

**DIA, DEOGHAR IAS ACADEMY**

# ***Daily News Feed***

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# Yulia Svyrydenko steps up as Ukraine's PM, vows economic, military reforms

## NEWS ANALYSIS

Sruthi Darbhhamulla

A new Prime Minister is in charge in wartime Ukraine after five years. On July 17, Ukraine's Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, approved the nomination of Yulia Svyrydenko as the country's 19th Prime Minister. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had nominated her on July 14, as part of a long-expected wartime Cabinet shuffle.

Ms. Svyrydenko replaces Denys Shmyhal, who has held the Prime Minister's post since 2020. The 39-year-old economist and technocrat is expected to infuse fresh vigour into Ukraine's economy, and spearhead the development of its military.

Before her appointment to the post of Prime Minister, she was the first Deputy Prime Minister, and handled Economic Development and Trade Ministry from November 4, 2021.

### Career trajectory

Yulia Anatoliivna Svyrydenko was born in Chernihiv, Ukraine (erstwhile the Ukrainian SSR, Soviet Union) on December 25, 1985. She graduated with a master's degree in Antitrust Field Management from Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics in 2008.

For a brief period, she worked as an economist in the private sector, including as part of the Ukrainian-Andorran joint venture JSC AMP. In 2011, she transitioned to the public

sector. Her first stint was as a representative for Chernihiv in Wuxi, China.

Ms. Svyrydenko took up public administration roles in 2015. She served as an adviser to the Governor of Chernihiv, then as the head of the Department of Economic Development in the Chernihiv Oblast, followed by a brief stint as the head of the Regional State Administration of the Oblast from July 30 to November 28, 2018.

President Zelenskyy tapped her to be a part of his administration in 2020. In May 2020, she was appointed to represent Ukraine in the Trilateral Contact Group's social and economic subgroup. The Trilateral Contact Group is comprised of representatives from Russia, Ukraine and the Organization for



In favour: Yulia Svyrydenko was confirmed by Parliament on July 17, with 262 of 450 members voting in her favour. REUTERS

Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Later that year, in December, she was named Deputy Head of the Office of the President, replacing Yuliya Kovaliv. A little less than a year later, Ms. Svyrydenko was appointed as the first Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Eco-

nomic Development and Trade on November 4, 2021, receiving the support of 256 lawmakers for her confirmation.

Her appointment came a mere four months before Russia invaded Ukraine. She was tasked with reviving the wartime economy and ensuring domestic de-

velopment during a time of crisis. At this time, she helped negotiate a critical deal with U.S. President Donald Trump over Ukraine's mineral resources, at a time when relations between Mr. Trump and Mr. Zelenskyy had soured. The deal, called the United States-Ukraine Reinvestment Fund, was signed on April 30, and gives the U.S. preferential access to minerals and other natural resources in Ukraine. It also envisages the creation of a reconstruction fund, into which Ukraine must pay in to 50% of all future profits from natural resources.

Recently, Ms. Svyrydenko also led the 4th Ukraine Recovery Conference, which took place in Rome on July 10 and 11, where she concluded agreements for development projects

estimated to be worth €11 billion.

### The road ahead

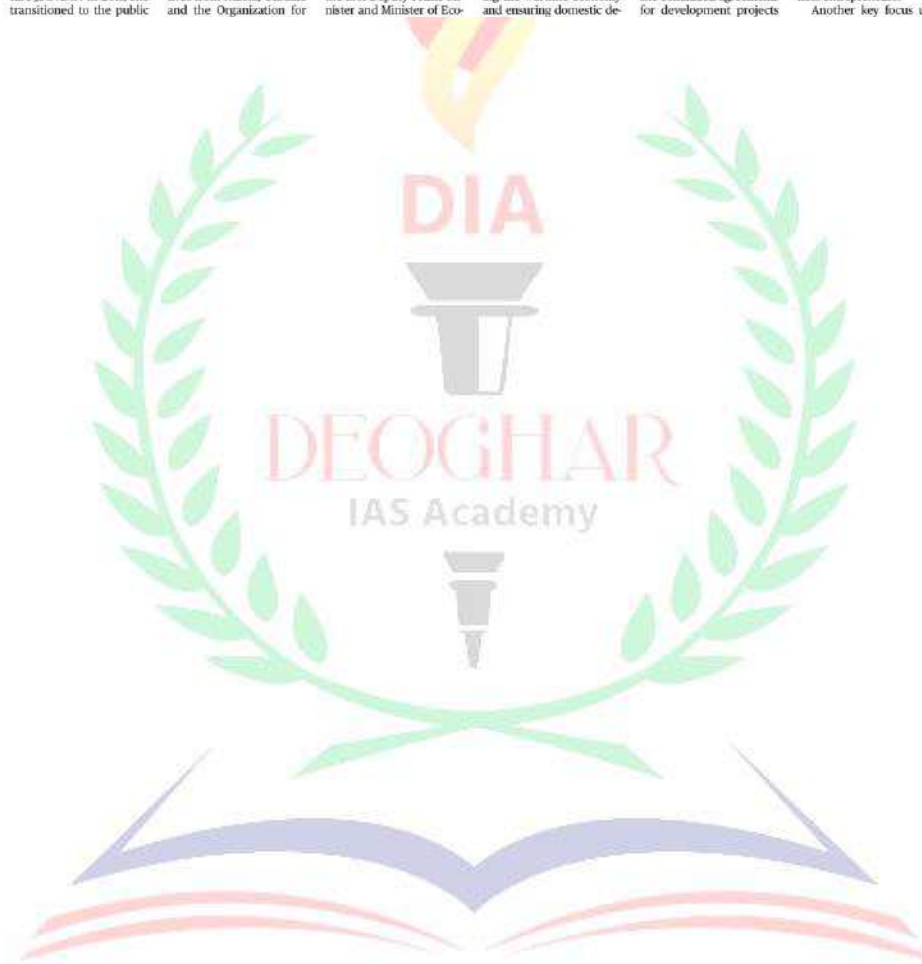
Following Mr. Zelenskyy's announcement earlier this week, Ms. Svyrydenko's nomination was confirmed by the Verkhovna Rada on July 17, with 262 of 450 members voting in her favour.

The new Prime Minister inherits a \$19 billion Budget gap, and has stressed that she will focus on strengthening the economy. Some measures proposed by her include the audit of public finances, deregulation, acceleration of privatisation, fiscal reforms, reduction of bureaucracy and non-essential expenditure, and greater support for business entrepreneurs.

Another key focus un-

der her leadership is bolstering Ukraine's military, as the country remains under onslaught by Russian forces. President Zelenskyy has established the target of domestically producing 50% of the military equipment required by Ukraine within six months, an aim reiterated by her. She has also said that she will focus on strengthening the armed forces and building stronger ties with allies, including the U.S.

On a post on X, she wrote, "Our Government sets its course toward a Ukraine that stands firm on its own foundations – military, economic, and social... My key goal is real, positive results that every Ukrainian will feel in daily life. War leaves no room for delay. We must act swiftly and decisively."



# What is the legal status of right to vote?

What is the difference between a constitutional right and a statutory right? What does Section 62 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provide? What did Justice Ajay Rastogi state in his partial dissent in the Anoop Baranwal case?

## EXPLAINER

Rangarajan, R

### The story so far:

**T**he Supreme Court is hearing cases filed against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. One of the questions that has arisen during this debate has been the legal status of the 'right to vote'.

### What are various rights?

Before understanding the status of 'right to vote' in India, let us briefly understand the different types of rights.

Natural rights are inherent and inalienable rights that are bestowed by nature on individuals. Right to life and liberty are considered to be natural rights. Indian courts may decide that a natural right is embodied in a fundamental right, but they do not directly enforce any natural right. Fundamental rights enumerated and guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution secure equality and liberty which are enshrined in our Preamble. The state is prohibited from making laws that violate these rights. They are directly enforceable in the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution.

Constitutional rights are contained in the Constitution but outside of Part III. These rights include right to property, free trade, and no taxation without the authority of law. These rights are operationalised through Union and State legislations aligning with the constitutional mandate. They are enforceable in a High Court under Article 226 or as per the legal process in the laws that operationalise them.

Statutory or legal rights are provided and amended by ordinary laws of Parliament or State legislature. Examples include right to work under the MGNREG Act; rights of scheduled tribes under the Forest Rights Act; right to subsidised food grains under the National Food Security



**Verifying legality:** Booth level officers fill and collect the counting forms from electors in the Patepur block of Vaishali, Bihar on July 10, 2024.

Act etc. These are enforceable as per the legal process in the laws that provide these rights.

### What does the Constitution say about universal adult franchise?

Article 326 of the Constitution grants every citizen the right to vote, without any discrimination. It provides that every citizen, who is not less than 18 years of age on such date as may be fixed by law and is not otherwise disqualified under the Constitution or any law on certain grounds, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter.

The laws enacted by Parliament in this

regard are the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act, 1950) and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act, 1951). Section 16 of the RP Act, 1950 disqualifies a non-citizen from being enrolled in the electoral roll. Section 19 of the same law requires that the person is not less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date and is 'ordinarily resident' in a constituency.

Section 62 of the RP Act, 1951 provides the right to vote to every person whose name is entered in the electoral roll of a constituency. It further specifies that this right shall not be exercisable by a person who is disqualified under the RP Act, 1950

or is in prison.

### What have courts ruled?

The legal status of the right to vote has been a subject matter of debate in various cases in our country. In the *N.P. Ponnuswami* case (1952), a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held that the right to vote is a statutory right and subject to limitations imposed by it. In the *Jyoti Basu* case (1982), the court reiterated that the right to vote is neither a fundamental right nor a common law right but a simple statutory right. Subsequently in many cases, the same ratio was followed and upheld by the court. In the *PUCJ* case (2003), Justice P.V. Reddy observed that the right to vote, if not a fundamental right, is certainly a 'constitutional right'.

However, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in the *Kuldip Nayyar* case (2006), again held that right to vote is only a statutory right.

In the *Raj Bala* case (2015), a division bench of the Supreme Court, based on the ratio in the *PUCJ* case, held that the right to vote is a constitutional right. However, in the *Anoop Baranwal* case (2023), the majority opinion, reiterated the judgment in the *Kuldip Nayyar* case, that the right to vote is only a statutory right. Hence, the current legal status of the right to vote is that it is a statutory right.

Justice Ajay Rastogi, in his partial dissent in *Anoop Baranwal*, noted that the right to vote is an expression of the choice of the citizen, which is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a). Right to vote is intrinsic to free and fair elections that is part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Even if not considered a fundamental right, this right originates from Article 326 of the Constitution and is shaped by statutes made by Parliament. Considering these factors, the Supreme Court may consider elevating the status of right to vote into a constitutional right.

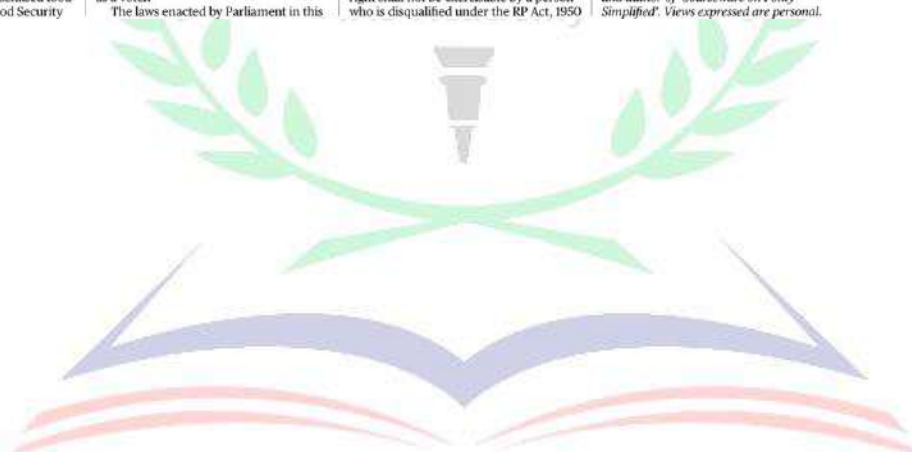
*Rangarajan, R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.*

## THE GIST

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▼ Justice Ajay Rastogi, in his partial dissent in *Anoop Baranwal*, noted that the right to vote is an expression of the choice of the citizen, which is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a).





# Boys continue to outnumber girls in private schools

In the northern and western States, the share of girls enrolled in any school is lower than India's average of 48.1%

## DATA POINT

Devvanshi Bihani  
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

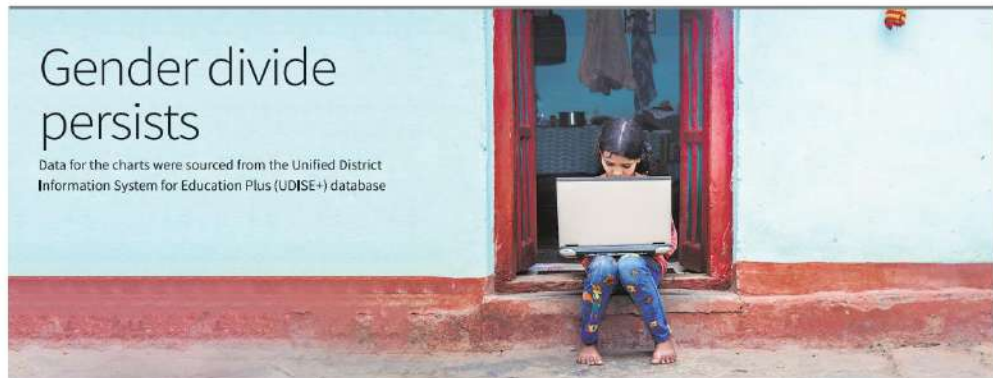
Over the past decade, the share of private schools and the proportion of boys and girls enrolled in them have both increased across India, likely reinforcing each other. However, the share of girls attending private schools remains considerably lower than that of boys. In other words, while parents increasingly prefer private schooling, a considerable share of them still shows a slight preference for enrolling their sons over their daughters. Also, a relatively low number of girls are enrolled compared to boys in schools across northern and western India.

**Chart 1** shows the share of government, government-aided, private, and other schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. The share of government schools has fallen from 74.2% to 69.1%, whereas the share of private schools has increased from 17.2% to 22.5%.

**Chart 2** shows the share of students enrolled in government, government-aided, private, and other schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. The share of children enrolled in government schools has fallen from 57.3% to 51.4%, whereas the share of private schools has increased from 28.2% to 36.3%.

**Chart 3** shows the gender-wise share of students enrolled in government and private schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. For instance, in 2023-24, 54% of girls studied in government schools and 33% in private schools, while 49% of all boys studied in government schools and 39% in private schools.

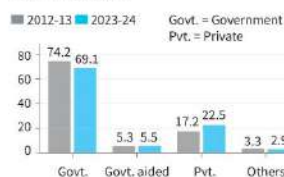
**Chart 4** shows the State-wise and gender-wise share of students enrolled in any school. In the northern and western States, the share of girls enrolled in any school is lower than India's average of 48.1%.



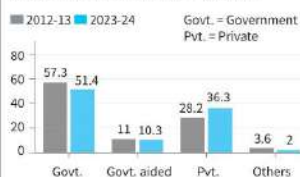
## Gender divide persists

Data for the charts were sourced from the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) database

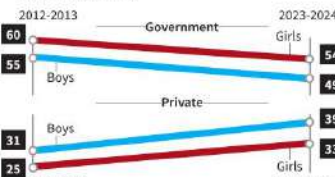
**Chart 1:** The share of government, government-aided, private, and other schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. Figures in %



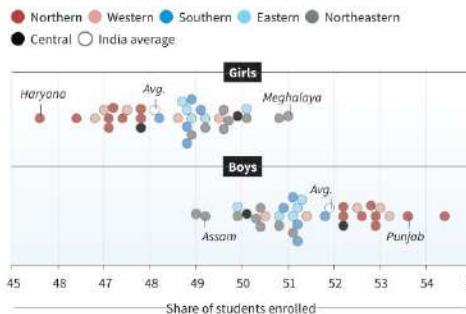
**Chart 2:** The share of students enrolled in government, government-aided, private, and other schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. Figures in %



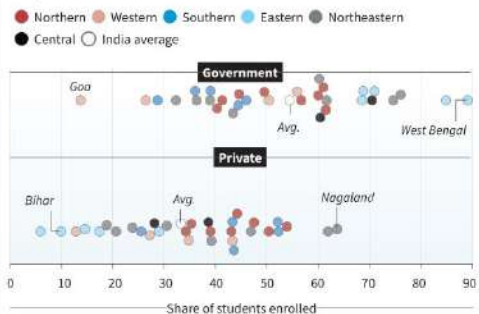
**Chart 3:** The gender-wise share of students enrolled in government and private schools in 2012-13 and 2023-24. Figures in %



**Chart 4:** The State-wise and gender-wise share of students enrolled in any school in 2023-24



**Chart 5:** The State-wise and gender-wise share of girls enrolled in government and private schools in 2023-24



# Water, energy demand spotlights risk of human-induced quakes

Mining, extracting groundwater, impounding water behind a dam, injecting fluids into the ground, and engineering coastal structures have been shown to induce seismic activity. This is because loading and unloading the crust in a repeated manner can cause strain to accumulate underground

Nivedita S.

**E**arthquakes are usually natural – but not always. Sometimes some natural factors can combine with human activities to lead to earthquakes as well. Quakes induced by human activities are called human-induced earthquakes. According to one estimate researchers discussed in *Seismological Research Letters* in 2017, more than 700 human-induced earthquakes have been recorded around the world in the last 150 years, and they are becoming more common.

Human activities like mining, extracting groundwater, impounding water behind a dam, injecting fluids into the ground, constructing tall buildings, and engineering coastal structures, among others, have been shown to induce seismic activity. This is because, according to experts, loading and unloading the crust in a repeated manner can cause strain to accumulate between tectonic plates, which would in turn modulate seismic activity.

In India, seismologists have also been studying how the amount of water above and below the ground can affect the geological processes.

A 2021 study in *Scientific Reports* noted that shallow earthquakes recorded in the National Capital Region could be linked to excessive groundwater extraction in the region for farming and human consumption.

"It was seen that between 2003 and 2012, when the water table had depleted significantly, there was an increase in seismic activity. The seismic activity reduced after 2014 when the water table stabilised," Bhaskar Kundu, associate professor at NIT Rourkela and one of the authors of the study, told *The Hindu*.

## Managing extraction

When groundwater is pumped out, the mass of water maintaining the pressure under the earth is removed, creating jolts on the surface.

"The situation is not of major concern because these earthquakes in the Delhi-NCR region are usually minor, with the maximum going up to 4.5 magnitude," C.P. Rajendran, geoscientist and author of *The Rumbling Earth: The Story of Indian Earthquakes*, said. "It can go up to 5.5, which for a densely populated city like Delhi could have risks."

This is because Delhi lies on several faultlines and is in the Zone 4 seismic risk category, meaning it's a quake-prone region.

The risk for earthquakes induced by groundwater extraction is spread across the Gangetic plains, where the water table has been dropping in leaps, Dr. Rajendran said. This is mostly because crops sown in the region still need large quantities of water and very little of that thirst is quenched by rainfall.

He added that there is a need to manage the rate of groundwater extraction and its recharge in a scientific manner and while considering the rate of seismic activity in the region.

In the past, human-induced earthquakes have devastated lives and property, caused foremost by large dams that change the water load on the surface. On December 11, 1967, for example, an earthquake of 6.3 magnitude wrought



An earthquake of 6.3 magnitude wrought significant damage in Koynanagar in Maharashtra in 1967. Several studies that followed blamed the disaster on water overloading in the Koyna hydroelectric dam nearby. VARSHA DESHPANDE (CC BY-SA)

significant damage in Koynanagar, a village in Maharashtra. More than 180 people were killed and thousands of houses were destroyed. Several studies that followed blamed the disaster on water overloading in the Koyna hydroelectric dam nearby.

Similarly, research has recorded an increase in seismic activity around the Mullaperiyar dam in Idukki, Kerala, which like Delhi also lies in an earthquake-prone zone.

## Energy and quakes

"The U.S., which has recorded reservoir-induced earthquakes, has implemented regulations on how quickly a dam should be filled and emptied. Such regulations should also be enforced in India to prevent earthquakes," Vineet K. Gahalaut, Chief Scientist at the National Geophysical Research Institute, told *The Hindu*.

He also said seismic activities in a region should be properly evaluated before a dam is built there.

"Huge dams in seismically active areas like the Himalayas are not recommended because the water load and percolation could change the local stress regime," Dr. Rajendran said.

India's growing energy demand also increases the risk of this type of disaster.

"The methods used to extract energy to meet our needs have significant risks on our earth, be it oil or hydropower," Dr. Gahalaut said.

Fracking – where liquids are injected into the ground to push rocks apart and allow extraction of oil and natural gas – has also been shown to induce



The U.S. has implemented regulations on how quickly a dam should be filled and emptied. Such regulations should also be enforced in India

**VINEET K. GAHALAUT**,  
Chief Scientist at the National Geophysical Research Institute

earthquakes, Dr. Gahalaut added. India currently has 56 fracking sites across six States. In Palghar district in Maharashtra, which has been experiencing a sequence of quakes since 2018, experts have said plate deformation is occurring in an isolated manner. Initial findings by seismologists indicated that the cause could be fluid migration due to rainfall.

"Strong seismic networks using instruments need to be established across India in regions like these, which are experiencing isolated plate deformation, to monitor and track seismic activity more accurately," Dr. Kundu said.

## Impact of climate change

Scientists have said that climate change can indirectly affect the occurrence of earthquakes and render them more frequent over time. The melting of glaciers due to global warming has been found to trigger earthquakes around Antarctica and Greenland. Changes in rainfall patterns due to climate change have also been known to modulate the water loading process on the surface.

For example, sudden heavy rainfall

could alter the stress accumulated between tectonic plates and induce seismic activity.

The area around the Sahyadri range of the Western Ghats has been recording tremors due to heavy rainfall for this reason.

"The height of the mountains should have been reduced considering the rate of rainfall. However, the mountains have maintained their height due to seismic activity," Dr. Gahalaut said.

Changing rainfall patterns can also change the soil chemistry, Dr. Rajendran said, affecting cropping patterns and compelling farmers to turn to groundwater for irrigation, which can also induce seismic activity.

Similarly, longer droughts can also reactivate seismic faults. Such a drought-induced earthquake was recorded in California in 2014.

"The risk of earthquakes is not present at all locations where there is groundwater depletion or huge dams. They have only been recorded in areas that are present on faultlines or are facing plate deformation processes," according to Dr. Kundu.

At present, the rate at which strain has been accumulating along plates and the fraction of this stress that is due to human activities is not possible to ascertain, he added. Experts have thus warned against concluding that such activities are solely to blame for tremors or earthquakes. Research thus far has only shown that these activities could postpone or accelerate tectonic processes causing these movements.

(nivedita.s@thehindu.co.in)



# NISAR, first joint satellite of NASA and ISRO, scheduled to be launched on July 30

**The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

NISAR, the first joint satellite of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 5.40 p.m. on July 30. The GSLV-F16 rocket will inject the Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite into a 743-km sun-synchronous orbit with an inclination of 98.4 degrees.

According to the ISRO, the NISAR satellite, weighing 2,392 kg, is a unique earth observation satellite, and the first satellite to observe the earth with a dual frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar – the NASA's L-



An artist's concept of the NISAR satellite. NASA/JPL-CALTECH

band and the ISRO's S-band – using the NASA's 12m unfurlable mesh reflector antenna, integrated to the ISRO's modified I3K satellite bus.

NISAR will observe earth with a swathe of 242 km and high spatial resolution, using SweepSAR technology for the first time. "The satellite will scan the

entire globe and provide all weather, day and night data at 12-day intervals, and enable a wide range of applications. NISAR can detect even small changes in the earth's surface, such as ground deformation, ice sheet movement, and vegetation dynamics. Further applications include sea ice classification, ship detection, shoreline monitoring, storm characterisation, changes in soil moisture, mapping and monitoring of surface water resources, and disaster response," the ISRO stated.

It added that the launch is the result of strong technical cooperation between the ISRO and the U.S. space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory for more than a decade.

# CAG report flags lapses amounting to ₹573 cr. in Railways

**Maitri Porecha**

NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) flagged lapses worth ₹573 crore in the Railways as detailed in the 'Union Government (Railways) - Compliance Audit Report' tabled in Lok Sabha on Monday.

The report contains 25 audit observations including shortfalls in revenue recovery, and execution of projects across multiple zones. The instances mentioned in this report came to notice in the course of test audit conducted up to financial year 2022-23.

One of the most expensive lapses for Railways was the Northern Railway's non-compliance with Railway Board directives to recover licence fee at the rate of 6% of land value from five government-aided schools, which led to short recovery of licence fee of ₹148.61 crore.

Another costly shortfall involved nine railway zones being unable to recover ₹55.51 crore during the period from January 2015 to March 2024 towards District Mineral

Foundation (DMF) in the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining-related operations. Contribution towards DMF is supposed to be deducted from contractors along with royalty, in case the same is not paid by the contractor.

The report notes that non-realisation of shunting charges for shunting activity by using railway engines at Bina Siding of East Central Railway resulted in non-realisation of ₹50.77 crore from the siding owner between April 2020 and March 2023.

Plans by Southern Railway to replace 28 Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) coaches resulted in ineffective and deficient assets at a cost of ₹27.91 crore as the coaches were not put to effective use even after three years of manufacturing, the report said.

Non-implementation of the revised rate of electricity charges of various State Electricity Boards (SEBs) for recovery from the occupants of railway quarters in Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway resulted in short recovery of ₹14.89 crore, the report said.





# Exclusion from rolls under special intensive revision won't affect citizenship, EC tells SC

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) assured the Supreme Court on Monday that a person would not cease to be a citizen merely on being found ineligible for registration on the electoral rolls under the special intensive revision (SIR), under way in poll-bound Bihar.

The electoral body was responding to allegations raised by petitioners that SIR was "citizenship screening" and would lead to mass disenfranchisement.

The EC said in its 88-page affidavit that it was vested under the law and Constitution with power to request proof of citizenship for "enabling the constitutional right to vote".

"The guidelines issued for SIR are constitutional and in the interest of maintaining the purity of electoral rolls... However, it is reiterated that determination of non-eligibility of



EC says electors with names featured in Bihar's electoral rolls in 2003 have to file only the partially pre-filled enumeration form. REUTERS

anyone under Article 326 [adult suffrage] will not lead to cancellation of citizenship," the poll body explained.

The EC made it clear that voters who were already part of the existing electoral rolls of Bihar would feature on the draft roll to be published on August 1, provided they submitted their enumeration forms, with or without documents. The existing electoral rolls were published in Bihar on January 7, 2025 after a special summary revision.

"In substance, each elector included in the 2025 electoral roll shall form part of the draft roll merely on submission of the enumeration form," the affidavit stated.

## Claims period

The electors who were unable to submit their enumeration forms with documents in time for the draft roll had another opportunity to be included on the final roll.

"This claims period is stipulated for another pe-

riod of 31 days after publication of the draft roll," the EC clarified.

During the claims period, the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) shall scrutinise the enumeration forms and documents furnished after publication of the draft rolls. If the ERO has any doubt on the eligibility of any elector (who has submitted their documents or otherwise), a *suo motu* inquiry will be started by the ERO and a notice issued to the elector as to why his/her name should not be deleted. The ERO will decide on inclusion of such electors in the final roll based on documentation, field inquiry, or otherwise. The final roll will be published on September 30, 2025.

"Even after the publication of the final roll, new electors can be enrolled up to the last date of nominations of the forthcoming Bihar elections... Any apprehension of huge disenfranchisement is misleading and non-existent,"

the EC assured.

Further, the EC said electors whose names already feature in the electoral rolls of Bihar in 2003, when the last intensive revision was held, were exempted from furnishing documents to prove their eligibility. "They are only required to file the partially pre-filled enumeration form along with the extract of the 2003 roll," the affidavit said.

Though the Supreme Court had asked the EC to consider including Aadhaar, voter ID and ration cards in the list of 11 indicative documents to register voters, the EC said they cannot be accepted as "standalone documents" for the purpose of SIR. "Aadhaar is merely a proof of identity. The card itself carries a disclaimer that it is not a proof of citizenship," the affidavit.

The poll body pointed to the "widespread issuance of bogus ration cards", making the document untrustworthy.





# India to host chess World Cup; venue to be decided

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**

KOZHIKODE

Global chess body FIDE on Monday confirmed that India would be hosting the chess World Cup later this year, but the venue has not yet been declared. "We are considering a few cities and will soon make the announcement," All India Chess Federation secretary, Dev Patel, told *The Hindu*. The World Cup will be held from October 30 to November 27, with 206 players competing in the knock-out tournament.



# Dhankhar submits his resignation to President

The 14th Vice-President of India leaves office with two years left in his term; decision comes on the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament; stepping down to abide by medical advice, he says

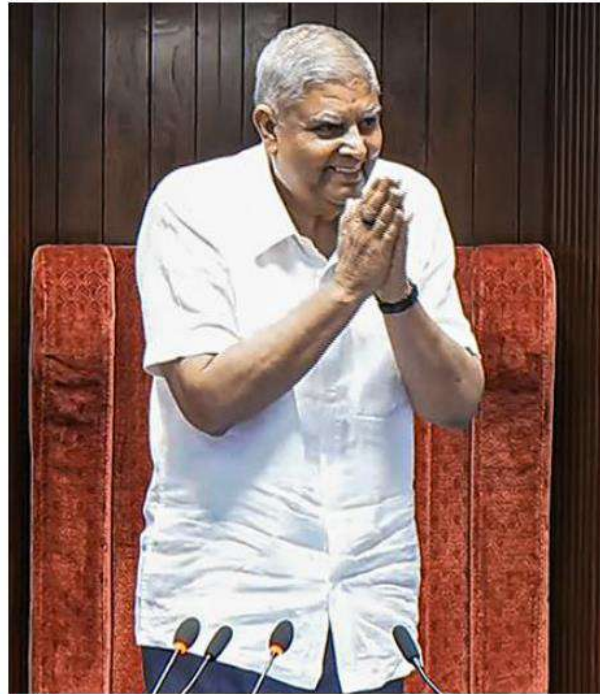
**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**V**ice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, 74, resigned from his post citing health reasons on Monday.

“To prioritise health care and abide by medical advice, I hereby resign as the Vice President of India, effective immediately, in accordance with Article 67(a) of the Constitution,” the resignation letter addressed to President Droupadi Murmu, which was posted on the Vice-President’s official X account, said. He had called on President Murmu in the evening.

Mr. Dhankhar had suffered a cardiac event in March but was said to have recovered and had been participating in his engagements since. The rest of the letter expressed his “deep gratitude” to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Council of Ministers as well as the “warmth, trust and affection” that he had received from MPs.

Mr. Dhankhar was elected India’s 14th Vice-Presi-



**Final session:** Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar greets the members of the Rajya Sabha on Monday. ANI

dent in August 2022, and has two years left for his term to complete. President Murmu has not indicated whether she had accepted the resignation.

The move has come as a surprise to many leaders, as Mr. Dhankhar had presided over Rajya Sabha proceedings on the first

half of the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Monday, which included an important intervention in the Opposition-led motion for removal of High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma. He did not return for the post-lunch Session but spoke to MPs and floor

leaders till evening.

Several MPs that *The Hindu* spoke to said he did not give any indication of quitting. He also presided over the Business Advisory Committee meeting of the Upper House at 12.30 p.m. Sources said that he was unlikely to attend the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Mr. Dhankhar, who had been Governor of West Bengal before being elected V-P, had an eventful tenure, especially in terms of his public speeches and his role as presiding officer of the Rajya Sabha.

In December 2024, Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh dismissed a motion of impeachment against Mr. Dhankhar moved by the Opposition, calling it “a move to denigrate the dignity of a constitutional authority”, reflecting the somewhat testy relationship between the Opposition and himself.

Senior Congress leader and party’s chief whip in the Upper House, Jairam Ramesh said Mr. Dhankhar’s resignation was “inexplicable” and “shocking.”