya Nayak



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BALLIGUDA.
No. 4073 .. RWDBLG., Date. 07.11.2025

2nd Corrigendum to the Bid Identification No. Online tender /04/EERWD BLG/ 2025-26

The tender invited vide Bid Identification No. Online tender/04/EERWD BLG/ 2025-26 vide T.O. Office Letter No.3561 dt. 25.09.2025. Due to unavoidable circumstances, the availability of tender online for bidding is from 11.11.2025 at 10.00A.M. to 19.11.2025 upto 5.00P.M. Instead of 04.11.2025 at 10.00AM to 14.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M. Opening Dt.20.11.2025.

The other terms and conditions are remained unchanged.

Further details , corrigendum(s) etc can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>

Executive Engineer R.W. Division, Balliguda



GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, KEONJHAR
1335-O

Tel. 06766-25809(r) Atul: sewr_rw@nicodisha.gov.in

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works Identification No Online NCB - 09/2025-26.

1. Name of the Work

2. Total Number of Work

3. Estimated Cost

4. Class of Contractor

5. Period of Completion

6. Other Details

2 No. Road Works

2 No.

Rs. 16.13 Lakhs & Rs.32.67 Lakhs

"D , C & B" Class

As per annexure of e-Procurement Notice No.09 of 2025-26.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender Online for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/o S.E., R.W. Division, Keonjhar.
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Keonjhar	Road Online NCB No. 09	Dt.10.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.20.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.21.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the Website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer R.W. Division-I, Keonjhar