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CID ARRESTS KEY SUSPECT IN CASE LINKED TO PATNA IN JSSC-CGL EXAM

Raj Kumar

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RANCHI: The Crime Investigation Department (CID) arrested a key suspect, Rajan Kumar, on Monday for his alleged involvement in cheating during the JSSC-CGL competitive examination, officials said.

Rajan Kumar, the son of Parmeshwar Prasad, was apprehended from Sri Chandrapur village in the Patna district of Bihar. The arrest was officially logged under CID Police Station Case Number 01/2025.

According to the official press release issued by the state's top investigation agency, Kumar played a central role in a massive cheating operation. He allegedly took a large group of exam candidates across state borders to a hotel in Niyamatpur, West Bengal. Once there, he forced the aspirants to memorize leaked exam questions and their answers.

This illegal operation provided an unfair advantage to several candidates. The CID confirmed that multiple students who underwent this secret memorisation managed to clear the recruitment test successfully.

The latest arrest marks a major breakthrough for the CID Special Investigation Team (SIT).

{ 13 BIHAR DISTRICTS AFFECTED } WATER LEVELS IN RIVERS REPORTEDLY GETTING STEADY

NH-80 turns waterway, 2.9mn ravaged by flood



Flood victims wait in queue with utensils for distribution of meal at a community kitchen at Bind Toli in Patna.

Subhash Pathak

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PATNA: Floodwaters from the swollen Ganga have submerged stretches of National Highway (NH)-80 near Bhagalpur, with nearly two feet of water flowing across the road and bringing traffic between the city, Sultan-ganj and further west to a near standstill.

Similar inundation has crippled sections of NH-31 around Mokama and Hatidih, while a road from Barhiya towards Khatua and Surjachak in Lakhisarai district went under after an embankment breach, disrupting local movement. In Danapur, rising waters caused at least one house to collapse, underlining the pressure on low-lying areas as the crisis tightens its hold on central and eastern Bihar.

According to the water resources department (WRD) reports, Ganga river continues to hover above the previous high flood levels at Patna, Danapur, Pandarak (Barh), Sultan-ganj (Bhagalpur). However, the offi-

Nepal floods take toll on religious tourism in Gaya

Prasun K Mishra

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GAYA JI: Nepal flash floods have also taken a toll on tourism in the famous twin heritage towns of Bodhi Gaya and Gaya Ji in Bihar, with businesses associated with religious pilgrimage fear major losses as people – both Buddhist and Hindu pilgrims – have begun to cancel bookings, people connected with such businesses said.

Local business bodies estimate annual tourism-driven turnover to be around ₹800 crore to ₹1,200 crore.

Officials said that the river is now maintaining a steady trend and further rise is unlikely until fresh

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Justice Valluri Kameswar Rao

NEW PATNA HC CHIEF JUSTICE TO TAKE OATH ON SEPTEMBER 13

Arun Kumar

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PATNA: Justice Valluri Kameswar Rao will take the oath as the 49th Chief Justice of the Patna High Court on September 13 at 2.30 pm. He will be the third Chief Justice to be sworn in as Patna HC this year.

Governor Lt Gen. (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain will administer the oath of office and secrecy to Justice Rao on September 13 at a ceremony held at the Lok Bhavan in Patna, said a senior official of the governor's secretariat.

President of India had appointed Justice Rao as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court in exercise of powers conferred by the Constitution and in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

Justice Kameswar Rao, is

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Defence ministry gives initial nod for ₹1.1L cr buys

Press Trust Of India

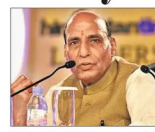
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The defence ministry on Monday approved acquisition of military hardware for the three services including radars, advanced light helicopters and mechanical mine layers at an estimated cost of ₹1.10 lakh crore to boost the military's overall combat prowess.

The procurement proposals were cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by defence minister Rajnath Singh. "The DAC accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) that is in-principle administrative approval to various acquisition proposals of the defence forces at an estimated cost of about ₹1,10,000 crore," the ministry said.

For the Indian Army, approval was granted for the procurement of Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) recon vehicles, high mobility vehicles (HIMVs), self-propelled mechanical mine layers (MML), advanced light helicopters (ALHs), trawl tanks and Sarvatra bridge system," it said.

The CBRN recon vehicles will be capable of detecting, identifying, monitoring and marking of areas contaminated with CBRN agents.



Rajnath Singh

The HIMVs are expected to enhance operational capabilities, logistic support and mobility in challenging terrains.

"The ALHs will execute complex missions across all terrains and operational situations for the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. The trawl tanks and bridge system will be utilised to provide composite crossings to fighting formations during operations in varied terrains," the ministry said.

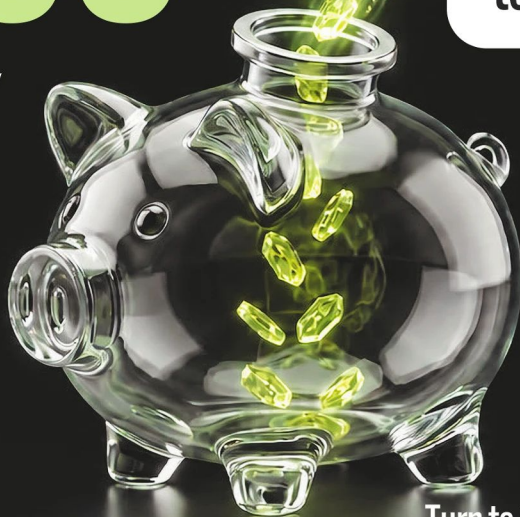
For the Indian Navy, AoN was accorded for the procurement of Arudhra radars, design and development and subsequent procurement of Marine Gas Turbines (MGT).

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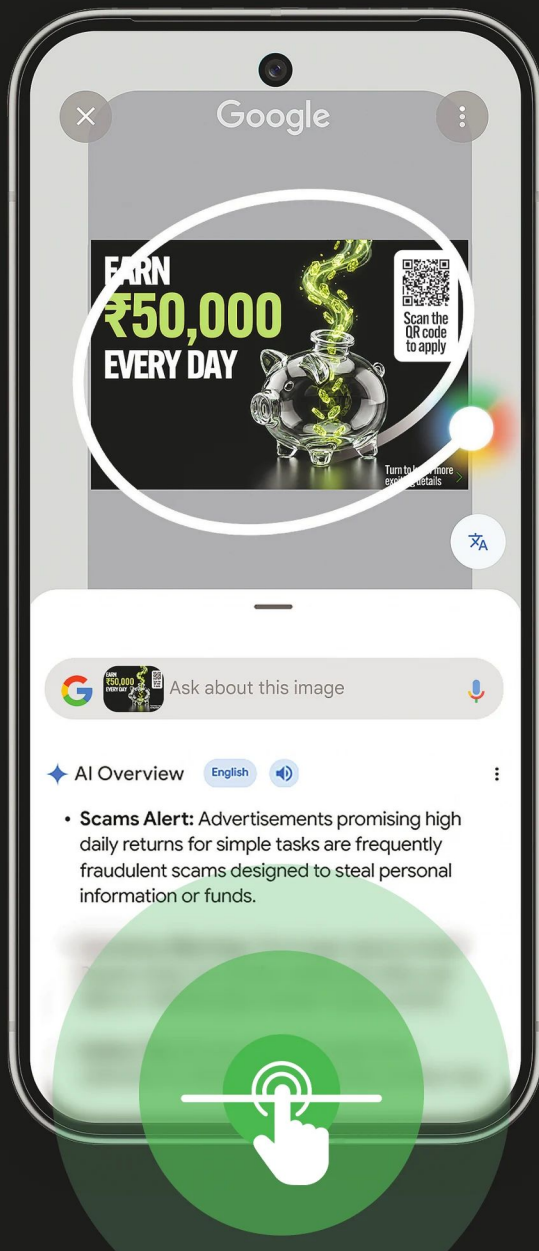
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When roads do not connect

India's cities need more connections, not just more roads

Shivani Singh

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Google Maps says it will take 30 minutes to drive to a place that is barely 10 minutes away as the crow flies. The reason is often not the distance, but the road network: the direct route simply does not exist.

A missing link, dead-end street or large gated block can push traffic into a busy arterial, where a single breakdown or minor accident can quickly create a gridlock.

This is the paradox of India's growing cities. Governments widen roads, build flyovers and elevated corridors, yet congestion returns and road capacity attracts more traffic, while neighbourhood streets remain poorly connected.

But what if cities are building roads in the wrong places?

The problem, urban planners and mobility experts say, is not simply a shortage of roads. It is a shortage of connected roads.

A well-functioning network needs a hierarchy: arterials wider than 35 metres for longer-distance movements; sub-arterials of 25-35 metres connecting neighbourhoods; collector roads of 10-20 metres for local traffic; and streets narrower than 10 metres providing direct access to homes and amenities.

When these layers connect, traffic has multiple routes, buses can avoid congested arterials and access more neighbourhoods quickly, and pedestrians can reach public transit stops without long detours. But much of India's urban road network does not work this way.

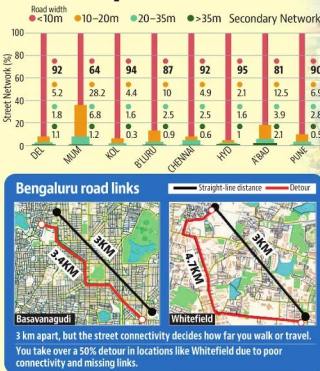
The missing middle

A WRI India report released on August 11 found that secondary roads are between 10 and 35 metres wide—particularly scarce in several major cities.

They account for just 3.7% of total road length in Hyderabad, 6% in Kolkata, 1% in Delhi, 7.4% in Chennai and 9.7% in Pune. Bengaluru has 12.5% Ahmedabad 16.4%, while Mumbai leads with 35%. In Hyderabad, secondary roads account for 95% of the network. In Chennai, Bengaluru, and Pune, such roads account for more than 85% of the network.

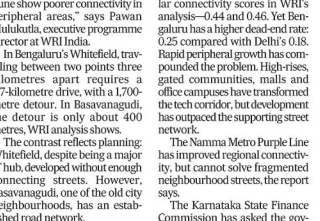
Though alone does not determine connectivity. Location and configuration matter just as much. "Delhi and Ahmedabad

India's lopsided roads



have relatively uniform secondary networks, while Bengaluru and Pune show poorer connectivity in peripheral areas," says Pawan Mulgundkar, executive programme director at WRI India.

Bengaluru road links



When roads go nowhere

Bengaluru's problem is not just narrow roads, but dead ends.

Urban expert Ashwin Mahesh cites one such missing link: A 60-foot road near his home in Puttenahalli dead-ends on one side and narrows to 30 feet on the other. Developers may build wide roads that are later handed to the city as private property, but adjoining links are not complete. A third roads become bottlenecks rather than solutions.

He also points to the problem in Bannerghatta Road, which narrows from more than 100 feet to less than half its width before reaching a highway, pushing traf-

fic into residential areas.

Bengaluru and Delhi have similar connectivity scores in WRI's analysis—0.44 and 0.46. Yet Bengaluru has a higher dead-end rate, 0.25 compared with Delhi's 0.18. Rapid peripheral growth has compounded the problem. High-rises, gated communities, malls and office campuses have transformed the tech corridor, but development has outpaced the supporting street network.

The Namma Metro Purple Line has improved regional connectivity, but cannot solve fragmented neighbourhood streets, the report says.

The Karnataka State Planning Commission has asked the government to build at least 250 km of roads annually for four years to address congestion in Bengaluru.

The question is whether these investments create new connections or simply add capacity to an already vehicle-heavy system.

The superblock problem

The problem is even more visible on foot.

Mobility expert Shreya Gadepalli says urban blocks ideally should not exceed one hectare. A street every 100 metres, common in older Indian neighbourhoods, creates multiple routes with the fewest detours to a destination.

The detour should ideally not be more than 50% of the as-the-crow-flies distance.

Modern planning has moved towards larger "mega-blocks" of roughly one square kilometre, particularly since the 1960s in Delhi and elsewhere.

Gated developments can make matters worse. In Gurugram, Gadepalli recalls, a bus stop 250 metres away in a straight line required a 1.7-kilometre walk because there was no direct route.

That matters for public transport. Gadepalli says a 300-metre walk can encourage use, while a 600-metre or longer walk deters use of public transport.

Sarajini Nagar in Delhi, built in the 1950s, illustrates the older approach. Its low-rise street grid and porous access allowed easy movement between buildings. Redevelopment is now replacing parts of that pattern with larger, walled and gated complexes, Gadepalli says.

The result can be a city where a metro station or bus stop is nearby, but effectively inaccessible on foot, compelling people to switch to private vehicles. This is especially problematic for Indian cities already facing a severe mobility crisis and poor air quality.

Land is the hard part

Why not simply build the missing links?

The answer is often land. Acquiring parcels through built-up neighbourhoods is expensive, politically difficult and time-

consuming. "The main barrier to connecting roads in cities is difficulty in land acquisition. Cities therefore frequently opt for quick and less visible ways to improve roads, and elevated corridors that can be built as standalone projects," says Madhav Pai, CEO of WRI India.

But Delhi and Ahmedabad show how institutional mechanisms can help.

Delhi's early master planning involved large-scale land acquisition by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), making it easier to establish street grids. Under the newly notified master plan, the authority is now working on a comprehensive road grid for new neighbourhoods under its land-pooling policy. Private landowners will be combining land parcels to build properties and cede portions to DDA, which would build the trunk infrastructure.

Ahmedabad's town-planning scheme similarly facilitates land acquisition for roads and amenities. Combined with mixed land use, this has helped keep average trip lengths relatively short, says Pai.

The intensity of travel demand is lower in Ahmedabad than in other Indian cities, which has multiple modes of public transport, such as buses, BRT, and the Metro, which place relatively less pressure on the road network, adds Mulgundkar.

Mumbai has the highest share of secondary roads among the

tier-1 cities studied by WRI—35%. The city has systematically augmented its road network while undertaking redevelopment of existing areas, says Pai. Projects such as the Santa Cruz-Chembur and Jogeshwari-Vikhroli link roads have strengthened connections.

Yet, Mumbai's road density is only 0.46, compared with 0.59 in Delhi and 1.21 in Bengaluru. Its connectivity value is also lower than Delhi's 0.65 and Bengaluru's 0.66. For Mumbai, the priority should be to connect fragmented roads and eliminate dead ends, rather than simply adding capacity, says Mulgundkar.

Pune's work in progress

Cities must address legacy issues before they start new projects.

In Pune, the 700 km of roads planned under the 2019 development plan remain unfinished. Land acquisition issues, funding constraints, public resistance, and poor planning have led to critical connections incomplete. But Pune's problem is not confined to the periphery. Many roads in the core areas, which are 24-36 metres wide, and even established ones like Baner-Pashan, have missing links.

Civic body chief Naval Kishore Ram says the administration is working on completing all these projects.

As many as 33 critical links that impede traffic have been identified, 12 have been prioritised with funds for land acquisition allocated by the state government. Work has begun on five, and the administration aims to complete the 12 within a year and all 33 within two years.

With around 65 million sq ft of new construction projected over the next four years, Ram says it is "critical to ensure that we do not disconnect between development and planning".

Use existing roads better

Building corridors is only part of the answer.

Shashi Verma, chief technology officer at Transport for London, says cities should first examine how existing road space is used—particularly for parking and commercial activity—and whether buses have enough space to ply.

Parkways and bus lanes offer occupancy of road and pedestrian space. Experts have called for parking reforms, variable pricing and "road diets" that narrow lanes, but such measures often face weak enforcement and political resistance.



Rescue and search operations underway after a five-story building collapsed at Satya Niketan near South Campus in New Delhi on Monday.

Delhi building collapse toll rises to 7, owner held

Press Trust of India

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The death toll in the Delhi building collapse in the Satya Niketan rose to seven on Monday as search and rescue operations entered the second day, with 12 people rescued from the debris and the owner of the building, Hari Ram, arrested by Delhi Police in Bhiwadi in Rajasthan.

Chief Minister Arjun Kumar Singh said the rescue and rescue operations entered the second day, with 12 people rescued from the debris and the owner of the building, Hari Ram, arrested by Delhi Police in Bhiwadi in Rajasthan.

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MANKILLS WIFE, KEEPS HER HEAD IN FRIDGE, HELD

Biswa Kalyan Purkayastha

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SILCHAR: A 30-year-old car driver in Guwahati was arrested for allegedly beheading his wife over suspicion of an illicit affair.

The woman, Monday, was found dead in a refrigerator for five days until the body was recovered on Saturday night.

The accused, identified as Ramanuj Goswami from Dhubri's Gauripur, surrendered after the Hatiganj Police Station after initially fleeing the scene.

"He has confessed to the crime and said that it happened in a heated moment," said the Guwahati deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Tabu Ram Pegu, adding that a sharp machete was used in the murder and it was being recovered.

A blood-stained Dao (machete) was found recovered from the site and will be sent for forensic tests. He also recovered empty bottles of alcohol, and the police said he was drunk when he killed his wife," Pegu added.

According to police, the incident happened on the morning of September 3, and the accused later left the house leaving the severed body behind.

The victim, Riya Talukdar, 25, originally from Guwahati's Noonmati. The couple married in October last year and were living in the house owned by the accused's father.

Police said that during the search on Saturday, they recovered the victim's severed head placed inside a black polythene bag from the refrigerator. Some of her severed fingers were also found.

The neighbours said that a foul smell started coming from the locked house and on Sunday evening, they informed us about the entire scenario," and the officer-in-charge of Hatiganj Police Station, Amzad Brahma.

"During the search, we found the head inside the fridge, packed in a black-coloured plastic," he said.

Utpal Parashar

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GUWAHATI: The Gauhati high court has directed the Assam government to pay ₹2 lakh as interim compensation to the husband of Mumtaz Begum, a Bengali-origin Muslim woman who was expelled to Bangladesh after a foreigners tribunal declared her a foreigner.

This is stated to be the first such instance where a court has imposed a cost on the state for declaring someone a foreigner and pushing them to Bangladesh, in violation of deportation rules.

A bench of justices Kalyan Rai Surana and Sumitran Prakashan Khanal passed the order while refusing a habeas corpus petition filed by Begum's husband Mujummal Hogue, a resident of Jorhat in Assam.

The court said in its September 3 order.

"As the detenu (the woman) has been expelled out of India without providing any information to the petitioner (the woman's husband) or any adult family member... as an interim palliative measure, the court is inclined to direct the Assam government to pay an interim compensation of ₹2 lakh to the petitioner," the bench said in its September 3 order.

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THE COURT SAID IT WOULD DIRECT THE MEA TO MAKE AN ENDEAVOUR TO HAVE THE WOMAN LOCATED IN BANGLADESH AND TO EXPATRIATE HER TO INDIA

The bench also implored the ministry of external affairs in the case and said it would direct it to "make an endeavour to have the woman located in Bangladesh and to expatriate her to India".

Hogue moved the high court in June after failing to locate his wife at the detention camp meant for people declared foreign nationals by the foreigners tribunals, at Matia in Gopalganj district.

The Nagaon tribunal declared Begum, who claims to have been born in Rupnagar in Nagaon district in December 1982, a foreigner in 2019. Begum challenged the tribunal's order in the high court. In April this year, the high court set aside the tribunal's order and sent the case back to the tribunal for a "fresh decision".

But within minutes of appearing before the tribunal on May 30,

Begum was arrested. She was kept at the Juria police station that night and was taken the next day to the detention centre at Matia.

It was only after the habeas corpus plea came up for hearing in late June, the authorities informed that Begum was handed over to Border Security Force and "sent back to Bangladesh" on June 14 through an international border point at Shibpur district.

BIHAR FLOOD

heavy rains in its catchment area

The state's disaster management department (DMD), in its evening update, reported that the rising rivers have affected approximately 20.13 lakh people across 13 districts—Patna, Bhojpur, Saran, Vaishali, Bhagalpur, Begusar, Buxar, Samastipur, Munger, Kailash, Lakhisarai, Khagaria and Arwal—covering 77 blocks and 438 gram panchayats. It stated that 238 community kitchens are now functioning and 5.12 lakh meals so far.

A senior DMD official said that 12 relief camps are providing shelter to 7,368 people with arrangements for food, lodging and medical care. Nearly 92,600 polythene sheets and 15,900 dry ration packets have been distributed, while 1,740 boats remain in operation for evacuation and movement. Twenty-seven SDRF teams and 10 NDRF units have been deployed across the affected districts. The number of medical camps has risen to 261 from 171 a day earlier, reflecting the stepped-up response.

At several gauges in Patna the Ganga had breached its previous highest flood levels on Sunday. It touched 50.57 metres at Gandhi Ghat—five centimetres above the August 2016 mark of 50.52 metres—with elevated readings also recorded at Pandarak (0.19 m above previous HFL), Dhanpur and Banka Ghat. The river continues to flow above danger levels at Digsha, Hathidah, Bhagalpur, Kaliahganj, Buxar and Munger.

The Ganges remains above the danger mark at Dumraighat and Hajipur, the Kosi at Ballaria and Kursela, the Budhi Ganga at Khagaria, the Punpun at Srilpalpur, the Bagmati at Benbad and the Ghaghra at Darauli and Gangpur. Discharge figures released on Monday afternoon

showed the Gandak at Valminagar Barrage at 1,44,000 cusecs (stable), the Kosi at Birpur at 2,02,670 cusecs (falling) and the Sone at Indrapuri at 1,33,427 cusecs (rising).

WRD officials have already sounded an alert for downstream stretches after the Ganga crossed its highest flood mark, warning that pressure could shift further downstream over the next one to three days and potentially push above previous records at stations such as Hathidah.

CM Samrat Choudhary, accompanied by deputy CM and WRD minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary and deputy CM Bijendra Prasad Yadav spent the day on the ground inspecting relief operations in Vaishali and Saran. At the flood relief camp near Ganga bridge thana in Hajipur he examined the community kitchen, food distribution counters, registration and control room, and the separate living arrangements for men and women.

He personally served meals to the affected, checked the quality of the food and spoke directly with residents, who told him the arrangements were satisfactory and that they were receiving adequate meals. He also visited the Anganwadi centre and temporary educational camp, interacting with children about their studies, activities and meals. At the health camp he directed doctors to ensure immediate treatment so that no one faced delay, and at the veterinary facility he ordered adequate stocks of medicines and cattle feed.

Later, at the Scout and Guide Centre camp in Saran, the CM again inspected the kitchen, shared a meal with the displaced families and heard their accounts. People present thanked him for the arrangements covering food, shelter and other basic needs. He announced

that crop-damage assessments would be carried out and compensation, while the government continued efforts for a permanent solution to the Ganga's annual flooding in consultation with the Central Water Commission. Ex-gratia assistance of ₹4 lakh each was handed over to the dependents of those who drowned during the floods.

Talking to media persons later, Choudhary said the overall situation remained concerning but that the Ganga's water level had already receded by about 17-18 centimetres at key points. Roughly 15 lakh cusecs were being released daily at the Farakka Barrage, and continuous monitoring was under way. "I believe the situation will improve over the next two to three days, bringing relief to everyone. Amidst this disaster the government is making continuous efforts to ensure everyone receives the necessary facilities," he said.

Arrangements for the education of children from affected families were being made, he added, and once the waters recede a household-level survey would be conducted to assess losses and provide further relief. Officials have been directed to keep continuous watch on embankments and vulnerable areas, with engineers ordered to keep machinery and resources in readiness. Residents in flood-prone zones have been advised to stay clear of riverbanks and avoid unnecessary travel near the water.

Talking to media persons, deputy CM and WRD minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary said that all major embankments were safe and underscored that the state government stands firmly with every flood-hit household, stressing that "no shortcoming will be tolerated" in public safety or relief operations.

On Monday, LoP Tejashwi Prasad Yadav wrote a letter to PM Narendra Modi demanding declaration of the state's floods as a "national disaster".

NEW PATNA HC JUDGE

currently a judge of the Delhi High Court, will be one of the CJs appointed at eight high courts across India. His name was recommended by the Supreme Court collegium in August 2026.

Presently, Justice Sudhir Singh is the acting CJ of the Patna HC. He was appointed following the retirement of Chief Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai on July 11, 2026.

Justice Rai had a tenure of just one month and taken over charge as the 48th Chief Justice of the Patna High Court on June 2, 2026. She had succeeded Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo, who retired on June 4, 2026, six months after taking over on January 7, 2026.

DEFENCE PURCHASES

Arudra Harsid will replace the existing Air Route surveillance radars at various Naval Air Stations, and MGT, a warship propulsion system, is expected to reduce dependency on foreign vendors.

For the Indian Air Force, approval was granted to various proposals to enhance the war-fighting capability of fighters, transports and helicopters. Approval was granted for procuring Ground-Based Multi-Purpose Jammer (GBMPJ) and installing Defence Forces Secure Access Card system, according to the ministry.

The GBMPJ will provide effective jamming against radars of adversaries, it said in a statement. Of the total AonS accorded, approximately 98% of procurements will be made from the Indian industry, it added.

Bihar's Arwal to have its own district court from September 10

Ruchir Kumar

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PATNA: Twenty-five years after Arwal was carved out of Jehanabad as a separate district of Bihar, it will now finally have a full-fledged district court from September 10, officials said on Monday.

The desks were cleared after the Patna High Court gave its consent to the Bihar government in September 3 for establishing a full-fledged judiciary in Arwal, which is around 65 km southwest of Patna.

Arwal currently has a sub-divisional court headed by an additional district judge under the functional control of the principal district and sessions judge of Jehanabad.

The high court approved the proposal in response to a letter sent by the state law department on August 27. With the move, all 38 districts of Bihar will have district courts.

In a letter to law secretary Balram Dubey, Patna high court registrar general Rupesh Deo said that the high court had approved the establishment of a "full-fledged judge-judge and principal judge family court at Arwal and tentatively fixed September 10 for its inauguration".

The state government is expected to issue the formal notification shortly. The high court will then appoint a principal district and sessions judge, Arwal and Sheohar is greater than that of Bagaha, "an official said.

2 killed in Gumla mishap

GUMLA: Two persons were killed after their bikes rammed an auto-rickshaw in Jharkhand's Gumla police station on Monday. The incident took place near Ambva Sursuriya Mor under Gumla Sadar Police Station.

Two persons were killed after their speeding motorcycle rammed into the auto-rickshaw.

Their bodies will be sent to Sadar Hospital, Gumla for post-mortem examinations on Monday," said Gumla Sadar Police Station in-charge Dinesh Kumar. The victims were identified as Rohit Munda and Sandar Munda, from Gindra Mahuati village in the same PS area, he said.

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Decoding economic drivers of India's Gen Z protests

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: This summer, thousands of young Indians took to the streets to demand sweeping reforms of the higher education sector. This unexpected wave of Gen Z mobilisation was catalysed by the emergence of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), a satirical meme page that blossomed into a national movement. Protests that began over the state of higher education soon tapped into much larger, growing frustration among young Indians over jobs, economic opportunity, and their prospects for the future.

India's jobs debate is often framed around a familiar set of concerns: too many people working in agriculture, too few manufacturing jobs, an economy that is too-services oriented, and stubbornly high unemployment among the young. But not all of these truths about the Indian economy are actually borne out by the data, argues economist Vidya Mahabare.

Mahabare elaborated on her views on the season premiere of Grand Tamasha, a weekly podcast on Indian politics and policy co-produced by HT and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Mahabare is the Union Bank

MAHABARE HIGHLIGHTED THE RICHEST STATES HAD THE HIGHEST RATES OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Chair Professor of Economics and Director at the Great Lakes Institute of Management in Chennai. She studies central banking and monetary policy, structural transformation, labour market dynamics and gender economics.

Mahabare spoke with Grand Tamasha host Milan Vaidya about the economic drivers of the Gen Z protests, the link between unemployment and education, and the utility of the manufacturing versus services debate. She also discussed the exodus of young people from the agricultural sector, the misleading legalities on female labour force participation, and India's acute urban housing shortage.

Mahabare highlighted the fact that, in India, it is the richest states that have the highest rates of youth unemployment. "In prosperous states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, unemployment among young people is high, which seems counter-intuitive. In these states,

education levels are higher, and more men and women are looking for jobs, so the labour force is simply larger. Second, educated people want a specific kind of job, so they wait for it. To wait, you need a kind of privilege," she explained. "In poorer states, unemployment is low, but it's because fewer people, especially women, are looking for work. Men there can't wait long what ever job comes up, they have to take it quickly because there's no family support."

The economist also took issue with the oft-repeated claim that India needs to get more young people out of agriculture. "If we look at people in the age group of 20 to 29, currently only 13% of young adults in India are working in agriculture. Twenty years back, that number was 34%," she stated.

"Structural transformation among today's young has already taken place. The median age of agricultural labour is now 53 in Kerala, 48 in Tamil Nadu, and 40 in all of India. If we push for more people to leave, it will be young people who go."

Mahabare said the time is ripe to think about how "we discuss agriculture as an industry, an occupation, and how we help raise incomes within it rather than talking as if the transformation hasn't happened, because among the young it's nearly complete."

ENTERING HOUSE, LIFTING WOMAN'S CLOTHES NOT RAPE ATTEMPT: HC

RANCHI: The Jharkhand High Court has held that merely entering a woman's house at night and lifting her clothes would not amount to commission of rape or an attempt to commit rape as per the IPC.

The HC, while hearing the appeal of a convict in a 26-year-old matter, modified the lower court's decision, making it a case of outraging the modesty of a woman and use of criminal force, from the earlier rape.

Justice Pradeep Kumar Srivastava observed that "a specific overt act sufficiently proximate to commission of rape will not constitute an attempt to commit rape as per the Indian Penal Code." An overt act is a real, physical step taken to move forward the plan to commit a crime.

The convict challenged his sentence passed by a Chhatishgarh Sessions Court on July 25, 2006, sentencing him to undergo four years of rigorous imprisonment. The HC ordered that since the appellant had already undergone about eight months of custody during the trial, it would be sufficient to meet the ends of justice.

The convict was arrested by Chakulia police after an FIR was registered on December 27, 1990. The victim had alleged that the appellant had entered her house on the previous night and tried to lift her clothes to rape her.

Priority is rescue, relief: Shahdeo on Del tragedy

RANCHI: Jharkhand BJP spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo said the priority after the Satya Niketan building collapse in Delhi is rescue and relief, while ensuring proper treatment and compensation for the injured.

A total of 12 people have been rescued from the site of the Satya Niketan building collapse,

while seven people have died, Delhi Police said on Monday, adding that one more person was recovered from the debris. Speaking to ANI, Shahdeo said an inquiry has been ordered into the incident, amid reports that unauthorised basement construction may have triggered the collapse.

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अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय साक्षरता दिवस
(08 सितम्बर, 2026)
संदेश
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय साक्षरता दिवस के अवसर पर मैं समस्त प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं एवं बधाई देता हूँ।
शिक्षा व्यक्ति के सर्वांगीण विकास की आधारशिला है। वह कलक पढ़ने-लिखने की समता तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि व्यक्ति में ज्ञान, जागरूकता, आत्मविश्वास और अपने अधिकारों एवं कर्तव्यों के प्रति समझ विकसित करती है। शिक्षित नागरिक ही सक्षम समाज और समृद्ध राष्ट्र के निर्माण में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। आज के बदलते तकनीकी युग में डिजिटल साक्षरता का महत्व भी निरंतर बढ़ रहा है। हमारा प्रयास होना चाहिए कि समाज के प्रत्येक वर्ग, विशेषकर महिलाओं एवं ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के शिक्षा से वंचित लोगों तक गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा और साक्षरता का लाभ पहुंचे।
इस अवसर पर मैं सभी शिक्षकों, विद्यार्थियों, नागरिकों तथा सामाजिक संस्थाओं से अपील करता हूँ कि वे साक्षरता के प्रसार को जन-आंदोलन का स्वरूप दे और प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को शिक्षा से जोड़ने का कोशिश करें। आइए, हम सब मिलकर 'हर व्यक्ति शिक्षित, हर परिवार साक्षर और हर समाज सक्षम' के लक्ष्य की दिशा में निरंतर आगे बढ़ें।
ले.ज.सय्यद अता हसनैन (से.नि.)

Preparing for an extreme 2027

India's mitigation efforts on rainfall need a multi-dimensional, long-term approach

India is now in the last three weeks of its four-month-long monsoon season. A weak monsoon was expected this year, and so far, rainfall is 14% below its Long Period Average (LPA), confirming these expectations. It is unlikely that the overall rainfall performance will improve significantly in the rest of the month. The IMD, in fact, expects rainfall to be weak.

What does all this mean? India will have a deficit of more than 10% in monsoon rainfall for the first time since 2015, to be precise. This will have consequences for agricultural production, reservoir levels, and, in some cases, even drinking water availability. Because the El Niño conditions have only strengthened — scientists expect it to be one of the strongest in a long time — the monsoon rainfall deficiency will hurt more going forward and last until at least the March-May season next year. The spring and summer of 2027 will likely be hotter than 2024. Mitigation efforts, both for the food and non-food fallout of low rainfall, must begin in earnest. This will require collaboration between central and state governments.

To be sure, headline monsoon numbers only tell us a part of the rainfall story in India. The recent situation in Bihar, which officially has a 35% monsoon rainfall deficit this season, is a good example. Large parts of the state, including the landmass south of the Ganga, are facing a severe flood situation. Traditionally, the flooding problem in the state is confined to its northern half, where rivers originating in Nepal and higher Himalayan regions create the problem. This time it's the rainfed rivers originating in central India that have led to large-scale destruction of crops and loss of property.

This is a point HT has highlighted repeatedly in its data analysis of monsoon rainfall in India. Even when headline numbers suggest normal rainfall, its temporal, geographical and intensity variation can be very different. These variations can have a large role in making rains a useful or harmful prospect for dependent activities. Such variation, data shows again, has been increasing over time. This is exactly why India's mitigation efforts vis-à-vis rainfall need to evolve in a multiverse rather than tracking just the cumulative monsoon rainfall. This will require scientific, holistic and vanguardist planning. It will also require long-term investment. Unfortunately, politics is becoming a prisoner of short-term relief. It's a vicious cycle which needs to be stopped.

A resurgence of the Right in Germany

Nationalism is representation, proposed Catherine Frost, a noted scholar of nationalism, who saw it as a system people use to morally represent or define themselves. So, what does the emphatic performance in Saxony-Anhalt, with around 44% of the vote for the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), an extreme Right-wing party with nationalism as its plank, say about Germany? Maybe it's too early to gauge. But a vote-share more than double the ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU)'s tally is a significant political event. For the first time since 1945, a party that German intelligence agencies labelled Right-wing extremist could govern a German province. As if the AfD's ethnic rhetoric on immigration wasn't dangerous enough, the CDU's collapse to 17.2% vote-share shows electors have stopped believing in the centrist party's ability to deliver civic guarantees to citizens.

For India, there should be more than academic interest in this development. Germany is India's largest trading partner in the EU and a magnet for Indian students, engineers, and tech workers. The AfD has been explicitly targeting Indians in its immigration rhetoric, alongside Muslims and Ukrainians. If the party continues to grow in strength and eventually influences federal policy to make Germany look inward on visas and skilled migration, it will hurt India. As the largest democracy in the world, India should also be concerned about the increasingly lopsided balance between nationalist rhetoric and pluralism in the European continent, which has shown that relative social harmony and economic prosperity are no firewall against immigrant-blaming, religious rabble-rousing instincts. To be sure, this result could be just a temporary protest against Merz's coalition rather than a bellwether for a socio-political realignment. The picture will become clearer as other German provinces vote in the coming weeks.



Muddled legal waters of the Indus Treaty

India now needs to make its public case plainly. It should explain why parallel proceedings violate the Indus Waters Treaty and how it will protect its legitimate hydropower rights

On August 31, 2026, the Court of Arbitration in The Hague held in the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) remained fully in force despite New Delhi's decision to hold it in abeyance. It also issued a limited interim order on Rattle. The order does not halt the project. It restricts concrete above specified levels in parts of the dam wall and power intake until 90 days after the Neutral Expert's final decision and requires reports on the construction schedule. The Court declined two other measures sought by Pakistan. India did not take part in the proceedings. The ministry of external affairs rejected the Court's award and interim order, saying the Court had neither legal nor jurisdiction over the IWT in India's position. The more fundamental issue is whether this Court was validly constituted at all. Its authority now matters as much as the technical

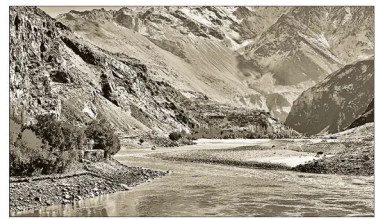
dispute over the dam. India's objection goes back to the Court's creation. New Delhi opposed it before any ruling was issued. Pakistan first requested a Neutral Expert, withdrew that request, and then described its objections as arbitral disputes in August 2016. India sought a Neutral Expert that October. That process now covers both Rattle and Kishenganga. The World Bank paused both appointment processes because it saw a risk of contradictory outcomes. It later completed both appointments in 2022, despite acknowledging practical and legal difficulties. A Court whose authority India contests has linked work at Rattle to the outcome of a separate Neutral Expert process, allowing two forums to shape the same project at the same time.

India's argument is that the IWT was not designed to permit two overlapping tracks for the same kind of technical controversy. Article IX of the IWT first sets out disagreements to the Permanent Indus Commission. Technical differences go to a Neutral Expert. Disputes go to arbitration. India also relies on paragraph 6, which suspends the IWT's dispute resolution mechanism if a difference is before the expert. On this reading, Pakistan cannot convert an engineering objection into an arbitral case merely by changing the label. The

choice of forum matters. A Neutral Expert deals with defined technical questions. Arbitration can open wider issues of treaty interpretation and procedure. An Indian project can then remain tied up in proceedings for much longer.

The Court rejected India's objections in 2023. A tribunal may examine its own jurisdiction, but that power does not enlarge the consent given under the IWT. The Court of Justice continued. China refused to accept or participate in the South China Sea arbitration, and that tribunal also continued. In the Aegean Sea Continental Shelf case, Turkey did not appear at the jurisdictional stage, yet the International Court of Justice still examined consent and found that it had no jurisdiction. India stayed away because it maintains that Article IX did not authorise this Court.

A harder question is what abeyance means in practice. Article XII(4) says the IWT remains in force until terminated by a duly ratified treaty between the two governments. India does not claim formal termination. The issue for New Delhi is how this system



India has continued to protect civilian water needs while reserving its right to respond to the conduct of the Pakistani State. SHUTTERSTOCK

of cooperation can function in the radically altered security environment of 2026. The IWT operates through notices, drawings, inspection visits, data tables and meetings. These procedures require a minimum of reciprocity and good faith. Before placing the IWT in abeyance, India had invoked Article XII(3) and sought a negotiated modification.

Through wars, terrorist attacks and prolonged hostility, India has continued to protect civilian water needs while reserving its right to respond to the conduct of the Pakistani State. The IWT's water allocation rules and its machinery for daily cooperation are not the same thing. By treating every obligation as fully operative, the Award preserves the text while saying too little about the security and political conditions needed to make its procedures work. The preamble's references to goodwill, friendship and a cooperative spirit show the assumptions on which this demanding regime was built.

Rattle shows the practical cost. The IWT permits India limited run-of-river hydropower on the Western Rivers,

subject to design rules. That right can be worn down without being formally denied. Repeated objections, parallel proceedings, delayed decisions and interim restraints can leave India with a right that exists on paper but is difficult to use on the ground.

India's rejection must be backed by a clear public narrative explaining why treaty cooperation cannot be separated from the security conditions that make it possible. New Delhi should set out its objections to parallel proceedings and how it will protect its legitimate hydropower rights. It should also restate that normal cooperation can resume only when Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures support for cross-border terrorism. An order can mark a level in concrete. It cannot answer India's objection to the Court's creation or restore the reciprocity the IWT requires.

Syed Akbaruddin served as the United States permanent representative to the United Nations in New York and is currently dean, Kaulaia School of Public Policy. The views expressed are personal.

Privatising missile sector to preserve autonomy

India's decision to open the conventional missile sector to private industry marks an important inflection point in the evolution of the country's defence-industrial strategy. Defence minister Rajnath Singh recently approved the transfer of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)-developed technologies covering conventional missile systems to eligible Indian defence companies, both public and private, for domestic production.

The significance of the decision extends well beyond technology transfer. It represents an attempt to move India's missile ecosystem from an predominantly State-led model of development and non-competitive production towards a more competitive industrial structure in which multiple companies can develop manufacturing capacity, integrate complete weapon systems and compete for orders.

This is a logical extension of measures undertaken earlier in 2026 to dilute Bharat Dynamics Limited's (BDL) near-monopoly in tactical missiles and create a wider network of development-centred production partnerships. Private companies can now compete for technology transfer, qualify as Development-competent Production Partners (DCPPs), and engage as full-system integrators rather than remaining confined to supplying components or subsystems.

The systems totality covered are substantial: surface-to-air missiles, air-to-air weapons such as Astra, anti-radiation missiles including the Rudram family, anti-ship and anti-tank missiles, land-attack cruise missiles and ballisitic-tactical missile systems such as Pralay. Longer-range conventional strike systems, including land-attack cruise missiles in the roughly 1,000-1,500 km category, are also being considered for greater private-sector participation. Nuclear-capable strategic systems, particularly the Principal Agni series, remain subject to much tighter controls.

India wants to build a missile industrial base rather than merely produce missiles. The immediate rationale is familiar: Atmanirbhar Bharat, import substitution and greater domestic capacity. But the strategic logic is deeper. Modern warfare has demonstrated that precision weapons are no longer niche capabilities reserved for limited contingencies. They are increasingly central to sustained campaigns in which stocks can be rapidly depleted and industrial capacity becomes a determinant of military effectiveness.

For India, this has an obvious China dimension. A prolonged conflict would test not merely the quality of individual weapons but the country's ability to replenish them at scale. A missile ecosystem dependent on a limited number of production lines cannot provide the resilience that a major military power requires.

The old model, in which the State developed a weapon and nominated a public-sector enterprise for production, was useful in building an initial industrial base. But it also created structural limitations. Limited competition reduced pressure on manufacturers to improve productivity, lower costs, and expand capacity. The new model seeks to correct this by separating technological ownership from manufacturing monopoly. This is also consistent with the direction of the draft Defence Acquisition Procedure 2026, which seeks to establish a level playing field between public and private manufacturers.

Expanding beyond BDL, can create redundancy, accelerate production and strengthen wartime resilience. Private firms can move up the value chain from components and sub-systems to full-system integration involving guidance, propulsion, seekers, software and testing. This will deepen supply chains, integrate MSMEs and raise indigenous value addition. A

broader industrial base can simultaneously support India's growing defence-export ambitions by enabling scale, competitive pricing and reliable supply. The objective, therefore, is to create a resilient ecosystem capable of designing, producing, upgrading and exporting sophisticated missile systems.

Missiles combine some of the most demanding areas of defence engineering: propulsion, seekers, guidance, control systems, electronics, software and materials. A company capable of manufacturing a missile subsystem is not automatically capable of integrating a complete weapon system to the reliability standards required by the armed forces.

Companies will have to navigate defence manufacturing licences, explosives-related approvals, quality certification, security requirements and specialised testing procedures. Developing the necessary workforce and facilities will require substantial capital and patience.

Greater private participation should not become a contest between private companies and institutions such as DRDO, BDL and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). The objective should instead be to create an ecosystem in which DRDO focuses increasingly on advanced research and next-generation technologies while industry takes greater responsibility for production, integration and lifecycle support.

Legacy arrangements do not disappear merely because of policy changes. The government will, therefore, need to ensure that competition is genuine rather than simply adding private firms to an otherwise State-dominated structure.

The greatest challenge may ultimately be one of scale. Private companies will invest in dedicated production facilities only if they have reasonable confidence about future orders. At the same time, the government cannot guarantee every company a sufficient production run merely to protect private investment. India will, therefore, need a procurement architecture that provides predictable demand while preserving genuine competition. The same principle applies to advanced systems. Conventional long-range and eventually hypersonic weapons will require substantially greater technological maturity and industrial capability. The distinction will also remain important: Nuclear-related missile programmes will continue to operate under a far more restrictive security framework.

Technology transfer must translate into absorbed technology. Competition must translate into lower costs and faster production. Private investment must translate into actual capacity. Increased capacity must ultimately translate into military resilience.

India is moving away from an industrial model in which the State was simultaneously the principal developer, customer and manufacturer. The opening of the conventional technology provider, regulator and customer while a wider industrial base undertakes production. That is a significant structural change. The objective should be to create a defence-industrial architecture capable of surviving the pressures of modern warfare, where technological advantage matters, so do production volumes, supply-chain resilience, cost, innovation and the ability to replace losses quickly.

India's strategic autonomy cannot depend on whether it can design and manufacture sophisticated missiles in sufficient numbers and sustain their production under wartime conditions. The opening of the conventional missile sector to private industry is an important step in that direction.

Harsh V Pant is vice-president, ORF. The views expressed are personal.

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On India-US partnership in space sector



How India can bag its next hockey World Cup

The Indian men's hockey team has won successive bronze medals at the last two Olympics — and that's definitely a matter of pride. But we failed to replicate that performance at the recently concluded World Cup. What matters now is that each player understands the value of these big tournaments, which come only once every four years. At the World Cup, we knew we had to beat Argentina by a margin of two goals to reach the semis. Instead, we conceded in just 40 seconds. We'll have to work on these things.

Modern hockey demands complete focus on every second spent on the pitch, and its demands have changed with every passing year. So, two or three players might win you a match, but to win a tournament, all 18 need the same mindset and the same aim. The players require proper training and full support from Hockey India (HI) and the government. They need to recognise and value that.

Today, there's very little separating the world's top six or seven teams. It comes down to how much effort you put in on the day — and we need to be a step ahead of them. In some areas, like defence, some teams are already two steps ahead of us.

In modern hockey, the forward line serves as the first line of defence. From there, we must maintain our position and structure for all 60 minutes — from the first pushback to the final whistle. We also need disciplined hockey. We can't win with 10 players. We also need to communicate better.

Today's hockey is all about touch play. Because the game moves so fast, you can only hold the ball for a few seconds — the rest of the time, you're running back and forth, which is why communication is so critical. You don't have time to lift your head and look for your teammate; the connection has to happen through eye contact — like pressing a Bluetooth button to get connected.

We spend so much time in national camps, away from home, preparing for four years — but small errors like these cost us these tournaments. We have a good team, but we can't be 100% in the first quarter and only 70-80% in the second.

Our target is to win the Asian Games now. After that, we'll have two years to prepare for the 2028 LA Olympics. We should focus more on video analysis to identify where we're going wrong, and train accordingly. The harder we train, the easier matches will become. That mindset should start

today if we want to upgrade our medal from bronze to gold. I've been thoroughly impressed by the women's team's performance. The team fought hard at the World Cup, whether they won, lost or drew. Their discipline, ball movement, fearlessness and commitment were commendable — even under heavy physical challenge from opponents, they kept fighting back.

This showed that the players had studied their opponents well — their strengths, weaknesses, penalty-corner tactics and defensive patterns. The lesson here is that doing your homework matters.

If the women's team takes care of the small things, matching the best of the world, it won't be difficult. They should treat hockey like a school subject — English or Hindi — analysing their strengths as well as areas for improvement to sharpen their basics. Their basics are already strong, as the World Cup showed. They need to improve slightly on defence and be more proactive to consistently make the best.

If we fix these small things, I don't think anyone can touch us. The women's team has shown remarkable improvement over the last decade. We need to work harder to reach the top.

Building an India A team as a backup is essential — having upcoming players train alongside the seniors will create healthy competition. If someone is not performing in the senior group, that player can be demoted to India A and vice versa. In addition, the India A players should get more exposure tours. We also need to strengthen our domestic structure. The transition from domestic to international hockey takes too long to adapt to, because the domestic game is far slower.

In domestic hockey, if you stop the ball, you have all the time in the world to make a good pass, with no pressure. In international hockey, teams constantly close you down, leaving you no time to even lift your head. How you handle that pressure reveals your true strength.

Hopefully, the World Cup was a valuable lesson for both teams as they prepare for the Asian Games. We are strong tactically. We've good coaching staff. Some ingredients of a win are already there. We need to now add the others that are needed.

Sardar Singh is a former India captain and a Khud Raza awardee. The views expressed are personal.

‘Don’t deserve to roam free’: SC over assaults on medics

Utkarsh Anand

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday said that people who assault doctors and hospital staff “do not deserve to roam on the streets even for a minute”, forcing a Maharashtra corporator accused of attacking three municipal doctors in Thane to withdraw his plea after the bench indicated it could immediately examine whether his bail should be cancelled. A bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta was hearing a plea filed by Shiv Sena corporator Ramesh Sukaria Mhatre, when senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for him, sought permission to withdraw the matter.

“We are going to issue notice on the state’s appeal,” said the bench. The bench also issued a notice to the Maharashtra government’s appeal challenging the bail granted to Mhatre and three other accused. It also took note of reports about the fresh assault on doctors and hospital staff in Palghar and directed that the matter be listed on September 16.

The exchange came days after the Supreme Court had already indicated that it was inclined to cancel Mhatre’s bail over the alleged July 6 assault at the Shastri Nagar General Hospital in Dombivli.

The exchange came days after the Supreme Court had already indicated that it was inclined to cancel Mhatre’s bail over the alleged July 6 assault at the Shastri Nagar General Hospital in Dombivli.

On September 1, the bench had said that people who had “no respect for the medical fraternity” should not be out on bail and observed that “those who attack doctors don’t deserve bail”. The court had, however, said it would await a formal plea from the Maharashtra government seeking cancellation of bail.

The Bombay High Court had on August 7 granted bail to Mhatre and three others, while directing them to remain outside Maharashtra until the filing of the charge sheet. Mhatre was specifically ordered to stay

within the jurisdiction of the Anjuna police station in Goa. The high court had also directed the Maharashtra government to provide adequate protection to the three doctors who were allegedly assaulted.

The incident occurred after a pregnant woman was referred to Mumbai’s Sion Hospital for delivery as the civil hospital’s neonatal intensive care unit had no available beds. The doctors alleged that Mhatre and his associates subsequently assaulted two contractual doctors and two nurses.

The Supreme Court’s concern on Monday was heightened by the alleged assault reported from Palghar a day earlier.

According to the complaint, Shiv Sena district chief Kundan Sankhe, city chief Rahul Garhat and others allegedly entered the emergency department of Relief Hospital after a dispute over the discharge bill of a “Govinda” injured during a Dahi Handi event. The bill was reportedly ₹5,866. The ensuing confrontation allegedly turned violent, with doctors and hospital staff being abused, threatened and assaulted. CCTV footage purportedly showed a receptionist being slapped when she intervened.

The group allegedly also entered the ICU, a restricted area, where hospital staff claimed that a nurse was threatened, the IV drip of an injured Govinda was removed and the patient was taken away from the hospital.

Palghar police have registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Medical Services Protection Act. At least 17 people, including Sankhe, Garhat and Rohit Gavit, son of local MLA Rajendra Gavit, have been named in the case.

LIFE TERM FOR 8, INCLUDING THREE WOMEN, IN 2025 ASI MURDER CASE

Avinash Kumar

avinash.kumar@htlive.com

PATNA: The additional district and sessions court (ADJ-IV) in Munger on Monday awarded life sentence to all the eight named accused, including three women, convicted in the murder of an assistant sub inspector (ASI) rank police officer Santosh Kumar Singh on March 14, 2025. The court of ADJ-IV Kumar Manisha has also imposed a fine of ₹25,000 each on all the convicts, stating that in case of non-payment, the convicts will have to serve an additional sentence of six months. The murder case of the ASI was speedy trialed and the testimony of twelve-witnesses was completed during 18-months of trial.

Public Prosecutor Sanjay Singh pleaded for the prosecution side told reporters that after hearing the arguments of both sides, the ADJ court convicted the eight accused under sections 303(i) (punishment for the crime of murder), 117(2) (voluntarily causing grievous hurt), 118(2) (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons) and other sections of the BNS.

Those were sentenced identified as Ranveer Kumar, Ranju Kumar, Rajeev Kumar, Guddu Kumar, Vikas Kumar, Rekha Devi, Sarita Devi and Manisham Kumari. All the sentences will run together as per the court order. Giving details of the case, the PP said that the court, while hearing the appeal against conviction, has sentenced all the eight convicts to rigorous imprisonment for life. On March 14, 2025, ASI Santosh Kumar Singh succumbed to injuries at a hospital in Patna after allegedly being attacked by a family of Ranveer Kumar creating a ruckus after drinking in Nandapur village in Munger district.



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Date: 8 September 2026 | Time: 10:30 AM

Venue: Maharaja Sayajirao University Pavilion Ground, Vadodara

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Harsh Sanghavi,
Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat

GUJARAT’S GROWTH
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MP Phooch tragedy: Death toll rises to 20

Shrutu Tamar and Anupam Patarya

letters@hindustantimes.com

BHOPLA: The death toll from the consumption of spurious liquor in Banda tehsil of Sagar district climbed to 20 on Monday.

Among the deceased was Ram Prasad Lodhi, who had been afflicted to Bhopal but succumbed late Sunday night. His father, Govind Lodhi, also died the same night, while his younger brother remains admitted at Bundelkhand Medical College, Sagar.

So far, 112 people have been hospitalized after drinking the poisonous liquor. The victims reported symptoms including nausea, vomiting, memory loss, high fever and severe headache. Special medical camps have been set up across more than half a dozen affected villages, said a health officer.

Police have registered an FIR against 30 individuals, including the liquor contractor, for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and arrested 10.

According to the FIR lodged at Banda police station, villager Anoop Singh Lodhi alleged that around eight people were selling liquor illegally in his village. He said that on September 4, he and his nephew Rajendra Lodhi visited Juhar Lodhi’s shop, where they were told that a new

cheaper brand had been supplied by Bareilly’s licensed contractor Yashwant Singh, Manish Lodhi, and Banda resident Ashish Sahu. The liquor, transported by associates including Akash Rai, Rahim Khan, and others, was offered at ₹20 less than the market price. The writing on the wall is clear, therefore, I would want to withdraw,” the senior lawyer said.

But the bench said that the court was a determining factor that there appeared to be a “propensity to do these things.”

“This is their modus operandi. These people do not deserve to roam on the streets. Yesterday, again the same group of people assaulted doctors and hospital staff in Palghar,” remarked the bench.

Robhatgi clarified that the accused in the Palghar incident were not the same set of people and said he wanted to “put a quick stop to this.” The writing on the wall is clear, therefore, I would want to withdraw,” the senior lawyer said.

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Date: 04.09.2026
General Manager (RP & PM)

12 pilgrims killed, 16 injured in UP accident

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

MEERUT: At least 12 people have died and over 16 others were injured when a pickup vehicle carrying 32 devotees from Badaun overturned on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway in Uttar Pradesh’s Baghpat district around 1 am on Monday after hitting a road divider, police said. Chief minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the accident and directed officials to provide financial assistance to the families of the deceased and the injured.

The state government announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh each to the families of those killed while the injured will receive ₹50,000 each, an official said.

According to police, the incident took place between Basi and Bada villages in the Khehra Kotwall area when the passengers were returning from a pilgrimage to Bagad Dham, a prominent pilgrimage site in Rajasthan’s Hanumangarh district associated with Jahanvi Baba Goga Ji Maharaj. The victims were shifted to the district

hospital, where six were declared dead.

According to a doctor at the district hospital, 22 injured passengers were taken to the hospital for treatment, of whom 18 were referred to a higher medical centre in Meerut. Six more passengers later succumbed to their injuries in Meerut, taking the toll to 12.

The deceased were identified as Sadhu, 60, his wife, Munni Devi, 55, his brother Prem Singh, 40, Sugopal, 40, Rameshwar Yadav, 60, Jitendra, 7, Premvati, 50, Diksha, 2, Bhanumati, 52, an unidentified 45-year-old man, Murti, 35, and another. Authorities were working to establish the identities of the remaining unidentified victims. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Tejendra Lal confirmed that 12 people have died in the incident so far. One of the injured passengers, Kunwar Pal, said most of the pilgrims were asleep when the vehicle suddenly overturned. “We were all sleeping in the vehicle when there was a loud impact and the vehicle suddenly overturned. There was screaming and chaos at the spot,” he said.



STATE SPORTS ACADEMY, RAJGIR,

Islampur - Rajgir - Patnagarh Rd, Thera,
Mahaula, Bihar 803117

Email: rajgir.sportsacademy@gmail.com

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Mithilesh Kumar,
Assistant Director
State Sports Academy
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सूचना नं०-184-69/2023-1516

सत्र-2026-27 के संबद्धता संबंधी आवयक सूचना

बिहार राज्य आरंभ संश्लिष्ट/विशारत स्वी-नर-सरकारी शिक्षिका/देन/आनुवंशिक/होमोपैथि/सूनामी/कॉर्न/बॉल/पॉलीमोर्फिक/एयर स्टाइम/विशारत के अन्य ऐसे महाविद्यालय/संस्थानों को सूचित किया जाता है कि **स्नातक एवं स्नातकोत्तर डिग्री को सत्र-2026-27** हेतु संबद्धता के अर्हता विस्तार (Renewal/Extension of Affiliation) एवं **सत्र-2026-27** के लिए नया आवयक (Fresh Affiliation) प्राप्त करने के लिए आरंभ विज्ञान प्रमाणिका नं०-09.09.2026 से दिनांक-25.09.2026 तक विद्यमान/संबद्धता संबंधी सूचनाएं जमा करायी जायगी।

2.सत्र-2026-27 के लिए स्नातक एवं स्नातकोत्तर डिग्री कोर्स की संबद्धता की अर्हता विस्तार (Renewal/Extension of Affiliation) हेतु आरंभ विज्ञान की साक्षात् कीर्ति विश्वविद्यालय के वेबसाइट www.bhu.ac.in से अनुमतिपत्र की जा सकती है तथा इसके अन्तर्गत से टिफिन विस्तार विश्वविद्यालय में सभी अनुमतिपत्र एवं निर्दिष्ट सूचना सविता दिनांक-09.09.2026 से सत्र-25.09.2026 तक जमा किया जा सकता है। प्रत्येक कोर्स हेतु संबंधित सत्र के अर्हता-अवकाश प्राप्त न हो जायता अर्थात् एक कोर्स के लिए एक सत्र के लिए एक सत्र सतिष्ठित के अम सत्र-2026-27, 11 एवं 12 के अर्हता प्राप्त के साथ विश्वविद्यालय में जमा किया जायता।

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NEW DELHI
SUNDAY
JANUARY 27, 1983

TWTW
THE WEEK THAT WAS

Take a cue from the clues

Authors who are not authors, leaders who no longer lead, a beauty queen waits her last walk, and much to appear in a film about village. Here happened this week. Take the quiz to find out.

Natasha Singh

Amaranth Raschi is author of the children's books *Luna and Spectral Phoenix*. Who actually wrote them and illustrated them?

Amritha Raschi is not an author or illustrator, but he "wrote" Amara and Krishna, children's books which have sold over 500 copies since it was launched in Bangalore. Amritha's characters were typically created by him and his daughter. Who actually wrote and illustrated it?

Raschi is a legend here and was briefly a G.D. at the American School in New Delhi. He has been awarded the US National Assembly as the best teacher in the world. Who was he? The true story is something you will want to know when it comes to the end of the world - one knows when it's time to go.

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MIAMI | BOEING 767 OVERSHOTS RUNWAY



The plane at Miami International Airport after it overran the runway on Sunday.

5 dead in Amazon cargo plane crash

Reuters

letters@hindustantimes.com

CHICAGO: At least five people died when an Amazon Prime Air cargo flight overran a runway and crashed while landing at Miami International Airport on Sunday, local officials said. Prime Air Flight 7598 overran the airport's diagonal runway shortly before 2 p.m. EDT (1800 GMT) and struck multiple vehicles on the ground, officials said during a news conference on Sunday afternoon.

Five people were also injured in the crash, including three who are in critical condition, said Miami-Dade Fire Chief Ray Jadhav. At least two people were trapped in vehicles that were struck by the plane, and the pilot and co-pilot were trapped inside the plane by the crash, Jadhav said.

Officials declined to identify those who died.

More than 60 rescue units and about 200 personnel responded to the incident, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue said in a statement. As of late afternoon, emergency personnel were still dealing with a fuel

leak from the aircraft, Jadhav said.

Although the airport halted all flights immediately after the crash, flights had resumed by Sunday evening.

The plane, which departed from San Juan, Puerto Rico, was a 32-year-old Boeing 767-300 freighter that had operated as a passenger jet for various airlines from 1994 to 2015, according to flight tracking service FlightRadar24.

Cargo airline 21 Air operated the plane for Amazon, an Amazon spokesperson said in a statement.

"We are devastated by the accident involving one of our aircraft in Miami today," 21 Air said on its website. "Our deepest condolences are with the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives."

Reuters photos after the crash showed the jet with its nose on the ground and tail tilted up. The right side of the plane had what appeared to be scorch marks.

FlightRadar24 said the plane was traveling at 112 knots (129 mph) when it exited the usable runway.

The National Transportation Safety Board, which investigates U.S. civil aviation accidents, said it had sent a team led by Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy to investigate the accident and would hold its first media briefing in Miami on Monday.

Amazon is still gathering details about what happened, company spokeswoman Kelly Nantel said. "We're working closely with local authorities and officials to understand exactly what happened," Nantel said in a statement. "Right now, our absolute priority is the safety, well-being, and care of everyone involved."

Boeing and 21 Air said they would support the government investigations into the crash. Sunday's incident is not the first time an Amazon Prime Air plane has been involved in a fatal crash. In February 2019, Atlas Air Flight 3591, a Boeing 767-300 freighter operating on behalf of Amazon Prime Air from Miami to Houston, entered a rapid descent and crashed into Trinity Bay, Texas. All three people on board were killed.

Seven Indonesian airports remain shut due to volcanic ash from Anak Krakatau

Reuters

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TANGERANG: Seven Indonesian airports, including two serving Jakarta, remained closed on Monday because of volcanic ash from eruptions at Mount Anak Krakatau as more than 270,000 travellers were affected by flight cancellations and delays, the transport minister said.

Ash from Anak Krakatau, which sits halfway between Java and Sumatra islands, has blanketed Jakarta and several surrounding areas since it erupted late on Friday, leading to the closure of the airports for safety reasons.

The transport ministry said on Monday more than 270,000 people have been affected by the delay, diversion, or cancellation of 2,300 flights.

Jakarta's main airport will remain closed until 6 p.m. local time (1000 GMT), the ministry said, along with six other airports. One other airport in South

Sumatra has been reopened. "We cannot ascertain when this will end due to the dynamic weather," Transport Minister Dedy Purwagandhi said in a statement on Monday.

On Monday, passengers at Jakarta's main airport, the Soekarno-Hatta, which is located in the city of Tangerang, adjacent to Jakarta, were scurrying around, frantically looking for the status of their flights on the information boards. Some were sleeping on benches.

Carlos Zabala, 24, was travelling to his native Spain after a vacation when he learned his flight was repeatedly delayed. Expressing his frustration, he blamed operators for the lack of clarity.

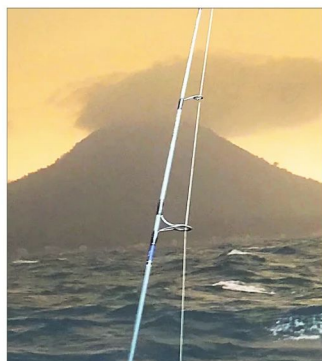
"All we have to do is wait, and wait, and wait," he said. President Prabowo Subianto chaired a virtual meeting on Monday with authorities on the eruption, as well as an August 15 earthquake that killed more than 130 people in eastern Indonesia

and the ongoing forest fires, saying that the disaster mitigation budget needs to rise significantly.

At night, the lava from Anak Krakatau lit the sky red as it erupted. Residents were sweeping the dusty floors of their homes and the blackened walls of a nearby mosque. Reuters photographs showed.

Anak Krakatau is one of about 130 active volcanoes in Indonesia, which straddles the "Pacific Ring of Fire," a highly seismically active zone where different plates on the earth's crust meet to create a large number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Anak Krakatau, which means child of Krakatau, began emerging a century ago from the area previously occupied by Krakatau, then known as Krakatau. The older volcano destroyed itself in mass eruptions in 1883, which killed more than 36,000 people after triggering a series of tsunamis.



The Mount Anak Krakatau volcano erupts.

REUTERS

North Korea unveils new destroyer



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un tours the destroyer 'Kang Kon' during a commissioning ceremony for the destroyer at Wonsan Port on Sunday.

Rename New Mexico as 'New America': Trump

Agence France-Presse

letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's name-changing spree found an unlikely new target on Sunday when he suggested the state of New Mexico could become "New America."

His proposal, which was immediately dismissed by the state's governor, comes days after he signed an order to rename Lake Ontario as "Lake America" in the middle of a trade war with neighboring Canada.

"Many people suggested changing the name of New Mexico... to NEW AMERICA," the Republican president posted on social media. "So much more prestigious and beautiful for the people of that potentially incredible State. Wow, I love it!"

The White House posted an image showing the Mexico part of the state's name crossed out and replaced with "America."

Some US media reports said the idea originated as an internet hoax.

State governor Michelle Lujan Grisham told Fox News that the name "isn't up for debate -- it's been ours since before the United States existed."

She said the president wanted to "distract Americans" from issues such as soaring gas prices. Trump last week suggested renaming the Strait of Hormuz as the "Gulf of America" on his first day back in the White House in 2025.

He renamed the Gulf of Mexico to the "Gulf of America" on his first day back in the White House in 2025.

BUSINESS

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BI Incops up ₹6 lakh cr in 2 auctions, response mixed

Press Trust of India

feedback@livemint.com

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India on Monday mopped up over ₹6 lakh crore of excess funds from the banking system in two auctions, which saw an unwelcome response from banks despite surplus liquidity.

The 30-day variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auction announced last week received a tepid response from banks, and the central bank announced another auction in the first half of the day. As against ₹7 lakh crore of notified amount, the first auction received a tepid response, with bids of just over ₹2.59 lakh crore being received for the 30-day VRRR, according to an official statement.

The bids for the 30-day VRRR were accepted at the cut-off and weighted average rate of 5.24%, according to the RBI. Soon afterwards, the RBI announced an overnight VRRR auction for a notified amount of ₹5 lakh crore, which was completed at 1130 hrs.



Liquidity in the banking system was estimated to be in surplus of around ₹11.16 lakh crore as on September 6.

Market response to the second auction was a tad better, with bids of ₹35,53,390 crore received, which amounts to over 70% of the notified amount, indicating that lenders are comfortable parking funds in the RBI.

For the overnight, the RBI accepted the full amount at a

cut-off rate and weighted average rate of 5.24%.

A VRRR auction is a monetary policy tool used by a central bank to absorb excess cash from the banking system.

Liquidity in the banking system was estimated to be in surplus of around ₹11.16 lakh crore as on September 6.

The RBI has stepped up liquidity absorption operations as the banking system has been flooded with funds following large inflows through the special FCNR(B) deposit scheme.

The RBI's special force measures mobilised ₹136.38 billion by August 31, including ₹127.23 billion through FCNR(B) deposits, ₹8.26 billion through OFCBs, and ₹3.89 billion through ECBs, according to RBI data.

The FCNR(B) window was closed a month early on August 31 due to the strong response, while the ECB/OFB facility remains open till December 31 and inflows through these routes are expected to pick up.

The mobilisation brought foreign currency into the banking system, while subsequent swaps with the RBI provided banks with rupee liquidity.

To align with the repo rate, the central bank has conducted 32 VRRR auctions between August and so far in September, with maturities ranging from overnight to 14 days.

T&T eyes up to ₹500 cr via tokenised bonds

Subhna Shaikh

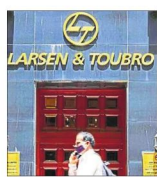
subhna.shaikh@liveint.com

MUMBAI: After state-run power financier Rural Electrification Corp. Ltd (REC) raised ₹500 crore through its first-ever tokenised bond issue on Monday, Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T) is lining up for a similar transaction this week, a person involved in the plan said. This likely marks a new era for the country's debt markets.

REC became the first Indian issuer to raise funds through corporate bonds using blockchain-based infrastructure. The bonds, maturing on 31 May 2028, were issued at a coupon of 7.30%, three merchant bankers said. The issue had a base size of ₹100 crore and a green-shoe option of ₹400 crore.

L&T is likely to upload its first tokenised bond issue on the electronic platform for bidding. The company is likely to raise up to ₹500 crore through this issue. The bonds will have a maturity of three years and are expected to be issued at about 7.40%, the person said.

An email sent to L&T on the matter remained unanswered



The bonds will have a maturity of 3 years and are expected to be issued at about 7.40% REUTERS

until press time.

Tokenised bonds are conventional debt securities whose ownership and transaction records are maintained on a blockchain or distributed ledger.

Unlike a traditional bond, where ownership and settlement pass through established securities-market infrastructure, tokenised bonds can enable digital recording and potentially near-instant settlement. The underlying instrument remains a bond, with the issuer able to coupon payments and repayment of principal at maturity.

The REC issue was part of a broader project being developed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to test tokenised corporate bonds. It uses the RBI's wholesale central bank digital currency for payment and a blockchain-based securities wallet, referred to as "Demat 2.0," for holding securities.

Only investors with active currency and CBDC wallets are allowed to place bids for the issue.

The technology could eventually reduce settlement risk, improve transparency and automate parts of the bond lifecycle. Tokenization can also allow fractional ownership, potentially lowering investment sizes and broadening participation in corporate bonds.

However, market participants have flagged the need for supporting infrastructure and a sufficiently liquid secondary market for the technology to scale up.

Other state-owned financial institutions are also evaluating tokenised bonds, merchant bankers said.

JAGUAR LAND ROVER TO CUT 4,000 JOBS TO TACKLE COSTS

AFP

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LONDON: Jaguar Land Rover said Monday that it would cut "around 4,000 roles over the next two years", or about ten percent of its global workforce, in a further blow to Europe's automobile industry.

The company revealed its voluntary redundancy scheme just days after the German car giant Volkswagen announced 50,000 new job cuts over the next two years.

It follows months of turmoil caused by a cyberattack on the British luxury carmaker and US President Donald Trump's sector-wide tariffs.

The world's biggest carmakers across Europe, the United States and Japan are also facing strong competition from Chinese manufacturers, as well as the need to invest heavily in the industry shifts toward electric vehicles. "The automotive industry faces significant challenges, with technological change amidst intense competition and ongoing geopolitical uncertainty," JLR's chief executive said in a statement.

Over the next 12 months, we will launch a series of new products, continue to leverage the strength of our brands and renew our focus on North America, amongst other markets, to help us deliver double-digit revenue growth," Balaji added.

The vast majority of JLR employees are around 94,000 people — are based in the UK.

In an earlier statement Monday, JLR identified management roles as those at risk, while loss of media reports said most of the cuts would be in the UK. UK business minister Jonathan Reynolds is scheduled to meet with JLR executives this week to discuss the job losses.

"We recognise this will be difficult news for colleagues affected, and are committed to supporting everyone with care, fairness and respect," Balaji said.

Alternative-fuel car sales top petrol on cost, E20 concerns

Reuters

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Sales of alternative-fuel passenger vehicles outpaced petrol-powered cars in India in August for the first time, an auto dealers' body said on Monday, as the Middle East war raised oil prices and a public backlash against higher ethanol-content fuel simmered.

Alternative-fuel models, including compressed natural gas, hybrid and electric models, accounted for nearly 42% of passenger-vehicle sales, while petrol vehicles stood at about 41%, according to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), which represents dealers of major car

and two-wheeler makers.

"This shift was bound to happen," said Giridhar, FADA vice president, told Reuters.

While E20-related concerns may have initially accelerated buyers' move away from petrol, the trend was being sustained by a wider choice of alternative-fuel models, improved EV range and a gradual expansion of charging infrastructure, he said.

The world's third-largest car market's transition to E20 petrol, which contains 20% ethanol, from E10 is aimed at reducing reliance on imported crude but has drawn criticism from owners of older vehicles, who are concerned that the blend could reduce fuel economy.



Alternative-fuel models accounted for nearly 42% of passenger-vehicle sales.

The government earlier dismissed the backlash, calling it "wild claims" and asking people to not "fall for the rage bait."

India's automobile retail sales rose 17.5% year-on-year in August to 2.4 million, a record for the month.

This was despite leading auto companies rolling out price hikes this year to cope with elevated input costs.

Giridhar, however, warned

that further price hikes risked eroding gains from last year's tax reforms introduced to fuel consumption.

The country's largest carmaker, Maruti Suzuki India, on Monday said it will raise prices of select models by up to ₹20,000 (\$218.00) from September. Its third hike since May, however, is heading into its annual festive season, a period that typically spurs big-ticket purchases.

Giridhar said despite inflationary pressures and price increases, dealers remain optimistic about sales.

Passenger-vehicle inventory increased by five days from end-July levels to about 38-40 days, FADA said.

Fairfax may exit IIFL Finance before likely IDBI Bank deal

Bloomberg

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Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd is considering selling its entire stake in mid-sized Indian shadow lender IIFL Finance Ltd, as the Canadian firm seeks to sweeten a bid that Indian authorities are close to accepting, people have previously said. A successful bid for the Mumbai-based lender could be valued at \$6.2 billion at current prices, potentially making it the biggest foreign investment in India's banking sector. There was no immediate response from Fairfax and IIFL Finance to email queries sent by Bloomberg News.

Fairfax held 15.2% stake in IIFL Finance as on June 30, according to Bloomberg compiled data. The Indian lender has a current market value of \$2.38 billion.

Fairfax's move underscores how it is gearing up to acquire a 60.7% stake in IDBI Bank in a sweetened bid that Indian authorities are close to accepting, people have previously said. A successful bid for the Mumbai-based lender could be valued at \$6.2 billion at current prices, potentially making it the biggest foreign investment in India's banking sector. There was no immediate response from Fairfax and IIFL Finance to email queries sent by Bloomberg News.



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates defeating USA's Tommy Paul in their men's singles round of 16 match.

Sabalenka and Alcaraz reach US Open quarters

Agencies

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW YORK: Defending champions Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz are back to the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open, and they made it look easy.

The top-ranked Sabalenka solved some early struggles holding serve and overpowered Taylor Townsend 6-4, 6-3 on Sunday. Alcaraz also advanced in straight sets, beating Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in the second match at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"I'm happy with that performance," Alcaraz said. "I played my game. I tried to play my style. Tommy's such a talented player. His shots are pretty dangerous and it's sometimes pretty difficult to control the ball when it comes to you, so I just tried to be ready."

Townsend broke Sabalenka three times in her first four service games as she looked to spring the

upset. Sabalenka found a groove, regained her confidence and did not lose another point after falling behind 3-1 in the second set.

"I love matches like that because it was really challenging," Sabalenka said. "Going through tough challenges and overcoming those challenges, it definitely gives you strength and really strong belief that you can do it."

This was the first meeting between Sabalenka and Townsend since the 2022 US Open. The first set was tied 1-1, but Sabalenka broke to take the first set 6-4.

"This was the most comfortable and confident I've ever been playing against a No. 1 player in the world," Townsend said. "From the beginning, I felt like I belonged. From the beginning, I felt like I was right where I needed to be. I still feel that way."

Next up for Sabalenka is Wimbledon winner Linda Noskova, who needed six match points to

get past Marta Kostyuk 7-5, 5-7, 6-4. "I played a couple of matches against her in the past, which also wasn't the easiest matches," Sabalenka said of Noskova. "Really aggressive style of the game. Serving really well, playing super fast. You've got to stay really loose to be able to handle that power and energy."

Playing his first tournament following a four-month absence because of a right wrist injury, Alcaraz said last week he would not be coming back if he could not play like his usual self. The 23-year-old Spaniard has made good on that so far, dropping just one set through four rounds.

Alcaraz dictated play on the way to extending his Grand Slam winning streak to 18. When Paul was making things interesting in the third set, Alcaraz set up match point by hitting a shot so perfectly in bounds that it left actor Matthew McConaughey in disbelief,

along with many others in the crowd.

Asked if he thinks he is back to form, Alcaraz responded, "I think so." The U.S. Open is bringing that out in him. "I'm just trying to enjoy my time on the court," Alcaraz said. "It doesn't matter that it was four months and a half. Every time that I come here, I play my best."

Alcaraz will play Tuesday against American Ben Shelton, the No. 8 seed who swept Stefanos Tsitsipas on Sunday night in his strongest performance of the tournament. "We're happy to have him back on tour. He lights up the stadium every time he plays," Shelton said of Alcaraz. "I think it's going to be fireworks on Tuesday night."

Townsend and Paul were among the 10 Americans to reach the men's and women's round of 16. That is the most in the fourth round at any Grand Slam in nearly a quarter-century, going back to

the 2002 U.S. Open, when there were 11.

The five U.S. men — Paul, Shelton, Learner Tien, Frances Tiafoe and Alex Michelsen — are the most at a major since eight in 1995 at Flushing Meadows.

"American tennis has been on the up and up for many years now," Townsend said. "There have been a really consistent chunk of players — Jess, Coco (who) have been at the top and inside the top five for the last, I don't know how many years. Ben, Frances, Tommy, Taylor. It's just such a great group of men, as well."

At 20, Tien is the youngest American man in the U.S. Open fourth round since Andy Roddick in 2002.

Tiafoe knocked off seventh-seeded Daniil Medvedev 7-6 (1), 6-4, 7-6 (6) to improve to 10-0 in his career at Louis Armstrong Stadium, which he called "the people's court."

Kishan's marvellous 270 leads East to imposing 708

Agencies

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

CHENNAI: Ishan Kishan battled humid conditions to construct a monumental 270, reminding the selectors of his red-ball credentials and propelling East Zone to a mammoth 708 on the second day of the Duleep Trophy final against South Zone here on Monday.

Kumar Kushagra too struck his sixth first-class hundred (101,132), a shining support act for Kishan's epic, spanning 522 minutes and 334 balls across nearly two days. South Zone will start fresh on the third day after plucking the final East Zone wicket in the closing minutes of the day.

But the most compelling story of the day was of Kishan whose effort came in the presence of three national selectors. Unfortunately, he could not join an elite club of batters who have scored triple hundreds in the Duleep Trophy — Raman Lamba (1987) and Gagan Khoda (2001), but that would not take any sheen out of his knock.

There was something very Viorendre Sehwal-esque in his innings — the dazzling warmth, the effortless yet brutal acceleration — and the selectors were not to squander the benevolence of conditions. Kishan's first 100, which came on the opening day, arrived in 122 balls but he took 148 balls for the second hundred.

The slowdown was not forced by an exceptional spell or a tough pitch but a more deliberate attempt to wear down the bowlers, and to give his side the best chance to put on board a total much beyond the opponent's reach.

The second first-class double



East Zone captain Ishan Kishan during the Duleep trophy final.

hundred of his career came in 270 balls, when he drilled part-time spinner Devdutt Padikkal for a boundary through the covers. The only time he looked in discomfort was when left-arm pacer CV Milland managed to ping on his abdomen, which needed a quick medical attention.

But the self-imposed lid on his batting came soon after going past the double century. He raced to 200 to 250 in just 31 balls. Spinners Shreyas Gopal and Tripurana Vijay suffered most in this Easterly Jet Stream, getting carted for two sixes each.

Kishan blasted 94 runs off 100 balls off Shreyas while Vijay leaked 70 runs off 88 balls, underlining the left-hander's domination over spinners. As it was on the first day, pulls and drives remained his core run-making shots as 22 fours were

made off them. For the second day in succession, the South bowlers, particularly lead pacer Mohammad Sarfar, failed to make any impression, blunted by a placid pitch and batting of rare calibre.

Eventually, the exhaustion gripped his body and Kishan had to walk off on 250 made off 301 balls with 27 fours and seven sixes. The whole Kishan show helped East Zone pile 106 runs in the first session and 135 runs in the segment after lunch.

By that time, Kishan had milled 230 runs with Kushagra for the fifth wicket in just 290 balls and 140 with Anukul Roy (40, 86b) for the sixth wicket, further alienating South Zone from the match.

Kushagra too was quite impressive in his own right, flaying the bowlers on either side of the pitch in a show of fluent batsmanship.

Lifter Gyaneshwari eyes new personal best at Asian Games

Agencies

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Commonwealth Games silver medalist weightlifter Gyaneshwari Yadav is hoping to carry her Glasgow experience into this month's Asian Games, where she has set her sights on bettering her personal best.

The 23-year-old from Chhattisgarh produced personal bests in both the snatch and clean and jerk for a total of 199kg (88kg+111kg) that handed her a silver medal in the 53kg category at the Glasgow Games in July.

"The preparation is going good. I want to get my personal best there. I had given my personal best of 199kg at the Commonwealth

Games and I will try and improve on that. "We haven't got a lot of time, just a month," Gyaneshwari told PTI in an interaction following by SAL.

"I will try to improve in snatch. Even if I'm able to improve 1kg each in snatch and kg clean and jerk, it will be an achievement for me. For an athlete, getting a personal best is a huge thing," Gyaneshwari, who is training at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports in Patiala, also hopes to use the experience of competing at the Commonwealth Games to her advantage in Japan.

"The experience of CWG I will use in Asian Games," she said. However, she will face stiff competition at the Asian Games

where traditional powerhouses such as China, South Korea and North Korea will be vying for the podium.

The Asian Games are scheduled to be held across Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19. After the Asian Games, Gyaneshwari will face increased domestic competition in the 53kg category, as Olympic silver medalist Mirabai Chanu, who currently competes in the 48kg-49kg category, is set to move up to 53kg, which is the starting weight for women at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Asian Championships silver medalist Bindaryani Devi has also said she will drop down to 53kg after winning the 58kg bronze at the CWG in July.

Gukesh becoming world champ had a huge impact on me: Yagiz

Susan Ninan

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BENGALURU: At 15, Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus is already discovering that being the most talked about teen in chess right now comes with its own peculiar burden. In his case, first there are the ratings goals. His coach, Azerbaijani grandmaster Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, has declared the never-before-sealed 2900 as his Everest. The teen almost casually states a desire to become world champion "as young as possible" — preferably younger than Gukesh, who at 18 became the youngest undisputed world champion.

"Gukesh winning the world title has huge impact on me," the precocious teen from Bursa, Turkey told HT. "It was incredible thing. He played well and deserved to win against Ding (Liren). I also want to become world champion. I want to surpass Gukesh and become the youngest."

It is an ambitious clock to race against. Erdogmus knows it. The numbers do not seem to frighten him yet. Nor does the fact that Magnus Carlsen, the player he grew up idolising, has already told the world that he may be the best 14-year-old around. At 14, he became the youngest player to cross 2700 and says 2900 is a barrier that even Carlsen hasn't breached. He then pauses, nods and says: "Okay, I can do it. But it's going to be very tough."

He needs to get to 2750 first. There is something refresh-



Turkish teenager Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus.

MICHAEL WALUSZKOWSKI

ingly adolescent about this confidence. He likes bullet chess, table tennis and tennis. He misses meeting his friends. He is not particularly interested in school beyond passing the exams and when he is not playing or on the board, he is quite happy to do so online. Though Mamedyarov, who touched a peak rating of 2820, has drawn the line at his protegee playing bullet.

On Sunday, at the Tech Mahindra Global Chess League, student went up against the master and came away with a loss and a lesson. Playing for the PBK Alaskan Knights led by Viswanathan Anand, Erdogmus

found himself staring at a checkmating threat set up by Mamedyarov, who turned out for CheQ Mumbai Masters, and resigned. "When we solve positions together, he just sees everything immediately. He calculates really fast and really well," he said. "I'm more of a tactical player, I like going for sacrifices and I realise I'm quite positional. I'm also creative with my openings. My calculation is also very good. I prefer to discuss positions with my coach without looking at engines. I look at them later to not just know the answers but also to try to understand why the moves work."

Classical chess may matter

more to him, but for fun he turns to bullet chess. "I find bullet to be the most enjoyable format. Of course, classical is important. It's also more stressful because you need to achieve something that's like a really big goal. Gukesh became classical world champion that's why he's so popular."

Among the top Indian players, he finds Arjun Erigaisi the most interesting. "I like his style. He has creative opening ideas and can play fast and can put his opponents in trouble."

In the final round of the TePe Stigman Chess, Carlsen put an endgame masterclass against Erdogmus, leaving the teen sobbing. "I wouldn't have made that mistake against other players. You need to have a good mentality when you play against Magnus because everyone is afraid of him. Next time, I will be brave."

Erdogmus' chess story began, appropriately enough, in kindergarten. He was drawn to the pieces and the game, and it did not take long for curiosity to give way to ambition.

That drive extends beyond his own chess. He points to fellow Turk and 17-year-old grandmaster Ediz Gurel becoming something of a minor celebrity in his school when he defeated Gukesh at the 2025 Grand Slam tournament. "He became very famous because he beat the world champion," Erdogmus smiles. "Ediz and I are trying to make chess more popular in Turkey. Chess in our country is not like how it's in India. We hope to do that."

Controlled aggression, the mantra for Priya Ghanghas in Asian Games

Avishek Roy

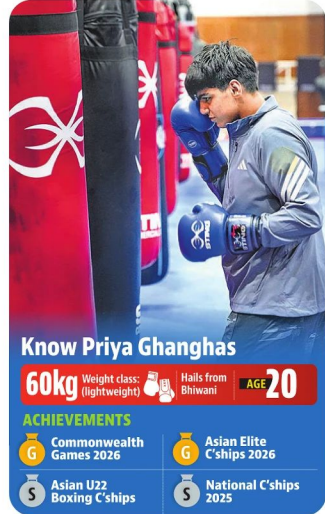
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NEW DELHI: "Ghus ke maar" (go in with your punches) is an instruction Indian boxing coaches often give their boxers during bouts. But when Priya Ghanghas is in the ring, it is quite the opposite. The coaches in her corner have to tell her to hold her fire, step back and fight from a distance.

Priya is perhaps the most hard-hitting and attacking boxer in the promising Indian women's line-up heading to the Asian Games in Japan. She packs power, aggression and a fighter's attitude into her game. Her close-range attacking style has been shaped by watching boxers from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. She is so hooked to their style that she watches videos of their bouts on a loop, to the point where their approach has become almost instinctive for her.

Once into a bout, Priya means business from the word go. She gets into her opponent's zone immediately and unleashes a barrage of punches. In just a year, she has made a swift rise to the top of Indian boxing. She now dominates the lightweight (60kg) category in India, having won a surprise gold at the Asian Championships by beating some of the toughest contenders, before returning gold at the CWG in Glasgow.

"This is my first Asian Games and I am only 20 years old, representing the country, so people have expectations from me. I also have a lot of expectations from myself, especially after winning gold at the Commonwealth Games. It has given me confidence," Priya told HT after training



Priya Ghanghas in action during a boxing match.

at A'S NIS Patiala centre.

"I love to attack. I have learnt a lot by watching Kazakh and Uzbek boxers. I love their attitude. The way they enter the ring, it looks as if they are fighters. I try to carry the same attitude in the ring. They

have good fitness levels and I have been working hard to improve. Watching them has taught me so much, even the way they come back and never give up during a bout," says the boxer from Bhiwani, a place that has produced

some of India's most exciting boxing talent. However, an all-out attack can be a double-edged sword against smarter opponents, as she found out in Glasgow. It can drain energy levels early. If an opponent has a good defence and Priya's punches do not land, she can get rattled, and the relentless attacking style can take a toll.

"I like to fight at close range, but my coaches tell me that I am better off fighting from long range. When I am boxing closer to my rival, I hit them but maybe also take a few punches. In the first round at the CWG, I was up against a shorter boxer from Scotland (Niamh Mitchell) and I went all out that round. The coaches then told me to fight from a distance. I followed it and beat her in the next two rounds." In the final against Marie Al Almehdi of Canada, Priya had to show restraint after losing the first round, but she made a stunning comeback to win the gold medal. She is still learning how to balance her aggression with good footwork and a disciplined game.

"You have to adapt in the ring. If the coaches are asking me to step back I follow the advice. I go there to win."

Know Priya Ghanghas

60kg Weight class: (lightweight)

Hails from Bhiwani

AGE 20

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Commonwealth Games 2026
- Asian Elite C'ships 2026
- Asian U22 Boxing C'ships
- National C'ships 2025

The competition at the Asian Games will be far tougher than at Glasgow, but Priya is bolstered by her success and the quality of opponents she has beaten at the Asian Championships, including former world champion Chengyu Yang of China and North Korea's Won Un Gyung. "I know it will be tough. I will have to beat Olympians and world champions from China, Kazakhstan, Chinese Taipei and I am prepared for the fight."