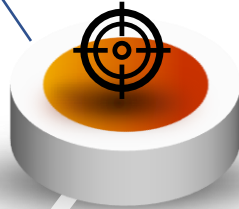


# Daily Current Affairs





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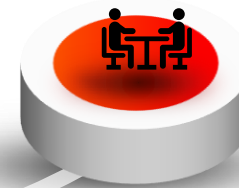


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“They say a person needs just three things to be truly happy in this world: someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for.”

— Tom Bodett





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## INSIDE



### Police drop cases from Hema committee report

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**  
The Kerala Police has decided to drop the cases that emerged from the Hema Committee's findings. The move follows the inability of probe team to gather evidence, compounded by the non-cooperation of survivors. » PAGE 3

### No contempt if Parliament makes laws: SC

**NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court has said any law made by Parliament or a State legislature cannot be held to contempt of court. A Bench comprising Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Sanjay Chandra Sharma made the observation while disposing of a 2012 contempt plea by ex-DU professor. » PAGE 4

### 'Overall outcome more important than the setbacks'

**MUMBAI**  
The outcome is far more important than temporary setbacks, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, said on Tuesday, adding that the armed forces will shortly share a rough assessment of losses incurred during Operation Sindoor. » PAGE 5

### India-US trade deal 'in not too distant future'

**NEW DELHI**  
A trade deal between India and the U.S. will materialise in the "not too distant future", said U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick on Monday, and that India would receive favourable tariff that would provide it advantage over the rest of the world. » PAGE 12

# Ladakh gets new policies on quota, domicile

Non-Ladakhis should have 15 years of continuous residence in the UT to be considered 'domiciles'

80% of govt. jobs likely to be reserved for STs; a third of hill council seats to be reserved for women

The official languages of the Union Territory will be English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, and Purgi

Vijaya Singh  
NEW DELHI

A mid demands by Ladakhi civil society groups seeking "constitutional safeguards" for the region, the Union government on Tuesday notified new policies on reservation, languages, domiciles, and the composition of hill councils for Ladakh, which became a Union Territory in 2019.

The notifications pave the way for 85% reservation for resident Ladakhis in government jobs. For other residents—including children of Central government officials—to be considered "domiciles", they will have to show 15 years of continuous residence from October 31, 2019, Ladakh's foundation day.

In a first, a third of the seats in hill councils have been reserved for women

on a rotational basis. The official languages of the UT will be English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, and Purgi.

President Droupadi Murmu notified the Union Territory of Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation, 2025, which amends the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 in Ladakh's context.

The new provision, substituting a section in the 2004 Act which capped the reservation at 50%, said, "The total percentage of reservation shall in no case exceed 85%, excluding reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)."

Total reservation for government jobs in the Union Territory now stands at 95%, one of the highest in the country. Meghalaya has 85% reservation for Scheduled Castes/Tribes, and Arunachal Pradesh has an 80% quota for STs.

The Rules governing the

## Policy progress

Key events in the ongoing negotiations regarding Ladakh from 2023 to 2025

- Jan. 3, 2023: Committee forms to address Ladakh concerns
- Nov. 30, 2023: Committee is reconstituted with new members
- March 4, 2024: Talks between govt. and Ladakh leaders
- Oct. 6, 2024: Activist Sonam Wangchuk begins fast

- Oct. 21, 2024: Govt. agrees to resume talks, fast ends
- Dec. 31, 2024: Committee meets with Leh and Skardu leaders
- Jan. 15, 2025: Follow-up meeting takes place in Delhi
- May 27, 2025: Domicile and reservation policy is hammered out



Major demands: Protests demanding Statehood for Ladakh have been continuing for the past few years. ANI

Leh Apex Body (LAB), who is also part of the high-powered committee which has been deliberating the constitutional safeguards with the government, said that they were studying the multiple notifications published on Tuesday.

"In a meeting on May 27, Home Ministry officials informed the members of LAB that at least 80% vacancies is reserved for

Scheduled Tribes (ST), 4% for people living along the Line of Actual Control/Line of Control, 1% for Scheduled Castes, and 10% for EWS. The Rules, as and when they are notified, will give a breakdown of the reserved categories. Our demand for Statehood for Ladakh, inclusion of Ladakh in the sixth schedule of the constitution thus giving it tribal status, job reservation for locals, and a Parli-

mentary seat each for Leh and Kargil.

Three other Regulations were also notified by President Murmu. The Ladakh Official Languages Regulation, 2025; The Ladakh Civil Services Decentralisation and Recruitment (Amendment) Regulation, 2025; and The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2025.

The decentralisation and recruitment Regulation is applicable to "all the Gazetted and non-Gazetted posts" in the Union Territory.

The Ladakh Official Languages Regulation, 2025 said that "English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti and Purgi" shall be the official languages, adding that "institutional mechanisms shall make efforts for the promotion and development of other native languages of Ladakh".

## Royal Challengers rule



Long wait ends! Virat Kohli, celebrating with Romario Shepherd, finally became part of a champion IPL team as Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Punjab Kings by six runs on Tuesday. PTI (DEPOSIT: SPORTS PAGE 16)

# Motion of impeachment against Justice Varma likely during Monsoon Session of Parliament

Nistula Hebbar  
NEW DELHI

The Union government will bring a motion of impeachment against Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court during the coming Monsoon Session of Parliament and has initiated the process of building an all-party consensus for this action.

**All-party consensus**  
Speaking to *The Hindu*, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said he had begun speaking to political parties

over the impeachment motion.

"I have started reaching out to political parties as this is a non-political issue and would be better for all parties to be on board for the same," he said.

Mr. Rijiju did not disclose the names of the leaders of parties he had contacted so far, but said these would be revealed in due course.

The impeachment motion against Justice Varma follows his indictment by a three-member committee constituted by the then Chief Justice of India Sanjay



Justice Yashwant Varma

cash in an outflow.

The committee submitted its report to Chief Justice Khanna on May 4.

While Justice Varma maintained his innocence over the recovery of the cash, the committee indicted him, Justice Varma, who was transferred to the Allahabad High Court during the controversy, was judged to resign but he refused, prompting Chief Justice Khanna to write to the President in New Delhi in March, when he was a judge at the Delhi High Court, had led to the discovery of unaccounted

mittee's report had recommended Justice Varma's removal and the Union Law Minister will move the motion based on the report.

For the motion of impeachment to be moved, the resolution requires the support of 50 MPs if it is to be moved in the Rajya Sabha and 100 MPs if moved in the Lok Sabha. The motion of impeachment can be moved in either House.

"The attempt of the government would be to make a widely bipartisan move," a senior government source said.

# Kamal skips apology for remark, halts release of *Thug Life* in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau

BANGALORE/CHENNAI

Actor Kamal Haasan on Tuesday chose not to release his movie *Thug Life* in Karnataka on June 5, instead of exercising an option given by the High Court of Karnataka to tender an apology for his controversial statement that "Kannada was born out of Tamil".

The court had pointed out that the then Governor General of India, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, himself had apologised in the 1950s for his statement that "Kannada was evolved from Tamil".

The decision not to release the movie in Karnataka for now and to engage in dialogue with the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC), which had demanded an apology from Mr. Haasan for his launch, while citing opposition from pro-Kannada organisations and the KFC for the screening of the movie.

Earlier, during the hearing on the motion during the hearing on a petition filed by the movie's co-producer, Raj Kamal Films International (RKFI), in a letter to the KFCC, Mr. Haasan said: "It pains me that my statement at the *Thug Life* audio launch—spoken out of genuine affection for the legendary Dr. Raj Kamal's family, especially Shiva Rajkumar—has been misunderstood and taken out of context."

"My words were intended only to convey that we are all one and from the same region," he said, adding that he "minish [the importance of] Kannada in anyway," he said.

The RKFI, in which Mr. Haasan is one of the directors, had moved the court seeking security and



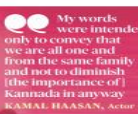
**The RKFI had moved the court seeking security and police protection for the smooth release of the movie on June 5 in Karnataka**

police protection for the smooth release of the movie on June 5 in Karnataka as part of a worldwide launch, while citing opposition from pro-Kannada organisations and the KFC for the screening of the movie.

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**My words were intended only to convey that we are all one and from the same family and not to diminish [the importance of] Kannada in anyway**

ill-intention when he made that statement on Kannada, the court asked then on what basis the actor had made the statement during the event at Chennai organised for releasing the movie's audio.

Stating that Mr. Haasan has come to the court seeking police protection for the circumstance created by himself and not created by the people of Karnataka, the court said the actor wanted the State police machinery to support him for the problem created by himself.

Stating that "one apology [by Mr. Haasan] would have solved everything", the court, from the averments in the petition, pointed out that the petitioner was before the court to protect its commercial

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# Ladakh gets new policies on quota, domicile

Non-Ladakhis should have 15 years of continuous residence in the UT to be considered 'domiciles'

80% of govt. jobs likely to be reserved for STs; a third of hill council seats to be reserved for women

The official languages of the Union Territory will be English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, and Purgi

**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI

Amid demands by Ladakhi civil society groups seeking "constitutional safeguards" for the region, the Union government on Tuesday notified new policies on reservation, languages, domiciles, and the composition of hill councils for Ladakh, which became a Union Territory in 2019.

The notifications pave the way for 85% reservation for resident Ladakhis in government jobs. For other residents—including children of Central government officials—to be considered "domiciles", they will have to show 15 years of continuous residence from October 31, 2019, Ladakh's foundation day.

In a first, a third of the seats in hill councils have been reserved for women

on a rotational basis. The official languages of the UT will be English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, and Purgi.

President Droupadi Murmu notified the Union Territory of Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation, 2025, which amends the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 in Ladakh's context.

The new proviso, substituting a section in the 2004 Act which capped the reservation at 50%, said, "The total percentage of reservation shall in no case exceed 85%, excluding reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)." Total reservation for government jobs in the Union Territory now stands at 95%, one of the highest in the country. Meghalaya has 85% reservation for Scheduled Castes/Tribes, and Arunachal Pradesh has an 80% quota for STs.

The Rules governing the

## Policy progress

Key events in the ongoing negotiations regarding Ladakh from 2023 to 2025

■ **Jan. 3, 2023:** Committee forms to address Ladakh concerns

■ **Nov. 30:** Committee is reconstituted with new members

■ **March 4, 2024:** Talks between govt. and Ladakh leaders collapse

■ **Oct. 6:** Activist Sonam Wangchuk begins fast

■ **Oct. 21:** Govt. agrees to resume talks, fast ends

■ **Dec. 3:** Committee meets with Leh and Kargil leaders

■ **Jan. 15, 2025:** Follow-up meeting takes place in Delhi

■ **May 27:** Domicile and reservation policy is hammered out



**Major demand:** Protests demanding Statehood for Ladakh have been continuing for the past few years. ANI

Regulation, which are yet to be notified, will specify the categories covered under reservation. Around 80% of Ladakh's population of 2.74 lakh is tribal, according to the 2011 Census.

**'Studying notifications'** Cherring Dorjay Lakruk, the president of the Ladakh Buddhist Association and co-convenor of the

Leh Apex Body (LAB), who is also part of the high-powered committee which has been deliberating the constitutional safeguards with the government, said that they were studying the multiple notifications published on Tuesday.

"In a meeting on May 27, Home Ministry officials informed the members of LAB that at least 80% vacancies is reserved for

Scheduled Tribes (ST), 4% for people living along the Line of Actual Control/Line of Control, 1% for Scheduled Castes, and 10% for EWS. The Rules, as and when they are notified, will give a breakdown of the reserved categories. Our demand for Statehood still continues," Mr. Lakruk said.

*The Hindu* reported first on May 27 that the Centre

was mulling a new domicile and reservation policy for Ladakh.

## Protests, shutdowns

After the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) under Article 370 of the Constitution was read down by the Parliament on August 5, 2019, civil society groups in Ladakh erupted in protests, demanding protection of their land, resources, and employment. The region, bordering China and Pakistan, witnessed shutdowns, amid fears of big businesses and conglomerates taking away land and jobs from the local people.

After initial jubilation, protests began in 2020 with four specific demands: Statehood for Ladakh, inclusion of Ladakh in the sixth schedule of the constitution thus giving it a tribal status, job reservation for locals, and a Parlia-

mentary seat each for Leh and Kargil.


Three other Regulations were also notified by President Murmu: The Ladakh Official Languages Regulation, 2025; The Ladakh Civil Services Decentralisation and Recruitment (Amendment) Regulation, 2025; and The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2025.

The decentralisation and recruitment Regulation is applicable to "all the Gazetted and non-Gazetted posts" in the Union Territory.

The Ladakh Official Languages Regulation, 2025 said that "English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti and Purgi" shall be the official languages, adding that "institutional mechanisms shall make efforts for the promotion and development of other native languages of Ladakh".



## 1. Reservation Reforms

- 85% reservation in **government jobs** for **resident Ladakhis**.
  - Excludes children of central government employees unless they've resided in Ladakh **continuously for 15 years** since October 31, 2019.
  - Cap of 95% total reservation (excluding EWS quota).
  - Among **highest in India**:
    - Meghalaya: 85% for SC/STs
    - Arunachal Pradesh: 80% for STs
- 

## **2. Domicile Norms**

- Non-Ladakhis need **15 years** of continuous residence to be considered domiciles.
- Establishes protection for locals in jobs and resources.

## **3. Hill Council Reforms**

- **One-third of seats** in hill councils to be **reserved for women**.
- Hill councils are decentralized elected bodies with administrative and development powers.

## **4. Language Policy**

- Official languages: **English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, and Purgi**
- Institutional promotion of native languages mentioned in Ladakh Official Languages Regulation, 2025.

## **5. Decentralisation & Recruitment**

- Regulations notified for both Gazetted and Non-Gazetted posts.
- Rules to be notified soon on job categories, criteria, and quota division (ST, SC, EWS, etc.).



## Historical



- Ladakh became a **Union Territory** on **October 31, 2019** after abrogation of **Article 370**.
- Civil society movements grew demanding protections similar to the **6th Schedule**.
- Continued protests over jobs, land ownership, and constitutional safeguards.

## Geographical

- Strategically located bordering **China and Pakistan**.
- Sparse population (~2.74 lakh), ~50% Scheduled Tribes.
- Harsh terrain and ecological fragility.

## Political

- Four major civil demands since 2020:
  1. Statehood for Ladakh
  2. Inclusion in **6th Schedule**
  3. Job reservation for locals
  4. Parliamentary representation for both Leh & Kargil

- 
- **Article 16(4):** Reservation in public employment
  - **Article 371 & 6th Schedule:** Special provisions for tribal and hill areas (demanded)
  - **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019:** Enabled Ladakh UT creation
  - **Jammu & Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004:** Modified for Ladakh context
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# Motion of impeachment against Justice Varma likely during Monsoon Session of Parliament

**Nistula Hebbar**

NEW DELHI

The Union government will bring a motion of impeachment against Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court during the coming Monsoon Session of Parliament and has initiated the process of building an all-party consensus for this action.

## **All-party consensus**

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju confirmed that he had begun speaking to political par-

ties over the impeachment motion.

“I have started reaching out to political parties as this is a non-political issue and would be better for all parties to be on board for the same,” he said.

Mr. Rijiju did not disclose the names of the leaders of parties he had contacted so far, but said these would be revealed in due course.

The impeachment motion against Justice Varma follows his indictment by a three-member committee constituted by the then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv



Justice Yashwant Varma

Khanna.

A fire at Justice Varma's residence in New Delhi in March, when he was a judge at the Delhi High Court, had led to the discovery of unaccounted

cash in an outhouse.

The committee submitted its report to Chief Justice Khanna on May 4.

While Justice Varma maintained his innocence over the recovery of the cash, the committee indicted him. Justice Varma, who was transferred to the Allahabad High Court during the controversy, was nudged to resign but he refused, prompting Chief Justice Khanna to write to the President and the Prime Minister to take measures for his removal.

Sources in the government said the inquiry com-

mittee's report had recommended Justice Varma's removal and the Union Law Minister will move the motion based on the report.

For the motion of impeachment to be moved, the resolution requires the support of 50 MPs if it is to be moved in the Rajya Sabha and 100 MPs if moved in the Lok Sabha. The motion of impeachment can be moved in either House. “The attempt of the government would be to make it a wholly bipartisan move,” a senior government source said.


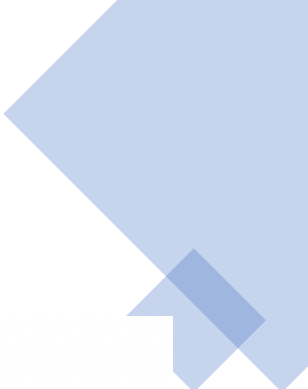


## 1. Background

- Justice Yashwant Varma (formerly of Delhi High Court, now with Allahabad High Court) was **indicted by a 3-member committee**.
- A **fire incident** at his Delhi residence in March led to the **discovery of unaccounted cash** in an outhouse.
- Despite being nudged to resign, Justice Varma **refused**, leading to further action.

## 2. Legal Procedure: Impeachment of a Judge

- Governed by **Article 124(4)** and **Article 217** of the Indian Constitution.
- Requires:
  - **50 MPs** in Rajya Sabha or **100 MPs** in Lok Sabha to initiate motion.
  - Investigation by a **3-member committee**.
  - Final removal only if passed by **both Houses with a 2/3 majority** (present and voting + total membership).
- Current phase: Committee report submitted on **May 4** to Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud (referred to earlier CJI Sanjiv Khanna).



Aspect	Impact
All-party consensus	Seeks to avoid perception of political vendetta
Judicial accountability	Reinforces process for internal checks within judiciary
Bipartisanship	Needed to reach 2/3rd majority in both Houses
Public perception	Could influence debates on judicial ethics, independence, and executive-judiciary relations





## Provision

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**Article 124(4)**

## Explanation

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Procedure for removal of Supreme Court judges; applies similarly to High Court judges under Article 217

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**Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**

Framework for inquiry, report, and removal process

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**Grounds**

Proven misbehavior or incapacity



## Historical Context

- Only one impeachment process (**Justice V. Ramaswami, 1993**) reached voting stage in Parliament.
  - Motion failed due to **lack of support** from ruling party, highlighting difficulty of process.
- 

## **!** Ethical & Administrative Implications

- **Judicial accountability vs. judicial independence:** A delicate constitutional balance.
- Importance of **internal transparency mechanisms** in judiciary.
- **Fire incident and recovery of cash** raise serious integrity concerns.

**IN BRIEF**



**Anvar to contest Nilambur byelection as Independent**

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday rejected the nomination filed by All India Trinamool Congress Kerala State convener P.V. Anvar for the June 10 Assembly byelection in Nilambur. The poll body rejected his nomination as the Trinamool candidate on technical grounds during scrutiny. But the commission has accepted his second set of nomination as an independent candidate.

**Anil Kumble accepts new role as forest, wildlife ambassador**

Former Indian cricket team captain Anil Kumble, who was recently appointed ambassador of the Karnataka Forest Department and for wildlife conservation, has said he will work with the department and for its development. Mr. Kumble called on Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Tuesday and thanked the State government for appointing him as the ambassador. He said his earlier experience of serving as vice-president of the Karnataka State Board for Wildlife would help him in his new role.

**₹1 crore worth drugs seized in Hyderabad, hunt on for leader**

A gang of seven, including a serving police constable, was busted during their attempt to smuggle high-value drug mixture of cocaine and ephedrine during a joint police operation. The accused were arrested in Kukarpally, Hyderabad and ₹20 grams of the contraband worth ₹1 crore was seized from them. A serving Armed Reserve Constable from Tirupati, identified as the mastermind, and another drug peddler are yet to be arrested.

**MSC Irina, billed as world's largest ship, calls at Vizhinjam**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

*MSC Irina*, known as the biggest container vessel in the world operated by a Swiss-based container shipping giant, Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), reached the outer anchorage of the Vizhinjam International Seaport on Tuesday evening. This is the first time *MSC Irina*, the lead ship of the *MSC Irina* class, a series of six identical ultra-large container vessels (ULCVs), is sailing into the coast of a south Asian port.

Berthing of the ship is expected on Saturday or Sunday, as six more vessels are in the queue to berth at the port before *MSC Irina*. The *Irina* class ships have a capacity of 24,346 TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units). The vessel could carry more than 24,300 standard 20-foot shipping containers stacked up to 22 decks.

*MSC Irina*, a massive ship measuring 399.99 m in length and 61.3 m in beam, is the third ship in the *Irina*-class to call at the port. Earlier, *MSC Turkipe* and *MSC Michel Goppe*, belonging to the same class, had called at the port here. The *MSC Irina* is expected to discharge around 4,000 containers movements here.

The port has handled a total of around 7.2 lakh TEUs containers after the trial run and subsequent operations began at the port. In the current financial year, it has managed to handle around 2.20 lakh TEUs containers, according to the port authorities.

**Police drop 21 Hema panel cases as survivors stay silent**

14 more cases also are likely to be dropped since authorities are unable to gather evidence; we have hit a legal and procedural dead end, says nodal officer; despite setback, 70 other cases are on

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Police have decided to drop the cases that emerged from the K. Hema Committee's findings on sexual exploitation and misogyny in the Malayalam film industry.

The move to file Further Action Dropped (FAD) reports in 25 criminal cases follows the inability of the special investigation team (SIT) to gather sufficient evidence, compounded by the non-cooperation of survivors. According to official sources, despite repeated summons by the SIT and court, the survivors declined to provide statements in connection with the cases.

G. Poonguzhali, Additional Inspector General of Police and nodal officer for



**Culture of silence:** According to official sources, survivors declined to provide statements despite repeated summons. PTI

the probe, said the FAD reports have been filed in 21 of these cases due to a complete lack of progress and the remaining 14 cases also are likely to be

**Dakshina Kannada to extern 36 persons**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MANGALURU

Legal process has been initiated to extern 36 persons from Dakshina Kannada, according to a release by the district police.

Of the listed persons, four are within the limits of the Bantwal Town police station, six within the limits of the Bantwal Rural police station, three within the limits of the Vitha police station, one within the limits of the Punaljittu police station, two within the

limits of the Bolthangady police station, six within Pattur rural limits, one with in Kadaba, six within the Uppinangady police station limits, and two persons each are within the jurisdiction of Bellare and Sulita stations.

The release provided only the names of the persons against whom the legal process for externment has been initiated, as well as the names of the police stations within whose limits they fall.

**Kerala, Centre agree on Sabari rail project**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After a protracted delay, the State and the Centre have decided to implement the Sabari rail project, which was conceived with a view of bringing Sabarimala temple on the country's railway map. The decision was taken at a meeting of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi on Tuesday.

It was decided at the

meeting that an expert committee will visit Kerala in July to bring the project back on track and to kick-start the land acquisition process, said V. Abdurahman, State Minister in charge of Railways, who was accompanied by the Chief Minister along with K.V. Thomas, State's special representative in New Delhi.

But it is not clear how the intended cost-sharing of the project, a bone of contention between the State and the Centre, will be sorted out.

**Madras HC upholds night ban on online real money gaming**

**Mohamed Imranullah S.**  
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Tuesday upheld the validity of a ban imposed by the Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority (TNOGA) on playing real money games (RMGs) between midnight and 5 a.m. It also refused to interfere with requirements such as mandatory Aadhaar verification for playing the RMGs.

A Division Bench of Justices S.M. Subramaniam and K. Rajasekar dismissed a batch of writ petitions filed by online gaming companies and others to declare as unconstitutional Section 5(2) read with 14(3) of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Act, 2022.

The petitioners had challenged the two legal provisions since they empower the TNOGA to impose restrictions such as time, monetary and age limits for playing RMGs. The court also urged the petitioners to declare null and void certain provisions of the TNOGA (RMG) Regulations, 2025.

The court also recorded the AG's submission that the night ban on RMGs had been imposed based on research findings that self-control would be much lower and the dopamine levels, linked to reward-seeking behaviour, would be much higher during night hours, thereby making real money gaming more addictive.

**Research findings** They agreed with Advocate-General (AG) P.S. Raman and TNOGA counsel B. Arvind Sivaswata that the question of repugnancy would not arise in the present case, since the State had not invoked any of the entries in List III (concurrent list) of subjects on which both Parliament as well as the State legislatures could enact laws.

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**Clinking gleam**



**Street style sparkle:** A street vendor arranging stock of colourful bangles at his shop in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. NIRMAL HARIDARAN

**IISc researchers develop artificial metal-based nanozyme that prevents excess blood clotting**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) have developed an artificial metal-based nanozyme that can potentially be used to clamp down on abnormal blood clotting caused by conditions like pulmonary thromboembolism (PTE).

According to IISc., under normal circumstances, when a blood vessel is injured, specialised blood cells called platelets get activated, and cluster together around the vessel to form protective blood clots.

This process, known as the blood clotting cascade



The research team synthesised redox active nanomaterials via controlled chemical reactions starting from small building blocks.

(haemostasis), involves a complex series of protein interactions triggered by signals from physiological agonists (chemicals), such as collagen and thrombin. However, when these

This triggers the formation of excess clots in the blood vessel, contributing to thrombosis, a major cause of morbidity and mortality.

To tackle this challenge, researchers led by G. Magesh, Professor in the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, have developed nanomaterials that mimic the activity of natural antioxidant enzymes, which scavenge reactive oxidative molecules. These nanosystems work by controlling ROS levels, thereby preventing the over-activation of platelets that leads to excess clot formation or thrombosis.

The team synthesised redox active nanomaterials

of different sizes, shapes, and morphologies via a series of controlled chemical reactions starting from small building blocks.

They then isolated platelets from human blood, activated them using physiological agonists, and tested how effectively the different nanozymes could prevent excess platelet aggregation.

The team found that spherical-shaped nanodiamond pentoxide (V2O5) nanosystems were the most efficient.

The team now plans to explore the efficacy of the nanozyme in preventing ischemic stroke, which is also caused by clogging of blood vessels.

**Kavitha plans protest over notices to KCR by Ghose panel today**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
HYDERABAD

Protesting against the notices issued to BRS president and former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu by the Justice P.C. Ghose Commission probing alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS), MLC and Telangana Jagruthi chief K. Kavitha will stage a mahila dharna at Dharmachowk, Indira Park, on Wednesday.

The dharna will witness participation from KCR followers and members of the Telangana Jagruthi, according to a statement. Irigation and agriculture experts will speak on the



K. Kavitha

benefits of the KLIS and expose the alleged 'vicious politics' by the ruling Congress party during the protest.

The Congress had charged the BRS of swindling ₹1 lakh crore in the name of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation project.

**Centre verifies preparedness for Jal Jeevan works in A.P.**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BHIMAVARAM

A central team-led by senior official Chinmay Pundarikar Gormare inspected the preparedness to complete ₹1,400 crore worth projects sanctioned under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in West Godavari district.

The team which visited the region on Monday inspected the water quality and other parameters at the source point. West Godavari Collector Chaddala Naganani said that the team inspected water grid at Dowleswararam barrage from where water is being sourced for drinking purpose to some parts of the West Godavari district.

**Kerala HC sets aside Waqf tribunal's order rejecting board's plea**

**The Hindu Bureau**

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Tuesday set aside an order of the Waqf Tribunal in Kozhikode rejecting the Kerala State Waqf Board's plea for excess platelets from the Waqf Board's order, North Karur in Ernakulam district, regarding the Muzamman land dispute cases.

The Bench led by Justice Amit Rawal directed the Waqf Board to file afresh the application filed by the Waqf Board. The board sought to call for the records on the

ground that they had a direct bearing on the pending proceedings relating to the Muzamman land before the tribunal.

**Allows petition** The court passed the directive while allowing a petition filed by the Waqf board challenging the tribunal's order.

The court observed that the manner and mode in which the Waqf Board's application was dismissed was not acceptable and sustainable in the eye of law as it did not reflect any arguments or discussions or pleadings or cross-pleadings.



# IISc researchers develop artificial metal-based nanozyme that prevents excess blood clotting

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) have developed an artificial metal-based nanozyme that can potentially be used to clamp down on abnormal blood clotting caused by conditions like pulmonary thromboembolism (PTE).

According to IISc., under normal circumstances, when a blood vessel is injured, specialised blood cells called platelets get activated, and cluster together around the vessel to form protective blood clots.

This process, known as the blood clotting cascade



The research team synthesised redox active nanomaterials via controlled chemical reactions starting from small building blocks.

(haemostasis), involves a complex series of protein interactions triggered by signals from physiological agonists (chemicals), such as collagen and thrombin.

However, when these

signals go haywire in conditions like PTE or diseases like COVID-19, oxidative stress and levels of toxic Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) increase, leading to over-activation of platelets.

This triggers the formation of excess clots in the blood vessel, contributing to thrombosis, a major cause of morbidity and mortality.

To tackle this challenge, researchers led by G. Mugesh, Professor in the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, have developed nanomaterials that mimic the activity of natural antioxidant enzymes, which scavenge reactive oxidative molecules. These nanozymes work by controlling ROS levels, thereby preventing the over-activation of platelets that leads to excess clot formation or thrombosis.

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of different sizes, shapes, and morphologies via a series of controlled chemical reactions starting from small building blocks.

They then isolated platelets from human blood, activated them using physiological agonists, and tested how effectively the different nanozymes could prevent excess platelet aggregation.

The team found that spherical-shaped vanadium pentoxide ( $V_2O_5$ ) nanozymes were the most efficient.

The team now plans to explore the efficacy of the nanozyme in preventing ischemic stroke, which is also caused by clogging of blood vessels.



## Scientific Development

- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, developed a **metal-based nanozyme**.
  - Purpose: To prevent **abnormal blood clotting** associated with conditions like **Pulmonary Thromboembolism (PTE)** and potentially **ischemic stroke**.
- 



## Biological Context

- **Normal blood clotting (hemostasis):**
  - Triggered when blood vessels are injured.
  - Platelets get activated, cluster at the injury site, and form **protective blood clots**.
  - Mediated by proteins like **collagen** and **thrombin**.
- **Disorders like PTE or COVID-19** cause:
  - Overproduction of **Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS)**.
  - Leads to **hyperactivation of platelets** → **excessive clotting** → increased risk of **thrombosis, morbidity, and mortality**.



## Nanozyme Innovation

- Led by **Prof. G. Mugesh**, Dept. of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry.
- Developed **redox-active nanomaterials** (nanozymes) to mimic **natural antioxidant enzymes**.
- These nanozymes:
  - Scavenge **ROS molecules**.
  - Prevent excess **platelet aggregation**.
  - Inhibit **unwanted clot formation** in blood vessels.
- **Most effective nanozyme: Spherical-shaped vanadium pentoxide (V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>).**



## IN BRIEF



## NCC to expand by 3 lakh cadets nationwide: Minister

Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth on Tuesday announced the planned expansion of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) by three lakh cadets across the country, with several states extending their concurrence and committing to fast-track the necessary training infrastructure. After inaugurating the Special Joint State Representatives and Additional/Deputy Directors General Conference of the NCC in Rhopal, Mr. Seth highlighted its role in nation building and youth development. Listing the initiatives, he lauded the NCC's involvement in campaigns such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Naya Savera Scheme, and Nisha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan.

## J&amp;K L-G sacks three govt. employees over 'terror links'

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday approved the termination of three government employees — Malik Ishfaq Nasser (police constable), Ajaz Ahmed (school teacher), and Waseem Ahmad Khan (junior assistant) — for alleged links with terrorist groups. The decision came after the Lt-G received a report from the Jammu and Kashmir Police regarding the alleged involvement of the three employees in providing logistics support to terrorists in J&K. Political leaders termed the decision as "unfortunate, inhuman and arbitrary".

## Government plans to wind down National Polio Surveillance Network centres in India

Ramya Kannan  
CHENNAI

The government has proposed to wind down, in phases, the World Health Organization (WHO)-established National Polio Surveillance Network (NPSN), currently a countrywide network of over 200 units. Experts in the field have commented that the move would be premature and ill-advised at this stage with India's neighbouring countries still harbouring cases of polio.

Staff at the NPSN centres have received a communication from the WHO's representative in India, Rodolfo H. Ofria, advising them of an upcoming transition initiated by the government. The transition involves a gradual drawdown of the NPSN units each year — from approximately 280



India was declared polio-free in 2014, after three years of no case caused by wild polio virus transmission. A surveillance unit in 2024-25 down to 190 in 2025-26, and further to 140 in 2026-27. This is also linked with a corresponding reduction in financial support from the government, according to the communication.

The process of transition will begin in June. "We are not disbanding teams overnight or winding down the network haphazardly; rather, specific units will phase out at set intervals as government systems ramp up and absorb these functions," Dr. Ofria said. This will help ensure that, at any given time, critical surveillance activities continue with minimal or no gaps.

While he assured the staff of the NPSN that this would help retain critical surveillance activities, at some point, polio surveillance would be subsumed within the Integrated Diseases Surveillance Programme.

But the proposed winding down of a key unit, at a time when global resurgence of polio has been reported, has not gone down well, with either staffers or public health experts.

A long-time campaigner for injectable polio vaccine (IPV), Dr. John suggests that India should first replace oral polio vaccine (OPV) with IPV. Dr. Ofria's letter also asked for existing staff, but the polio surveillance medical officers in the country under the Special Services Agreement, said it's not at all reassuring. "Each centre has at least four employees. Imagine the number of people who are now uncertain about their future," one doctor said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Jacob John, a prominent virologist and vaccine expert, who has been actively involved in polio eradication efforts, including as a

## 'Sulphur-cleaning device in coal plants not necessary'

92% of India's 600 coal plant units are yet to install FGDs; panel recommends exemption of 80% which are not near major population centres; panel says it will not adversely impact public health

Jacob Koshy  
NEW DELHI

A high-powered committee of experts, chaired by Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) Ajay Sood, has recommended that India do away with a decade-long policy of mandating equipment, called Flu Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) units, in all coal-fired thermal power plants (TPP), according to documents perused by *The Hindu*.

These FGD units are required to be retro-fitted in TPPs to cut harmful sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. While 92% of India's 600 TPPs have not yet installed FGD units, the recommendation would exempt about 80% of them from needing to install such equipment.

The limited number of vendors capable of installing such equipment in India, the high installation costs, the potential rise in electricity bills, and disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic have been some of the reasons historically cited by the Union Power Ministry, the overseer of India's TPPs, for the plants' inability to adhere



Changing horizons: Workers use heavy machinery to lift through coal at the Mundra Thermal Power Station in Gujarat. AP

to previous deadlines.

However, this was the first time that multiple arms of the government congregated to deliberate on whether FGDs were required in the first place. Their verdict draws on three reports by the CSIR-National Institute of Advanced Studies, and the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

The lead scientists of these three institutions each "supported" by different arms of the government — were at the meeting on April 23, along with representatives from the PSA, the Union Power Ministry, and the NITI Aayog. They were all largely unanimous that FGD

"was not necessary".

The guiding principles informing the committee's recommendation are that: SO<sub>2</sub> levels in ambient air across the country are around 10-20 micrograms per cubic metre, well below the WHO's air quality norms of 80; Indian ambient sulphur, SO<sub>2</sub> levels in cities near plants with operational FGD units do not differ significantly from those without these units, and all of these were anyway well below permissible levels.

Major population hubs. The committee, according to the minutes of the meeting seen by *The Hindu*, will "recommend" to the Power and Environment Minis-

ters that only power plants located within a 10-km radius of the National Capital Region and other cities with a million-plus population be required to install FGDs. These are called Category A plants. There are 66 such plants, and only 14 of them have installed FGDs. Currently, these plants are required to comply by 2027.

The key common point in these studies is that fitment of FGDs in all TPPs in India is not necessary to comply with the NAAQ (National Ambient Air Quality) standards whose compliance is essential to safeguard public health. While all TPPs must comply with the December 2015 stack emission standards for PM pollution and fresh water, the National Institute of Advanced Studies, SO<sub>2</sub> stack emission standards can be relaxed to ensure that they are in conformance with the NAAQ standards by sector officials and relayed to returning officers through phone calls, SMS or messaging apps. This information was aggregated every two hours and uploaded on the voter turnout app. The polling trends were updated with a delay of

## EC introduces new tech-driven system to update voter turnout

Sreeparna Chakrabarty  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday said it had introduced a new tech-driven system to provide faster, real-time updates on voter turnout, addressing concerns raised by Opposition parties about discrepancies in turnout data. The system will be implemented before the Bihar assembly election later this year.

Under this initiative, presiding officers at each polling station will enter turnout figures every two hours directly into the ECI-NET app on polling day to update the time lag in updating the approximate polling trends. This will be automatically aggregated at the constituency level.

This new process significantly reduces the time lag associated with the earlier manual reporting methods, the commission said.

Previously, voter turnout data were collected through section officers and relayed to returning officers through phone calls, SMS or messaging apps. This information was aggregated every two hours and uploaded on the voter turnout app. The polling trends were updated with a delay of



The system will go on stream before the Bihar polls.

four to five hours due to physical records arriving late at night or even the following day.

The approximate voting percentage trends will continue to be published every two hours as before, but notably, the turnout data will now be entered into ECI-NET by the presiding officers immediately after the close of polls and before they leave the polling station, which will reduce the delays and ensure that the approximate percentage of votes polled will be available on the updated Voter Turnout app constituency-wise after the close of polls subject to network connectivity.

Where mobile networks are unavailable, entries can be made offline and synced once connectivity is restored.

This updated Voter Turnout app will become an integral part of ECI-NET, it said.

## PM to flag off Vande Bharat train between Katra and Srinagar

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the first Vande Bharat train service to Kashmir on June 6, railway officials said on Tuesday.

While the earlier plan was to inaugurate the 222-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project on April 19, the programme was deferred owing to unattractive weather conditions. The Pahalgam attack led to further deferment.

Prior to the attack, Mr. Modi was set to travel to Srinagar for the inauguration. Now, he will flag off the train from Katra, Jammu side, officials said.

The Vande Bharat train journey from Katra to Srinagar will reduce the travel time to merely three

## The Kashmir version of Vande Bharat is equipped with climate-specific adaptations

hours. "Currently, the road route takes at least six to seven hours," railway officials said.

Railway services presently operational are between Baramulla-Srinagar and Srinagar-Katra in the Kashmir Valley.

The Kashmir version of Vande Bharat is equipped with climate-specific adaptations to provide advance heating systems in sub-zero temperatures.

The driver's front lookout glass is embedded with heating elements for journey and to ensure clear visibility during harsh winter.

## Next phase of Ram Temple's consecration begins in U.P.

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

A series of ceremonies to mark the second phase of consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya began on Tuesday.

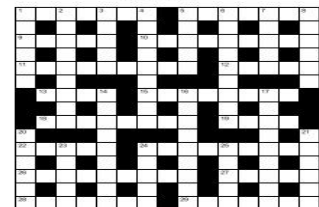
The events started with processions from the Saryu river and rituals for the *Pran Pratistha* of deities at the Ram Darbar on the temple's first floor and seven other temples within the complex.

Heavy security arrangements were made across the city for the three-day event, which will conclude on Thursday, on the occasion of Ganga Dasara.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is scheduled to attend key events. Devotees have been urged to avoid visiting due to heat and limited arrangements.

## THE CROSSWORD 14502

(Get by Anon)



- Across**
1. Fashionable to delve over supplement (7)
  2. Paint for each team mixed all over (7)
  3. Kissers embrace Frenchman who shuffles (5)
  4. Type of character whose class is to return (4,5)
  5. Distant reflection catches middle class rubber (9)
  6. Some relate on return thereafter (5)

To solve this puzzle online, visit <https://www.puzzlesonline.com>

or <https://puzzlesonline.com>

- Down**
1. Force to change flag (6)
  2. Growing bananas on land is hell (9)
  3. Place within - right in or right away (5)
  4. Ready to shut one's mouth (4,5)
  5. Often ordered to have some sense (5)
  6. Green film - one disheartened after restriction (9)
  7. Berman the loss of leader as one has got a huge bill (5)
  8. Uphold merging even half establishment (6)
  9. Cut out on detours (9)
  10. River crew take time and they short (9)
  11. What comes out seems regular with a country's support (9)
  12. Female is stubborn and against congress (6)
  13. Small pig drinking alien put-you-up, perhaps (6)
  14. Men to destroy and join (5)
  15. Fly over North London, get some energy (5)
  16. Hardware device filled with air within minutes (5)

## SUDOKU

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

Solution to previous puzzle

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

## FAITH

## Glory of the Vedas

The Vedas are considered the supreme. People revere the Vedas with the highest esteem. There is no work greater than the Vedas. All the scriptures, puranas and itihāsas are appendices of the Vedas, explaining the nuances of dharma.

Thirukkudandhai Dr. Venkatesh explained that the expedient term 'Veda' refers to that which reveals or informs (*vedayathi iti Veda*). What does the Veda reveal? It explains in detail the unique concepts that people cannot easily understand. It narrates about the spiritual doctrines which revolve mainly around five concepts: the Supreme Being, the nature of one's self, the ways and means of reaching the Supreme Being, the various obstacles that stand in the way, and the ultimate fruit of the efforts.

Seven important features add glory to the Vedas. The Vedas are the basis for Sanātana Dharma. They are not authored by anyone. They have no beginning. People cannot trace the origin of the Vedas. Vedas are indestructible. They are denoted by the term 'Nityam', which refers to imperishable. Vedas have no boundaries - 'Anantha Vaidika', which means Vedas have no end. They are the most reliable authority. Vedas dictate the dos and don'ts. The Vedas have been learned hereditarily through listening and recitation. The divine vibrating sound is called 'Sruti'. They are to be learned only through an Acharya. No one should attempt to learn the Vedas on their own without formal instruction from a Guru.

'Thirumozhi' by Nannazhwar is considered the essence of the Vedas, sung in a sweet melody, and it resonates with the music of a stringed instrument.

# EC introduces new tech-driven system to update voter turnout

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday said it had introduced a new tech-driven system to provide faster, real-time updates on voter turnout, addressing concerns raised by Opposition parties about discrepancies in turnout data. This system will be implemented before the Bihar Assembly election later this year.

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“This new process significantly reduces the time lag associated with the earlier manual reporting methods,” the commission said.

Previously, voter turnout data were collected manually by sector officers and relayed to returning officers through phone calls, SMS, or messaging apps. This information was aggregated every two hours and uploaded on the voter turnout app. The polling percentage trends were often updated with a delay of



The system will go on stream before the Bihar polls.

four to five hours due to physical records arriving late at night or even the following day.

The approximate voting percentage trends will continue to be published every two hours as before, but notably, the turnout data will now be entered into ECINET by the presiding officers immediately after the close of polls and before they leave the polling station, which will reduce the delays and ensure that the approximate percentage of votes polled will be available on the updated Voter Turnout app constituency-wise after the close of polls subject to network connectivity.

Where mobile networks are unavailable, entries can be made offline and synced once connectivity is restored.

This updated Voter Turnout app will become an integral part of ECINET, it said.



## ◆ Key Features of the New System

### 1. Real-time Turnout Updates

- Election Commission (EC) has launched a **tech-driven voter turnout system**.
- Aims to provide **faster and more accurate polling data** to address **discrepancies** raised by opposition parties.

### 2. Implementation Timeline

- To be **rolled out before the Bihar Assembly Elections** scheduled later this year.

### 3. Data Entry Protocol

- **Presiding officers** will enter turnout figures **every two hours** directly into the **ECINET app**.
- Earlier methods involved **manual data collection** via phone calls/SMS, causing delays of **4–5 hours**.

### 4. Aggregation

- Turnout figures will be **automatically aggregated** at the **constituency level**.



## 5. Post-Poll Uploads

- Final data to be uploaded on the **Voter Turnout App** immediately **after polls close**, before officials leave the booth.

## 6. Offline Support

- In **low/no network areas**, data can be entered offline and **synced later** when connectivity is restored.

## 7. Data Accuracy

- The system minimizes **manual error**, ensures **time-stamped data**, and curbs **mistrust and political disputes**.

## A ban, a split verdict, and a health concern

**R**apested-mustard oil (hereafter 'mustard oil') is the third-largest edible oil consumed in India. Two executive and judicial decisions on mustard oil — one from 2020 and another from 2024 — have major public health implications, but have hardly received the public attention and scrutiny they deserve. In the first decision, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) prohibited the manufacturing and sale of blended mustard oil in India, effective from June 8, 2020. As per Indian food safety laws, selling an edible oil mixed with another edible oil is permitted, provided the proportion of an oil blended with another oil is within 20%. Reports suggest that FSSAI's ban decision was aimed at preventing the adulteration of mustard oil and boosting domestic mustard crop output. In the second, the Supreme Court ruled on July 23, 2024, against approval granted by the Central government for the environmental release of India's indigenously developed genetically modified (GM) mustard named Dhara Mustard Hybrid-II (DMH-II). A major ground on which one of the two justices pronounced a judgment against DMH-II was the insufficient assessment of the impact on human health of DMH-II. A common policy goal behind these two decisions was to protect the health of Indian mustard oil consumers. However, a closer look at the facts shows that this goal cannot be fully pursued through these two decisions.

**Erucic acid** The mustard oil extracted from the Indian mustard crop contains high levels of a unique fatty acid called erucic acid (40% to 54% of total fatty acid). This is significantly higher than the internationally accepted level of <2%. Mustard oil containing high erucic acid is considered undesirable for human consumption, particularly in

**Shashu R. Nair**  
Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode. Views are personal

**Edible oil blending** Due to unfavourable climatic conditions, India has not succeeded in developing a high-yielding canola-quality mustard crop. Hence, the easiest way to reduce the high erucic acid content in mustard oil is to blend it with other edible oils. Several scientific studies have proved the adverse presence of erucic acid in blended mustard oil. Also, since blended mustard oil is rich in unsaturated fatty acid, consuming it lowers LDL cholesterol and increases HDL cholesterol. One primary concern with edible oil blending is adulteration with artificial flavours and poisonous substances. A nationwide survey by FSSAI in August 2020 found that 24.2% of the 4,461 edible oil samples collected did not meet the quality parameters criteria. A maximum number of adulteration and contamination was found in mustard oil.

The erucic acid-reducing property of DMH-II and the associated health and economic benefits need to be factored in while deciding on the approval of the GM mustard crop

advanced countries such as the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Lab experiments demonstrated that animals fed with high erucic acid-containing mustard oil suffered from heart diseases, retarded growth, premature tissue death, and adverse changes to the liver, kidney, skeletal muscle, and adrenal glands. Though there is no conclusive evidence of a similar health impact on humans, the stigma of the high erucic acid in mustard oil prevails in advanced economies. In those countries, the erucic acid content of mustard oil is strictly controlled by using canola oil for culinary purposes. Canola crop (oil), developed by Canada, contains less than 2% erucic acid content.

Due to unfavourable climatic conditions, India has not succeeded in developing a high-yielding canola-quality mustard crop. Hence, the easiest way to reduce the high erucic acid content in mustard oil is to blend it with other edible oils. Several scientific studies have proved the adverse presence of erucic acid in blended mustard oil. Also, since blended mustard oil is rich in unsaturated fatty acid, consuming it lowers LDL cholesterol and increases HDL cholesterol. One primary concern with edible oil blending is adulteration with artificial flavours and poisonous substances. A nationwide survey by FSSAI in August 2020 found that 24.2% of the 4,461 edible oil samples collected did not meet the quality parameters criteria. A maximum number of adulteration and contamination was found in mustard oil.

Instead of a ban, the sale of blended mustard oil can be allowed but in packaged/branded form with an explicit declaration that it contains erucic acid. The share of branded edible oil consumed in India is less than 30%. Strict implementation of the food safety and standards laws and strengthening bug-out food safety infrastructure are also

essential in preventing adulteration. Since health is a State subject, the food safety administration at the State level has to play a vital role in this regard. As per industry sources, the proportion of other oils blended with mustard oil in India ranges from 5% to 50%. Though this does not conform with the law, which allows blending up to 20%, it has the unintended positive consequence of reducing the erucic acid content. Hence, the sale of blended mustard oil should not be banned entirely.

**GM mustard** Alternatively, the erucic acid content in Indian mustard oil can be reduced by cultivating the indigenous GM mustard crop DMH-II, which, apart from higher yield, has a lower erucic acid content (30-35%) compared to the traditional Indian mustard crops (40-54%). As a result, the oil extracted from DMH-II requires a lower quantity of other edible oils for blending to reduce erucic acid content. This, in turn, helps to reduce the imports of other edible oils. India is the world's largest importer of edible oils. Its edible oil import bill is pegged at \$20.56 billion.

Therefore, the erucic acid-reducing property of DMH-II has to be factored in by all the stakeholders while deciding on the approval of the GM mustard crop. The development of the indigenous DMH-II with a lower erucic acid content is by no means a notable achievement by Indian genetic scientists. After years of research, Canada and Europe have successfully introduced low-erucic acid traits into their rapeseed/canola. Hence, plant breeding programmes aimed at reducing the erucic acid content in the mustard crop to an internationally accepted level of <2% should be given top priority in India's indigenous GM mustard crop development programmes.

## Putting her stamp on governance

Rekha Gupta has carved out a space for herself in Delhi, but challenges remain

## STATE OF PLAY

**Nikhil M. Babu**  
nikhil.mbabu@timesoia.com

**R**ekha Gupta, a first-time MLA, did not figure as a probable Chief Minister when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the Delhi Assembly elections after 26 years this February. But now, after more than 100 days in the hot seat, Ms. Gupta is gradually putting her stamp on governance in the capital city, and carving out a space for herself in a highly male-dominated party.

Ms. Gupta, who started her political career as a member of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad at the University of Delhi in 1992, holds 10 portfolios for about two and a half years, during his tenure from 2015 to 2024.

From the first day, she has been going on field visits to understand the ground reality. She also conducted separate review meetings of all departments, including Revenue and Finance. In comparison, former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal held only the Water portfolio for about two and a half years, during his tenure from 2015 to 2024.

From the first day, she has been going on field visits to understand the ground reality. She also conducted separate review meetings of all departments, including Revenue and Finance. In comparison, former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal held only the Water portfolio for about two and a half years, during his tenure from 2015 to 2024.

Ms. Gupta continues to live in her own house in Shalimar Bagh instead of moving to a government quarters in central Delhi. She holds public

Delhi

meetings (an average) during several mornings at home, and people with grievances line up outside.

Compared to the hostile relationship between the Central government, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Delhi government, led by the AAP, in the past, there is now a cordial relationship between the two. In March, Chief Minister Gupta announced an annual budget of ₹1 lakh crore for Delhi.

Delhi's history, as the Central government promised more financial aid. An official said that apart from increasing funds, the Centre has also been helping the Delhi government plan schemes. They have held meetings on clearing the Yamuna river, and the Ministry of Home Affairs has brought everyone to the table to find a solution.

Ms. Gupta has slowly become a stricter administrator, officials observed. Earlier this month, there was severe waterlogging in Delhi. During a meeting with the department heads of different agencies, she pulled up senior officials, an official recalled.

The official said that at the beginning of her tenure, Mr. Gupta often looked "vulnerable" during meetings. "But as she became more confident, she became more assertive," he said. The official added that she has little time to move around as she is often in the office. She has also been

petitors in a way."

An official said that while Mr. Kejriwal functioned mostly out of his camp office at G-1 Lines, Mr. Gupta comes to the Secretariat almost every day except on Sundays. The official also said that the functioning of the CMO has changed under Ms. Gupta. Files from ministers on policy decisions come to the CMO, and a brief is made and put up to the Chief Minister and also to the concerned Central government departments for technical assistance. "This is done by the deputy secretaries and joint secretaries at the CMO. Such coordination was not there under the AAP," the official said. Ms. Gupta is also conducting verification drives to check the beneficiaries of various schemes.

The Chief Minister also faces several challenges. Solving legacy problems such as urban infrastructural issues, air pollution, or a polluted Yamuna river is easier said than done. During her first 100 days, there have also been various protests. There has been growing outrage over the arbitrary fee hikes at private schools. Slum dwellers have said that they have not been provided in-situ rehabilitation, as promised. People have also complained bitterly about power cuts and the increase in electricity charges.

Being Chief Minister when there are other prominent faces in the party is also not easy. At times, there have been disagreements over who takes credit for the work done by different departments, sources said. However, with the BJP coming back to power in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi last month, the "double engine" government has given Ms. Gupta a chance to work on the issues that are a concern for the people of Delhi.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

## The New Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 4, 1975

## Namibia: India demands sanctions against S. Africa

New York, June 3: India's Permanent Representative at the U.N., Mr. Rishi Jaipal, has told the Security Council that "there is a clear case" for imposing mandatory measures under the Charter against South Africa for its refusal to quit Namibia.

Intervening in the Council's discussions on Namibia yesterday, he said the U.N. was fully justified to take these measures since all other steps had failed.

The mandatory measures envisaged by him, though not specifically stated at the Council meeting, included an arms embargo, economic sanctions and severance of diplomatic relations with South Africa by all member States. Although India is not a member of the Council, it asked for the floor to reaffirm its views on the Namibian question. India has supported the case of the Namibian people for self-determination and independence right from the start.

Mr. Jaipal said that the crux of the Namibian issue was the Security Council's resolution calling on South Africa to withdraw its illegal presence from the area and to transfer power to the people of Namibia "with the assistance of the U.N." But, he said, quite simply, the Pretoria Government "does not accept that the U.N. has any role in Namibia."

"We are thus in a quandary. The territory has attained the status of a state but the U.N. has no effective role concerning it or the future of its people. There is a conflict here between 'de jure' responsibility and 'de facto' authority."

## A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 4, 1925

## Origin of cricket

The stoolball: Stoolball gave us cricket, the earliest version of which was probably adapted from the assumed stool used for the parent game, but, as cricket developed, stoolball declined, and became almost extinct, except, according to Patten's Sports and Pastimes, in the north of England, says Major N.W. Fraser writing in an English contemporary. In 1977, however, Mr. Grantham revived it as a game for disabled officers and men, for whom cricket or football has too strenuous. It admirably fulfilled that purpose, and in doing so took on a wider popularity.

## Why international students matter to the U.S.

Stemming the flow of Indian and Chinese students will affect STEM research in U.S. universities

## DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

**T**he U.S. has paused scheduling of new visa interviews globally and expanded its vetting of accounts of foreign students on social media. This is the latest move in a series of intrusive measures carried out by the Donald Trump administration targeting international students and premier universities in the U.S. This decision comes days after the administration tried to force the University of Harvard from enrolling international students. Only a month ago, the government targeted several U.S. universities, accusing them of antisemitism. Earlier this year, the government also revoked thousands of international student visas with barely any notice. The administration claims that the move is part of wide-ranging efforts to limit immigration. Data indicate that it could have a significant impact on U.S. universities and the U.S. economy. The Open Doors International students' data show that the U.S. hosted an all-time high of more than 1.1 million international students in 2023-2024, a 6.6% increase from the previous year. Students from India and China together formed more than 50% of all international students U.S. last year (Chart D).

A Data Point article published last month found that the number of student visas issued to Indians by the U.S. dropped by 30% in February 2025, the first month of the second Trump administration, compared to the same month of the previous year. This decline was much higher than the overall decrease in student visas granted by the U.S. to all countries combined.

On May 28, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that the U.S. State Department will work with the Department of Homeland Security to aggressively revoke visas for Chinese students, including

those with "connections" to the Chinese Communist Party or studying in critical fields.

Data shows that international students from India and China are engaged in key science and research fields and contribute significantly to the U.S. economy. They also formed the highest share among international students who applied for Optional Practical Training Extension for STEM Students. This allows eligible F-1 international students to stay in the U.S. to gain additional work experience in the U.S. and work for an employer (Chart 2).

They also remained the top countries of origin of temporary visa holders earning U.S. research doctorates in science and engineering. In 2023, close to 6,000 temporary visa holders from China and 2,583 from India earned U.S. research doctorates in science and engineering (Chart 3).

They also formed a high share of foreign-born graduates working in science and engineering (S&E) fields and S&E-related fields in the U.S. In 2023, Indians formed the highest share, compared to other foreign-born graduates, across S&E and S&E-related occupations (Chart 4).

In general, international students form a key share among enrolments of master's and doctoral students in the fields of science, engineering and health (Chart 5). NAFSA's economic value analysis shows that international students brought in \$43.8 billion to the U.S. economy in 2023 through tuition fees, and spending on housing and living (Chart 6). Their estimates also show that international students helped create and support 143 jobs in the U.S. economy.

A research paper titled "Immigrant Entrepreneurs and U.S. Billion-dollar Companies" noted that 143 billion-dollar start-up companies in the U.S. have a founder who came to the U.S. first as an international student. Also, 174 international founders co-founded U.S. billion-dollar companies.

## Far from a liability

The data for the charts were sourced from Open Doors, NAFSA, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCES), and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement



Chart 1: Country-wise number of student in STEM OPT

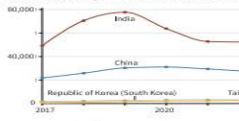


Chart 2: Country-wise number of student in STEM OPT



Chart 3: Country-wise number of student in STEM OPT

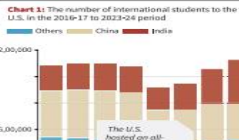
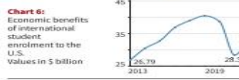


Chart 4: Country-wise number of student in STEM OPT

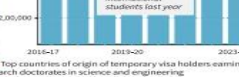


Chart 5: Country-wise number of student in STEM OPT

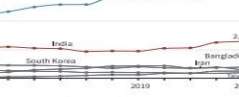


Chart 6: Country-wise number of student in STEM OPT

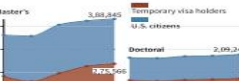
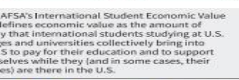
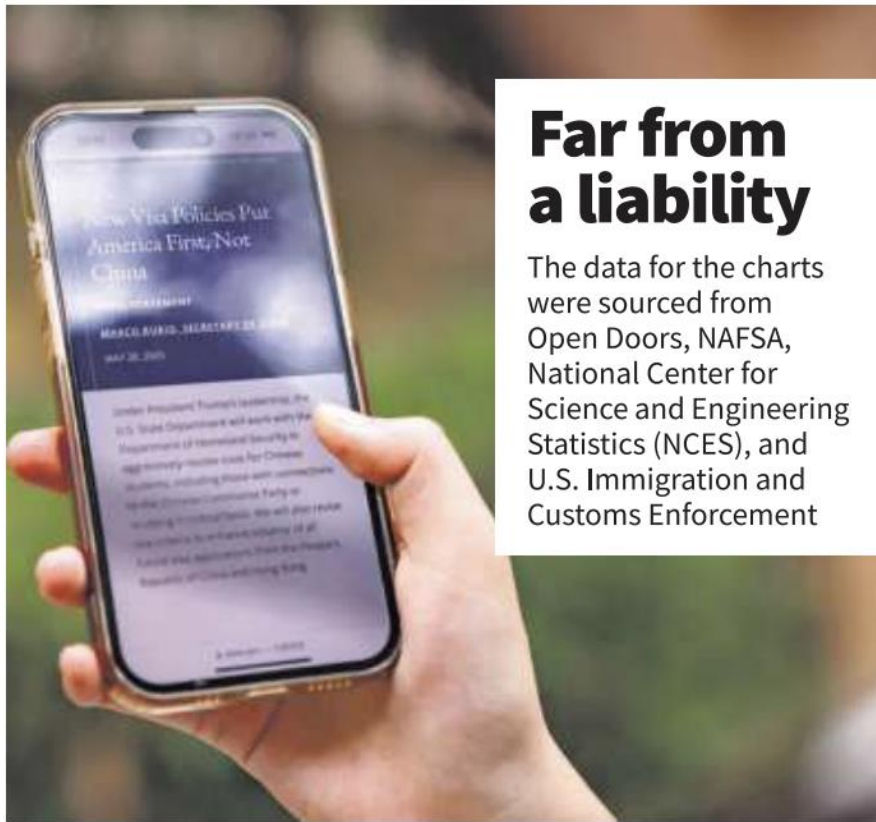


Chart 7: Country-wise number of student in STEM OPT



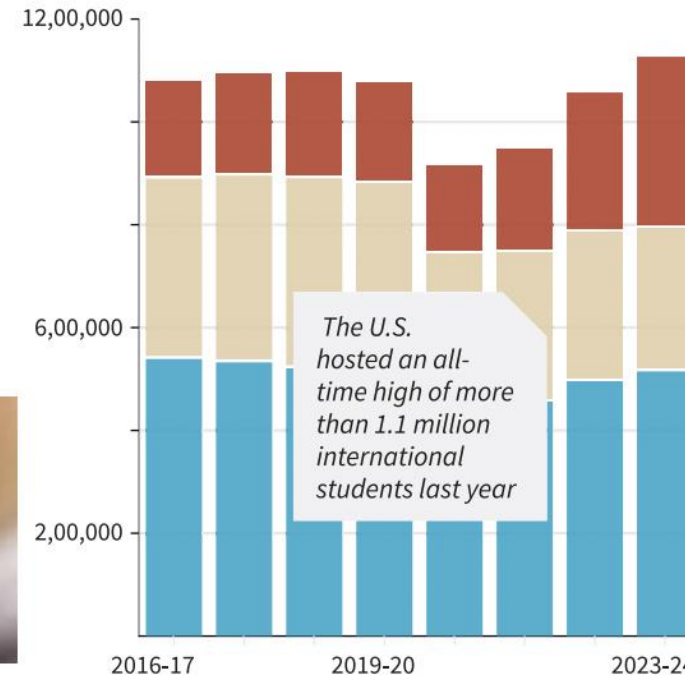


## Far from a liability

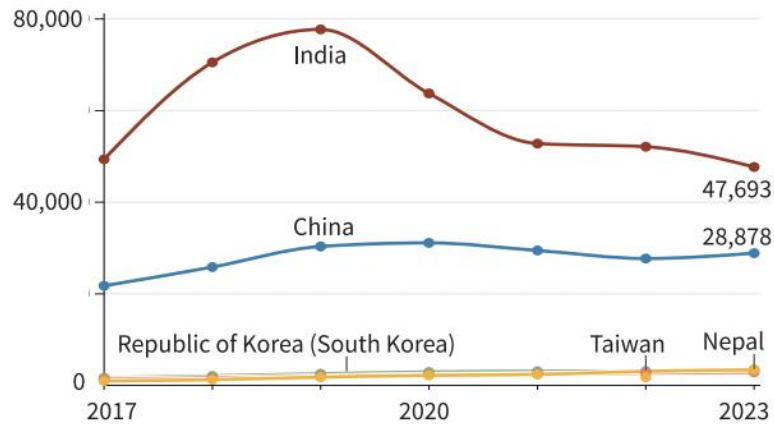
The data for the charts were sourced from Open Doors, NAfSA, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCES), and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

**Chart 1:** The number of international students to the U.S. in the 2016-17 to 2023-24 period

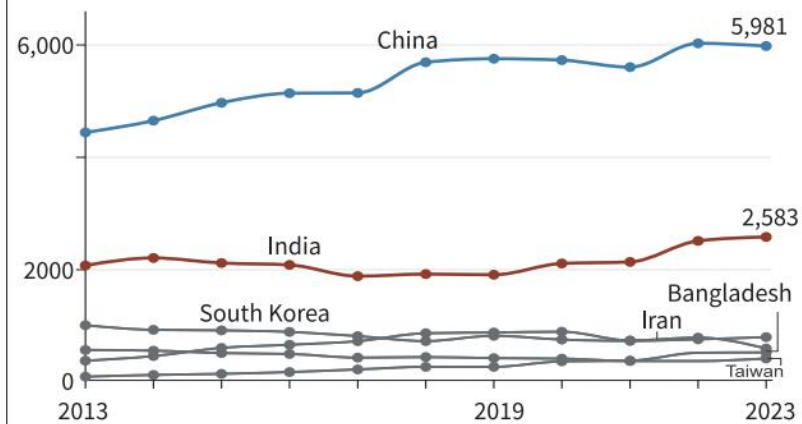
Others China India



**Chart 2:** Country-wise number of student exchange programme records with authorisations to participate in STEM OPT



**Chart 3:** Top countries of origin of temporary visa holders earning U.S. research doctorates in science and engineering

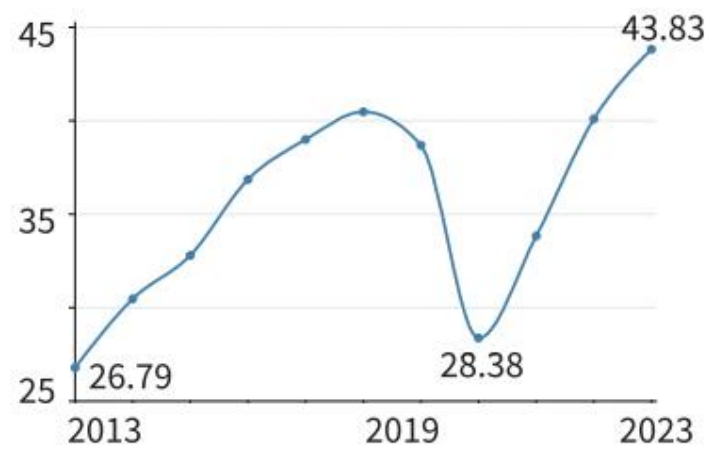




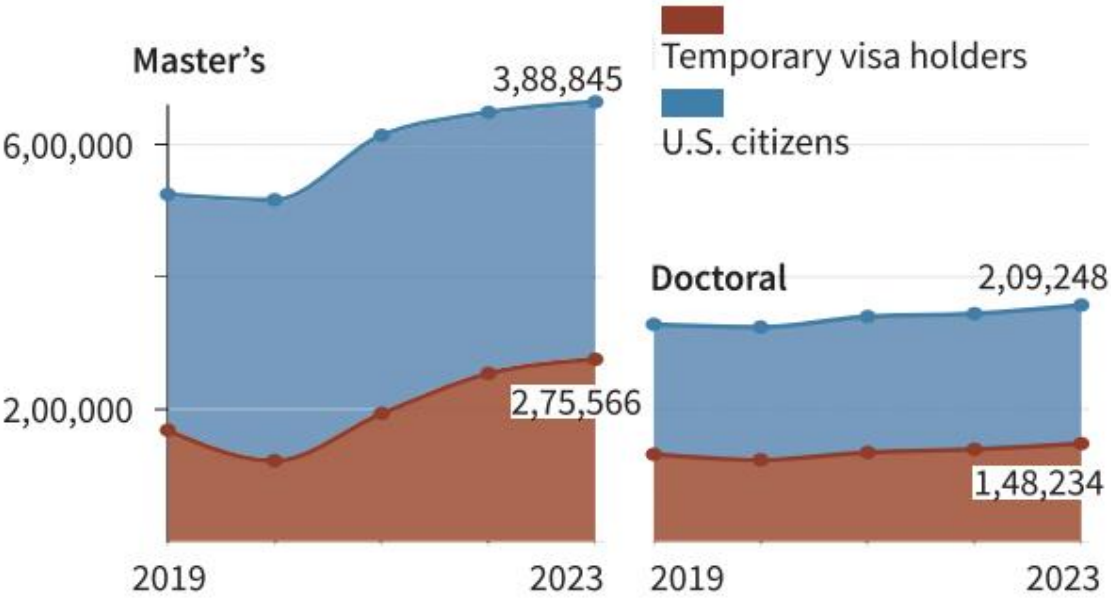
**Chart 4:** Employed foreign-born college graduates by broad field of occupation in 2023



**Chart 6:** Economic benefits of international student enrolment to the U.S.  
Values in \$ billion



**Chart 5:** Enrollment of master's and doctoral students in science, engineering, and health fields by citizenship



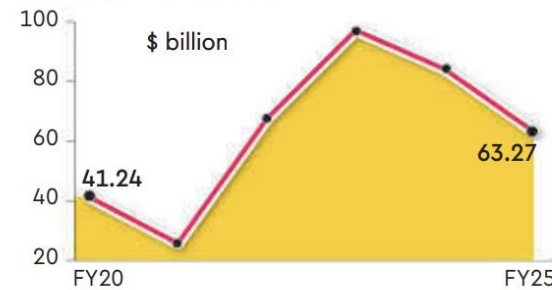
The NAFSA's International Student Economic Value Tool defines economic value as the amount of money that international students studying at U.S. colleges and universities collectively bring into the U.S to pay for their education and to support themselves while they (and in some cases, their families) are there in the U.S.

# Netherlands still largest destination for India's petrol product exports

**THE NETHERLANDS**, WHICH became India's largest destination for export of petroleum products in FY23, has consolidated that position since, reports **Saikat Neogi**. In FY25, the country in northwestern Europe, accounted for more than a fifth of India's shipments of these products, with the UAE coming in as a distant second with just 10% share. Of the total \$22.7 billion of India's

shipments to the Netherlands in FY25, the share of petroleum products was 58%. In fact, the Netherlands is also India's third largest goods export destination after the US and the UAE now. The country is a prime centre for storing petroleum products because of its port infrastructure and strategic location to ship these products to other European countries.

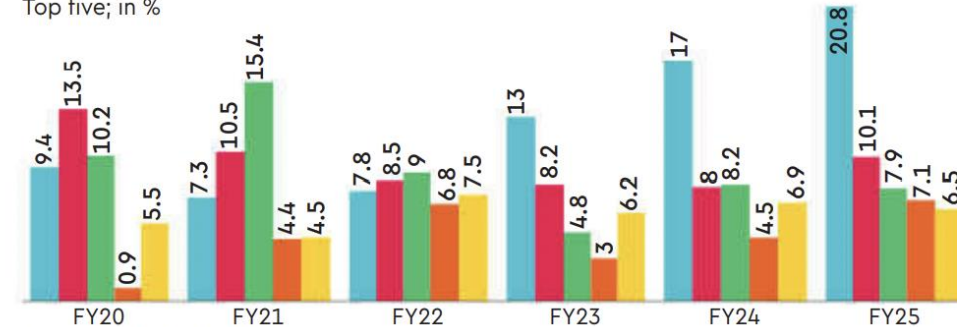
India's exports of petroleum products



Country-wise share of India's petroleum exports

■ Netherlands ■ UAE ■ Singapore ■ Australia ■ US

Top five; in %



Source: Economic Outlook

## 2025 Indian Premier League



<b>Dates</b>	22 March – 3 June 2025
<b>Administrator(s)</b>	<a href="#">Board of Control for Cricket in India</a>
<b>Cricket format</b>	<a href="#">Twenty20</a>
<b>Tournament format(s)</b>	<a href="#">Group stage</a> and <a href="#">playoffs</a>
<b>Champions</b>	<a href="#">Royal Challengers Bengaluru</a> (1st title)
<b>Runners-up</b>	<a href="#">Punjab Kings</a>
<b>Participants</b>	10
<b>Matches</b>	74
<b>Most valuable player</b>	<a href="#">Suryakumar Yadav</a> ( <a href="#">Mumbai Indians</a> )
<b>Most runs</b>	<a href="#">Sai Sudharsan</a> ( <a href="#">Gujarat Titans</a> ) (759)
<b>Most wickets</b>	<a href="#">Prasidh Krishna</a> ( <a href="#">Gujarat Titans</a> ) (25)



## How it shortens your lifespan

BMI	Classification	Years of life lost
30-35	Moderate obesity	■■■ 3
40-50	Severe obesity	■■■■■■■■■■ 10
Over 40	Morbid obesity	■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ 14

Source: Oxford research



**WHICH ONE IS HEALTHIER?**



**Nachos**

1 serving (30gm)

**Potato chips**

<b>140-150</b>	CALORIES	<b>150</b>
<b>2gm</b>	PROTEIN	<b>2gm</b>
<b>15-18gm</b>	CARBS	<b>15-18gm</b>
<b>1-2gm</b>	FIBRE	<b>1gm</b>
<b>8-10gm</b>	FAT	<b>8-10gm</b>
<b>150-180mg</b>	SODIUM	<b>150-180mg</b>

Both nachos and potato chips are deep fried and processed foods bought off the shelf. Both are calorie-dense and high on salt, and should be consumed in moderation. However, nachos have slightly more fibre and a low glycemic index. If taken with the right toppings (salsa, guacamole, jalapenos but not cheese), it could be a healthier option.

Source: **Ritika Samaddar**, chief clinical nutritionist, Max Healthcare

# Married woman can't accuse man of rape on promise of marriage: SC

**Dhananjay.Mahapatra**  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** SC has ruled that a married woman cannot accuse a man of rape on promise of marriage while her own marriage is still subsisting, and quashed a rape case filed by her against a man.

The case involved a Muslim woman, mother of a four-year-old, residing at her parents' home in Maharashtra's Satara. She developed a relationship with her 23-year-old neighbour, a BSc student.

In her police complaint alleging rape on the promise of marriage, she claimed that the man maintained a physical relationship with her from June 8, 2022, to July 8, 2023, assuring her repeatedly that he would marry her after her divorce. She obtained a 'khulana' (divorce) from her husband only on Dec 29, 2022.

After FIRs were lodged, the man approached HC for quashing the case, but failed. He moved SC, where a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Satish C Sharma found inconsistencies in the woman's narrative and conduct.

"The complainant alleged the appellant had physical relations with her without consent. However, she not only sustained the relationship for a year but also visited him at lodges on two occasions. Her conduct does not corroborate



her allegations," court said.

The bench highlighted that the woman was still married during part of the relationship. Writing the judgment, Justice Sharma noted, "Khulana was executed on Dec 29, 2022. It is inconceivable she entered a physical relationship with the appellant on promise of marriage while still married. Such a promise was illegal & unenforceable."

The court observed that the complaint seemed to have been filed after the man graduated, returned to his hometown Ahmednagar, and a visit by the woman led to a confrontation with his family.

Quashing the police cases, SC said, "No reasonable possibility exists that a married woman with a four-year-old child would be continuously deceived or maintain a prolonged association with someone who sexually assaulted her. A consensual relationship turning sour cannot invoke state's criminal machinery."

## SC trashes rape FIR, finds complainant's intent malicious

**Dhananjay.Mahapatra**  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Supreme Court has quashed rape charges against a man who had a consensual physical relationship with a 30-year-old woman but later backed out of marrying her after observing her "aggressive sexual behaviour, obsessive nature, and manipulative & vindictive tendencies."

Allowing the man's plea to quash FIRs lodged by Cyberabad police in 2022 on the woman's complaints of rape on the pretext of marriage, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said, "The facts on record clearly establish the vindictive and manipulative tendencies of the complainant and these aspects have a great bearing on the controversy."

Writing the judgment, Justice Mehta said allowing the man's prosecution would amount to a gross abuse of legal process. He noted that the complaints were "nothing but a bundle of lies full of fabricated and malicious unsubstan-

tiated allegations levelled by the complainant (woman)."

SC was also informed that the woman had filed a similar complaint in 2021 against a professor at Osmania University, where she was studying.

What proved crucial in the current case were the woman's social media chats, where she went by the name 'Muffin'. These chats revealed her intent and pattern. She admitted to being manipulative and expressed a desire to "get a green card holder."

"At one point, she stated it would not be difficult for her to trap the next one. In the same breath, she mentioned she would not waste time with accused appellant and needed to 'invest on the next victim'. She also said she would irritate her victims to the extent that they dump her, so she could happily start with the next one," the bench noted.

The court said the chats revealed a consistent pattern that supported the man's claim of being falsely implicated, and quashed the criminal proceedings against him.

## ◆ Supreme Court's Key Observations:

### 1. Marital Status is Material

- A woman **still legally married** cannot claim she was lured into sexual relations on a **false promise of marriage** by another man.

### 2. Invalid Consent Argument

- Consent obtained by a **married woman** based on the alleged **promise of marriage** by another man is **legally and morally untenable**.



### 3. Case Specifics

- The complainant: A Muslim woman, mother of four, initiated a relationship with a 23-year-old neighbor.
- She alleged that from **June to July 2023**, the man promised to marry her after she divorced her husband (khulanama on Dec 29, 2022).
- SC found she was **still married during the relationship**, making any promise of marriage **"illusory and unenforceable."**

### 4. Malicious Intent Identified

- Court found **manipulative conduct** from the complainant, including repeated false FIRs.
- She had filed a **similar complaint in 2021** against a professor in Osmania University.

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# Word of the day

## **Untenable:**

incapable of being defended or justified

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**Synonym:** indefensible

---

**Usage:** *Their reports have become untenable.*

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**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/untenablepro](http://newsth.live/untenablepro)

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**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /ʌn'tɛnəbəl/

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# SSC CGL



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Thank you  
guys.

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