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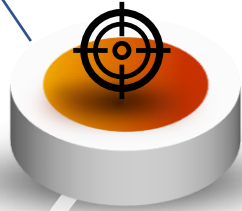


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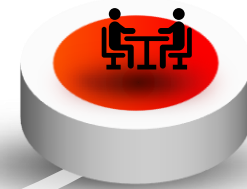
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HC grants temporary relief to Siddaramaiah

It orders lower court to defer proceedings till August 29 on complaints related to alleged irregularities in MUDA; the CM, in his petition, questions legality of the sanction granted by the Governor permitting investigation against him; advocate Singhvi, appearing for the CM, says the Governor's selective urgency in sanctioning probe reflected clear bias

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a temporary relief to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Karnataka High Court on Monday ordered a special court in Bengaluru to defer further proceedings on complaints related to alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) till August 29.

The special court shall not precipitate a complaint related to the sanctions granted by the Governor against Mr. Siddaramaiah till further orders, the High Court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on a petition filed by Mr. Siddaramaiah.

In his petition, the Chief Minister questioned the legality of the sanction grant-

ed by the Governor permitting investigation against him under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act and prosecution under Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

The High Court found it necessary to pass an interim order after it was pointed out that the Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs was scheduled to pass an order on Tuesday on whether to entertain one of the two complaints filed against Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot granted sanction on August 17 on the applications filed by two Bengaluru-based social activists Pradeep Kumar S.P. and T.J. Abraham, and Mysuru-based Sneha-



Caught in a controversy: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressing presspersons in Bengaluru on Monday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

mayi Krishna.

"If the concerned special court passes any order on August 20, it would undoubtedly frustrate the subject proceedings on the petition... Therefore, I deem it appropriate to direct the concerned special court to defer the proceedings and direct no precipitative action be taken pursuant to the sanction, till the next date of hearing,"

observed Justice Nagaprasanna in his order.

Earlier, appearing for Mr. Siddaramaiah, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi argued that the Governor's decision was arbitrary and suffered from non-application of mind as he did not provide any reason for not following or differing with the view of the State Cabinet, which had advised him to reject the

application seeking grant of sanction.

Mr. Siddaramaiah's petition said that the Governor had failed to consider the detailed and comprehensive response submitted by the Chief Secretary on July 27, and by the Cabinet, on August 1, which highlighted numerous factual and legal infirmities in Mr. Abraham's application.

Failure to notify CM

The Governor failed to even notify and inform Mr. Siddaramaiah about the applications filed by Mr. Krishna and Mr. Pradeep Kumar, and the petitioner was completely left in the dark about the two applications, the petition said while pointing out that the Governor had issued a show-cause notice only on the application filed by Mr. Abraham.

Claiming that the Governor acted in a tearing hurry, bypassing constitutional requirements and procedures to grant sanction against Mr. Siddaramaiah, Mr. Singhvi contended that the Governor's selective urgency in entertaining Mr. Abraham's application reflected clear bias as several other applications for grant of sanction, including those involving high-profile individuals like Janardhan Reddy, Shahikala Jolle and Basavaraj Bommai [all from the BJP], were pending before the Governor for a long period.

However, appearing for the Governor, Solicitor-General of India Tushar Mehta, in a brief submission, made it clear to the High Court that "no application is pending, as of today, on the table of the Go-

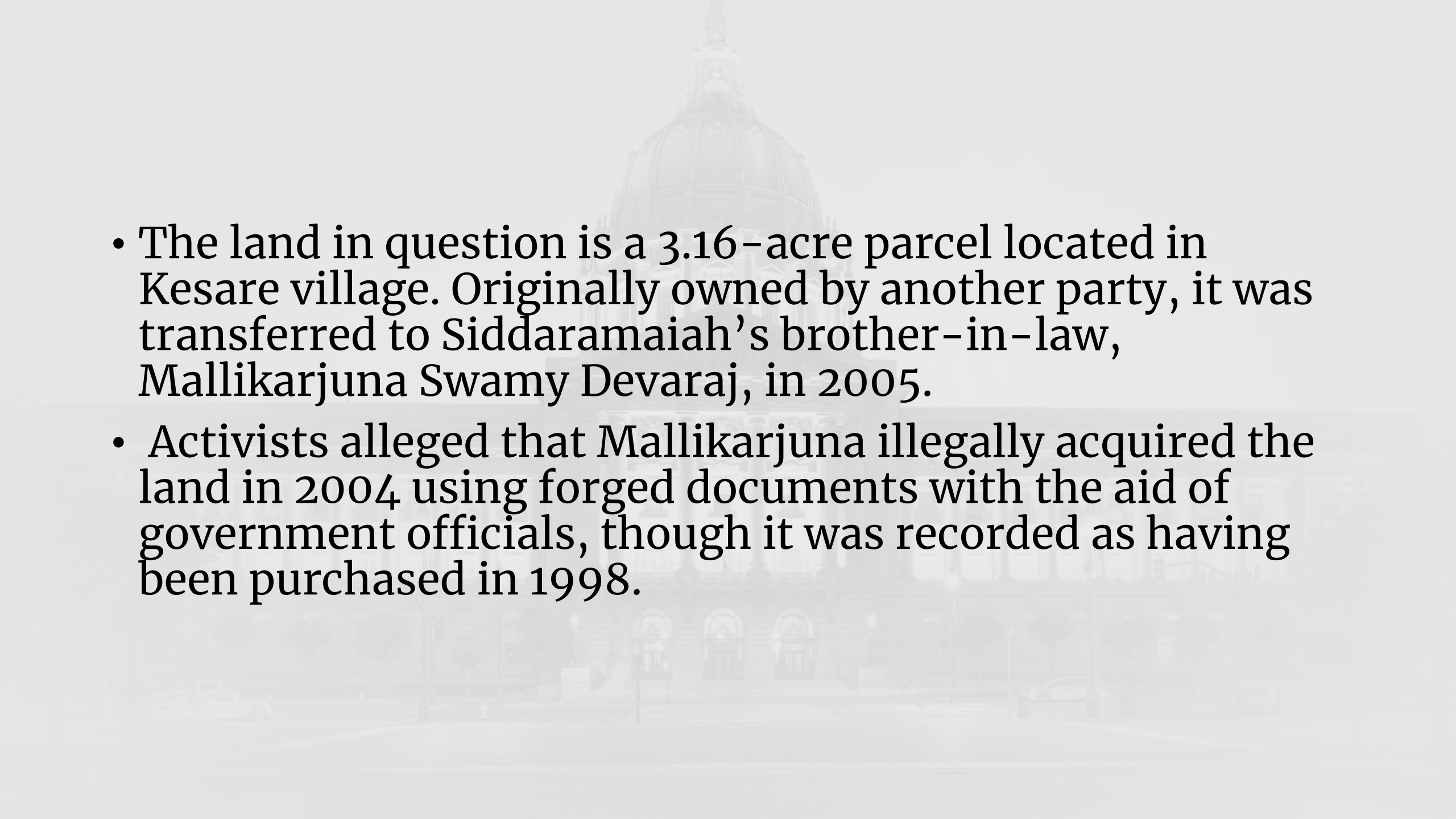
vernor, awaiting such sanction". Mr. Mehta also said the Governor only granted permission to investigate the offence and requested the court not to pass any order interdicting the grant of sanction to investigate or prosecute at this stage.


While contending that sanction under Section 17A of the PC Act can be given only to the police officer for investigation, Mr. Singhvi argued that the Governor ought not to have granted sanction based entirely on an application made by a private person with vested interests as no police officer has made any application for grant of sanction. Further hearing of the petition has been adjourned till August 29.

TO ABIDE OR NOT

» PAGE 8

- **What is the MUDA land scam?**
- Social activists have alleged that the allotment of 14 premium sites in Mysuru to Siddaramaiah's wife as compensation for acquired land was unlawful and resulted in a loss of Rs 45 crore to the state treasury.

- 
- The land in question is a 3.16-acre parcel located in Kesare village. Originally owned by another party, it was transferred to Siddaramaiah's brother-in-law, Mallikarjuna Swamy Devaraj, in 2005.
 - Activists alleged that Mallikarjuna illegally acquired the land in 2004 using forged documents with the aid of government officials, though it was recorded as having been purchased in 1998.


- 
- In 2014, during Siddaramaiah's tenure as chief minister of Karnataka, his wife Parvathi applied for compensation for this land under MUDA's 50:50 scheme, which provides 50 per cent developed land to those who lose undeveloped acquired land.

•






- **Karnataka High Court's Interim Relief:**

- The Karnataka High Court granted temporary relief to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah by directing a special court in Bengaluru to defer proceedings until August 29, 2024.
 - The proceedings are related to alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).
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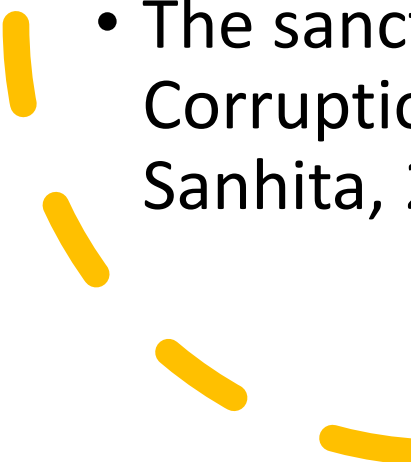


- **Governor's Sanction Questioned:**

- The special court was asked not to act on the complaints related to the sanctions granted by the Governor against Mr. Siddaramaiah.
 - The petition filed by Mr. Siddaramaiah challenges the legality of the sanction granted by the Governor, questioning the procedural correctness and alleging bias.
- 




- **Background of the Case:**

- The Governor of Karnataka, Thaawarchand Gehlot, granted sanction on August 17 based on applications filed by social activists Pradeep Kumar S.P. and T.J. Abraham, along with another petitioner Snehamayi Krishna.
 - The sanctions were granted under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.
- 




- **Arguments by the Chief Minister's Counsel:**

- Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Mr. Siddaramaiah, argued that the Governor's decision was arbitrary and suffered from non-application of mind.
 - Singhvi contended that the Governor failed to follow constitutional procedures and acted with selective urgency, reflecting clear bias.
- 





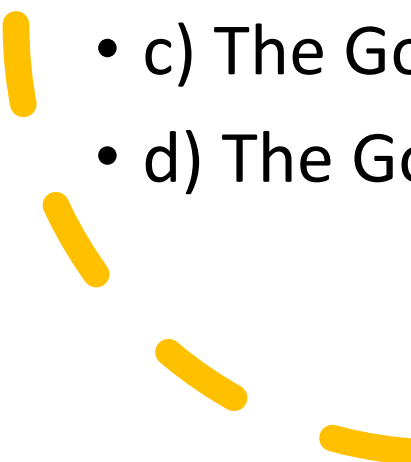
- **Governor's Defense:**

- Solicitor-General of India Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Governor, clarified that the Governor's sanction was only to investigate the offense, not to prosecute or pass any prejudicial order at this stage.
 - Mehta further noted that the Governor had not yet made any final decision regarding prosecution.
- 



- **Legal and Procedural Concerns:**

- The petition raised concerns about the Governor's failure to notify the Chief Minister about the applications for sanction and the subsequent decisions.
 - The petition also highlighted that other applications for sanction against high-profile individuals had been pending before the Governor for a long time without action
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- What was the primary legal concern raised by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in his petition against the Governor's sanction?
 - a) The Governor's decision was too lenient.
 - b) The Governor's sanction was granted without proper procedure and reflected bias.
 - c) The Governor did not provide enough funds for the investigation.
 - d) The Governor acted too slowly in granting the sanction.
- 

Union govt. rules out Central law for doctors' safety

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union government has ruled out the need to bring in a Central protection Act for a uniform framework across the country for protecting healthcare workers, stating that almost all States have laws in place to ensure their safety.

Considering the Kolkata rape and murder case and the continued agitation by doctors demanding a safe workplace, the Centre on Monday issued an order to increase security by 25% in all hospitals of the Union government. Deployment of marshals would also be increased depending on the need in hospitals.

Health Ministry officials said the deployment of marshals, besides the stan-

dard security protocol, would be approved based on demand from Union government hospitals after they assess security.

“Several States and Union Territories [total 26] have passed legislation to protect healthcare service personnel. These States include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu. In all these States, the offence is cognisable and non-bailable. Most State Acts define healthcare service personnel to include doctors, nurses, medical and nursing students, and paramedical staff. Also, they define violence as activities causing harm, injury, endangering life, intimidation, obstruction to the ability of a healthcare service person to discharge



Burning issue: Doctors stage a protest outside the Health Ministry in New Delhi on Monday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

duty and loss or damage to property in a healthcare institute,” said a senior Health Ministry official.

Common provisions

Speaking about the Kolkata case, the official said the nature of the crime was covered under other provisions of laws which were

common for all. “We have accepted all the demands of the doctors on strike and also a committee is being formed to strengthen security at workplace after extensive consultation with all stakeholders. We appeal to the doctors to come back to work and ensure that patients are not

put to further trouble,” said a Health Ministry official.

The Ministry is set to call for a meeting of all heads of Union government hospitals soon to take stock of security measures for their employees in light of the Kolkata incident. “Institutional FIR in case of violence, additional infrastructure security, including CCTV, and extra lighting are part of the advisory issued to hospitals to ensure that employees are safe while on duty. A Central Act is not needed when provisions already exist. Their proper implementation is the need of the hour,” added the official.

MORE REPORTS

» PAGE 4

A fear that's palpable

A recent survey by IMA reports that over 80% of doctors in India are stressed out in their profession

56 per cent of doctors do not get a comfortable 7-hour sleep most days of the week

13.7 per cent fear criminal prosecution most days of the week

82.7 per cent of doctors in India feel stressed out in their profession

46.3 per cent fear violence is the main cause of stress in many doctors

24.2 per cent doctors fear being sued

62.8 per cent of the doctors surveyed are unable to see their patients without any fear of violence

57.7 per cent have thought of hiring security in their premises



WELCOME MOVE

- New law scraps criminal proceedings against doctors in cases involving honest mistakes
- Doctors no longer face career-ending jail terms for unintentional errors

- This will allow doctors to focus on patient care without fear, says IMA, Nagpur
- Will also protect doctors from frivolous lawsuits
- Without criminal threats, doctors feel empowered to take risks and save lives



- **Union Government's Stance on Central Law for Doctors' Safety:**

- The Union government has decided against enacting a Central law for the protection of healthcare workers, stating that most States already have laws in place to ensure their safety.

- **State Laws and Safety Protocols:**

- A total of 26 States and Union Territories, including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu, have passed legislation to protect healthcare service personnel.
- These State laws make violence against healthcare workers a cognizable and non-bailable offense.
- The laws typically define violence as activities causing harm, injury, intimidation, or obstruction of healthcare personnel, including damage to property in healthcare facilities.

Increased Security Measures:

In response to the recent Kolkata incident (rape and murder case) and ongoing protests by doctors, the Centre has ordered a 25% increase in security at all Union government hospitals.

The deployment of marshals will be increased as needed, and additional security measures such as CCTV, extra lighting, and the enforcement of "Institutional FIR" in cases of violence have been advised.


Government's Position:


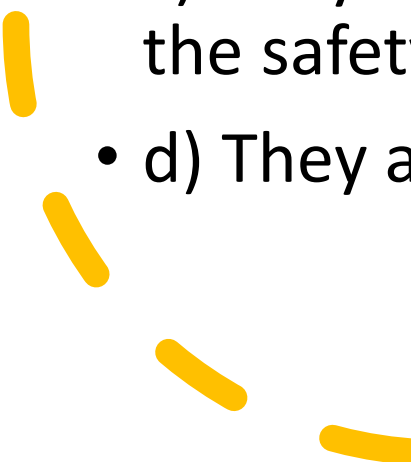
The Health Ministry emphasized that existing State laws are sufficient if properly implemented, and therefore, a Central Act is not necessary.

A committee will be formed to strengthen security measures after consultations with all stakeholders, and doctors have been urged to return to work to ensure that patients are not affected.



1. Response to Doctors' Protests:

1. The government has accepted the demands of the protesting doctors and has assured them that security measures will be enhanced.
 2. The Health Ministry plans to hold a meeting with the heads of Union government hospitals to review and ensure the safety of healthcare workers.
- 

- 
- What is the Union government's rationale for not enacting a Central law for the protection of healthcare workers?
 - a) They believe the issue is not significant enough.
 - b) They plan to create a different law for the issue.
 - c) They argue that most States already have sufficient laws to ensure the safety of healthcare workers.
 - d) They are waiting for a Supreme Court directive.
- 

Reforms panel mooted lateral entry only of specialists: Moly

As Opposition continues to criticise the recruitment plan, Congress leader who chaired the second Administrative Reforms Commission says its lateral-entry suggestion was not meant to bypass the usual government appointment process

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Former Union Law Minister M. Veerappa Moily on Monday acknowledged that the second Administrative Reforms Commission chaired by him in 2005 did recommend lateral entry into government service to perform specialised roles that were not "easily available within traditional civil services".



It was meant to be a value addition to the government's appointment process. We had suggested a very transparent process for lateral induction... M. VEERAPPA MOILY
Congress leader

"It [lateral entry] was meant to be a value addition to the government's appointment process. We had suggested a very transparent process for lateral induction," Mr. Moily told *The Hindu* over phone from Bengaluru.

"The lateral-entry suggestion was not meant to

bypass the usual government recruitment process or for any political reason. We didn't deal with the reservation aspect at all," the Congress leader said.

Mr. Moily's comment comes after the Narendra Modi government accused the Congress of "hypocrisy" following the allegation by Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, that a post was "openly snatching

away" reservations from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. The Union Public Service Commission on Saturday notified the recruitment of 45 specialists, including those from the private sector, as Joint Secretaries, Directors and Deputy Secretaries in government departments.

Continuing his criticism, Mr. Gandhi, in a post on X, said, "Lateral entry is

an attack on Dalits, OBCs and Adivasis. BJP's distorted version of Ram Rajya seeks to destroy the Constitution and snatch reservations from Bahujans."

In an X post, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge addressed the BJP's charge that lateral entry was introduced by the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government.

"We had brought lateral entry to appoint select specialists and experts in some sector-specific posts as per their utility. But the Modi government has made provision of lateral entry not to appoint experts in the government but to snatch the rights of Dalits, tribals and Backward Classes," he said.

Calling the lateral-entry policy "an attack on the

Constitution", Mr. Kharge said the BJP had eliminated lifting the ban on government employees from participating in RSS activities, lateral entry into civil services "the next step to fill higher administration with RSS men."

The Centre dismissed allegations made by Opposition parties that lateral entry and snatch reservations in public sector undertakings, instead of filling vacancies. He said central and contractual recruitment had increased by 91% and posts for Scheduled communities and Other Backward Classes decreased by 1.3 lakh by 2022-23.

The SC, ST, OBC, EWS posts will now be given to people of the RSS, he alleged. Communist Party of India general secretary D. Raja told *The Hindu* that after lifting the ban on government employees from participating in RSS activities, lateral entry into civil services "the next step to fill higher administration with RSS men."

Concept of lateral entry was developed during UPA rule, says Ashwini Vaishnaw

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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He says NDA govt. has created a transparent method to implement the recommendation

route, Montek Singh Ahluwalia was brought in and he served as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission (2004 to 2004)," he said.

Mr. Meghwal said there had been many such examples during the previous Congress rule. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power, the process was organised and such entries of experts in the relevant fields were being made on contract through the Union Public Service Commission.

Through a post on X late last week, Information & Broadcasting Minister Ash-

wini Vaishnaw accused the Congress of hypocrisy.

"It was the UPA government which developed the concept of lateral entry. The second Admin Reforms Commission was established in 2005 under UPA government," he said.

"The NDA government has created a transparent method to implement this recommendation. Recruitment will be done through UPSC in a transparent and fair manner. This reform will improve governance," he added.

He told presspersons that lateral-entry posts were three-year contractual jobs extendable by two more years, if necessary. They did not cut into the roster of any service and did not affect regular recruitments, and therefore the reservation system remained intact.

J&K polls: PDP releases list of constituencies in-charge

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Iltija Mufti, daughter of Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti, was among the eight party leaders nominated on Monday as in-charge of eight Assembly constituencies of south Kashmir.

The nomination has paved the way for Mufti to join the electoral fray for the first time as a candidate.

"It's an honour for me. People of Jammu and Kashmir have been facing a grind due to policies implemented by the Centre. If the party wants me to step up, I will," she said.

Wahed Rehman Parra, a youth president of the PDP who had been detained under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for 19 months in 2020, has been named as the in-charge of Pubsaba.

The other leaders include Abdul Rehman Veeri for Anantnag East, Sartaj Madani for Doodhgaon, Mehbooba Beg for Anantnag West, G.N. Lone Hanjura for Char-e-Sharief, Ghulam Mohiuddin Wani for Wachi and Rafiq Ahmad Naik for Tral.

NC manifesto promises restoration of J&K's Statehood, release of prisoners

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The J&K National Conference manifesto released on Monday, pledged to push for India-Pakistan dialogue on Kashmir, introduce laws to protect jobs and land, seek release of political prisoners and review the cases of employees terminated over the past five years.

NC vice-president Omar Abdullah said he was accompanied by party leaders, released the manifesto for the Assembly election.

Polling will be held in three phases on September 18, 25 and October 1. Election is being held after 10 years and follows the Centre's decision to end special status of J&K in 2019.

Mr. Abdullah said his party would continue the struggle to restore "Articles 370 and 35A." "We will continue to fight politically and follows the Centre's decision to end special status of J&K in 2019.

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Post premier: Omar Abdullah releasing the NC's manifesto along with other party leaders in Srinagar on Monday. IHSAN KHAN

the SC in favour of Article 370, who should we?" Mr. Abdullah said.

He reiterated the party's goal to introduce a resolution on restoration of Statehood and legal status of J&K and to express its dissatisfaction over revocation of J&K's special status in the Assembly.

"We are determined to have Statehood restored. The Government of India has already made this promise to the SC. If it does not restore Statehood within the year, we will pursue justice through the court. With Statehood restored, the Government of India will have the powers required to fulfil its recent decision," Mr. Abdullah said.

Pledging to "encourage

The party also promised to repeal the Public Safety Act (PSA), a law that deals with preventive detention. It called for dignified returns and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

The NC vowed to streamline and simplify police verification for jobs and passports, which has left many without passports. "Without reason, many employees have been terminated. We will redress, rectify, ensure fair and job security to government employees," the manifesto said. It promised to restore the old pension scheme.

The NC promised 12 free gas cylinders, 200 units of free electricity, free education up to university level, insurance cover for terminal illness and one lakh jobs for unemployed. It called for a revamp of the public distribution system, which will increase rice quota per person and to make kerosene and kerosene available at depots.

The manifesto is not just an election document. It is a blueprint for the next five years to bring about a paradigm shift, promises that are achievable," Mr. Abdullah said.

Other issues

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Incontrovertibly opposed to lateral entry, says Chirag

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The controversy over the Centre advertising to fill 45 posts at Joint Secretary and other levels via lateral entry became bigger on Monday with NDA partner and Union Minister Chirag Paswan opposing the move.

"Reservation provisions must be there in any government appointment. There are no reservations in this. No reservation exists in the private sector and if it is not implemented, government positions as well... The information came up before me on Sunday and it is a matter of concern for me," Mr. Paswan said.

He said that as a member of the cabinet, he has "has the platform to raise the issue and he would... He said that as a member of the cabinet, he has "has the platform to raise the issue and he would... He said that as a member of the cabinet, he has "has the platform to raise the issue and he would..."

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Cong. leaders hold talks on candidate selection

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday met members of the screening committees of poll-bound States such as Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Haryana, and Jammu and Kashmir.

The screening panels will shortlist potential party candidates, and the party's central election authority will decide on its nominees.

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said poll preparation and guidelines for candidate selection had been discussed.

Mr. Venugopal also said the feedback of the party's State units would be taken for State-level alliances. "Our main motive is to defeat the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party)," Mr. Venugopal added.

While the election schedules for J&K and Haryana have been announced by the Election Commission of India, the dates for the Jharkhand and Maharashtra elections are yet to be announced.

Supreme Court to pronounce judgment on the right to privacy of adolescents today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday is scheduled on Tuesday to pronounce a verdict on a suo motu case concerning the "right to privacy of adolescents" against the backdrop of sweeping remarks made by a Calcutta High Court judgment, advising adolescent girls to "control their sexual urges".

A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka had, taking cognisance of the observations in the High Court judgment in a POCSCO case, called them "highly objectionable and completely unwarranted" and an affront to the rights of dignity and privacy of adolescents.

Justice Oka had orally remarked that judges were



observed in its October 18, 2023 judgment that it was the "duty/obligation of every female adolescent to protect her right to integrity of her body, protect her dignity and self-worth," and "to take cognisance of the observations of the Calcutta High Court in POCSCO case... not expected to express personal views or preach" on the Bench.

The Calcutta High Court had also called for decriminalisation of consensual non-sexual acts involving adolescents above 16 years. A High Court Bench of Justices Chitta Ranjan Dash and Partha Sarathi Sen had

General S. Padmanabhan, who led the Army during Operation Parakram, passes away

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The former Chief of the Army Staff General S. Padmanabhan passed away at his residence here on Sunday. The funeral is scheduled for Tuesday.

General Padmanabhan, 83, who had been the Army chief between September 2000 and December 2002, is survived by his wife, daughter and son. The current Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Datta, and all ranks of the Army offered their tributes and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, a statement from the Army said. Known affectionately as Paddy among his peers, General Padmanabhan was behind a legacy marked by his commitment to the welfare of soldiers, modesty of the Army and

strategic vision, it said. General Padmanabhan led the Army during the crucial period of Operation Parakram.

Tamil Nadu Governor K.N. Raj said Padmanabhan was a "great leader" and a "dedicated officer" who served the nation with distinction. Health Minister M. K. Stalin said he was deeply saddened by the passing of General Padmanabhan. "His exemplary leadership and unwavering dedication to our nation's security will always be remembered. My heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time," Mr. Stalin said.

Lieutenant-General Karanbir Singh Brar, General of the Indian Military Academy, placed a wreath on

the mortal remains. General Padmanabhan was born in Thiruvananthapuram on December 5, 1940. He was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery after graduating from the Indian Military Academy on December 15, 1969.

He commanded an Independent Light Artillery Brigade and a Mountain Brigade.

Infantry Brigade He commanded an Infantry Brigade from December 1988 to February 1991 at Ranchi, Bihar and Punjab and was then appointed General Officer Commanding of an Infantry Division in Punjab from March 1991 to August 1992. He served as Chief of Staff, 3 Corps from September 1992 to June 1993. After his promotion as Lieutenant-General, he

was commander of the 15 Corps in the Kashmir valley. He served as instructor, Gunnery at the School of Artillery in Deccan, and he had been a Brigade Major of an infantry brigade on raising and served as the Colonel General Staff of a Mountain Division from January 1983 to May 1985. He commanded an Independent Light Artillery Brigade and a Mountain Brigade.

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General Padmanabhan led the Army during the crucial period of Operation Parakram.

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi paid floral tributes to the officer on Monday. Health Minister Ma. Subramanian paid floral tributes on behalf of the Tamil Nadu government.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said he was deeply saddened by the passing of General Padmanabhan. "His exemplary leadership and unwavering dedication to our nation's security will always be remembered. My heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time," Mr. Stalin said.

Lieutenant-General Karambir Singh Brar, General Officer Commanding in Chief, Dakshin Bharat Area, placed a wreath on



General S. Padmanabhan

the mortal remains.

General Padmanabhan was born in Thiruvananthapuram on December 5, 1940. He was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery after graduating from the Indian Military Academy on December 13, 1959.

He commanded an Independent Light Battery from August 1975 to July 1976 and later on commanded the Gazala Moun-

tain Regiment from September 1977 to March 1980.

He served as Instructor, Gunnery at the School of Artillery in Deolali, and he had been a Brigade Major of an infantry brigade on its raising and served as the Colonel General Staff of a Mountain Division from January 1983 to May 1985. He commanded an Independent Artillery Brigade and a Mountain Brigade.

Infantry Brigade

He commanded an Infantry Brigade from December 1988 to February 1991 at Ranchi, Bihar and Punjab and was then appointed General Officer Commanding of an Infantry Division in Punjab from March 1991 to August 1992. He served as Chief of Staff, 3 Corps from September 1992 to June 1993.

After his promotion as Lieutenant-General, he

was commander of the 15 Corps in the Kashmir valley from July 1993 to February 1995. It was during his tenure as the 15 Corps Commander that the Army made gains over the militants in Kashmir and could scale down its operations.

General Padmanabhan held the post of Director-General Military Intelligence after the culmination of which, he took over as the GOC of the Northern Command at Udhampur in September 1996. Before being appointed Chief of the Army Staff, he was the GOC of Southern Command. He retired on December 31, 2002, after more than 43 years of military service.

General Padmanabhan was an alumnus of the Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun, and the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla.

Both armies have roughly the same number of Corps facing each other. The key lies in the strike formations which are built around armoured divisions. India has three and Pakistan two.



Passing of General S. Padmanabhan:

General S. Padmanabhan, the former Chief of the Army Staff of India, passed away at his residence on Sunday at the age of 83.

His funeral is scheduled for Tuesday. He is survived by his wife, daughter, and son.

Tenure as Army Chief:

General Padmanabhan served as the Chief of the Army Staff from September 2000 to December 2002.

He led the Indian Army during Operation Parakram, a significant military mobilization following the 2001 Parliament attack.

- **Tributes and Condolences:**

- The current Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, along with other ranks of the Army, expressed their condolences to General Padmanabhan's family.
- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin paid floral tributes, with Mr. Stalin highlighting General Padmanabhan's leadership and dedication to national security.

- **Military Career Highlights:**

- General Padmanabhan was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery in 1959 after graduating from the Indian Military Academy.
- He commanded various brigades and divisions, including an Independent Light Battery, the Regiment of Artillery, an Independent Artillery Brigade, and a Mountain Brigade.
- He served as the 15 Corps Commander in Kashmir from 1993 to 1995, during which the Army made significant gains against militants.

A faded, grayscale image of the front of a military truck, showing the windshield, headlights, and grille. The truck is centered in the background.

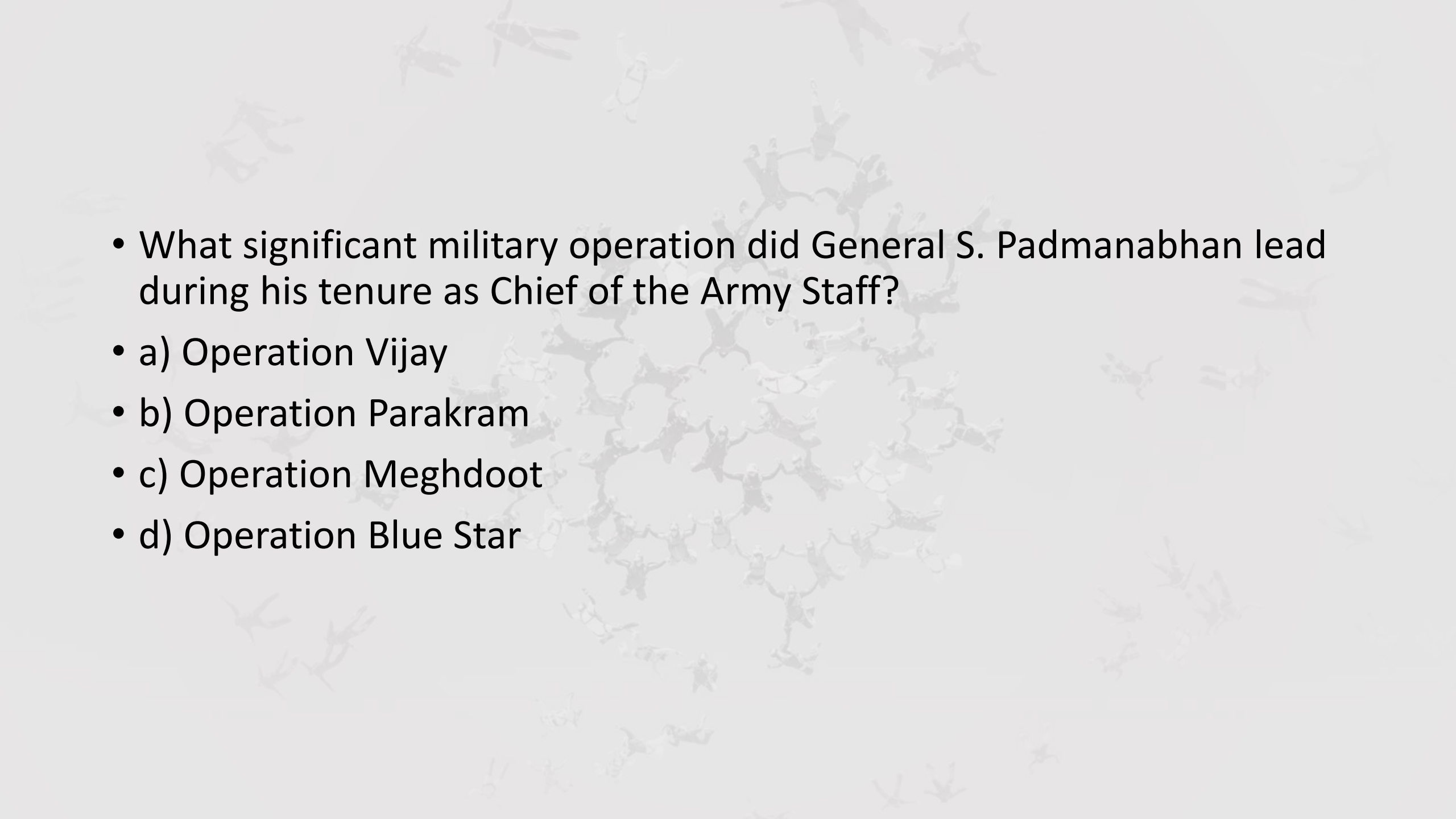
- **Positions Held:**

- He was the Director-General of Military Intelligence before becoming the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Northern Command at Udhampur in 1996.
- He retired on December 31, 2002, after more than 43 years of military service.



- **Personal Background:**

- General Padmanabhan was born on December 5, 1940, in Thiruvananthapuram.
- He was known for his strategic vision and his commitment to the welfare of soldiers and modernization of the Army.

- 
- What significant military operation did General S. Padmanabhan lead during his tenure as Chief of the Army Staff?
 - a) Operation Vijay
 - b) Operation Parakram
 - c) Operation Meghdoot
 - d) Operation Blue Star

INBRIEF



High Court seeks NIAs reply to Sachin Waze's petition

Former Mumbai Police officer Sachin Waze has moved the Bombay High Court seeking his immediate release in the Anitika bomb scare case. Appearing for Mr. Waze on Monday, senior advocates Akhshay Ponde and Rounak Naik submitted to the court that the invocation of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was not warranted in the case, as it was merely a case of hasty recovery. There was no "threat" or "terror" in the case and the UAPA was invoked in a gelatin and haphazard manner, the advocates said. A Division Bench of Justices Bharat Dange and Manjusha Deshpande directed the NIA to file its affidavit in response to Mr. Waze's petition. The matter will be heard on September 23.

India allows Nepal to export additional 251 MW of power

India has allowed Nepal to export an additional 251 MW of electricity to the country, marking the first time the Himalayan nation will supply power to Bihar under a medium-term sales agreement, an official statement said on Monday. "India's Designated Authority for Cross-Border Trade has approved an additional 251 MW of power exports from 12 hydropower projects in Nepal," the Indian Embassy in Nepal said in a statement. With this, Nepal would be exporting 941 MW of hydropower from 28 projects. Earlier, Nepal was exporting 690 MW of electricity from 16 projects, it added.

Clean Ganga mission head flags slow pace of projects

Jacob Koshy

The head of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), the Centre's marquee project to clean the Ganga and its tributaries, in a recent meeting, expressed concern over the tardiness of river-cleaning projects being executed in various States under the mission.

A variety of projects have been commissioned since 2015 as part of the Namami Gange mission, the costliest and the most critical in the development of sewage-management infrastructure. In all, nearly ₹37,550 crore has been sanctioned under various Namami Gange projects but only ₹18,033 crore has been spent as of June 2024, records show. Sewage infrastructure projects alone make up ₹15,039 crore of the total. "DG, NMCG (Rajeev Mit-

TISS issues order to ban student body, calls it 'illegal'

Maitri Porecha

The management of the Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) issued an office order on Monday instructing an immediate ban on the Progressive Students' Forum (PSF-TISS), calling it "unauthorised and illegal". PSF-TISS is a student body that in June had opposed an announcement from TISS discontinuing the services of nearly 100 teaching and non-teaching staff, a decision that was later reversed.

The office order issued by TISS Registrar Anil Star states, "This notice addresses a critical issue concerning the presence of an unauthorised and illegal forum on our campus, reportedly Progressive Students' Forum. This group has been engaging in activities that obstruct the Institute's functions, defame the Institute, demean members of our community, and create discord among students and faculty."

A faculty member, seeking anonymity, said, "The management is trying to create a narrative that PSF-TISS is a disturbance, and that it is actually very untrue. It is a false narrative."

Broadcasting Bill only after wider consultation: Minister

The hold on the draft Bill comes following criticism about its expansive provisions for online content creators, and the secretive way in which one of its versions was floated for consultation

The Hindu Bureau

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has put the Broadcasting Bill, 2023 on hold, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday, saying there would be a wider consultation with creators and other stakeholders.

"We are open-minded, very flexible, and want to make sure that whatever we do, we do after taking all the diverse views into consultation," Mr. Vaishnaw told presspersons, indicating that at the most, a new law for broadcasting, whether online or offline, will be readied only after a much larger consultation process.

"To give opportunities" - Mr. Vaishnaw said the Bill was being conceived for encouraging content creators and that it should not be construed otherwise. "Our intent is that this is giving more opportunities to express, share, and create intellectual property," Mr. Vaishnaw said. "That's the way we look at it. So if that is the thought process, we have



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Bill was being conceived for encouraging content creators. (PII)

to look at a much, much wider consultation process." If the consultation leads to a conclusion within the government that there is no need for a law, then one will not be proposed, a senior official added. The 2023 version of the Bill - the only one that has been in the public domain - has a deadline of October 31 for further comments, but a senior official source said that further consultations will be done, and that the Bill will not be introduced in Parliament this year.

The move to set the law aside comes as a significant development, following criticism from civil society on the potentially wide scope of the Bill, which would have added regulatory burdens to news content creators on sites such as YouTube, while also increasing compliance requirements on streaming platforms, which already have to adhere to the Telecommunication Act, 1985 and the Digital Media Ethics Code Rules, 2021.

The official said the Bill was partly intended to fill an anticipated regulatory gap after the Telegraph Act, 1885 was repealed and the Telecommunications Act, 2023 was passed. Ho-

Rules for data Act to be released in one month'

The rules for the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 will be released within one month, Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday. There will be a consultation period for the rules before they were officially notified, Mr. Vaishnaw said.

ever, as it turned out, the official said, the latter Act did not leave much regulatory gap, rendering the Broadcasting Bill that much less urgent to pursue.

The Bill had also drawn criticism for the way a small group of stakeholders had given confidential and individually watermarked copies of a sub-mandatory guideline and wanted not to circulate this version further. The Ministry last week withdrew that version, recalling copies from the stakeholders it had given them, and said that it would accept responses that come as the previous draft going forward.

Vigyan Puraskar to be distributed on August 22

Jacob Koshy

Backtracking from its plan to present the maiden Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar on August 23, which has been declared as National Space Day, the Union government has advanced the award distribution to August 22. The prizes are expected to be given by President Droupadi Murmu, as originally planned.

Earlier this month, the government announced the first set of Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, or national awards for scientists. This is also the first time that National Space Day, intended to mark the Chandrayaan-3 moon landing last year, is being celebrated.

The function as well as the award ceremony was scheduled at the Bharat Mandapam. However, for reasons that are not yet clear or made public, the National Space Day programme will proceed as scheduled at the venue with the President in attendance. "The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar will likely take place at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on the 22nd," an official told The Hindu. There has been no official communication about the change of venue and date.

Risk of large outbreak of mpox low in India for now, says official

Hindu Shalini Parappanath

The Union Health Ministry on Monday said the strain of monkeypox virus currently in circulation in the Republic of the Congo (DRC) and more than a dozen African countries is virulent and has a death rate of 3% as opposed to 0.1% from the less virulent strain.

"As per our assessment the chances of its spread into India from Africa are moderate. We are also not putting in any country-wide alert as there is no cause for alarm as of now. Hospitals and doctors, however, should be alerted that any patient coming in with symptoms must be reported immediately. India is also looking at large-scale testing provisions should the need arise," said a senior Health Ministry official on Monday, adding that there are no reported cases of mpox in India as of date.

He added that although the possibility of a few imported cases being detected in the coming weeks cannot be ruled out, it has been assessed that the risk of a large outbreak with sustained transmission is presently low for India. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern for the second time on August 14, warning that the viral disease could spread quickly to new countries. The announcement was made after an emergency committee of independent experts reviewed the rapidly rising number of infections in the DRC and the spread of the disease to new African nations.

Manipur govt. slams CM's 'doctored' audio clips

The Hindu Bureau

Hours after a news website reported a story about audio clips allegedly of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh admitting to complicity in the ethnic conflict being submitted as evidence to the Inquiry Commission constituted by the Centre, the Manipur government issued a statement doubling down on its claim that the clips were "doctored".

Responding to a news report, the government in a press release said, "The State government views such acts of spreading misinformation/disinformation through such doctored clips as anti-national activities..." "Further, anybody without proper sanction shall be prosecuted if found involved in spreading such doctored contents," it added.

Girish Sahni, former Director-General of CSIR, passes away

The Hindu Bureau

Former Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Girish Sahni, passed away on Monday at the age of 86. Multiple sources told The Hindu that he died of a heart attack.

"The CSIR in a post on X said it mourns the sudden loss". Dr. Sahni joined the Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), a CSIR laboratory in Chandigarh, in 1991. He became its Director in 2005, a position he held until he was appointed the CSIR Director-General in 2015. He continued to be associated with IMTECH, sources said.

Dr. Sahni was known for his research on the formation and alleviation of blood clots, and "clot buster" drugs. Among others, he developed clot-specific streptokinase, a drug whose licensing rights were sold to Novartis Pharmaceuticals in New Jersey, the U.S., in 2006 for \$5 million. He also led teams that developed the country's first indigenous clot-buster drug later marketed under the name "STPase" by Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd., and another drug, recombinant streptokinase, subsequently marketed under the name "Kloferase" by Lupin.

TH CROSSWORD 14258

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and a QR code for the solution.

- Across: 1. Excellent... not to urinate as much after drinking beer finally (8); 2. Having emptied cans, drunkards returned for supplies (16); 30. Bit of rash in spot giving itch (7); 31. Wants to fancy maniacs of the digits (3); 32. Really craving to obtain brand of spandex (5); 33. Want to cuddle - remove your clothes and suit (5).

SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with clues and a QR code for the solution.

- 17. Try drinking a peg of rum as variation in routine (6,2,4); 18. Try a fettle remedy initially to treat medical condition (5,7); 19. Aim to entertain one boy with good liturgical chant (9); 20. Pawn captured by a genius quickly (5); 21. Slight loss of fat tinily with pouffe hormone (7); 22. Rescue from trouble in time (4,3); 23. Starting to get drizzly and unclear (6); 27. Blue-eyed boy receives hundred on via relating to the chest (8); 28. Pimple is whitish, having endless discharge (6); 29. Show in Venice, fantastic (6); 30. Doctor hikes a lot eagerly (6,2,4); 31. Swift outside shelter, tripping on a drug, engaging in sex promiscuously (8,6); 32. Emcee maiden in favourite retro bar (5); 33. Cold clay in Agra - perhaps wear this (8); 34. Warns about keeping ecstasy and cocaine concealed (8); 35. Enigmatic nationalist in assembly, suitable to win polls essentially (14); 36. Purist's advice to shopper (9); 37. Huge group hosting dance party at launch (8); 38. Country's revolutionary plan to install atomic plants (8); 39. Spirit with nutty flavour, not strong (9); 40. Merry fellow, not very chaste (6); 42. New lecturer wearing that synthetic fabric (5).

FAITH

Human traits are God's gift

In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna explained to Arjuna through two verses and sloka 5 (Ahimsa samatha) how people are bestowed with different attributes. Valayappattai Namachariar said in a discourse that all the functions (either in action or inaction) are from Him alone. The various traits are: Buddhi - intelligence - the power of the mind to determine; Jnana - knowledge - the ability to differentiate between sentient and non-sentient; Asammatha - non-delusion - the capacity to perceive a thing as such instead of wrongly identifying it as something else; Kshama - patience - when provoked by others to become angry, restraining ourselves is called patience; Sarthyam - speaking about things as they are seen and speaking good to others; Damaha - restraint - controlling the faculties; Samaha - self-control - bringing the mind under control; Sukham - pleasure - experience of what is agreeable; Dukham - pain - experience of what is adverse; Bhava - exaltation; Abhava - depression - state of mind caused by adversities; Bhayanam - fear - perception to suffer in future; Abhayanam - fearlessness - no such feelings to suffer; Ahimsa - non-violence; Samaha - equanimity - treat both good and bad alike; Thusthat - cheerfulness - to feel pleased with everything seen; Tapa - austerity - not indulging in mundane pleasures; Dhaanam - beneficence - giving charity to others; Yozu - name an game; Ananyam - infamy. These traits are granted to people according to their past deeds (Karma) based on His volition. People who develop devotion to God are destined to obtain more good qualities.

Broadcasting Bill only after wider consultation: Minister

The hold on the draft Bill comes following criticism about its expansive provisions for online content creators, and the secretive way in which one of its versions was floated for consultation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has put the draft Broadcasting Bill, 2023 on hold, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw indicated here on Monday, saying there would be a wider consultation with creators and other stakeholders.

“We are open-minded, very flexible, and want to make sure that whatever we do, we do after taking all the diverse views into consultation,” Mr. Vaishnaw told presspersons, indicating that at the most, a new law for broadcasting – whether online or offline – will be readied only after a much larger consultation process.

‘To give opportunities’

Mr. Vaishnaw said the Bill was being conceived for encouraging content creators, and that it should not be construed otherwise. “Our intent is that this is giving more opportunities to express, share, and create new intellectual property,” Mr. Vaishnaw said. “That’s the way we look at it. So if that’s the thought process, we have



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Bill was being conceived for encouraging content creators. PTI

to look at a much, much wider consultation process.”

If the consultation leads to a conclusion within the government that there is no need for a law, then one will not be proposed, a senior official added. The 2023 version of the Bill – the only one that is currently in the public domain – has a deadline of October 15 for further comments, but a senior official source said that further consultations will be done, and that the Bill will not be introduced in Parliament this year.

The move to set the law aside comes as a significant development, following

criticism from civil society on the potentially wide scope of the Bill, which would have added regulatory burdens to news content creators on sites such as YouTube, while also increasing compliance requirements on streaming platforms, which already have to self-regulate in accordance with the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The official said the Bill was partly intended to fill an anticipated regulatory gap after the Telegraph Act, 1885 was repealed and the Telecommunications Act, 2023 was passed. Ho-

‘Rules for data Act to be released in one month’

The rules for the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 will be released within a month, Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday. There will be a consultation period for the rules before they were officially notified, Mr. Vaishnaw said.

wever, as it turned out, the official said, the latter Act did not leave much regulatory gap, rendering the Broadcasting Bill that much less urgent to pursue.

The Bill had also drawn criticism for the way a small group of stakeholders was given confidential and individually watermarked copies of a subsequent version, and warned not to circulate this version further. The Ministry last week withdrew that version, recalling copies from the stakeholders it had given them to, and said that it would accept responses based on the previous draft going forward.

WHAT IS THE BROADCASTING BILL?

- The proposed Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023, seeks to directly regulate streaming platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Disney+Hotstar as over-the-top broadcaster, in addition to regulating terrestrial channels, radio, local cable operators, etc.
- Anybody who broadcasts news and current affairs programmes online as a "systematic business, professional or commercial activity" is liable to attract the same obligations as OTT streaming services

WHO IS EXCLUDED?

- A physical newspaper and its e-replica
- Online users who occasionally post news are excluded. For instance, a civilian who decides to stream a riot live will not be covered

There is no change in the status of how online news publishers are governed. If they are governed under the IT Rules, they [textual news websites] will continue to be governed here.

— a senior govt official familiar with the matter



- **Broadcasting Bill on Hold:**

- The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has put the draft Broadcasting Bill, 2023 on hold.
- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that the Bill would only proceed after broader consultation with various stakeholders, including content creators

- **Purpose of the Bill:**

- The Bill is aimed at encouraging content creators and ensuring they have the opportunity to express, share, and create new intellectual property.
- Minister Vaishnaw emphasized that the government's approach is open-minded and flexible, prioritizing diverse views during the consultation process.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is centered in the background of the slide. The background is a light, neutral color.

- **Criticism and Concerns:**

- The hold on the Bill comes after criticism regarding its expansive provisions, particularly those that would impose regulatory burdens on online content creators and streaming platforms like YouTube.
- The Bill also faced backlash for the secretive manner in which one of its versions was circulated for consultation among a small group of stakeholders.



- **Consultation Process:**

- The current version of the Bill has a public consultation deadline of October 15 for comments.
- However, further consultations will likely delay the Bill's introduction in Parliament.
- If the consultation reveals no need for the law, it might not be proposed at all.

- **Related Legislative Context:**

- The Bill was partly intended to fill a regulatory gap left after the repeal of the Telegraph Act, 1885, and the passage of the Telecommunications Act, 2023.
- The government retracted a confidential version of the Bill previously shared with stakeholders, citing the need for a more transparent process.

- **Digital Personal Data Protection Act:**
- In related news, the rules for the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, will be released within a month.
- A consultation period will precede the formal notification of these rules.

- Why has the Information and Broadcasting Ministry decided to hold the Broadcasting Bill, 2023?
 - a) To revise the financial implications of the Bill.
 - b) To conduct wider consultations with content creators and other stakeholders.
 - c) Because the Bill was rejected by the Parliament.
 - d) To integrate it with other unrelated legislative acts.

FIRST VISIT TO UKRAINE
PM Modi to visit Kyiv on Aug 23, hold talks with Zelenskyy



GROWTH GOALS
Re-engineering our digital capabilities: Marico MD & CEO



'MAYBE THE LAST OPPORTUNITY'
Blinken warns Israel, Hamas of last chance to end Gaza war



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IN THE NEWS

APPRAISE MSMEs VIA DIGITAL FOOTPRINT, FM TELLS BANKS

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday asked public sector banks (PSBs) to launch special drives to mobilise deposits by 'connecting' with customers with a view to narrowing the widening credit-deposit gap, reports **Prasanta Sahu**. She also told them to expedite the rollout of a new credit assessment model for MSMEs, based on digital footprint and step up loans to beneficiaries for government schemes. ■ PAGE 6

GST COMPOSITION: IDENTIFY HIGH-RISK TAXPAYERS, SAYS CAG

THE COMPTROLLER AND Auditor General (CAG) has asked the finance ministry to identify high-risk taxpayers in the GST composition scheme on a periodical basis and verify from other sources, including third parties, their declared value of sales to check tax evasion. ■ PAGE 9

EXPLAINER: Why India needs to zero-rate its exports

■ PAGE 9

FY25 ESTIMATE: ₹2.45 LAKH CRORE RBI paper sees 54% growth in pvt capex

RE BUREAU New Delhi, August 19
THE RESERVE BANK OF India Bulletin has some good news on capital expenditure by the private sector. According to a paper, which is part of the bulletin, private sector capex is estimated to grow by 54% to ₹2.45 lakh crore in 2024-25, from ₹1.59 lakh crore in 2023-24.

The article made this assessment after taking into consideration the phasing profile of pipeline projects' finances. This is one of the brightest outlooks on private capex for the current financial year. Other agencies and independent economists are less sanguine about the trend in corporate investments. According to the paper, which is not necessarily articulating the central bank's views, the authors, Kamal Gupta, Rajesh B. Kavediya, Sukti Khandekar and Saigadha Yogindran, said that investment intentions of private corporates remained buoyant during 2023-24 as reflected in higher number of projects as well as the total cost of projects sanctioned by banks/financial institution (FIs). 'Greenfield projects accounted for the lion's share of about 80% in the total cost of projects financed,' they noted.

The infrastructure sector continued to attract major share of envisaged capital investment, led by roads & bridges' and 'power' sectors, as per the article. Phasing plans indicate that aggregate capex intended by the private corporate sector in 2023-24 increased significantly by

BRIGHT OUTLOOK
Article's assessment based on phasing profile of pipeline projects' finances

Says investment intentions of corporates remained buoyant during 2023-24

This is reflected in higher number of projects and their total cost sanctioned by banks/FIs

Infra sector continued to attract major share of envisaged capital investment

about 57% over the preceding year, it added. However, in an introductory note to the bulletin, the RBI referred to the 'hitherto subdued participation of the private sector in total investment'—Aggregate demand conditions are gathering momentum with a revival in rural consumption on the back of growing incomes. This stimulus to demand is expected to reinvigorate the hitherto subdued participation of the private sector in total investment,' the note said.

Continued on Page 11

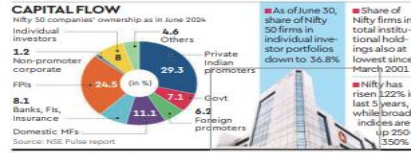
Share of blue-chip stocks in retail portfolios at 22-yr low

Mid, small-caps attract investors with bumper returns

VIVEK KUMAR M Mumbai, August 19

THE SHARE OF Nifty 50 companies in the portfolio of individual investors has slipped to a 22-year low of 36.8% as of June 30, according to a report by the National Stock Exchange (NSE). This has been driven by consistent outperformance of the mid-cap and small-cap stocks and the consequent higher inflows that they have managed to attract after the Covid pandemic.

The benchmark Nifty has risen 12.2% in the last five years, which translates into an average annual return of around 2.4%. The major broader market indices, however, have



soared 250-350% during the same period. The bumper returns have drawn retail investors towards these stocks directly as well as through mutual funds. At 60% as of June 30, the share of Nifty

Standalone Amazon Pay app soon?

E-COMMERCE MAJOR AMAZON is reportedly considering making its India payments offering, Amazon Pay, a standalone app. According to a TechCrunch report, with this, the company aims to boost the usage of Amazon Pay in India, where such an app would compete with Google Pay, PhonePe, and others. Amazon Pay is currently integrated into the company's main shopping app, and allows users to send money, pay bills, buy insurance, book travel, and invest in mutual funds and digital gold. The US giant intends to proceed with the plan in the coming months, the report said.

HC dismisses Religare plea on Sebi inaction

THE DELHI HIGH COURT has dismissed Religare Enterprises' petition against the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) over alleged 'inaction' on complaints against the Burman family, stating that the issue was already addressed on May 31, reports **Akhata Goode**. The matter, originally scheduled for August 20, was heard on August 12 after four Burman family-owned entities informed the court that the relief sought by Religare had already been addressed through a communication by Sebi. Religare now plans to approach the Securities Appellate Tribunal. ■ PAGE 6

Acute faculty crunch at medical colleges

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi's plan to add 75,000 more medical seats over the next five years may be the dose India's education requires, but it looks to be a Herculean task, experts said, reports **Manu Kanahik**. That's because medical education in the country is already weighed down by shortage of faculty, ghost professors and high attrition. Even in cases where the colleges are reporting sufficient faculty members to the National Medical Council, the actual numbers in most cases are quite low, sources said, citing the situation in specific institutions. ■ PAGE 20

● AIIMS-DELHI FACES 28% SHORTFALL AGAINST SANCTIONED STRENGTH

Acute faculty crunch impairs PM's plan to add 75,000 medical seats

MANU KAUSHIK
New Delhi, August 19

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi's plan to add 75,000 more medical seats over the next five years may be the dose India's education requires, but it looks to be a Herculean task, experts said.

That's because medical education in the country is already weighed down by shortage of faculty, ghost professors and high attrition.

Even in cases where the colleges are reporting sufficient faculty members to the National Medical Council (NMC)—the nodal agency to monitor medical colleges in the country—the actual numbers in most cases are quite low, sources said, citing the situation in specific institutions.

"The reality is much different from what's being shown. The problem of ghost faculty is rampant, and the biometrics attendance system is being rigged across colleges. Despite the (existence of) NMC, there are currently no checks on the medical colleges," said Sharad Kumar Agarwal, immediate

UNDERSTAFFED



■ The actual numbers in most cases are quite low, even in the cases where the colleges are reporting sufficient faculty members to NMC

■ The central government will create **75,000** new medical seats over next five years in a move to augment healthcare infrastructure

■ The shortage was flagged by in August last year. Parliament was told that about 2,161 vacant positions in all AIIMS

■ AIIMS, New Delhi reported **28%** (or 347 vacant positions) shortfall against sanctioned faculty strength

■ Last December, the NMC issued show cause notices to **349** medical colleges, for not following norms

past national president, Indian Medical Association (IMA).

The faculty shortage problem was flagged by the health ministry in August last year when Parliament was told that about 2,161 faculty positions in all AIIMS are vacant against the sanctioned strength of 5,527.

The situation in the premier

institutes was no different with AIIMS, New Delhi reporting a 28% (or 347 vacant positions) shortfall against sanctioned faculty strength.

"Due to the government's recent efforts to increase the number of medical colleges and the number of undergraduate and post-graduate seats have resulted in an alarming

shortage of faculty members in Indian medical colleges," noted a standing committee report in February 2024.

Experts said that the appointment of faculty has not kept up pace with the addition of seats over the years.

"While the idea to add more seats is the need of the hour, before adding new seats, the

government must focus on improving the existing colleges. Most of the government and private colleges are not in a good shape," said a member of a medical students' association, on condition of anonymity.

"We welcome the step of increasing seats, however, the broader issue is not just about increasing the numbers but focus on the quality of the institutes," said Manish Jangra, founder, Federation of All India Medical Association.

Agarwal said that the shortage of faculty can be attributed to the low salaries offered at both the private and government colleges. "There are also concerns around lack of inspection from NMC to see whether the colleges are fulfilling the minimum standard requirement regulations," he said.

To be fair, last December, the NMC reportedly issued show cause notices to 349 medical colleges, including 197 government-aided institutes, for not following its norms pertaining to lapses in the attendance of faculty and keeping a faculty count lower than required.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC



HOW PREPARED ARE WE?

India vs some other OECD countries



Doctors
per 1,000 people

India
0.8

China
2.0

US
2.6

UK
2.9

Germany
4.3



THE COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST DENSITY OF DOCTORS

Number of medical doctors per 1,000 inhabitants



GERMANY

4.3



ITALY

4.0



SPAIN

3.9



AUSTRALIA

3.7



UK

2.9



US

2.6



FRANCE

2.3



S KOREA

2.3



CHINA

2.0



INDIA

0.8

SOURCE: OECD; STATISTA

NEWS18
creative

A faint, grayscale background image of a microscope is visible behind the text. The microscope's lens, eyepiece, and various adjustment knobs are discernible, though they are out of focus and serve as a subtle backdrop for the content.

- **Faculty Shortage Impacting Medical Education:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan to add 75,000 new medical seats over the next five years faces significant challenges due to an acute faculty shortage.
- The shortage of qualified faculty, "ghost professors," and high attrition rates are major hurdles in expanding medical education in India.

- **AIIMS-Delhi Specific Issue:**

- AIIMS, New Delhi, reported a 28% shortfall in faculty positions, translating to 347 vacant positions against a sanctioned strength of 1,248.
- The faculty shortage was flagged in August last year when Parliament was informed of 2,161 vacant positions across all AIIMS.

- **National Medical Council (NMC) Oversight:**
- Even though colleges report sufficient faculty members to the National Medical Council (NMC), actual numbers are often much lower.
- The NMC issued show cause notices to 349 medical colleges last December for not following norms, including lapses in faculty attendance and inspection adherence.

Government and Private College Challenges:

Experts cite low salaries in both government and private colleges as a significant reason for the faculty shortage.

The quality of education is a concern, as many institutions are failing to meet minimum standards despite reporting compliance.

Efforts and Concerns:



The central government plans to create 75,000 new medical seats as part of a broader effort to improve healthcare infrastructure.

However, there are concerns about whether the expansion of seats can be supported by the current faculty capacity and whether existing issues in medical education are being adequately addressed.

1. Broader Implications:


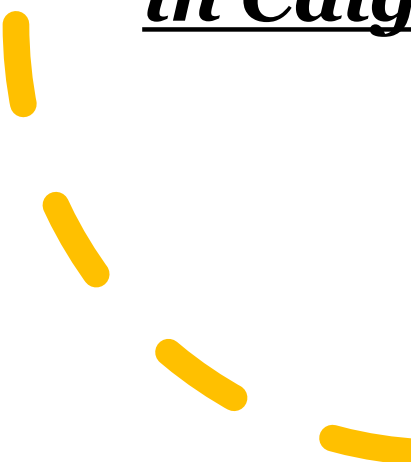
1. The shortage of faculty and the reported issues in compliance with NMC standards underscore the need for a focused effort on improving the quality of medical education alongside expanding capacity.





- 
- What is the primary challenge mentioned in the article that could hinder Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan to add 75,000 new medical seats?
 - a) Lack of funding for new colleges.
 - b) Faculty shortages and high attrition rates.
 - c) Insufficient student interest in medical courses.
 - d) Lack of infrastructure in rural areas.
- 



International Earth Sciences Olympiad (IESO)

- 
- *The Indian student team has bagged multiple prestigious medals at the 17th edition of the International Earth Sciences Olympiad (IESO).*
 - **IESO** – It is established in 2003 at the *International Geoscience Education Organization Council Meeting in Calgary, Canada.*
- 

- 
- It is an **annual** competition for secondary school students from across the globe.
 - **Aim** - To generate awareness of earth sciences through teamwork, collaboration, exchanging ideas, and competition.
 - **Vision** - To generate interest of the young in various fields of earth system sciences, with a focus on promoting awareness and solution-centric discussions around climate change, environmental challenges and natural disasters.
- 



- **Competition Categories**

- Theory and Practical
- Earth Science Project
- International Team Field Investigation
- Data Mining.





- **17th Edition of IESO** - It held in Beijing, China, from August 08-16, 2024.



- **India & IESO** - India has participated in the IESO since 2007 and hosted its 10th edition in Mysore.



- 
- The four-membered Indian team comprising students from Gujarat, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan have won three gold and bronze each and two silver medals across three competition categories.
 - **INESO** - To encourage the participation of Indian students (of grades 9 to 12) in IESO, the MoES supports the Indian National Earth Science Olympiad (INESO) held in various schools across India.
- 

Word of the day

Extemporaneous:

with little or no preparation or forethought

Synonyms: impromptu, offhand, unrehearsed

Usage: *He made some extemporaneous remarks before the ceremony.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/extemporaneouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɛksˌtɛm.pɜː(ɹ)'eɪn.i.əs/

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• **LIVE**
DOUBT SESSION



A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, with a blueish tint. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar and a cluster of small, glowing red dots of varying sizes.

Thank you
guys.
