



**NO FUNDS FOR EXISTING SCHEMES BUT MAHA GOVT ANNOUNCING NEW ONES: SHARAD PAWAR**

**WRITE OFF LOANS OF WAYANAD LANDSLIDE VICTIMS, SURVIVORS: CM VIJAYAN TO BANKS AMID EMI ROW**



**TOI History Meets AI** AUG 20  
A VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS  
OLYMPICS  
The only cricket game at the Olympics was played on this day in 1900, with Great Britain defeating France by 158 runs

## 'Will force' Abdullahs into fray, give BJP, allies tough fight: NC

PDP Fields 3rd Gen Of Muftis, Mehbooba's Daughter Iltija

**Ahmed Ali Fayyaz**  
Srinagar: National Conference (NC) is considering fielding its president, Farooq Abdullah, and his son, NC vice-president Omar Abdullah, as its "star candidates" for the Jammu & Kashmir assembly elections in an attempt to give a tough fight to BJP and some smaller regional parties seen as the saffron party's tactical allies.



An NC functionary said Farooq & Omar alone have the capacity to keep the flock together and attract influential politicians from other parties

PDP, meanwhile, announced on Monday the candidature of Iltija Mufti, the 36-year-old daughter of party president and former CM Mehbooba Mufti, from Bijbehara seat, marking the political debut of the third generation of the Mufti dynasty — after maternal grandfather Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and mother Mehbooba. Both her grandfather and mother had contested Bijbehara seat. Iltija serves as Meh-

booba Mufti's media adviser. "They have both been CMs, MLAs and MPs several times. Contesting assembly elections for a UT govt that will apparently function under a lieutenant governor is below their dignity. But this election is a matter of our prestige and existence. It's a matter of J&K's dignity. Like 1977 and 1996, we will ensure that NC sweeps the polls and makes it known to the world that the decisions taken in 2019 (nullification of Article 370) and thereafter are not acceptable to the people here," a former minister and senior NC politician told TOI.

The NC functionary said that though neither Farooq nor Omar is keen to contest, the party "will force" them to

be in the electoral fray as they alone have the capacity to not only keep the flock together but also attract influential politicians from other parties.

Omar has been maintaining since 2020 that he will never contest assembly elections as long as J&K is a Union Territory. His father, Farooq Abdullah, had told the media in Jammu after the poll schedules were announced on Friday that Omar would refrain from contesting. Farooq had asserted that he himself would be in the fray, and Omar would contest and take over only after J&K's statehood was restored. The next day, in Srinagar, Omar said he was under party pressure to "lead from the front".

Iltija is among the eight PDP leaders whose nomination was announced. Another list for the first phase will be out in the next two days, PDP sources said.

## Modi will travel to Ukraine, meet Zelensky on Friday

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India indicated that its position on the Russia-Ukraine war — that peace is possible only through diplomacy — remains unchanged

**New Delhi:** Ahead of PM Narendra Modi's "landmark and historic" visit to Ukraine, Indian govt indicated Monday its position on the Russia-Ukraine war — that ensuring peace is possible only through dialogue and diplomacy and the involvement of both parties in any peace initiative — remains unchanged. Modi will undertake a 10-hour journey from Przemysl in Poland, on the border with Ukraine, to arrive in Kyiv on Friday for an eight-hour visit that will see him holding bilateral talks with President Volodymyr Zelensky and also interacting with Indian students in Ukraine.

Modi is likely to reiterate India's position before Zelensky, who had described the Indian PM's embrace of Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow last month as a devastating blow to peace efforts, that it's ready to offer any assistance within its means for restoration of peace. The "clear and consistent" Indian position has seen it backing peace efforts with the caveat that these must involve Moscow too.

As foreign minister S Jaishankar said earlier this

year, India is open to the role of a mediator if it's approached, but it doesn't want to initiate anything on its own. India has so far not condemned Russia's actions in Ukraine and has also not endorsed Zelensky's 10-point peace plan.

Asked about Modi's "balancing act" and the apparent pressure from the West under which the visit is happening, MEA secretary (west) Tanmaya Lal said India has broad, substantive and independent ties with both Russia and Ukraine. "This not a zero-sum game," he said. On Ukraine's invasion of Russia's Kursk region, the official reiterated India's position for a solution through dialogue and diplomacy.

On his way to Kyiv, Modi will also be in Poland on August 21-22 for what will be the first visit by an Indian PM to that country in 45 years.

## TISS bans Progressive Students' Forum, outfit says it will fight order

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**Mumbai:** The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) administration in a notice issued on Monday called for an immediate ban on the students' collective, Progressive Students' Forum (PSF), on all its campuses, alleging it was an "unauthorised" and "illegal" forum. Ramadas K S, a research scholar who was suspended in April, was part of PSF.

Students associated with the forum called the order undemocratic and that it came minutes before the forum was to start the second phase of a signature campaign against the administration and that they would fight it on all possible grounds.

The institute's Monday notice added the group's attempt to "hold any unauthorised events will be met with immediate intervention and consequences". It further barred students or faculty members from supporting, associating with, or propagating the group's "divisive" ideologies. Such individuals will face disciplinary action too, the notice stated. It added the group has been engaging in activities that obstruct the institute's functions, defame the institute, demean members of the TISS community, and create divisions among students and faculty. It said this group is misleading, distracting, and misguiding students from their academic pursuit and harmonious life on the campus.

The forum has been active on the campus since 2012 and raising student-related issues including fees and hostel accommodation, among recent ones. They also came out in support of the teachers who were temporarily issued termination notices in June.

The institute imposed a ban on the group from all institutes' premises and activities. It urged anyone being approached by members of this group to report to the campus security or students' affairs office and that the reports will be handled with confidentiality.

## Stalin dismisses talks of BJP ties, but is all praise for Rajnath

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin on Monday rubbished claims of opposition parties that DMK would tie up with BJP. Stalin, however, was all praise for Union defence minister Rajnath Singh, who released a commemorative coin to mark late DMK leader M Karunanidhi's centenary birth anniversary in Chennai on Sunday.

"We did not insist Rajnath Singh visit Kalaigarn memorial, but he did. He saw the entire memorial and said he had never seen anything of this kind," Stalin said.

**Just because we invited Rajnath Singh, opposition began spreading misinformation that DMK would ally with BJP. We are under no compulsion to have any secret alliance with BJP**

"He (Rajnath) then surprised us by asking everyone to give a standing ovation to Kalaigarn. The gesture was overwhelming. He spoke about Karunanidhi in such a



Stalin said Rajnath spoke about Karunanidhi 'in such a manner that not even our alliance party leaders or our own DMK men would have spoken'

manner that not even our alliance party leaders or our own DMK men would have spoken," Stalin added.

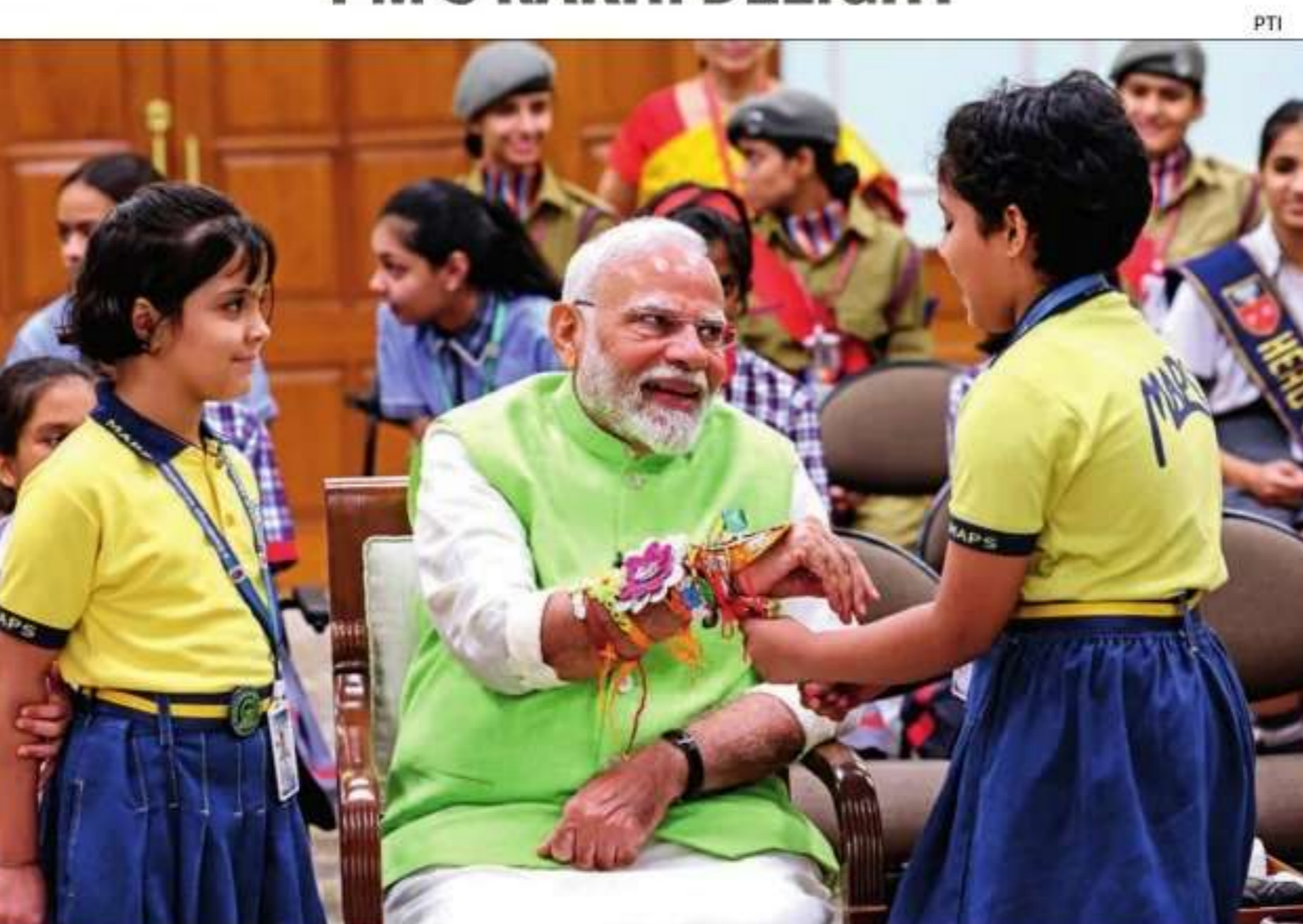
But he was quick to slam detractors for suggesting that

DMK would ally with BJP. "Just because we invited Rajnath Singh, they began spreading misinformation that DMK would ally with BJP. We are under no compul-

sion to have any secret alliance with BJP," Stalin said. Recalling the words of Indira Gandhi on DMK, Stalin said the former PM had praised DMK saying that if Karunanidhi ever decided either to support or oppose a party it would be based on ideology. The words were sufficient to explain DMK's stand on alliances, Stalin added.

Stalin flayed AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, saying DMK had clarified its stand on forging an alliance by condemning the Centre. "Like Palaniswami, DMK does not have the habit of crawling to get posts," he said.

## PM'S RAKHI DELIGHT



Schoolgirls tie rakhis on PM Modi's wrist in New Delhi on Monday. Earlier, Modi extended his greetings to the nation, praying for everyone's happiness and prosperity on the auspicious occasion

## Court stalls any action against Sidda in Muda scam till Aug 29

**Bengaluru:** The Karnataka HC Monday asked a special court hearing private complaints against chief minister Siddaramaiah in the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (Muda) site allotment controversy, to defer its proceedings and not to take any precipitative action till the next date of hearing on Aug 29.

Justice M Nagaprassanna passed this interim order after the court was told that the trial court is scheduled to pass orders on the private complaints lodged against CM on Aug 20. The judge was hearing a writ petition filed by the CM challenging the legality of the order of the governor granting sanction to prosecute him in the alleged land scam.

Responding to BJP protests calling for his resignation, Siddaramaiah on Monday said, "My conscience is clear. I first became minister 40 years ago, and since then, there has not been a single black spot in my political life..." Siddaramaiah accused BJP-JDS and the Centre of conspiring against him through Raj Bhavan.

On Aug 17, Karnataka governor Thaaawar Chand Gehlot accorded sanction for prosecution under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 218 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. The complainants alleged that CM misused his position to get alternative sites allotted in his wife's name in the layout formed by Muda. **TNN**

## Ahead of PM's trip to Kyiv, Russian navy chief in India

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**New Delhi:** Just ahead of PM Modi's visit to Ukraine on Aug 23, the Russian Navy chief is now in India to explore new avenues to further strengthen maritime cooperation between Moscow and New Delhi. Admiral **Aleksandr Alekseyevich Moiseyev**, on an official visit to India from Aug 19 to 22, held discussions with chief of defence staff General Anil Chauhan and Navy chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi on Monday.

India has been trying to strike a fine strategic balance between its long-standing partnership with Russia and the US-led western bloc, which has repeatedly voiced its concern about the close ties between New Delhi and Moscow. India, of course, remains worried about the tightening strategic clench between China and Russia.

On Monday, the discussions between Admiral Mo-

iseyev and Gen Chauhan "underscored the mutual commitment towards enhancing maritime security, deepening strategic cooperation and fostering a stronger defence partnership between the two nations", an official said.

Another official added, "The visit is a testimony to the long-standing relationship between the navies of Russia and India. The visit aims to strengthen bilateral naval relations, as also to explore new avenues for naval cooperation."

The Russian Navy chief's visit, which will also see him touring the Western Naval Command and Mazagon Docks in Mumbai, comes ahead of the delivery of two guided-missile frigates being built in Russia for India. The delivery of the frigates as well as the remaining two squadrons of the five S-400 'Triumf' air defence missile systems for the IAF have been delayed due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, as reported by TOI earlier.

## Gen who rubbished Pak's N-sabre rattling passes away at 83

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** General Sundararajan Padmanabhan, who was the Army chief during the massive forward troop deployment on the western front with Pakistan under Operation Parakram, passed away in Chennai on Sunday night. He was 83.

Widely regarded as a straight-talking cerebral officer, affectionately called "Paddy" in defence circles, Gen Padmanabhan had **1940-2024** Dec 2002, largely publicly rubbished Pakistan's nuclear sabre-rattling during Operation Parakram, which was launched after the terror attack on Parliament in Dec 2001.

Asked how India would respond to a nuclear attack during the customary Army Day press conference in Jan 2002, Gen Padmanabhan said perpetrator would be punished so severely that its continuation thereafter in any form would be in doubt. To another question, he said, "Yes, we are ready for a second strike", adding that India had sufficient nuclear weapons.

This led to a major flutter, both in South Block and across the globe. Though the 10-month-long Operation Parakram was later interpreted as an exercise in "coercive diplomacy" by the then Vajpayee govt to get Pakistan to stop cross-border terrorism, it is also a fact that the two countries came close to war two times during that period.

Gen Padmanabhan, who served as the 20th Army chief from Oct 2000 to Dec 2002, largely shunned the limelight after superannuation, refusing post-retirement sinecures.

"He leaves behind a legacy of exemplary leadership to the nation. His legacy is marked by his commitment to the welfare of soldiers," the Army said on Monday. Commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery in Dec 1959, Gen Padmanabhan held key command, staff and instructional appointments during his career, which included the posts of director-general of military intelligence and the 15 Corps commander in Srinagar.

**ET THE ECONOMIC TIMES**

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**SPEAKERS**

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 <b>P. GopalaKrishnan</b> MD (Asia Pacific & Middle East Markets), GBCI India	 <b>Rahul Sathe</b> Director, CCBA Designs	 <b>Rajiv Parekh</b> Co-Founder, reD Architects	 <b>Asha Sairam</b> Principal, Studio Lotus	 <b>Richa Bahl</b> Principal Designer, Richa Bahl Design Studio
 <b>Ridhi Khosla Jan</b> Interior Designer & Design Content Creator, RKJ Studio	 <b>Rupesh Bald</b> CEO, AND Design Co	 <b>Kunal Maniar</b> Principal Architect, Kunal Maniar & Associates	 <b>Mitu Mathur</b> Director, GPM Architects & Planners	 <b>Rahul Mistri</b> Founder & Principal Designer, Open Atelier
 <b>Mansee Bal Bhargava</b> National President, Water Resource Council	 <b>Disha Bhavsar</b> Co-Founder & Principal Designer, Quirk Studio	 <b>Khushboo Khandelwal</b> Founder & Principal Architect, Studio Design Inc	 <b>Monika Choudhary</b> Co-Founder, Habitat Architects	 <b>Amey Dahanukar</b> Principal Architect, ARA Design
 <b>Kirti Dodeja</b> Founder & Designer, Kirti Dodeja	 <b>Swathy Sivaraman</b> Principal Architect, Storeyboard Design	 <b>Ankur Perwal</b> Managing Director, KPT Piping Solutions	 <b>Harsh Jagwani</b> Managing Director, Notandas Realty	

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