



Hindustan Times

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Focus on synergy as new military chiefs take over



General NS Raja Subramani assumed charge as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in New Delhi on Sunday.

New CDS stresses on modern, resilient force

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: General NS Raja Subramani on Sunday assumed charge as India's new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and his primary mandate will be to implement the ambitious military modernisation plan and bolster tri-services synergy.

He succeeded Gen Anil Chauhan, who signed off after completing his tenure as the country's senior-most military commander on Saturday.

Gen Subramani, widely known as an expert on Pakistan and China, was serving as the Military Advisor to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS). He retired as the Vice Chief of Army Staff on July 31 last year.

General Subramani on Sunday underscored his vision for a modernised and resilient military, stating that "innovation in thought and action" will drive the capability development of India's Armed Forces.

Addressing the media after assuming charge, the newly appointed CDS emphasised that

collaboration between various sectors and the research ecosystem will be the key enabler for modernisation.

"Innovation in thought and action will drive our capability development. Greater collaboration between the military, the industry, academia, startups and the research ecosystem will be the key enabler for modernisation. Our Armed Forces have consistently demonstrated professionalism and operational decisiveness in safeguarding our national interests. We are committed to protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country," General Subramani said.

He also assured the country of the military's unwavering commitment to national defence, stating, "I assure the citizens of India that the Armed Forces will continue to serve the nation with dedication, courage, honour, and professionalism."

The newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General NS Raja Subramani was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the South Block lawns in the national capital on Sunday.



Admiral Krishna Swaminathan takes charge as India's new Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) in New Delhi on Sunday.

Readiness to be top priority: Navy chief

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on Sunday assumed charge as India's new chief of the Naval Staff amid a fast evolving regional maritime security scenario.

He succeeds Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who retired from service. Admiral Swaminathan was serving as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command before taking charge of the top post.

The new Navy chief, speaking to reporters, described the regional security environment as "challenging, complex, and unpredictable" and asserted that maintaining peak operational readiness will be his highest priority.

"The Indian Navy stands vigilant to protect national interests wherever they are and is very actively deployed in a regional security environment that continues to remain challenging, complex, unpredictable, and uncertain," he told reporters.

"It shall be my highest priority

to ensure that the Indian Navy maintains the highest level of operational readiness and combat effectiveness so that it can protect the nation's security and economic interests," he said.

Admiral Swaminathan said the Indian Navy is well set on a course of capability enhancement and modernisation.

"It shall be my endeavour to sustain the growth momentum of the Navy, consolidate all ongoing programs, scale up where required, and sharpen our operational capabilities through the induction of niche and emerging technologies," he said.

"I will devote every single day of my life to making the Navy a better, stronger, sharper, and more impactful service so that it can serve the interests of national security, national development, and national economic prosperity," he added.

Admiral Swaminathan said the Navy is deeply committed to jointness, 'Atmanirbhara' and indigenisation. He also praised Admiral Tripathi describing him as one of the "finest" military professionals globally.



PM Narendra Modi

IN MANN KI BAAT, PM MODI TELLS CITIZENS TO STAY SAFE FROM HEAT

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his 134th Mann Ki Baat on Sunday urged citizens to take precautions against the ongoing heatwave.

He also spoke about the achievements in athletics, the return of Chola-era artefacts from the Netherlands, and community social initiatives.

"It is very hot in most parts of the country right now. Strong sun, hot winds, it is very important to take care of yourself in such weather," he said. He advised people to stay hydrated and follow government-issued guidelines.

PM Modi also spoke about traditional summer drinks such as aam panna, lassi, buttermilk, sattu sherbet, kokum sherbet and so kadhi, describing them as products of local traditions and generations of experiences.

Modi then congratulated athletes who set national records during the National Senior Athletics Federation Competition in Ranchi.

He also discussed his recent visit to the Netherlands, where 24 Chola-era copper plates were formally returned to India.

Modi described Bihar's traditional food 'sattu' (roasted gram flour) as a significant means to cope with heat, and also mentioned the state's famous 'Jardalu' mango.

Bengal to add 35 new ministers today: CM

Agencies
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KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvedu Adhikari on Sunday announced on Sunday that 35 ministers will be inducted into the state council of ministers at an oath-taking ceremony on Monday.

Taking to X, the Chief Minister said that Governor RN Ravi will administer the oath of office to the new ministers at Nabanna at 11 am tomorrow.

Tomorrow, a full-fledged Council of Ministers of the elected nationalist government will be formed by the verdict of the people of West Bengal. For the purpose of expanding the Council of Ministers, 35 ministers of the West Bengal government will take their oaths at Nabanna at 11 a.m. His Excellency the Governor Shri R. N. Ravi will administer their oaths at Nabanna," said CM Suvedu Adhikari.

Senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) expected to be assigned key portfolios in



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvedu Adhikari on Sunday.

the state administration.

Earlier on May 18, the West Bengal Cabinet had approved the constitution of two commissions to address institutional corruption and atrocities against women, announced state Chief Minister Suvedu Adhikari on Monday.

Both commissions are set to be headed by retired judges of

the Calcutta High Court and will officially begin their proceedings from June 1.

Speaking on the Cabinet's decision, the Chief Minister, Suvedu Adhikari, said, "The Cabinet has approved the constitution of a Commission against Institutional Corruption, which will be headed by

continued on 5

CBSE admits to vulnerabilities in OSM, says gaps flagged by hackers fixed

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education on Sunday said vulnerabilities identified in the OnMark portal of its service provider have been contained and efforts are underway to rule out any other exploitable weaknesses.

"We have been closely monitoring the vulnerabilities in the OnMark portal of our service provider that are being flagged in the public domain," CBSE said in a statement posted on X.

An expert team of cybersecurity professionals has been deployed over the last few days from across various arms of the government as well as the ITIs to fortify these systems, including taking them over to a

more secure set-up, the board said.

"The identified vulnerabilities have been contained, and other exploitable weaknesses are being ruled out," it said.

"We are grateful to all alert citizens and ethical hackers pointing out such weaknesses, and have gotten in touch with some of them directly," the Central board said on Sunday. -PTI

Toll in Delhi building collapse at 6



The death toll in the collapse of a commercial building near Saket Metro station in south Delhi rose to six on Sunday, while several others were rescued from the debris and admitted to hospitals, officials said. Delhi Police has registered a case under relevant sections, including culpable homicide. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has suspended two engineers over alleged lapses.

SUPREME COURT ORDERS BIHAR AND JHARKHAND TO DISBURSE DUES OF PSU EMPLOYEE

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RANCHI: In a major judicial intervention to resolve a twenty-five-year-old humanitarian crisis, the Supreme Court of India ordered the Bihar and Jharkhand governments to disburse dues of a high-level committee to clear the unpaid salaries and retirement benefits of thousands of employees belonging to five state-owned corporations.

A bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sanjay Deep Mehta ruled on Friday that the division of financial liabilities between the successor states of Bihar and Jharkhand will be governed strictly by the framework finalized through the creation of India's affidavit.

Initiating the background of the case, the Court observed that: "The present proceedings arise out of a prolonged and distressing humanitarian as well as legal controversy concerning the continued non-payment of salaries, retirement dues and other consequential emoluments payable to thousands of employees of five State-owned Corporations..."

The apex court noted that the prolonged non-payment since the state's bifurcation in 2000 had resulted in severe destitution, starvation deaths, and suicides.

Highlighting the shift from a routine administrative tangle to a severe constitutional crisis, the bench observed: "The proceedings disclosed allegations of severe deprivation, destitution and reported instances of suicides and starvation deaths amongst the affected employees and their family members owing to prolonged denial of salaries and retired benefits. The dispute, therefore, ceased to remain a mere matter of financial adjustment between two successor States and assumed the character of a significant human rights and constitutional concern directly implicating the right to livelihood and dignity guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India."

The exhaustive inquiry, conducted through twenty-five meetings by a committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice K. J. Somaya, continued on 5

Nepal PM's 'encroaching Indian land' remark sparks controversy

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

KATHMANDU: Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Sunday said he has learnt about his country "encroaching" territories in India, as he sought to answer questions in the parliament on a long-running border dispute.

In his maiden appearance in the ongoing parliament session that started on May 11, Shah further said India and Nepal have agreed to take the help of historians, surveyors and experts to settle a long-standing border dispute. Kathmandu has also taken up the matter with China and the United Kingdom.

Nepal and India have had an old boundary dispute over Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani, with both countries

claiming the areas. India maintains that the territories are part of Uttarakhand and has said the issue should be addressed through bilateral dialogue.

New Delhi did not immediately respond to the Nepal PM's comments on Sunday. But earlier this month, while rejecting Nepal's objection to the upcoming Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the long-established Lipulekh Pass, India had dismissed Kathmandu's territorial claims over the region as an "unilateral artificial enlargement" that New Delhi finds "untenable."

Shah told the parliament on Sunday: "The Nepal government has officially sent a diplomatic note to India, mentioning the issue of encroachment of territories by India, including Lipulekh, and we have already received

their response."

"Both the countries have agreed to resolve the issue sitting together with the help of historians, surveyors and concerned experts through diplomatic means," he said.

When specifically asked by a lawmaker about the government's view on the dispute concerning the Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani areas, Shah said it is not only India that has "encroached" land in Nepal, the latter too had done the same with its southern neighbour.

"You will be surprised to know about a fact, which I have learnt recently, only after becoming the Prime Minister. India has not only encroached Nepalese territories, but Nepal has also encroached India's territories in many places," said the prime minister.

5 ARRESTED FOR ASSAULT ON TMC LEADER, ANOTHER ALLEGES ATTACK

KOLKATA: Five people were arrested on Sunday in connection with the alleged assault on Trinamool Congress (TMC) National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee during his visit to Sonarpur on Saturday, officials said.

A case has also been registered at the Sonarpur police station following the incident, they said.

Meanwhile, another senior TMC leader and party MP Kalyan Banerjee on Sunday alleged that he suffered injuries in an alleged attack by supporters of the Bharatiya Janata Party when he had gone to submit a memorandum at a police station in Hooghly. Party supremo Mamata Banerjee visited the Sreerampore MP's residence following the alleged incident, and accused the BJP of "murdering democracy." -PTI

{ CLASHES AFTER PSG CHAMPIONS LEAGUE VICTORY }

780 arrested after violence in Paris

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

PARIS: French authorities announced Sunday that 780 people were arrested across the country when overnight celebrations of Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League victory over Arsenal were marred by violent clashes, and a road accident that killed a young man.

Thousands of people poured into the streets of Paris for the match and to revel in PSG's triumph in the final held in the Hungarian capital Budapest last Saturday.

But some mobs clashed with police, around 22,000 of whom were deployed across France after unrest last year when PSG also won the competition.



A car burns and fireworks explode as police watch PSG supporters celebrate victory in UEFA Champions League final.

Highlighting an increased use of fireworks directed at law enforcement, Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said in a press briefing 57 security forces were

injured and that there had been "219 participants injured in France, including eight seriously."

The Paris public prosecutor's office announced the death of a young man in his twenties after he crashed head-on into concrete barriers on a Paris ring road last night.

Another young man was seriously injured in a knife attack in Paris allegedly over a robbery, the prosecutor's office added.

Nunez said a small number of thefts and looting had taken place in around fifteen cities across the country and incidents of violence were recorded in 71 municipalities.

The 780 arrests was a 32 per cent increase compared to the celebrations of PSG's Champions League win last year, the minister noted.

Around 100,000 people are expected to gather for a parade

continued on 5

Anirban Guha Roy
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PATNA: Hectic parleys and lobbying by aspiring candidates for the upcoming MLC polls to fill up nine vacancies in the state Legislative Council have intensified in both the ruling NDA and Opposition INDIA blocs, with former chief minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar holding a meeting of his party office-bearers to finalise candidates.

Bihar will vote for nine vacant MLC seats and bypoll for one seat on June 18. The last date for nomination is June 8. The bypoll will be for the seat vacated by Nitish Kumar who resigned as MLC on March 30.

Numerically, the NDA is set to win 8 out of nine seats and the 9th seat is likely to see tight contest as both the blocs might field candidates, like what the state witnessed for one Rayla Sabha constituency in the state assembly in March. Sources said that the NDA, having a strength of 202 members in the state assembly, can easily win eight out of nine seats in the biennial polls

with discussions in final stages on probable candidates based on caste equations and also a seat-sharing formula being worked out within the bloc.

Insiders in the NDA said that there are chances that the BJP and JD(U) would contest equal number of three seats each out of eight seats and allot one seat each to Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM). For the bypoll on one seat, the JD(U) is highly likely to contest, sources said.

"There would be at least one candidate from the Upper Caste and two others from the OBC and SC communities from the BJP. The JD(U) too may field candidates from OBCs and other classes in the polls," said a senior BJP leader, in know of the matter. However, it is still unclear whether the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) would get a seat or not though founder of the party and Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi has made a demand for one seat in the biennial polls.

Prem Ranjan Patel, state BJP spokesperson, said that discussions are going on between the BJP, JD(U) and other allies on putting a candidate for the ninth seat and if that happens, the ruling coalition would win the seat quite easily.

"We are discussing on whether to put a candidate for all nine seats or not with our allies. If it happens, we are confident of winning the ninth seat too. If the NDA contests the ninth seat, it will go to the BJP's kitty," Patel said.

There are chances that Deepak Prakash, minister of panchayati raj department and son of RLM chief Upendra Kushwaha, would be one of the candidates of the NDA while there are also speculations that Nishant Kumar, health minister and son of Nitish Kumar, would also be a candidate. Both Prakash and Kumar are not presently members of any House.

The RJD is hopeful of getting through one seat. "The RJD and INDIA bloc would put its candidate and we will win one seat," said Chittaranjan Gagan, state RJD spokesperson, said that discussions

are going on between the BJP, JD(U) and other allies on putting a candidate for the ninth seat and if that happens, the ruling coalition would win the seat quite easily.

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Liquidation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (b) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank/Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Lot No.	Name of the Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/Owner's Name (mortgagors of property/ies)	A) Dt. of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as on demand date C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic / Physical/ Constructive	A) Reserve Price B) EMD C) Bid Increase Amount	Date/ Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1.	PNB-Bhorandina (156800) M/s Bhardwaj Steel Pvt Ltd Sri Bablu Kumar Sri Ashok Kumar Smt Kajoma Devi Sri Gopal Prasad Devi Smt Champa Devi Mr Sachindranand Deo Mr Sanjeev Kumar Singh	All the part and parcel of landed property having plot no 3471 ward no 5 Holding no 340 Khevat No 02 Touzi No 15111 Ward No 11 Mouza Mahatara Thana No 51 Jambhand No 645 Area 16.53 decimal North: Girdih Jambua Road South: Nij East: Jangal Sakhu West: Nij	A) 08.05.2018 B) Rs: 16,49,85,394.62 + further interest C) 27.07.2019 D) Symbolic	A) Rs 74,38,000.00 B) Rs 7,43,800.00 C) Rs 1,00,000.00	22.06.2026 From: 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM	Any other encumbrance as known to the bank is not known
2.	PNB-Bhorandina (156800) M/s Bhardwaj Steel Pvt Ltd Sri Bablu Kumar Sri Ashok Kumar Smt Kajoma Devi Sri Gopal Prasad Devi Smt Champa Devi Mr Sachindranand Deo Mr Sanjeev Kumar Singh	All the part and parcel of landed property with structure thereon vide sale deed no 2252 having plot no 1158 (part) ward no 5 Holding no 478part Khata No 3 Thana No 53, Mouza Krishna Nagar having three store residential house having area 2.5 katha in the name of Champa Devi Wio Ashok Singh. The property is bounded as North: Surendranarayan Deo South: Vendor Land East: Jangal Sakhu West: Land of Paramjeet Singh	A) 08.05.2018 B) Rs: 16,49,85,394.62 + further interest C) 27.07.2019 D) Symbolic	A) Rs 51,79,050.00 B) Rs 5,17,905.00 C) Rs 1,00,000.00	22.06.2026 From: 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM	Any other encumbrance as known to the bank is not known
3.	PNB-Bhorandina (156800) M/s Bhardwaj Steel Pvt Ltd Sri Bablu Kumar Sri Ashok Kumar Smt Kajoma Devi Sri Gopal Prasad Devi Smt Champa Devi Mr Sachindranand Deo Mr Sanjeev Kumar Singh	Plant and Machinery and other construction Land under Sale Deed No 7019, 6454, Plot No 1740, Khata No 2, Thana No 235, Mouza Mangrothi Area 69 decimal in the name of Sri Bablu Kumar S/o Ashok Kumar Singh Land under Sale Deed No 6544 and 7098 Plot No 1734 Khata No 2, Thana No 234, Mouza Mangrothi Area 142 Decimal owned by Sri Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Late Narayan Singh Land Under sale deed no 6453, 6455, 6413, 6545, 6414, 6551 Plot No 1734, 1740, 1743, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1745, 1746, 1747 Khata No 2, Thana No 235, Mouza Mangrothi Area 207 decimal owned by Kajoma Devi Wio Late Narayan Singh Land Under Sale Deed No 6411 and 6412 Plot No 1723, 1731, 1732, 1738 and 1738 Khata No 2, Thana No 235, Mouza Mangrothi Area 69 Decimal owned by Gopal Prasad Dev Land under Sale Deed No 6415 and 6416, Plot No 1728, 1737, Khata No 2, Khevat No 1, Thana No 235, Mouza Mangrothi Area 69 Decimal Owned by Champa Devi Wio Ashok Singh	A) 08.05.2018 B) Rs: 16,49,85,394.62 + further interest C) 27.07.2019 D) Symbolic	A) Rs 5,20,37,400.00 B) Rs 52,03,740 C) Rs 5,00,000.00	22.06.2026 From: 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM	Any other encumbrance as known to the bank is not known
4.	PNB-Bhorandina (156800) M/s Bhardwaj Steel Pvt Ltd Sri Bablu Kumar Sri Ashok Kumar Smt Kajoma Devi Sri Gopal Prasad Devi Smt Champa Devi Mr Sachindranand Deo Mr Sanjeev Kumar Singh	All the part and parcel of land property under Khata No Sale Deed No 6111 and 6112 Plot No 515, Khata No 1, Thana No 94, Ward No 1 Holding No 173 R/30 Mouza Sashtanagar residential land having 5 decimal land by Gopal Dev and Sachindev. The property is bounded as For Deed 6112- North: Jilendra Prasad South: Jai Plot East: Building of Govind P.D. Adv West: Road For Deed 6111 North: Jai Plot South: S Devi and Naveen Babu East: Building of Govind P.D. Adv West: Road	A) 08.05.2018 B) Rs: 16,49,85,394.62 + further interest C) 27.07.2019 D) Symbolic	A) Rs 21,78,975.00 B) Rs 21,78,975.00 C) Rs 50,000.00	22.06.2026 From: 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM	Any other encumbrance as known to the bank is not known
5.	PNB-Bhorandina (156800) M/s Bhardwaj Steel Pvt Ltd Sri Bablu Kumar Sri Ashok Kumar Smt Kajoma Devi Sri Gopal Prasad Devi Smt Champa Devi Mr Sachindranand Deo Mr Sanjeev Kumar Singh	All the part and parcel of landed property under Sale Deed No 697 Plot No 134 and 163 Khata No 3 Khewat No 1 Thana No 125, Touzi No 16 Mouza Paharpur having 2 acre industrial land owned by Sanjiv Kumar Singh S/o Sri Ramashray Prasad Singh North: Girdih Jambua Road South: Nij East: Jangal Sakhu West: Nij	A) 08.05.2018 B) Rs: 16,49,85,394.62 + further interest C) 27.07.2019 D) Symbolic	A) Rs 20,91,000.00 B) Rs 20,91,000.00 C) Rs 50,000.00	22.06.2026 From: 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM	Any other encumbrance as known to the bank is not known

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE

- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal <https://baanknet.com> using their email-id and mobile number. The process of eKYC to be done through Digilocker. Once the e-KYC is done, the intending Bidders/ Purchasers may transfer the EMD amount to their e-Wallet using online/challan mode before the E-auction Date and time in the portal. The registration, verification of e-KYC, transfer of EMD in wallet and linking of wallet amount to Property must be completed well in advance, before auction.
- Earned Money Deposit (EMD) amount as mentioned above shall be paid online/challan mode and will be credited in bidders e-Wallet. Bidders, not depositing the required EMD online, will not be allowed to participate in the e-auction. The Earned Money Deposited shall not bear any interest.
- Platform (baanknet.in) for e-auction will be provided by a Auction service provider M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. having its Registered office at Unit 1, 3rd Floor, VIOS Commercial Tower, Near Wadhwa Truck Terminal, Wadhwa Estate, Mumbai-400037 (Helpdesk Number +91 8291220220, Email id: support.baanknet@psballiance.com). The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process at e-Auction Service Provider's website <https://baanknet.in>. This Service Provider will also provide online demonstration training on e-auction on the e-auction portal.
- The Sale Notice containing the General Terms and Conditions of Sale is available / published in the following websites/ web page portal.
(1) <https://baanknet.com>
(2) www.pnbindia.in
- The intending participants of e-auction may download free of cost, copies of the Sale Notice, Terms & Conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction related to this e-auction from e-auction portal (<https://baanknet.com>).
Bidders e-Wallet should have sufficient balance (=EMD amount) at the time of bidding.
During the e-auction, bidders will be allowed to offer higher bid in inter-see bidding over and above the last bid quoted and the increase in the bid amount must be of increment amount mentioned. 10 minutes' time will be allowed to bidders to quote successive higher bid and if no higher bid is offered by any bidder after the expiry of 10 minutes to the last highest bid, the e-auction shall be closed.
It is the responsibility of intending Bidder(s) to properly read the Sale Notice, Terms & conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction and follow them strictly.
- In case of any difficulty or need of assistance before or during e-Auction process, bidder may contact authorized representative of our e-Auction Service Provider M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. Details of which are available on the baanknet portal.
- After finalization of e-Auction by the Authorized Officer, only successful bidder will be informed by our above referred service provider through SMS/ email. (On mobile no/ email address given by them) registered with the service provider).
- The secured asset will not be sold below the reserve price.
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% (twenty-five percent) of the bid amount, less EMD amount deposited, on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining amount shall be paid within 15 days from the date of auction in the form of Banker's Cheque/ Demand Draft issued by a Scheduled Commercial Bank drawn in favor of "The Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank, A/c. (8280031718A) Payable at: In case of failure to deposit the amount as above within the stipulated time, the amount deposited by successful bidder will be forfeited to the Bank and Authorized Officer shall have the liberty to conduct a fresh auction sale of the property & the defaulting bidder shall not have any claim over the forfeited amount and the property.
- Payment of sale consideration by the successful bidder to the bank will be subject to TDS under Section 194- I of Income Tax Act 1961 and TDS is to be made by the successful bidder only at the time of deposit of remaining 75 % of the bid amount/full deposit of BID amount.
- The Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel/adjourn/discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in the regard shall be final.
- The sale certificate shall be issued in the favour of successful bidder on deposit of full bid amount as per the provisions of the Act.
- The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS".
- The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herewith have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
- It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The bidder inspects the property in consultation with the dealing officer as per the details provided.
- All statutory dues/tenant charges/other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser.
- The Authorized Officer or the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-Auctioned) not known to the Bank. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc.
- The bidder should ensure proper technical connectivity, power back-up etc. The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure or technical reasons or reasons/contingencies affecting the e-auctions.
- It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and make self-bid and participate in the auction.

For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://baanknet.com> & www.pnbindia.in.

Date: 30-05-2026
Place: Bokaro

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STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(b) & 9(1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

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Advertisement No. - CONT./AL/02/2026

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Director (Admin.)

CHANGE OF NAME

L. SHALINI Sarraf, W/o Mukesh Kumar Sarraf, Age 40 yrs, s/o Village: Sarraf, P.O. P. Kanti, Dist. Muzaffarpur, do hereby declare that she has changed her name from Sarraf to Sarraf & Shalini Kumar. She is mentioned as Sarraf in all her documents and as per birth/school records. It may be amended accordingly.

CHANGE OF NAME

L. UMAR Ali, also known as Muhammad Ram, son of Late Anwaruddin, resident of Gaud Tola, P.O. Hemkang, P.S. Anandpur, District Kathbar, Bihar - 854113, I am a permanent resident of the above-mentioned address. My Aadhar No. 5094478326, from today I shall be known and recognized only by the name of Umar Ali. I have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md. Shamim Rizvi. Aff. No. 12709 De. 7-5-26.

CHANGE OF NAME

L. SHIVESH Kumar S/o Shri Bhagwan Ram S/o Jagannath Prasad Barmaya, Kathbar, Bihar-854109, declare vide Notary Kathbar Affidavit dated 23.05.2026 that my minor son's name is wrongly written as Mohit Raj in his Aadhar Card No. X033 X03X, 9832. He is actual name is Vigra, aged 9 years (DOB: 05-03-2017), and as per birth/school records. It may be amended accordingly.

CHANGE OF NAME

L. ASHA Devi, W/o Kedar Prasad Mahato R/o Vill-Chitola Jambua, P.O. Tilaha, P.S. Sarawati, Dist. Dhanbad, Jharkhand-828113, that my son's name Karan Kumar and DOB 04.03.2011 is wrongly mentioned in his Aadhar No. 708258301634. My son's correct name is Karan Kumar Mahato and actual DOB is 03.03.2011 as per his Birth Certificate No. 0007/12/2011, Affidavit No. 2770 dated 30.05.2026 before Executive Magistrate, Ranchi.

L. ABHISEKH Kumar S/o Salendra Prasad Singh, age 26 years, R/o Vill: Bihua Jambua, P.O.: Muzabari, P.S.: Muzabari, Dist.: Muzabari, Bihar-826003 have changed my name from Abhishek Kumar to Abhishek Agnya Singh for all purpose. Further, my father's name wrongly recorded as Salendra Prasad Singh in my educational, legal and professional, identity and government records. The correct name of my father is Shalendra Kumar Singh shall henceforth be read and recorded as Shalendra Kumar Singh vide Affidavit dated 27/05/2026 before Executive Magistrate, Muzabari.

MISCELLANEOUS

PUBLIC NOTICE
L. Adarsh Singh, aged about 22 years, Son of Munna Kumar & Abhinav Raj, Resident of Village Margaha, P.O. Hulsagan, P.S. Hulsagan, District Jehanabad, Bihar - 804007, do hereby solemnly declare for the information of the general public and concerned authorities that the correct and official name of my father is "Abhinav Raj". I have declared that my father is also known and addressed by the name "Munna Kumar", and both the names "Munna Kumar" and "Abhinav Raj" refer to one and the same person. Due to inadvertence and continued usage of the alias name, my father's name has been wrongly recorded as "Munna Kumar" in certain documents pertaining to me. The incorrect name "Munna Kumar" presently appears in my documents including (i) Aadhar Card, (ii) PAN Card, (iii) Driving License, (iv) Matriculation/Market, and (v) Intermediate Certificate. Hence, through this publication, I hereby declare and confirm that the correct name of my father shall be read, written, recorded, and treated as "Abhinav Raj" for all official, legal, educational, and government purposes henceforth. This publication is being made for the purpose of record correction, Gazette Notification, and maintaining uniformity in all official documents and records. Any person having any objection to the said declaration may contact the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Aff. No. 309 De. 24-5-26
Sd/- (Adarsh Singh)
Village Margaha, P.O. Hulsagan, P.S. Hulsagan, District Jehanabad, Bihar - 804007

MISCELLANEOUS

PUBLIC NOTICE
L. Adarsh Singh, aged about 22 years, Son of Munna Kumar & Abhinav Raj, Resident of Village Margaha, P.O. Hulsagan, P.S. Hulsagan, District Jehanabad, Bihar - 804007, do hereby solemnly declare for the information of the general public and concerned authorities that the correct and official name of my father is "Abhinav Raj". I have declared that my father is also known and addressed by the name "Munna Kumar", and both the names "Munna Kumar" and "Abhinav Raj" refer to one and the same person. Due to inadvertence and continued usage of the alias name, my father's name has been wrongly recorded as "Munna Kumar" in certain documents pertaining to me. The incorrect name "Munna Kumar" presently appears in my documents including (i) Aadhar Card, (ii) PAN Card, (iii) Driving License, (iv) Matriculation/Market, and (v) Intermediate Certificate. Hence, through this publication, I hereby declare and confirm that the correct name of my father shall be read, written, recorded, and treated as "Abhinav Raj" for all official, legal, educational, and government purposes henceforth. This publication is being made for the purpose of record correction, Gazette Notification, and maintaining uniformity in all official documents and records. Any person having any objection to the said declaration may contact the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Aff. No. 309 De. 24-5-26
Sd/- (Adarsh Singh)
Village Margaha, P.O. Hulsagan, P.S. Hulsagan, District Jehanabad, Bihar - 804007

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Take a cue from the clues

Answer the clues and win a prize. The clues are related to the week's development. The prize is a trip to the Himalayas.

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Land acquisition issues halt ‘game-changer’ Patna Metro

Subhash Pathak
subhash.pathak@htlive.com

PATNA: The Patna Metro project, long promised as a game-changer for Bihar's capital, continues to navigate a common land acquisition issue that is holding up construction of four critical stations even as tunnelling and construction push forward beneath the city's crowded streets.

According to a deputy general manager rank officer of the Patna Metro Rail Corporation (PMRC), district authorities offered them the land required for construction of stations at Raja Bazar, Rukanpura, Patna Junction and Khemnichak, but land acquisition process is yet to come full circle. "The claims of compensation for the land have not been settled yet," said the officer.

At Raja Bazar station, authorities require 0.52 acres, much of it agricultural land belonging to the agriculture department. Only two applications have come forward so far. The department has formally requested a change in land allotment from the PMRC, but the proposal is yet to be acted upon. Rukanpura station (Part-I) has seen better movement, with 0.90 acres already acquired and 90% compensation disbursed. However, further portions remain in process.

At Patna Junction (Part-2), 0.25 acres need to be secured, with four claimants submitting applications for compensation and document verification underway. For Khemnichak station, a notice has been issued for compensation on just 0.04 acres, but affected parties have not yet responded with applications. During a project monitoring meeting on May 26, Patna district magistrate Thiagarajan S. M. along with the district land acquisition officer Om Prakash, directed officials to ensure 100% payment of compensation without delay. A related court mat-



Authorities offered required land for construction of stations at Raja Bazar, Rukanpura, Patna Junction and Khemnichak, but land acquisition process is yet to come full circle. SANTOSH KUMAR

ter involving Khesra No. 1200 at Khemnichak is still pending, with the court ordered the status quo to be maintained.

The DM said the necessary proportion of land has been provided to the PMRC for the civil work. "As far as the dispute in the title of land is concerned, the authority has been directed to pay the compensation to the bonafide landowners after settlement of the title by the court," said Thiagarajan.

Notwithstanding the issues in offering the compensation for the land acquired, underground progress tells a different story. Construction is actively underway at Raja Bazar, Rukanpura, Patna Junction and Khemnichak stations as part of the ambitious underground segments of the network.

"Tunnel boring machines are carving paths through the city's challenging geology, with significant excavation already completed in several stretches," said a PMRC officer requesting anonymity.

The phase 1 of the Patna Metro envisions a mix of elevated and underground corridors totaling around 32 km. The elevated priority section between Bhoothnath and Malahi Pakri has seen trial runs and safety inspections, with hopes of limited passenger services later this year. The underground

Blue Line (North-South corridor) from Patna Junction towards the new ISBT is targeted for substantial completion by the end of 2026.

Officials acknowledge that land-related delays have slowed things in the past, but recent high-level reviews by the Bihar government have emphasised faster resolution. The project, executed with technical support from Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), remains crucial for connecting key areas—from Danapur in the west to eastern parts of the city—and easing the burden on overburdened roads.

The district administration's latest drive to clear full compensation and ensure smoother coordination offers some hope. As one senior official noted in recent meetings, the focus now is on clearing the final hurdles so that visible progress above ground can match the steady rumble of tunnelling below. In a city where history runs deep and aspirations run high, the Patna Metro's next chapter will be written one acre—and one resolved claim—at a time.

The land acquisition remains a nagging issue for execution of the 2nd phase of metro rail network. The PMRC officer claimed that the district administration has acquired about 0.14 acre plot for building

Jaganpura station, including 0.12 acres of bakasht (cultivable) land under Khesra No. 1089. A proposal has been sent to the Phulwari Sharif circle officer and Patna Sadar DCLR to declare it government land, but the matter is still pending at the officials' level.

Similarly, at Ramkrishna Nagar, acquisition of 1.18 acres has been completed, though one compensation claim has triggered an ongoing hearing. The district authorities are hearing public objections to award the compensation to the tune of ₹43.1 crore rupees, which has been deposited with the concerned authority.

Notably, commuters have already been using a 3.45 km elevated track between Patliputra and BSM Terminal and Bhoothnath station. Operations on the 2.75 km stretch between Bhoothnath and Malahi Pakri are set to begin soon, after which the full 6.2 km priority corridor will become functional. This will provide convenient boarding and alighting at Malahi Pakri, Bhoothnath, Zero Mile and Patliputra Bus Terminal. The elevated priority section has already undergone trial runs and safety inspections by the commissioner of metro rail safety.

The phase 1 of the Patna Metro, being developed by the PMRC with technical support from the DMRC, aims for roughly 32 km of network mixing elevated and underground lines. Once fully operational, it promises to connect Danapur in the west to eastern parts of the city, cutting through congested areas and easing the daily grind of buses, autos and two-wheelers on narrow roads.

The urban development and housing department (UDHD), which is investing on the Patna metro project, has allocated a hefty sum of ₹13.365 crore for the project, which is jointly funded by the central and state governments along with loans from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

{ AFFILIATION TO COLLEGES }

Lok Bhawan warns varsities on non-compliance

Arun Kumar
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PATNA: The Chancellor's office has reminded the universities of the schedule for affiliation of colleges prescribed years ago to be applicable from the 2018-2019 session itself onwards and expressed displeasure over its non-compliance.

"I am directed to issue a reference to the previous letter, which prescribed a schedule for

the process of affiliation of the colleges. This schedule was to be strictly followed by the universities and it was also communicated that any failure to adhere to the schedule will invite disciplinary action and the universities shall fix responsibility and accordingly report to the office of the Chancellor," said a new letter from the additional chief secretary (ACS) to the governor.

The ACS has further underlined that the Patna High Court

had also upheld it on April 26, 2018 and held that "there is significance of the last date, i.e. September 15 fixed for submission of application forms for grant of affiliation as indicated in the decision of the Chancellor".

"The date is statutory which occurs in Article 2(d) of the said Statutes and prescribes that an application for admission of an educational institution to the privileges of the University shall be submitted not later than Sep-

tember 15 of the preceding academic session," he added.

"While disposing of these application, the court directed that all concerned shall strictly follow not only the time schedule, but also the provisions contained in the Statutes. It is reiterated that any deviation from the schedule shall be treated as violation of statutory direction by the Chancellor and violation of the court order," the additional chief secretary wrote.

Chancellor's secretariat directs state varsities to follow uniform calendar

Arun Kumar
arunk@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: The Chancellor's secretariat has written to all the vice-chancellors of state universities to ensure strict compliance of the uniform academic calendar for all semesters of UG programmes (CBCS) in accordance with the 2023 directive from the Lok Bhawan for uniformity across the state.

The compliance has to be in ordinance and regulations for Bachelor of Arts/Science/Commerce (Honours) four years programme under CBCS as per UGC (Curriculum and Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes) a uniform academic calendar for all semesters of UG programmes (CBCS) communicated to the universities by the Lok Bhawan. "It has to be followed in letter and spirit and only under exceptional circumstances, if any, a deviation of up to a maximum seven days is permitted," says the letter from Dipak Kumar Singh, additional chief secretary to the governor.

The move is to ensure uniformity across all universities of Bihar as well as with other Central universities to provide students the opportunity to avail the benefits of the provisions of multiple entry and exit as envisaged under the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

As per the schedule issued by the Lok Bhawan, the admission process for semester-I has to begin on May 1 and close by June 30 to start semester-II from July 1. The schedule for mid-semester exam is September 11-16, while the end semester exams have to be held from November 27 to December 16, with publication of results on January 10.

For odd semester (3, 5 & 7), the admission process has to be completed from June 20-30 for the classes to start from July 1. The timeline for mid-semester exams is September 11-16 and end semester exams is November 27 to December 1, with publication of results on January 10.

The timeline for even semester (2, 4, 6 & 8) is January 4-9 for admission process, while the classes have to begin from January 4 itself, mid-semester exam March 15-20, end semester exam from May 6-24 and results on June 20. However, some universities have already witnessed delay in start of the admission process for 2026-30 session and it would be a challenge to cover the syllabus within the stipulated time if the session start also gets delayed. The odd semester results are also delayed. Timely publication of results is a must to adhere to the timeline, as is the case with central and other reputed universities which publish results within 14-21 days.

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1,025 Agniveer cadets pass out in Bihar



The 7th batch of Agniveers, comprising 1,025 recruits who successfully completed 24 weeks of rigorous military training, celebrating after their attestation-cum-passing out parade at Gaur Drill ground, Bihar Regiment Centre in Patna's Danapur Cantonment on Sunday. SANTOSH KUMAR/HT

3 BOYS DROWN IN SONE RIVER IN BHOJPUR DISTRICT

Prashant Ranjan
hptatna@hindustantimes.com

ARA: Three boys, aged between 15 and 18, drowned while bathing in Sone River near Andhari village under Chauri police station area of Bhojpur district on Sunday morning, police said. Six friends had gone to the river to bathe when they waded into deep waters and started drowning. On hearing their cries, locals rushed to the spot and managed to rescue three of them.

Chauri SHO Rakesh Kumar Singh said, "On information, a team reached the spot and pulled out three boys and took them to Arwal Sadar Hospital where doctors declared them dead."

The bodies of Harshit Kumar, 15, Nitish Kumar, 18, and Nikhil Kumar, 16, were sent for autopsy. Meanwhile, Pankaj Kumar, 19, Prince Kumar, 14 and Santosh Kumar, 19, are being treated.

"The incident triggered a huge uproar in the area, with a large crowd gathering at the site and protestors blocking the Sahar Arwal Sone Bridge for around an hour," a local said.

Vikramshila Setu will be functional till Nov 30: CM after inspection

Aditya Nath Jha
hptatna@hindustantimes.com

PURNEA: In his first visit to Bhagalpur after becoming the chief minister, Samrat Choudhary on Sunday inspected repair work at Vikramshila Setu where part of the structure collapsed into the Ganga river and announced that the bridge will be functional till November 30.

The government is committed to complete the restoration work in the Vikramshila Setu by November 30," the CM said in a press release issued on Sunday. He added that till then no private vehicles would be charged any fare to cross the river via steamer transport.

Choudhary directed officials to resolve issues concerning the construction of the proposed Bhagalpur Ganga Path project and Munger Ganga Path project. The projects are being executed in partnership with Adani Road Transport, aimed at reducing travel time and boosting tourism. He held review meetings



Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary inspecting work at Vikramshila Setu on Sunday. HT

with district officials regarding welfare schemes and launched developmental projects. He launched 84 development projects worth ₹203 crores in Bhagalpur and inaugurated 69 projects while virtually laying the foundation stone of 15 projects at the collectorate.

Choudhary also attended a local BJP training camp during his visit. The district administration placed the city on high alert with a "no-drone" fly zone implemented over the event areas. Routine traffic around key routes, such as from the airport to Narga Kothi, experienced disruptions.

6 MEN CLAIM TO BE MAOISTS TO EXTORT MONEY, ARRESTED

Prasun K Mishra
hptatna@hindustantimes.com

AURANGABAD: Police arrested six men claiming to be members of CPI (Maoist) for allegedly "extorting" and "threatening" a construction agency working at Chapra village under Bandey police station limits in Aurangabad district, police said Sunday.

According to the police, the accused sent a threatening letter to the agency on Tuesday seeking money to allow them to continue pond excavation work. The self-styled Maoists also reached the construction site the next day and disrupted ongoing work. In the letter, the men allegedly threatened to harm the workers and set ablaze heavy machinery and equipment, police said. A case was registered against unidentified persons. SP Ambrish Rahul then constituted an SIT for the identification and arrest.

Based on technical analysis, ground intelligence and CCTV footage, police and Special Task Force (STF) arrested Uday Kumar from Tikari Police Station area in Gaya district on Saturday. His statement led to the arrest of Santu Yadav.

Officers also seized a country-made pistol from Santu's possession. Subsequently, police recovered another country-made pistol, a Tharnet (improvised firearm), and one Musket (short barrel rifle) from a field based on his identification.

A separate case was registered under the Arms Act after the recovery of the firearms. The arrested duo led the SIT to their four associates: Sanjay Paswan, Ranjit Kumar, Anil Yadav and Chandra Prakash Vishwakarma. All four were arrested.

SP Rahul said, "The arrested accused have confessed to their involvement in the crime. Preliminary investigations suggest they were attempting to extort local contractors by invoking the name of a Maoist organisation to instill fear."

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VIKAS KI GATI APAAR - DOUBLE ENGINE SARKAR

OnMark portal vulnerabilities contained amid concerns: CBSE

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Amid the ongoing controversy surrounding its On-Screen Marking (OSM) evaluation process, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Sunday said it has been closely monitoring vulnerabilities flagged in the OnMark portal of its service provider and has deployed cybersecurity experts to strengthen the system.

In a post on X, CBSE said an expert team comprising cybersecurity professionals from various government agencies and the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) has been working over the past few days to secure the platform.

CBSE stated that the identified vulnerabilities have been contained and efforts are underway to ensure that no other exploitable weaknesses remain in the system.

The board also thanked alert citizens and ethical hackers who pointed out potential security issues and said it had directly engaged with some of them.

"We have been closely monitoring the vulnerabilities in the OnMark portal of our service provider that are being flagged in the public domain.

An expert team of cybersecurity professionals has been deployed over the last few days from across various arms of the government as well as the IITs to take these systems, including taking them over to a more secure set up.

The identified vulnerabilities have been contained, and other exploitable weaknesses are being ruled out. We are grateful

THE BOARD SAID CYBERSECURITY PROFESSIONALS FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND IITs HAVE BEEN WORKING DAYS TO SECURE THE PLATFORM

to all alert citizens and ethical hackers pointing out such weaknesses, and have gotten in touch with some of them directly," CBSE said.

This comes at a time when the CBSE is facing mounting pressure following reports of technical glitches in the post-result portal and discrepancies in evaluated answer sheets.

On May 29, CBSE said the portal for post-result activities, including verification and re-evaluation of answer books, will be operational from June 1. In a statement on X, the board said the decision was taken to ensure a "transparent and glitch-free process" for students applying for verification and re-evaluation of answer books.

"In order to ensure a transparent and glitch-free process for verification and re-evaluation of answer books of students who intend to submit their applications on the Post-Result Activities portal, it has been decided that the designated portal will now be operational from 1st June 2026," the CBSE statement said.

The board said the move aims to ensure the "highest standards and protocols of evaluation".

ANSWER SHEETS OF CLASS 12 STUDENT FOUND MISSING IN ODISHA

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

MAYURBHANJ: In the wake of the massive NET question paper leak controversy, a shocking case of irregularity in the evaluation of CBSE Class 12 answer sheets has come to light, deepening students' anxiety about their academic future.

The incident involves Ananta Acharya, a Class 12 student from Ranibol Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya (OAV) in Bireshwarpur under Barasahi block of Mayurbhanj district. She is the daughter of Prashant Kumar Acharya, a retired Naval Officer.

After not securing the expected marks in the CBSE Class 12 examination, Ananta applied for re-evaluation. What she received has raised alarming questions about the entire CBSE evaluation system.

Upon examining her Physics answer sheet, it was found that pages 14 and 15 were duplicated (appearing twice), while pages 16 and 17 were completely missing. This means the answers written by Ananta on pages 16 and 17 were never evaluated. Furthermore, the content on page 13 was not assessed; instead, the examiner marked it as a repetition of a question from page 14 and awarded no marks for it. The matter has now been raised by Ananta's parents and teachers, who are demanding accountability from the CBSE board.



Rahul Gandhi during an interaction with CBSE board students. PTI

Rahul targets Centre over CBSE OSM row

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday targeted the Centre over the CBSE OSM row, sharing a video of his interaction with a group of students and describing them as brave young Indians who asked the Modi government simple questions but received "insults instead of answers".

Asserting that the students deserved a bright future, Gandhi said, "We will make sure they get it."

Posting the clip on his social media accounts, Gandhi described it as a "revealing chat with my fellow anti-national Soros agents' Vedant and his friends are brilliant, brave young Indians who asked CBSE the Modi government simple questions — but got insults instead of answers," Gandhi said in his post on X, accompanying the video.

"They deserve a bright and secure future. We will make

sure they get it," he added.

Vedant, a Class 12 student, had recently alleged in a post on X that the Physics answer sheet uploaded by the CBSE under the re-evaluation process was not his.

It went viral, after which several other students took to social media with similar claims. In the video, Gandhi is seen having an informal chat with Vedant and other students about their ordeal.

He also joked about how they were labelled "Pakistanis" and "deep state agents" after raising what he called legitimate concerns and issues.

He said: "You are students. You are asking for your answer sheets, that's all. Now, suddenly, you have become anti-nationals. You have to accept the problem if you have to solve the problem. You are refusing to accept the problem and blaming the poor kids and saying you are deep state, you are spies, terrorists."

{ DAY AFTER ABHISHEK ROUGHED UP }

TMC MP Kalyan says attacked by BJP men

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Kalyan Banerjee on Sunday alleged that he suffered head injuries after being mobbed by BJP workers in front of a police station in West Bengal's Hooghly district.

The incident occurred when he visited the police station to submit a memorandum against the arrest of TMC workers after the Assembly elections. Party supremo Mamata Banerjee visited the Susrampore MP's residence following the alleged incident, and accused the BJP of "murdering democracy".

While the TMC MP claimed that BJP supporters were responsible for the attack on him, the ruling party denied the allegation and said that locals were expressing their anger against TMC leaders across the state.

TMC posted on X a photo of the former chief minister beside the MP who had a bandage on his forehead.

In the post, the party said, "Those who believe that violence and intimidation can silence us have learnt nothing from history. Every attack only strengthens our determination to fight for truth and justice. The truth cannot be suppressed. Justice cannot be denied. We will not back down." In a separate post, Mamata Banerjee alleged that BJP supporters had attacked TMC leaders on two days in a row.

This came a day after TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee was roughed up allegedly by locals when he visited Sonarpur town



Kalyan Banerjee allegedly attacked in Hooghly on Sunday. AITC

of South 24 Parganas district to meet families of post-poll violence victims.

Tension prevailed outside the Chanditala police station as a group of people waved black flags at Kalyan Banerjee and shouted "thief" at him and the other TMC delegation.

Kalyan Banerjee alleged that he was struck on the head during the protest and sustained an injury. He was seen holding a cloth to the back of his head.

"All this happened in front of the police. I was hit on my head, and I am bleeding," he told reporters, blaming BJP supporters for the incident.

Former West Bengal chief minister and TMC chairperson Mamata Banerjee on Sunday met party MP Kalyan Banerjee at his residence after he was "attacked by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers".

Today, Mamata Banerjee immediately rushed to see Kalyan Banerjee at his residence after he was attacked by BJP workers, "as per the TMC party statement."

Meanwhile, the five individuals arrested in connection with an attack on Trinamool Congress (TMC) National General Secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee in Sonarpur were produced before the Barur court on Sunday.

The accused individuals have been identified as Akash Gayen, Kajal Das, Debashish Dutta, Nirmalya Sengupta and Tapan Maiti.

Earlier today, Sonarpur Police arrested them following an attack on Abhishek Banerjee in Sonarpur.

"Five people have been arrested in connection with TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee's incident," the West Bengal Police stated.

All those arrested are locals. On Sunday, TMC workers held protests in West Bengal over the alleged attack on party MP Abhishek Banerjee in Sonarpur.

{ DMK, TVK CRITICISE LOK BHAVAN }

Row as Thiruvalluvar shown in saffron attire in TN event

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

CHENNAI: Political parties, including ruling TVK and opposition DMK, criticised the Lok Bhavan depicting Tamil poet-philosopher Thiruvalluvar in saffron attire, contrary to the officially recognised image in which he is shown in a white cloth.

The criticisms began after the Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arunkumar paid tributes to a portrait of Thiruvalluvar depicted in saffron at Lok Bhavan during the celebration of 'Vaikasi Anusham' on May 30.

Reacting strongly, Tamil Nadu Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Arunraj, condemned the presentation of the poet in saffron, stating that any attempt to confine the global philosopher within a narrow identity amounts to belittling his universal vision.

"Draping Thiruvalluvar in saffron robes at Lok Bhavan or any other public space is fundamentally wrong. Thiruvalluvar did not restrict himself to any religion, caste, race, or nation. His Tirukkural provides a common code of all of humanity," Dr. Arunraj posted on X.



Rajendra Arunkumar paying tributes to Thiruvalluvar.

on his official X handle.

He pointed out that even in the 'Kadavul Vazhthu' (Invocation of God) chapter, the poet carefully employed neutral, universal descriptors such as 'Adi Bhagavan', 'Malaimisai Veygan', and 'Araavazhi Andhannan' rather than specific names of deities belonging to any particular religion.

"When he established himself as a universal figure, painting him with a colour identified with a specific religion contradicts his global philosophy. Valluvar taught us the equality of everyone by birth. Trying to trap him within a specific colour is like trying to lock the ocean inside a

pot. Painting him saffron for political mileage is completely unacceptable," the TVK leader added, urging leaders to follow the path shown by the Kural rather than altering the colour of his robes.

DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin too launched a scathing, two-pronged offensive, targeting both the saffron iconography at Lok Bhavan and the alleged "inaction" of the newly minted TVK government under Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay.

Udhayanidhi claimed that the Governor's mansion embodied itself to repaint Thiruvalluvar in saffron solely because the current chief minister remains perpetually "silent".

"They have painted Thiruvalluvar in saffron at the Governor's residence yet again, operating on the confidence that the current chief minister is always on 'mute'," Udhayanidhi said in his post on X. The DMK leader also questioned the shift away from the state's traditional calendar. "The Government of Tamil Nadu officially celebrates Thiruvalluvar Day in January. Where did this new fabrication of celebrating it on 'Vaikasi Anusham' come from?" he questioned.

NO PROPOSAL YET ON KARNATAKA CABINET UNDER DKS, SAYS KHARGE

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KALABURGI: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday said no proposal had yet been received regarding the composition of the new Karnataka ministry under Chief Minister-designate D K Shivakumar.

He also indicated that decisions on ministers, deputy chief ministers and key appointments would be taken only after consultations following the June 3 swearing-in ceremony.

Addressing reporters here, Kharge said discussions were underway on various aspects of the government formation process, but no formal proposal had been placed before the party leadership so far.

"We will have to see. No proposal has come yet (on the appointment of ministers). Once the proposal comes, discussions will be held on how many ministers and deputy chief ministers should be appointed, on whether important chairmanships should also be filled along with it," he said.

Kharge said the party would get clarity only after the swearing-in ceremony. "All these matters are under discussion. We will know after June 3. Right now, we have to wait," he said.

{ INTERVIEW } ADMIRAL DINESH K TRIPATHI, OUTGOING NAVY CHIEF

'Modern conflicts demand much closer integration'

Rahul Singh
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NEW DELHI: No service can fight a modern war alone and only theatreisation can align the military's strategic vision and capabilities, said navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, who retired on Sunday.

Theatreisation — a long-awaited reform to integrate the military's resources for future conflicts — seeks to maximise combat effectiveness across all domains of warfare: land, sea, air, cyber, space, and the cognitive realm, he said.

In an interview with HT, Tripathi spoke about several issues including the urgent need to theatreise commands for battlefield dominance. Lessons from the war in West Asia, India's maritime posture in the Indo-Pacific and the navy's likely role if India launches Operation Sindoor 2.0.

operated with a singularly clear focus, aided significantly by the freedom and flexibility given to teams at all levels — from the Chiefs of Staff Committee to the tactical level — in planning, preparation, and execution. Jointness is no longer optional — it is an operational necessity. Theatreisation is not just organisational restructuring, it is inseparable.

What lessons has the navy drawn from the ongoing war in West Asia? One thing is clear — distance from conflict no longer means distance from its consequences. It has also thoroughly debunked the myth of short and swift wars. The conflict has reinforced that maritime security and economic security are inseparable.

Disruptions immediately affect shipping lanes, trade flows, insurance costs, and national economies. The character of the battle-space has shifted profoundly. It is now multi-domain and highly transparent. We are seeing how uncensored systems allow micro-platforms to deliver macro-effects at sea, shifting us from linear kill chains to networked, AI-driven kill



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webs. Strategic depth no longer guarantees sanctuary due to long-range precision strike capabilities. Overlapping actions by state and non-state actors complicate attribution.

India is about to finalise Project-75I for building next-generation conventional submarines. What is your assessment of India's underwater capabilities?

The submarine domain is a critical dimension of maritime warfare and deterrence. Underwater capability enhancement continues to remain a major priority for the Indian Navy.

P-75I is a strategically important project, demonstrating progressively building indigenous capability in the design, development, and manufacture of advanced conventional submarines in India.

Timelines and processes are currently progressing through the established procurement procedures, and we expect to conclude the contract early. The first submarine is expected to be inducted by 2033, followed by the delivery of one submarine every year until 2038.

How do you view India's evolving maritime posture in the Indo-Pacific where China is attempting to boost its presence?

We recognise that the global environment is moving from an 'era of cooperation' to an 'era of intense competition'. India's maritime posture has never been about any one country alone; it is about

protecting our national maritime interests and contributing to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific. The Indian Navy achieved this by maintaining robust maritime domain awareness through continuous mission-based deployments across the vast maritime expanse. Over the past two years, we conducted 23 bilateral, 16 multilateral and 70 maritime partnership exercises.

What will the navy's role be if circumstances demand that India launch Operation Sindoor 2.0?

If such circumstances arise, the Indian Navy remains fully prepared to undertake any role mandated by the national leadership in defence of India's sovereignty. Our role will be a direct continuation of our proven readiness, capability, and deterrence potential.

Operation Sindoor demonstrated our reach and ability to rapidly deploy combat power. The forward deployment of a carrier battle group (CBG) and our aggressive operational posture in the northern Arabian Sea reinforced deterrence and operational dominance.

The adversary's maritime economy was severely impacted by raising shipping risks and insurance premiums, deterring global merchant shipping from their ports.

As per the new normal, any notice for sailing to our platforms could be an indication for combat — a direct outcome of Operation Sindoor.

{ CIVIC OFFICIALS PLAN HEALTH SURVEY }

Rotting fish stink chokes Juhu slum residents

Hezpi Anthony
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MUMBAI: A foul stench from thousands of dead fish floating in a stagnant water body near the Juhu beach carries its stink into the densely packed settlement.

"I have been living here for more than 30 years and have never seen so many fish die or such a strong stench from this area," says resident Manoj Kamli, whose house is lined right next to the 12-ft tall airport wall. He said two members of his family, including his 17-year-old daughter, are currently suffering



Dead fish floating in the stagnant Juhu water body has turned life miserable for nearby slum residents, with stench from the site raising fears of illness.



Slum residents, with stench from the site raising fears of illness.

from fever and cough, which he believes may be linked to the stench.

A visit to the spot by HT revealed stagnant water covered with floating fish carcasses. Residents said the water body, once frequented by local anglers, has shrunk considerably this year, leaving behind dry, cracked stretches and shallow pools.

Construction worker Malappa Dangat, who has lived in the area for over two decades, recalled that locals used to fish in the pond before access was

restricted by airport boundary walls.

The problem is exacerbated by poor housing conditions in Nehru Nagar, where closely packed homes and narrow lanes offer little ventilation, trapping the odour inside homes.

Local social activist Muthu Kumar said birds often carry away dead fish and drop them in the nearby gardens, spreading the nuisance beyond the water body.

"The water body is located within AAI land and falls under its jurisdiction and it is for them

to handle it. However, we can assess any health issues of local residents," an official from the BMCs K-West ward said.

A health department official from K-West ward said a survey would be conducted in Nehru Nagar to check for possible health infections.

An AAI official said he was unaware of the issue and that the matter would be examined, while local MLA Anant Satam assured residents that he would raise the issue with airport authorities.

Press Trust of India
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SHIMLA: Operations were underway on Sunday to pull out the bodies of seven tourists and a taxi driver, who were killed after their car fell into a gorge in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh, officials said.

The incident occurred late on Friday night on the Bairagarh-Sach Pass-Killar road in Churah subdivision, but locals came to know about it on Saturday afternoon.

The accident occurred when the car was going towards the snow-bound Sach Pass, one of the toughest stretches in Himachal Pradesh, the officials said.



Police and a rescue team at the site in Chamba on Sunday. ANI

BJP MLA from Churah, Hans Raj, told PTI that a operation was underway, but due to the steep slope and bad weather conditions, the bodies could not be retrieved.

The area is remote, topogra-

phy is tough and there is no phone signal in the area, he added.

The operation resumed on Sunday morning and the locals along with police formed human chains along with ropes to get down to the accident spot, officials said.

According to preliminary information, two families had met in Dalhousie and decided to enjoy the snow in the Sach Pass region in a shared taxi.

Both families, accompanied by the taxi driver, departed on Friday for the Bairagarh-Killar route via Sach Pass and when the taxi did not return to Dalhousie even after the scheduled time, the vehicle owner checked the vehicle's GPS location.

According to the GPS data, the vehicle appeared to be stationary at a single spot near the Kalavan area, showing absolutely no signs of movement.

Following this, a local search operation was initiated, which raised the apprehension that the vehicle had met with an accident.

The deceased have been identified as Arvind Chandrakar his wife Prachi, sons Darsh and Akshad, all residents of Bengaluru. P G Karthikeyan, his wife Manimala and son Nandan, all residents of Karnataka and the taxi driver Vishwas, a resident of Bankhet from Chamba in Himachal.

Rescue ops on after 8 killed in HP accident

{ OUR TAKE }

Larger message in NFHS numbers

To build on the successes achieved so far, the State and markets must work as complements

The Union health ministry has released the sixth round of the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-6). Between this round of NFHS (2023-24) and the first one, conducted in 1992-93, is sandwiched almost the entire post-economic reform period in India. The evolution of NFHS trends, therefore, tells us an important story.

With economic growth, the consequent greater revenue cushion and the social sector spending it facilitated, India has done well to cover the most glaring holes in its social health outcomes such as reproductive health and child-care. On some, such as institutionalised deliveries, the success is stellar — from less than 40% in NFHS-1 to 90% in NFHS-6. On others, such as child undernutrition, challenges remain, but the progress is anything but insignificant. As the country gets rid of some of its typical low-income infrastructure challenges, there are new problems which need to be tackled. More Indian men and women are now overweight than underweight. Lifestyle diseases are becoming more prevalent and the share of older people in the population is rising. Population growth itself has already peaked.

Solving these next-generation challenges is going to be trickier than rolling out last-mile family welfare infrastructure. It will also require shedding past ghosts such as rhetoric around population explosion. But solve it we must.

While NFHS's primary mandate is reproductive health, it tells us much more than that. Women's agency has continued to increase across India, in terms of their say in family decisions, their access to bank accounts, and even using the internet. This ought to be welcomed unambiguously. And yet, there are other data sources such as the Time Use Survey, which tell us that women continue to shoulder a disproportionate burden of household work, especially its unpaid components.

What will it take to make further advances vis-à-vis the challenges the NFHS numbers flag before us? State and markets must work as complements rather than substitutes. India's JAM trinity, the harbinger of last-mile leakage free benefits is the best example. The financial inclusion bit of the network has been facilitated by public sector banks. Internet access is the handwork of private telecom operators. Similarly, government provided health insurance coverage seems to be working via private health providers. There is much to be celebrated in this State-market synergy. But this success ought not to be a drop in guard vis-à-vis probable market failures.

Implementation key to faster-bail framework

The Supreme Court's sweeping instructions laying down a definite timeline for a decision on bail cases and pronouncing of reserved judgments has the potential to transform bail jurisprudence, but only if it is accompanied by stringent monitoring and associated shifts in judicial mindsets. Last week, a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Jyotsna Singh issued binding directions to all high courts, mandating that bail applications be decided on the same day or, at the latest, within 24 hours of hearing, while also fixing a strict three-month outer limit for pronouncement of reserved judgments. The apex court invoked its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to frame a nationwide framework governing timelines, transparency and accountability in judicial functioning, holding this had become necessary "for complete justice to the parties".

The decision comes against the backdrop of rising pretrial detention cases that are clogging India's prison systems amid complaints of judicial delays, especially in cases involving political causes or anti-terror laws. The top court has rightly underlined the importance of personal liberty promised by the Constitution. But the implementation of such timelines will be key, and monitoring has to be transparent and rigorous. The top court should consider extending the diktat to the district judiciary, where the majority of bail cases of ordinary people are decided, and setting up a dashboard to track the progress of such cases. This newspaper has repeatedly said that even in cases involving serious charges, delays and vacillation by the prosecution cannot replace due process. To change the paradigm of personal liberty, strict implementation of the timelines will need to be complemented by a structural shift in bail jurisprudence that doesn't let the process become the punishment.

{ STRAIGHTFORWARD }

Shashi Shekhar



What India must do as climate crisis worsens

New Delhi must look at China and other countries that have used natural and modern scientific interventions and inventions to control the adverse effects of natural extremes

If you are a sensitive soul standing at the ramparts of Fatehpur Sikri, you will notice something strange in the howling winds rising from the arid land. The silently advancing desert echoes subdued moans of history. Emperor of India Jalaaluddin Mohammed Akbar built and declared it the new capital of the Mughal empire with a lot of fanfare. Sufi saint Sheikh Salim Chisti once resided there. Akbar had a son due to his blessings. A little distance from here are the plains of Kanwah, where Akbar's grandfather Zahiruddin Mohammad Babur defeated Rana Sangha to establish the Mughal empire.

What better site could he have chosen to establish a new capital of the nascent empire? But, then, what went wrong? The emperor defied nature. The place was devoid of a perennial river like the Yamuna, which fed Agra and Delhi. The reservoirs built to meet the water demands of the new capital

were hopelessly dependent on rainwater. Groundwater was saline. As a result, within 14 years, Akbar had to shift the capital back to Agra. If we leave aside Faizabad, Fatehpur Sikri was the shortest-serving capital city of any empire in India.

You may consider it a sad end to imperial ambitions, but that was 400 years ago — in the 16th century. Today's situation is dire. Many rivers in the country have dried up, and drinking water scarcity in cities along their banks is pushing the latter into "dark zones". New Delhi is no exception.

This is the year of a Super El Niño. For the uninitiated, the El Niño phenomenon happens once in many years, when the surface temperature of the largest ocean in the world, the Pacific, rises by more than 2-3 degrees Celsius. It makes the ocean surface winds warmer and changes their direction. As a result, South America receives much more rainfall leading to floods while Australia, Indonesia and South Asia face extreme drought conditions.

There are concerns that India will receive less-than-normal monsoon rainfall due to the Super El Niño this year. Meteorologists think that the rainfall will be around 90% of the normal precipitation. August and September would bring respite, but, by that time, the sowing season will be over.

We are already facing serious economic vulnerability due to the shut-

ting down of the Strait of Hormuz. I will discuss this subject in later columns; today, I will focus on the climate-crisis-induced challenges we are facing.

The current heat spell we are experiencing, attributed to the Super El Niño or other recent disturbances, is just part of the story. The reality is, even without El Niño, our cities are turning into raging furnaces. A report published recently presented shocking conclusions. Out of the 100 warmest cities in the world, 97 are in India. The consequences of this can be dire.

It's not that the mercury in most of the cities in the Indo-Gangetic plains has suddenly started hovering above 45 degrees. The government has appealed to people not to venture out in the open unnecessarily. But how many people have the capacity to follow this well-meaning appeal?

Nineteen percent of India's non-agricultural workforce is still employed in the unorganised sector. Similarly, 52% of the population is engaged in agriculture. These are the citizens who have to work every day to bring bread to the table. Data suggests that during the last five years, more than 3,000 people have died due to heat-related issues. A trend is visible in central India, Bundelkhand, Rajasthan and in other arid areas in the North as well as in drought-affected parts of South India: People have temporarily or permanently migrated due to water

stress, ending up as climate migrants.

How many more Fatehpur Sikris do we want to create?

Many meteorologists believe that if the situation is not brought under control urgently, the phenomenon of high "wet bulb temperatures" may rise in some areas. It is a combination of heat and humidity that overwhelms human physiology. People affected by it can die in a span of two to six hours.

The way heat is increasing every year has led to heightened concerns of climate-induced seasonal mass migrations in Ganga-Yamuna plains and the coastal areas. Don't dismiss the concern with your usual retort, "We shall cross the bridge as and when we come to it". A section of scientists thinks that if humidity and heat keep rising then a doomsday scenario will be a reality by as early as 2040.

The weather picture isn't a unidirectional disaster. Temperatures are rising, we are witnessing record-breaking minimum temperatures in winters, and extreme rains are wreaking havoc. What should we do in such a condition? We can look at China and other countries. They have

used natural and modern scientific interventions and inventions to control the adverse effects of climate extremes. I would like to mention our age-old traditions.

There's a passage in *Bṛhadaranyaka Upanishad*, which translates into: "The winds blowing for us should be invigorating and pleasant. Our water resources and rivers should provide us with water that is sweet and clean as a nectar. All medicines, herbs and vegetation on the Earth should be life-giving and nourishing. Our nights should be peaceful and mornings filled with energy and cheerfulness. The Earth's soil should be fertile and bountiful. The universe and the sky that nurture us should be as benevolent as our fathers."

Our forefathers never sought to conquer nature. Instead, they strived relentlessly to seek a balance to receive but constant grace and bounty. Why have we forgotten this key principle?

Shashi Shekhar is editor-in-chief, Hindustan. The views expressed are not personal

In the age of AI, a kill that requires no killer

In certain special forces operations, like a commando raid, a small team moves ahead of everyone else. Two, sometimes three soldiers. Their mission is called sentry neutralisation — the clinical term for what is, in practice, the most intimate act of violence in modern warfare. These soldiers must creep through darkness to within arm's reach of an enemy sentry, gag his mouth with one hand, overpower his body with the other, and with either a garrote or a dagger between the ribs, take his life. Silently. Restraining a human body while it is withering spasmodically in its final death throes.

There is no distance in this act. No screen, no trigger, no intermediary. Just two human beings — one killing the other. The soldiers trained for this are not monsters. That is precisely the point.

On Christmas Eve, 1914, during World War I, something happened on the Western Front, that high command on both sides tried desperately to suppress. German soldiers began placing candles along their trench barbed wire. British soldiers watching from 50 yards away heard singing. Within hours, men who had spent months trying to kill each other were standing in No Man's Land — sharing cigarettes, exchanging food, and by multiple accounts, playing football. High command scrambled to prevent its recurrence.

What this proved was something military planners had always understood and never wanted to acknowledge: Soldiers do not hate each other. The enemy of soldiers is not hate. It is institutional — manufactured by States, sustained by political rhetoric and insulated by deliberate dehumanisation that turns a fellow human being into an impersonal target. The Indian armed forces — like several others — reiterates this at every firing range in bold letters: "No pity, no regret & no remorse."

The sentry silencing party experiences this at a primal level. To kill a man with bare hands, a soldier must first overcome every empathetic instinct of his species. Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman, in his landmark study *On Killing*, documented that 75-80% of World War II soldiers could not bring themselves to fire directly at the enemy — even in active combat. The resistance to killing another human being is not weakness. It is the most fundamental human instinct. And it has to be systematically engineered away.

For most of military history, that primary engineering tool was distance. A bayonet requires the killer to be close enough to feel the resistance of flesh and tearing of cartilage. A rifle allows him to see the target but not the face. An aerial bomb makes the target invisible — a coordinate, a grid reference. A drone allows the operator to rain death through a screen, in air conditioning, before driving home for dinner.

Each step along this gradient increases range and reduces moral friction. This is not incidental. Grossman's research showed kill rates increased dramatically as weapons technology increased distance. The military did not just build longer-range weapons. It systematically built moral distance — because most human beings, left to their own instincts, are not particularly ardent killers. Their conscience gets in the way.

Now consider what autonomous AI weap-

ons represent. Not a rifle with longer range or a drone with heavier payload — but the removal of a human being from the kill chain entirely.

When Pope Leo XIV condemned AI-directed warfare at a Rome university recently the mainstream reaction was to file it under "church versus technology". That framing misses the point entirely. The Pope was not making a theological argument. He was giving voice to a psychological discomfort that millions of people already experience but have no authority to articulate. Philosopher Robert Sparrow's seminal 2007 analysis identified what he called the "responsibility gap". When a human pulls a trigger, there is a chain of accountability: soldier, commander, State. When an algorithm selects a target, that chain dissolves. The algorithm cannot be court-martialed. The programmer did not choose the victim. The commander who deployed the system points to the architecture. The aggressor says: It was not me. It was the system.

This is not a legal technicality. It is the systematic outsourcing of moral accountability — the most consequential element human civilisation has ever attempted to outsource.

Morality is not just a personal attribute. It is a social contract — a shared system of legal technicalities. It makes society function. When the decision to take a life is delegated to an algorithm, the moral accountability underwriting that contract is delegated with it. And once a society accepts that algorithms can make lethal decisions without human accountability, the path opens for an algorithm to allocate ventiles.

The COMPAS algorithm in the US already generates risk scores that influence prison sentences — making predictions about human behaviour that affect years of a person's life, with no human judgment required. During the Covid-19 crisis, hospitals in multiple countries used an algorithm to allocate ventilators, deciding on the basis of projected outcomes on who had sufficient systemic or monetary value to receive life-sustaining treatment.

These are not hypotheticals. They are the gradient, hurtling towards a world in which algorithmic systems assign value to human lives — not in terms of individual dignity, not in response to the grief of a family, but in optimisation of systemic efficiency. Not for an ideology or for a leader, but for their own optimisation function.

The Christmas truce was possible because human soldiers were making human decisions — and somewhere beneath the training, the propaganda, and the fear, they recognised each other as fellow humans and not perennial enemies, the very reason they are allies today.

The sentry silencing party has to physically clasp the man they are killing. They carry that moment for the rest of their lives. The weight — the moral burden of taking a life — is not a flaw in the human character. It is the last guardrail between a violent act and a civilisational catastrophe. By replacing that judgement, and its accompanying morality, with an algorithm, we may speed up the decision loop. But we will also cross a chasm from which there is no viable return.

Raghu Raman is founding CEO, NATGRID, and a former soldier. The views expressed are personal

ADMIRAL KRISHNA SWAMINATHAN | NAVY CHIEF

The Navy is very actively deployed in a regional security environment that continues to remain challenging... and uncertain



India's cities need periodic assessments of resilience

India's urban centres already account for the majority of its economic output and are projected to generate more than 70% of new employment opportunities by 2030. The success stories in waste management from Indore and Ambikapur, alongside the scaling of Ahmedabad's heat action plan to over 100 cities, illustrates India's growing resolve to shape cities for a better future.

Nevertheless, growth driven by urbanisation often comes with systemic risks that can undermine its gains. A particularly pressing challenge is the exacerbation of external geopolitical shocks. The global environment for cities has become increasingly volatile, with the Russia-Ukraine war, escalating tensions in West Asia, and disruptions in global trade revealing vulnerabilities in interconnected economies. The so-called "triple F" crisis, encompassing food, fuel, and financial instability, has transcended macroeconomic discourse to permeate everyday urban realities. Escalating fuel costs contribute to augmented transportation and construction expenses, while supply chain disruptions elevate food prices, and financial instability constrains infrastructure investments.

Indian cities, which are heavily dependent on imported fuel and globally sourced resources, experience urban stress leading to rising project costs, delays in infrastructure development, strained municipal budgets, and increased pressure on housing, transportation, and essential services. For instance, the expansion of piped natural gas networks, intended to transition towards cleaner energy sources and global markets, also heightens vulnerability to supply chain shocks.

Violent conflicts significantly lower a city's capacity to withstand climate impacts and disaster failures. Conflicts not only erode social capital but also worsen environmental risks and degrade institutional trust. Conflicts are also responsible for the sudden displacement of people into urban areas, overstressing the already fragile facilities of water, sanitation, and hygiene, health care and housing. These sudden and dynamic pressures reinforce natural hazards such as flooding and heatwaves, increasing the risks for destruction.

Thus, conflicts become a force multiplier of climate and public health risks. Further, modern-day conflicts are increasingly urban-centred. Warfare today extends beyond conventional battlefields into cities through hybrid means, involving cyberattacks on critical infrastructure such as energy grids, communication networks, and financial systems. In

such a context, cities are no longer distant observers but direct targets of disruption. Additionally, the climate crisis has made urban vulnerabilities both urgent and persistent. Flooding, heat stress, and infrastructure failures have become recurring issues increasingly shaping urban life.

Indian cities are becoming tightly interconnected systems. Even small disruptions, such as flooding in 10-20% of road networks, can disturb more than half of urban mobility and trigger failures across different sectors. Further, informal settlements, often located in areas prone to flooding or heat, face significant risks, and access to infrastructure and services remains uneven, fuelling inequality. Economic development often follows uneven paths, with gaps widening before eventually levelling off. Without targeted interventions, urbanisation may worsen inequality even as it promotes growth. Thus, in a world increasingly influenced by the climate crisis, conflict and commodity shocks, Urban Resilience Assessment (URA) should become a mandatory pillar of smarter and stronger governance. Cities must routinely stress-test their systems against floods, heatwaves and economic shocks.

A gradual shift in infrastructure policy from efficiency to resilience through decentralised energy systems, diversified supply chains, circular economies, and modular networks can withstand disruptions and uncertainty. Cities need to be better aligned with national security and economic strategy, as repeated cyber intrusions into urban infrastructure and shipping disruptions are evident. Equally crucial is the reconfiguration of the fiscal framework, as conflict-induced inflation and uncertainty constrain municipal budgets. Inclusive policies and community-based resilience are vital to prevent social fragmentation.

Finally, URA must evolve into a multi-hazard system incorporating defensive tactics against the twin interacting threats of conflicts and climate change. As a relatively late urbaniser, much of India's urban future is yet to be developed. This creates a rare opportunity to leapfrog towards resilient systems from scratch rather than retrofitting at a higher cost. The future of urbanisation lies not in smarter cities alone, but in cities that are resilient by design and governed with foresight.

Simrit Kaur is principal, and Kamaldeep Kaur is assistant professor, Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University. The views expressed are personal

Trump toughens terms in proposed peace deal with Iran

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WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump has sought to change several terms of a proposal to end the Middle East war, US media reported Saturday, as a finalized deal remains elusive among the parties.

The New York Times reported Trump's changes involved toughening the terms of the deal, and has sent the new framework back to be considered by Iran, according to officials familiar with the proceedings.

The report said it was not immediately clear what the changes entailed, but news site Axios reported Trump wanted to reinforce multiple points of the deal that he personally felt were important, such as what is done to Iran's nuclear material.

The new tweaks could prolong negotiations between the parties for days before a decision is reached on whether the deal would end the war which began after the US and Israel launched joint strikes on Iran on February 28.

People aware of the matter had told AFP that the proposal had been waiting on Trump's sign-off, but he made no decision after a White House Situation Room meeting on Friday.

Trump has said his priorities for any deal included Iran agreeing to never develop nuclear weapons and the re-opening of the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly 20 per cent of the world's oil supply transits.

Iran says no deal with US unless its rights secured

Iran's chief negotiator said on Sunday that Tehran would not agree to any deal with the United States unless it fully secures Iranian rights, as reports emerged that Washington had sent a tougher peace proposal back to Iran. "We will not approve any agreement until we are certain that the rights of the Iranian people have been upheld," Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said, in a video broadcast on state television.

Trump has said his priorities include stopping Iran from any nuclear weapon development and re-opening the blocked Strait of Hormuz shipping lane.

"The one guarantee that I have to have is that there will be no nuclear weapons. They've agreed to that, and it was very interesting," he told his daughter-in-law Lara Trump in an interview broadcast on her Fox News program on Saturday night.

But Tehran has previously cast doubt on Trump's assertions and the sides remain far apart on key issues.



Trump has said his priorities include Iran agreeing to not develop nuclear weapons and the re-opening of Strait of Hormuz.

US, UK, AUSTRALIA DEEPEN SUBSEA SECURITY PACT WITH ADVANCED DRONE SYSTEMS

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The Aukus alliance members — Australia, UK and the US — announced on Saturday that they will develop advanced underwater drone systems and further deepen their maritime relationship that will see American submarines in Australia by next year.

The agreement, announced in Singapore by the countries' defence ministers, include investing in the development of systems and weapons for uncrewed underwater vehicles.

The initiative "will deliver a suite of highly adaptable multi-mission UUV payloads designed to support undersea operations and maintain our collective advantage in the maritime domain," said US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

He didn't detail the systems, which are generically termed "payload and effectors."

"This will rapidly give our forces the very most advanced battlefield technologies, as together we produce a range of cutting-edge sensors and weapons systems" for undersea drones, said UK Defense Secretary John Healey.

Hegseth and Healey, along with Australia's Richard Marles, also said Saturday that US submarine rotations are on track to begin by the end of next year at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia.

The three nations signed the defence accord in 2021, under President Donald Trump's predecessor Joe Biden. After a review by the Trump administration, the US reiterated its commitment to the project after a review last year.

Under Pillar One of Aukus, the US is to sell Australia three of its nuclear-powered Virginia-class submarines, and all three nations will work to design and build new subs over the coming decades. Pillar Two is related to sharing advanced technology, such as quantum computing, artificial intelligence and advanced weaponry.



An Israeli flag flies over the medieval Beaufort Castle on Sunday.

Israel captures castle in S Lebanon in major op

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

BEIRUT: Israeli troops have captured a strategic mountain topped with a Crusader-built castle in southern Lebanon in their deepest incursion into the country in more than a quarter century, the military said Sunday.

The capture of Beaufort castle near the city of Nabatiyeh came after days of intense fighting and airstrikes in nearby villages where Israeli troops fought Hezbollah members in the rugged area. It marks a major gain for

Israel in the latest Israel-Hezbollah war, which began in early March. Israel and Lebanon have been at war since Israel was created in 1948, and are currently holding direct talks in US.

The Israeli push came despite a nominal ceasefire that has been in place since April 17 and just days before the next round of talks are set to be held at the State Department on June 2 and 3.

The Israeli army's Arabic spokesperson Avichay Adraee posted a photograph on X showing Israeli troops walking outside the castle, and Defence Minister

Israel Katz wrote on X that they had raised an Israeli flag over the castle. Israeli troops previously captured the castle in 1982 and held it until they withdrew from Lebanon in 2000.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared Sunday that Israeli forces' capture of Beaufort castle in southern Lebanon marked a "dramatic shift" in Israel's campaign against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

"The capture of Beaufort is a dramatic stage and a dramatic shift in the policy we are leading," Netanyahu said.

MINE COLLAPSES IN CHINA, KILLING 5 JUST DAYS AFTER SHANXI DISASTER

Reuters
letters@hindustantimes.com

BEIJING: A mine shaft collapse during an illegal mining operation in China's southwestern Yunnan province killed five people and injured one, state media reported, days after the country's deadliest mining accident since 2009 left at least 82 dead.

The incident occurred around early on Sunday in Yunnan's Huize County, state news agency Xinhua reported, citing local authorities. The report did not specify what mineral was being mined.

There was only one survivor out of six people rescued from the site and sent to hospital, Xinhua said, and the person was in stable condition.

Authorities have launched an investigation into the cause of the incident, which follows the May 22 deadly gas explosion at a coal mine in the northern Shanxi province.

Apart from the 82 people killed, two remain missing and 128 were injured.

The latest collapse also follows a national safety meeting chaired by Premier Li Qiang on Saturday.

Chinese authorities have vowed a thorough investigation into the Shanxi disaster, as preliminary findings uncovered unmarked tunnels, missing trackers and fake doors at the mining site.

11 confirmed dead in US chemical spill

Reuters
letters@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: The death toll from a chemical tank rupture in Washington climbed to 11 as crews recovered the bodies of all nine missing people, authorities said on Saturday.

Two fatalities had been confirmed after the tank containing "white liquor" - a chemical solu-

tion of sodium hydroxide and sodium sulfide used in making paper pulp - imploded at a Nippon Dynawave Packaging facility on Tuesday. The search for the missing carried on through the week. The ruptured tank contained about 3.4 million litres of white liquor, and tests confirmed that contamination entered the nearby Columbia River, officials have said.



The spill at the Nippon Dynawave Packaging paper mill.

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Hindustan Times

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RIL hiring slumps by 90,000 in FY26

Devina Sengupta

devina.sengupta@livemint.com

MUMBAI: Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), one of India's largest employers, may have reduced its new hirings by as much as 90,000 in FY26 from the previous year. The sharp recruitment decline comes at a time when conglomerates are increasingly focusing on upskilling existing employees in artificial intelligence (AI) and redesigning roles in their current talent pool, rather than expanding workforce.

This loss of recruiting appetite signals a worrying trend at a time when demand of AI, global wages, supply chain crisis and a stringent economy has dampened many a hiring plan.

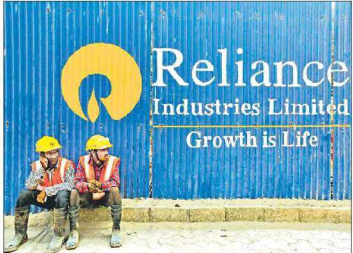
"As of March 31, 2026, the Group's headcount is 419 lakh+, comprising 1 lakh+ new hires, with focused recruitment in AI, data science, automation and digital transformation," the Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate said in its FY26 annual report, published on its website last week.

When compared with the previous fiscal's report, the drop is clear. "During FY 2024-25, Reliance on-boarded over 1.9 lakh new hires," the earlier annual report had said.

While the latest report does not specify the exact number of recruits beyond "1 lakh+", the reduction could be close to 90,000. The FY24 report showed the company had then hired 17.16 employees.

Jio Platforms Ltd, which houses the digital services and telecom arm, had a headcount of 74,822 end FY26, down almost 2% from 94,523 a year ago, the report said.

According to a company executive, one reason for the decline in headcount is a new career option in the Reliance Jio home business, where employees in smaller markets can become



RIL's recruitment slowed in FY26 as companies increasingly focused on AI-led workforce transformation. REUTERS

'micro entrepreneurs' instead of full-time employees. A micro entrepreneur oversees installation and maintenance of home business products in a specific city area and is compensated per installation.

The media and entertainment business had 10,255 employees, a drop of 8% from 11,186 in FY25. The oil to chemicals industry, one of its older businesses, employed 28,051 in FY26 versus 29,985 in FY25, over 6% fewer. However, the retail business showed a 17% rise in workforce, with 290,293 at the end of March 2026, from 247,782 in FY25.

RIL did not respond to *Mint*'s queries on its hiring.

Recruiters highlight other reasons as well. "There are two reasons that could be possible for the drop (in new hires)—redeployment due to AI, and a poor job market that is preventing voluntary exit of employees," said Aditya Narayan Mishra, managing director and chief executive of recruitment firm CIEL HR Services Ltd, adding that 90,000 was "a big drop".

The overall workforce at Reliance has, however, continued to grow. The conglomerate, preparing to list its digital and digital

services arm, Jio Platforms Ltd, has steadily expanded its employee base from 347,362 in FY24 to 419.91 end FY26.

Lower employee attrition could be a factor here, recruitment industry experts said. Reliance has not disclosed voluntary and involuntary attrition numbers.

Recruiters estimate that lower hiring will likely get reflected across other business houses as well.

"We could see other conglomerates go slow on hiring fresh talent on back of global uncertainties and implementation of AI," said Mishra.

Corporate structures are undergoing significant changes to reflect the new requirements. "The traditional pyramid structure is becoming less effective. The manager-to-employee ratio is shifting from 6-8 employees per manager to 10-12 employees per manager," said Kamal Karanth, co-founder of recruitment firm Xpheno Pvt Ltd.

He estimates that over the next 12 months, hiring demand could decline around 10%. "At the same time, AI is likely to take over some routine and mundane jobs," Karanth added.

CENTRE SLASHES WINDFALL LEVY ON FUEL EXPORTS

Press Trust of India

feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: The government has halved windfall gains tax on export of petrol to ₹1.50 litre, while reducing the levy on diesel to ₹13.50/litre and aviation turbine fuel to ₹9.50/litre effective June 1.

The finance ministry in a notification said road and infrastructure cess will be nil on export of petrol and diesel.

Also, there is no change in the existing duty rates on petrol and diesel cleared for domestic consumption.

The special additional excise duty (SAED) on petrol at ₹3/litre was imposed on May 16 and the similarly review slashed it to ₹1.50/litre from June 1.

The duty on export of diesel has been reduced to ₹13.50 per litre, from ₹16.50 per litre, and aviation turbine fuel to ₹9.50 per litre, from ₹16 per litre from June 1.

The government had on March 26 imposed an export duty of ₹21.50 a litre on diesel, and ₹29.50 a litre on ATF. In the review on April 11, the duties were hiked to ₹55.50/litre and ₹32/litre. In the April 30 review, they were cut to ₹23/litre and ₹22/litre, and further slashed to ₹16.50/litre and ₹16/litre on May 16.

The windfall tax was levied to increase domestic availability of the fuel amid the US-Israel Iran war. It was also aimed at not allowing exporters to take undue advantage due to price differences as globally crude oil prices had risen since the beginning of the war.

On February 28, the US and Israel launched military strikes against Iran, triggering sweeping retaliation from Tehran.

Crude oil prices have remained above \$100 per barrel over the past week, from about \$73 per barrel before the war.

The windfall tax was to ensure domestic availability of petroleum products by disincentivising exports against the backdrop of the West Asia crisis, the ministry said.

Govt sets ₹8,550 cr for farm mechanisation

Dhirendra Kumar & Vijay C. Roy

dhirendra.kumar@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: The government has earmarked ₹8,550 crore in financial assistance this fiscal to help 150,000 small and marginal farmers access farm equipment, as it seeks to boost agricultural mechanisation and curb stubble burning through improved crop residue management.

Under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM), including its crop residue management (CRM) component, the government will also support the establishment of 5,000 custom hiring centres and hi-tech hubs, two government officials aware of the matter said, citing the targets set by the finance ministry's department of expenditure for the agriculture ministry. Custom hiring centres and hi-tech hubs are facilities where farmers can rent machinery at affordable rates instead of purchasing costly equipment outright.

The targets form part of the Centre's broader strategy to



The scheme aims to help 150,000 farmers access modern farm equipment. MINT

reduce stubble-burning incidents in key agricultural states by promoting mechanised residue management and improving access to farm machinery.

"The department of expenditure has linked the scheme's performance to measurable outcomes including wider adoption of mechanised farming practices and a reduction in stubble-burning incidents," said the first of the two officials cited earlier, both of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The scheme is particularly aimed at small and marginal farmers who often find it difficult to invest in expensive equipment such as happy seeders, super seeders, balers and mulchers. The expenses will be met through the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), for which the government has earmarked an outlay of ₹8,550 crore for FY27, higher than the revised estimate of ₹7,000 crore for FY26.

Queries sent on Friday to the secretaries of the department of expenditure and the department of agriculture, as well as to the spokespersons of the finance and agriculture ministries remained unanswered.

India has around 146.45 million operational agricultural holdings, according to the Agriculture Census 2015-16. Of these, nearly 126 million, or about 86% of the total, belong to small and marginal farmers with landholdings below two hectares.

India has around 141 million hectares of net sown area and nearly 180 million hectares of agricultural land, making it one of the world's largest farming economies.

INDIA SCRAPS COTTON IMPORT DUTY TILL OCT 30

Reuters

feedback@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: India has scrapped customs duties on cotton imports for five months, the government said on Saturday, as it seeks to boost supplies of contamination-free natural fibre for textile exporters amid strong overseas demand for yarn.

The easing of import restrictions by the world's second-largest cotton producer is likely to lend support to global prices but is unlikely to trigger a surge in purchases as the rupee's depreciation has made imported cotton slightly more expensive than domestic supplies.

The current 11% import duty will be suspended until October 30, the government said in a statement.

India's textile sector, like others, is under pressure from rising input costs as supply chains are disrupted by the Iran war.

The measure is expected to support domestic producers, particularly small and medium-sized firms, by improving cotton availability, the government said.

Infosys sees oldest workforce in 15 years

Jas Bardia

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BENGALURU: Almost half of Infosys Ltd's 320,000 employees are now over 30 years old, the highest in the last 15 years, underscoring the challenges faced by the country's second-largest IT services firm as more young people explore careers beyond the IT sector.

At the end of fiscal year 2026, Infosys had 166,636 employees aged 30 and below, making up about 50.7% of its workforce, a *Mint* analysis of its annual filings over the last 15 years showed.

The Bengaluru-based company ended last year with 328,594 employees, up 5,016

employees from the preceding fiscal year.

The share of young employees fell from 53% in the previous fiscal year, continuing a trend of decline since FY23.

The decrease in young employees was offset by an increase in those aged 31-50. Last fiscal, employees in the middle cohort made up 45.7% of the workforce, the highest in the last 15 years. Those over 50 made up 3.5% of the company's workforce.

An email sent to Infosys seeking comments went unanswered.

Industry experts attributed the gradual ageing to two factors: One, global capability centres (GCCs), or the in-house IT

divisions of global companies, are scooping up beginners with better pay and job prospects. Two, IT firms themselves are hiring fewer freshers.

"Of late, IT services firms have been looking to hire students for niche roles at higher packages. On the other hand, even the students are looking for companies that challenge their intellect and also offer scope for better career development. Many students are eyeing research-based roles and also in data science, cybersecurity," said K.S. Sridhar, placement head at PES University, an engineering college in Bengaluru.

Infosys, which went public in 1993, started disclosing its

age-based employee demographics in FY12. Until FY18, those aged 30 and below made up at least two-thirds of its workforce. However, the share has been falling since then.

The company, founded by N.R. Narayana Murthy and his six friends in 1981, put India on the global software map at the turn of the 21st century.

However, over the last decade, India has emerged as the main destination for back-end tech centres due to abundance of skilled talent at scale and a growing venture capitalist ecosystem giving a boost to startups.

All of this opens new opportunities for the country's 1.5 engineering million graduates.

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMovable PROPERTIES

E-Auction Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given that the Public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank/Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Date of E-Auction: 16.06.2026 (Last date of deposit of EMD: 16.06.2026 up to 11.00 AM)

Name of the branch	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/Owner's Name (mortgagors of property) (ies)-	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice/s 1302 of SARFAESI Act 2002	B) Re-4200862/- as on date of demand notice	C) Possession Date/s 1346 of SARFAESI Act 2002	D) Nature of Possession	E) Reserve Price	F) Bid Increase Amount	Date/Time of E-Auction	Details of the Encumbrance known to the creditors
PNB-eubi Bettiah	Land & Building with Sale Deed No -15096 dated 07.08.2019 in the name of Baliram Kumar S/o Rudal Prasad, khata no 34, khessa no-134, Thana No - 134, Tauni No-951 at Mauza- Jagdishpur, Thana- Jagdishpur, Anchar, Naudia, Distt- West Champaran, Area - 2 dhur 10 dhura, Boundary: North- Pramod Yadav, South-Rasta 10 ft, East-Iran Ansari, West-Nil Lekhyakar	A) 31.05.2023 B) Re-4200862/- as on 31.05.2023 + further interest & charges until payment in full	A) Rs.447000/- B) Rs.44700/- C) Rs.20000/-	16.06.2026 From 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM	Not known to us				

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:
1. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS".
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://banknet.com> on 16.06.2026 at 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM. The sale will be confirmed by the Secured Creditor.
4. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://banknet.com> and www.pnbindia.com
Date: 30.05.2026
Place: Motihari

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GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT, BIHAR
BIHAR LOK BHAVAN, PATNA-800022

Invitation of Application for appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya.

The Chancellor's Secretariat, Patna invites applications for the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya, Bihar from the persons possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment.

1. The person should be a distinguished academician, with a minimum of 10 years of experience as a Professor in a University System or in a 10 years of experience in an equivalent position in a reputed research and / or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership. Ten years experience will be considered from the date of issuance of notification for the Professorship.

2. The candidate should not be more than 67 years of age on the last date of submission of the application.

The last date of submission of the application is **30.06.2026 by 06:00 P.M.** Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

3. The advertisement is available on the website <https://governor.bih.nic.in> Candidates are required to "APPLY ONLINE ONLY" on the Ministry of Education SAMARTH portal as per the link given below:
<https://vccr.samarth.ac.in>

The Search Committee may invite the shortlisted applicants for a presentation and a personal interaction for which no TA/DA shall be paid. Canvassing directly or indirectly on behalf of any candidate shall attract disqualification. (Dipak Kumar Singh)

Add. Chief Secretary to Governor-cum-Chancellor, Bihar Lok Bhavan, Patna

PR. No. 004708 (Governor Secretariat) 2026-27

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT, BIHAR
BIHAR LOK BHAVAN, PATNA-800022

Invitation of Application for appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur.

The Chancellor's Secretariat, Patna invites applications for the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur, Bihar from the persons possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment.

1. The person should be a distinguished academician, with a minimum of 10 years of experience as a Professor in a University System or in a 10 years of experience in an equivalent position in a reputed research and / or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership. Ten years experience will be considered from the date of issuance of notification for the Professorship.

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Add. Chief Secretary to Governor-cum-Chancellor, Bihar Lok Bhavan, Patna

PR. No. 004707 (Governor Secretariat) 2026-27

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

बिहार सरकार

समाहणालय, पूर्वी चम्पारण, मोतिहारी
(जिला भू-अर्जन प्रशासक)

आम सूचना

रकती हवाई अड्डा वित्तीयकरीकरण परिषदना अगस्त 139 एकड़ भूमि के अधिग्रहण हेतु अधिनियम दिनांक-10.07.2025, 11.07.2025, 18.07.2025 को स्थानीय समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित की गयी है।

उपरोक्त के संबंध में एतद द्वारा सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि रकती हवाई अड्डा वित्तीयकरीकरण परिषदना अगस्त मौजा-नरसही, थाना नं-01, मौजा-चक्रेखरा, थाना नं-03, मौजा-रिहपुर, थाना नं-04, मौजा-चिकनी, थाना नं-12, मौजा-हिसरा, थाना नं-14, मौजा-चंदुली, थाना नं-13, अंचल-रकती, के समी हितवादी रकती को पूर्व में दिए कार्यालय द्वारा उपरोक्त सार्वजनिक भूमि के अधिग्रहण के का मुआवजा प्राप्त करने के लिए **RECTLARR** अधिनियम 2013 की धारा 37 (2) के तहत नोटिस निमित्त किया गया था। साथ ही आपको सूचना दी गई थी कि उपरोक्त भू-अर्जन वार्ड में आपको हितवादी रकती समझा गया है तथा सूचित कागजात प्रस्तुत करने पर आपको परिषदना में अधिग्रहण भूमि का मुआवजा दिया जाना है, परन्तु आपसे लोगों के द्वारा मुआवजा भुगतान हेतु दावा प्रस्तुत नहीं करने के कारण जिला भू-अर्जन कार्यालय, पूर्वी चम्पारण, मोतिहारी द्वारा हितवी नोटिस भी निमित्त किया गया था। इन्ने लम्बे समय व्यतीत हो जाने के परभाव भी ओत तक उक्त प्रतिकर की राशि प्राप्त करने के लिए आपको द्वारा दावा एवं याचित कागजात प्रस्तुत नहीं किया गया है।

अतः आपको एतद द्वारा अतिरिक्त देवे हुए रूप सूचित किया जाता है कि यदि आपके द्वारा प्रतिकर की रकम प्राप्त करने के लिए दिनांक-08.06.2026 तक अपना दावा एवं उपरोक्त वाचित हितवादी अर्जत कार्यालय/भू-अर्जन कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत नहीं किया जाता है तो वह समझा जाएगा कि आपके पास एतद में उक्त भू-अर्ज के प्रतिकर की राशि प्राप्त करने के संबंध में दावा करने हेतु प्राविक वस्तुकी सार्व उपलब्ध नहीं है। फलस्वरूप परिषदना के हित में प्रतिकर की राशि संचि भूमि अर्जन पुनर्वासन और पुनर्व्यवस्थापन में उचित प्रतिकर और पारदर्शिता अधिकार अधिनियम-2013 की धारा 64 एड 77(2) के तहत सक्षम प्राधिकार को संचि प्रतिकर अर्ज अधिव्यापी विभाग को निम्नानुसार दखल-कबज दे दिया जाएगा।

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PR. No. 004704 (Revenue) 2026-27

GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT, BIHAR
BIHAR LOK BHAVAN, PATNA-800022

Invitation of Application for appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, Maulana Mazharul Haque Arabic & Persian University, Patna.

The Chancellor's Secretariat, Patna invites applications for the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, Maulana Mazharul Haque Arabic & Persian University, Patna, Bihar from the persons possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment.

1. The person should be a distinguished academician, with a minimum of 10 years of experience as a Professor in a University System or in a 10 years of experience in an equivalent position in a reputed research and / or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership. Ten years experience will be considered from the date of issuance of notification for the Professorship.

2. The candidate should not be more than 67 years of age on the last date of submission of the application.

The last date of submission of the application is **30.06.2026 by 06:00 P.M.** Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

3. The advertisement is available on the website <https://governor.bih.nic.in> Candidates are required to "APPLY ONLINE ONLY" on the Ministry of Education SAMARTH portal as per the link given below:
<https://vccr.samarth.ac.in>

The Search Committee may invite the shortlisted applicants for a presentation and a personal interaction for which no TA/DA shall be paid. Canvassing directly or indirectly on behalf of any candidate shall attract disqualification. (Dipak Kumar Singh)

Add. Chief Secretary to Governor-cum-Chancellor, Bihar Lok Bhavan, Patna

PR. No. 004706 (Governor Secretariat) 2026-27

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

PSG edge Arsenal to retain UCL crown

Agencies
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BUDAPEST: Paris Saint-Germain claimed back-to-back Champions League triumphs with a 4-3 shoot-out win over Arsenal following a 1-1 draw after extra time on Saturday, with Eberechi Eze and Gabriel missing from the spot.

Mikel Arteta's Premier League champions showed great resilience to take the game beyond 120 minutes in Budapest, but fell to a second final defeat, 20 years after their first against Barcelona in 2006.

Luis Enrique's side became only the second besides Real Madrid to win the competition in consecutive years in the Champions League era.

"It's even bigger because we knew of the difficulties of playing against Arsenal, and for us as a team and a city it is incredible to win it," Luis Enrique told broadcaster Canal Plus.

PSG's first triumph was 55 years in the making, 14 of those under Qatari ownership, the second could start what they hope is a period of dominance and dynasty-building.

"It was Real Madrid and now it's us too," PSG midfielder Fabian Ruiz told Movistar.

"They defended all through the game and football is fair... today the right team won."

As soon as the final whistle blew, the Parc des Princes packed to capacity and where the match was shown on six giant screens - erupted in celebration.

Fireworks lit up the pitch as more than 48,000 PSG supporters chanted "Champions of Europe" and "back-to-back".

Cheers, car horns and the sound of firecrackers also echoed through the streets of the French capital. Nearly 100,000 people are expected to attend a victory parade near the



PSG manager Luis Enrique lifts the Champions League trophy in Budapest on Saturday night.

Eiffel Tower on Sunday.

Luis Enrique rebuilt the team swiftly and efficiently, removing the club's superstars and building a cohesive and committed attacking side, capable of shredding opposition with terrifying pace.

It was the Spaniard's third Champions League triumph, making him one of only five coaches to complete a hat-trick - the first coming with Barcelona in 2015.

For a while it looked unlikely as Kai Havertz powered Arsenal ahead after six minutes but Ousmane Dembele's penalty midway through the second half took a tight game to extra time and ultimately spot-kicks.

"It's gutting, it's devastating to lose the Champions League final on penalties," Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice told TNT Sports.

"Giving it absolutely everything up until this point, we took the game to penalties and it's a lottery."

Arsenal will still have a victory parade on Sunday after landing the English title for the first time in 22 years, but it will be tinged with regret after defeat in Hungary.

Luis Enrique selected 10 of the side which demolished Inter Milan 5-0 in last year's final as PSG finally lifted the trophy they so badly craved.

In Arsenal's only prior final

ance hit Leandro Trossard and bounced into his path.

The forward galloped into open space behind PSG's defence and from a tight angle rifled into the roof of the net.

It was the most possible start for PSG against a miserly Arsenal side who had conceded just six goals on the run to the final.

Their disciplined defending kept the Parisians at bay with consummate ease.

Luis Enrique's side controlled the ball but could not break through Arsenal's defensive bastion.

Gabriel, who later turned Arsenal's villain, made an excellent last-ditch challenge to pick Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's pocket.

The dynamic Georgian was not allowed room to breathe.

PSG were reduced to frustrated pot-shots from distance and after the break moved the ball quicker to try and destabilise Arsenal's rearguard.

Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya saved from Achraf Hakimi's free-kick before Kvaratskhelia finally had his say. After the winger's slick one-two with Dembele, Cristian Mosquera bundled him down in the box.

Dembele sent Raya the wrong way with a low penalty to level - their 45th goal of the competition, matching the all-time record.

PSG almost set a new one when Kvaratskhelia hurtled down the left but hit the post, one of several chances as Arsenal tired.

In extra time the Gunners pleaded for a penalty of their own when substitute Noni Madueke went down under pressure from Nuno Mendes, but it would have been harsh on the PSG defender.

To a shoot-out it went, with PSG confident after already claiming three trophies on penalties this season, and winning their last five.

Arteta's Arsenal realise evolution needed after loss

Agencies
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BUDAPEST: The last time Arsenal reached a Champions League final they lost it, and then it took 20 long years to claw their way back to that stage again.

After Saturday's agonising penalty shoot-out defeat by Paris Saint-Germain in Budapest, their goal is not only to return as soon as possible, but to finally claim the trophy for themselves.

After winning the Premier League for the first time in 22 years Mikel Arteta and his team have proven they are back among the elite, but the battle against the new back-to-back European champions also exposed clear areas to improve.

Gunners coach Arteta insisted his team can end their pain after a fifth consecutive defeat in a European final, if they evolve both wisely and quickly.

"We want to reach another level and we're going to have to show that ambition because we are more than capable of doing it but it's going to demand to be very, very ambitious, very fast and very smart," said the Spaniard.

Arteta and his players had to trudge bitterly past the trophy their club is yet to claim, as they collected their runner-up medals at the Puskas Arena.

Penalty misses from Eberechi Eze and Gabriel after a 1-1 draw over 120 minutes ended their dream of writing a new chapter in the team's history.

Their celebratory parade for the English title in London on Sunday will doubtless be joyful, but takes place under the shadow of what might have been - and what one day might still be.

Arteta highlighted the calibre and quality of PSG's attackers, a way of signalling the two sides are not evenly matched in that department.

"What they are able to do with the ball, with individual actions, I haven't seen it," said the coach, hinting his own side should reinforce in the summer if they want to overcome Europe's dominant force.

Arteta said many of his side were not in the right "condition", after a grueling season, in which he often relied on a small core of players.

Last year Arsenal brought in Eberechi Eze, Viktor Gyokeres, Martin Zubimendi and Noni Madueke among others, but Arteta began with all four on the bench in the final.

Mostly, through his six-and-a-half seasons at the helm, Arsenal have worked with limited investment and developed youth players like Bukayo Saka.

Kai Havertz started up front and scored, for the second time of his career in a Champions League final, but Arsenal could still use stronger options alongside England international Saka.

Especially when compared to PSG's forward line, featuring Balon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele, this season's best attacker in the Champions League, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, and French firecracker Desire Doue.

PSG hit 45 goals in the competition, matching the all-time record set by Barcelona in 1959-00.



Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk reacts during her fourth round match against Poland's Iga Swiatek.

Kostyuk stuns Swiatek on her birthday at French Open

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PARIS: There will be a first-time women's champion at Roland-Garros this year, and the odds are stacked in Marta Kostyuk's favour.

Undefeated this season on clay, the 15th-seeded Ukrainian player reached the quarterfinals at the French Open for the first time on Sunday by taking out four-time champion Iga Swiatek 7-5, 6-1 and ruining her birthday.

None of the players still in the draw have yet lifted the trophy in Paris, following Coco Gauff's elimination on Saturday and Swiatek's exit. It's the same in the men's draw, after the defeats of Jannik Sinner and Novak Djokovic and with Carlos Alcaraz absent because of an injury.

Kostyuk had lost her three previous matches against Swiatek and never taken a set against the former top-ranked player, who turned 25 on Sunday.

"I'm still in shock. To beat such an unbelievable player, who won four times here," she said.

Kostyuk has been the best player of the clay-court season. She defended extremely well, chasing Swiatek's shots all over the court, and also produced

some stunning groundstroke winners while her rival was also undone by her own mistakes.

An intense baseline battle unfolded from the outset and Swiatek earned the first break when she overwhelmed Kostyuk after a long rally with a backhand winner. Kostyuk broke back immediately, though, only to drop her serve again and hand Swiatek a 5-4 lead.

The Polish player showed signs of nerves as she double-faulted, shanked a forehand wide and then missed a volley at the net, allowing Kostyuk to level at 5-5. Swiatek hit two more double faults in the 12th game and the 15th-seeded Ukrainian player sealed the set with a backhand passing shot.

Swiatek then briefly left the court. Meanwhile, Kostyuk kept herself warm by stretching and hugging beside her chair, then received some applause as she did a few dance moves to the music playing in the stadium.

Following a first week marked by a suffocating heatwave, relief finally arrived in Paris on Sunday, with temperatures dropping to 21 degrees C (70 F) around midday.

When play resumed, Swiatek broke, but yet another double fault coupled with more unforced errors brought her

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Co-host Mexico beat Australia in friendly

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PASADENA: World Cup co-hosts Mexico warmed up with a scrappy 1-0 friendly win over Australia in front of nearly 80,000 El Tri fans at the Rose Bowl outside Los Angeles on Saturday. Johan Vasquez had the only goal of the encounter, deftly steering in a header from Alexis Vega's corner midway through the first half.

Mexico dominated possession but Australia, playing largely on the counter and generally solid in defense, spurned several good chances to silence the partisan crowd. The contest took place at the historic venue that hosted the last World Cup final in the United States, in 1994, though the Rose Bowl will not feature in this summer's tournament.

The overwhelming majority of supporters were clad in green for Mexico, which will co-host the 2026 edition along with the US and Canada, with just a smattering of Australian yellow dotted around the cavernous stands. While Mexico dominated the ball from kick-off, the first chance fell to Australia's Jackson Irvine, who snatched at a loose ball from a free kick cross and steered it just wide.

But El Tri began to make their control count. The dangerous Luis Chavez whipped in a diagonal cross to Vega, whose glancing header was instinctively tipped over the crossbar by Mathew Ryan. Moments later, Mexico scored. The opener came from Vega's outswinging corner, deftly headed down by Vasquez and bouncing in off the inside post, beyond the reach of an outstretched Ryan. It was poor defending at the set-piece from Australia, who enjoyed a significant height advantage, including the presence of six-foot-5 defender Harry Souttar.

The Socceroos had a golden chance to level the game on the cusp of half-time. Mexico goalkeeper Rangel raced to his left, but defender Mateo Chavez Garcia ignored the call, instead heading the ball straight into the path of Australia's Mohamed Toure.

The 22-year-old Norwich City striker - born at a refugee camp in Guinea to Liberian parents, before emigrating as a child to Australia - had an open goal but somehow steered his lobbed effort wide left.

Australia began the second half far more proactively. Aiden O'Neill had a powerful long-range effort well saved. Both sides began to make multiple substitutions. Mexico brought on 40-year-old goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa, who is preparing for his sixth World Cup - a record he is likely to share with Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.



Mexico and Australia players vie for the ball.

Gukesh downs Praggo to revive Norway title hopes

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OSLO: A day after turning 20, D Gukesh rediscovered both his spark and his smile, defeating compatriot R Praggnanandhaa in a gripping classical battle to pocket three full points and reignite his campaign in Norway Chess here.

Reigning champion Magnus Carlsen's woes deepened as he lost to American Grandmaster Wesley So, leaving the world No. 1 at the bottom of the six-player standings after five rounds. The victory lifted So to second place on 8.5 points, behind tournament leader Alireza Firouzja, who maintained his grip on the top spot with 10 points and has so far dominated the field.

For Gukesh, now on 6.5 points and in sole third place, the victory seemed to breathe life back into the venue. Fans, who had packed the arena, flocked around the world champion for autographs, selfies and photographs, while Gukesh himself appeared far more relaxed after a difficult few days in which he had often slipped quietly out of the playing hall following disappointing results.

Praggnanandhaa, on six points, remained fourth, while German Grandmaster Vincent Keymer was fifth on five points. Carlsen, meanwhile, found himself in the unfamiliar position of last place with 4.5 points.

For Gukesh, another classical victory in Round 6 and a Firouzja loss could put him within striking distance of the lead.

The all-Indian showdown was a roller-coaster, with momentum swinging repeatedly between two players. Both enjoyed winning chances, but in the end it was Gukesh who held his nerve when it mattered most.

The game, arising from a Ragozin Defence, initially appeared to favour Praggnanandhaa despite the engines showing little separation. Yet Gukesh remained unfazed, even making his first visit to the confessional booth and displaying little concern about his position.

A tense battle ensued into a time scramble as both players raced through the critical phase around move 40 with only seconds to spare. Amid the mounting pressure, Praggnanandhaa made a costly blunder and handed Gukesh the opening he needed. The world champion pounced decisively, converting the opportunity into a swift checkmate attack.



World champion D Gukesh.

MICHAEL WALUSZAK/NORWAY CHESS

Gukesh summed it up as "just a very complex game," adding with a smile, "Luckily, the tricks kind of worked out for me."

"I felt a lot of pressure, but I was very tense from the start, but I'm lucky to have come through. I'm surely doing much, much better than I was a couple of months back. I feel much stronger. The results are improving, though they are still not where I want them to be. But I believe that if I continue playing good chess, success will come," said Gukesh.

"When you're happy, you feel good about yourself. You feel confident and sharp on the board, and you automatically trust yourself to make quick, good decisions. They may seem like minor things, but at the end of the day, they make a big difference," added the world champion.

By toppling Carlsen, So kept the title race alive - another such win would make him the only player capable of drawing level with the leader.

After a day spent on a speedboat, young Indian women's World Cup winner Divya Deshmukh brought the same pace to the board, outplaying China's Zhu Jiner in a classical game to claim three points and surge to the top of the six-player standings on 8.5 points.

Divya appeared to be on the back foot after Zhu introduced a fresh idea in the opening, but the game soon veered into uncharted territory.

Trusting her instincts, the Indian repeatedly found resourceful moves to stay in the fight as the balance gradually shifted. Zhu failed to seize a key opportunity to force a draw, allowing Divya to seize the initiative. With both players eventually scrambling on the 10-second increment, Divya's relentless pressure paid off, culminating in a hard-earned 84-move victory that propelled her into sole lead.

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