



THE Hans India



'We made collective pledge to pour our entire hearts & souls'
After India won the Women's ODI World Cup trophy for the first time, right-handed batter Jemimah Rodrigues said the 52-run win in the final over South Africa was made on a shared promise by the hosts to give their everything on the field in their defence of 298/7. **P10**

The new criminal law is compelling disclosure of sources
All rules under the Data Act (DPDPA), including questions, apprehensions and queries revolving around pre-censorship that curbs freedom of press are taking one back in time to the dark days of Emergency. **P6**

Hyd leads hiring in education sector
India's white-collar job market in October 2025 showed notable strength in education, accounting and finance, BPO/ITES, and specialised tech roles despite a slowdown in recruitment during the Diwali-Dussehra holidays, a report by Naukri said on Monday. **P11**

Chiranjeevi's 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu' stylish climax shoot
Megastar Chiranjeevi's most-awaited wholesome entertainer, 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu,' directed by hit-machine Anil Ravipudi, also features Victory Venkatesh in a pivotal role. Venkatesh recently joined the team and received. **P12**

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Civic polls: SC grants state govt extension to issue final notification

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday granted the state government 15 days' time to issue the final notification for the delimitation of wards under all five municipal corporations of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) in connection with holding civic polls in Bengaluru.

The court has directed the Congress-led government to complete the delimitation exercise by November 15 and the process of ward reservation and other matters to be completed by December 15.

The Bench headed by Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and Joymala Bagchi passed the order. The petition in this regard has been submitted by Congress leader Shivaraju and others. Senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi has represented the state.

The state sought time with the court till December 15 for completing the process of delimitation and reservation and other matters. Earlier, the state had submitted that the election to Bengaluru civic authorities would be completed by November.

Singhvi submitted to the court that everything else is ready, but they just need 15 more days to finish compiling delayed caste survey data, after which both tasks will be completed together.

He further explained that the delay is due to the caste survey, where enumerators were late in submitting data, and compiling all this information is taking additional time. Although the deadline set by the judges is known to him, he is requesting 15 more days to complete the task for a valid reason. The court considering the submission stated, after reviewing the reasons given by the state government in its affidavit, the court believes that it is fair and reasonable in the interest of justice to allow the government 15 more days to finish the task. "Let the delimitation exercise be completed by 15th November and the ward reservation, etc. shall be completed by 15th December," the court stated. The BJP and JD(S) which have vehemently opposed the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have challenged the Congress-led government to hold civic polls of Bengaluru immediately. The civic polls in Bengaluru were last held in 2015.

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Monday said it needs to deal with digital arrest cases with an iron hand as it expressed shock over the scale of such cybercrime cases in the country, with over Rs 3000 crore allegedly extorted from victims, including senior citizens.

Digital arrest is a growing form of cybercrime in which fraudsters pose as law enforcement or court officials or personnel from government agencies to intimidate victims through audio and video calls. They hold the victims hostage and put pressure on them to pay money.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and

- We have to strengthen the hands of our agencies through judicial orders. We are determined to deal with these crimes with iron hands: Justices Kant, Ujjal and Joymalya

- CBI has pointed out that crime syndicates were being operated from offshore locations where they have "scam compounds" having financial, technical and human pillars

Joymalya Bagchi, which appointed an amicus curiae to assist the court in the matter, perused two sealed cover reports submitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Central Bureau of



Investigation.

"It is shocking that over Rs 3000 crore have been collected from the victims, including senior citizens, across the country. If we don't pass stringent and harsh orders, this problem will magnify.

"We have to strengthen

the hands of our agencies through judicial orders. We are determined to deal with these crimes with iron hands," the bench observed.

The top court posted the matter for hearing on November 10 and said that it will pass certain directions based on the suggestions

from the amicus.

Justice Kant said that the CBI has pointed out that crime syndicates were being operated from offshore locations where they have "scam compounds" having financial, technical and human pillars.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the CBI, said that the Ministry of Home Affairs's cybercrime division is dealing with these issues.

The apex court has taken cognisance of a letter written by an elderly woman from Haryana's Ambala to Chief Justice of India BR Gavai complaining that she and her husband were put under the so-called "digital arrest" on the basis of forged orders of the court and probe agencies

by fraudsters, who extorted Rs 1.05 crore from them in September.

The woman said the court orders were shown through multiple audio and video calls by people impersonating as CBI, ED and judicial officers to arrest them.

The top court was informed that two FIRs were lodged with the cyber crime department at Ambala under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhitya (BNS).

On October 27, the top court said it is inclined to entrust the CBI with the probe into digital arrest cases after taking into consideration the magnitude and pan-India spread of such crimes.

It had sought details of

FIRs registered in different states and Union territories.

The top court had said it would monitor the progress of the CBI investigation and issue whatever directions necessary to deal with these crimes.

It had asked the CBI to respond whether it needs more resources, including cyber experts who are not in the police force, to investigate digital arrest cases.

On October 17, taking note of the rising incidents of online fraud in the country, especially digital arrests to dupe citizens by fabricating judicial orders, the top court sought responses from the Centre and the CBI, saying such offences strike at the "very foundation" of public trust in the system.

New age criteria for pre-primary admissions from 2026: Govt

- The decision, aligned with the National Education Policy 2020, aims to bring uniformity in the early childhood education system across the capital

- The announcement initially caused concern among parents, who feared their children might have to repeat a class or face difficulties during school transfers

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government's Directorate of Education has announced a revised age limit for admissions to pre-primary classes-also known as Bal Vatika- in all government, private, and aided schools starting from the 2026-27 academic session. The decision, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aims to bring uniformity in the early childhood education system across the capital.

However, the announcement initially caused concern among parents, who feared their children might have to



repeat a class or face difficulties during school transfers. Addressing these apprehensions, the Directorate of Education clarified that the new age criteria will not apply to students already enrolled in the system.

According to Director of Education Vedita Reddy, children studying in nursery (Bal Vatika 1) in 2025-26 will progress to kindergarten (Bal Vatika 2) in 2026-27, while those currently in KG will move to Class 1 as per the usual process. "No child will be required to repeat a class because of the new rule," she said, adding that students transferring to another school will also not be affected by the change.

Under the NEP 2020 framework, children must complete three years of pre-primary education- Bal Vatika 1, 2, and 3 — before entering Grade 1. As per the new guidelines, the age for nursery or Bal Vatika 1 will be between three and four years, for lower KG or Bal Vatika 2 between four and five years, and for upper KG or Bal Vatika 3 between five and six years. Admission to Class 1 will require the child to be between six and seven years old.

The Directorate emphasized that the policy will be rolled out in a phased manner. In 2026-27, only nursery classes will follow the new 3-4 years age limit. Lower and upper

KG will be introduced in the 2027-28 session, and the 6+ age requirement for Class 1 will come into full effect by 2028-29. Schools have been directed to clearly communicate the changes to parents and to prepare a phased class structure and promotion list accordingly.

To ensure flexibility, the government has also allowed a one-month relaxation in the age limit. This means that principals may admit children who are slightly younger or older than the prescribed range — for instance, those aged 2 years and 11 months or 4 years and 1 month at the time of nursery admission. Additionally, students transferring from recognized schools with a valid School Leaving Certificate (SLC) and marksheets will be exempt from the new age rule, ensuring a smooth transition for all continuing learners.

The revised policy marks a significant step in aligning Delhi's school education system with the NEP 2020 framework, while ensuring that current students and parents face no disruption in the learning process.

PM: RJD had put pressure on UPA to stall projects in Bihar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SAHARSA

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday charged the RJD with having stalled development projects in Bihar by putting pressure on the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre to "avenge" its ouster from power in the state in 2005.

Modi also reiterated that the Congress grudgingly agreed to declare Tejashwi Yadav as the INDIA bloc's chief ministerial candidate, after the RJD placed a 'katta' or illegal country-made gun on its head.

"Now in the current elections, the Congress, which is already a spent force in Bihar, has vowed to make the RJD sink," he claimed.

Modi urged the people to punish the RJD for its "sins" and asserted "the NDA



stands for development while the jungle raj wallahs for destruction".

"The RJD was sharing power at the Centre when it was voted out of power in Bihar in 2005. Projects like the Kosi Mahasetu had been sanctioned by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. So enraged was the RJD by Nitish Kumar forming a new government in the state that it put pressure on Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi and stalled all such projects in Bihar," he alleged.

"The RJD can never understand the sufferings of the people of the Kosi re-

gion, which were alleviated through the construction of the bridge. We are also working on the interlinking of rivers. The NDA manifesto has also put forth a blueprint on flood control," he said.

Speaking in an area which has a substantial Muslim population, Modi charged the RJD-Congress combine with being soft on "infiltrators" and disdainful towards the Ram temple at Ayodhya and the Chhath festival.

"The leaders of the RJD and Congress take time off to visit all types of places abroad. But they do not get the time to visit Ayodhya. If they have so much dislike for Lord Ram, they can still go and see the monuments built in the memory of Nishad Raj and Valmiki," said the PM, in an apparent jibe at the INDIA bloc's pro-deprived caste stance.

People want clean air, not excuses: Rahul

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday raised concern over the worsening air quality in the national capital, saying with both the Centre and Delhi under BJP rule, people expect clean air instead of excuses.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said Delhi's air is becoming "increasingly poisonous", but the BJP govern-

ments keep changing their excuses.

"Year after year, Delhi's air is becoming increasingly poisonous, but BJP governments just keep changing their excuses. Now, both at the Centre and in Delhi, it's their own government in power. No excuses now, the public wants clean air," he said in his post.

Gandhi shared an over eight-minute video in which he is seen discussing the is-

sue of air pollution with an environmentalist near the India Gate complex here early in the morning.

Gandhi is heard saying in the video, "I have been having breathing issues and my eyes are burning. The last week has been terrible."

He remarked that while the damage caused by air pollution continues throughout the year, people tend to realise its effects only during this period.

India backing high-risk, high-impact R and D projects: Modi

Inaugurating the first-ever Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC), the annual flagship event involving policy-makers, innovators and global visionaries, Modi says his government has introduced significant reforms for a modern ecosystem of innovation to flourish in the country

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched a Rs 1 lakh crore fund to spur private sector investment in research and development and announced that his government was now supporting high-risk and high-impact projects, as India aims to emerge as a science and technology powerhouse.

Inaugurating the first-ever Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation

Conclave (ESTIC), the annual flagship event involving policy-makers, innovators and global visionaries, Modi said his government has introduced significant reforms for a modern ecosystem of innovation to flourish in the country.

The prime minister said the world was witnessing a new shift in the global order and the pace of change was exponential.

"In this time of the 21st century, there is a great need for experts from all over



the world to come together to brainstorm on emerging science, technology and innovation, and together they should show the direction," said Modi, giving the reasons for hosting the Conclave, which will be an annual feature.

At the Conclave, the prime minister also launched the Rs 1 lakh crore Research, Development and

Innovation Fund to spur private sector investment in the domain.

"This significant investment is aimed at benefiting the public and unlocking new avenues of opportunity. Our goal is to foster a culture of research and development within the private sector as well," he said.

India spends 0.6 per cent of its GDP on research and

development, which is below the global average. On this share, the private sector accounts for 36 per cent of the investments, as against countries such as China, South Korea and the US. In these countries, the private sector spending accounts for 75 per cent of the gross expenditure on research and development.

"For the first time, capital is being allocated specifically for high-risk, high-impact projects, ensuring support for ground-breaking endeavours," he said, adding the government was focusing on 'Ease of Doing Research' so that a modern ecosystem of innovation can flourish in India.

"To achieve this vision, our government has introduced significant reforms in financial regulations and

procurement policies. Additionally, we have streamlined incentives and supply chain frameworks to accelerate the transition of prototypes from the lab to the market," he said.

Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Nobel Laureate Sir Andre Geim and other dignitaries were present at the event.

Modi urged scientists to shift focus from food security to nutrition security and wondered whether India can develop next-generation biofortified crops to help combat malnutrition globally.

"Can innovations in low-cost soil health enhancers and bio-fertilisers serve

as alternatives to chemical inputs and improve soil health? Can India better map its genomic diversity to advance personalised medicine and disease prediction? Can new and affordable innovations be developed in clean energy storage, such as batteries," he said.

The prime minister stressed the importance of identifying critical inputs where India is dependent on the world and achieving self-reliance in those areas.

Modi said over the past decade, India's R&D expenditure has doubled, demonstrating a commitment to innovation.

"The number of registered patents has grown an impressive 17-fold. In the start up landscape, India has emerged as the third-largest ecosystem globally," he said.

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I think instead of spending all your time in here, you should go out and play some cricket