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IN BRIEF



Shivakumar all set to take oath as Karnataka CM

BENGALURU
The stage is set for Karnataka Congress chief D.K. Shivakumar to be sworn in as the 34th Chief Minister of Karnataka on Wednesday at Lok Bhavan, which completes the leadership transition from outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah that started last week. » Page 6

House collapses in north-west Delhi; 10 rescued

NEW DELHI
A one-storey structure collapsed in north-west Delhi's Mukundpur on Tuesday. Ten people were rescued from the building after an LPG cylinder blast, said an officer. » Page 2

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

CBSE officials transferred, panel to probe OSM tender

Centre replaces CBSE Chairman, Secretary, appoints one-person body to investigate procurement of services for OSM portal; transfers 'cover up' to spare political leadership, say Opposition leaders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) facing flak for its controversial new on-screen marking (OSM) system, the Centre on Tuesday replaced the Board's Chairman and Secretary.

It also set up a one-member committee to inquire into the Board's procurement of services for the marking process. The committee, chaired by S. Radha Chauhan, chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission, has been asked to submit its report within a month. As per the Cabinet Appointments Committee, senior IAS officer Lokhande Prashant Sitaram will be the new CBSE Chairperson, replacing



Youth Congress members protest seeking the resignation of the Union Education Minister in Mumbai on Tuesday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

ing Rahul Singh, who has been moved to the Agriculture Ministry. Varun Bhardwaj, a Director in the Education Ministry, will take over as CBSE Secretary, replacing Himanshu Gupta, who has been prematurely repatriated to his parent cadre in the Home Ministry.

Calling the transfers "a

cover up", the Congress said the move was an attempt to fix accountability on bureaucrats rather than the political leadership, and reiterated its demand that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resign or be sacked.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Re-evaluation portal open; glitches reported

NEW DELHI
After the CBSE opened its portal for submitting re-evaluation requests on Tuesday following a delay of a day, multiple Class 12 students reported technical errors and discrepancies. » PAGE 13

Teen briefs House panel on issues in CBSE OSM tender

NEW DELHI
Sarthak Sidhant, a 17-year-old student, on Tuesday presented his findings on alleged anomalies in the OSM tender process before a Parliamentary Standing Committee. » PAGE 13

Southwest monsoon to set in over Kerala 'around June 4'

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Revising the forecast of the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala, where the weather system makes landfall on the Indian mainland, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday said the rainy season was now "likely to set in" around June 4, Thursday.

On May 15, the IMD predicted onset over Kerala on May 26, with a model error of plus or minus four days. A June 4 arrival overshoots even the upper end of that window, May 30. It is the first time since 2015 – when a May 30 forecast gave way to a June 5 onset – that the department has failed to correctly call the monsoon's Kerala arrival. The IMD's operational onset forecasts, which rely on a custom forecast model, had been accurate every year from 2005 to 2025 but for that one lapse.

The IMD said conditions



Overcast: Rain clouds cover the sky in Ernakulam district of Kerala on Tuesday evening. H. VIBHU

as of Monday "are favourable for further advance of southwest monsoon into some more parts of southwest and southeast Arabian Sea, some parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Bay of Bengal around June 4".

Final push

An upper-air cyclonic circulation off the south Kerala coast is expected to aid that final push. The IMD forecast isolated heavy to ve-

ry heavy rainfall over Kerala over the next six or seven days.

The IMD placed the northern limit of the monsoon – the system's cloud promontory – along a line running from 10°N/60°E through the southern Bay of Bengal to 22°N/97°E as of Monday, with the rain yet to cross into the Kerala mainland.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

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www.thehinduads.com29 Census
enumerators
to face FIR for
refusing workPress Trust Of India
NOIDA

Authorities in Greater Noida have sought registration of FIRs against 29 enumerators who allegedly failed to accept their Census 2027 duties despite repeated communication, officials said on Tuesday.

According to the Greater Noida Authority, the officer in charge of Census work has written to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Noida, seeking legal action against the employees for non-cooperation in official duties.

Around 3,000 employees were assigned duty as enumerators, but 29 did not take charge even after the deadline. Officials said repeated attempts to contact them and share documents via phone and WhatsApp failed as they refused to report for duty.

Citing "failure to cooperate in a national exercise", the authority has sought lodging of FIRs and warned of disciplinary action against those yet to report for duty.

Now, house collapses
in north-west Delhi;
10 rescued, 1 critical

Building crumbles in Mukundpur following an LPG blast, 3 days after the Saket tragedy; owner, brother held for negligence, hoarding gas cylinders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Three days after the Saidulajab incident, in which six persons lost their lives, a one-storey structure collapsed in north-west Delhi's Mukundpur on Tuesday. Ten people were rescued from the building after an LPG cylinder blast, said an officer, adding that one of them is in critical but stable condition.

The blast took place in a suspected illegal gas transfer centre where multiple cylinders, including domestic and commercial ones, were kept, said the police.

The building owner, Sudhir Rai, and his brother, Harkesh Bahadur, have been apprehended and booked under various BNS sections pertaining to endangering human life and grievous hurt and sections



Rescue teams recovering cylinders stored illegally in the one-storey structure that caved in on Tuesday morning. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

of the Essential Commodities Act.

Mr. Bahadur was also booked for storing 46 empty cylinders illegally.

The incident was reported around 9.30 a.m., following which police, Delhi Fire Services and National Disaster Response Force personnel reached the spot and initiated rescue work, said the police, adding that canine squads and forensic teams were also pressed into service.

"Residents had rescued at least five persons by the time our teams reached. Five others were shifted to Babu Jagjivan Ram and Baba Saheb Ambedkar hospitals," said DCP (Outer North) Harehwar Swami.

Six persons with burns were sent to Lok Nayak and Safdarjung hospitals. One of the injured, a woman, is receiving critical care at Safdarjung Hospital. She is in stable condition, the police said.

Saket building owner remanded
in 3-day police custody; CM tells
MCD to identify illegal buildingsThe Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A city court on Tuesday remanded 71-year-old Karambir Singh Sejwal, owner of the five-storey building in Saidulajab that collapsed on May 30 killing six persons, in police custody for three days.

Seeking the custody of the accused, the Delhi police told the court that Mr. Sejwal needed to be interrogated to trace the other accused persons, including a builder allegedly involved in an unauthorised construction that was under way at the time of the incident.

The counsel for the accused, who was arrested on Monday, said a case was registered under BNS Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and argued that no evidence had yet emerged against his client.

Meanwhile, officials said Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to submit a report



CM Rekha Gupta inspecting a govt. office in Burari on Tuesday. She has asked for a citywide survey of unauthorised constructions. PTI

on all unauthorised and illegal constructions across the national capital.

"Strict directions have been issued by the Chief Minister to the MCD to carry out an extensive survey of the buildings and identify irregularities," said a senior official.

Ms. Gupta had visited the site on Sunday, met members of the affected families and ordered a magisterial inquiry, headed by the District Magistrate of South Delhi, to ascertain the cause of the incident and fix accountability.

In a related development, Mayor Pravesh Wahi said a crackdown has be-

gun against illegal structures in all MCD zones.

He said the engineers deployed in the field are responsible for preventing lapses by ensuring strict enforcement of construction norms.

"Many such structures are in unauthorised colonies, which are set to be regularised. So we will ensure strict supervision on construction," he added.

Mr. Wahi also criticised the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for "politicising" the tragedy. Earlier in the day, AAP councillors staged a protest outside the Mayor's office, holding him responsible for the incident.

Working to rationalise water supply
amid shortage concerns: ParveshThe Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh on Tuesday said the Delhi government is working on a water rationalisation project to ensure equitable distribution of water supply across the city, even as shortages continue in several areas.

Supply imbalance

Every summer, complaints of water scarcity persist in 12 to 13 Assembly constituencies while some localities receive comparatively higher supply, he said.

"This imbalance has existed for years. We are

working on a project to ensure that every citizen, irrespective of where they live, gets equitable access to water," Mr. Singh said.

Efficient distribution

The proposed project will assess population density, demand patterns, supply levels, and infrastructure across different parts of the city to create a more balanced and efficient distribution system.

Highlighting infrastructure challenges, the Minister said nearly 5,500 km of the city's 16,634-km water distribution network is over 30 years old.

"These ageing pipelines

are prone to leakages and contamination, leading to significant loss of treated water before it reaches consumers," he said.

Mr. Singh said the government has begun replacing old pipelines and strengthening the distribution system. "The work that should have been done 10 or 20 years ago is now being taken up on priority," he said.

As part of broader reforms, the Delhi Jal Board is also focusing on reducing losses in treated water supply caused by leakages, theft and inefficiencies in the network, the Minister added.

Census 2027: tax scrutiny fears, low awareness
hamper door-to-door enumeration across citySuruchi Kumari
NEW DELHI

Three weeks into the House Listing and Housing Operations drive under the first phase of Census 2027, enumerators across the city's 13 districts are running into a familiar obstacle: locked doors, wary landlords, and residents reluctant to be counted.

While fears of tax scrutiny are prompting some property owners to block access to tenants, low awareness among migrant workers is also slowing the pace of the door-to-door exercise, several enumerators told *The Hindu*.

Meanwhile, officials have issued show-cause notices to enumerators who either refused to participate in the exercise or remained absent without informing supervisors.



Census officials in east Delhi's Mayur Vihar. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



Landlords refuse to allow enumerators to survey tenants living on their properties fearing that the information may be shared with the Income Tax Department

ANU GUPTA
Coordinator, south and old Delhi

by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, as per data accessed by *The Hindu*.

"Some enumerators are still finalising the physical mapping work of their HLBs while others have not yet synced responses collected from households on the House Listing Operations app," a Census officer said, adding, "Overall, the progress has been satisfactory as the work is continuing."

The exercise in the New Delhi district concluded on May 15, with 63,050 households identified in areas under the jurisdiction of the New Delhi Municipal Council and the Delhi Cantonment Board.

Ms. Gupta said they have been receiving complaints that enumerators have had to make multiple visits because landlords refuse to allow them to survey tenants living on their properties or deny that tenants stay there.

"They fear that the information may be shared with the Income Tax Department," she said.

"Whenever such episodes occur, senior officials have to intervene and explain that data collected are confidential and cannot be used by any authority for purposes other than the Census," she said.

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
PALIKA KENDRA, SANSAD MARG, NEW DELHI-110001
Website: www.ndmc.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RESPONSE
Petition for Approval of True-Up of FY 2023-24

- New Delhi Municipal Council (hereinafter referred to as "NDMC") has filed Petition before the Hon'ble Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (hereinafter referred to as "DERC or Commission") for True-up of FY 2023-24 and ARR for FY 2025-26 under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, DERC (Business Plan) Regulations, 2023 and the provisions at the DERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff) Regulations, 2017 notified vide notification dated 31st January, 2017. DERC has admitted the Petition vide Order dated 12.12.2025.
- The salient features of Petition are as follows:
Table 1: Summary of True-up Petition

Sr. No.	Particulars	Units	FY 2023-24
A.	Energy Input for sale to consumers	MU	1399.20
B.	Energy Billed	MU	1322.08
C.	Distribution Losses for the year	%	5.51%
D.	AT&C Losses for the year	%	6.54%
E.	Power Purchase (includes Transmission) Cost	Rs. Crore	1301.23
F.	O&M Expenses	Rs. Crore	401.55
G.	Depreciation	Rs. Crore	41.48
H.	Return on Capital Employed (RoCE)	Rs. Crore	48.91
I.	Income tax	Rs. Crore	0.00
J.	Less: Non-Tariff Income	Rs. Crore	13.45
K.	Aggregate Revenue Requirement	Rs. Crore	1779.72
L.	Revenue available at Existing Tariff	Rs. Crore	1467.26
M.	Revenue Gap/Surplus at Existing Tariff	Rs. Crore	(312.46)

- Recovery of Revenue Gap:** As per the ARR and revenue at the existing tariff, NDMC has a revenue gap of Rs. 312.46 Crore for FY 2023-24. NDMC has requested Hon'ble Commission to decide appropriate hike in tariff so as to meet this Revenue Gap.
- Performance of NDMC during FY 2023-24.** The Distribution losses in 2023-24 were 5.51% and AT&C loss level in 2023-24 were 6.54% with a collection efficiency of 98.92%.
- In accordance with the provisions of DERC Comprehensive (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2001 notified by the Commission, the consumers and stakeholders are requested to submit the response on the above Petition. The response may be sent to the Secretary of the Commission at the following address by 5.06.2026. The response may be submitted personally or by post to the Commission at the address given below. The response can also be e-mailed to the Secretary of the Commission at the e-mail address mentioned below:-
DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi 110017
Email id: secyderc@nic.in, Telefax 011-41080416, 41080417
- The Commission shall conduct a Public Hearing on Hybrid Mode (Physically and Virtually) with the responding stakeholders on 5.06.2026.
- The complete Petition can be downloaded from the website of the Commission (<http://www.derc.gov.in>) and the website of the NDMC (www.ndmc.gov.in). A soft copy of the Petition may be obtained in CD on payment of Rs 25/- per CD or a copy of the Petition may be purchased from Palika Kendra, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001 on any working day till 5.06.2026 between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM on payment of Rs 100/- either by cash or by Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of "Secretary NDMC" payable at New Delhi.

For NDMC Secretary

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"e" - Procurement Notice No. 05 /OCC/2026-27 (on-line)

Type of work : Supply of cast iron billet plate for 35T gantry crane of Telengiri Irrigation Project.
Total No. of work : 01 (One).
Period of supply : 90 (Ninety) days.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Cost of Tender document (Including GST) through on-line transfer system	Availability of Tender (On-line)	Submission of Bid (On-line)
General Manager (Mech.), OCC Ltd., Central Workshop, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar	OCCL-MECH/ CWS/ 03/2026-27	Rs.11,800/- (Non-refundable)	03.06.2026 10.00 AM to 22.06.2026 5.00 PM	03.06.2026 10.00 AM to 22.06.2026 5.00 PM

Date of opening of the Technical Bid : 23.06.2026 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
Amendment/corrigendum/cancellation, if any shall be posted on-line only.
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Offers are invited in two parts system on e-tendering on the portal of Delhi Govt. at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>, for the below items with tender closing time at 11:00 hrs. on bid submission date:-

Tender ID & Description	T-Value(Rs.)
01 2026_IPGCL_289277	2,95,37,500.00
02 2026_IPGCL_289414	25,76,000.00
03 2026_IPGCL_289208	24,11,382.45
04 2026_IPGCL_288150	88,53,787.91
05 2026_IPGCL_288152	14,55,004.96

Note: 1) Tender Issue Date & EMD Details :- Please visit IPGCL-PPCL website (www.ipgcl-ppcl.gov.in)
2) Bid Submission End Date & Bid Opening Date: As per IPGCL-PPCL website and Delhi Govt. e-portal
3) No Corrigendum/ addendum/modification for tender value up to Rs. 50.00 Lacs will be advertised in newspaper and bidders are requested to regularly visit IPGCL-PPCL website as well as Delhi Government E-procurement site for getting themselves updated.

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0088/26-27

FIR against Delhi
AAP chief for
'revealing' rape
victim's identityThe Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police have registered an FIR against Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj for allegedly disclosing the identity of the three-year-old girl who was raped at a private school in Jankapuri on April 30.

Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 03
RISE 05:24 SET 19:16
RISE 22:00 SET 07:25

THURSDAY, JUN. 04
RISE 05:24 SET 19:16
RISE 22:39 SET 08:21

FRIDAY, JUN. 05
RISE 05:23 SET 19:17
RISE 23:15 SET 09:19

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 38 27
Safdarjang 38 27
Palam 36 24

Delhi Palam Today
36°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Chances of duststorm and thundershower with strong winds.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of duststorm and thundershower with strong winds to occur.

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Classroom Course

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Jatin Chahar
Classroom Course

AIR 7

Arnab Gautam
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AIR 8

Kanishk Jain
Classroom Course

AIR 10

Darsh Sikka
Classroom Course

DELHI-NCR TOPPER

AIR 77

Arohi Deshpande
Classroom Course



AIR 11 Nikunj Agrawal Classroom Course	AIR 12 Aryan Ragupathy Classroom Course	AIR 14 Prince Choudhary Classroom Course	AIR 16 Tanay Agarwal Classroom Course	AIR 18 Riddhesh Bendale Classroom Course	AIR 19 Shaswat Banerjee Classroom Course	AIR 25 Madhav S. Notani Classroom Course	AIR 27 Abhipraya Verma Classroom Course	AIR 29 Bhavesh Patra Classroom Course
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AIR 379 Pranjal Roy Classroom Course	AIR 403 Raghav Bansal Classroom Course	AIR 419 Medhansh Shekhar Classroom Course	AIR 471 Tarun Kumar Classroom Course	AIR 501 Arjun Singh Classroom Course	AIR 590 Sahaj Gupta Classroom Course	AIR 612 Krishna Rathi Classroom Course	AIR 662 Anish Anand Classroom Course	AIR 674 Anant Kumar Classroom Course	AIR 680 Mayank Choudhary Classroom Course	
AIR 692 Love Chahar Classroom Course	AIR 704 Vidit Mendiratta Classroom Course	AIR 725 Ayush Kumar Jha Classroom Course	AIR 743 Lakshya Sharma Classroom Course	AIR 751 Vidhaan Srivastava Classroom Course	AIR 793 Govind Bansal Classroom Course	AIR 832 Bhargav Classroom Course	AIR 842 Vidush Jain Classroom Course	AIR 851 Lakshya Gaur Classroom Course	AIR 972 Gopal Saxena Classroom Course	

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As per result compiled till 02 June 2026 (03:00 PM)

INBRIEF

Amit Shah to be on two-day
Tripura visit from June 4: CM

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Tuesday said Union Home Minister Amit Shah would be on a two-day visit to the State from June 4, during which he would lay the foundation stone for a hotel and inspect the Bangladesh border. Mr. Shah will come here after attending the North Eastern Council's plenary session in Meghalaya's Shillong, he said. "Mr. Shah will lay the foundation stone for the Taj Pushpabanta Palace hotel on June 5," the Chief Minister told reporters. The State government has signed an agreement with the Tata group to convert the iconic Agartala palace into a heritage five-star hotel. PTI

Seven killed, 40 injured as
two buses collide near Surat

At least seven persons were killed, and around 40 were injured after two buses operated by the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation collided near Bardoli town in Gujarat's Surat district on Tuesday, and one of them caught fire, police said. All the deceased were travelling in the bus that caught fire. The incident occurred on National Highway 53 near Uva village, officials said, adding that the road connects Maharashtra with Gujarat. Surat district Superintendent of Police Rajesh Ghadhiya said one of the buses was travelling from Surat to Dhule, while the other was headed towards Surat from Chalisgaon in Maharashtra. PTI

PDP chief calls for 'Ladakh-like
united outreach' to pull J&K
out of 'debilitating stalemate'Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday wrote to regional political leaders, including Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and called for a "Ladakh-like united outreach" to the Centre to pull J&K out of the "current debilitating stalemate" and initiate a sustained dialogue with the people of the Union Territory (UT).

The ruling National Conference (NC) is likely to respond after consultations within the party leadership. "Recent breakthroughs achieved by the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) with the Centre offer an important lesson: only dialogue can deliver meaningful outcomes. If we want to restore the dignity and security of our people,



Mehbooba Mufti

a constructive dialogue with the Government of India is a much-needed imperative. The time has come to make a united outreach to Prime Minister [Narendra Modi] and Home Minister [Amit Shah] and prevail upon them to initiate a sustained dialogue with the people of J&K," Ms. Mufti wrote in her letter.

The former Chief Minister said J&K once again finds itself at a critical juncture, with a pervasive sense of despair and disillusionment gripping the region. "It necessitates a broad

consensus above and across party and partisan lines to pull J&K out of the current debilitating stalemate," she said.

Seeking CM's support

Ms. Mufti said the Chief Minister's support was crucial for the success of such an initiative.

Responding to the letter, Mr. Abdullah said: "Your letter to me is now in the public domain and I will be sending you a reply, similarly routed, once I have consulted my senior party colleagues." The CM said Ms. Mufti, in the letter, gave "the impression that I have kept her waiting for an appointment for weeks on end, which is clearly not the case".

Senior NC leader Sakina Itoo said Ms. Mufti was responsible for the "political and constitutional setbacks suffered by J&K".

While ₹810 is charged per person in the first phase, the price is ₹1,010 in the second. About a million tourists took the gondola in 2024, an average of 2,739 persons per day. The year saw revenue generation of ₹108 crore.



Efforts under way to rescue tourists stranded in Asia's highest cable car following a snag at Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir, on May 25. PTI

six persons, are operated in the first phase. According to officials, the J&K Cable Car Corpora-

tion, which runs the gondola, started allowing 7,000 to 8,000 tourists to take the ride in the first

phase this year against the approved upper limit of 4,000. The second phase, with a carrying capacity of 1,500 people in 33 cabins, started ferrying 3,000 tourists, officials said.

On May 25, about 3,000 tourists had taken the ride in the first phase up to 1 p.m., when the snag occurred. Another batch of about 3,000 could not take the ride. Official sources said if tourists were stranded in the second phase, then the "rescue operation would have been almost impossible, given the terrain and altitude".

While ₹810 is charged per person in the first phase, the price is ₹1,010 in the second. About a million tourists took the gondola in 2024, an average of 2,739 persons per day. The year saw revenue generation of ₹108 crore.

Ensure all Jharkhand
voters are mapped on
time: CEO to officialsAmit Bhelari
PATNA

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Jharkhand, K. Ravi Kumar, on Tuesday directed District Election Officers (DEOs) to ensure that all voters are mapped based on the 2003 electoral roll by June 15.

Mr. Kumar issued the directions after a meeting in Nirvachan Bhawan in Ranchi, where he reviewed the State's preparedness for the special intensive revision (SIR) drive set to begin on June 20. During the review, he interacted with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) who had earlier reported low voter mapping in their areas. He asked senior officials to undertake necessary capacity-building measures for the BLOs.

Those mapped will not have to submit additional documents during the SIR, the CEO said. He added

that if a voter remains unmapped, their name will not be deleted from the draft voter list.

However, after a notice from the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), such voters must submit documents linking them to their parents or grandparents with an extract from the 2003 list showing the relatives' names.

Final list on October 7

The final list of voters will be published on October 7 following the disposal of all claims and objections by the EROs.

The CEO asserted that officials must conduct a rigorous review of the mapping exercise and noted that voters who are mapped incorrectly will appear on the "Anomaly cases" list, and EROs will have to conduct fresh hearings and issue appropriate orders in such cases.

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday assured that the State government will not discontinue its flagship 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme, announcing that 1.7 crore eligible women will continue to receive the benefits after the recent removal of 80 lakh ineligible beneficiaries following an e-KYC (Know Your Customer) deadline that ended on April 30.

"The Comptroller and Auditor General raised questions over the scrutiny of beneficiaries and a verification was conducted. Five lakh beneficiaries had government jobs, 10 lakh had an income of over ₹2.5 lakh, and 14,000 men had benefited under the scheme for women. After analysing several sets of data, the beneficiaries were removed," Mr. Fadnavis said while speaking to reporters ahead of the weekly Cabinet meeting. He added that the instalments credited to 14,000 men will be re-



Opposition parties have alleged that the government is weeding out Ladki Bahin beneficiaries due to a 'severe financial crisis'. FILE PHOTO

covered.

After the first round of KYC earlier, the 1.57 crore beneficiaries received the December 2025 instalment, as per a Women and Child Development Department official. Now, after the second round, a second chance for women to prove their eligibility, the number of beneficiaries has risen to 1.70 crore, the official said. The eligibility verification includes annual family income below ₹2.5 lakh, elimination of duplicate entries, a cap of two women per household and exclusion of families with government employees, among others. The scheme was rolled out

in July 2024.

A senior official on Monday informed that the beneficiary count has dropped from 2.4 crore to nearly 1.7 crore after the e-KYC deadline, but the disqualifications were also linked to non-compliance with eligibility criteria of the scheme launched in July 2024, drawing sharp criticism from the Opposition parties. They alleged that the government has "betrayed" women and is weeding out beneficiaries due to a "severe financial crisis".

Senior NCP (SP) leader Jayant Patil on Tuesday demanded accountability ov-

er the "irregularities". "How did the alleged bogus beneficiaries continue to receive benefits for nearly 20 months?" he said, questioning whether the huge expenditure points to "calculated corruption".

Incentive benefits

In the Cabinet meeting, the government approved the 'Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Shetkari Karja-mukti Yojana' to provide farm loan waiver of up to ₹2 lakh each, and also introduced incentive benefits for those farmers who have repaid their loans on time, an official statement said. The scheme is expected to benefit around 56 lakh farmers, waiving ₹36,585 crore of loans. The Cabinet also decided to provide an incentive of up to ₹50,000 to farmers who have regularly repaid their crop loans, the statement added.

The Opposition Congress said the loan waiver should not remain merely an announcement as the past implementation of the scheme created doubts about the government's commitment.

'Vijay sought meeting
with EPS, but AIADMK
didn't grant him time'The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Minister for Energy Resources and Law R. Nirmalkumar on Tuesday claimed that Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay had sought an appointment with AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami after assuming office, but the AIADMK did not grant him the time.

"Considering the political situation at the time, as the AIADMK had faced electoral setbacks, some leaders of the party felt that the meeting would not be appropriate. The appointment sought by the Chief Minister was not confirmed by the AIADMK," the Minister said during an interaction with journalists.

Mr. Nirmalkumar's comments came in response to CPI(M) State secretary P. Shanmugam's statement that Mr. Vijay should have met Mr. Palaniswami, as he had met other political leaders after assuming office.

He also defended the State government's position with respect to law and order. He said the Police Department had been taking immediate action whenever crimes were reported, and the accused were being arrested promptly.



T.N. Minister R. Nirmalkumar

"But under the previous government, the approach was lackadaisical. Action was taken by then government only after the intervention of the courts in some cases," he said.

"In some cases, murders are committed due to personal motives. But what matters is the action taken by the government after the incident," he said. The Minister said strict measures had been taken against quarries operating illegally.

Farmers' protest

To a question on farmers protesting against the State government and demanding a full waiver of crop loans, Mr. Nirmalkumar said more than 12 lakh small and marginal farmers, who had taken loans from cooperative societies, had benefited from crop loan waiver announced under various slabs.

NIA charges 31 in SIR-linked
road blockades and detention
of judicial officers in BengalPress Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A total of 31 people have been named in chargesheets filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in four separate cases linked to alleged road blockades and illegal detention of judicial officers engaged in the special intensive revision (SIR) in West Bengal's Malda, officials said on Tuesday.

The chargesheets have been filed before the NIA special court, Kolkata, based on various digital/technical, documentary and oral evidence, as well as examination of several witnesses to the incidents that rocked the region ahead of the Assembly poll.

Specific roles played by each of the accused have been detailed in the chargesheets, which clearly establish their involvement in



A road blockade outside the BDO office at Kaliachak in Malda district where seven judicial officers were gheraoed. FILE PHOTO

the road blockades and illegal detention/restraint of judicial officers engaged in the SIR of electoral rolls at various locations in Malda district, a statement issued by the NIA said.

'Coordinated move'

The probe agency, which had taken over the investigation in the cases following the Supreme Court's suo motu cognisance and directive, alleged that the

accused had, in a coordinated manner, participated in unlawful assemblies, blocked public roads, obstructed the movement of government officials, and wrongfully restrained judicial officers engaged in the SIR exercise.

Their actions had interfered with the conduct of the statutory electoral exercise and discharge of official duties by public servants, the NIA said.

Overloading, long ride hours weighed heavy on Gulmarg Gondola

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Overloading, extended ride hours, and violation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) have made Asia's highest cable car, the Gulmarg Gondola, vulnerable to technical faults, according to officials.

Panic gripped the tourist hotspot in north Kashmir's Baramulla on May 25 after a snag left about 300 tourists stranded mid-air. The rescue operation lasted over six hours.

Set up in 1998, the gondola runs in two phases every day: Gulmarg to Kongdoori (10-minute ride) and Kongdoori to Apharwat (12-minute ride), with the highest point located at an altitude of 4,390 metres (14,403 feet). Official sources said a 63 cabins, each with a carrying capacity of



Efforts under way to rescue tourists stranded in Asia's highest cable car following a snag at Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir, on May 25. PTI

six persons, are operated in the first phase. According to officials, the J&K Cable Car Corpora-

tion, which runs the gondola, started allowing 7,000 to 8,000 tourists to take the ride in the first

phase this year against the approved upper limit of 4,000. The second phase, with a carrying capacity of 1,500 people in 33 cabins, started ferrying 3,000 tourists, officials said.

On May 25, about 3,000 tourists had taken the ride in the first phase up to 1 p.m., when the snag occurred. Another batch of about 3,000 could not take the ride. Official sources said if tourists were stranded in the second phase, then the "rescue operation would have been almost impossible, given the terrain and altitude".

While ₹810 is charged per person in the first phase, the price is ₹1,010 in the second. About a million tourists took the gondola in 2024, an average of 2,739 persons per day. The year saw revenue generation of ₹108 crore.

Besides overloading, the corporation also extended the operating time by four hours this year. Official sources said the cable car ran operations from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. last year. However, this year, the ride would start at 7.30 a.m. and close by 8.30 p.m. Officials said running the cable car after sunset "is against the SOPs laid down in 1998 for the Gulmarg Gondola".

'Change in routine'

"The earlier maintenance routine stipulated that the cable car should rest every Monday for technicians to take a look. However, maintenance was shifted to night hours and Monday too was included to ferry tourists," an official said.

At present, there are six stations for the cable car ride and an open-air chair lift in Gulmarg. However,

these stations are not manned by mandatory technical staff, which would include electrical and mechanical engineers, another official said.

The corporation has also failed to fill the technical posts that remained vacant after 2012, "significantly decreasing the technical staff", the backbone of the gondola, according to officials. The staff strength in the Electrical Department has fallen from eight to three this year, they said.

Meanwhile, the J&K Cable Car Corporation remains indecisive about reopening the ride. "No date has been fixed for reopening the facility. Refunds for tourists who had booked tickets between May 25 and June 3 are being processed," said Syed Qamar Sajjad, managing director of the corporation.

Madhya Pradesh govt.
to relaunch public bus
service after 21 yearsMehul Malpani
BHOVAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said on Tuesday that his government will soon relaunch a Statewide public transport bus service, which was discontinued in 2005.

Discontinued in 2005

The bus service, 'Mukhya Mantri Sugam Parivahan Sewa', Mr. Yadav said, would be launched in phases across Madhya Pradesh with the government planning to start the services before Rakshabandhan.

The Madhya Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (MPSRTC) was disbanded in 2005 during

the BJP government led by then Chief Minister, the late Babulal Gaur, leaving the State without a public bus service and prompting people to choose private options.

The government had reportedly cited significant financial losses and lack of resources at the time. The announcement to relaunch services has also come on Gaur's birth anniversary. Mr. Yadav alleged that the process to shut down the MPSRTC was started during the Congress rule in the State before 2003. The services will now be launched by the Madhya Pradesh Passenger Transport and Infrastructure Limited, a State-level company.

Will continue to fight BJP until it is defeated: Mamata

At dharna over 'post-poll violence', former CM says won't abandon TMC workers in their hour of need; challenges detractors who 'sought to create a new Trinamool' amid defection buzz

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee held a protest meeting in Kolkata on Tuesday, declaring that she would continue to fight the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) "until it is defeated". Ms. Banerjee lost the West Bengal Assembly election to the BJP a month ago.



Former West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee during a protest in Kolkata on Tuesday. ANI

She said it was unprecedented that she is facing protests outside her home and stressed that former Chief Ministers such as Jyoti Basu and Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee never had to deal with agitators at their homes after losing elections. "The party of lumpens wants me to die of a heart attack. But I will not die until I defeat you," the 71-year-old Trinamool Congress (TMC) chairperson said, referring to the BJP.

Ms. Banerjee said she would not abandon the TMC workers in their hour of trial.

Amid talk of defections in the party, Ms. Banerjee challenged her detractors asking who among them would be making a "new Trinamool".

"Those who were elected on the party symbol now seeking to break the party because of their fear of the police: will they make a new Trinamool?"

Trinamool was formed from struggle and there can be no new Trinamool," she said.

Signature forgery

After the expulsion of two TMC MLAs, there has been speculation that more legislators may break away. The MLAs were expelled on Monday for making a complaint to the West Bengal Assembly Speaker that their signatures on a letter naming a choice for the Leader of Opposition was forged.

"My regret is that those I supported are now aligning with traitors," she said.

The TMC was reduced to 80 MLAs while the BJP won

208 seats in the 294-member State Assembly. With the expulsion, the number of MLAs in the TMC fold has dropped to 78.

The former Chief Minister also spoke on the attack on party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on May 30, the eviction of hawkers, and razing of alleged illegal structures and buildings.

"Eviction of hawkers without rehabilitation was not our government's policy, we adopted a humane approach," she said.

Ms. Banerjee was joined by party MP Kalyan Banerjee, former Minister Dola Sen, and MLA Kunal Ghosh among others.

TMC supporters had gathered at Esplanade and raised slogans in support of the party leader.

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ms. Banerjee said, "Look at what is happening to West Bengal, whom you have given responsibility of the State?"

Ms. Banerjee expressed hope that a time would come when there would no longer be a BJP government at the Centre. "Very soon, all anti-BJP parties will meet in Delhi. Wait a while and we will announce our country-wide course of action," the TMC chairperson said, referring to the scheduled INDIA bloc meeting next week.

'Dismal turnout'

Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari claimed that only a small number of TMC leaders attended Ms. Banerjee's dharna in Kolkata over alleged post-poll violence against her party workers.

Speaking to reporters after offering prayers at the Tarakeswar temple in Hooghly district, Mr. Adhikari said the situation in the TMC is turning out to be "dismal".

"Only three MPs and six MLAs turned up at Mamata Banerjee's protest dharna. The TMC's condition is so dismal. It resembles the Falta repoll [where the TMC finished fourth]," the Chief Minister said.

Australian goes missing in Punjab; daughter seeks CM's help

Press Trust of India
CHANDIGARH

The daughter of a Melbourne-based Indian-origin teacher, who disap-

peared in Amritsar last month, has turned to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for help. Punjab Police has zeroed in on the man's absconding brother, wanted

in an NDPS case. The disappearance of 66-year-old Sunil Sharma has also attracted media attention in Australia. Mr. Sharma arrived in India last

month and travelled to Amritsar in connection with the sale and maintenance of a property. However, his family has not heard from him since May 22.

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

A Business Initiative

Empowering The Street Vendors: 6-Years of PM SVANidhi, By Shri Ashok Chandra, MD&CEO, Punjab National Bank



The PM SVANidhi (Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi) scheme, launched on June 1, 2020, stands as one of India's most transformative urban micro-credit interventions. Conceived by the Government of India as an emergency life support system during the economic disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has successfully transitioned into an extended institutional platform for financial inclusion in India. The primary utility of PM SVANidhi lies in its brilliant dismantling of the barriers to formal credit for informal micro-entrepreneurs. Historically, street vendors were trapped in vicious cycles of high-interest debt from informal moneylenders. PM SVANidhi shattered this paradigm by providing collateral-free working capital loans. Initially, when the scheme was launched vendors began with a first tranche of up to ₹10,000, and upon timely repayment, seamlessly graduate to a second tranche of up to ₹20,000, and a third of up to ₹50,000. Backed by a 7% per annum interest subvention credited quarterly to the borrowers' accounts, the scheme makes formal credit incredibly affordable. The overwhelming success of the program is vividly reflected in its metrics. Demonstrating the massive scale of India's financial inclusion drive, 75.69 lakh micro-entrepreneurs have been successfully tapped into PM SVANidhi loans as on 29th May 2026, out of which 72.4 per cent are digitally active entrepreneurs.

JEE seven times, and has repeated All India Ranks 1, 2, and 3 in a row for the second time in its history. Allen students secured 6 AIR ranks in the top 10 AIR nationally, 24 classroom students in the top 50. Congratulating the students, Allen Career Institute CEO Nitin Kukreja said, "Allen believes in excellence, and these results are a testament to our commitment to student success. Allen has delivered exceptional results in both quality and quantity. Allen has achieved excellent results in every bracket—top 50, top 100, offline, and online.

Er. Duddh Nath takes over as CGM of Obra Thermal Power Project



Senior power sector official Er. Duddh Nath has taken charge as Chief General Manager of the Obra Thermal Power Project, succeeding Er. Rajendra Kumar Agrawal following his retirement. According to UPRVNL orders, he will also hold additional charge of Chief Engineer, Obra 'B' Thermal Power Station. An electrical engineer with over three decades of experience in thermal power operations, Er. Duddh Nath has served at Anpara, Obra and the corporation headquarters in Lucknow. After assuming office, he said his focus would be on safe and efficient plant operations, improved performance and achieving generation targets.

Dubai reinforces role as global growth platform for Indian businesses

Dubai Chamber of Commerce has announced that 3,995 new Indian companies joined the chamber in Q1 2026, bringing the total active Indian membership to 84,088 by end of March 2026. This makes India the largest foreign business community in Dubai. The growth reflects rising confidence among Indian businesses in Dubai as a hub for international expansion and long-term growth. H.E. Mohammad Ali Rashed Lootah, President and CEO of Dubai Chambers, said: "The continued growth of Indian businesses underlines the trust they place in Dubai as a platform for long-term success. The emirate provides the infrastructure, agility, and connectivity companies need to grow with confidence. The Dubai-India part-

nership is built on strong cultural ties and shared ambition. Dubai Chambers will continue supporting Indian companies to expand through Dubai."

Placement season at Teerthanker Mahaveer University

TMU has recorded its strongest placement season yet, with 953 students from the 2025-26 batch securing offers from leading Indian and multinational companies, underlining the university's growing reputation as an industry-focused institution. The latest placement cycle saw students receiving offers across engineering, management, and technology streams, with the highest domestic package touching ₹14.56 lakh per annum. University officials said the consistent rise in recruitment numbers over the past three years reflects increasing corporate confidence in TMU graduates and the institution's emphasis on employability-driven education. Chancellor Suresh Jain said the university's long-term investment in quality education and corporate partnerships was now translating into stronger career opportunities for students. "We have always believed that education must ultimately lead to meaningful employability. These results reaffirm our commitment towards building a professionally skilled and globally competitive student community," he said.

REC Limited Signs MoU with ERDA to Strengthen Quality Assurance under RDSS



REC Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Electrical Research and Development Association (ERDA) on 27 May/26 at SCOPE Complex, New Delhi, to strengthen quality testing and assurance mechanisms for materials deployed under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). The MoU was signed by Shri Prabhakar Kumar Singh, Executive Director (RDSS), REC Limited and Shri Brijesh Sachdeva, Head, ERDA North, in the presence of Shri Prince Dhawan, IAS, Executive Director (PMD), REC Limited and senior officials from both organisations. Under the agreement, REC Limited and ERDA will collaborate on third-party quality testing of materials used in RDSS projects, technical support, capacity-building initiatives, and development of robust quality assurance frameworks.

Civil society groups up in arms over new Ladakh liquor policy

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Prominent civil society groups on Tuesday opposed the new excise policy introduced by the Ladakh administration on May 31 that plans to increase retail outlets from two to 20 and extend sales to remote pockets such as Nubra, Changthang, Sham, and Zaskar.

"Our stand is clear. We do not support the opening of 20 new wine shops or the unrestricted sale of alcohol in hotels, guest houses, and homestays. We want a safe, healthy, and drug-free future for Ladakh," read a statement issued by the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA).

'A serious threat'

The LBA termed the new excise policy "a serious threat to the region's social fabric, youth welfare, and future generations". Members of the body had met Lieutenant-Governor Vinai

Kumar Saxena on May 27 "to review the functioning of drug de-addiction centres in Leh and Kargil and assess the growing challenge of substance abuse in the region".

The group demanded immediate withdrawal of the notification and urged the administration to continue with the earlier excise policy.

The Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), an amalgam of social, religious and political parties in Kargil, also opposed the policy. "Addressing one addiction by promoting another is neither sound public policy nor a credible strategy for safeguarding society," said KDA member Sajad Kargili.

Ladakh MP Haji Hanifa also opposed the move. "Drug addiction is increasing in Ladakh at an alarming rate. The policy, if implemented, will only bring more youth into addiction. If liquor is banned in Bihar and Gujarat, why introduce it in Ladakh?" he said.

HC seeks U.P. govt's reply on role of gram pradhans

Press Trust of India
LUCKNOW

The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court on Tuesday sought a response from the Uttar Pradesh government in a case challenging the State's decision to appoint existing gram pradhans (village heads) as administrators until fresh panchayat elections are held and new village heads are elected.

The court directed the State counsel to obtain appropriate instructions from the government and apprise it on June 3. A Vacation Bench comprising Jus-

tices Shekhar B. Saraf and A.K. Chaudhary passed the order on a public interest litigation filed by advocate Om Prakash Prajapati.

'Extended tenure'

The plea argued that under Section 12(3)(a) of the U.P. Panchayat Raj Act, the tenure of a gram pradhan is limited to five years from the date of taking oath. By not conducting panchayat polls on time and instead appointing the existing gram pradhans as administrators, the government has effectively extended their tenure indefinitely, which is contrary to law, it argued.

HEMWATI NANDAN BAHUGUNA UTTARAKHAND MEDICAL EDUCATION UNIVERSITY
NEW CENTRAL HOPETOWN, BAYAKHALA, SELAQUI, DEHRADUN-248011
WEBSITE: www.hnbumu.ac.in, E-mail: info.hnbumu@gmail.com
Ref. No. 482/HNBUMU/2026-27 Date: 02.06.2026

Advertisement for the Post of Registrar HNBUMU

Applications are invited from interested, eligible, Indian Citizens for the one post of Registrar through direct recruitment/deputation as per government order number 382933/XXVIII(V)/2026(E-26031). The post carries the pay scale 66700-206700 with (level-11).

Applicants may visit our Website: www.hnbumu.ac.in for detailed advertisement including eligibility, general instructions, application form and all other updates about this advertisement. The last date for submission of application by speed post and the same by email also is 01 July 2026. The candidate must download the application form from university website and attach copies of all relevant testimonials, documents duly self-attested and submit the same with filled complete form to the "Vice Chancellor, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Uttarakhand Medical Education University Bayakhala, New central hope town selaqui, Dehradun-248011, Uttarakhand (India)", so as to reach her, on or before 01 July 2026 by speed Post and the same set as PDF copy in email (vchnbmu2@gmail.com) only. Applications received both by speed post and the same PDF copy in email on or before 01/07/2026 will be considered for recruitment process. VICE CHANCELLOR HNBUMU, DEHRADUN

THE HINDU OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
An Institution of National Importance established by an Act of Parliament

INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR DR. S.R. RANGANATHAN INTERNSHIP IN BHU LIBRARIES

Banaras Hindu University (BHU) conducts an ambitious Dr. S.R. Ranganathan Internship programme in BHU Libraries, in memory of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, a doyen in the field of Library Science and who worked as Librarian of Sayaji Rao Gaekwad Library in its formative years. A total number of 12 internships are available under this program for the year 2026-27 intake. The internship program will be of one-year duration, extendable for one more year based on the performance of the intern. The interns will get a monthly stipend of ₹20,000.00. For full details and application format, interested candidates are requested to visit the University website: www.bhu.ac.in The last date to receive the duly filled application forms is June 21, 2026. Deputy Registrar SRICC

VAAGDEVI INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH
(Proposed Deemed to be University under Distinct Category under section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
(Sponsored by Viswambhara Educational Society)
Hunter Road, Rangasai Pet, Khila Warangal (Mandal) Warangal, Telangana-506005, India

Applications are invited for the post of VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Honourable Chancellor of Vaagdevi Institute of Science Technology and Research has constituted a Search-cum-Selection Committee to recommend a suitable candidate from amongst experienced and distinguished academicians who meet the qualifications and experience as prescribed in the UGC/Institutions Deemed to be Universities Regulations, 2023 read with the UGC regulations, 2018. Eligibility: The candidate shall be a distinguished academicians with a minimum of ten years of experience as Professor in a University system, or ten years of experience in reputed research and/or academic administrative organization, with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership. The candidate shall possess the highest level of competence, integrity, institutional commitment and proven governance, strategic management & leadership abilities, and shall be visionary in the holistic growth of the Organization. The tenure and age limit and other criteria shall be as per the UGC norms.

Interested candidates are required to email their detailed curriculum along with educational qualifications, experience, research publications, administrative roles, and a digital photograph to recruitment@vaagdevi.edu.in, info@vaagdevi.edu.in on or before 09.06.2026. A hard copy of the application along with supporting documents shall reach to "The Secretary & Correspondent, Viswambhara Educational Society, Bolikunta, Warangal-506005, Telangana" on or before 10.06.2026 by 5 pm, in an envelope superscribed "Application for the post of Vice-Chancellor Confidential". For further information contact: 6281687733. Date: 03.06.2026 Sd/-, Secretary and Correspondent

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL BHILAI
Risali Sector, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh - 490006
(Under the aegis of The Delhi Public School Society, New Delhi)

REQUIRES PRINCIPAL

Candidates with a consistently strong academic record, with at least 55% marks in post-graduation, a B.Ed. degree and a minimum of 15 years of teaching experience in Senior Secondary classes in English medium that includes at least 5 years of experience in an administrative capacity (as Principal/Vice Principal only), are invited to apply.

The age of the candidate should not exceed 55 years as on 1st April, 2026.

Salary, perquisites and other benefits shall be as per the rules of The DPS Society. Higher emoluments will not be a constraint for a deserving candidate. National award winners in the field of education will be given preference.

Procedure for submitting applications:

1. Apply on-line by clicking 'Application for the post of Principal' at the 'Careers' section of website of DPS, Bhilai (https://dpsbhilai.in).
2. After successfully submitting the application on-line, take print-outs of the application that is sent to your e-mail, affix your recent passport-size photograph on it, enclose self-attested photocopies of certificates related only to your date of birth, qualifications, experience and national awards, if any, and post it to the following addresses:

- a) The Secretary, The Delhi Public School Society, F-Block, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065.
 - b) The Secretary, Steel Education Society (SES), Room No. 01, Office of Employee Services, Old Hospital Building, Sector-5, Bhilai - 490006.
 - c) Last date for submission of applications on-line is 15/06/2026.
 - d) Last date for receipt of hardcopy of applications at DPSS, New Delhi and SES, Bhilai, is 25/06/2026.
 3. The envelope should be superscribed: 'Application for the post of Principal, DPS Bhilai'
 4. Incomplete or erroneous applications will be summarily rejected.
 5. Please do not enclose any other document (like letters of appreciation, certificates of participation etc) with your application other than those specified above.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview.**

GENERAL

BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Defence)
(CIN: L32309KA1954GOI000787)

SUB: CANCELLATION OF RECRUITMENT

Ref: Advertisement No:383/HR/MS/RECT/2025-26 dated 19.01.2026

It is notified for information of all concerned that the recruitment for the post of Deputy Manager for Missile System SBU of Bangalore Cx. vide Newspaper Advertisement (Hindi & English) released on 19.01.2026 and 21.01.2026 in (The Hindu +Dainik Jagran + Nai Duniya) and Website Advertisement No:383/HR/MS/RECT/2025-26 dated 19.01.2026 uploaded on our Company website has been cancelled.

The registration fee submitted by candidates will be refunded on receiving their duly filled in claim form. The detail of claim form is available on website: www.bel-india.in

Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore

'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD LIMITED
VISAKHAPATANAM - 530 005
(A Government of India Undertaking Ministry of Defence)
(Eighty Five Years of Service to the Nation)

REQUIRES

I. Permanent Absorption Basis:

Sl	Name of the Post	No. of posts	Category
P1	Manager(Technical) (E3)	05	01-UR; 03-SC; 01-ST
P2	Manager (HR) (E3)	02	01-UR; 01-SC
P3	Deputy Manager (Technical) (E2)	10	05-UR; 02-OBC; 02-SC; 01-ST

II. Fixed Term Contract Basis:

Sl	Name of the Post	No. of posts	Category
F1	Project Superintendent (Technical)	02	02-UR
F2	Dy. Project Superintendent (Technical) - Delhi Region	01	01-UR
F3	Dy. Project Officer (Technical)	05	02-UR; 02-OBC; 01-SC
F4	Dy. Project Officer (Civil)	03	01-UR; 01-OBC; 01-ST
F5	Dy. Project Officer (Design)	02	01-UR; 01-OBC
F6	Dy. Project Officer (HR)	02	01-UR; 01-SC
F7	Dy. Project Officer (Safety)	01	01-UR
F8	Dy. Project Officer (Fire Safety)	01	01-UR

The details are available in the HSL website (https://www.hslvizag.in) Click on "Careers" under "Human Resources" to view the openings available.

Advt. No. HR/ES(O)/0102/04/2026
Dated: 03 Jun 2026 General Manager (HR)



Former BJP Tamil Nadu chief K. Annamalai meets Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Annamalai discusses 'future course' with BJP leaders in Delhi

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Former Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai, whose supporters feel his potential was not optimally exploited in the party since mid-2025, met with top party leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in New Delhi on Tuesday to discuss his future political course.

Two months ago, Mr. Annamalai is learnt to have made his displeasure known to the leadership about the "raw deal" given to the BJP by the AIADMK during the seat-sharing for the Assembly election. With the BJP candidates being defeated in all but one seat, and the changed political climate in the State following the stunning debut of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, it was speculated that he was exploring options, including charting out on his own.

On Tuesday, he separately met Mr. Shah, party national president Nitin Nabin and BJP national general secretary (organi-

sation) B.L. Santhosh in Delhi. During the meeting, he is learnt to have briefed them about his assessment of the political scenario and why the BJP's performance was below par in the election. Besides, he is learnt to have broached his future political course.

The party leadership, sources indicated, did not convey any immediate decision on the plans for him but was open to discussing a role for him. Those close to Mr. Annamalai indicated he was also willing to wait for the leadership's decision before taking any other steps.

Mr. Annamalai, a former IPS officer, headed the BJP State unit from July 16, 2021 to April 11, 2025, when Nainar Nagenthran replaced him.

Mr. Annamalai had unsuccessfully contested from Aravakurichi in the 2021 Assembly election and from Coimbatore in the last Lok Sabha polls. He did not contest the recent Assembly election and had identified himself as an "ordinary karyakarta".

Shivakumar all set to take oath as Chief Minister of Karnataka

Congress likely to release list of around 15 Ministers who will be sworn in along with CM today; no clarity on Deputy CM posts yet, say sources

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The stage is set for eight-time legislator and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar to be sworn in as the 34th Chief Minister of Karnataka on Wednesday evening at Lok Bhavan, which completes the leadership transition from outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah that started last week.

The names of Cabinet Ministers is likely to be released by the Congress central leadership on Wednesday. The list is expected to have between 10 and 15 members, who will be sworn in along with Mr. Shivakumar.

Speculation about the induction of new faces into the Cabinet along with those who had served under Mr. Siddaramaiah is also doing the rounds. The Cabinet is expected to be expanded after the Rajya Sabha elections. There is no clarity on the Deputy Chief Minister posts yet, sources said.

The Congress leaders attending the event include the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Congress Chief Ministers V.D. Satheesan (Kera-



Banners installed on Lok Bhavan Road ahead of D.K. Shivakumar's swearing-in ceremony in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

la), A. Revanth Reddy (Telangana) and Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (Himachal Pradesh). A host of religious leaders, students, civic workers, farmers' leaders, Dalit leaders and Kannada activists have been invited to the event.

The eve of the swearing-in saw continued deliberations by the leaders to finalise the list amid hectic lobbying for posts by the legislators in Delhi.

Both leaders, who were in Delhi since Monday, left for Bengaluru late on Tuesday night after discussions with the central leaders.

Supporters upbeat Meawhile, posters and bunting were put up by Mr. Shivakumar's supporters across Bengaluru.

The event at Lok Bhavan itself will be low-key, though Mr. Shivakumar's

supporters, particularly in his home town Kanakapura, are expected to hold big celebrations. Traffic restrictions have been put in place in Bengaluru, particularly in Central Business District area.

The outgoing Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah, was on Tuesday appointed as a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the highest decision-making body in the party.

The party seems to have accommodated the veteran OBC leader after he paved the way for a smooth transition of power to Mr. Shivakumar. While Mr. Kharge is the president of the Congress, Jairam Ramesh and Syed Naseem Ahmed are members of CWC from Karnataka. B.K. Hariprasad, MLC, is a permanent invitee.

Naidu calls for NDA coordination during SIR

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Describing the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls as a crucial exercise, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday directed the party cadre to take the exercise seriously, saying that it would test the organisational strength and coordination of the ruling alliance.

Addressing a workshop on the SIR at the TDP headquarters in Amaravati, which was attended by MLAs, MPs, MLCs, constituency in-charges, observers and Booth Level Agents (BLAs), Mr. Naidu emphasised the importance of ensuring accurate voter enrolment and verification.

The TDP national president said voter list revision is a critical component of electoral preparedness and noted that the SIR exercises are generally undertaken once every two to three decades.

Mr. Naidu urged the TDP functionaries to ensure that all eligible voters were enrolled and that no negligence was shown during the process. While registering to vote is the responsibility of citizens, he said, creating awareness about voter enrolment is a fundamental duty of political parties.

Mr. Naidu credited the NDA's landslide victory in the 2024 elections to effective voter mobilisation.

FRA, PESA task force subverts the role of statutory bodies, say tribal rights activists

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The constitution of a task force in Chhattisgarh this May to fast-track the implementation of laws such as the Forest Rights Act, 2006, (FRA) and the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, (PESA) has led to fresh controversy. Forest and tribal rights activists, along with Opposition Congress, have alleged that the task force "undermines statutory bodies set up under these laws and institutionalises the role of Sangh Parivar-linked outfits" in the implementation of these laws in tribal-dominated areas.

The Chhattisgarh government on May 6 notified the task force, comprising an 18-member apex body headed by the Chief Minister and a 12-member implementation body led by the Chief Secretary of the State. This task force is meant to map potential areas for community forest resource rights claims under the FRA, review pending claims, design strategies for PESA-related matters, and assist district authorities with implementation of the FRA.

The Campaign for Survival and Dignity (CSD), a forest rights civil society collective, has flagged that the notification appeared to be modelled on a similar structure established by the Madhya Pradesh government in 2024. The CSD also

noted that a similar task force is likely to be constituted in Odisha as well. The collective has said these task forces are a way to include representatives of Sangh Parivar-linked outfits such as the Janjati Suraksha Manch (JSM) and the Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad (ABVKA) in the process for implementing these laws.

State Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap was unavailable for a comment.

'Gold standard'

On May 24, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had addressed a public meeting organised by the ABVKA and the JSM in New Delhi and hailed Madhya Pradesh's "model of PESA implementation" as the gold standard, adding that BJP-led State governments across the country are preparing to follow in its footsteps. One of the key demands of the JSM and the ABVKA was to ensure that gram sabhas under the PESA include only tribal villagers "who had not converted" to any other religion.

Chhattisgarh-based forest rights activist Alok Shukla told *The Hindu* that such a task force structure was violative of the very laws they were meant to implement. On Tuesday, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, in a statement posted on social media, said these task forces "subvert the basic democratic structure of implementation of these two laws".

Respite from heat



A brief spell of rain brought down the temperatures in Vijayawada on Tuesday. Andhra Pradesh has been reeling under an intense heatwave for the past few weeks, with temperatures touching over 45 degrees Celsius. K.V.S.GIRI

Aadhaar not mandatory for admission to schools, says Kerala education official

M.P. Praveen
KOCHI

The Deputy Director of Education (DDE), Ernakulam, has issued a strict directive to Assistant Education Officers in all 14 education sub-districts across the district to ensure that no student is denied school admission for want of Aadhaar.

Any move to prevent enrolment falls foul of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, which mandates free and compulsory education for all children aged six to 14, the order said.

Plight of migrants

The move comes a day after *The Hindu* reported



While students can be enrolled without Aadhaar, they will not get free uniforms or noon meal.

that around 88 migrant children were denied admission to schools for various reasons, primarily the absence of Aadhaar.

The Kochi-based Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development could enrol only 38 out of the 126 mi-

grant children it identified for enrolment during this academic year.

"Apart from the general directive, specific instructions will be issued to schools accused of denying admission to children for not having Aadhaar cards. In addition, details have been sought from schools regarding students enrolled without Aadhaar, so that arrangements can be made to provide them free textbooks," said Subin Paul, DDE, Ernakulam.

While students can be enrolled without Aadhaar cards, they would not be eligible for benefits such as free uniforms, textbooks, and midday meals.

Meanwhile, hurdles remain in enrolling migrant

children for Aadhaar cards, which are necessary to make them eligible for benefits.

Previously, schools could arrange Aadhaar enrolment, but this is no longer the case.

District Child Protection Office (DCPO) sources said that high-level intervention would be required to resolve the matter.

"Even at a meeting organised in connection with Roshni, a project for the educational uplift of migrant children, before school reopening, the District Collector had made it very clear that no student should be denied school admission on the ground of not having Aadhaar," sources said.

Ansiba Hassan files a second complaint

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Actor and former joint secretary of Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) Ansiba Hassan has lodged a plea with the Infopark police in Ernakulam district, Kerala, against AMMA executive committee member Tini Tom over communal and derogatory comments against her.

This was her second complaint against former colleagues in the AMMA's executive panel. She had petitioned the Chief Minister, the Home Minister, and the State Police Chief against AMMA vice-president Lakshmi Priya, accusing her of filing a fabricated case with the Tripunithura women's police station.

Pawan Kalyan declares Jana Sena Party will contest Telangana elections in 2029

Ravi Reddy
HYDERABAD

Jana Sena Party (JSP) president and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday made a dramatic announcement that his party would contest the Telangana Assembly elections in 2029, turning a denied public meeting into a political flashpoint.

Speaking at a press conference from his Jubilee Hills residence, Mr. Pawan Kalyan forcefully asserted that the JSP would not retreat from Telangana. He dared his detractors to "touch him", equating their threats to the intimidation he faced from YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh. "Is Telangana your jagir? I



JSP chief Pawan Kalyan addressing the press at his residence at Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad on Tuesday. SIDDHANT THAKUR

stay here, you can come and attack me," he declared, insisting that his love for Telangana was longstanding and not politically opportunistic.

The JSP chief accused Congress leaders of indulging in divisive rhetoric and urged the Centre to inter-

vene. He said the manner in which his detractors were targeting him required national attention, as such comments were intended to create differences among people. He demanded accountability from Congress leaders, questioning how they

could oppose his entry into Telangana when leaders like Indira Gandhi, P.V. Narasimha Rao, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi had contested from constituencies outside their home States without any controversy.

In his address on the Telangana Formation Day, Mr. Kalyan targeted the Congress while praising BRS founder K. Chandrababu Naidu, notably avoiding any reference to the BJP. He insisted that JSP would never be intimidated by threats or criticism. "If I was afraid, would I have started a party at all in Hyderabad?" he asked. He emphasised that even if opponents cursed him, "Telangana will remain in my heart."

CPI(M) slams Kerala Minister for appointing brother-in-law as additional private secretary

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

The appointment of Benny Thomas, brother-in-law of Kerala Electricity and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Sunny Joseph, as additional private secretary to the Minister has triggered a political controversy, with the CPI(M) demanding clarification from the Chief Minister and the Congress leadership.

Mr. Thomas, a native of Ulikkal and district-level Congress functionary, was included on the first list of 13 appointments to the Minister's personal staff. The list also includes Youth Congress leader Sudeep



Sunny Joseph

James from Kannur, while the remaining members have been appointed on deputation from government service.

CPI(M) Kannur district secretary K.K. Ragesh alleged that the Minister had turned governance into a

family affair by appointing a close relative to a key post. He urged the Chief Minister to intervene and sought the Congress's stance on the issue.

The controversy has gained attention because the Congress had vehemently opposed a similar appointment during the tenure of previous LDF governments.

Defending the appointment, Mr. Joseph told *The Hindu* that Mr. Thomas had decades of political and organisational experience. The Minister maintained that there was no rule barring the appointment of relatives to personal staff positions.

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NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
GLOBAL TENDER FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST REGARDING ENGAGING CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT A DETAILED TECHNO ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY ON TECHNOLOGY UPGRADATION AND FORWARD INTEGRATION OF CAPROLACTAM PLANT.
EOI Reference no: 50712026-2027/E33617, Due date: 23.06.2026 14:00:00Hrs. IST

For detailed tender documents please visit www.eprocure.gov.in. For any clarifications please contact Deputy General Manager (Projects and Planning), Projects and Planning Department, FACT Udyogamandal Complex, Pincode-683501

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. S&T/SEE/ E-OT/26-27/10 Date: 27.05.2026
The DRM (Sig. & Telecom)/SEE for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders for the following works. The last date of online E-tendering is 22.06.2026 up to 12:00 hrs. All information and tender documents related to E-tender is available on website - www.ireps.gov.in

1. E-Tender No.: S&T/SEE/E-OT/26-27/10.
2. Name of Work: Provision of centralised IP based gate phone recording monitoring system in control room over SEE Division.
3. Approx Cost (In Rs.): ₹1,20,06,512.04.
4. Earnest Money (In Rs.): ₹2,40,200.00.
5. Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.) (Non-refundable): ₹0.00.
6. Completion period: 06 (Six) Month from date of issue of LOA.

The above tender notice is available on website www.ireps.gov.in. Uploading date 27.05.2026. RIGHT OF RAILWAY TO DEAL WITH TENDER: Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone / modify or cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/ ECR/Sonpur
PR/0342/SEE/S&T/T/26-27/40

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) East Central Railway, Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Tender from competent and experienced Contractors having valid Electrical Contractor's license, technical expertise, financial solvency through E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railway for execution of the following works.

Tender No. & Date: EL-G-SPJ-08-ET-26-27 Dt. 25.05.2026. **Sr.No.:** 1. **Name of the work with its location:** Provision of maintenance free earthing system and strengthening of power supply over SPJ Division. **2. Advertised Value of the work:** Rs. 83,23,214.20/- (Rupees Eighty three lakh twenty three thousand two hundred fourteen and twenty Paise only). **3. Earnest money/Bid Security:** Rs. 1,66,500.00/- **Cost of tender document - 0 (Nil).** **4. Validity of Offer (Days):** 90 days. **5. Date & Time for Closing & Opening of tender:** Date of Closing of E-Tender at 12:00 hours on 15.06.2026. Date of Opening of E-Tender from 12:30 hours on 15.06.2026. **6. Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office:** Website- www.ireps.gov.in DRM (Elect.) Office/Samastipur

NOTE: Any other modification/information related to the above said tender will be uploaded on the website instead of publish in newspaper.

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PR/0336/SPJ/ELECT/T/26-27/44

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PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RESPONSE

Petition for True-up of expenditure of FY-2023-24 for Pragati Power Station-I (PPS-1) or Pragati Power Corporation Limited (PPCL)

1. PPCL has filed the Tariff Petition before Hon'ble Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) for True-up of expenditure of FY 2023-24 and for determination of Generation Tariff for 2025-26. PPCL has requested for necessary Order under the provision of Electricity Act, 2003 Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Business Plan) Regulations, 2023 and Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff) Regulations, 2017. The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission vide order dated 23/04/2026 admitted the Petition No. 72/2025 for trueing-up of Tariff of FY 2023-24 for PPS-I station.
2. PPCL vide letter dated 8/04/2026 submitted the Audited Accounts regarding trueing-up of Tariff for FY 2023-24 before the Hon'ble Commission for PPS-I station.
3. The silent features of Petition are as under:-

Pragati Power Station - I:

Sr. No.	Particulars	UoM	FY 2023-24
a.	Gross Generation	MU	841.644
b.	Net Generation	MU	818.530
c.	Total Fixed Cost	Rs. Cr.	169.11
d.	Total Variable Cost	Rs. Cr.	846.369
e.	Total Cost (c+d)	Rs. Cr.	1015.479
f.	Variable Cost Per Unit	Rs./kWh	10.340
g.	Fixed Cost Per Unit	Rs./kWh	2.066
h.	Total Cost Per Unit (f+g)	Rs./kWh	12.406
i.	Availability	%	98.61
j.	Heat Rate Combined Cycle	kCal/kWh	2021
			Open Cycle
k.	Auxiliary Consumption	%	2.746

4. In accordance with the provisions of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission Comprehensive (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2001 notified by the Commission, the consumers and stakeholders are requested to submit the Comments/suggestions on the above Petition. The Comments/suggestions may be sent to the Secretary of the Commission at the following address latest by 5/06/2026. The Comments/suggestions may be submitted personally or by post or e-mail to the Commission at the details mentioned below:

The Secretary
Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission
Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik
Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017.

Email id: secyderc@nic.in Telefax: 011-41080416, 011-41080417

5. The Commission shall conduct a Public Hearing of Hybrid Mode (Physically and Virtually) with the responding stakeholders on 5/06/2026.
6. The complete Petition can be downloaded from the website of the Commission (www.derc.gov.in) and the website of the PPCL (www.ipgcl-ppcl.gov.in). Soft copy of the Petition may be obtained in CD on payment of Rs. 25/- per CD or a hard copy of the Petition may be purchased from the Registered Office of PPCL located at Himadri, RPH Office complex Rajghat, New Delhi - 110002 on working day till 5/06/2026 between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM on payment of Rs. 100/- either by cash or by Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of "PPCL" payable at New Delhi.

For Pragati Power Corporation Limited
Director (Technical)

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0087/26-27

INDRAPRASTHA POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Identity Number (CIN)-U40103DL2001SGC111530
(Undertakings of Govt. of NCT Delhi)
(Regd. Office: Himadari, Rajghat Power House Complex, New Delhi - 110002)
Tele Fax No.. 011-23284797;
Website: www.ipgcl-ppcl.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RESPONSE

Petition for True-up of expenditure of FY-2023-24 of Gas Turbine Power Station (GTPS) of Inderaprastha Power Generation Company Limited (IPGCL)

1. IPGCL has filed the Tariff Petition before Hon'ble Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) for True-up of expenditure of FY 2023-24 and for determination of Generation Tariff for 2025-26. IPGCL has requested for necessary Orders under the provision of Electricity Act, 2003 Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Business Plan) Regulations, 2023 and Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff) Regulations, 2017. The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission vide order dated 23/04/2026 admitted the Petition No. 71/2025 for trueing-up of Tariff of FY 2023-24 for GTPS Station.
2. IPGCL vide letter dated 8/04/2026 submitted the Audited Accounts regarding trueing-up of Tariff for FY 2023-24 before the Hon'ble Commission for GTPS station.
3. The silent features of Petition are as under:-

GT Power Station:

Sr. No.	Particulars	UoM	FY 2023-24
a.	Gross Generation	MU	259.999
b.	Net Generation	MU	243.884
c.	Total Fixed Cost	Rs. in Cr.	92.96
d.	Total Variable Cost	Rs. in Cr.	350.582
e.	Total Cost (c+d)	Rs. in Cr.	443.542
f.	Variable Cost Per Unit	Rs./kWh	14.375
g.	Fixed Cost Per Unit	Rs./kWh	3.812
h.	Total Cost Per Unit (f+g)	Rs./kWh	18.187
i.	Availability	%	83.22
j.	Heat Rate	Combined Cycle	2639
		Open Cycle	3498
k.	Auxiliary Consumption	%	6.20

4. In accordance with the provisions of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission Comprehensive (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2001 notified by the Commission, the consumers and stakeholders are requested to submit the Comments/suggestions on the above Petition. The Comments/suggestions may be sent to the Secretary of the Commission at the following address latest by 5/06/2026. The Comments/suggestions may be submitted personally or by post or e-mail to the Commission at the details mentioned below:

The Secretary
Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission
Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik
Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017.

Email id: secyderc@nic.in Telefax: 011-41080416, 011-41080417

5. The Commission shall conduct a Public Hearing of Hybrid Mode (Physically and Virtually) with the responding stakeholders on 5/06/2026.
6. The complete Petition can be downloaded from the website of the Commission (www.derc.gov.in) and the website of the IPGCL (www.ipgcl-ppcl.gov.in). Soft copy of the Petition may be obtained in CD on payment of Rs. 25/- per CD or a hard copy of the Petition may be purchased from the Registered Office of IPGCL located at Himadri, RPH Office complex Rajghat, New Delhi - 110002 on working day till 5/06/2026 between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM on payment of Rs. 100/- either by cash or by Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of "IPGCL" payable at New Delhi.

For Indraprastha Power Generation Limited
Director (Technical)

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0086/26-27



Changed arrangement Siddaramaiah gave way to Shivakumar in a tightly managed transition

The most prominent face of the Congress in Karnataka, D.K. Shivakumar, is set to realise his long-held ambition of becoming Chief Minister on June 3. By passing the baton from Karnataka's longest-serving Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah, to Mr. Shivakumar, the Congress appears to have resolved a grievance among his supporters, who believed that he deserved the post when the party returned to power in 2023 after leading its poll campaign as State unit president. Evidently, the Congress national leadership appears to have managed the transition in Karnataka better than it did in Rajasthan and Punjab in 2020-21, where its decisions – retaining Ashok Gehlot despite Sachin Pilot's rebellion (2020) and replacing Amarinder Singh with Charanjit Singh Channi (2021) – failed to yield dividends in the Assembly elections. The Congress high command has also carried out the change of guard in Karnataka with an eye on the 2028 Assembly elections. There are symptoms of anti-incumbency sentiment acquiring more strength. As the Congress has chosen Mr. Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga, to succeed Mr Siddaramaiah, the BJP-Janata Dal (Secular) alliance is likely to face the poll together, as otherwise, the two parties gain little politically. Besides, the JD(S)'s top leaders belong to the Vokkaliga community and Mr. Shivakumar has been engaged in a decades-long contest with them for influence over the community, especially in the Old Mysuru region.

If the Congress and Mr. Shivakumar play their cards well, they could break Karnataka's 35-year record of voting out incumbent governments. Having successfully handled political crises, Mr. Shivakumar should by now have a plan for winning in 2028. He must also carry all sections of the party with him and adopt a consultative approach to major policy decisions. Despite implementing several welfare and populist schemes, Karnataka has maintained fiscal discipline under the Congress government. In the just concluded FY2025-26, revenue deficit, at about ₹19,500 crore, is the lowest among similarly placed southern States. While this offers some consolation, Karnataka's total revenue receipts grew by a modest 6.3%. Reducing stark inter-regional disparities should be a priority. In 2024-25, Bengaluru Urban district contributed about 40% of Karnataka's GSDP, while Dakshina Kannada and Belagavi accounted for 5.3% and 3.9%, respectively. Uneven regional development can be seen in the Human Development Index too – Bengaluru Urban with 0.738, while Yadgir (0.538), Kalaburagi (0.539), and Raichur (0.562) are at the bottom. At a time when States, especially those under non-BJP parties, are facing shrinking fiscal and development space, their Chief Ministers should focus on addressing the chronic issues that affect the underprivileged. Mr. Shivakumar's experience can help him fulfil this responsibility.

Brand value

RCB helped IPL's latest edition build on previous successes

Derided for not matching potential with performance in the past, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) emphatically put those old ghosts to rest. Having won the Indian Premier League (IPL) title last year, RCB did one better this year, and retained the championship. A commanding display over Gujarat Titans in the final at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday ensured that RCB joined the likes of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Mumbai Indians, teams that have won the title for two consecutive years. Ever since the league's inception in 2008, the Bengaluru squad tended to flourish in spurts and then fade away. Three finals were made too prior to 2025, and in all those summit clashes, RCB choked. Last year, however, a turnaround was effected but as Rajat Patidar's men exulted, the moment turned tragic with 11 fans losing their lives in a stampede outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. In the latest edition, RCB maintained remarkable consistency and while Patidar marshalled his resources, Virat Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Krunal Pandya and Josh Hazlewood chipped in. Fittingly, Patidar dedicated the triumph to the 11 fans who passed away. Meanwhile, Titans led by Shubman Gill, ran into a stronger outfit in the final and could not cash in on the advantage of playing at their home ground.

Having commenced on March 28, the IPL with 10 teams and 74 matches, had a bloated air and at times viewer interest dipped. The cricket, though, was from the top-drawer of T20 cricket as batters muscled sixes. The leading star was Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who belied his 15 summers. The Rajasthan Royals' player is one for the future and there is talk of the selectors fast-tracking him into the national squad. Just as Sachin Tendulkar made his international debut at 16, Sooryavanshi too seems set to join that space of young talent pursuing higher glory. For now, a spot in T20I beckons even as the youngster is keen to play Tests too. Just as RCB, Titans, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals made it to the play-offs, legacy units such as CSK, Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders fell by the way-side. A churn is on the cards and Rishabh Pant has already relinquished his captaincy with the Lucknow Super Giants. India, the reigning T20 champion, has enough talent as was evident through the IPL. The club against country debate too stirred up as England speedster Jofra Archer's IPL contract overlapped with the one that he has with The England and Wales Cricket Board. The IPL is a massive sporting brand but it should not cannibalise traditional cricket.

The 'harvest' China wants is one India cannot afford

When Luo Zhaohui, then China's Ambassador to India, revived the idea of an "early harvest" in India-China boundary negotiations in 2017, India responded with scepticism. The proposal – to settle the Sikkim boundary in isolation from the three other sectors – was an asymmetric concession dressed up in the language of progress. India has resisted it. There is now a gnawing doubt as to whether it can hold that position. The trigger for this piece is a former border negotiator's concern that India might "stumble" into a damaging course of action under Chinese pressure and driven by the temptation to project contrived progress. Diplomacy that trades long-term strategic interests for short-term optics is self-defeating.

New Delhi must be cautious

The readout issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on the 24th round of the Special Representatives' Dialogue on the Boundary Question between India and China (on August 19, 2025) between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi recorded India's agreement to "set up an Expert Group ... to explore an early harvest in boundary delimitation in the India-China border areas". China's own readout was more pointed: it used the term "demarcation" rather than "delimitation" and spoke of "launching boundary demarcation negotiations in sectors where conditions are ripe."

The MEA press release on the 35th Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, held in Beijing on May 27, 2026, mentions that the two sides "discussed issues pertaining to delimitation, border management, mechanism building and cross-border cooperation" and "agreed to work together to make substantive preparation" for the next SRs' meeting. The reference to 'delimitation' is significant as it suggests follow-up discussions on the understanding "to explore Early Harvest in boundary delimitation".

The cornerstone of Special Representative negotiations is the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles, signed on April 11, 2005. Article III explicitly envisages "a package settlement" covering all sectors of the India-China boundary. It establishes a three-step process: first political parameters, then a framework for a final settlement, then delineation and demarcation. Demarcation – placing physical markers on the ground – comes last, not first. China's proposal to begin demarcation in a single "ripe" sector inverts this sequence and, in effect, asks India to abandon the package architecture in exchange for the appearance of progress. India should decline.

Why does the package settlement matter so much? Because the four sectors of the



Ashok K. Kantha

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India-China boundary are strategically interlinked, requiring give and take across sectors. It also guards against China extracting concessions sector by sector. An early harvest in Sikkim, where India holds comparative geographical advantage, would let Beijing bank a settlement on its preferred terms while leaving the other three sectors unresolved.

The Sikkim stakes

The Sikkim Sector boundary is not, as sometimes claimed, a simple matter. Clashes at Nathu La and Cho La in 1967, with heavy casualties, showed how sharp these differences are. Article I of the 1890 Great Britain-China Convention identifies "Mount Gipmochi on the Bhutan frontier" as the starting point of the Sikkim-Tibet boundary, but it is preceded by an assertion that the boundary "shall be the crest of the mountain range separating the waters flowing into the Sikkim Teesta and its affluents from the waters flowing into the Tibetan Mochu". China reads the article as placing the trijunction at Gipmochi. India and Bhutan hold that the trijunction lies at Batang La, some 6.5 kilometres to the north, on the watershed – which is the operative geographical principle in Article I.

Zompelri (or Jampheri) Ridge adjoining Geymochen commands a direct view of the Siliguri Corridor, the narrow strip connecting mainland India to its northeastern States. Any settlement implicitly endorsing the Gipmochi trijunction would hand China a legal instrument to press its claim to the very edge of the Himalayas, exposing the Corridor. The Chinese objective is to deepen and widen its Chumbi Valley and increase pressure on India's most acute territorial vulnerability.

The Doklam dimension reinforces this concern. Since 2017, China has systematically consolidated its position in western Bhutan – building roads and military facilities, constructing villages including Pangda on the Amo Chu river, and developing routes to the Jampheri Ridge that bypass the 2017 Doklam standoff site. A Sikkim settlement would immediately be leveraged by Beijing to step up pressure on a vulnerable Bhutan to settle its boundary with China. India and China have agreed that trijunction points must be finalised in trilateral consultation with all countries concerned. Even if the trijunction point is left out, China could force Bhutan to settle the rest of the disputed boundary on its own terms and present India with a *fait accompli* in Doklam.

Since the Eastern Ladakh transgressions of 2020, China has pursued multiple pressure tracks simultaneously: military consolidation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), steady resurrection of the "Zangnan" (South Tibet) narrative to describe Arunachal Pradesh, renaming of places in Arunachal Pradesh, and expansion of "border defence villages" close to India-China LAC.

Diplomatic optics must not dictate India's boundary negotiations with China

U.S.-Iran negotiations, still a road to nowhere

For nearly half a century, relations between Iran and the United States have oscillated between overt hostility and crisis management. Periods of confrontation were punctuated by brief diplomatic openings, only to be followed by renewed distrust and, more recently, war and devastation.

In this context the current move towards a memorandum that could lead to an indefinite ceasefire and buy time to address the thornier issues bedevilling their relationship appears to be a significant step. However, even agreeing on a framework to enter into substantive negotiations has been far more difficult than anticipated thanks to vastly different expectations of the two sides.

The cost of conflict

What motivated Washington and Tehran to enter serious negotiations is the high cost in political and economic terms for both of renewed long drawn-out hostilities.

The U.S. attacked Iran in cohort with Israel believing that the damage inflicted by superior military force would compel Tehran to accept fundamental constraints on its nuclear and missile programmes. Iran assumed that strategic resilience, regional networks, and its capacity to threaten energy flows would impose unbearable costs on its adversaries.

Neither side fully obtained its objective. Iran suffered severe damage to parts of its military infrastructure and further economic deterioration. However, it retained sufficient capabilities to continue imposing costs through asymmetric means such as closing the Strait of Hormuz, attacking America's allies in the Gulf and threatening continued instability in the region through its proxies. The danger of a prolonged conflict affecting shipping routes and energy markets created domestic and global pressures on Washington for de-escalation.

There is, therefore, an unusual convergence of interests that has motivated both to look for ways



Mohammed Avoob

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to bring hostilities to an end. Memoranda are easier to sign than peace agreements. They are often signed precisely because they defer tough decisions. However, in this case, even signing a memorandum appears elusive because of the wide gap between the two sides.

Hurdles to lasting peace

Several obstacles stand in the way of transforming the proposed U.S.-Iran memorandum even if it is signed into a lasting peace agreement. The first concerns mutual distrust. Decades of confrontation have created deep suspicions. Iranian leaders remain convinced that Washington ultimately seeks regime change and will use negotiations as a ruse for launching attacks as it did in June 2025 and February 2026. U.S. President Donald Trump's habit of blowing hot and cold further complicates the problem. American policymakers continue to suspect that Tehran uses negotiations primarily to buy time, preserve its nuclear option, and rebuild its missile and other delivery capabilities.

Second, any agreement will face opposition in both countries. In Washington, critics are already warning against repeating what they consider the perceived weaknesses of the 2015 nuclear agreement. In Tehran, hard-line factions, including many in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), will portray compromises as surrender under pressure.

The third and perhaps most serious obstacle involves regional actors, especially Israel. Israel has consistently viewed Iran's missile and nuclear capabilities as the greatest threat to its aspiration for regional dominance. Israeli security thinking has historically favoured preventive measures that are designed to ensure that adversaries do not acquire capabilities that threaten its military superiority. In the case of Iran, this concern centres on preserving Israeli monopoly of nuclear weapons in West Asia.

Israel need not oppose peace directly. It may instead seek to shape its terms in ways that make

The resumption of Special Representative talks is welcome, but dialogue must be conducted with strategic clarity, not under diplomatic pressure or for the optics of progress. Three principles should guide India's approach.

First, hold the 2005 Agreement's framework firm. The Expert Group agreed upon in August 2025 must not become a vehicle for an early harvest in Sikkim. Agreeing to "explore" is not a commitment to accept. India should reject a standalone Sikkim delimitation or demarcation exercise.

Second, make peace and tranquillity on the LAC the non-negotiable condition of progress. China has periodically attempted to delink border management from the broader relationship; India has resisted this, and should continue to do so. Unilateral alterations to the LAC cannot be normalised. Indeed, the so-called "buffer zones" in Eastern Ladakh must not be allowed to persist.

Third, press for genuine political engagement on a comprehensive settlement. Decades of talks have shown that the respective narratives cannot be reconciled through legal arguments. The 2005 Agreement recognised this: it called for a political settlement that would "safeguard the vital interests of both countries" and set out principles such as the two sides "safeguard(ing) due interests of their settled populations in the border areas". Any breakthrough requires political will on both sides. India should press for meaningful boundary negotiations, not paper over the lack of progress with working groups. The test of China's seriousness will be whether it is prepared to engage on the framework for a comprehensive settlement – and whether it is prepared to hold the LAC stable while that engagement proceeds. Absent those conditions, the Special Representative process risks becoming what it has sometimes been before: a forum for managing appearances while China improves its position on the ground.

Stay the course

In boundary talks, China has a track-record of cherry-picking and resiling from formal commitments, as it did in the case of an explicit agreement to arrive at a common understanding of the LAC after exchanging maps showing the entire alignment. India must prevent the Agreement On the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question from meeting a similar fate. If peace and tranquillity on the LAC is the foundation for rebuilding India-China relations, the 2005 Agreement is the road map for resolving the boundary question. India has nothing to gain from an early harvest limited to Sikkim and must maintain its negotiating space through a comprehensive negotiation. India cannot afford a shortcut to a destination that suits China.

implementation impossible. Israeli military actions, such as its current invasion of Lebanon which has been expanding in scope and inflicting heavy damage, or covert operations, such as killing Iranian nuclear scientists, could potentially disrupt diplomatic momentum and eventually subvert the idea of a peace agreement.

This danger is particularly acute because Israeli and American priorities do not always perfectly coincide. Washington may increasingly value stability and de-escalation, whereas Israel may place greater emphasis on eliminating perceived long-term threats even if it entails derailing a peace agreement between Iran and the U.S. and greater regional instability.

Hardliners in the seat

On the Iranian side, the principal lesson that the regime must have learned from the U.S.-Israeli attack is that nuclear ambiguity does not assure security while nuclear weapons do. The example of North Korea is ample proof of the verity of this conclusion.

Moreover, all indications point to the fact that the centre of power within Iran has shifted decisively in favour of hardliners in the IRGC who will call the shots regardless of the veneer adopted by the regime for tactical purposes.

Tehran may, therefore, engage in long drawn-out negotiations about the nuclear issue but is unlikely to give up the weapons option. The aspiration may lie dormant for a period but is unlikely to disappear. Iran will give up this option only if a nuclear-weapon-free zone is created in West Asia that includes Israel, an eventuality unacceptable to Israel.

In short, while the memorandum may be signed in the coming days, as it is essential to provide Mr. Trump with an off-ramp from an unpopular war, the prospects of it translating into a lasting peace remain minimal. That would require a fundamental change of attitude in both Washington and Tehran. There are no signs that such a transformation is on the cards soon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A crisis of confidence

A prestigious school education board of India has suddenly found itself in the eye of the storm following the introduction of an 'on-screen marking' system. Change is necessary and inevitable, but implementing reforms without adequate safeguards can be risky.

Years of good work can be overshadowed by a single act of neglect. The future of students is at stake, and parents are being subjected to tremendous stress. The doubts cast on the evaluation system could linger in the minds of students for years. The Education Ministry must undertake a thorough

review of the system and work diligently to restore the confidence of students and parents.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

Fair play needs planning
Congratulations to Royal Challengers Bengaluru on a memorable IPL title triumph. Their consistency

and performances throughout the tournament deserve appreciation. At the same time, one cannot help but feel for Gujarat Titans. The team arrived in Ahmedabad late at night before the match and had very little time to recover and prepare. Following the game, they also had to contend with unexpected

logistical difficulties and disruptions. While such challenges are part of professional sport, adequate rest and smooth travel arrangements are essential to ensure that teams compete on as level a playing field as possible. As the IPL continues to grow, tournament organisers should consider

scheduling and travel-related factors more carefully so that the quality of competition is determined primarily by performance on the field.

Bhavleen Saini,
Mohali, Punjab

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

How land pooling solves acquisition woes

Rajasthan has recently announced the State's first land pooling scheme. The government is optimistic that the scheme will help with land acquisition and deliver the land needed for roads, infrastructure, and development activities. Other States, too, are either actively thinking of implementing land pooling schemes. While States such as Gujarat and Maharashtra have found success, much will depend on localised innovation and institutional flexibility.

Urban infrastructure projects in India have historically relied on land acquisitions. This process has become increasingly complex and financially burdensome, particularly after the enactment of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The limitations of land acquisition are both structural and procedural. Even before the 2013 Act, acquisition processes were time-consuming and often contested. Post-2013, the inclusion of rehabilitation and resettlement provisions have further increased financial obligations, making large-scale acquisitions for urban infrastructure increasingly unviable. This has resulted in a growing gap between planned infrastructure and its implementation. Plans are often under-executed due to the inability to mobilise land.

On pooling land

While States have tried different solutions, land pooling mechanisms, especially Town Planning (TP) schemes, have emerged as a viable alternative. In a land pooling model, landowners voluntarily contribute land for infrastructure development and receive a portion of the serviced land in return. This method reduces the need for compulsory acquisition and distributes stakeholder benefits among stakeholders.

The TP scheme, widely



Amit Gotecha

An urban planner advising various State governments on town planning schemes

implemented in Gujarat and Maharashtra, is among the most successful land-pooling models in India. Under this model, landowners voluntarily contribute about 25-40% of their land to provide infrastructure such as roads, parks, public amenities, and housing for economically weaker sections. The remaining land (60-75%) is returned to them as reconstituted plots that are better shaped, serviced, and more valuable. This method integrates land assembly, infrastructure provisions, and cost recovery.

A key strength of the TP scheme is its participatory, people-centric approach. It is also financially self-sustaining, as incremental charges from landowners are recovered during development rather than up front. Compared with land acquisitions, TP schemes reduce displacement, ensure equitable benefit-sharing, and enable faster urban development while preserving environmentally sensitive areas. Recognising its potential, the Government of India has promoted TP schemes since 2019.

Land pooling is, however, not a new idea. For instance, in Gujarat, it was introduced almost 100 years back and formalised under the Gujarat Town Planning and Urban Development Act, 1976. And over time, in Gujarat, more than 1,000 sq. km across Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot, Vadodara, and Gandhinagar have been planned through TP schemes.

But unlike Gujarat, Maharashtra failed to update its statutory provisions for enabling TP schemes over time. However, Pune and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority have recently adopted this model again to provide infrastructure and serviced land in the city's peripheral areas.

Exemplary model

While other States have tried to implement the model, it has not been easy. For example, in Guwahati, even though the Guwahati Metropolitan

Development Authority Act, 1985 included provisions for the preparation and implementation of development schemes, it lacked clarity on critical aspects, including the percentages for land appropriation and institutional roles. An equally significant challenge was the absence of digitised land records; land records in Guwahati were maintained manually. Additionally, discrepancies were observed between revenue records and ground conditions.

To address this, rather than conducting time-consuming joint measurement surveys, the existing map was retained as is, and final plot allocations were based on the land areas specified in the revenue records. This significantly reduced the time required to prepare the scheme. Reducing landowners' contribution was another key decision to make the scheme more acceptable. Private landowners were asked to contribute only 12-15% of their land, compared with the usual 35-45%. This was primarily used for road infrastructure.

In Rajasthan, land pooling had already been recognised in statutory provisions since 2016. However, they were handicapped by a lack of experience. Now, modifications are being made to the land-value calculations in the State to ensure that the financial burden on landowners remains manageable. The government has absorbed a portion of the cost, making the scheme more equitable and attractive.

States that are just about to venture into land pooling, such as Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Delhi, also have to go beyond conventional approaches. Their challenge is to first convince landholders, communicate the benefits, and contextualise the approaches. Particularly, factors such as legislation on land-pooling requirements, adjusted land-contribution mechanisms, and equitable financial models will collectively determine the success of TP schemes.

Need to strengthen existing health facilities

The famed public healthcare model of Kerala is under tremendous stress

STATE OF PLAY

K. S. Sudhi

The newly sworn-in United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala has announced its intention of setting up two more medical colleges in the State, one in Thiruvananthapuram, which already has a medical college, and another one in Haripad, in Alappuzha.

UDF leaders view the second medical college project in Thiruvananthapuram, which was originally launched during the tenure of Congress Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, as a prestige issue as the subsequent governments of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) shot the plan down for political reasons. The Congress, which is back in power in the State after a decade, is bent on resurrecting its lost dream, which it believes would increase its public appeal and political stake in the capital city. K. Muraleedharan, the State Health Minister, has made it clear that nothing could prevent the UDF government from creating two more such institutions.

Those who argue for the two medical colleges say that there is little scope for expanding the facilities at the existing Thiruvananthapuram and Alappuzha colleges. The government is toying with the idea of converting existing hospitals into tertiary care and research centres, they say.

Interestingly, the second medical college in Thiruvananthapuram, which would be set up by developing the General Hospital, is located in the Vattiyoor kavu Assembly constituency, which is represented by Mr. Muraleedharan. Similarly, Haripad, the seat of the proposed second medi-



cal college, is represented by Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala, the second-in-command in the State cabinet.

Like in Thiruvananthapuram, the proposed medical college in Haripad could well be considered as the second such institution in the coastal district of Alappuzha, as the first one is functioning at Vandanam, located almost an hour away from the constituency of the Home Minister.

Desperate conditions

Kerala, along with other States, had joined a campaign of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare a few years ago to have new medical colleges in all its districts. It appears that the State Health Minister has overlooked the fact that Kerala has one medical college each in all of its 14 districts, and that many of them, which were inaugurated at least a decade ago, are still in their nascent stage. With little infrastructure, an insufficient number of teaching faculty and support staff, and a large number of patients, some of the medical colleges in the less developed regions of the State need support desperately.

The government's move to have one more medical college in the two districts seems to be a case of misplaced priorities with respect to public health. Several public health experts have been sounding the alarm that the

famed public healthcare model of Kerala could collapse at any moment due to the tremendous pressure under which the system is functioning, and the lack of adequate government patronage in the form of timely recruitment of staff, financial support, and upgradation of facilities. While setting up new institutions may earn the government brownie points, it could come at the expense of the existing institutions of the State.

It is also time for the State government to ponder why the younger generation of doctors are turning away from medical colleges. Besides the comparatively poor pay, lack of modern research and medical facilities, and the uncertainties of transfers and political interventions in the service, might be acting as a deterrent for such youngsters. The medical and the non-medical staff are being overworked in these hospitals, which has hit the efficiency and quality of the services offered to the general public.

During the second term of the LDF government, it was the Health Ministry that came under severe public criticism. From building collapses to doctors taking to social media to vent out their despair regarding the absence of essential facilities including surgical materials for performing crucial surgeries, shortage of medicines, wrong diagnoses and complaints of medical negligence, the crisis in the health sector played a significant part in turning public opinion against the previous government.

Strengthening the existing network of public healthcare institutions, and not building new ones, should be the priority at this juncture in the State.

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The finish line is still far for Indian sprinting

Gurindervir Singh's national-record, 10.09s, ranks 524th on the all-time list; only 39 countries have broken the 10-second barrier

DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani

By the time the men's 100m final began at the Federation Cup in Ranchi on May 23, 2026, India's national record had already changed hands twice within that tournament – a first in Indian sprinting. A day earlier, Gurindervir Singh had lowered the national record to 10.17 seconds in the first semifinals. Minutes later, Animesh Kujur reclaimed it with 10.15 seconds in the second semifinal. Gurindervir seized the opportunity the final offered. His time of 10.09 seconds not only restored the record to his name but also made him the first Indian to break the 10.1-second barrier.

The achievement marked the latest chapter in a rivalry that is transforming Indian sprinting. Anil Kumar's national record of 10.21 seconds had remained unbeaten since 2000. By clocking 10.18 seconds, Animesh not only broke that in July 2025, but became the first Indian to cross the 10.2-second barrier.

While it took 25 years for Indian men's sprinting to breach the 10.2-second barrier, it has seen a dramatic leap forward since then. With Gurindervir's 10.09 seconds, followed by Animesh's 10.15 and 10.18 seconds, and Manikanta Hoblihdhar's 10.19 seconds, four of the five fastest 100m sprints by Indian men have been recorded in the last two seasons. But where does India's fastest-ever sprinter stand in the global arena?

An analysis of World Athletics' all-time men's 100m lists shows both the significance of Gurindervir's breakthrough and how far India remains from sprinting's elite. On the global all-time list, Gurindervir's record ranks only 524th.

At the very top, the sport remains remarkably concentrated. Ten of the top 11 performances belong to sprinters from just two countries – Jamaica and the U.S.

Jamaica's Usain Bolt holds the world record at 9.58 seconds. American Tyson Gay shares the second-fastest time in history at 9.69 seconds. The only exception is Kenya's Ferdinand Omanyala, whose 9.77-second run shares the 10th place (Chart 1).

The sub-10-second barrier remains one of athletics' most exclusive benchmarks. More than half a century after electronic timing became the standard in 1968, only 39 countries have produced athletes with 100m runs recorded under 10 seconds (Chart 2).

Martin Owens, Animesh's coach, told *The Hindu* that breaking that barrier requires far more than raw speed. "You need natural talent. You need good facilities. You need good recovery and medical backup. You need an intelligent programme," Mr. Owens said, adding that coaching from an early age, financial support and international exposure are also crucial.

When every country's fastest man ever is compared, India sits at around 65th among 182 nations. Several nations with populations under 1.5 crore rank ahead of India, including Trinidad and Tobago, Botswana and Namibia.

It is notable that the fastest sprint performances are usually recorded with a helping breeze. An analysis of the best performances from these 182 nations shows that 139 were achieved with tailwinds between 0.1 and 2 metres per second, while only 17 came while facing headwinds (Chart 3). Even slight wind assistance matters in an event decided by hundredths of a second.

Four of India's top five performances, including Gurindervir's, were recorded with tailwinds. However, his national record came with a relatively modest breeze of 0.3 metres per second, indicating scope for faster performances under more favourable conditions.

Gurindervir, after setting the new record, told the media that the world would soon see Indians running below 10 seconds.

Off and running

The data for the charts were sourced from World Athletics, the international governing body for the sport of athletics

TABLE 1: The top five Indian men's 100m performances

India Rank	World Rank	Competitor	Time (in seconds)	Wind (in m/s)	Date of performance
1	524	Gurindervir Singh	10.09	0.3	May 23, 2026
2	878	Animesh Kujur	10.15	0.3	May 22, 2026
3	1180	Manikanta Hoblihdhar	10.19	-0.6	September 28, 2025
4	1362	Anil Kumar	10.21	2	July 5, 2000
5	1480	Tamilarasu Senthilkumar	10.22	0.2	August 20, 2025

CHART 1: The all-time top-700 men's 100m performances

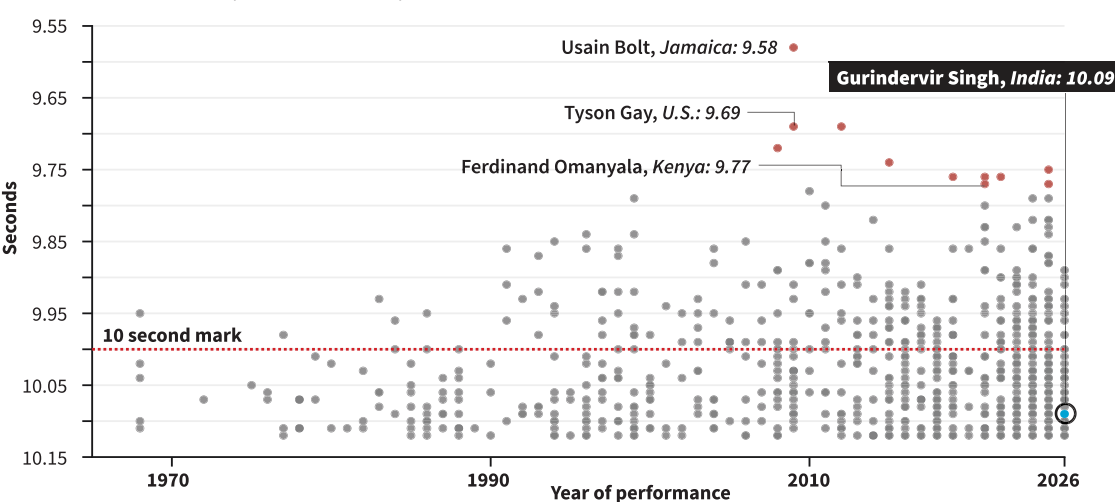
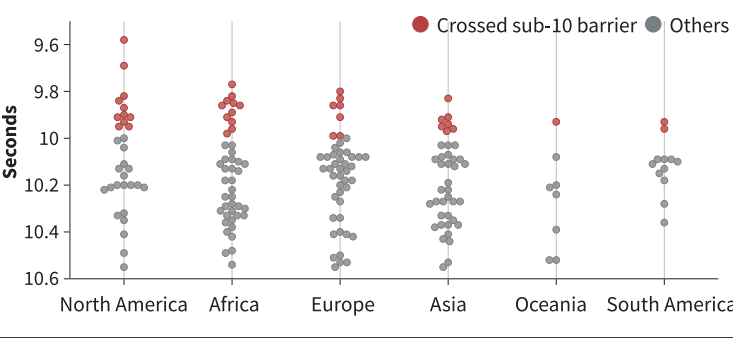
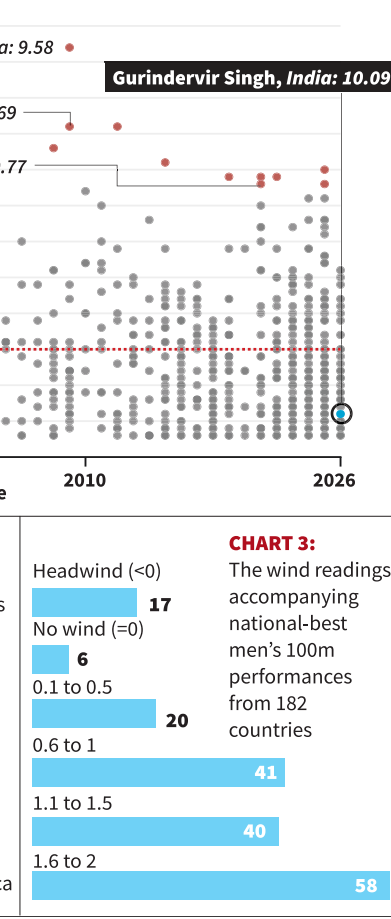


CHART 2: Fastest men's 100m performances of each country, grouped by continent and whether the 10-second barrier has been broken



During his celebrations, Gurindervir Singh held up the back of his bib, which said, "Task is not finished yet." RITU RAJ KONWAR

CHART 3: The wind readings accompanying national-best men's 100m performances from 182 countries



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 3, 1976

Cyclone brings heavy rain to Bombay

Bombay, June 2: Bombay and suburbs were lashed by heavy rain and gusty winds since the early hours of this morning.

A spokesman of the Colaba Observatory told THE HINDU that the rains were due to the influence of the cyclone centered at 180 km in the Arabian Sea west of Bombay.

The rain abated this afternoon and this came as a relief to thousands of commuters anxious to reach home.

Between 2 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. to-day Colaba recorded 30.2 mm of rainfall. Santacruz 3.8 mm and Worli 18 mm –FOC

Samachar reports:

The movement of ships in and out of Bombay harbour was affected and rail communications slightly disrupted following heavy rain. The trains started running behind schedule following the snapping of overhead cables at a point near Andheri. There was no disruption of traffic on Central Railway. The Colaba Observatory in a late night bulletin said "very high to phenomenal" seas were likely and a storm surge six metres above the normal astronomical tide might also prevail. The storm was likely to move in a north-northeast direction along the South Gujarat coast.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 3, 1926

League Council on opium

Geneva, June 2: "Britain is poisoning the world with its drugs", exclaimed Chu, the Chinese representative on the League's Advisory Committee on Opium.

Sir Malcolm Delevingne (Britain) had complained that 200 kilograms of morphine and heroin had been shipped to Shanghai from Germany, the Chinese Government certifying that those drugs were intended for medical purposes in Shanghai hospitals, whereas they were destined for other usages and, despite Britain's representations in this regard to the Chinese Government, the consignment had been released. This brought forth Chu's exclamation above mentioned. He protested excitedly against the alleged attack on his Government and added that the anti-British feeling in China was increasing daily.

M. Bourgeois (France), presiding, cut the lively incident short and announced tea interval.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Cases filed in 50 days of J&K's campaign against drug trafficking

176 In the first 50 days of Jammu and Kashmir's campaign against drug trafficking, 176 cases were registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, and 202 accused persons were arrested or detained, police said on Tuesday. The zero-tolerance policy towards narcotics has yielded significant results, Jammu SSP Joginder Singh said. PTI

The death toll from Russian strikes on Ukraine

18 The death toll from Russian strikes on Ukraine overnight rose to 18, officials said on Tuesday, hours after Moscow's forces launched hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles across the country. The mayor of Kyiv announced that six people had been killed and 66 wounded in the capital, while authorities in the city of Dnipro said that 12 people had died in the attack. AFP

Number of mortgages approved by U.K. lenders in April

65,945 The number of mortgages approved by British lenders for house purchases rose to a three-month high of 65,945 in April from 63,979 in March, according to Bank of England data on Tuesday. April's approvals were well above the 62,000 median forecast in a Reuters poll of economists. REUTERS

Eurozone inflation in May due to the war in West Asia

3.20 in per cent. Eurozone inflation rose in May as the West Asia conflict sent energy costs soaring, official data showed Tuesday, reinforcing the likelihood of an interest rate increase in the single currency area. Consumer price rises accelerated to 3.2 per cent last month, the EU's statistics agency Eurostat said, up from 3.0 per cent in April. AFP

Value of defence exports by Israel in 2025

19.2 in \$ billion. Israeli arms exports have reached an all-time high for the fifth consecutive year, hitting more than \$19 billion in 2025, the Defence Ministry announced Tuesday. Missile, rocket and air defence systems were the lead exports, it said, adding that a "surge was recorded in observation and optronics systems". AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The future of India's chip industry

A new NITI Aayog report says India's semiconductor ecosystem is not yet equipped to fully meet domestic demand, while stressing the need to strengthen local manufacturing, as geopolitical pressures could potentially disrupt the electronics supply chain

EXPLAINER

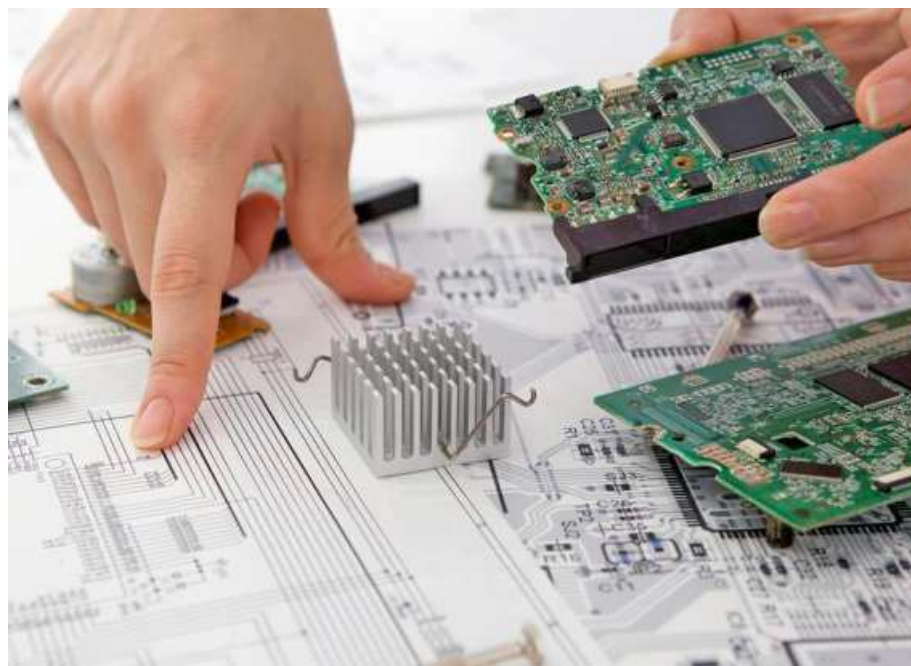
Aroon Deep

NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub released a report last week that had two main messages: first, that India faces steep challenges in developing world-class semiconductor manufacturing capabilities, and second, that national interest necessitated pursuing this field doggedly regardless of those difficulties.

The Union government has made chipmaking a priority, since semiconductors are a part of nearly all electronics, from consumer gadgets to defence gear. Yet, India does not have a single fabrication unit, with the first expected to open in Dholera, Gujarat by 2028, with a total of ten in various stages of development. Multiple semiconductor packaging and testing facilities have been generously subsidised and supported by the Union government (as well as some State governments), through initiatives like the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).

The ISM is a ₹76,000 crore corpus, and it is almost fully earmarked to projects across semiconductor fabs, incentives for component manufacturing, and bulk subscriptions to industry-grade semiconductor design applications for students and academia. While the most cutting edge and ambitious projects – fabs – have received capital subsidies of upwards of 50%, other projects have received production- or output-linked incentives.

The report, titled 'Future of India's Semiconductor Industry', reiterates that these are yet early days for the semiconductor industry, since even chips used in domestic electronics assembly operations are largely sourced from outside the country. "India's local ecosystem is not ready to fully meet domestic demand for semiconductors," the report said. But it insisted that there



GETTY IMAGES

was still a need to manufacture locally, as geopolitical pressures like a disaster in Taiwan could massively disrupt the electronics supply chain. "As many semiconductor parts used in defence systems are produced outside India, deploying them in our aerospace and defence programmes is increasing threats to national security," the report adds.

The sector "requires sustained, mission-mode commitment over a decade or more," the report said.

Fab gestation

The report points to several challenges in this indigenisation process, not least of which is the time involved. "Typically, fab units require four to five years before commencing production," the report points out. "During the gestation phase, these units need to invest in purchasing more than 50 specialised equipment from global players. Even after the production is over, processes like yield optimisation and reliability test take several quarters

before chips reach the market." Developing talent to work in these fabs is also, as a result, time consuming, the report says.

The report urges the government to work on "building sovereign design and research capabilities, R&D excellence and harnessing agentic AI for semiconductor engineering," since "building deep capabilities" in materials sciences and silicon designing will "move India from a services-led design base to a creator of differentiated IP, architectures and integration technologies that define next generation systems."

Capital investment

While the details on the second phase of the India Semiconductor Mission are yet to be revealed, the report pegs the necessary capital expenditure from the state at \$45-60 billion over a period of ten years. This amount should, however, be spent on projects where the risk is less and "bankability" can assure returns to

investors, the report warns. This translates to a shift away from directing public funds towards frontier chips, whose transistors are the smallest – 3 to 7 nanometres – and towards "mature, advanced-aligned with strategic relevance—as well as compound nodes," the report says.

The report is key in understanding the potential scope of ISM 2.0, since its ambition is defined and largely stays out of big-ticket frontier fab projects. It advocates, for instance, "selective depth, capital efficiency and system-level differentiation, rather than attempting to replicate the full global manufacturing spectrum."

For instance, packaging, which is among the last steps of a chipmaking process, and less expensive and complex than fabrication, is identified as a "core production pillar, not a downstream activity" in the report. The report calls for "[r]apid import substitution in high volume domestic segments".

Trusted partners

The report implies that China is an adversary in chipmaking in spite of the recent thaw in relations. In a list of "priority partners," the report highlights the U.S., Japan, the European Union, and South Korea as partners with whom to work to get "access to critical tools, equipment servicing and lifecycle support," and to take advantage of "India's market scale, talent base and packaging capacity."

"With sustained commitment and strategic clarity, India can build a competitive semiconductor ecosystem that strengthens economic resilience and positions the nation as a key player in the future of advanced technology," the report concludes. IT Secretary S. Krishnan welcomed the report as a "structured, actionable framework," and said in a foreword that, "India is well positioned to convert its semiconductor ambition into enduring industrial and strategic reality".

THE GIST

▼ The Union government has made semiconductor manufacturing a priority, but India does not yet have a fabrication unit. A recent report by NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub underscores the need to bolster local manufacturing.

▼ The report urges the government to work on 'building sovereign design and research capabilities, R&D excellence and harnessing agentic AI for semiconductor engineering'.

The need for strengthening India's EV supply chains

As EV adoption gathers pace, there is a greater need to focus on reducing vulnerability to external shocks

Jaideep Saraswat
Akanksha Golchha

India's electrification of road transport has entered a decisive growth phase. Around 2.5 million vehicles were sold in FY26, a significant increase from FY25. This momentum reflects the effectiveness of policy support from both the Centre and the States, including upfront purchase incentives, road tax exemptions and other demand-side interventions. These measures helped create the initial market, reduce consumer hesitation, and establish electric vehicles (EVs) as a credible and tested technology.

Import dependence

The next phase of EV adoption demands a different policy and industrial logic. As the sector scales, India is moving away from imported fossil fuels, only to find itself becoming increasingly dependent

on imported lithium-ion batteries. The challenge is no longer how quickly India can electrify transport, but how it can do so without creating a new strategic vulnerability. EV growth must now be judged by three additional metrics: supply chain resilience, strategic autonomy, and long-term sustainability.

India's domestic cell manufacturing is still far below the scale needed to alter import dependence meaningfully. Under the ACC Battery Production Linked Incentive scheme, 40 GWh of capacity has been awarded, but only about 1 GWh has been installed so far. Meanwhile, passenger EVs sold in India are sourcing batteries from 14 global manufacturers, with 7,987 MWh imported in 2025. Of this, a significant share came from Chinese manufacturers, highlighting that increasing EV sales are tightly correlated with increasing imports from China.

This concentration creates a structural risk for Indian EV OEMs (original

equipment manufacturers). Battery supply is increasingly exposed to a single-country ecosystem that is shaped by policy, geopolitics, and industrial strategy outside India's control. Several developments in China are influencing pricing and availability, like tighter technology restrictions, prioritisation of domestic demand, withdrawal of VAT exemptions on battery exports, and more. Additionally, the West Asia conflict has compounded the pressure through higher raw material costs, elevated manufacturing expenses in China, and rising transport and risk premiums.

The consequences extend beyond OEM balance sheets. Battery inflation delays price parity with internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles and slows the shift from early adopters to mass-market buyers. In a market as price-sensitive as India's, rising cell costs can confine EVs to premium segments and place national adoption targets at risk if the situation

persists and OEMs are forced to pass on higher costs to consumers.

This requires a holistic situational assessment and identifying key interventions in the short to medium term. The near-term response must be pragmatic. Many OEMs already talk of a "China + 1" sourcing strategy, but actual supplier diversity varies widely by segment. Higher-end EVs are increasingly paired with non-Chinese NMC batteries, while cost-sensitive mass-market models continue to rely on cheaper Chinese LFP cells. True diversification, across suppliers, chemistries, and geographies, may raise costs initially; but it significantly lowers the risk of strategic disruption over time.

Product modifications

The cost shock should also drive product-level discipline. OEMs need to design EVs around efficiency, lighter architectures, more effective drivetrains, smarter software calibration, and battery right-sizing aligned with actual usage rather than aspirational range. India's market may ultimately reward lean, purpose-built electrification over oversized vehicles designed around imported battery economics. Software-defined battery platforms that support multiple chemistries without hardware redesign would further improve flexibility as the cell market evolves. Moreover, Indian manufacturers should

begin type-testing vehicles across emerging chemistries, including sodium-ion batteries. Sodium-ion is not yet a full substitute for lithium-ion across all use cases, but it could serve as a meaningful hedge as production scales domestically, broadening the technology base and reducing dependence on any single chemistry or supplier.

Further, India's path forward lies in building a structured 'EV supply chain alliance' with trusted partners, one that spans minerals, manufacturing, technology, and standards. Such an alliance would distribute risk across geographies, deepen domestic capability over time, and ensure that no single external disruption can stall India's electrification agenda.

The EV transition is no longer straightforward and the recent disruptions underscore the need for a more resilient approach. India has already demonstrated that it can create demand for clean mobility. The next test is whether it can build the industrial depth to sustain that demand without becoming dependent on a single external bottleneck.

(Jaideep Saraswat is the Associate Director of the Clean Power, Electric Mobility & Emerging Technologies vertical at Vasudha Foundation. Akanksha Golchha is Senior Associate (non-resident) with the Chair on India & Emerging Asia Economics at Center for Strategic and International Studies.)

CACHE

Can CBSE's marking system be reformed for transparency and credibility?

Portal glitches, blurred scans, and evaluation anomalies exposed weaknesses in the rollout of the OSM system. Robust SOPs, secure digital infrastructure, and free access to answer scripts can help restore accountability and public trust in the evaluation process

Rajeev Kumar

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), responding to long-standing demands for greater transparency in evaluation, introduced the on-screen marking (OSM) system to standardise answer-script assessment through digital technology. Under this framework, answer books are scanned into secure digital files and evaluated online through a cyber-secure platform enabling digital monitoring, random allocation of scripts, centralised moderation, and automated verification checks.

The initiative sought to improve transparency, accuracy, confidentiality, and uniformity in marking. However, it soon faced controversies over server failures, portal glitches, blurred or incomplete scanned scripts, unchecked responses, inconsistent step-marking, evaluation discrepancies, payment gateway issues, and concerns about the reliability and verifiability of the digital evaluation process.

Ironically, a system introduced to eliminate evaluation irregularities itself came under scrutiny for procedural, academic, and technological lapses. It also raises a fundamental question: why should students be charged to access and verify answer scripts that are largely their own intellectual work and have already been digitised as part of the evaluation process?

The evaluation system

Evaluation remains the most consequential component of the Teaching-Learning-Evaluation (TLE) framework because it directly influences students' academic progression, college admissions, scholarships, and career opportunities, particularly for Class XII students. After years of preparation and intense competition, students have a legitimate right to know how their answers were assessed, how step-marking was applied, and where marks were deducted.

Unlike multiple-choice-question (MCQ)-based examinations, where evaluation through optical mark recognition (OMR) sheets and answer keys is objective and machine-verifiable, descriptive examinations involve subjective assessment across multiple steps, methods, and interpretations. Different evaluators may award different marks for the same answer depending on reasoning, presentation, or methodology.

Given the massive scale of Board examinations involving millions of answer scripts, maintaining consistency in descriptive evaluation remains a major academic and technological challenge.

OSM rollout and challenges

CBSE's OSM system marked a significant shift from the conventional pen-and-paper (PnP) evaluation to digital assessment of scanned answer scripts. The system was expected to improve transparency, enable standardisation and centralised monitoring, and reduce manual evaluation errors. However, the rollout reportedly suffered from hurried implementation, weak digital infrastructure, poor-quality scanning systems, limited examiner training, and inadequate operational protocols.



Evaluation is a crucial component of the Teaching-Learning-Evaluation framework since it directly influences students' academic progression. PTI

Complaints soon emerged.

The experience highlighted that digital evaluation is not merely a software transition but a complex academic and technological ecosystem that requires robust SOPs, secure infrastructure, examiner preparedness, audit mechanisms, and strong cybersecurity safeguards to ensure transparency, consistency, and accountability.

Scope for reforms in the OSM system

The Digital OSM framework should provide scanned answer books to all students free of cost, since scripts are already digitised before evaluation. CBSE should securely deliver encrypted digital copies within a fixed timeline through authenticated portals, email, or secure mobile platforms. Such a framework would make evaluation more transparent, traceable, scalable, and verifiable while reducing server congestion, manual intervention, and access-related disputes. The proposed system would, however, require a set of clearly defined standard operating procedures (SOP).

The CBSE should establish high-resolution scanning systems, encrypted archival and backup facilities, high-capacity cloud servers, and strong cybersecurity safeguards against unauthorised access or data manipulation. The complete workflow – including scanning, indexing, storage, evaluator access, digital delivery, and audit logging – should undergo repeated pilot testing and full-load simulations through local and pre-board examinations before nationwide rollout.

Evaluators, moderators, scanning staff, and administrators should undergo structured training in digital evaluation procedures, screen-based moderation, stepwise marking, and handling of scanned scripts. Students should use only black pens and standardised answer-writing formats to ensure clear

scanning and readability of answer books and supplementary sheets.

Detailed subject-wise marking schemes, including step-marks and acceptable alternative methods, should be released within a week after the examinations. A short expert feedback window should be provided before Chief Examiners finalise marking schemes. This would help reduce ambiguities, improve standardisation, and minimise arbitrary variations in marking.

Additionally, within two to three weeks after examinations, encrypted digital answer scripts should be securely delivered to students and parents through authenticated portals, email, or registered mobile applications integrated with secure cloud and messaging APIs. Students or parents should confirm within 24 hours of receipt that the scripts are complete, readable, correctly indexed, and genuinely their own, including all supplementary sheets.

The evaluation should begin only after script verification is completed. Examiners must assess scripts strictly in accordance with approved stepwise marking schemes. Additional digital oversight tools, such as audit trails, online moderation, automated totaling checks, anomaly-detection systems, and random quality audits, should continuously monitor consistency, completeness, and adherence to SOPs.

Since students and parents would already possess both their answer scripts and official marking schemes, they can independently estimate their likely scores before the declaration of results. Significant deviations between self-estimated and officially awarded marks would help identify possible evaluation anomalies and enable targeted review or moderation.

Finally, re-checking and re-evaluation should continue as a safeguard mechanism with defined timelines and

digital tracking. However, with the proposed SOPs already ensuring verified scripts and standardised marking schemes, grievances are expected to reduce substantially.

Such a framework would significantly strengthen transparency, accountability, and public trust in the evaluation process.

The way forward

A reliable Digital OSM system requires robust scanning infrastructure, secure archival systems, high-capacity servers, and strong cybersecurity safeguards. Given the scale of the CBSE examinations, repeated full-load testing and pilot runs are essential before nationwide implementation.

Structured training for examiners and scanning staff, along with standardised, stepwise marking schemes and disciplined digital evaluation protocols, are necessary to avoid blurred scans, unchecked answers, and inconsistent marking. With well-defined SOPs and secure implementation, digital OSM can improve the credibility, consistency, and accountability of large-scale examination evaluation in India.

Importantly, the same framework can be implemented even now, making the current crisis largely reversible within a few weeks at most. By proactively sharing scanned answer scripts with all students, enabling verification of script completeness and authenticity, ensuring transparent matching of awarded marks against approved marking schemes, and correcting evaluations where the prescribed marking scheme has not been properly followed, the CBSE can quickly restore confidence in the OSM process and regain much of the credibility lost during the rollout.

(Rajeev Kumar is a former Computer Science Professor at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, BITS Pilani, and JNU, and a former scientist at DRDO and DST.)

THE DAILY QUIZ

When world leaders take centre stage, theatrics are never far behind. A quiz on the quirky, chaotic and rhetoric-driven world of United Nations speeches

Mohammed Hidayat

QUESTION 1

When Fidel Castro took the UN General Assembly rostrum in 1960, the Cuban leader spoke for over four hours. Which Indian diplomat's speech at the Security Council across three meetings over two days in 1957 lasted more than eight hours?

QUESTION 2

"Yesterday, the devil came here — right here. And it smells of sulphur still today." Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez made this remark from the UN stage in 2006. Who was he referring to?

QUESTION 3

In February 2003, a tapestry reproduction of the anti-war mural "Guernica", displayed outside the UN

Security Council chamber, was covered shortly before U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell made the case for invading Iraq. Which Spanish artist painted the original 1937 masterpiece?

QUESTION 4

"I have come with a freedom fighter's gun in one hand and an olive branch in the other. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand". Identify the Palestinian leader who made the statement after being invited to address the UN General Assembly in 1974 at the request of the Non-Aligned Movement.

QUESTION 5

"We are not gays", declared this Zimbabwean President during his General Assembly speech in 2015. The leader, who was 91 at the time, was known for his staunchly anti-homosexual stance throughout his decades-long rule.



Identify the Soviet leader in the image. The Premier is alleged to have banged his shoe on his desk during a heated UN discussion in 1960. Historians still debate whether he slammed his shoe repeatedly, merely waved it, or whether later retellings exaggerated the event. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Apart from Royal Challengers Bengaluru, these two teams have defended their crowns. **Ans: Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians**
 2. The only batter to have scored two tons. **Ans: CSK's Sanju Samson**
 3. The Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium and Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium are located in these State capitals. **Ans: Raipur and Hyderabad**
 4. A unique factor about Match 38 played on April 26. **Ans: It was the only one to be decided by a Super Over where KKR prevailed over the host LSG**
 5. The first player to win back-to-titles with two different teams. **Ans: Krunal Pandya (MI in 2019 & 20) and RCB (25 & 26)**
 6. Teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi won these official awards. **Ans: Most Valuable Player (₹15 lakh), Emerging player (₹10 lakh), Super Striker (Tata Sierra SUV) and Super Sixes (₹10 lakh)**
- Visual: Name this bowler who was the only one to take five wickets in a match. **Ans: Mohsin Khan (LSG)**
Early birds: Elango P. | Amit Saxena



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Hi, come on in! Haven't seen you in a while."

"I was busy with my exams. What have you been up to? Good God, what's all this mess?"

"Just rearranging some of the stuff. Do you think you could...?"

"...I smell Sujatha's perfume. Was she here by any chance?"

"That's some nose you have. Yes, she came in at about ten this morning and parked herself on that stool over there."

"Parked herself? What do you think she is? A car?"

"Even people park themselves, you know."

"Really?"

"When someone parks himself somewhere, he sits or stands in one particular place for a long time. He stays put in that place for quite some time."

"But won't other people find this inconvenient? I mean..."

"...yes, they will. But when you 'park yourself somewhere' you generally don't worry about such things. Here's an example. Anand and Karthik parked themselves on the sofa and remained there all morning."

"Some of the demonstrators parked themselves in the hotel lobby and refused to budge. How does that sound?"

"Sounds great. The donkeys and cows parked themselves on the road and ..."

"...so this expression can be used with animals as well?"

"It can not only be used with animals, but also with things. Many of the students I know park their chewing gum under the table."

"I hate it when people do that. Last night Gopa came over to our place and parked his notebooks on my study table."

"Did you ask for them?"

"Of course not! He said that he would come back for them tomorrow."

"I see. Prema parked her suitcases in the front room and vanished. She returned in the evening after having met her friends."

"Can one use this expression in formal contexts?"

"The expression is normally used in informal contexts alone. Usually with people you know fairly well."

"I think I'll park myself on the sofa."

"Oh, no you're not! I don't want you to park yourself anywhere. I need your help in carrying these boxes to the..."

"...sorry. I won't be able to help today."

"What's wrong? Feeling under par?"

"Under what?"

"Under par! When you say that you are feeling under par or below par, it means you are not feeling well. You don't have the energy level that you normally do."

"I see. The Chairman cancelled the meeting because he was feeling below par."

"That's a good example. She had viral fever last week. She feels under par even today."

"Doesn't the expression 'off colour' mean the same thing as 'below par'?"

"That's right. When you say that somebody looked off colour, it means that he/she was not in good health. For example, you..."

"...let me try. The young man looks a little off colour today. I wonder what's wrong."

"Very good. The Chairman has been off colour for the past two or three days." Published in *The Hindu* on October 31, 2000

Word of the day

Renegade: someone who rebels and becomes an outlaw

Synonyms: apostate, deserter

Usage: The renegade legislator voted against the party whip.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/zZ86aV/renegade

International Phonetic Alphabet: /rɛ.nəˈɡeɪd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

From Page One

Officials transferred, panel to probe tender

The inquiry committee set up by the Centre to probe the OSM tender will be chaired by S. Radha Chauhan, chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission, and will submit its report to the Department of Personnel and Training within one month, according to a memorandum issued by the Cabinet Secretariat. Ms. Chauhan has been empowered to obtain the assistance of officials from other departments as required, while the Capacity Building Commission will provide secretarial assistance to the panel.

Responding to the transfer of CBSE officials, the Congress alleged that Mr. Pradhan has been presiding over a "monumentally corrupt, inept, and incompetent ecosystem" that has played havoc with the lives of lakhs of youth.

"The transfer of CBSE Chairman and Secretary is mere eye-wash. [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi should immediately sack Dharmendra Pradhan. Nothing less than that would provide a sense of justice to 18.5 lakh CBSE students," Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on X.

"Minister Pradhan is leading a highly corrupt, incompetent, and unworthy ecosystem that has toyed with the lives of millions of young people. He should resign immediately," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

Significant victory: NSUI

The National Students' Union of India termed the transfer of the CBSE chairman and secretary as a "small but significant victory" for lakhs of students seeking justice.

NSUI national president Vinod Jakhar said the transfers were the result of sustained protests and campaigns launched by students, parents, teachers and the student organisation itself across the country.

"The transfer of the CBSE Chairman and Secretary is proof that the voices of students, parents, teachers and NSUI could no longer be suppressed. This is a small victory for every CBSE student who has been demanding justice and accountability after concerns emerged regarding the OSM evaluation system," Mr. Jakhar said.

Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal said the Centre's message to lakhs of students and their parents is clear — Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will not be changed regardless of public outrage.

(With inputs from Sandeep Phukan and PTI)

Monsoon to set in over Kerala 'around June 4'

The IMD declares the monsoon's onset over Kerala any day after May 10 when at least 60% of 14 designated stations across the State and the adjoining coast — among them Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Kozhikode, and Mangaluru — record 2.5 mm or more of rainfall for two consecutive days.

Two conditions

Two further conditions must hold: westerly winds must extend up to about 600 hPa (roughly 4.5 km) over the southeast Arabian Sea, and outgoing long-wave radiation must drop below 200 W/m², a proxy for the deep cloud and convection that differentiates the monsoon from mere rain.

IMD officials have told *The Hindu* that the system had stalled short of the coast rather than weakened.

The slip arrives with the season already forecast below normal, at 90% of the long-period average, under a building El Niño.

Indigenous RudraM-II missile clears flight trials

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) have successfully conducted flight-tests of the indigenous RudraM-II air-to-surface missile, marking a significant milestone in India's efforts to strengthen its precision strike capabilities and advance self-reliance in defence technology.

According to the Defence Ministry, the missile was test-fired from an airborne platform under extreme release conditions, with the trials designed to validate the performance of all critical subsystems and flight parameters.

Data captured through a network of tracking and monitoring instruments deployed by the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, confirmed the missile's performance and the success of the trials.

Demography panel may study SIR exclusions, seeks details from govt.

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The demography panel led by a retired Supreme Court judge is likely to study the exclusion of names from the voters' list following the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise conducted in 13 States and Union Territories so far, a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

The High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes that was notified by the Union Home Ministry on May 26 held its first meeting on Tuesday.

The panel has asked for documents from several government departments, the official said. Its mandate is to study the demographic changes arising from illegal immigration and other abnormal reasons and recommend an appropriate institutional mechanism for "population stabilisation".

The SIR deleted around 6.5 crore names from elec-

Cong. targets Modi over silence on Israel's actions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of maintaining "complete silence" over Israel's military offensive in Lebanon, even though Israeli aggression is undermining efforts to secure a U.S.-Iran agreement aimed at ending hostilities in West Asia.

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said negotiations between the U.S. and Iran to halt the conflict held significant implications for India.

A successful agreement would lead to the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and exert downward pressure on global oil prices, both of which were of "tremendous stake" to India, he said on X.

"Many countries have been condemning Israel's offensive in Lebanon. The one head of government who has kept silent is PM Narendra Modi," he added.

No role for third parties in bilateral matters between India, Nepal: Centre

The response comes after Nepal PM suggests countries such as U.K. and China could help address the issue; govt. says close to 98% of the boundary has been demarcated, with the remaining segments being addressed through established channels

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Responding to assertions made by Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah, the External Affairs Ministry on Tuesday said that India and Nepal had bilateral mechanisms to deal with border issues and that there was "no role for any third parties" in such matters.

Addressing presspersons, Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal responded to the claims made by Mr. Shah, who had asserted that the boundary issue was a complex one with both India and Nepal having possession of each other's territory and had sought intervention of countries like the U.K. and China. The Ministry's response to the Nepali Prime Minister coincided with the visit of Rabi Lamichhane, chairman of the rul-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah greets Chairman of the Rastriya Swatantra Party Rabi Lamichhane in New Delhi. PTI

ing Rastriya Swatantra Party in Nepal, who received a warm welcome in the national capital and met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday.

"We have established bilateral mechanisms to deal with all aspects of boundary matters. It should be clear to all concerned that there is no role for any third parties in a bilateral matter between India and Nepal," said Mr. Jaiswal.

In a speech in the Nepali Parliament on May 31, Mr. Shah said: "You will be surprised to know a fact that I have learnt recently, only after becoming Prime Minister. India has not only encroached Nepali territory, but Nepal has also encroached Indian territory in many places. Now, both countries should study the facts and sit together as friends and resolve the issue."

In response to this, the Ministry spokesperson referred to natural phenomena like the shifting of the Gandak river that is part of the India-Nepal border. Mr. Jaiswal said, "While close to 98% of the India-Nepal boundary has been demarcated, there are some unresolved segments."

No man's land

Explaining the complexity of the border issue, Mr. Jaiswal further said, "In addition, there are cases of cross-border occupation and encroachment of no-man's land in demarcated segments of the boundary, which are currently being mapped jointly."

The remarks from the official spokesperson coincided with the welcome that Mr. Lamichhane continued to receive here on the second day of his visit to India.

Mr. Lamichhane arrived here on Monday when he

was welcomed by representatives of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the VIP lounge of the Indira Gandhi International Airport here.

'People-to-people ties'

On Tuesday, Mr. Lamichhane, who has been the leader of RSP since 2022, called on the External Affairs Minister. Following the discussion, Mr. Jaishankar said: "Our discussions focused on the development partnership and people-to-people ties. These have a crucial role in promoting growth and prosperity."

The visit of Mr. Lamichhane, who is in the country on the invitation of the BJP foreign affairs cell, has drawn attention as the trip came weeks after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's scheduled Nepal visit was cancelled because of Mr. Shah's reported disinclination to meet him.



CJI Surya Kant administers the oath of office to Justice V. Mohana as a judge of the Supreme Court, in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Five new judges join SC following increase in sanctioned strength

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday got five new judges, taking its strength to 37, with only one position remaining vacant.

The appointments come shortly after the Centre increased the court's sanctioned strength from 33 to 37 judges, excluding the Chief Justice of India (CJI), through the Supreme Court (Num-

ber of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026.

CJI Surya Kant administered the oath of office to former Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Sheel Nagu, former Chief Justice of Bombay High Court Shree Chandrashekar, former Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court Sanjeev Sachdeva, former Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh Arun Palli, and senior advocate V.S. Mohana.

Venezuela Acting President's five-day visit to India likely to prioritise energy cooperation

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Around five months after Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro was abducted in a dramatic raid by the United States military, the country's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez will pay a visit to India from June 3 to 7, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced here on Tuesday.

"Her Excellency Ms. Delcy Rodriguez, the Acting President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela who was earlier scheduled to visit India to participate in the International Big Cats Alliance summit on June 1, which has been deferred, will pay a working visit from June 3 to 7," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

Ms. Rodriguez will be accompanied by Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Economy and Finance, Science and Technology, Communica-



Delcy Rodriguez

tion and Information and Transportation.

During the visit, the Acting President will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Jaiswal said. The discussion between Mr. Modi and Ms. Rodriguez will include the "full spectrum" of India-Venezuela relations and explore further avenues of ties in energy, trade, pharmaceuticals and renewable energy.

Ms. Rodriguez has visited India five times in the past and this will be her sixth trip to the country. She visited India earlier re-

presenting the Maduro government as Foreign Minister in 2015 and as Vice-President in 2019, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Officials stated that apart from New Delhi, Mr. Rodriguez who has been playing a balancing role between the United States and the hardliners in her country, will visit spiritual centres associated with the Satya Sai Baba movement and also interact with industrialists and representatives of oil and gas majors.

India was once a major processor of Venezuelan heavy crude, importing more than 4,00,000 barrels per day at peak levels, until sweeping U.S. sanctions and rising compliance risks forcibly shut down purchases in 2020. New Delhi started purchasing crude oil from Venezuela after the sanctions were lifted following Mr. Maduro's capture.

(With PTI inputs)

'T.N. CM failing to uphold constitutional morality'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

DMK deputy general secretary A. Raja on Tuesday accused Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay of failing to uphold constitutional morality while addressing a meeting in Tiruchi a day earlier to thank the voters.

"It is unbecoming of a Chief Minister. If one compares the tone and tenor of his speech in the Assembly with the tone of ridicule and aggression in Tiruchi, one can sense tiredness, hesitation, and helplessness in his Assembly speech. Why did he deliver such a speech of bravado in Tiruchi? Who scripted it? If you compare the two speeches, you can understand the political manoeuvring, lamentation, and embarrassment behind it," Mr. Raja told reporters at Anna Arivalayam, the DMK headquarters, in Chennai.

Govt. changes foreigner registration regulations

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The foreigners coming to India on a visa for 180 days or less will now have to register themselves "anytime before the expiry of the said period of 180 days" in case they want to stay beyond the visa period, according to changes in the Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025 notified by the Home Ministry.

The new provision will replace the previous rule that required the registration "within 14 days after the expiry of one hundred and eighty days of arrival in India."

The foreigners on a visa for more than 180 days with a stipulation that "each stay shall not exceed 180 days" and who wish to stay in India beyond that period shall have to register "anytime before the expiry of 180 days," the notification published in the gazette said.

Cong. using Telangana as its 'ATM': BJP chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Nitin Nabin on Tuesday accused the Congress government in the State of using Telangana as its "ATM".

"It can be said that Telangana has so far been used merely as an ATM by those in power... the hard-earned money of the people of Telangana is today being spent in the service of the Congress leadership," Mr. Nabin said at an event organised on Telangana State Formation Day.

"The creation of Telangana was made possible through the struggles and sacrifices of lakhs of people. The BJP played a consistent role throughout that journey. At the BJP national convention in Kakinada in 1997, we passed a historic resolution supporting a separate State of Telangana," he said.

"If we are to build the developed India of 2047 envisioned by Prime Minister, then we must also fulfil our commitment to make Telangana fully prosperous and comprehensively developed," he said.

APPEAL

Kavinesh is 9 months old suffering from "Rhabdomyosarcoma" and needs Chemotherapy Radiation Therapy and surgery at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs.7,00,000/-. His father is a daily wage earner. The family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help him with the treatment and to have a bright future. Donations sent by CMD.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch/D/INEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakam Branch, A/c No.60182010063310, IFSC No.CNRB0016018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No.GF 1, Cordell Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/31523781/7338978027. Email ID: womenwelfareindia@gmail.com Website: www.womenwelfareindia.org

WWS

The Hindu Huddle to look at Aravallis, Nicobar, and India's development debate

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

One of the most defining policy debates of our time is that of development versus environment. With India pursuing various infrastructure and economic goals, there is worry that environmental concerns may not be receiving the attention they deserve.

These issues will be explored in a panel discussion at The Hindu Huddle in Bengaluru on June 6. The session will feature Jairam Ramesh, former Union Environment Minister and Congress MP, and Dr. Krithi Karanth, conservation biologist and CEO of the Centre for Wildlife Studies. The discussion will be moderated by Gargi Rawat, Consulting Editor, NDTV.

The conversation will focus on two contrasting landscapes: the Aravalli range and Great Nicobar Island. The Aravallis, among the world's oldest mountain systems, have long faced pressure from mining and quarrying. In 2025, after widespread protests, the Supreme Court froze new mining leases in notified areas across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. The ruling has been seen as an important step towards protecting a fragile ecosystem that plays a crucial role in groundwater recharge and combating desertification.

Meanwhile, the Great



Nicobar, known for its unique biodiversity and indigenous communities, is the site of a proposed ₹72,000-crore infrastructure project aimed at creating a transshipment and defence hub. While supporters view the project as strategically important, critics have expressed concerns about its ecological impact.

The discussion will examine what these two landscapes reveal about environmental governance in

India today. It will also explore whether citizen activism can influence conservation outcomes, how policymakers should assess projects involving irreversible ecological losses, and why environmental issues, such as the pollution crisis, rarely become major electoral concerns.

At the same time, it will acknowledge India's conservation successes, including its network of tiger reserves, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries. The discussion and questions will centre on how India can balance growth and environmental concerns in the years ahead.

Event partners

The Hindu Huddle is presented by Sami-Sabinsa Group as the Presenting Partner.

The event is co-powered by the Government of Telangana and held in association with Khaja Bandanawaz University.

The event is further supported by: Bank of Baroda, Larsen & Toubro, Apollo Hospitals, IIM Sirmaur, ICFAI Group, TAFE, Uttarakhand government, Wizzmon, Associate Partners; Casagrand, Realty Partner; Toyota, Luxury Car Partner; Amity University Bengaluru, University Partner; Harrow International School Bengaluru, Education Partner; Meghalaya Tourism, State Partner; NDTV 24x7, TV Partner.

CBSE portal for re-evaluation faces many glitches on first day

16,000 students applied for reassessment till Tuesday afternoon, the Board says; several Class 12 students share screenshots reporting a range of technical errors; malicious actors tried to disrupt services through a barrage of cyberattacks, CBSE says

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Up to 16,000 students applied for re-evaluation of their Class 12 answer papers till Tuesday afternoon after a dedicated portal for the submission of the application was opened earlier in the day, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said.

The portal will remain open till the midnight of June 6, it said. Applications are being submitted for verification of issues observed in the scanned copies of answer sheets and re-evaluation.

The CBSE opened the portal after a delay of a day from the promised June 1. Despite glitches, the CBSE said "no offline applications will be accepted". Requests submitted after the scheduled date and time will not be accepted, the Board said.

On the first day, several Class 12 students shared screenshots reporting a range of technical errors and evaluation discrepancies.

After filling out their login credentials (roll number, date of birth) and the captcha code, students were met with the message: "Verification failed, please check details".

Heavy server traffic caused the website to become unresponsive mid-process. Many students reported that after selecting their subjects or punching in details, the page froze entirely or redirected them to a completely blank screen, forcing them to start over.

The new user interface was reportedly broken on mobile devices, including overlapping text and unclickable buttons, which was distressing for students trying to complete the process on their phones.

Service disrupted

"The CBSE reevaluation portal is currently supporting over 8,000 concurrent users. As of 3:00 pm today, more than 16,000 students have successfully completed



Thousands of students had applied for re-evaluation of answer books in the CBSE Class 12 exam. PTI

ed their submissions," the CBSE said. "While thousands of students accessed the CBSE re-evaluation portal [on Tuesday], malicious actors attempted to disrupt services through a barrage of cyberattacks. Most recent being a denial of service attack attempt causing 1.5 million hits on the portal within a matter of 2 minutes and more than 1 lakh attempts of unauthorised file access," the CBSE further said in its official statement.

"Based on student feedback, we have further refined the platform, including extending session time limits to make the process more convenient and seamless," the Board said.

"Students may apply online for resolution of issues observed in the supplied scanned copy of answer book, including missing pages, missing supplementary sheets, missing maps/graphs, blurred pages, incorrect answer book, or evaluation against a different set," it said in its statement.

"Multiple issues and subjects may be selected in a single application. If students are not satisfied with evaluation they can apply for this facility," the statement further said.

Students may also apply online for re-evaluation of one or more questions across one or more subjects by providing the required details, including question number, and page number. They are re-

quired to ensure all intended requests, across subjects, are included before the final submission.

Aadhaar for log-in

Students have been instructed to enter their Aadhaar number for logging into the portal.

"Aadhaar verification has been included for security reasons. For children who do not have Aadhaar, the parent's, relative's or guardian's Aadhaar details may be used. In this case, the name in Aadhaar, date of birth, and gender must be of the person whose Aadhaar number is used," an official said.

Legal experts have said that the Supreme Court has held mandatory Aadhaar authentication to be unconstitutional.

"Firstly, Aadhaar cannot be made mandatory. Adding a layer of Aadhaar verification adds some friction to the IT portal, but any impersonator who wants to enter the portal via social engineering can get in by defrauding someone to obtain their Aadhaar details and spoof the system," a cyber security researcher and privacy advocate told *The Hindu*, requesting anonymity.

Once the 'Freeze' and 'Proceed to payment' button is clicked, the details are locked and cannot be edited, the Board said. Students have been advised to ensure all details are correct.

Teen flags CBSE OSM tender irregularities before House panel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sarthak Sidhant is too young to be elected to Parliament, but the 17-year-old student from Jharkhand, who flagged alleged irregularities in the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) tendering process for the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system, presented his findings before a parliamentary committee on Tuesday.

The Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, chaired by Congress MP Digvijaya Singh, met to discuss the "use of On-Screen-Marking in Grade 12 CBSE exams and issues faced by students".

Submits document

Mr. Sidhant, who appeared for the Class 12 exams this year, submitted a seven-page document outlining alleged anomalies in the CBSE's tendering process for selecting vendors for online marking and posed a series of questions to the Board, sources said.

His presentation was



Sarthak Sidhant arriving at the Parliament House Annex in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

made in the presence of CBSE Chairman Rahul Singh and School Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar, along with other officials from the Education Ministry and Board. Mr. Singh was transferred hours after the meeting.

The CBSE, meanwhile, submitted a report to the panel detailing challenges involved in implementing the OSM process. Officials, sources said, assured MPs that issues with the portal had been resolved and that students now have time until Saturday to apply for re-evaluation of answer sheets.

Exam lapses have contributed to growing public distrust: ABVP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, the student wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, has expressed concern over irregularities in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate), Common University Entrance Test and UGC-NET, stating that repeated lapses have undermined confidence in the country's ex-

am system. The lapses have led to growing distrust among students, parents and the public, it said.

Odisha resolution

In a resolution adopted at its National Executive Council meeting in Odisha from May 29 to 31, it blamed administrative failures, inadequate security safeguards, weak infrastructure and poor accountability. The resolution said

several initiatives aimed at improving transparency and quality in education had been launched in recent years. Shortcomings in implementation have limited their impact, it said.

It urged the Centre and the States to work jointly to ensure effective implementation of education reforms. It called for adequate resources, stronger institutional accountability and timely execution of policy measures.

Former Trinamool MLA, KMC councillor arrested in Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Arrests of Trinamool Congress leaders continued on Tuesday, with former Kalna MLA Debaprasad Bag and Kolkata Municipal Corporation councillor Sachin Singh being taken into custody in separate cases of alleged corruption and extortion.

Since the BJP came to power in West Bengal, nearly a hundred Trinamool Congress leaders, mostly local-level workers, have been arrested over allegations of corruption and post-poll violence linked to the 2021 Assembly elections. According to the police, Mr. Bag was arrested after huge quantities of government relief materials were found at his house.

"We are not yet sure why he stored such a huge quantity of government relief materials at his house. We are probing whether he was planning to sell them or had any other plans," Amarjit Biswas, an officer at Kalna police station,

Nearly a hundred Trinamool leaders have been arrested since the BJP came to power after polls

said. The police said that local residents also questioned his "luxurious lifestyle".

The Narkeldanga police arrested KMC councillor (ward 36) Sachin Singh over allegations of extortion, bribery and intimidation by local residents.

Former Katwa MLA Rabindranath Chattopadhyay was hospitalised on Tuesday after he was allegedly attacked by BJP workers over accusations of misappropriating relief materials.

Meanwhile, resignations kept pouring in from Trinamool Congress leaders over the past few days. On Tuesday, Member Mayor-In-Council in KMC Tarak Singh resigned from his post, citing "mental disturbance" and lack of proper responsibilities.

INDIA bloc to meet on June 8 amid strain; Trinamool expected to attend

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Leaders of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA bloc) are set to meet here on June 8. Trinamool Congress president and former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who has often maintained a distance from the Opposition bloc, is expected to attend.

Attention will also be on the DMK, which is upset with the Congress after it snapped ties and allied with the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam to join the government in Tamil Nadu. Earlier, DMK Lok Sabha leader Kanimozhi had written to Speaker Om Birla requesting that her party members be allotted seats away from the Congress in the Lok Sabha.

According to sources, 17 Opposition parties are likely to attend the meeting. Participants are expected to include Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren. Ms. Banerjee



Big meeting: Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at an event. FILE PHOTO

is likely to be accompanied by her nephew and Trinamool national general secretary, Abhishek Banerjee. Several Opposition parties had recently rallied behind Mr. Banerjee, criticising the BJP over an attack on him in West Bengal.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray are expected. The Aam Aadmi Party, which severed ties with the INDIA bloc nearly a year

ago, is unlikely to attend, particularly as the Congress remains the principal Opposition in Punjab, the only State where the AAP is in power.

Bid to project unity

The last time top INDIA bloc leaders shared a common platform was in December 2023, ahead of the Lok Sabha election, when they had agreed to field a common candidate against the BJP in each Lok Sabha constituency — an arrangement that did not work in several States. Since then,

while the bloc has met on multiple occasions to strategise inside and outside Parliament, its top leadership has not come together. The meeting assumes significance considering the series of setbacks the Opposition parties have faced in Assembly elections since June 2024.

The June 8 meeting is seen as an effort to project unity. "It needs to be reiterated every now and then that the BJP has only 37% of the vote, while the remaining 63% of Indian voters are represented by other parties," a senior Opposition leader said.

The bloc is also expected to fine-tune its pitch on the Election Commission, particularly in the backdrop of the Supreme Court's validation of the special intensive revision exercise.

According to sources, leaders may also sharpen their campaign around the economic slowdown, an issue repeatedly flagged by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

Rahul hails unity in Rajasthan Cong., calls it example for others

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief and the Congress Legislature Party leader holding hands can be a good example for other States, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in Rajasthan, conveying a message to other States.

He made these remarks in Pushkar on Monday, where he had gone on the concluding day of a 10-day training camp for district presidents under the Sangathan Srijan Abhigyan.

While receiving Mr. Gandhi at the airport, PCC chief Govind Singh Dotasara and CLP leader Tika Ram Jully jointly offered him a bouquet, prompting him to make the remark. "A very good example for all other States," he said.

His remarks are significant against the backdrop of intense rivalry between former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot a few years ago.

The comment is not on-

ly an acknowledgement of factional feuds in the party but also conveys a sense of urgency in settling them after the leadership transition in Karnataka.

Leadership tussle

On June 4 and 5, Mr. Gandhi will be visiting Uttarakhand, a State the Congress is looking to wrest back from the BJP in next year's Assembly polls.

However, before then, the high command has to ensure that all the top leaders are on the same page. And like in other States, former Chief Minister Harish Rawat, CLP leader Pritham Singh and PCC chief Ganesh Godiyal are in a leadership tussle.

The situation in Punjab, another State where polls are to be held next year, is worse as rivalries are spilling into the open. A three-cornered contest has emerged among Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa, State party chief Amrinder Raja Warring and former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi.

IN BRIEF



Tigress Zeenat gives birth to four cubs in Odisha's Similipal

The translocation effort aimed at enhancing the genetic diversity of tigers in Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve has received a major boost, with tigress Zeenat, brought from Maharashtra, giving birth to four cubs. Photographs of Zeenat gently carrying her cubs in her mouth have since gone viral. "Today, a proud chapter has been added to Odisha's natural resources and wildlife conservation efforts," Chief Minister Mohan Majhi said in a post on X on Tuesday. The event assumes significant importance for the State Forest Department, especially after an earlier experiment to introduce tigers in Satkosia Tiger Reserve had failed.

3 killed as car falls into river in Uttarakhand; 4 missing

Three people were killed, and four others remain missing after an SUV carrying eight people plunged into a river near Devprayag in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal district on Tuesday morning, officials said. A boy was rescued with serious injuries and admitted to a hospital. A search-and-rescue operation was under way in the area till late evening. State Disaster Response Force Commandant Arpan Yaduvanshi said that after the driver lost control, the vehicle veered off the road and fell into a deep gorge before being swept away by the river. The vehicle had five female and three male occupants. Rescuers retrieved three bodies from the river.

Mother-in-law, husband of Twisha sent to judicial custody

A court in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal on Tuesday sent Twisha Sharma's husband Samarth Singh, and mother-in-law, retired judge Giribala Singh, to 14 days of judicial custody after their remand with the Central Bureau of Investigation ended. The probe agency presented the two accused before a local court in connection with the 33-year-old model's death and dowry harassment case. The CBI sought judicial custody for Ms. Giribala Singh and her son till June 16 to record statements of other people and witnesses linked to the case. Twisha Sharma was found dead at her matrimonial home in Bhopal on May 12.

CBI arrests two accused in ₹800-crore chit fund case

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested two accused persons in the Uttarakhand LUCC chit fund case from Mumbai. They have been identified as Kishan Jain, and Pankaj Jain alias Pankaj Chaudhary. In compliance with an order from the High Court of Uttarakhand, the probe agency had registered the case last year against various office-bearers of Loni Urban Multi State Credit and Thrift Co-operative Society (LUCC) and others. According to the CBI, over one lakh people in the State were lured into making investments in various unregulated deposit schemes of the LUCC. The total deposits are estimated to be about ₹800 crore. The CBI had earlier arrested five accused persons.

India losing ability to build its own instruments: climate science report

Use of imported equipment that remains uncalibrated leads to incorrect data being reported, marring credibility of Indian science; researchers also aim to study long-term impact of uncontrolled tapping of natural resources for renewable energy

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A group of India's leading climate scientists has warned that the country has almost lost the ability to build its own scientific instruments, leaving its climate observations dependent on imported equipment that is often run uncalibrated for years. This has led to "incorrect data being reported in national and international journals, often leading to questions on the credibility of Indian science", they said.

The researchers also called for long-term studies to evaluate the climate consequences of the "uncontrolled" growth of renewable energy installations, warning that the effects of large solar and wind plants on the climate remain "poorly understood".

The warning appeared in the Mega Science Vision-2035 (MSV) report on Climate Research, a road map prepared by the Indian climate research community with the Indian In-



Heat is on: The warning lands at a time when India is already facing the harmful effects of the warming climate. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

stitute of Science, Bengaluru, as the nodal institution, and submitted to the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Union government.

The report was made public earlier this week.

Atmanirbhar challenges

The warning on instruments sits awkwardly with the government's drive for "atmanirbhar" or self-reliance. To boost domestic manufacturing, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal was made mandatory for public

scientific institutions, requiring procurement from the lowest-bidding India-registered vendor.

As *The Hindu* has reported, scientists found this a stumbling block when they needed customised equipment built to high-quality standards, with GeM vendors often unable to meet such specifications and the alternative — a global tender — entailing long bureaucratic delays.

In June 2025, the Finance Ministry rolled back some of the rules amid

complaints over sub-standard materials.

The warning also lands at a time when India is already facing the harmful effects of the warming climate, from intensifying heatwaves and erratic monsoons to accelerating Himalayan glacier melt — the very trends that reliable, well-calibrated observations are meant to track.

The MSV exercise, historically used to plan large, long-horizon projects in fields such as nuclear and high-energy physics, was for the first time extended to climate research, ecology and astronomy, and was facilitated by the PSA's office under Professor Ajay K. Sood.

On the energy transition, the report recommended devising "scientific methods to estimate the social cost of carbon [i.e., the cost of damages from an extra ton of CO2]" and a mechanism to implement the "polluter pays" principle to stop the atmosphere being used as "a dumping ground" for emissions, while seeking ways to "offset the effects of the carbon tax on the poor."

The scientists' justification for studying "uncontrolled" renewables is cautionary rather than sceptical. The report said that while "renewable energy seems to be the right solution to replace polluting energy sources, studies are needed to understand the long-term consequences of the uncontrolled tapping of natural resources."

India has pledged 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030, and crossed the halfway mark on installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources in 2025.

Mega projects

The report called for an indigenous Earth System Model built "from first principles", distinct from existing Indian models which have been "adapted from the U.S. or Europe."

It also proposed eight "mega projects" — spanning observatories, satellites, in-situ networks, field campaigns, indigenous sensors, carbon-neutrality research and adaptation science — phased across three roughly five-year blocks until 2035.

Cong. raises protests in Odisha over mining rights

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday criticised the Centre over protests in Odisha against clearances granted for bauxite mining, saying Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, who is from the State, should be concerned about the agitations.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh was referring to the ongoing stir in Koraput district, where residents of Balda and Banur villages have accused the Adani-owned Kalinga Alumina Limited and district officials of colluding to hold fraudulent Gram Sabhas consenting to the diversion of forest land for mining.

"Kalinga Alumina Ltd. is part of the ever-expanding Modani empire," Mr. Ramesh said. "The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs should be concerned about these protests."

AIIMS Delhi study shows how air pollutants breach placental barriers and affect foetuses

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

That environmental pollutants can breach the placental barrier and affect foetuses is now well established in research. But how exactly does this happen? Researchers at AIIMS, Delhi have mapped the step-by-step biological pathway through which urban air pollution silences a key foetal growth protein, causing lasting harm to babies.

The ICMR-funded study, published in *EMBO Molecular Medicine*, has reportedly shown, for the first time, in comprehensive molecular detail, how the fine particulate matter from urban air pollution crosses the placenta, triggers a wave of inflammation and shuts down a protein that is essential for growth. This could have consequences right into late childhood.

Particulate matter



Exposure to particulate matter PM2.5 was a significant risk factor for low birth weight in Delhi, researchers find

PM2.5 and PM10 are capable of crossing the placental barrier, and cause oxidative stress and inflammation, impairing the development of the foetus. Placental dysfunction, and complications including pre-term birth, low birth weight and preeclampsia are all possible outcomes.

Key growth protein
"Since we know that pollu-

tants do affect foetuses, our primary goal," said Subhradip Karmakar, professor of biochemistry, AIIMS, Delhi, and corresponding author for the paper, "was to examine the pathways that enable the pollutants to cause distress to the placenta and the foetus. While this has been studied before, it has been done in a piecemeal way. We showed the entire pathway."

"Our research reveals that exposure during pregnancy to Urban Particulate Matter activates inflammatory pathways that inhibit IGFBP3 expression, a key protein governing the equilibrium of the placenta and growth of the embryo. This reduction in IGFBP3 impairs critical placental processes, resulting in restricted foetal growth and altered developmental trajectories," he added.

The research focused on both rodents and on delivery records of 994 women

from two cities: high-pollution Delhi and low-pollution Deogarh, Jharkhand.

In women from Delhi, PM2.5 exposure was identified as a significant risk factor for low birth weight. The rate of preeclampsia, a dangerous spike in blood pressure during pregnancy, significantly increases as pollution levels rise.

In the case of rodents, particulate matter impaired the placenta's ability to invade the uterine wall, form its essential nutrient-exchange layer, and support blood vessel growth. Pollution also triggered severe cellular stress and rewrote the cells' epigenetic switches, permanently altering which genes are switched on or off, researchers on the study said.

In pregnant rats, exposure to New Delhi's pollution levels caused litter sizes to shrink by up to 25%, placentas to be smaller, and newborns to weigh 34% less at term. Offspring

also showed clear neurological harm: impaired motor coordination, heightened anxiety, and stress responses; effects consistent with damage that begins before birth, the paper indicates.

Future research

Looking at the transgenerational effect, where researchers study the impact on development of motor development skills, IQ, cardio-vascular complications, cancer and metabolic disorders will entail further studies, Dr. Karmakar said.

He suggested that risk mitigation strategies such as wearing masks and eating antioxidant-rich foods could provide a buffer to people. "We must remember that risk mitigation in terms of controlling pollution will have to be multi-dimensional. The research findings call for pollution monitoring to be integrated into prenatal care."

THE CROSSWORD+ 14810 (set by Arden)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at <https://thehindu.com/crosswords>

SCAN TO PLAY

Across

- Wait around to get in shortly into a U.S. city (7)
- Perceptible by touch - do wear a hat (7)
- Top restaurant opens again - starts to cook (5)
- Bell tower affected by a river (9)
- Star in topless trailer, on the beach (9)
- Air you get here is bottled (5)

Down

- Previously a spy agency came up in the capital (6)
- Amazing change - invite a politician for a celebratory drink... (9)
- ...meanwhile, I'm off to Bury (5)
- Port in Alaska sees a variation between sides (9)
- Intimidate if one is shy (5)
- Tea for each one and one for shepherd (9)
- Exposed fire risk - hard for a European (5)
- Rulers seem different including the queen (6)
- Plant - An evergreen caught in a storm (9)
- The garlic makes you feel sleepy (9)
- Law on working inside with radioactive elements (9)
- Benefit the fat man inside to rise (6)
- Categories of information on time (6)
- Instruments to scan sea floor, ultimately (5)
- Stone or fine cotton? (5)
- Noble gas symbolically remains same without trouble (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

P	S	O	S	S	L	P	L	E				
C	A	S	H	O	G	U	L	P	A	B	L	E
R	E	R	E	A	A	V	A	V	E			
B	A	T	S	A	D	M	I	T	T	A	N	C
D	E	T	A	N	E	L	L	K				
H	I	M	A	L	A	Y	A	S	A	T	Y	R
S	O	N	L	I	C	M						
G	E	R	M	A	L	I	P	O	P	E		
G	O	A	D	E	N	G	E	T	I	N	E	
C	A	L	A	M	A	N	T	I				
X	S	N	S	Y	X	D						

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

The question is 'Who am I?'

The first question that a philosophically inclined person should ask is — "Who am I?" It may seem the answer to this is simple. But it is not, said Paravastu Varadarajan in a discourse. A man may say he is an author. As an author, he will have certain goals. Maybe he wants to write a bestseller. But the same man is also someone's son, brother, husband, father. What about these identities? Are the goals in each of these roles the same? Obviously, they cannot be. A son has to look after his aged parents. A man must be an understanding husband. As a father, he must provide for his children. So, who is this 'I'? The body that we have dies, and till then we have this idea of 'I'. So does that mean the body is this 'I'? It cannot be. We may say, "This is my body." But that does not make us identical with the body. A man also says, "This is my book. This is my car." Does this mean, he and his book or car are one and the same? How then can the body be identical with him?

The *atma* existed before it was assigned a body, and continues even after the body perishes. This realisation is the first step in any philosophical pursuit. The next question is, "Why should we know that the body is not the *atma*?" If we think the *atma* is the body, then we will not bother about dharma. We will just look at ways of living comfortably on this earth, and never think beyond that. But if you know that the *atma* is not the body, then you will know that there will be many births. Who knows what problems you will face in those births? That thought will make us adhere to dharma and also to seek moksha. There is a limit to the span of a human body. But *atma* is never destroyed.

IN BRIEF



Adani group companies post record \$16-billion capex

Adani group companies reported a record capital expenditure of ₹1.53 lakh crore (\$16.1 billion) and an all-time high EBITDA of ₹94,834 crore (\$10 billion) in the 2025-26 fiscal year, underscoring an accelerating infrastructure expansion cycle while maintaining leverage below its stated target. The investment programme lifted the portfolio's gross asset base to ₹7.85 lakh crore, with nearly 80% of spending directed towards energy, utilities and logistics businesses. **PTI**

Oyo-parent Prism gets SEBI nod to launch ₹6,650-cr. IPO

Prism, the parent firm of global travel tech unicorn Oyo, has secured clearance from markets regulator SEBI to raise ₹6,650 crore through its initial public offering (IPO), people familiar with the development said on Tuesday. The proposed public offering is expected to value the company at \$7.8 billion, they added. Oyo's parent entity Prism filed the preliminary IPO papers with SEBI in December 2025 through the confidential route. **PTI**

India slips to seventh in m-cap rankings; South Korea ahead

India's equity markets slipped to seventh place in terms of market capitalisation on Tuesday as heavy foreign selling, weak earnings growth and limited exposure to AI-linked stocks allowed South Korea's chip-heavy market to overtake it. South Korean stocks have rallied this year, driven by AI chipmakers, which have lifted the combined value of companies listed on KOSPI, KOSDAQ and KONEX to \$5.01 trillion, surpassing the \$4.85 trillion value of firms on NSE. **REUTERS**

'LPG consumption fell 19% in May; petrol, diesel increased'

Consumption of petrol increased 2.8%, while that of diesel rose less than 1%, according to provisional govt. data; fall in LPG consumption attributed to increase in interim booking period

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

In the third full month of the West Asia conflict, India's consumption of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) declined more than 19% in May this year in comparison to the same period last year, according to provisional government data.

Meanwhile, consumption of petrol increased 2.8% during the reported period, while that of diesel rose less than 1%.

The provisional data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) also pointed to consumption of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), also having dipped about 0.8% during the same period.

India consumed about 2.12 million metric tonnes (MMT) of LPG in May this year, which is about 19.2% less than 2.62 MMT it consumed in the same month



Steady go: There has been no major structural shift in LPG usage, although PNG connections have been increasing. SUDHAKARA JAIN

last year, according to the provisional data.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Prashant Vashisht, senior vice-president and co-group head of Corporate Ratings at ICRA, explained the fall in consumption is to do with the interim booking period being increased from 21 to 25 days in urban areas and up to 45 days in rural areas.

Mr. Vashisht also pointed to an additional factor being the government's supply maintenance orders - allocating 70% of commercial LPG of the pre-crisis levels to ease pressure on LPG. Further, according to Abhishek Nath, Sector Head for Energy and Power at Delhi-based think tank Center for Study of Science, Technology and

Policy (CSTEP), the decline is primarily to do with supply disruptions.

"India's LPG consumption has declined in May this year mainly due to supply disruptions. There has been no major structural shift in LPG usage, although the number of piped natural gas (PNG) connections has been increasing," he stated. Mr. Nath added the disruptions have also led to people trying out electric cooking as well.

India consumed 3.89 MMT of petrol in May this year, higher than 3.78 MMT it did in the same month last year.

Meanwhile, consumption of diesel stood at 8.67 MMT in May compared with about 8.59 MMT in the comparable period last year. Specifically reflecting on diesel, Mr. Vashisht explained consumption of diesel has moved from a higher base to a slightly higher base.

Govt. to replace WPI with Producer Price Index, new series from June 15

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Centre will phase out the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) over the next five years while simultaneously introducing a more detailed Producer Price Index (PPI), covering output, input and services prices, in a bid to offer a more realistic assessment of inflationary trends in the economy.

Speaking with reporters, Praveen Mahto, Principal Economic Adviser in the Commerce and Industry Ministry, said that the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) will release the revised series of WPI with new base year 2022-23 on June 15, which would replace the existing series with base year 2011-12.

In addition, the department would release a new series of PPI from June 15. It will have three indices - Output PPI, Trial Input PPI and Services PPI.

Initially, services PPI will have seven services - Banking, Securities Transaction, Insurance, Management of Pension Funds, Railways, Air (Passenger), and Telecom.

"Considering the wide usage of WPI in price escalation clauses, this index will be released for five years from the date of release of the revised series along with PPI and will be discontinued thereafter," the ministry said in a statement. The five-year period

DPIIT will release a new series with three indices - Output PPI, Trial Input PPI, Services PPI

would give users sufficient time to switch from WPI to PPI. Mr. Mahto said that after five years, the PPI is expected to replace WPI.

The transition from WPI to PPI aligns with global best practices adopted by advanced economies and the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The availability of both Output PPI and Input PPI provides a better understanding of the price movements of output items vis-à-vis the input items used in an industry.

It also explains how inflation experienced by producers of input items is passed through to the output they produce.

Mr. Mahto said that the Service PPIs for seven services have been compiled in the first phase based on the availability of data from administrative sources/agencies. More services are planned to be added to the PPI basket of services in subsequent phases, subject to data availability.

The DPIIT informed that WPI and Output PPI are being compiled on a monthly basis and will be available for May 2026 (Provisional) along with the back series from April 2023 to April 2026 on June 15.

ED conducts searches at Vedanta premises

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has initiated a foreign exchange "violation" investigation against global mining conglomerate Vedanta Group and conducted searches at its premises, officials said on Tuesday.

It is understood that the raids were launched against the business house, promoted by billionaire Anil Agarwal, on Tuesday.

"We are extending full cooperation to the authorities and are providing all information sought. The company remains committed to compliance with all applicable laws and regula-

tions. As the matter is currently under regulatory process, we are unable to comment further at this stage," a Vedanta spokesperson said. Vedanta Ltd. is a leading global producer of metals, critical minerals and technology.

The company has operations across India, Africa, the Middle East and East

Asia. ED officials said premises located in Delhi and Rajasthan apart from some other locations had been covered.

The investigation is being conducted under the civil provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), the officials said.

(With inputs from PTI)

Extreme heat tests India's record milk production

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
NEW DELHI



Heat stress reduces feed intake and diverts cows' energy.

During a summer of extreme heat with temperature topping 40 degrees Celsius last year, much like northern India is currently experiencing, dairy farmer Neeraj Bharadwaj watched one of his cows deliver a calf months early.

The newborn was tiny and almost hairless. People said it would not survive, but Bharadwaj bottle fed it milk until it slowly recovered.

Scientists say such pre-

mature births are part of a wider pattern of increasingly intense summers linked to climate change.

Bharadwaj's small farm of six cows near Delhi is typical of millions in India, the world's biggest dairy

producer responsible for almost a quarter of global supply where most milk comes from farms with between 2-5 animals.

5% of GDP

Dairy sector accounts for about 5% of India's GDP and supports more than 80 million farmers. Rising incomes and population level mean demand for dairy is set to grow - the government estimates it could almost double by 2050.

But extreme heat means cows eat less, make less milk, struggle to conceive and produce fewer live offspring, experts say, while farmers spend more

trying to keep animals cool and fertile. "Milk production falls by nearly 30% during extreme heat," Bharadwaj said.

Record output

India's milk production reached a record 239 million tonne in the 2023-24 fiscal year, up nearly 64% in a decade, according to government data.

But researchers, dairy experts and farmers say rising heat is quietly exposing the vulnerabilities of that model. Scientists at the National Dairy Research Institute said heat stress reduces feed intake and diverts cows' energy

away from milk production and reproduction.

Bharadwaj spent some ₹2 lakh modifying cattle sheds with tarpaulin covers and ventilation systems to cut heat stress while yearly maintenance added another ₹50,000.

Pankaj Navani, a dairy entrepreneur, said larger organised dairy operators adapted more quickly because they treat dairy as a commercial business, investing in cooling systems, ventilation and feed management. But such investment is hard for most dairy farmers operating with only a handful of cattle and limited capital.

'War to trim 100 bps off MSME revenue'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The West Asia conflict will hit micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India hard this fiscal, impacting both revenue and profitability according to a study by Crisil Intelligence.

As per its projections revenue growth of MSMEs will moderate to 7.5-8.5%, down 100 basis points (bps) compared with fiscal 2026, while earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) margin will de-

cline 50-100 bps to 5-5.5%.

"The forecasts would have been more subdued but for the domestic gems and jewellery market, experiencing a value-led expansion driven by surge in gold prices. Such outsized impact, however, is not unprecedented," Crisil said.

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, large players had seen revenue decline by 0-1% in fiscals 2020 and 2021 while MSMEs experienced a 3-5% drop. The Ebitda margin of MSMEs had also declined 80 bps to 4.7% in fiscal 2021.

HUL sets up Unilever Fragrance Hub

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL) inaugurated the Unilever Fragrance Hub (UFH) here reinforcing India's role as a key growth market and R&D hub.

The facility is the third such in Unilever's network following the U.K. and the U.S. and is the latest investment under Unilever's overall €100 million programme to boost fragrance creation capabilities.

'Formalising supply chain integrity a huge challenge for circularity'

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI



A panel discussion focused on the importance of circular economy.

Formalising supply chain integrity in manufacturing is a challenge for circular economy in India, industry leaders opined. At the Maharashtra Circular Economy Conclave held here, large Indian firms spoke about the efforts being taken towards circular economy, the regulatory framework and the push and pull factors towards circularity.

"There are two challenges at present. We need to have supply chain integrity. In India, we have an informal way of managing circularity. How to formalise it is a challenge. The second challenge is transparency and traceability in the system that the material is really good and is going to get recycled back into the system," said Prabodha Acharya, CSO of JSW Steel.

A panel discussion with the representatives of firms such as Mahindra Group, Tata Group, Aditya Birla Group and JSW Steel explored three broad themes on why circular econo-

my mattered to large businesses, how conglomerates can shape systems beyond own operations to suppliers and what the next phase of circular business transformation in Maharashtra and India could look like. They also discussed the significance of resource security at a time of geopolitical instability, which has become a major factor leading to circularity.

Push and pull factors
Deeksha Vats, chief sustainability officer of Aditya Birla Group, emphasised on the impact of

push and pull factors in creating circularity. "The regulations are the push factors. The pull factor is when the customers ask for greener products. Currently, the need for resource security is what is leading to bigger strides in circular economy," she said.

Mr. Acharya said JSW Steel was able to use 99.99% of its waste as byproduct. "We created JSW cement to create another business. It is one of the most low-carbon businesses. Everything which comes out must be reused. Every energy which comes out, we trap and use. We do waste-gas recycling. [As much as] 40-50% of our energy needs are met out of it. We use everything that comes out of it," he said.

The event organised by the Consulate General of Finland in India, MMRDA, Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra and FICCI was the official side event of World Circular Economy Forum 2026, to be hosted in Asia for the first time this year in September.

Office of The Urban Improvement Trust, Sawai Madhopur
Bids for Civil Work (02) is invited from interested bidders up to 06:00 PM (time) 30/06/2026 (date). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> of the state and departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 965 Lacs.
UBN - USM2627WS0B00013 to USM2627WS0B00014
Raj.Samwad/C/26/3862 Executive Engineer

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING) NEW POWER HOUSE,
INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003 PHONE: (0291) 2742223, FAX: (0291) 2746539
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
E-Procurement Tenders are invited for purchase of LT XLPE Insulated ACSR Rabbit Conductor Under TN-2143 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00134).
Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvn1 and also at <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>.
Raj.Samwad/C/26/3832 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)
Raj.Samwad/C/26/3845

Office of the Project Director
RUIDD Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project
AVS Building, Jawahar Circle, JLN Marg, Jaipur - 302017 Tel No: +91 141 2729665,
Fax No: 0141-2729191 email: mail.ruidd@rajasthan.gov.in, web site: www.ruidd@rajasthan.gov.in
Invitation for Bids- RUIDD/RICO/PALI/02
1. Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDD) invites online unconditional bids through e-procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> for Package No. RUIDD/RICO/PALI/01 for the work of "Recycled Water Distribution Project for RICO Industrial Area Madia Road, Pali" from eligible class contractor.
2. RTTP Act 2012 and Rules 2013 with all amendment will also be applicable.
3. Bid document for downloading would be available at e-proc website www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in starting from 22nd May, 2026. Deadline for bid submission up to 15:00 hours on 12th June, 2026.
4. Pre-bid Meeting for the work package will be held at 15:00 hours on 29th May, 2026. All the prospective bidders are advised to participate in the Pre-bid meeting.
5. Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be published on the e-proc website and will not be published in Newspapers.
6. Bidders may contact Additional Project Director, RUIDD (0141-2548404), Jaipur for any information on bidding process.
NIB Code : UID2627AO007, UBN No. : UID2627WLOB00007
Raj.Samwad/C/26/3845 Project Director, RUIDD

E-mail ID: cebbuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in; cebbuildings@rediffmail.com; Tel.-(0674)-2391523
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
File No. B-4-Tourism-02/2023 18630 / Bhubaneswar, the 29th May, 2026
Invitation For Bids - 2nd Corrigendum
Tender Reference No. CE-Bldg-II-04/2026-27
Name of the Works : (1) "Redevelopment Lord Gupteswar Temple in Boipariguda Block of Koraput District".
(2) "Development of Koraput Culture Centre, Koraput".
The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No.CE-Bldg-II-04/2026-27
1. Bid documents such as DTCN / BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in during the period from dt.05.06.2026 to 17.00 hours of dt.19.06.2026 instead of dt.28.05.2026 to dt.12.06.2026 for ONLINE BIDDING respectively.
2. Online bids shall be received till 17.00 Hours of dt.19.06.2026 instead of dt.12.06.2026.
3. The technical bids will be opened at 11.30 A.M. of dt.16.06.2026 instead of dt.17.06.2026.
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Chief Engineer, Buildings-II (I/c), Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34001/34117/126-27/0024
34001/291/2627

Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB)
Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Paryatan Bhawan, Near O.N.G.C. Helipad, Nimbuwala, Garhi Cantt, Dehradun - 248003 (UK)
Ph. 0135-2559898, Fax 135-2559988
Ref. No. 1380/2-7-1020/2026-27 Dated: 02 June, 2026
UTDB invites tender for Supply of Ski Equipment to the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB), Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Details may be obtained on website: uktenders.gov.in and uttarakhandtourism.gov.in from 3:00 PM on 03.06.2026. Prospective Bidders may seek clarification till 03:00 PM on 07.06.2026 through E-mail: adventurewingutdb@gmail.com with CC to procurement.utdb@gmail.com. Any Addendum/Corrigendum including date extension will be uploaded only on uktenders.gov.in. Bids must be submitted online through uktenders.gov.in only. The last date for submission of bids is 30.06.2026 till 15:00 PM.
Chief Executive Officer

GENEVA

WHO sees sharp drop in suspected Ebola cases in central Africa to 116



The WHO on Tuesday dramatically scaled back the number of suspected Ebola cases in central Africa to 116 from more than 900 previously, with 330 cases now confirmed. While some suspected cases have been confirmed, many more "have been cleared out" after being shown to be other diseases or an unlinked fever. AFP

VATICAN CITY

Pope picks first lay woman to head communications dept. at Vatican



Pope Leo XIV on Tuesday named a Mexico-born news executive to head up the Vatican's powerful communications department — the first lay woman to hold a post in the Roman Curia. Maria Montserrat Alvarado, currently president of the Catholic media outlet EWTN News, will take up her post on November 1. AFP

UNITED NATIONS

Bangladeshi FM Rahman elected president of UN General Assembly



Bangladesh's Foreign Minister was elected president of the 81st UN General Assembly on Tuesday in a vote that, unusually, featured more than one candidate. Khalilur Rahman won 99 votes in the secret ballot compared to 91 for Cypriot diplomat Andreas Kakouris. He will succeed the outgoing president in September. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump names inexperienced ally as acting director of intelligence



U.S. President Donald Trump appointed a loyalist with no national security experience as head of U.S. intelligence on Tuesday — and said he would also retain his existing jobs. Federal Housing Finance Agency chief Bill Pulte was named as the acting director of national intelligence (DNI), replacing Tulsi Gabbard. AFP

Russian attack kills at least 18 and injures over 100 people in Ukraine

Major targets include Kyiv, Dnipro, Poltava, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhzhia; Ukrainian forces say they destroyed or intercepted 40 missiles and 602 drones, but shortages of U.S. Patriot missiles and other systems leave gaps that Russia is exploiting

Associated Press
KYIV



Explosions during overnight drone and missile attacks light up the Kyiv skyline on Tuesday, amid the Russian invasion in Ukraine. AFP

Russia launched hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles against Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities overnight, killing at least 18 civilians and wounding more than 100 others, authorities said on Tuesday.

The damage trapped some people under the rubble of apartment buildings. Emergency crews digging through the wreckage pulled out the body of a 3-year-old child and the bodies of a mother and her 8-year-old son in the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro, officials said.

The attack stretched

from night into day and the boom of explosions reverberated across cities. Officials said that 12 people were killed in Dnipro and six in Kyiv.

Kyiv residents had been

on edge for days after Russia warned that a massive aerial attack was coming and warned foreign diplomats to leave the Ukrainian capital. None appeared to heed the call.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed for more U.S. and European support, describing the massive overnight attack as "an explicit statement by Russia: If Ukraine is not protected from ballistic missiles and other missile strikes, those strikes will continue".

Russian President Vladimir Putin has stepped up Moscow's aerial campaign against Ukraine, with Russian forces recently launching a powerful hypersonic Oreshnik ballistic missile for only the third time in the four-year war.

The Russian strategy seeks to take advantage of Ukraine's shortage of U.S.-made Patriot air defence

missiles, with international stocks depleted by the Iran war. That has left civilians especially vulnerable to the Russian ballistic missile barrages.

Russia unleashed 73 missiles and 656 drones across Ukraine, according to the country's air force, with the main targets including Kyiv, the central city of Dnipro, and the eastern cities of Poltava, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia. Ukrainian air defence forces destroyed or suppressed 40 missiles and 602 drones.

Russia's Defence Ministry said in a statement that the military launched a "massive" strike with long-range precision weapons.

Murder case involving kirpan sparks anger in U.K.

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Sentencing in a Southampton murder case involving a kirpan (a ceremonial dagger associated with Sikhism) and the release of video footage of the police response sparked debates online and in the U.K. Parliament on Tuesday around policing and knife crime and the politicisation of a brutal murder.

Vickrum Digwa, 23, was sentenced on Monday to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 21 years for killing 18-year-old Henry Nowak in Southampton on December 3, 2025. Mr. Nowak was unarmed and stabbed multiple times by Digwa with the latter's 21 cm long kirpan. Digwa then lied to the police that Nowak, who was alone and unarmed, used racial slurs against him. He again lied to the police saying he had not stabbed Nowak.

Digwa was convicted of murder last Thursday. Digwa's mother, Kiran Kaur, 53, who removed the dagger, sheath and belt from the scene is in custody. She was convicted for assisting an offender and will be sentenced at a later date.

The privilege of being allowed to carry a bladed article in public came with a "huge responsibility", the judge said during the sentencing.

Disturbing police bodycam footage released on Monday night showed a dying Nowak repeatedly telling police officers that he could not breathe and that he had been stabbed. Yet, Nowak was propped up, handcuffed and informed by the police that he was being arrested for assault.

One officer is heard ask-



Vickrum Digwa

the crime with "pure cold rage", even as he characterised the Novak family's response as "extraordinarily dignified".

The victim's father had said he did not want the murder to be used to create "further division, hatred or division".

Ms. Mahmood told the House of Commons that she echoed the Novak family's words from Monday and that the case should not be used to turn communities against each other.

Several Sikh MPs strongly condemned the murder in the House of Commons warning against scapegoating specific communities and politicising the murder along religious fault lines.

"There have been calls to limit the right of Sikhs to carry their ceremonial knife, the kirpan, one of the five holy items in their faith," Ms. Mahmood told Parliament, adding that it was the previous Conservative government, in 2019, that had strengthened protections related to long weapons, including kirpans, carried for religious and ceremonial purposes.

"But let me be clear, carrying a knife for the purpose of religious observance is one thing. Using it as so tragically occurred in this case is quite another," she said.

"We are deeply sorry for the pain and suffering the Novak family has had to endure," the Digwa family said in a statement via the Sikh Press Association, in which they also apologised to the Sikh community for their son's actions which, they said, had "unfairly brought the community into disrepute".

Earlier in the day, Reform UK chief Nigel Farage asked people to respond to

Iran's inflation at levels as worse as in Second World War

Associated Press
DUBAI

Year-on-year inflation in Iran reached a level in May unseen since the Second World War, underlining the economic pain average Iranians face as the Islamic Republic worries about the war with Israel and the United States restarting.

A report on Monday by Iran's Central Bank represents the first official acknowledgment of what Iranians shopping, paying for a taxi or visiting a medical clinic already know: The rial currency is battered by

Iran's Central Bank says that inflation in daily and general needs rose 113.8% from the year before

the war and uncertainty around it resuming.

Meanwhile, long-time problems of economic mismanagement and government corruption also appear to be dragging down Iran's oil-backed economy as it remains under a naval blockade by the United States.

Economic pressure in

the past has sparked nationwide protests, something Iran's theocracy has been trying to avoid since a crackdown on demonstrators in January killed over 7,000 people, according to activists' estimates.

Iran's Central Bank said the consumer price index, which measures a basket of goods and services, reached 77.2% in May compared to the year before. It added the rate is 8.5% higher than in April. Inflation in daily and general needs — like medicine, taxi fares — rose 113.8% from the year before.

Israeli strikes kill 11 in Lebanon, a day after Trump's remark

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Israeli drone strikes on southern Lebanon on Tuesday killed 11 persons, including two children and their father, a day after U.S. President Donald Trump said Israel and the militant group Hezbollah agreed to dial back fighting. Iran-backed Hezbollah continued launching dozens of projectiles and drones toward Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon and civilians in Israel.

Mr. Trump said on Monday he had spoken with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and had communicated with Hezbollah through mediators, and that no troops would be "going to Beirut".

Meanwhile, Israel's Defence Minister said that Washington had given its backing to potential Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern Dahiyeh suburb, a Hezbollah bastion, if the Iran-backed group attacked northern Israeli communities.

Sport

Sindhu advances; Lakshya, Srikanth and Malvika exit

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
JAKARTA

P.V. Sindhu battled her way into the second round of the Indonesia Open with a straight-game win, while former world No. 1 K. Srikanth suffered an opening-round exit here on Tuesday.

Lakshya Sen, who lost in the quarterfinals of the Singapore Open, went down 19-21, 16-21 to Alwi Farhan of Indonesia.

Sindhu was made to work hard by Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan before prevailing 25-23, 21-16 in a 51-minute round-of-32 contest of the Super 1000 tournament. The unseeded Indian is



Tough opener: Sindhu was made to work hard by Ongbamrunphan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

now likely to face World No. 1 An Se-young.

Sindhu had lost to An in the quarterfinals in Singapore last week.

The results (first round):

Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Busanan Ongbamrunphan 25-23, 21-16; Pornpawee Chochuwong bt Malvika Bansod 21-12, 21-10. Doubles: Febriana Dwipuji Kusuma & Meilysa Trias

Puspitasari bt Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopi Chand 21-14, 21-12.

Men: Yushi Tanaka bt K. Srikanth 21-19, 21-15; Alwi Farhan bt Lakshya Sen 21-19, 21-10.

Doubles: Hariharan Amsakarunan & M.R. Arjun bt Nur Mohd Azriyn Ayub & Tan Wee Kiong 21-18, 21-10.

Mixed doubles: Guo Xin Wa & Chen Fang Hui bt Dhruv Kapila & Tanisha Crasto 21-11, 21-10.

Runner Deeksha tests positive

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The National record holder in women's 1500m, K.M. Deeksha, has tested positive for a banned substance and is likely to miss the Commonwealth Games, according to sources.

The 27-year-old Deeksha, who set the National record of 4:04.78 in Los Angeles two years ago, last competed at the Indian Open Athletics Series in Jaipur on April 5 and clocked 4:25.74. She skipped the Federation meet, a crucial qualifying event for the Commonwealth Games, in Ranchi last month.

Deeksha's coach S.K. Prasad said she left the Madhya Pradesh Athletics Academy in April.



On song: The Indian juniors celebrate a strike. X@THEHOCKEYINDIA

India men rout Korea in under-18 Asia Cup

HOCKEY

ANI
KAKAMIGAHARA [JAPAN]

The Indian men produced a dominant 4-1 victory against Korea in their third under-18 Asia Cup 2026 Pool A match here. Captain Ketan Kushwaha (3, 36),

Varinder Singh (5) and Shahrulkh Ali (54) scored for India while Korean captain Yun Jaehyeok (21) pulled one back.

The win puts India level on six points with Korea and Japan. The top two from each pool will qualify for the semifinals. India faces Taiwan on Wednesday.

FIH Women's Nations Cup: Lalthantluangi, Shilpi get the nod again

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Defenders Lalthantluangi and Shilpi Dabas will once again be a part of Salima Tete-led national team which will take part in the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup in Auckland from June 15 to 21.

India is in Pool A alongside Japan, USA and Uruguay, with Pool B comprising host New Zealand, Chile, Korea and France.

India will open against USA on June 15, before facing Japan a day later followed by Uruguay on June 18. The semifinals are scheduled for June 20.

"We want to go there and play with ambition to set a standard for ourselves

that we can build on," Marjine said.

Meanwhile, legendary Dutch drag-flicker Taeke Taekema has joined the senior Indian women's team for a specialised training camp focused on drag-flicking and penalty-corner execution. Taekema has been brought in to further sharpen the skills of drag-flickers.

The squad:

Goalkeepers: Savita, Bichu Devi Kharibam; Defenders: Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Ishika Chaudhary, Lalthantluangi, Shilpi Dabas, Jyoti, Nikki Pradhan.

Midfielders: Salima Tete (Capt.), Neha, Sunelita Toppo, Sakshi Rana, Deepika Soreng, Sonam, Lalremsiami; Forwards: Navneet Kaur, Deepika, Rutuja Dadaso Pisal, Ishika, Annu.

NEW CHALLENGE

Bahutule is India's spin-bowling coach ahead of Afghanistan Test



FILE PHOTO

Sairaj Bahutule has joined the Indian team as spin-bowling coach ahead of the Test against Afghanistan. The former India leggie will oversee the national team's spin department across formats. He joins the Indian camp after a stint with Punjab Kings in IPL 2026. He was part of the India u-19 and India-A set-up.

CALL-UP

Nabi joins the Indian team as net bowler to assist Gill & Co.



FILE PHOTO

Aaqib Nabi has joined the Indian team in New Chandigarh as a net bowler to assist Shubman Gill & Co. in their preparations for the one-off Test against Afghanistan beginning on Saturday. The other net bowlers who are with the team are Gurjapreet Singh, Prince Yadav, Saransh Jain, Zeeshan Ansari and Shivang Kumar.

CAPTAIN'S KNOCK

Harmanpreet's unbeaten 56 helps India set England a target of 181



X@BCCIWOMEN

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur hit an unbeaten 56 off 40 balls as India posted 180 for five in the series-deciding third T20I against England at Taunton on Tuesday. **The scores:** India 180/5 in 20 overs (Yastika Bhatia 32, Harmanpreet Kaur 56 n.o., Deepti Sharma 32, Lauren Bell 2/36) vs England. **Toss:** England.

SERIES ALIVE

Inglis and Ellis excel as Australia draws level against Pakistan



AP

Australia beat Pakistan by 41 runs in the second ODI in Lahore on Tuesday to level the three-match series 1-1. **The scores:** Australia 231/9 in 50 overs (Josh Inglis 51, Cameron Green 53, Matt Renshaw 43, Shaheen Afridi 3/36) bt Pakistan 190 in 44 overs (Shadab Khan 71, Nathan Ellis 4/33, Matthew Short 3/36). **Toss:** Pakistan.

Zverev seals semifinal spot; Kostyuk's run continues

The men's second seed dispatches Jodar in straight sets; Ukrainian ousts Svitolina to set up a clash with Russian teen Andreeva; Sabalenka bests Osaka in a match-up between four-time Major winners

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Alexander Zverev laid down a marker at the French Open on Tuesday with a straight-sets victory over rising Spanish star Rafael Jodar to book his spot in the last four. With the crushing 7-6 (3), 6-1, 6-3 win over the 19-year-old, Zverev advanced to his fifth Roland Garros semifinal in the last six years.

The second seed is considered the favourite to win his first Grand Slam title, following the early departures of top seed Jannik Sinner and 24-time Major champion Novak Djokovic. Earlier, Marta Kostyuk beat compatriot Elina Svitolina to reach her maiden Grand Slam semifinal and

become the first Ukrainian woman to reach the last four at Roland Garros in the professional era.

Kostyuk, the 15th seed, overcame Svitolina 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, and will take on Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva on Thursday for a place in the final.

"I'm very happy I found a way. It was very difficult in the first two sets," said the 23-year-old Kostyuk, who extended her unbeaten run on clay this season to 17 matches

Easily done Andreeva breezed into her second French Open semifinal earlier in the day with a 6-0, 6-3 rout of Romania's Sorana Cirstea, who plans to retire at the end of the season.

The eighth seed needed less than an hour to dispatch the 36-year-old Cirstea, appearing in the last

THE RESULTS

Men: Quarterfinals: 2-Zverev (Ger) bt 27-Jodar (Esp) 7-6(3), 6-1, 6-3.

Fourth round: Arnaldi (Ita) bt 19-Tiafoe (USA) 7-6(5), 6-7(5), 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-4.

Women: Quarterfinals: 8-Andreeva (Rus) bt 18-Cirstea (Rou) 6-0, 6-3; 15-Kostyuk (Ukr) bt 7-Svitolina (Ukr) 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

Fourth round: 1-Sabalenka (Blr) bt 16-Osaka (Jpn) 7-5, 6-3.

eight in Paris for the first time since 2009.

Meanwhile on Monday, World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka took down fellow four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka in straight sets in a night-session match to reach the quarterfinals.

Sabalenka produced an impressive display against a battling Osaka to win 7-5, 6-3 and reach the last eight for a 14th consecutive Major tournament.

Wednesday's Picks

- MEN**
4-Auger-Aliassime vs. 10-Cobolli
Berrettini vs. Arnaldi
- WOMEN**
22-Kalinskaya vs. Chwalinska
1-Sabalenka vs. 25-Shnaider

She made it three straight wins against Osaka this year, having lost their only previous meeting at the 2018 US Open.

The Belarusian is now the only Grand Slam champion left in either the men's or women's singles draws at Roland Garros.

Sabalenka will take on Diana Shnaider as she continues her bid for a maiden French Open crown and to banish the memories of the final defeat last year.



Contrasting wins: Zverev faced little resistance from Jodar while Kostyuk overcame Svitolina in three sets. REUTERS & AFP



The 'Indian' flavour at football's biggest spectacle

FIFA WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar

While watching the Kerala Premier League final at Thrissur's Corporation Stadium on a wet Sunday night, you could not help overhear two elderly men talking, with concern, about the possibility of the FIFA World Cup not being televised in India.

They, and the rest of football-mad Kerala, must have heaved a sigh of relief when it was announced that Zee would telecast the matches live in India, after signing a last-minute deal with FIFA. Brazil and Argentina, not surprisingly, have been the perennial favourites among Kerala's football fans.

European sides like France and Spain have a lot of supporters, too. You cannot quite add Qatar to such an elite list of teams. But this time around, the Malayalis are sure to follow the fortunes of that Gulf country as well. Qatar's squad includes a player from Kerala - Tahsin Jamshid was born in Doha to Malayali parents hailing from Kannur district.

After the 19-year-old winger was named in the preliminary squad for the World Cup, fans in Kerala were hoping that he would make it to the final team for the tournament to be held in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Little wonder, his inclusion has caused a lot of excitement. Among those who have talked about his rise is author and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor.

Tahsin, whose father is a former footballer, had



Fantastic four: Tahsin, Sarpreet, Velupillay and Moutoussamy will take the field at the quadrennial extravaganza. GETTY IMAGES

played for Qatar at the under-17 and 19 levels. He isn't the only player with an Indian connection at the World Cup, though.

There are, in fact, three others. Sarpreet Singh is perhaps the best-known among them. The 27-year-old will play for New Zealand as an attacking midfielder. Sarpreet, whose family is from Jalandhar, has been playing for the senior team since 2018 and has scored three goals.

Samuel Moutoussamy, a player with Tamil roots, is in the Democratic Republic of Congo squad. While his

mother is Congolese, his father is Indo-Guadeloupean of Tamil origin. The 29-year-old defensive midfielder, who was born in Paris, made his debut for Congo in 2019.

Nishan Velupillay is part of the Australia team. The winger's father is a Malaysian of Tamil heritage, while his mother is an Anglo-Indian. This is the first World Cup that will feature an Indian-origin player since 2006, when Vikash Dhorasoo turned out for France. His ancestors had moved to Mauritius from Andhra Pradesh.

Fans confident of a fine show by Haaland & Co.

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

The FIFA World Cup is almost upon us. As lovers of the beautiful game gear up for the biggest tournament, people in the Norwegian capital are looking forward to its golden generation to dribble up some magic on the field.

Norway, having qualified for the quadrennial extravaganza after 28 years, will hope to put up a memorable show. Fans here are thrilled to see the nation back among the elite and are eager to see how the team fares.

Norway beat Sweden 3-1 in a warm-up fixture at Ullevaal Stadion here on Monday with the talismanic Erling Haaland watching from the stands.



Taking flight: Strand Larsen is over the moon after scoring his second and Norway's third against Sweden. AFP

On him rests the nation's hopes of making an impact in the sport's showpiece event to be co-hosted by the USA, Canada and Mexico.

The 25-year-old striker, who turns out for Man-

chester City in the Premier League, will be expected to deliver the goals as he does for his club while there are others who would be eager to step up.

Even as people are likely to turn on their television

sets to catch action from the cool confines of their homes, sports bars are gearing up to welcome the supporters. At a sports bar inside a mall here, the arrangements are in place.

Hotels here haven't firmed up plans with regard to organising telecast of the matches with a receptionist at Hotel Thon Opera saying a call could be taken closer to the event.

The young and the old alike think Haaland's brilliance can carry Norway deep into the tournament.

According to Kjell Mardland, the CEO-founder of Norway Chess, it is good that the country had a wonderful qualifying campaign and sealed a spot in the finals.

"I think they will be able

to advance from the group stage, anything after that is pure bonus," he said.

Gustav Nerland, receptionist at a hotel here and an avid football fan, is hugely optimistic about the team's prospects and thinks Norway can make it to the semifinals if it plays to potential.

He tipped Haaland to be among the tournament's leading scorers.

Naveen Parmar, a researcher, and his wife Sheenam, who hail from India and have been living here for some years now, said Norway had a side good enough to reach the knockouts.

Can the golden generation recreate the magic of 1998 when Norway stunned Brazil in the group stage?

Montella sticks with experience in Turkiye squad

Reuters
ISTANBUL

Turkiye manager Vincenzo Montella named his World Cup squad on Tuesday, selecting the experienced Hakan Calhanoglu, Kerem Akturkoglu, Baris Alper Yilmaz, and Yusuf Yazici to lead the side.

The squads: UNITED STATES: Goalkeepers: Chris Brady, Matt Freese, Matt Turner; **Defenders:** Max Arfsten, Sergino Dest, Alex Freeman, Mark McKenzie, Tim Ream, Chris Richards, Antonee Robinson, Miles Robinson, Joe Scally, Auston Trusty. **Midfielders:** Tyler Adams, Sebastian Berhalter, Weston McKennie, Cristian Roldan. **Attacking midfielders/wingers:** Brenden Aaronson, Christian Pulisic, Gio Reyna, Malik Tillman, Tim Weah, Alejandro Zendejas. **Forwards:** Folarin Balogun, Ricardo Pepi, Haji Wright.

TURKIYE: Goalkeepers: Altay Bayindir, Mert Gunok, Ugurcan Cakir; **Defenders:** Abdulkadir Bardakci, Caglar Soyuncu, Eren Elmali, Ferdi Kadioglu, Merih Demiral, Mert Muldur, Ozan Kabak, Samet Akaydin, Zeki Celik.

Midfielders: Hakan Calhanoglu, Ismail Yuksek, Kaan Ayhan, Orkun Kokcu, Salih Ozcan.

Strikers: Arda Guler, Baris Alper Yilmaz, Can Uzun, Deniz Gul, Irfan Can Kahveci, Kenan Yildiz, Kerem Akturkoglu, Oguz Aydin, Yunus Akgun.

PARAGUAY: Goalkeepers: Orlando Gill, Roberto Junior Fernandez, Gaston Oliveira. **Defenders:** Diego Gomez, Gustavo Gomez, Junior Alonso, Jose Canale, Omar Alderete, Alejandro Maidana, Fabian Balbuena. **Midfielders:** Diego Gomez, Mauricio Magalhaes, Damian Bobadilla, Braian Ojeda, Andres Cubas, Matias Galarrza, Alejandro Romero Gamarra; **Forwards:** Gustavo Caballero, Ramon Sosa, Alex Arce, Gabriel Avalos, Isidro

Pitta, Miguel Almiron, Julio Enciso, Antonio Sanabria.

UZBEKISTAN: Goalkeepers: Utkir Yusupov, Abduvohid Nematov, Botirali Ergashev.

Defenders: Rustam Ashurmatov, Farrukh Sayfiyev, Khojiakbar Alijonov, Sherzod Nasrullaev, Umar Eshmurudov, Abdulkodir Khusanov, Abdulla Abdullaev, Bekhruz Karimov, Jakhongir Urozoov, Avazbek Ulmasaliev.

Midfielders: Otabek Shukurrov, Jaloliddin Masharipov, Odiljon Hamrobekov, Oston Urunov, Jamshid Iskanderov, Dostonbek Khamdamov, Abbosbek Fayzullaev, Akmal Mozgovoy, Azizjon Ganiev, Sherzod Esanov.

Forwards: Eldor Shomurodov, Igor Sergeev, Azizbek Amonov. **JORDAN: Goalkeepers:** Yazeed Abu Laila, Abdullah Al-Fakhouri, Noor Bani Attieh; **Defenders:** Abdullah Nasib, Saad Al-Rosan, Yazan Al-Arab, Saleem Obeid, Mohammad Abu Al-Nadi, Hossam Abu Al-Dahab, Ehsan Haddad, Anas Bani, Muhammad Abu Taha, Mohammad Abu Hasheesh.

Midfielders: Noor Al-Rawabdeh, Nizar Al-Rashdan, Ibrahim Saadeh, Rajaei Aayed, Amer Jamous, Mohammad Al-Daoud, Abdul Fatawu Issahaku, Elisha Mousa Al-Tamari, Ouda Al-Fakhouri, Mohammad Abu Zraiq, Ali Azaizeh, Ibrahim Sabra, Ali Olwan.

SENEGAL: Goalkeepers: Edouard Mendy, Mory Diaw, Yehvann Diouf; **Defenders:** Krepin Diatta, Antoine Mendy, Kaidou Koulibaly, El Hadji Malick Diouf, Mamadou Sarr, Moussa Niakhathe, Abdoulaye Seck, Ismail Jakobs.

Midfielders: Idrissa Gana Gueye, Pape Gueye, Lamine Camara, Habib Diarra, Pathe Ciss, Pape Matar Sarr, Bara Sapoko Ndiaye. **Forwards:** Sadio Mane, Ismaila Sarr, Iliman Ndiaye, Assane Diao, Ibrahim Mbaye, Nicolas Jackson, Bamba Dieng, Cherif Ndiaye.

GHANA: Goalkeepers: Joseph Anang, Benjamin Asare, Lawrence Aki-Zigi; **Defenders:** Jonas Adjetej, Derrick Luckassen, Gideon Mensah, Abdul Mumin,

Jerome Opoku, Kojo Oppong Preprah, Baba Abdul Rahman, Alidu Seidu, Marvin Senaya. **Midfielders:** Augustine Boakye, Abdul Fatawu Issahaku, Elisha Owusu, Thomas Partey, Kwasi Sibo, Kamal Deen Sulemana, Caleb Yirenkyi.

Forwards: Prince Kwabena Adu, Jordan Ayew, Christopher Bonu Baah, Ernest Nuamah, Antoine Semenyo, Brandon Thomas-Asante, Inaki Williams.

QATAR: Goalkeepers: Salah Zakaria, Mahmoud Abunada, Meshaal Barsham; **Defenders:** Hashmi Hussein, Ayoub Alawi, Boualem Khoukhi, Pedro Miguel, Issa Laaye, Lucas Mendes, Sultan Al-Brake, Homam Al-Amin.

Midfielders: Mohammed Al-Manai, Jassem Jaber, Karim Boudiaf, Ahmed Fathi, Abdulaziz Hatem, Assim Madibo.

Forwards: Tahseen Mohammed, Edmilson Junior, Almoez Ali, Akram Afif, Mohammed Muntari, Youssef Abdullrazzaq, Ahmed Alaa, Hassan Al-Haydos, Ahmed Al-Janahi.

Pragg, Gukesh and Divya bounce back with victories

World No. 1 Carlsen prevails over Keymer in Armageddon to remain within striking distance of the leaders; Kazakh Assaubayeva pulls further away in the women's event by downing Chinese Zhu

NORWAY CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

Moments of brilliance and below-par efforts – this has been the story of the Indian players in the ongoing Norway Chess 2026 at Deichman Bjorvika here.

On Monday, Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa inflicted a second straight defeat on Alireza Firouzja, in the classical game in the seventh round, to climb to third in the standings.

Playing with white pieces, he worked his way to an advantageous position. The Frenchman, under time pressure, couldn't withstand the attack and succumbed in 51 moves to hand his opponent three points.

Wesley So (12.5 points) continues to top the leaderboard despite the loss with the second-placed Firouzja 2.5 points behind.

World champion D. Gukesh, the other Indian in the fray, pulled off a win in Armageddon against So af-



Eagle eyes: World champion Gukesh got the better of So in Armageddon. FLICKER/NORWAYCHESS

ter missing an opportunity to win the classical game. World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen and Vincent Keymer drew the classical in which neither player could break through.

Carlsen, later, prevailed in Armageddon to secure an extra half-a-point and remain within striking distance of the leaders.

The women's section saw Bibisara Assaubayeva extend her lead at the top to 2.5 points with a win. Facing Zhu Jiner with

white pieces, Assaubayeva took control after a difficult middlegame and converted her advantage into a favourable result.

Good run

Divya Deshmukh's good run continued as she outwitted Koneru Humpy in the tie-break after missing a chance to win the classical.

In Armageddon, the young Indian GM managed to score, leaving her experienced opponent lan-

guishing at the bottom of the table.

The results (seventh round):

Open: R. Praggnanandhaa (9) bt Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 10); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 9) lost to Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 9) in Armageddon; D. Gukesh (8) bt Wesley So (USA, 12.5) in Armageddon.

Women: Divya Deshmukh (10) bt Koneru Humpy (6.5) in Armageddon; Ju Wenjun (Chn, 9) lost to Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 9.5) in Armageddon; Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 12.5) bt Zhu Jiner (Chn, 7).

(The writer is in Oslo at the invitation of Norway Chess).

Nearly 150 footballers stare at uncertain future

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Nearly 150 players of the Indian Super League, including more than 20 in the current National team or in the recent past, have expired their contracts with the various clubs. Their future have been thrown into uncertainty due to the mess in the top tier of the country's domestic structure.

The contracts of these players ended on Sunday and there has been uncertainty all around as the tussle between the All India Football Federation and the clubs continue.

The players are now free agents and can be signed by any team. The AIFF has set the starting date for registration of players by different clubs as June 12 and till August 31. Among the players whose contract expired on Sunday are India captain Sandesh Jhingan (FC Goa) and his National teammate Rahul Bheke (Bengaluru FC).

Mohun Bagan Super Giant is set to ask the AIFF about the next ISL season, whether it will be a full-



Jhingan is among those who have been left without a contract. FILE PHOTO

fledged one or a curtailed league like 2025-26.

Regarding a new commercial partner of the ISL, Genius Sports had emerged as the highest bidder in March, promising ₹2,129 crore annually for the next 20 years.

But the ISL clubs want the highest bidders (Genius Sports) to stay only as the league's data and technology partner only. The clubs want to keep 90% of the "economic interest in the league structure", and AIFF the rest.

A final decision on the new commercial partner will have to be taken by the AIFF General Body later.

SNAPSHOTS

ICC suspension unexpected: Cricket Canada

Cricket Canada has termed the ICC's decision to suspend its membership as "unexpected" and said it has initiated comprehensive corrective measures to address the governance and financial deficiencies flagged by the sport's global governing body.

"The suspension was unexpected. Nevertheless, Cricket Canada respects the ICC's decision and is fully committed to meeting all compliance requirements. The Board has directed the Committee to accelerate its investigative and reform mandate to ensure that governance, financial oversight, and reporting systems are strengthened without delay," Cricket Canada said to *Sportsnet*. The governing body added that it has begun implementing remedial measures after receiving communication from the ICC. "Since receiving ICC's notice, Cricket Canada has undertaken immediate, comprehensive, and structured corrective measures to remedy the governance, financial

oversight, and administrative deficiencies identified in the ICC's correspondence," it said in the statement to the leading Canadian sports news organisation.

Abhay, Chotrani out

India's Abhay Singh and Veer Chotrani lost to top-10 ranked players in their respective second-round matches to bow out of the British Open squash in Birmingham.

Abhay went down to Egyptian Mohamad Zakaria 9-11, 4-11, 11-7, 10-12 while Chotrani fell to Joel Makin, the Welshman winning 12-10, 11-9, 11-3.

Bal Bhavan Dwarka emerges the champion

NEW DELHI: Priyanshu Pandey's knock of 107 went in vain as Bal Bhavan Dwarka defeated Noida Wonders by 34 runs to win the 49th Lala Raghur Singh Hot Weather cricket tournament on Tuesday.

The scores:

Bal Bhavan Dwarka 306 in 38.2 overs (Himanshu 45, Yash Bhatia 30, Dhruv Singh 43, Yash Dhull 30, Dev Lakra 58, Rahul 37, Tarun Bisht 4/57) bt Noida Wonders 272 in 37.1 overs (Priyanshu Pandey 107, Gagan Vats 35, Rahul 3/42).

'Bring in a new format without disrupting the existing system'

BADMINTON

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Starting 2027, badminton will replace the long-standing 3x21 format with the 3x15 scoring system, with the sport's governing body betting on the latter's perceived ability to bring greater excitement and improve player welfare by shortening matches.

But the legendary Prakash Padukone felt that a middle path could have been found.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event to announce a partnership between Padukone School of Badminton and Shriram Finance here on Tuesday, the 70-year-old drew a parallel



Padukone. FILE PHOTO

with cricket to buttress his point.

"Try both, like you have T20 cricket, 50-over matches and Tests. Why can't we do that in badminton? It has been played for 15 to 20 years and people are used to it. Let it continue.

"Bring in the new format without disrupting the ex-

isting system. Maybe start with five or six tournaments in a year and slowly bring it up. Some players will choose one format over the other and start specialising," the former All England champion added.

While it remains to be seen how the Indian players adapt, Padukone stated that they should be winning more tournaments.

On Sunday, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the Singapore Open doubles title, their first crown since 2024. Since July 2022, P.V. Sindhu has just one singles trophy – Syed Modi International in December 2024.

And no Indian men's singles player has won an elite Super 1000-level championship since K. Srikanth

at the 2017 Denmark Open.

"They need to be much more consistent, considering the kind of support they get," Padukone said. "They should not be happy winning just one tournament. Even if the ranking goes down, it doesn't matter. People will remember trophies, like All England and the Olympics.

"Rankings are important but you should win big tournaments and achieve the No. 1 ranking. Not by playing more tournaments and reaching quarterfinals and semifinals. That's my view.

"Look at tennis. (Roger) Federer, (Novak) Djokovic, (Rafael) Nadal, (Jannik) Sinner and (Carlos) Alcaraz... they all win big tournaments, reach No. 1 and are remembered".

WHEN CHAOS MEETS CONVERSATION

CLARITY EMERGES.

Join 30+ experts at The Hindu Huddle as they cut through the clutter and bring clarity to the chaos of today's world through dialogue, while exploring what it means for the future of India.

DAY 1 | June 5, 2026 | Taj West End, Bengaluru



Chief Guest,
D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Karnataka

9:30 am to 9:50 am
Inaugural Ceremony

Welcome Address by
Dr Narayan Lakshman
Opinion Editor, The Hindu, and
Curator, The Hindu Huddle

Opening Remarks by
Dr Nirmala Lakshman
Chairperson, The Hindu Group

9:55 am to 10:15 am
**Government of the People: Karnataka's
tryst with equitable growth**

Address by the Chief Guest,
D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Karnataka

10:20 am to 10:50 am
**Beyond the Valley:
The role of Kashmir in great
power politics**

Omar Abdullah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Jammu and Kashmir

In conversation with
Dr Narayan Lakshman
Opinion Editor, The Hindu, and
Curator, The Hindu Huddle

11:10 am to 11:40 am
**India-China Tango:
Asian powers shaping the
emerging world order**

Xu Feihong
Chinese Ambassador to India

In conversation with
Suhasini Haidar
Diplomatic Affairs Editor, The Hindu

11:45 am to 12:30 pm
**From the Aravallis to the Nicobar:
At the edge of ecology**

Jairam Ramesh
Former Union Minister and
Hon'ble Member of Parliament
(INC), Rajya Sabha

Dr Krithi K Karanth,
CEO, Centre for Wildlife Studies

In conversation with
Gargi Rawat
Consulting Editor, NDTV

12:35 pm to 1:20 pm
**The Power of Words:
Diplomacy at a time of conflict**

Hervé Delphin
EU Ambassador to India

Nirupama Rao
Former Foreign Secretary and Former
Indian Ambassador to the US

Philip Green
Australian High Commissioner to India

In conversation with
Suhasini Haidar
Diplomatic Affairs Editor, The Hindu



Scan here or visit
newsth.live/THHDL2026
to know more.

Entry by invite only

2:35 pm to 3:20 pm
**The Architecture of Leadership:
Designing blueprints for a volatile world**

R Ganesan
Senior Vice President &
Head - Corporate Centre, L&T

Neeti Sharma
CEO, TeamLease Digital

Praveen Someshwar
MD and CEO, USL & Member,
Global Diageo Executive Committee

Shailendra Katyal
VP & MD, Lenovo India

In conversation with
L V Navaneeth
CEO, The Hindu Group

3:25 pm to 4:10 pm
**Skills for India:
Building capability in the age of AI**

Jayant Chaudhary
Union Minister of State (Independent Charge)
for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
and Minister of State, Ministry of Education,
Government of India

In conversation with
Nistula Hebbar
Political Editor, The Hindu

4:15 pm to 5:00 pm
**The Matrix Can Hear You:
Chatbots and mental health**

Dr Amit Malik
Psychiatrist and Founder, AMAHA

Dr Prabha S Chandra
Professor of Psychiatry and Director,
NIMHANS

In conversation with
Amrita Tripathi
Author and Mental Health Advocate

5:05 pm to 5:50 pm
**New Avatar for the Silver Screen:
The global reach of OTT**

Huma Qureshi
Actor

Kritika Kamra
Actor

In conversation with
Rohit Khilnani
Journalist and Talk Show Host

5:55 pm to 6:15 pm
Students' Huddle

*Schedule subject to change





SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

I know I am not far away from the top

After quietly climbing to World No. 40, Chotrani has his eyes fixed on the Asian Games singles gold; the 24-year-old, who is the second highest-ranked men's player in the country, feels he can improve further by working on the mental and physical aspects of his game

INTERVIEW

Veer Chotrani

K. Keerthivasan

After taking up squash full-time following his graduation from Cornell University in the USA two years ago, Veer Chotrani has emerged as one of the players to watch out for on the PSA Tour.

The 24-year-old from Mumbai has quietly climbed the PSA rankings ladder to a career-high World No. 40, registering notable wins over top players. Chotrani has now set his sights on winning the Asian Games gold medal in singles, which offers direct qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

"If I win the Asian Games singles gold, I will clinch an Olympics berth. Nobody knows who will play in the individual events (at the Asian Games) because you have the mixed doubles event as well. But if I get a chance to play singles, it will be a pretty good opportunity," Chotrani told *The Hindu*.

He also spoke about competing full-time on the PSA Tour, the challenges a professional player faces, and his desire to perform better in Platinum events in the new season.

You are ranked 40th in the world. Are you satisfied with your season?

Yes, it was good. I've seen progress in every department of my game. I had some good wins. There were also a few matches where I didn't get the result, but I feel that my performances against some of the top players were really good. Overall, it was a positive season.

You registered some impressive wins over Abhay Singh and other higher-ranked players this season. Which performances would you consider the highlights?

I beat France's Baptiste Masotti, who was in the top 20, at the Squash on Fire Open in Washington. That was probably my biggest win... my first victory over a top-20 player. I beat Abhay twice (in the Indian Tour in Mumbai and the World championships in Giza) out of the three times we played each other. I played one of my best matches when I pushed top-10 player Joel Makin

(Wales) to five games at the New Zealand Open in Christchurch. Reaching the quarterfinals of the Hamburg Open was great.

These kinds of performances have given me a lot of confidence and motivation to keep pushing. I know that I have the potential to get up there very soon. It's just a matter of time before I put together a consistent run of good results. Hopefully, that happens next season.

Which are the areas you think you need to work on?

My game has definitely improved, but I still think there is plenty of work to do, especially on the mental and physical aspects. That is what really separates players like me from the top guys. At this level, almost every player has the squash ability to compete at a very high standard. But who is willing to push themselves physically and mentally to the absolute limit to get over the line? That is what separates the top-10 players from those ranked in the 30s and 40s.

That is something I'm working on. The more exposure I got against the top-10 and top-20 players this season, the more I learnt. It gave me a much better understanding of what it takes to compete at the highest level, something I didn't fully have before this season. Being able to step on court with someone like Makin, who is among the top players in the world and one of the fittest on the Tour, and being able to stay with him and compete was a huge positive for me. In today's game, the physical and mental sides are everything, so those are areas I really want to focus on.

Do you take advice from your father Manish Chotrani, who is a former National champion?

We only talk squash; we love the sport way too much. It's our common language. He only wants me to get better every time I'm training or playing a tournament. All the time we're just discussing what the next step should be. It's good to have someone at home who keeps a check on me. He is someone who understands me very well. It's very good to have that kind of sporting, squash

mind... someone who can analyse my game very well. He talks to my coach David Palmer and gets feedback from him. Whenever I'm in Mumbai, I'm with my dad on the court. He's the one who hits with me all the time.

All eight of your PSA titles have come at the Challenger class. Do you think you need to win Copper, Bronze and bigger World Tour events to improve your ranking further, especially with the Asian Games coming up in September-October?

Yes, all of them have been at the Challenger level, but I also made two finals (St. James Expression Open in Springfield, the USA, and the Indian Open, Mumbai) at the World Tour level this season. Obviously, the goal is to start winning World Tour titles, beginning with Copper events. I don't think that I'm too far away from that level.

There is intense competition for places in the Indian team for the Asian Games. You are the second highest-ranked men's player behind Abhay. With the rankings

getting updated every week, how difficult is it to maintain your position on the tour?

Honestly, I'm not really thinking about the rankings. I just want to focus on my preparation and game. Ramit Tandon (47) and Velavan Senthilkumar (53) and I are extremely close in the standings, while Abhay (24) is ahead of us. But I believe that on any given day, all four of us are capable of beating each other. So, I'm not really thinking too much about all of that.

India now has four men in the world's top 60...

To be honest, even before COVID-19, we had a few players in the top 50. Saurav Ghosal was obviously far ahead of everyone at that point. We also had players like Ramit in the top 50. Harinderpal Singh Sandhu, Vikram Malhotra and Mahesh Mangaonkar... all of whom broke into the top 50 at different points of their careers. Maybe it wasn't as consistent then, but Indian squash has definitely had players capable of reaching that level. Right now, we have a very healthy rivalry among the four of us. Going into the Asian Games, there is a huge opportunity for us to defend our team gold. I genuinely think we have a much stronger team and a much better chance than last time.

Who could be India's toughest opponents at the Asian Games?

Traditionally, it has been Pakistan, Hong Kong and Malaysia. That has been the case for many years, and I don't think it will change this year either. Based on world rankings, I think we have the most consistent and solid team. That makes a huge difference in terms of depth. Hopefully, we go into the Games as the No. 1 seeded team. After that, it's all about delivering on the big stage at the right moment.

In the past, you had balanced playing on the PSA Tour with college squash. How has the

transition to professional squash been?

It's been great. I've been playing full-time since September 2024. I've been competing regularly and performing well on the PSA Tour, which is the reason for my rise in the rankings. I don't think there was much pressure on me when I started playing full-time. I planned my schedule well so that I had enough flexibility to train and recover. Physically, it wasn't too taxing, but mentally, it was tougher because of all the travelling – constantly moving from one country to another, flights, hotels and adapting to different conditions.

But honestly, I had zero pressure because I felt I had nothing to lose. It was my first full season, and my only goal was to play good squash and climb as high as possible in the rankings, especially since I hadn't played many PSA events before. I also wanted to enjoy the experience – travelling to different venues, in different atmospheres and in front of different crowds. It was a lovely experience, and the exposure I gained in my first season is something I'll always cherish.

Of course, there were a lot of learnings as well. Last summer, I worked extremely hard on my physical conditioning, and I could clearly see the improvements this season. I know I need to keep doing that consistently every year, and that's going to remain a major focus for me going forward.

What is your next objective?

I would love to play in the individual event (singles) at the Asian Games. It is not just about winning an Asian Games gold; there is qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, too. I would love to have a shot at that. I also aim to make it to the Platinum events next season. I need to be in the top 35 in the world to be able to get into those events. I'll be working towards that; I'm not far away.

Is there one eye on the Los Angeles Olympics?

Winning the singles title at the Asian Games is my major goal. If I win gold, I will clinch an Olympics berth. Nobody knows who will play in the individual events (at the Asian Games) because you have the mixed doubles event as well. But if I get a chance to play singles, it will be a pretty good opportunity.



R. RAVINDRAN

India vulnerable to chronic aircraft noise thanks to regulatory gaps

Researchers have said the health effects of noise depend on how loud it is as well as on how often it occurs, how long it continues for, whether people have enough time to recover before the next exposure — especially as they sleep at night — and cumulative long-term exposure

Rohan Singh
Kushagra Rajendra
Argha Kamal Guha

Every few minutes, aircraft descend over densely populated neighbourhoods near India's major airports. For the people here, the noise has been almost constant for years, often even continuing through the night. India's aviation and environmental regulations require airports to map the aircraft noise exposure using decibel contours — maps showing how the air pressure varies around the airport. Official assessments have also identified high-noise zones extending into residential areas.

But even as India's airports monitor sound with increasing technical precision, they have paid far less attention to what years of repeated exposure may be doing to people. Research on the long-term biological effects of chronic aircraft noise in India is also limited. Some emerging research has pointed to inflammation, stress-related changes, and even cognitive effects. The fact remains, however, that the gap between regulatory noise monitoring and understanding biological risk is widening.

Aircraft noise, biological stress

The limited research available, often confined to high-intensity occupational settings such as aviation personnel, nevertheless suggests aircraft noise may have effects far beyond hearing loss alone.

One 2025 study led by Manish Shukla, a scientist at the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences, a laboratory under the Defence Research and Development Organisation in New Delhi, checked 621 Air Force personnel who were chronically exposed to aircraft noise. The researchers found elevated levels of systemic inflammation and oxidative stress and lower heart-rate variability.

These personnel also showed subclinical cochlear and neural damage. While their standard hearing tests were normal, they had inner-ear and auditory nerve dysfunction.

Together, the findings suggested aircraft noise may be a chronic biological stressor affecting both auditory and cardiovascular systems. Dr. Shukla noted that even lower urban noise levels, when experienced over long periods, could potentially trigger similar stress-related pathways in the body.

He added that current aircraft noise assessment frameworks may underestimate broader public health risks because they remain largely centered on hearing damage and decibel thresholds. He noted that emerging evidence increasingly links chronic noise exposure to stress-related inflammation and cardiovascular effects, even at lower



The standard metrics designed for steady industrial noise don't capture the intermittent, burst-like nature of the noise from aircraft. PASCAL MEIER/UNSPASH

exposure levels.

The current approaches to monitoring also fall short of addressing cumulative biological stress, Dr. Shukla said.

Unequal risk

The gap between monitoring noise and understanding risk requires technical but also social solutions because of how the options of the people at risk are constrained. Not all people living near airports can afford to move elsewhere or fully proof their homes from the vibrations and noise.

Rajeev Kariya, who has lived near Delhi airport flight paths for decades now, said aircraft noise has become more intense over the years as flights have become larger and more frequent and airports have extended runway operations. He said the continuous noise regularly disrupts sleep and irritates him throughout the day. He installed expensive double-glazed windows but they did little to keep the noise out. His neighbourhood, he said, is suffused with it.

Researchers have said the health effects of noise depend on how loud it is as well as on how often it occurs, how long it continues for, whether people have enough time to recover before the next exposure — especially as they sleep at night — and cumulative long-term exposure.

Both World Health Organization and International Civil Aviation Organization guidelines have acknowledged these factors.

The standard acoustic metrics are designed for steady industrial noise. They do not capture the intermittent, burst-like

nature of the noise from aircraft flying overhead. That is, each takeoff produces sudden sound peaks and that can trigger disproportionate psychological responses.

Markandeya Tiwari, a former faculty member of the Department of Civil Engineering at IIT-Banaras Hindu University, said relying only on averaged indicators, such as L_{eq} and L_{DN} , is insufficient to understand aircraft noise exposure. He added that additional metrics such as L_{10} , L_{50} , and L_{90} are required to capture fluctuations, peak exposure periods, and intermittent noise.

L_{eq} is the average acoustic energy. L_{DN} is a variant of L_{eq} over 24 hours plus 10 dB added to all nighttime noise. L_{10} , L_{50} , and L_{90} are the sound levels exceeded for 10%, 50%, and 90% of the time.

Activist Anil Sood, who has been involved in legal disputes over airport noise for nearly 17 years, has disputed whether averaged indicators can capture repeated noise peaks, night-time disturbances, and long-term exposure linked to health risks. Using RTI applications and court proceedings, Mr. Sood has questioned official monitoring methodologies and airport-noise assessments.

According to him, while the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is formally responsible for monitoring aviation noise, most of the compliance is handled by airport operators and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Former CPCB regional director D.K. Soni said the current regulations do not adequately address the long-term public-health implications of chronic

noise. Cumulative exposure assessment, he said, remains a low regulatory priority.

CSIR-National Environment Engineering Research Institute senior technical officer Satish K. Lokhande said India's aircraft noise monitoring needs substantial improvements.

"Currently, monitoring is largely limited to regulatory compliance rather than long-term health-based assessments," he said, recommending real-time noise monitoring networks around residential and hospital zones with public dashboards.

Beyond decibels

According to Dr. Tiwari, acoustic monitoring that is mindful of fluctuations in sound levels could help identify when peak exposure occurs. That then could allow doctors and hospitals, urban planners, and architects to develop more targeted ways to mitigate noise and health-based standards for affected populations.

Taken together, the challenge now is not that data is unavailable — it exists — but that health-based evidence of harm is linked in a very limited way to aviation regulations. Until that changes, India may continue to measure aircraft noise with great precision even as it knows less and less about the noise's long-term impact.

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THE GIST

Even as India's airports monitor sound with increasing technical precision, they have paid far less attention to what years of repeated exposure may be doing to people

Research on the long-term biological effects of chronic aircraft noise in India is also limited

Some emerging research has pointed to inflammation, stress-related changes, and even cognitive effects

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BIG SHOT



A blue moon, the second full moon in a calendar month, rises behind the ancient Greek temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion south of Athens, on May 31. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

Bolides: fireballs going boom

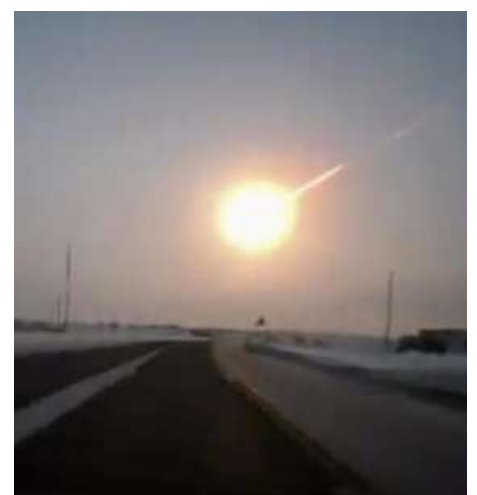
Vasudevan Mukunth

On May 30, a meteor exploded over northeastern U.S. while producing loud booming noises. NASA scientists said the object broke apart around 64 km above the ground as it was falling at more than 1,20,000 km/hr. The energy the explosion released was estimated to be equivalent to around 300 tonnes of TNT.

Experts often call these objects bolides. A bolide is an exceptionally bright meteor that breaks apart or explodes in the earth's atmosphere. These objects are originally small pieces of rock or metal in space that, after a close encounter with the earth, enter the atmosphere as meteors. As such a meteor falls, the air in front becomes compressed and heated, causing it to glow and produce a bright streak of light across the sky.

Most meteors are very small and burn up completely before reaching the ground. However, larger ones can survive for longer. If they become bright enough, they become fireballs. And if they fragment violently and release a large amount of energy, astronomers often call them bolides.

The rock or metal is usually some small fragment left behind by asteroids or, less often, comets. They orbit the sun until their paths intersect with that of the earth. When they enter the atmosphere, they can travel tens of kilometres every



A frame grab of a video recorded by a dashboard camera shows the Chelyabinsk meteorite descending in February 2013. AP

second. The loud booms are the resulting shockwaves.

A famous example is the Chelyabinsk bolide, which exploded over Russia in 2013, generating a powerful shockwave that damaged buildings and injured more than a thousand people.

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