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IN BRIEF



Modi will surpass Nehru's record, says Amit Shah

NEW DELHI Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed 4,398 days in office on Tuesday and would surpass the record of former PM Jawaharlal Nehru on Wednesday. » **Page 12**

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OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 7

CID searches residence of Mamata, Trinamool office

Search by the State agency comes in connection with alleged forgery of signatures of party MLAs; Trinamool leaders slam action as 'political vendetta', Bengal Minister says no one is above the law

Shrabana Chatterjee
Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the West Bengal police on Tuesday searched the residence of former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata in connection with the alleged forgery of the signatures of two Trinamool Congress MLAs.

The CID officials said they wanted to search the premises since its address, 30B Harish Chatterjee Street, is also referred to as the Trinamool's party office. After a stand-off with party officials, the CID team entered the premises around 4 p.m. and carried out the search.

Former Trinamool MP Subhasish Chakraborty



Under scanner: A team of CID at the residence of former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Tuesday. ANI

said he could not allow the CID officials inside as both Ms. Banerjee and her nephew and party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee were not present. He urged the officials to come back later when one of them would be present.

However, CID officials said they had come to search the party office on

the premises, and not her house, and accused Mr. Chakraborty of "obstructing the investigation".

Later, Trinamool MP and senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee arrived at the location and slammed the search. "They have sent the CID now because they know everyone is in Delhi... Mamata Banerjee

is not in the picture, neither any FIR has been lodged against her, nor has she been called as a witness," he said. Accusing Chief Minister and BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari of becoming "vindictive", Mr. Kalyan Banerjee said the search was a case of harassment against Ms. Banerjee. Trinamool Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien condemned the search as a "shameless political vendetta". After "vote loot", there was an attempt to loot the files of a political rival as well, he said.

State Minister Agnimitra Paul said the search showed that no one is above the law.

CONTINUED ON
» **PAGE 12**
MAMATA MEETS SONIA
» **PAGE 13**

Congress's RS nomination rejected amid chaos in M.P.

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

A dramatic day of political developments in Madhya Pradesh's capital Bhopal that began with several Congress MLAs heading to the airport to leave for Bengaluru, ended with the nomination of Meenakshi Natarajan, the party candidate for one of three Rajya Sabha seats from the State, being rejected during scrutiny.

This prompted top Congress leaders, led by party general secretary K.C. Venugopal, to stage a sit-in outside the Election Commission of India (EC)'s office in New Delhi. Protests were also held outside the State Election Commission's office in Bhopal by State leaders, including Leader of the Opposition Umang Singhar and State unit chief Jitu Patwari.

The rejection of the nomination came at a time when a batch of Congress MLAs was en route to Ben-



A Congress delegation comprising party general secretaries and others protesting outside the EC office in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

galuru amid fears of cross-voting in the poll.

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of having "moved from vote theft to seat theft", Ms. Natarajan said: "It started when the BJP fielded a third candidate despite not having the adequate number of members, and we started to understand the kind of politics it is practising with democracy and the Constitution. What was limited to vote theft through SIR [special intensive revision of electoral rolls] and other methods has today

reached [the stage of] seat theft".

Ms. Natarajan's nomination was rejected by Assembly Secretary Arvind Sharma, who is the Returning Officer for the election, based on an objection raised by the BJP candidate for the third seat, Mahesh Kewat, and State party general secretary Rahul Kothari.

They alleged that Ms. Natarajan had "hidden" details of a case against her in Hyderabad.

CONTINUED ON
» **PAGE 12**

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ADDL. SUBORDINATE
JUDGE OF ERODE, TAMILNADU
I.P.No. 24/2023

D.Senthil Vs
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---12th Respondent

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M.Rajendran, M.A., B.L.,
Advocate, Notary Public,
En.No.MS247/2008,
2/8, Dr.Radhakrishnan Street,
Teachers Colony, Erode -11,
Tamilnadu, Cell :98659 17272

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I, Mr. Sudhir Anand, being the surviving partner of the said firm, hereby notify all persons and authorities concerned of the aforesaid dissolution. This notice is issued for information of the general public and all concerned.

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परिवार द्वारा आप विरुद्ध पक्षकार/अनावेदक के विरुद्ध वार 35 उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम के तहत परिवार बलिपूर्ति हेतु प्रस्तुत की गई है। अतः आप विरुद्ध पक्षकार को इस आयोग में दिनांक 19.06.2026 को दिनांक में 11.00 बजे उपस्थित होने के लिए सूचित किया जाता है।

अतः आप स्वयं या अपने अधिवक्ता के द्वारा निर्दिष्ट तिथि पर आएं, जो प्रकरण से संबंधित सभी आवश्यक प्रश्नों का उत्तर दें सकें, उपस्थित हों।
आपको यह भी सूचित किया जाता है कि पेशी तिथि दिनांक 19.06.2026 को परिवार के अधिनियम के लिए नियत तिथि है। आप अपने पक्ष के समर्थन में इस आयोग के समक्ष उपस्थित होने में प्रसन्न रहें। यदि दिनांक 19.06.2026 को निर्दिष्ट कारण पर अवकाश चाहिए हो जाता है तो आयोग अवकाश कार्य दिवस पर सुनवाई में विचार करेगा।
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Officials directed to
increase heat relief
vans, cooling spotsThe Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Taranjit Singh Sandhu and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta have directed officials to increase the number of Mobile Heat Relief Unit vans and Cooling Zones across the city, the L-G Secretariat said on Tuesday.

Ms. Gupta flagged off 13 heat relief vans on May 6, with one van allocated to each district. Every van is stocked with 400 to 500 litres of water, first-aid kits, ORS, and other vital relief supplies. In addition, the government also set up Cooling Zones – each accommodating 100 people and offering provisions such as cold drinking water, desert coolers and high-speed fans – in various districts.

While reviewing the measures under the Heat Action Plan 2026 on Monday, Mr. Sandhu said one relief van per district may not be enough for a metro-polis such as Delhi. He asked the departments concerned to increase the number of vans and cooling areas, especially in areas with large numbers of street vendors, labourers, homeless people, and crowded markets.



CM Rekha Gupta directed that services at Cooling Zones must be uninterrupted. FILE PHOTO

The Chief Minister said services at cooling centres must continue without interruption, particularly during shift changes. She also directed that water pots, coolers and other water containers be stocked with adequate water.

Officials said the Delhi Jal Board has stepped up water supply by deploying 940 water tankers, which are making 6,359 trips daily to areas facing shortages. As per figures shared at the meeting, heat relief units have so far served over 4.73 lakh people.

120 kmph winds

Meanwhile, strong winds swept through the Capital on Tuesday evening, with the weather station at Palam recording a peak wind speed of 120 kmph, equalling the 2001 record, according to the India Meteorological Department.

Two builders
held in south
Delhi building
collapse casePress Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police have arrested two builders in connection with the collapse of a multi-storey building in south Delhi's Saidulajab that claimed six lives on May 30, officials said on Tuesday.

Avneesh Gupta and Manish Khatri were arrested in Vasant Kunj following a probe, the police said, adding that their role in the construction and structural aspects of the building is being examined.

Man whose eight kin
died in June 3 hotel
blaze passes awayShrimansi Kaushik
NEW DELHI

Radhe Shyam Aggarwal, the 78-year-old who lost eight members of his family in the fire that broke out on June 3 at the Flourish Stay bed-and-breakfast (B&B) facility in Malviya Nagar, died while undergoing treatment at Max Hospital, Saket, on Tuesday.

Aggarwal was admitted to the hospital's ICU and the family decided to stay at the B&B the night before the fire broke out, so that they could visit him the

CM: existing houses in
O-zone won't be razed

Only ongoing constructions in protected area under scanner, says Gupta; will meet Union Housing Minister Manohar Lal to discuss issue, she adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday said no existing structure in the city's O-zone, housing an estimated 15 lakh people across 91 unauthorised colonies and nearly a dozen villages, will be demolished.

The assurance came after the CM chaired a meeting to address the concerns of residents living in the protected, eco-sensitive zone along the 22-km Yamuna floodplain stretch in Delhi from Wazirabad to Okhla, where permanent construction is banned.

During the meeting, which was attended by Bharatiya Janata Party MPs Ramvir Singh Bidhuri (South Delhi) and Manoj Tiwari (North East Delhi), along with Gandhi Nagar MLA Arvinder Singh Lovely, Municipal Commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar, among others, Ms. Gupta directed authorities to revise the signboards to prevent panic among residents.

Last week, various agencies installed signboards across the O-zone, warning against construction activities. Following this, resi-



Residents living in the protected zone had flagged recently installed signboards and expressed fear of demolitions. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dents' welfare associations from several areas, including Sangam Vihar in the north, Shastri Park in the north-east, and Jaitpur in south-east Delhi, approached elected representatives expressing apprehension over the demolition of houses.

Ms. Gupta said she would soon meet Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal, along with other public representatives from the Capital, to discuss the issue. The two Lok Sabha members said they would seek "justice for 15 lakh people" from Mr. Lal.

HC's May 26 order

The meeting was held against the backdrop of a Delhi High Court order last month directing the Municipal Corporation of Delhi

to submit a report on demolition measures taken to prevent further unauthorised construction in the O-zone. The CM clarified that the court had only flagged ongoing construction activities in the area.

In its order on May 26, the court had noted that residential colonies in the protected zone are not eligible for regularisation, no ownership rights are being granted, and that the existence of residential colonies in the eco-sensitive zone "would be completely impermissible". It will hear the matter in July.

On Monday, Mr. Bidhuri and Mr. Tiwari submitted a memorandum to Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu urging him to exclude the residential colonies and villages from the O-zone.

Five-minute response
time 'highly unrealistic',
says Chief Fire OfficerShrimansi Kaushik
NEW DELHI

A five-minute response time for fire services in Delhi is "highly unrealistic" given the city's rapid growth and traffic conditions, Delhi Fire Services (DFS) Chief Fire Officer Abhilash K. Malik told *The Hindu* on Tuesday while also acknowledging manpower constraints.

Taking stock of the June 3 blaze at the Flourish Stay bed-and-breakfast facility in Malviya Nagar that killed 22 people, including at least a dozen foreign nationals, Mr. Malik said the nearest fire station at Geetanjali Enclave, which normally houses two fire tenders, had no unit available when the fire broke out. "One was responding to a fire in Jonapur village and the other was on standby elsewhere. Tenders had to be mobilised from other stations," he said.

According to officials, the first call reporting the fire was received at 8.50 a.m. Fire tenders reached the spot around 9.10 a.m., about 20 minutes after the call was received.

Under guidelines is-



Abhilash K. Malik

sued by the Standing Fire Advisory Council of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the DFS is expected to achieve a response time of five minutes.

"Given Delhi's growth over the past few years and current traffic conditions, a five-minute response time is highly unrealistic," Mr. Malik said. He added that despite that, it was an "excellent operation".

"If we had around 50 personnel on the ground, we could have rescued even more people from the building," the DFS Chief Fire Officer said.

He explained that the most critical factor was the building reaching its "flashover point" in less than a minute – the stage at which all exposed material in a room ignite simultaneously and act as fuel for the fire.

SFI plans broader
stir against PradhanThe Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Students' Federation of India (SFI) on Tuesday said it is working towards building a "broader platform" of student, youth, and teachers' organisations to launch joint campaigns against alleged irregularities in the education system and demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

The SFI leadership said it is in talks with the All India Students' Federation, the All India Students' Association, and other student outfits.

At a press conference on Tuesday, a member of the SFI's central executive committee said they have launched a website for their 'Enough Is Enough' campaign to collect online petitions demanding Mr. Pradhan's resignation.

Meanwhile, Congress-backed National Students' Union of India (NSUI), which is conducting similar protests across the country, said it won't stop until Mr. Pradhan steps down. "We will organise joint campaigns addressing NEET, NTA, CBSE, school closures, and public education," a statement from the NSUI read.

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Senior Administrative Officer

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CORRIGENDUM

Notice No.: W/584/E-Tendering/83, 84, 85, 86-DHN-26-27, Dhanbad, dt. 05/06/2026

(1) It is further to notify that, in the E-Tender No. 83-DHN-2026-27 and 86-DHN-2026-27 dt. 21.05.2026. Date of closing & opening of e-tender should be read as at 12:00 hours on 16.06.2026 & from 12:30 hours on 16.06.2026 respectively instead of at 12:00 hours on 15.06.2026 & from 12:30 pm on 15.06.2026.

(2) It is further to notify that, in the E-Tender No. 84-DHN-2026-27 and 85-DHN-2026-27 dt. 21.05.2026. Date of closing & opening of e-tender should be read as at 12:00 hours on 17.06.2026 & from 12:30 hours on 17.06.2026 respectively instead of at 12:00 hours on 15.06.2026 & from 12:30 pm on 15.06.2026.

All other details, term and condition exists in the e-tender notice No. 83-DHN-2026-27, 84-DHN-2026-27, 85-DHN-2026-27, 86-DHN-2026-27 dt. 21.05.2026 will remain unchanged and unaltered.

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INBRIEF



Lottery baron, family move
Madras HC against ED action

The spouse of Tamil Nadu Public Works and Sports Development Minister Aadhav Arjuna, Daisy Aadhav Arjuna, his father-in-law and lottery baron Santiago Martin, mother-in-law and AIADMK MLA Leema Rose, and others have filed 39 individual appeals before the Madras High Court in a case related to the attachment of properties worth ₹910.29 crore by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED). Chief Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Justice G. Arul Murugan on Tuesday ordered notice to the ED on the appeals challenging the May 30, 2025 order passed by an Appellate Tribunal in New Delhi.

Maharashtra Cabinet nod to
increase depts. from 33 to 45

The Maharashtra Cabinet on Tuesday approved to increase the number of administrative departments from 33 to 45 for the diversification of the workload on departments handling multiple subjects. The government aims to restructure departments to bring coherence, speeding up the decision making process, facilitate implementation of schemes and effective coordination with field agencies. “The State has 33 administrative departments. Several departments have two to three sub-departments, leading to problems in the distribution of manpower and work,” said a CMO statement.

No action against AIADMK
MLAs who backed TVK in
floor test, says T.N. Speaker

Move follows a formal request from Palaniswami days after rival AIADMK factions patched up; action initiated against four AIADMK MLAs who have resigned and joined ruling TVK: Prabhakar

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Days after the rival AIADMK factions patched up, Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar announced on Tuesday that no action will be taken against the 21 MLAs from the Opposition party who voted in favour of the TVK government during the May 13 floor test.

The decision follows a formal request from AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) to drop the matter.

Speaking to reporters at the State secretariat, the Speaker said after considering the request, it was decided that 21 AIADMK MLAs will not be disqualified.

Following the Speaker’s decision these legislators will continue as Assembly members without facing action under anti-defection laws.

To a question about the fate of four AIADMK MLAs who have resigned and



S.P. Velumani, along with other rebel MLAs, submitting a letter to Tamil Nadu Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar on May 27 declaring that all AIADMK legislators would function as a single unit in the Assembly. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

joined the ruling TVK, Mr. Prabhakar said action has been initiated against the legislators. “Once a decision has been made, I will inform you officially,” he added.

During the crucial trust vote for the newly formed TVK government, 25 of the AIADMK’s 47 MLAs defied party the diktat to vote against the C. Joseph Vijay-led ruling dispensation.

The defiance created a severe crisis within the AIADMK and a rebel

group, led by former Ministers S.P. Velumani and C Ve Shanmugam, was formed, which prompted EPS to approach the speaker for disqualification of MLA posts.

Of the 25 legislators, who supported TVK during the confidence motion, four MLAs - S Sathyabama, Esakki Subaya, S Jayakumar and Maragatham Kumaravel have resigned and switched to TVK.

Subsequently, the Speaker accepted the resignations of the four MLAs

and notified the Election Commission (EC).

Bypolls for vacant seats
Their respective constituencies are now declared vacant by the EC and will head to byelections.

The two AIADMK factions had recently patched up. The AIADMK leadership later reversed its stance, formally communicating to the Speaker that it wished to drop all proceedings against the rebel faction.

Plea in SC seeks
CBI probe into
‘horse-trading’

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a CBI investigation into allegations of horse-trading involving the TVK general secretary and four former members of AIADMK who resigned from the Assembly and subsequently joined the ruling party in Tamil Nadu, to “facilitate” the formation of the C. Joseph Vijay-led government.

The plea, filed by lawyer M. Srinivasan, seeks directions to the CBI to register a case against TVK general secretary and Minister for Rural Development and Water Resources N. Anand, along with former AIADMK MLAs K. Maragatham Kumaravel, S. Jayakumar, P. Sathyabama and Esakki Subaya, who resigned from their Assembly seats before joining the TVK.

Following their resignations, the seats they represented were declared vacant, with the vacancies subsequently notified in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette.

Mr. Srinivasan has urged the apex court to invoke its plenary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution

The petition also urged to restrain the four former AIADMK MLAs from contesting the ensuing bypolls

to frame specific guidelines against post-poll horse-trading involving legislators who have either been disqualified by the Speaker or resigned from the Assembly without any “valid, material and justifiable reason”.

The court has also been urged to restrain the four former AIADMK MLAs from contesting the ensuing bypolls, until appropriate guidelines are framed by the court.

“Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction thereby directing Respondent No. 3 (CBI) to register a case against Respondent Nos. 7 to 11 for allegedly indulging in horse-trading to secure a majority in the Tamil Nadu Assembly and further direct an investigation and submission of the final report within a time-frame fixed by this court,” the plea said.

Security downgrade, bungalow
row: Bihar CM diverting attention
from real issues, says Tejashwi

Amit Bhelari
PATNA



Tejashwi Yadav

Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday said the withdrawal of Z-plus security for former Bihar Chief Ministers Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi and the notice to Ms. Devi to vacate the government bungalow at 10, Circular Road in Patna are attempts to divert people’s attention from the real issues.

This is the first time Mr. Yadav has spoken over the matter of Z-plus security.

Targeting Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary over the matter, Mr. Yadav told presspersons that even after becoming the Chief Minister, there was no change in Mr. Choudhary’s thinking.

He may have become the Chief Minister, but he is a ‘Cheap Minister’,” he said.

Last week, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leaders and workers were seen standing guard, holding sticks in their hands, at the gate of

10, Circular Road residence, where the family resides after Mr. Prasad and Ms. Devi had sent back the security cover provided to them in place of the Z-plus cover.

“The State’s treasury is empty. No work is being carried out and corruption is at its peak. Prices of petrol and diesel are increasing every day. Murder, dacoity, and gang rape are taking place every day. People are not getting their pensions. Ministers and legislators are not getting their salaries. So, to divert attention from these issues, Mr. Choudhary has played up the security issue so that people keep de-

bating over it. But let me say it very clearly that it is not an issue for us,” Mr. Yadav said.

Last week, the BJP-led Bihar government withdrew the Z-plus security for Mr. Prasad and Ms. Devi and instead provided them security with Bihar Special Armed Police personnel. Before that, the Bihar Building Construction Department served a notice to Ms. Devi, Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Council, to vacate the 10, Circular Road bungalow.

Cheap politics

Mr. Yadav said, “Rabri Devi got the bungalow in her capacity as a former CM and there has been no change in her status since 2005. Samrat Choudhary is doing cheap politics. For us, security and bungalow are not the issues.”

Without naming anyone, Mr. Yadav claimed that several leaders from the ruling National Democratic Alliance have got bungalows in violation of rules.

Bengal govt. accepts Odisha CM’s request
to drop ‘Dham’ from Digha temple name

Senjuti Sengupta
Satyasundar Barik
KOLKATA/BHUBANESWAR



A replica of the 12th-century Jagannath temple in Puri, Odisha, the Digha temple was inaugurated by former West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee in 2025. ANI

The West Bengal government will remove the word ‘Dham’ from the name of the Jagannath temple in Digha, which was inaugurated by the previous Trinamool Congress (TMC) government last year, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari announced on Tuesday. The temple will be now called ‘Sri Sri Jagannath Mandir Cultural Centre’.

Formal notification

Mr. Adhikari said Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Agarwal will soon issue a formal notification in this regard.

He added that the decision was taken following a suggestion from his Odisha counterpart Mohan Charan Majhi in a letter, which was handed over to him by BJP Lok Sabha MP from Puri Sambit Patra.

“I am accepting this letter. We are withdrawing the word ‘Dham’. We respect Sanatana Dharma. There is only Char Dham (four abodes) in Hindu Sanatana. In 2025, this tem-

ple was inaugurated and named ‘Jagannath Dham’. This move hurt the sentiments of all Hindus in Odisha and also those who stay in Bengal from Odisha. Nobody should play with core Sanatana ideology. Now, the government has changed and we have decided to act on this matter,” Mr. Adhikari said.

A replica of the 12th-century Jagannath temple in Puri, Odisha, the temple in Digha was built at a cost of ₹250 crore and inaugurated by the then West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on

April 30, 2025.

Several BJP leaders and religious authorities in Puri had objected to the temple being named ‘Jagannath Dham’.

The West Bengal BJP leadership had termed Ms. Banerjee a “fake Hindu” and accused her of indulging in “tokenistic religious construction to divert attention from minority appeasement policies”.

“Let me state clearly that the then government had approved it as a cultural centre. We will remove the word ‘Dham’. The cul-

tural centre will remain and worship will continue. The entire complex will function as a temple, but the word ‘Dham’ will be dropped. I, too, felt that the previous government disregarded people’s sentiments,” Mr. Adhikari said.

‘Historic decision’

Welcoming the move, the Odisha CM said on X: “I am extremely pleased that West Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari has understood the importance of this sensitive issue and reversed the short-sighted decision of the previous government. He has announced a historic decision to withdraw the word ‘Dham’ from the Digha project.”

Mr. Majhi said the name ‘Jagannath Dham’ was misused “due to the narrow political outlook of the previous government of West Bengal and its lack of understanding of Sanatana traditions”.

“This decision will also strengthen the brotherhood and cultural harmony between the two neighbouring States,” the Odisha CM said.

Six develop
complications
after C-section
deliveries in
Bikaner

Press Trust of India
BIKANER

Six women developed serious health complications, including kidney related issues, after undergoing Caesarean deliveries at the PBM Hospital in Rajasthan’s Bikaner, prompting authorities to constitute an inquiry committee, officials said.

All the affected patients have been admitted to the intensive care unit where they are being closely monitored, they said.

After the incident, Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar said the case in Bikaner is different from that in Kota and the two should not be linked.

Probe ordered

He said all women in the Bikaner case had reached the hospital at different times and were treated under varying conditions. He also confirmed that no deaths have occurred in this case so far. “Considering the seriousness of the situation, an investigation has been initiated. A team of specialist doctors from Jodhpur has been sent to probe the matter,” he said.

He added not all the women had undergone Caesarean deliveries; some had normal deliveries as well. “We are investigating why kidney failure occurred in these cases,” he said, adding that a preliminary report is expected by evening.

Sardar Patel Medical College principal Dr. Surendra Verma said some women reported complications following delivery and are under treatment by specialist doctors.

Hospital Superintendent Dr B.C. Ghiya said continuous monitoring of all the patients is being carried out and teams from the nephrology, gynaecology and medicine departments are jointly treating them.

‘Saheli’ cards for free bus travel prove elusive for trans persons in Delhi

Mahima Rao
Shrimansi Kaushik
NEW DELHI



In March, the Delhi government launched the Saheli cards for women and transgender persons. FILE PHOTO

Three months after the Delhi government launched ‘Saheli’ cards, promising free bus travel for women and transgender persons, many transgender residents say they are being denied the cards at distribution centres.

In March 2025, the Delhi government announced that women and transgender persons will be eligible for free travel on city buses through pink cards. The scheme was officially launched on March 2 this year. However, visits by *The Hindu* to five distribution centres and interviews with applicants revealed

that transgender persons are mostly unable to obtain the cards despite being listed as eligible beneficiaries. At four of the five centres visited, officials said the cards were not issued to transgender persons despite the card explicitly mentioning “female/transgender”. At one centre, officials agreed to issue the

card only after this was pointed out.

Ground realities

Vishakha, 23, who works with a non-profit organisation, said she visited the Sub-Divisional Magistrate’s office in Tughlaqabad last month to apply for a pink card using her transgender identity card issued by the

Central government. “My Aadhaar Card says ‘transgender’, and I identify as a trans woman. Despite that, officials passed my Aadhaar to five different persons but refused to issue a pink card,” she said.

The officials issued her a rechargeable blue card, which is meant for male passengers and does not provide free travel benefits. While officials at several centres denied that transgender persons were eligible for the scheme, a senior Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) official noted that they were covered under it. “All women and transgender persons are eligible for these cards. No one can be denied issuance of these cards if

they are eligible,” the official said.

Despite these assurances, transgender applicants continue to report difficulties. Bobby, 35, a caterer, said they were directed to the queue for blue cards when they approached officials at the District Magistrate’s office in Mehrauli.

“I was told the scheme was only for females. It was easier earlier with pink tickets. We could get them on the spot from conductors, and sometimes they would themselves offer the tickets to us,” Bobby said.

Senior Transport Department officials said the pink ticket system will be phased out gradually. The government had extended the scheme for three more

months in March.

‘Not eligible’

At the DTC bus pass counter at ITO, employees told *The Hindu* they had been instructed by senior officials not to issue cards to transgender persons. “The provision was discontinued a few weeks after the scheme was rolled out,” one employee said.

An official at the Shadipur bus depot said transgender persons had never been identified as eligible beneficiaries in the instructions received by staff.

She added that the backend system only accepts Aadhaar cards where the gender is listed as “female”.

Surpiya (name changed)

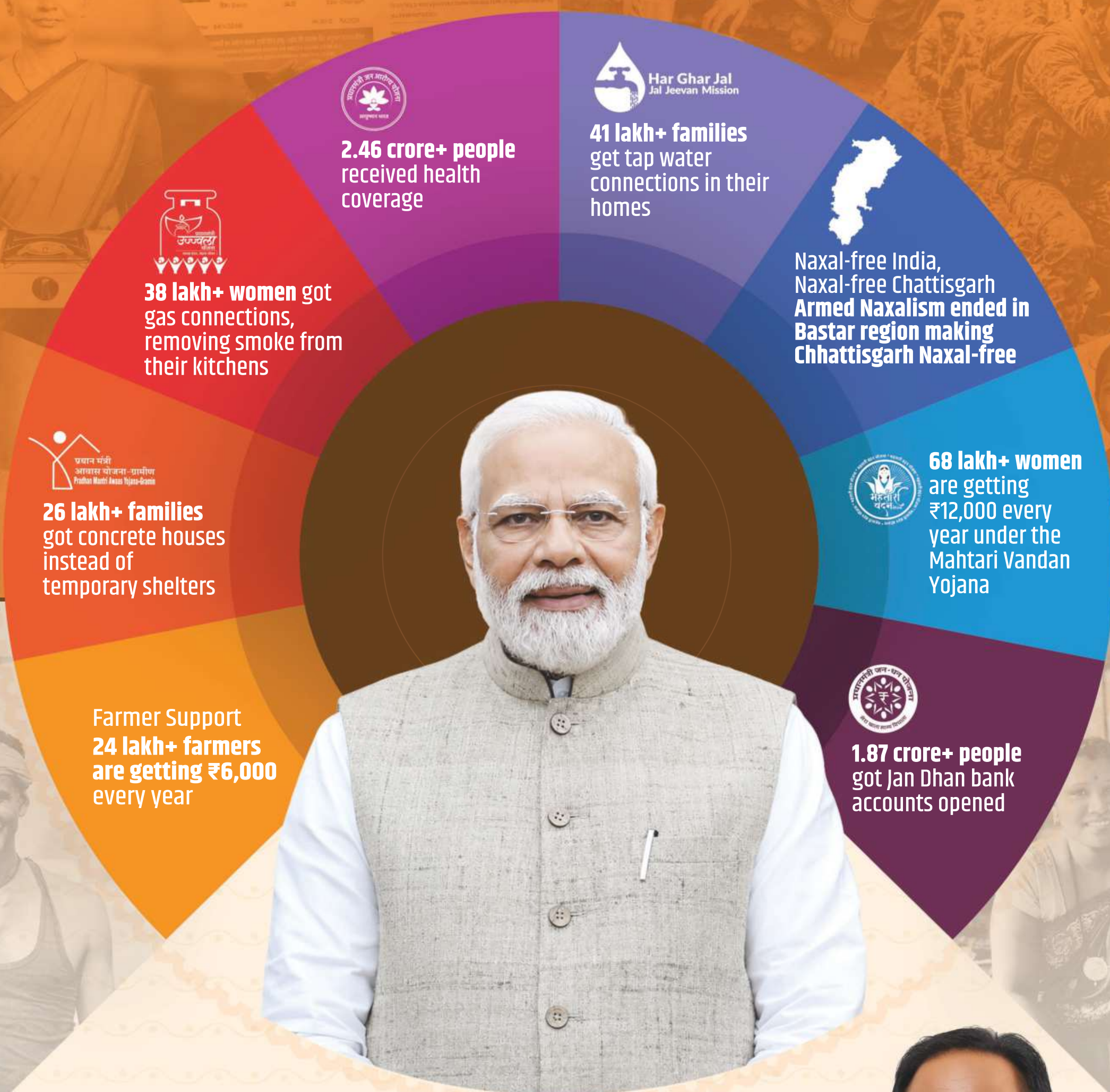
obtained a pink card at the South East Delhi District Magistrate’s office because her Aadhaar listed her gender as female. Even then, she said she faced difficulties using it. “Whenever I tap my card on the machine, it asks me to verify its validity,” she said.

However, at the DTC depot in Nehru Place, an official said transgender persons were eligible for the card once it was pointed out that the words ‘female/transgender’ were printed on the other side of the card.

“It will be issued if they come with their Aadhaar,” the official said, adding, “Most people, including government officials, do not read the instructions.”



12 *Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-kalyan ke*
Saal



Chhattisgarh moves forward with Modi's guarantee

Shri Vishnu Deo Sai - Hon. CM of Chhattisgarh



Money laundering case: ED summons Pinarayi's daughter

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned T. Veena, daughter of former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, for questioning in connection with a money-laundering case linked to the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd. (CMRL) pay-off case.

She has been asked to appear before investigators at the ED's zonal office here on June 12.

Besides Ms. Veena, the Central agency has asked Sasidharan Kartha, chairman and managing director of CMRL, and senior company officials to appear before it.

Premises searched

The case involves Exalogic, a now-defunct firm owned by Ms. Veena, a former IT consultant, had received sizeable monthly retainers from the private mining company from 2017 to 2021 allegedly without rendering any tangible service. On May 27, the agency searched the residences of Mr. Vijayan in Kannur and Thiruvananthapuram and former Minister and Ms. Veena's husband, P.A. Mohamed Riyas.

This is the first time Ms. Veena has been summoned by the ED for questioning.

She will be told to submit the documents related to the alleged IT consultancy services offered by Exalogic to the CMRL.

The ED had earlier frozen ₹18.36 crore in 242 ac-



Veena Vijayan

counts identified in the searches held in the pay-off case.

It had claimed that the searches had yielded incriminating records of accounts, investments, and fixed deposits in banks and digital evidence.

Court's nod

A special court for trial of offences under the Companies Act in Kochi on June 8 allowed the ED to obtain copies of documents collected by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) in connection with the money-laundering case.

Suresh Babu V.P.M., Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ernakulam, allowed the ED's petition seeking copies of documents gathered by the SFIO, which had investigated the alleged fictitious expenses submitted by the CMRL before the Income Tax Settlement Commission.

The ED had reportedly sought 134 documents collected by the SFIO during its probe into the links between the CMRL and Ms. Veena's now-defunct firm.

High-level probe into blast at Vizag steel plant begins

Each deceased worker's next of kin will receive ₹25 lakh *ex gratia* along with terminal benefits, and one eligible family member will get a permanent job at the RINL, says Union Minister

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

A three-member external expert committee constituted by the Union Ministry of Steel visited the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)-Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) on Tuesday as part of the high-level probe into the explosion at the plant, which claimed eight lives and left six injured on Monday evening.

Separately, the RINL has initiated an internal technical inquiry into the process failure.

The independent panel headed by Priya Ranjan, Director in-charge of the Bokaro Steel Plant, includes senior technical and safety experts from major steel plants across the country, including SAIL Chief General Manager (CGM) Jitendra Kumar and former CGM Gopal Singh.

The team visited the accident site at Caster-2 of the Steel Melt Shop-1 (SMS-1) to ascertain the exact cause of the technical failure. It is expected to interact with the VSP management, engineers, and workers' union representatives before submitting its final recommendations to the Centre.

Preliminary reports suggest that the accident occurred around 4.15 p.m. on Monday during the regular casting operations. Workers were preparing to transfer molten crude



Family members of a worker killed in the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant blast break down outside King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. V. RAJU

steel, heated to over 1,500 degrees Celsius, from a ladle to a tundish when a high-intensity blast occurred just before the slide gate could be opened. The explosion triggered a massive fireball that rapidly engulfed Overhead Crane-2, trapping nearby personnel.

The deceased have been identified as permanent employees G.V. Appa Rao, Prabhakar, Bhanu Kumar, Krishna Nag, and Gold Kumar, along with contract workers Trinadhi, Appalaraju, and Ramana. Of the six injured workers undergoing treatment in KIMS Hospital, Sheelanagar, two are in a critical condition.

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy and Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu inspect-

ed the site and met the injured workers. He said each deceased worker's next of kin would receive ₹25 lakh as *ex gratia* along with terminal benefits, and one eligible family member would get a permanent job at the RINL.

The six injured workers will receive ₹10 lakh each and all their medical expenses would be borne by the company, he said.

He added that RINL would support the education of the children of the deceased and injured workers and extend long-term welfare and rehabilitation assistance to their families.

Andhra Pradesh IT and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh on Tuesday stressed that the government's responsibility extended beyond immediate financial aid. He

said the first phase of compensation announced by Mr. Kumaraswamy would be released immediately.

Union Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma said that total compensation, including insurance and terminal company benefits, would be about ₹1.72 crore for permanent employees and somewhere between ₹40 lakh and ₹45 lakh for the temporary workers.

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan raised questions about industrial safety practices at the steel plant. He questioned whether safety norms were implemented effectively and if adequate attention was given to workforce conditions, equipment maintenance and operational safeguards.

RS poll: Nathwani's nomination put on hold after Congress flags 'discrepancies'

Press Trust of India
RANCHI

The Congress on Tuesday alleged "discrepancies" in the nomination papers of Parimal Nathwani, the BJP-backed Independent nominee for the Rajya Sabha poll in Jharkhand, and lodged a complaint with the Returning Officer.

Mr. Nathwani, a Rajya Sabha MP from Andhra Pradesh, filed his papers for one of the two RS seats in Jharkhand on Monday, along with Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) candidate Baidyanath Ram and Congress nominee Pranav Jha.

Returning Officer Ranjit Kumar put Mr. Nathwani's nomination on hold and gave him a deadline of 11 a.m. on Wednesday to resolve the objections, a BJP office-bearer said.

Scrutiny of papers

Filing of nominations began on June 1 and concluded on Monday. Scrutiny of the nomination papers was held on Tuesday, during which the candidatures of JMM and Congress nominees were found to be valid, an official said.

"There were many discrepancies in the nomination papers [of Nathwani], including an error in his name. As a proposer for our candidate Pranav Jha, I lodged a complaint with the RO before the scrutiny exercise," Congress MLA Naman Bixal Kongari said.

Despite repeated efforts, the Returning Officer could



BJP-backed independent candidate Parimal Nathwani filed his papers for one of the two RS seats in Jharkhand on Monday. FILE PHOTO

not be contacted for comments. However, a purported letter from the Assembly Secretariat to Mr. Nathwani said a complaint raising objections to his paper was filed and his nomination was put on hold until 11 a.m. on Wednesday.

"Discrepancy has been reported... and a hearing is under way," Congress observer for RS poll in Jharkhand Bhupesh Baghel posted on X.

A close aide of Nathwani, however, claimed the objections that had been raised were resolved.

The last date for withdrawal of nomination is June 11, while the polling will be held on June 18.

To ensure victory, a candidate is required to secure a minimum of 28 first-preference votes.

In the Jharkhand Assembly, the INDIA bloc has 56 members, comprising 34 from the JMM, 16 from the Congress, four from the Rashtriya Janata Dal and two from CPI(M/L) Liberation. The NDA has 24 MLAs, including 21 from the BJP.

Team tactics



Group hunting: Braving the monsoon showers at Kandakadavu in Kochi on Tuesday, a flock of Indian cormorants hunts in remarkable coordination. Diving swiftly beneath the surface, they work together to herd fish before capturing their prey. R.K. NITHIN

Shipping authority's inquiry report lists reasons for MSC Elsa 3 sinking

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Directorate General of Shipping concluded the preliminary investigation into the sinking of the container ship *MSC Elsa-3* off the Alappuzha coast in May 2025. The inquiry report, submitted in an affidavit before the Kerala High Court, identified causes of the incident that led to marine pollution off Alappuzha and along parts of the southern coast.

Critical system malfunction, compounded by structural failures and the incompetence of crew members, was identified as the causative factor in the report. It said that the ship had shown an inherent tilt to the right in previous



The shipping authority concluded the preliminary probe into the sinking of *MSC Elsa-3* in May 2025 off the Alappuzha coast. AP

voyages. During the journey from Vizhinjam to Kochi, the ship's ballast water system failed first, and as a result, the crew could not stop the progressive flooding into the ballast tanks. The ship's safety management system was reported to be deficient, especially

regarding maintenance procedures and spare parts management. The ship had tilted to about 26 degrees, causing several container stacks to shift, further compromising the ship's stability. By midnight on May 24, 2025, the containers had begun to

fall overboard, creating additional hazards.

The investigation found that known defects were inadequately addressed, with reliance on temporary fixes that created system weaknesses.

The chief officer of the ship had joined one week before the incident and was not given sufficient time for the handover, which also added to the lack of crisis management, the report said.

Interviews of the crew showed that there were gaps in practical training for emergency ballast operations. Many crew members had only demonstrated theoretical knowledge with no real-time experience, according to the report.

Deve Gowda did not ask for a Rajya Sabha seat: JD(S)

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Prime Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda had never sought a Rajya Sabha seat from the alliance partner BJP, his son and Union Minister, H.D. Kumaraswamy, has said.

Speaking to presspersons in Mysuru on Tuesday, he pointed out that the BJP had 60 MLAs and the Janata Dal (Secular) was not concerned about it. Mr. Kumaraswamy said the Congress leaders were making unnecessary statements regarding the Rajya Sabha ticket issue.

Stand-off over Bengaluru Development portfolio likely to be discussed in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The discontentment of Krishna Byre Gowda over being given a truncated Bengaluru Development portfolio – without the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA), which are held by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar – seems to have reached the doors of the Congress's central leadership.

The stand-off comes at a crucial time when the monsoon has set in over the State. There are also no elected councillors in Bengaluru since elections to



Krishna Byre Gowda

the five corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) are yet to be held.

Mr. Shivakumar will be in Delhi on Wednesday to meet senior party leaders including Sonia Gandhi and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. Mr. Gowda,

who is yet to take charge of the portfolio, is in Delhi.

Sources close to Mr. Gowda said that the Minister had gone to Delhi along with some legislators, who are seeking Cabinet berths. It is learnt that he has informed both the Chief Minister and Congress general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala that he will not take charge of the portfolio unless the issue is resolved, and that he is ready to take any other portfolio.

The Chief Minister is expected to explain to the leaders on Wednesday why he is keen to keep the BDA and the BMRDA. Sources close to him said: "The BDA and the BMRDA have

been kept by the Chief Minister since he has worked on projects that are under the two agencies. By the time the new Minister will be able to understand its intricacies, the term would be coming to an end and projects could be derailed."

Meanwhile, sources close to Mr. Gowda arguing for an integrated portfolio pointed out that effective coordination between multiple agencies is required for Bengaluru's development and accountability over agencies becomes a challenge.

Sources said that the portfolio was allocated to Mr. Gowda after the central leadership intervened.

HC permits three of ship's crew to return to their home countries

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday allowed the electro-technical engineer, the seaman, and the motor-man of *MSC Elsa 3*, the ship that sank off the coast of Alappuzha in Kerala, causing extensive marine and coastal pollution, to return to their home countries.

The crew members had sought permission from the High Court in May 2026 to return to their home countries after being detained following the incident in May 2025. They had submitted that their detention was illegal and that the authorities had in-

sisted on their presence in the State for investigation.

Three out of the seven crew members are allowed to return home on the condition that they execute a simple bond or a bank guarantee with two sureties, and they were directed to appear as and when required by the court, the magistrate or the investigating officer.

The Captain and Chief Engineer of the ship were directed to appear before the Judicial First Class Magistrate, Kochi, at Thoppumpady on June 12, for the Magistrate to fix an early hearing for their examination. Since the Magistrate had noted defects in the final report submitted

by the police on May 30, a revised final report has to be filed by the Coastal Police. If the final report is submitted in time for the next court date, the High Court will consider the matter of allowing the Chief Officer and 2nd Engineer of the vessel to return to their home countries after granting them bail.

The court had earlier sought a progress report from the magistrate to determine the reasons for the alleged delay in the investigation, the expected timeline for completing the probe, and, if cognisance of the offence had been taken, the date on which the accused appeared before the magistrate.

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2	Special Educator (Contractual)	21-50 yrs as on 01 Jul of 2026	Minimum requirement of RCI approved qualification for appointment of Special Education Teachers.
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विज्ञापन / Advertisement

ICAR-Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (ICAR-IIAB), Ranchi invites applications to empanel new **competent suppliers and service providers** through a '**Vendor Registration Process**' aimed at ensuring quality, reliability, and cost-effectiveness. **Special Note:** Only registered vendors will be eligible to participate in the institute's future LIMITED TENDERS. Eligible and interested companies may visit the institute's website <http://www.icar-iiab.res.in/> for the detailed advertisement.

कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता
गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, ग्वालियर

Email-grmc1946@yahoo.co.in, Phone-0751-2403400
क्रमांक/ 20993/ क्रय/ 2026 ग्वालियर, 04 जुन 2026

प्रथम ई-निविदा सूचना

गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, ग्वालियर, संबद्ध चिकित्सालय एवं सुपर स्पेशलिटी हॉस्पिटल के लिये निम्न विवरण अनुसार अंकित कार्यों के दर अनुबंध/क्रय के लिये म.प्र. शासन के निविदा पोर्टल www.mptenders.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

S. No.	Department	Description	Tender ID
1	Medical College & Attached Hospitals	CAMC & Operation of VRV System Make-Daikin	2026_DME_513212_1
2	Superspeciality Hospital	CAMC & Operation of HAVC System along with low side equipments	2026_DME_513213_1
3	Superspeciality Hospital	CAMC & Operation of ETP/STP Plant	2026_DME_513215_1
4	Pathology-Blood Bank	Material for Voluntary Blood Donation Camps	2026_DME_513216_1
5	Depaertment of Medicine/Nephrology	Dialysis Consumables	2026_DME_513217_1
6	Department of Community Medicine	Computer, Printer, UPS	2026_DME_513218_1
7	Department of Community Medicine	Statistical Package for Social Science Software	2026_DME_513220_1
8	Department of Community Medicine	Purchase of Furniture, Electric/ Electronics Items for Seminar Rooms	2026_DME_513222_1

उक्त विवरण अनुसार अंकित कार्यों/प्रदाय हेतु इच्छुक निविदादाता/ फर्म विस्तृत विवरण, निविदा शर्तें एवं फार्म म.प्र. शासन के निविदा पोर्टल www.mptenders.gov.in से दिनांक 09.06.2026 से ऑनलाईन क्रय कर पोर्टल के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन ही प्रस्तुत कर सकेंगे। आवश्यकतानुसार किसी भी प्रकार संशोधन निविदा पोर्टल www.mptenders.gov.in पर ही किया जावेगा इस हेतु पृथक से कोई भी सूचना का प्रकाशन समाचार पत्र में नहीं किया जावेगा। निविदा फार्म का मूल्य एवं निर्धारित ऑनलाईन प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क/जी.एस.टी. राशि का विवरण www.mptenders.gov.in पोर्टल से प्राप्त किया जाकर उसका भुगतान निविदादाता को करना होगा।

अधिष्ठाता
गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय
ग्वालियर

G14096/26

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum Notice No. W.584/E-Tendering/37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 70-DHN-26-27 : Dhanbad, Dated -05/06/2026

It is further to notify that, the **Date and Time of closing of e-tender No.37-DHN-2026-27, 38-DHN-2026-27, 39-DHN-2026-27, 40-DHN-2026-27, 41-DHN-2026-27, 42-DHN-2026-27, 70-DHN-2026-27** dtd. 19.05.2026 should be read as closing at **13:00 hours on 11.06.2026** instead of at 12:00 hours on 11.06.2026.

All other details, term and condition exists in the e-tender notice No. 37-DHN-2026-27, 38-DHN-2026-27, 39-DHN-2026-27, 40-DHN-2026-27, 41-DHN-2026-27, 42-DHN-2026-27, 70-DHN-2026-27 dtd. 19.05.2026 will remain unchanged and unaltered.

Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.)
East Central Railway, Dhanbad,
PR/0371/DHN/ENGG/Corrigendum/26-27/28

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

(Construction Department)

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:-

SN.1, e-Tender No. : ECR-CAO-C-S-EPC-02-26-27, Name of work: Engineering procurement and Construction (EPC) of Important Bridge No. 136 (9x45.70m OWG), 151 (26x30.50m Ballasted Deck OWG Welded Through Type), 153 (11x30.50m Ballasted Deck OWG Welded Through Type+1X12.20m PSC Slab), 154 (14X30.50m Ballasted Deck OWG Welded Through Type), 161 (1X9.15m PSC Slab+10X30.50m Ballasted Deck OWG Welded Through Type+1X9.15m PSC Slab), 162 (1X9.15m PSC Slab+10X30.50m Ballasted Deck OWG Welded Through Type+1X9.15m PSC Slab), 163 (17X30.50m Ballasted Deck OWG Welded Through Type+1X12.20m PSC Slab) & Major Bridge No. 144 (2X12.20m PSC Slab), 145 (2X12.20m PSC Slab), 152 (4X45.70m OWG), 155 (2X9.15m PSC Slab), 156 (1X9.15m PSC Slab+1X30.5m Ballasted Deck OWG Welded Through Type+1X9.15m PSC Slab), 159 (1X9.15m PSC Slab+3X30.5m Ballasted Deck OWG Welded Through Type+1X9.15m PSC Slab), 160 (7X30.50m Ballasted Deck OWG Welded Through Type) for 3rd & 4th line including their formation at approaches and protection works in connection with Punarakh-Kiul 3rd & 4th rail line Project, **Approx cost of the work in (Rs.): 1280,01,81,360.15, Cost of tender form in (Rs.): 0.00, Earnest money in (Rs.): 25,60,03,700.00, Period of work completion: 36 Months, Date and time for closing of tender: 15.07.2026 at 12.15 hrs.**

Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted.

The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website <http://www.irops.gov.in>.

Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.irops.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in connection with this e-tender.

Any change/addendum/corrigendum will be published on IREPS website only.

CAO/Con/South
EC Rly. MHX, Patna
PR/0370/CON/SMH/Patna/CONST/TT/26-27/72

Nalanda University

Rajgir, Dist. – Nalanda, Bihar-803116
Under the aegis of Ministry of External Affairs, GoI

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT No.: NU/Engg(Civil)/2026-27/01
LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION EXTENDED UP TO 11:00 AM on 25.06.2026

Nalanda University, an avant-garde International University, invites online e-Tenders for "CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT WORKS OF 38 STUDENT HOSTEL BUILDINGS AT NALANDA UNIVERSITY, RAJGIR, BIHAR."

The detailed NIT along with terms & conditions for application can be downloaded from the Nalanda University's official website: <https://nalandauniv.edu.in/tenders/>, <https://nalandauniv.edu.in/ewizard.in/> & <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>

For any further updates please visit regularly NU Tender portal <https://nalandauniv.edu.in/tenders/>

The 2nd Pre-bid meeting is scheduled in online / physical mode on 13.06.2026 at 11:00 AM onwards. Online meeting link shall be uploaded in <https://nalandauniv.edu.in/tenders/>

For any further query: please e-mail to phase1.tender@nalandauniv.edu.in

Sd/-
Registrar

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores & Purchase Department, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027

No:KST/CO/S&P/277/2026-27 Date:09.06.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER No.4 Dated:09.06.2026

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or Commercial offers through e-procurement portal <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> are invited for supply of the following Goods/ Services.

Tender Nos. as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/ Equipment	Tender Value in crores (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender at 17.00 hrs.
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0306	Procurement of Liquid Urea AIS 32 (Ad Blue)	8.00	07/07/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0307	Procurement of Aluminum Extrusions	3.05	07/07/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0308	Procurement of Pre Cured Tread Rubber and Allied Materials	15.00	10/07/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0309	Procurement of Window flock Channel	0.45	10/07/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0310	Procurement of Hubs and Brake Drums	4.00	10/07/2026
KSRTC/2026-27/IND0311	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1KVA UPS on turnkey basis	0.30	10/07/2026

NOTE:- Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-46010000/080-68948777). Interested bidders may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to Support@eprocelpdesk.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org, (contact: 7760990224)

Sd/- **CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)**
DIPR/DD-C,P/1073/KSMCA/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 01
Telephone No. 080-22133370, Email ID: epwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home>

Short Term Tender Notification No. 07/2026-27 DATED: 09.06.2026

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, No.1 South and Devanahalli Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP.

Tender Notification are Published for 05 Works (**Rs. 350.00 to 990.00 Lakhs**) Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.

1.Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.30 PM on Dated: 16.06.2026**

2.The opening of tenders through KPP portal on Dated: **17.06.2026 at 5.00 PM** or further date and time will be Intimate. For more details contact this office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/1082/
Zen/2026-27

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Executive Engineer-4,
Project Implementation Unit, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: EE-4/GBA/PIU/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 09-06-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer-4, Project Implementation Unit, GBA, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of work detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Expansion / Widening of Narrow Water Vents for Construction of Retaining Walls, 'U' Drains, Box Drains and Culverts / Bridges to Strom Water Drains at Various Locations in Dasarahalli Constituency of Dasarahalli Zone. "Package DHZ-01" (Project No. 16, 17, 18 & 19). Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 178.68, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,68,100/-

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 10-06-2026. 2) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 15-06-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer-4, Project Implementation Unit, GBA, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560011. 3) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: 18-06-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: 19-06-2026 at 16.30 Hours or next working day. 5) Date of Opening of Financial Bid: Will be intimated to Technically Qualified Contractor Successful Bidder in KPP Portal. Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-4,
Project Implementation Unit, GBA.

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH
ADMISSION NOTICE NO.06/2026

The PGIMER, Chandigarh invites the online application for B.Sc. Allied & Healthcare & Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) Courses for the September-2026 session through online Computer Based Test (CBT) to be held on 31.07.2026 at different cities across the country. The application form Live dates are from 03.06.2026 to 02.07.2026.

For eligibility criteria, number of seats and other details, applicants are advised to read the prospectus and instructions given there in carefully before starting online registration and filling of application form. The prospectus of admission is available on Institute's website i.e. www.pgimer.edu.in. The candidates are requested to visit the PGIMER website regularly for all subsequent changes/ updation for entrance examination/ communications/ addendum/ corrigendum.

PGI/RC/AdvT/26/HR- 000330 REGISTRAR

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे

पत्र सं. XEN/WS-Works/2026-27
दिनांक: 05.06.2026

ई-निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना

मुख्य कारखाना प्रबन्धक, कार्यशाला, (सिविल इंजीनियरिंग) उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमों के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्रों में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है- ई-निविदा सूचना सं 2026-27: WS-01 OF 2026-27: कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Provision of RCC OH Tank of 225 KL capacity and Provision of CC approach road & drainage in connection with Augmentation of shop floor & other maintenance facilities in Jodhpur Workshop; अनुमानित लागत रुपये: Rs. 97,03,004.99/-; ब्याने की राशि रुपये: Rs. 1,94,100.00/-; निविदा सूचना संख्या WS-01 OF 2026-27 तक निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 27.06.2026 को 1300 बजे तक है। वेबसाइट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई-निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है- www.irops.gov.in 837-PH/26

नॉट  NW/Railways  NW/Railways_पत्र सं. की सं.

CENTRAL RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No.: 17-2026-NGP-TELE-FENCING Dt. 04.06.2026

Name of work: Work of utility shifting/ infringing removal of telecom gears and other related miscellaneous works pertaining to safety fencing work by Engineering Department in Nagpur Division of Central Railway. **Tender Cost:** ₹1233100.00/-, **Cost of tender booklet:** 0.00/-, **Date & time of closing of tender:** 29.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs. Details on Railway website www.irops.gov.in EXP/45/261 **DSTE/South, Nagpur**

RailMadad Helpline 139

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

ADVERTISEMENT OF TENDER
Batch No- 09/26 Dated-05.06.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager, East Central Railway invites e-tenders for supply of the following items:

Sl. No : 1, Tender No. : 04264392, Brief Description: End Wall sliding Door Complete, Quantity: 100 Nos, Due Date : 22.06.2026, Due Time : 14:00

Sl. No : 2, Tender No. : 03254987A, Brief Description: Inter Vehicular coupler Socket Assembly, Quantity: 69 Set, Due Date : 29.06.2026, Due Time : 14:00

Sl. No : 3, Tender No. : 04263957, Brief Description: Wearing piece for side bearer to ICF, Quantity: 1081 Nos, Due Date : 22.06.2026, Due Time : 14:00

Sl. No : 4, Tender No. : 06252403, Brief Description: Magneto Telephone, Quantity: 1273 Nos, Due Date : 29.06.2026, Due Time : 14:00

Sl. No : 5, Tender No. : 14264692, Brief Description: Battery for TRD-Lead Acid 110V, 200 AH-LM, Quantity: 19 Set, Due Date: 29.06.2026, Due Time : 14:00

Sl. No : 6, Tender No. : 14264939, Brief Description: Low maintenance Lead acid battery type 75AH for locos, Quantity: 80 Set, Due Date: 29.06.2026, Due Time : 14:00

Sl. No : 7, Tender No. : 14264784, Brief Description: Blind socket assembly for high-capacity IV coupler, Quantity: 224 Nos, Due Date : 29.06.2026, Due Time : 14:00

Sl. No : 8, Tender No. : 10264741, Brief Description: Flap Door Arrangement (Reduced Height-Retro fitment) for BOXN Wagon, Quantity: 3530 Nos, Due Date : 29.06.2026, Due Time : 14:00

Note: All the above-mentioned tenders are e-tenders and all tenderers are requested to submit their bids on-line through the IREPS website at www.irops.gov.in. All corrigendum to above-mentioned tenders shall also be published online in IREPS website only. For more details regarding the above-mentioned tenders and other supply tenders please visit IREPS website.

AMM/HO
E.C. Railway, Hajipur
PR/0368/HQ/STORE/IT/26-27/64

मध्य प्रदेश लघु उद्योग निगम मर्यादित

कार्यालय संपदा एवं निर्माण, संभाग क्रमांक-2
आई.आई.डी.सी. प्लाजा, 39 सिटी सेंटर, ग्वालियर (म.प्र.)
दूरभाष : 0751-2439024

क्रमांक: लउनि/निर्माण/सं.-ग्वा./2026-27/05 दिनांक : 09.06.2026

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निम्न कार्य की निविदा ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति (Online System) से वेबसाइट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

म.प्र.लघु उद्योग निगम मर्यादित अंतर्गत मृगनयनी एम्पोरियम नई दिल्ली में लिफ्ट की आपूर्ति एवं स्थापना का निर्माण कार्य, अनुमानित लागत-रु. 21,87,893/-, धरोहर राशि-रु. 43,758/-। निविदा की बिड जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 18.06.2026 सायं 5.30 बजे। निविदा की समस्त जानकारी उक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदा में संशोधन व परिवर्तन किया जाता है तो उसकी जानकारी मात्र उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर दी जावेगी पृथक से समाचार-पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा, बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा को स्वीकृत अथवा अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार निगम के पास सुरक्षित है।

म.प्र. माध्यम/126294/2026 महाप्रबंधक (सं./नि.)

REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE
MEDICAL COLLEGE PO, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-11
Phone: 0471 2522278

No. RCC/462/2022-ADMN-2 Dated. 29/05/2026

Applications are invited for the post of **Nuclear Medicine Technologist** on contract basis in Nuclear Medicine Division of Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. Last date of receipt of application 22/06/2026.

For more details please visit our Website: www.rcctvm.gov.in

D3/350/2026/I&PRD Sd/- DIRECTOR

THE HINDU

OPPORTUNITIES

ENGG./PRODN./TECH.

UDUPI COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
Malpe, Karnataka
Wholly Owned subsidiary of Cochin Shipyards Limited
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India.

RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVES AND SUPERVISORS ON PERMANENT BASIS

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts
01	Assistant General Manager (Engineering) for Kochi Ref.No. UCSSL/MS/HR/VN/F/11-AGMs/DMs/CCN/88 dated 05 June 2026	02 Posts
02	Deputy Manager (Mechanical) for Kochi Ref.No. UCSSL/MS/HR/VN/F/11-AGMs/DMs/CCN/88 dated 05 June 2026	03 Posts
03	Manager (Design) for Malpe Ref.No. UCSSL/MS/HR/VN/F/11-Mdsn/87 dated 25 May 2026	01 Post
04	Supervisor (Mechanical) for Malpe Ref.No. UCSSL/MS/HR/VN/F/11-SUP-2MECH/86 dated 25 May 2026	02 Posts

For more details on age, qualification, remuneration, reservations, etc with regards to this advertisement visit www.cochinshipyard.in or www.udupicssl.com Sd/-
MANAGER (HR & IR)

To Advertise in
The Hindu Opportunities column,
Please contact,
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in or
Ph: 9841650726



The views expressed are personal

A ND-NDE

China’s role in the international order

In the past six months, specifically from December 2025 to May 2026, the top leaders of all the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) have visited China.

In December 2025, French President Emmanuel Macron paid a three-day state visit to China, accompanied by over 30 French business leaders. Then from January 28 to 31, 2026, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer visited China, also accompanied by a large group of business leaders. Last month, from May 13-15, U.S. President Donald Trump visited China. He was accompanied by key government officials, and a high-profile delegation of over a dozen American CEOs. Russian President Vladimir Putin also paid a state visit to China from May 19-20. He was accompanied by a 39-member delegation including five deputy prime ministers, eight federal ministers, and the heads of Russia’s Central Bank and major state corporations. Such intensive, high-level diplomatic engagements in a single country have drawn wide attention. As observed by Professor Rajan Kumar from Jawaharlal Nehru University, such incidents are “extremely rare” and “underline China’s emergence as a central hub of global diplomacy”.

Indeed, facing an increasingly fluid, turbulent and challenging international order, these visits are telling examples of China’s unique role in mediating between world leaders. Since the founding of the People’s Republic of China, an independent foreign policy of peace has been established as its diplomatic principle, where China seeks, not bloc confrontations, but global partnership, ensuring decisions are made on their own merits, and that the UN plays an essential role in international relations. China endorses multilateralism, non-aggression, and the resolution of global disputes through dialogue rather than military means, which gives it a special advantage in the efforts



Qin Jie
Consul General of the People’s Republic of China in Mumbai

to tackle complex issues flaring up across the world, together with the other permanent members of the UNSC. During the meetings, China’s President Xi Jinping emphasised the importance to uphold the UN-centred international system, and increase communication and coordination for the settlement of disputes.

On the U.S., Russia and the UN President Xi and President Trump have agreed on building a constructive relationship of strategic stability. The framework of ‘constructive strategic stability’ between the two countries means that they will uphold positive stability with cooperation as the mainstay; healthy stability with competition within proper limits; constant stability with manageable differences; and lasting stability with expectable peace.

When it comes to the Taiwan question, the One China principle and China’s reunification should be unequivocally supported. While talking with President Trump, President Xi stressed that the Taiwan question is the most important issue in China-U.S. relations. “Taiwan independence” and cross-Straits peace are as irreconcilable as fire and water. Safeguarding peace across the Taiwan Strait is the biggest common denominator between China and the U.S.

In the meeting with President Putin, President Xi noted that 2026 marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation. Guided by the core principles of non-alliance, non-confrontation, and not targeting any third party, the two states have kept deepening mutual trust and strategic coordination.

Moreover, designed out of the ashes of a global conflict to prevent future world wars, the UN’s role should never be weakened. All five permanent

members of the UNSC shoulder great responsibility to maintain world peace, uphold the post-WWII world order, and work to make the global governance system more just and equitable. This requires joint efforts in fighting militarism and fascism.

Trade as necessary for peace Economic and trade cooperation was also a priority of the leaders’ visits. While dwelling on deepening economic ties with each of the four countries, President Xi underlined mutual trust as the foundation for steady and sustainable state-to-state relations. In our globalised world, the industrial and supply chains of countries are deeply interconnected, and exchanges and cooperation between China and other economies are mutually beneficial in nature. In order to build an inclusive economic globalisation that benefits everybody, countries should share responsibilities together, coordinate actions, and work together to make global economic governance fairer, more just and equitable. Joint efforts should be made to address the global industrial restructuring. As China kicks off its 15th five-year plan, the country will remain a key contributor to economic growth, open its doors wider and share opportunities with the rest of the world. No matter how developed China becomes, it will never be a threat to other countries.

While a few voices in the media have expressed concerns that such chemistry would squeeze the room for India’s role in the international arena, such worries are ill-grounded. China and India are both large economies with strategic autonomy. Both countries should focus on the goals of national development and revitalisation, and seek common understanding and shelf differences. Efforts should be made to deepen the friendship between our two peoples, and strengthen exchanges in education, culture, tourism, etc.

As China kicks off its 15th five-year plan, the country will remain a key contributor to economic growth, open its doors wider and share opportunities with the rest of the world

A State without an Opposition

Gujarat’s voice in the Rajya Sabha will be routed entirely through a single party

STATE OF PLAY

Abhinav Deshpande

On June 21, when Congress leader Shaktisinh Gohil’s term in the Rajya Sabha ends, Gujarat will witness something it has not seen since the State’s formation in 1960: the absence of any representation from the Opposition of the State in the Upper House.

The vacancy itself is not unusual. But what makes this transition noteworthy is what it reveals about the rapidly changing nature of political competition in Gujarat rather than one party’s misfortune in a State that once supplied some of its most influential leaders. This transition is a product of electoral arithmetic rather than a sudden political shift, and a new and consequential chapter in the story of Gujarat where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been quietly rewriting its democratic architecture for three decades. Gujarat has been under BJP rule since 1995; such sustained dominance has translated into an overwhelming majority in the State Assembly, which in turn has determined representation in the Rajya Sabha.

No rebel voices

In the 2022 Assembly elections, the BJP won 156 of the 182 seats, marking its strongest performance in the State’s electoral history. This outcome came even after the Patidar agitation which had created expectations of a strong anti-incumbency wave. The Congress, which had seen the agitation as a potential opening, failed to convert sentiments into votes. No party crossed the 18-seat threshold required to claim official Op-



position status. The Congress ended up with just 17 seats and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won five seats. Today, Gujarat’s 182-member Assembly has 162 BJP legislators, 12 Congress MLAs, four from the AAP, and one from the Samajwadi Party. The combined Opposition, fragmented and below the recognition threshold, thus cannot nominate a single Rajya Sabha candidate.

The seat vacated by Mr. Gohil will go to the BJP, as will the other three seats which are to be vacant at the same time. Mr. Gohil, in his term at the Upper House, filed a breach of privilege notice against Union Minister Piyush Goyal for allegedly violating rules of procedure; challenged amendments to cooperative bank governance; and raised Gujarat’s unresolved concerns from the Opposition benches. But now, all 11 Rajya Sabha seats from Gujarat will belong to one party, completing its sweep of the State’s Upper House representation.

A Congress leader from the State opined that the party failed to establish a coherent narrative capable of competing with the BJP’s vision of governance and identity, but argued that the ruling party’s “arrogance” is reflected in its belief that there is effectively no Congress left. He went on to add, “what does Gujarat gain from a weakened or absent Opposition? Who will speak for the farmers of Gujarat, and who will raise the

voice of ordinary citizens if there is no strong countervailing force in the system?”

When Mr. Gohil walks out, the only Opposition voice left in Parliament from Gujarat will be Geniben Thakor, the MP from Banaskantha who in 2024 ended a 10-year Lok Sabha drought for the Opposition by winning one of 26 seats. One Lok Sabha MP. Zero Rajya Sabha MPs. This is the Opposition in Gujarat today.

Fight to be the Opposition

In this vacuum, the AAP harbours ambitions of displacing the Congress as the principal Opposition force in the State. With five Assembly seats and a 12.91% vote share in 2022, the AAP has positioned itself as the inheritor of the anti-BJP vote that the grand old party has steadily bled.

Yet the AAP’s Gujarat story remains aspirational. Its single-digit MLA count is a fraction of what is needed to mount a legislative challenge. The Congress retains 12 MLAs and the institutional weight of a party that has governed the State for decades. The two are now locked in a peculiar sub-competition, not for power, but for the right to be recognised as the Opposition, while the BJP governs without meaningful scrutiny from any quarter. This internal contest has, if anything, only deepened the ruling party’s structural advantage.

The BJP’s dominance in Gujarat is a political fact, but the absence of an Opposition raises difficult questions. What does it mean when a major State’s voice in the Upper House is routed entirely through a single party, with no effective counterweight from within? The answers extend beyond partisan loyalties.

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One in every 3 faculty posts vacant in top technical institutes

While the Education Ministry said recruitments were happening across Centrally Funded Technical Institutes, RTI data show 35.2% of posts remain vacant

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Nivedha M.

Over 15 lakh students appeared for the high-stakes Joint Entrance Examination this year to secure a seat in the country’s premier technical institutions. The competition has always been gruelling, particularly for the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), with roughly 80 students competing for every undergraduate seat in the 23 IITs.

However, data on vacant teaching positions in these institutes, obtained by *The Hindu* through the Right to Information (RTI) Act, raise questions on whether the students who surmount extraordinary challenges to get admitted receive the quality of education they deserve.

The Hindu’s request filed under the RTI Act to the Ministry of Education (MoE) in January, seeking details on vacancies in all Central Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs), was forwarded to individual institutions, of which only 79 of the 122 Centrally Funded Technical Institutes (CFTIs) responded. These included 20 IITs, 19 National Institutes of Technology (NITs), 18 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), 17 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), and five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (Chart 1).

A total of 7,132 of the 20,279 sanctioned faculty positions were vacant in these 79 institutions, which is 35.2%, or roughly one in every three posts. Sixteen institutions had more than 50% of their posts vacant, while another 14 had vacancies exceeding 40%.

Of the 20 IITs, nine reported vacancies exceeding 35% (Chart 2). The share of vacant posts exceeded 50% in IIT Kharagpur. The institute has a sanctioned strength of 1,600 teaching posts – the highest among the 20 IITs; 824 of these remained vacant. 35% of the 11,019

sanctioned posts in all 20 IITs were vacant.

A similar analysis for 19 of the 31 NITs that provided the data shows that four had vacancies exceeding 40% (Chart 3). As per the data, 27.9% of 5,432 posts in these 19 NITs have not been filled. With over 129 of the 187 posts (68%) remaining vacant, NIT Andhra Pradesh accounted for the highest share of vacancies. More than 40% of the sanctioned posts were vacant in NIT Srinagar, NIT Sikkim and NIT Tiruchirappalli, which had the highest with 600 sanctioned posts.

According to a reply given in Parliament by the MoE last year, the sanctioning of faculty posts for NITs and IITs is a dynamic process, subject to periodic review in accordance with institutional requirements and a faculty-to-student ratio of 1:12 for NITs and 1:10 for IITs.

In 18 of the 21 IIMs that provided data, 32.3% of 1,741 sanctioned posts were vacant. Four IIMs reported vacancies exceeding 50% (Chart 4). IIM Mumbai had 59% of its posts vacant, with 77 of 130 vacancies unfilled.

IIITs reported the highest percentage of vacancies although their sanctioned posts were relatively low. A total of 665 (53.5%) of the 1,225 posts in 17 of the 25 IIITs that provided data were vacant. Vacancies exceeded 50% in eight of them (Chart 5). In five of the seven IISERs that provided data, 276 of the 862 posts were lying vacant.

In another reply to the Lok Sabha earlier this year, the MoE, while not furnishing the number of vacancies, said that “occurrence of vacancies and filling thereof is a continuous process”. It further said that all CHEIs were exhorted to fill vacancies in September 2022 and later in October 2025 under a “Mission Mode” recruitment drive. It said that, as of January 24, 2026, a total of 17,878 faculty positions has been filled across all CHEIs under this “Mission Mode”.

Nivedha M. interned with The Hindu

Faculty crunch

Data for the charts were obtained through requests under the Right to Information Act. The responses were received between January and March, 2026



In Charts 2,3,4 and 5, the length of the bars show the % of posts that are vacant, while the numbers outside the bars show the total sanctioned faculty posts in the respective institutions

Chart 2: Share of vacant posts in 20 of the 23 IITs which provided the data (%)

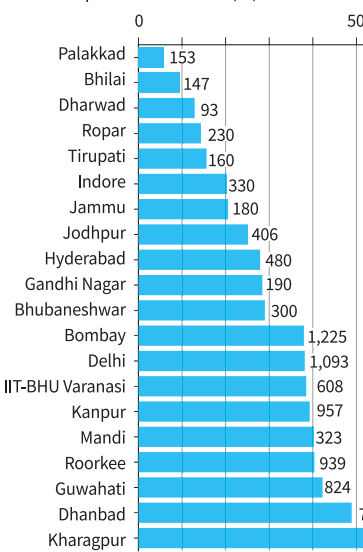


Chart 3: Share of vacant posts in 19 of the 31 NITs which provided the data (in %)

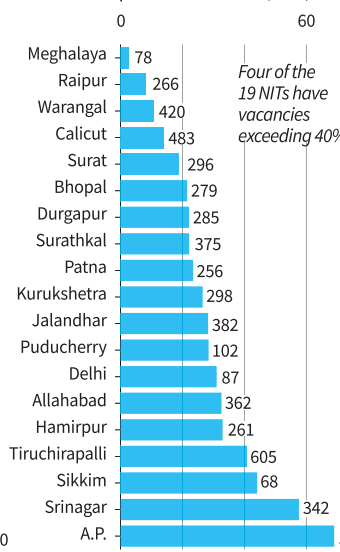


Chart 4: Share of vacant posts in 18 of the 21 IIMs which provided the data (in %)

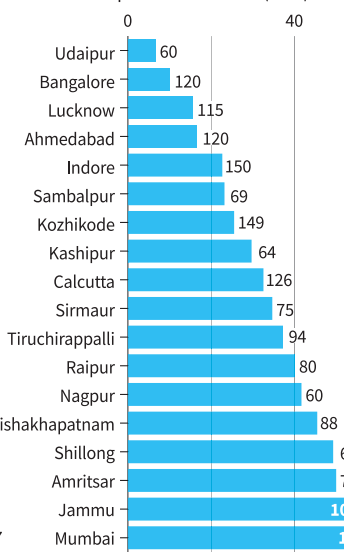


Chart 5: Share of vacant posts in 17 of the 25 IIITs which provided data (in %)

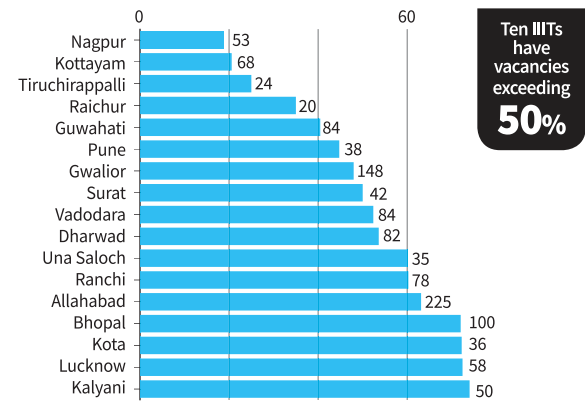
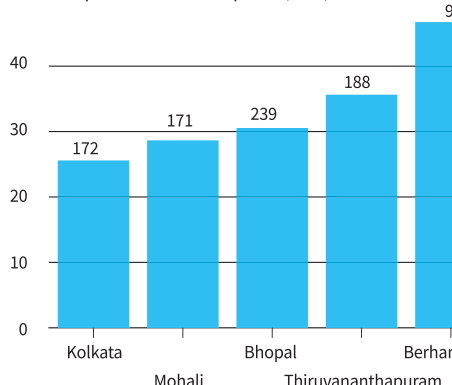


Chart 6: Share of vacant posts in five of the eight IISERs which responded to data requests (in %)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 10, 1976

Pollution monitoring stations on rivers

Trivandrum, June 9: Monitoring stations are proposed to be set up by the Kerala State Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution at representative sites in the major rivers of the State which are subject to massive pollution. Disclosing this in a talk with newsmen here to-day, Mr. N.S. Bhairavan, Board Chairman, said information gathered by the monitoring stations would help devise suitable control programmes for keeping the rivers clean.

Mr. Bhairavan said the Board would be keeping a constant watch on the quality of the effluents discharged by the industries to ensure that they always conformed to the prescribed standards. There would be regular inspection of effluent treatment installations to see that they were maintained and operated efficiently. Regular sampling and analysis of the effluents would also be done.

Mr. Bhairavan said the Board was determined to be in full and effective control of water pollution problems in the State in two years at the most. He said most of the industries had responded to the Board’s directions promptly and in a big way and achieved substantial progress in implementing a time-bound programme which, when completed, would render their effluents harmless. Gwalior Rayons (Calicut) had developed a new method for reducing the colour of the effluent using calcium hypochlorate. The Cochin division of FACT had, as an immediate measure, started neutralising the effluent, the sulphuric acid which was causing havoc to the paddy crop on the sides of the Chitrapuzha river and to the fish of the river.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 10, 1926

Heat wave in Delhi

Delhi, June 9: Delhi is in the grip of a heat wave. Early strong sun, oppressive heat and dusty wind are the order of the day. Khas khaska tatti and electric fan are poor methods of bringing down the temperature. The extent of heat is so very great that asphalt layer of road showed marks of softening in Chandni Chowk. These conditions have, as usual, the direct effect on health of infants and children. A higher mortality is reported amongst them during the last few days, and a few deaths are reported among the grown up.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Compensation for families of employees killed in plant blast

1.72 in ₹ crore. Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan announced compensation for the families of each regular employee killed in the Vizag Steel Plant explosion. Contract staff families will receive ₹45.75 lakh each, while severely injured workers get ₹10 lakh. PTI

FPI investment in G-secs under FAR after tax exemption

8,794 in ₹ crore. Foreign portfolio investors have invested in government securities under the Fully Accessible Route after the government exempted them from income tax on interest income and capital gains arising from these bonds. PTI

Record high number of engineering student enrollments in T.N.

3.02 in lakh. This is the highest recorded number of students enrolled in Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions 2026, according to the Directorate of Technical Education. This surpasses the previous record of 3,01,026 set in 2025. PTI

People displaced by powerful earthquake in Philippines

32,000 A 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Philippines on Monday. Waves up to 1.4 metres above tide level were measured in the Philippines, while smaller waves washed ashore in Indonesia, Palau and southern Japan. AP

Number of people killed in the cholera outbreak in Nigeria

74 More than 7,850 people have been infected in a cholera outbreak that began in early May in Nigeria's northeastern Borno state. Médecins Sans Frontières said infections are rising sharply each day across 14 local government areas. REUTERS
COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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A new phase in India-Nepal relations

Nepal PM indicated that the boundary dispute is not one-sided and should be resolved through diplomatic channels; his remarks, amid objections over trade and pilgrimage routes and shifting political tone in Kathmandu, suggest a cautious move towards a more rational approach in India-Nepal relations

WORLD INSIGHT

K.V. Rajan
Atul K. Thakur

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah “Balen” limited his intervention in a parliamentary discussion on the boundary dispute between India and Nepal over Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura (areas claimed by both countries) on May 31 to a few minutes. He seemed to suggest that the issue was not one-sided.

“What surprised me after becoming Prime Minister is that it is not only India that is accused of encroaching Nepalese land. In some places, Nepal may also be occupying territory claimed by India. Both countries should examine the facts objectively and resolve the matter amicably as friends.”

This was predictably greeted with a storm of protests within and outside Nepal’s Parliament, despite the Prime Minister’s reiteration that Nepal and India were working towards resolving the boundary issue through diplomatic channels.

Border dispute response

Nepal has also objected to the resumption of India-China trade through the Lipulekh Pass. Mr. Shah shared that the diplomatic note sent by Nepal on this matter received a positive response from India, and both sides have agreed to address the issue through dialogue. Earlier, Nepal’s Foreign Ministry reiterated its commitment to resolving the boundary issue through diplomatic means. The statement came after India rejected Nepal’s objection to the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra route through Lipulekh Pass, describing Kathmandu’s territorial claim as ‘unjustified’ and “influenced by ‘unilateral artificial enlargement’.”

However, the latest developments suggest a more rational approach, which hopefully discards the possibility of the dispute becoming a lasting bilateral irritant and signals a fresh beginning. It is



GETTY IMAGES

still early days, and the new government’s thoughts in Kathmandu on resetting relations with India are not yet clear.

Shifting political tone

What is already clear is that Nepal’s governance is firmly in the hands of a young generation with its eye on the future rather than the past, determined to free the country from the chains of corruption, nepotism, and ideology – and to prioritise social and economic issues.

Objections raised over trade and religious tourism through areas claimed by Nepal, the postponement of the Indian Foreign Secretary’s visit to Nepal to discuss the Prime Minister’s India visit and the disinclination of Mr. Shah to break protocol to receive India’s Foreign Secretary, all reflect an emerging stance that India will be treated on par with other countries, rather than being given the easy access to top leadership it has traditionally enjoyed under the much-discussed “special relationship.” These may have injected jarring notes in the trajectory of ties, but India appears to have taken them in stride.

Nepalese observers have questioned the wisdom of ignoring India’s crucial importance to Nepal’s present and future well-being. Likely, the bilateral ambience will not be held prisoner to protocol or to

assertions of irrational nationalism or *de facto* inequality.

Diplomatic path ahead

The sobering thought is that discussions between diplomats and experts may not yield a solution, and the fact that despite both sides emphasising economic cooperation as the core of bilateral ties, the boundary issue cannot be pushed to the back burner indefinitely.

Based on publicly available information, British-era data will be self-contradictory, as British India updated its maps with more recent technology compared to the East India days. The suggestion by Mr. Shah that China and the U.K. may also need to be consulted for a long-term solution may, however, create further complications and delays.

The Chinese position, taken by President Xi Jinping, was that Nepal should sort out the border issue with India. This remains the most rational advice, and it is hoped that both China and Nepal will adhere to this position.

What is important is to avoid an unending period of so called diplomatic and expert-level discussions which will permit the dispute to become a major irritant, given the positions taken by Nepal (which has even printed its version of the disputed map on its currency notes) and

India (which has followed the boundary delineation it inherited from the British in 1947 and has serious security interests in maintaining the *status quo*).

What might be a better option would be for both countries to draw inspiration and ideas from (a) their centuries-old continuum of multifaceted linkages, (b) the open border tradition which has been in existence over more than 1,700 km and was followed even in the disputed area before the India-China war in 1962, and (c) the strong, mutually trusting institutional relationship between the Indian and Nepalese Army which could facilitate and come in useful to sustain a mutually acceptable practical solution.

This, however, will require a shift in mindset on both sides: a determination not to permit differences on boundary delineation to cloud a unique relationship, and a recognition that the so-called encroachment of territory is a mutual phenomenon that is not a result of aggressive territorial assertion and need not be a cause for mutual tension.

The changes in Nepal and the Prime Minister’s statement offer an opportunity that India, too, should respect and seize. The last Indian Prime Minister who had the vision and courage to step beyond conventional diplomatic approaches to such problems with Nepal was Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears to have not only vision and courage but also the necessary political self-confidence in selling difficult policies and decisions to the nation, overriding the usual bureaucratic and inevitable nationalistic political posturing. Rabi Lamichhane, President of Nepal’s ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party and Nepal’s Foreign Affairs Minister Shishir Khanal visited India recently to engage in political and diplomatic meetings. The timing of their visits was crucially important

It is time for India and Nepal to move towards a more enlightened bilateral relationship to build a model sustainable partnership.
(K. V. Rajan is former Indian Ambassador to Nepal and Atul K. Thakur is a policy professional. Views are personal.)

THE GIST

The boundary dispute over Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura continues to strain India-Nepal ties, with both sides maintaining competing territorial claims and relying on historical maps and inherited boundary lines.

Recent developments reflect shifting diplomatic signals, with both countries emphasising dialogue and expert-level engagement, though differences over trade routes, protocol, and sovereignty remain unresolved.

Inclusion without abolition in China’s *hukou* system

Hukou reform pushes inclusion of migrants in public services while retaining structural controls

Anand P. Krishnan

China’s State Council, on May 22, issued guidelines to ‘promote basic public services at people’s place of residence,’ regardless of *hukou*, or residence registration status. These guidelines direct local governments – more specifically, megacity administrations – to improve and enhance their delivery measures in the domains of education, public rental housing, social and medical insurance, and a range of social assistance measures for the entire resident population within their administrative jurisdictions.

Hukou reforms since 2014

Hukou is an instrument of social control by the ruling party-state, originating in the 1950s, that distinguishes people as belonging to rural and urban areas based on the official registration of their place of residence. In the Mao era, the system was intended to limit internal migration and

manage resource allocation under the prioritisation of rural development. The economic reforms after 1978 loosened restrictions to allow labour mobility to industrial regions and urban centres, while retaining the institution of *Hukou*. It functions as an internal passport, as access to social services and government provisions is tied to residential registration. From 2014 onwards, the government has been pushing incremental reforms to the system to align with national urbanisation plans and gradually equalise social benefits for migrants and locals, beginning with the conversion of rural to urban *hukous* in smaller cities. While nationwide implementation has progressed gradually, megacities have remained outside the purview until now.

The May 22 guidelines build on the decisions of the Third Plenum of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2024, which directed the removal of restrictions on access to social insurance at the place of

employment. This was further reiterated in a five-year people-centered urbanisation action plan instituted by the State Council in July 2024 to raise the permanent urban residents from 66.16% (932.67 million) in 2023 to nearly 70% (estimated around 987 million) by 2029.

According to China’s National Bureau of Statistics, at the end of 2025, the country’s ‘floating population’ (*liudong renkou*) or rural migrants, stood at around 358 million, making up 25% of the population. Along with demographic concerns, the Central government is also guided by the economic imperative of increasing domestic consumption and hastening efforts to create a national unified market with the free flow of capital and talent. This also intersects with efforts to incentivise the mobility of young talent into frontier regions such as Xinjiang to support regional development.

The party-state, over the last three years, has widely promoted the concept of ‘investing in people’. Now included in the

new 15th Five-Year Plan, the concept is a new development orientation to raise knowledge and skills to transform ‘human resources into human capital’ and move from ‘a demographic dividend’ to a ‘talent dividend’. People-centred urbanisation, through the inclusion of long-term residents by relaxing household registration rules, is a critical component of this framework.

Another driver is the growth of flexible and new forms of employment – shorthand for gig and platform workers – who are over 200 million, out of the country’s total 740 million workforce.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Central government, in conjunction with the official trade union, has sought to create a comprehensive national policy framework covering labour protection and political supervision. Taken together with frequent cases of labour discontent, the party-state views gig and platform workers as a key labour constituency that needs to be regulated and politically incorporated.

Persisting structural issues

Interestingly, the word *hukou* itself is only mentioned once in the latest guidelines. Since 2014, with the onset of reforms, efforts have been made to replace it with concepts like “permanent resident population” (*changzhu renkou*) and “place of actual residence” (*changzhu di*) to build inclusivity. However, structural constraints continue to constrain the reform measures.

Local governments bear responsibility for delivering welfare and public services, with financing largely dependent on fiscal transfers from the Central government. The real estate sector remains unstable, thus affecting city governments’ budgets. While the Central government has indicated resource transfers and compensations to migrant-receiving cities, there are no commitments to new spending. The guidelines do not address or show a clear intent to resolve structural gaps. For instance, differing social insurance standards between well-off coastal cities and inland provinces (migrant-sending regions) mean that migrant workers’ monthly contributions are at higher rates, but they receive lower benefits. Similarly, migrants who receive medical treatment in major cities but are enrolled in poorer regions will still receive lower reimbursements and face lower coverage limits. Further, the guidelines do not compel employers in the gig economy to strictly enroll workers in welfare schemes. In all, much room is left for the use of discretion by local administrations.

This recalibration only goes to show that the *hukou* system continues to remain in place and that there are no significant changes to the *status quo* for migrant labour.

(Anand P. Krishnan is a Fellow at the Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi NCR, and Assistant Editor of the journal, China Report)

BUILDING BLOCKS

How Babbage automated calculations with simple machines

Slow, error-prone calculations by hand were unavoidable in the early 19th century, yet even small mistakes could ruin the designs for buildings and the journeys of ships; Charles Babbage’s ingenious machines were much more accurate, faster, and revolutionary

Vasudevan Mukunth

Modern computing is often effortless. You pick up a calculator or open the calculator app on your phone, and you are on your way in seconds. But getting here took humans several centuries from when they first tried to speed up computing. One particularly important passage in this history involved the English mathematician Charles Babbage, who found a way to speed up calculations using the movement of simple machines, creating the first ancestors of the modern computer.

What motivated Babbage?

If you had to calculate something in the early 19th century, you had to do it entirely by hand. Entire governments, navigators, astronomers, and engineers – all depended on complicated mathematical tables produced by teams of clerks, known at the time as ‘computers’, who worked slowly and often made mistakes.

In 1821, Babbage was frustrated and reportedly said he wished calculations could happen “by steam”. Babbage went on to develop the difference engine, a large mechanical calculator designed to compute mathematical tables using a method called finite differences.

The machine consisted of columns of brass wheels, each engraved with the digits from 0 to 9. The wheels physically added value as they were rotated using a hand crank and gears. The machine considerably reduced the number of mistakes. The difference engine was thus a specialised calculator that was fast and efficient at one class of problems.

What were mathematical tables?

The mathematical table was a pre-computed table of numbers that experts could refer to repeatedly in their practice. For instance, before digital calculators, an engineer would often convert multiplication into an addition problem using logarithms. So 247 x 83 could be solved by looking up the logarithms of both numbers, adding them, then converting back to the inverse value.

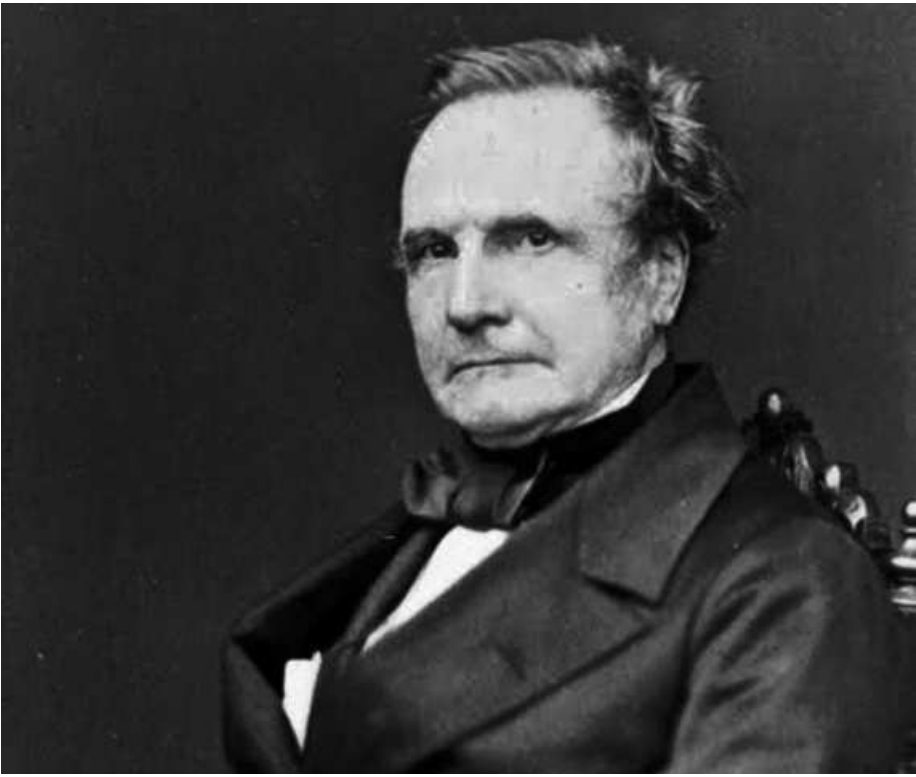
Similarly, the tables also provided the values of trigonometric functions (used in architecture and civil engineering), astronomical tables (to predict the positions of celestial bodies), actuarial tables (for insurance and taxation), and polynomial tables (values of complicated functions used in science).

The tables often repeatedly evaluated the values of common functions at regular intervals. For example, if f(x) = x³, then the tables would provide the values of f(x) at x = 1, 2, 3, 4, ..., i.e. 1, 8, 27, 64, ... Similarly, a table would show the values of a trigonometric sine function for every tenth of a degree: 10°, 10.1°, 10.2°, ... corresponding to 0.1736, 0.1754, 0.1771, ...

Aside from computers making mistakes during the calculation itself, inaccuracies also crept up during copying and typesetting. And a single mistake could be ruinous.

What is the method of finite differences?

The method of finite differences simplifies many of these operations to simpler



Charles Babbage.

problems, which the difference engine could then automate.

Say a table needs to evaluate the function f(x) = x². So for x = 1, 2, 3, ..., f(x) = 1, 4, 9, ... Now look at the differences between successive values: 3 (4 - 1), 5 (9 - 4), 7 (16 - 9), 9 (25 - 16), ... Then look at the second differences, i.e., the difference between the differences: 2 (5 - 3), 2 (7 - 5), 2 (9 - 7), ...

That the second difference is a constant implies the whole table can be generated using just addition.

The difference engine started with three numbers loaded into separate columns of wheels: the starting value, 1; the first difference, 3; and the second difference, 2. When you crank the wheels, they add the second difference to the first difference: 3 + 2 = 5, and then the updated first difference to the current value: 1 + 5 = 6.

At the end of turn 1:
• Updated first difference: 5
• Updated value: 4
And at the end of turn 2:
• Updated first difference: 5 + 2 = 7
• Updated value: 4 + 5 = 9
And at the end of turn 3:
• Updated first difference: 7 + 2 = 9
• Updated value: 9 + 7 = 16
And so on. Thus the difference engine produced: 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, ...

How did the wheels ‘do’ all this?

Imagine one vertical column of wheels representing a decimal number: the top wheel displays the thousands, the second wheel the hundreds, the third wheel the tens, and the fourth wheel the ones. Each wheel has the digits 0-9 engraved on its edge.

Suppose the machine stored the number 247. The wheels would be positioned so that the thousands wheel points to 0, the hundreds wheel points to 2, the tens wheel points to 4, and the ones wheel points to 7.

To add numbers, the machine would physically rotate the wheels. Suppose you want to perform the operation 247 + 5.

When cranked the gears, they would turn the ones wheel forward by five positions: 7, 8, 9, 0, 1, 2. Since going from 9 to 0 means crossing a decimal boundary, the

analytical engine has to carry the 1 – which it does using a special mechanism that nudges the tens wheel forward one step: from 4 to 5.

So the machine displays 252.

What happened to the difference engine?

Babbage never finished building a full-scale version of his Difference Engine No. 1. In 1991, the Science Museum in London built a machine it dubbed ‘Difference Engine No. 2’ based on Babbage’s drawings in 1846-1849. It weighed five tonnes, contained 8,000 parts, and worked correctly, vindicating Babbage’s intuition.

That said, the reasons work on Difference Engine No. 1 stalled are pertinent. Foremost, Babbage fell out with his chief engineer Joseph Clement over Clement’s compensation and who owned the tools and drawings. The government also cut off funding in 1842, by when Babbage had spent more than GBP 17,000, because it believed there was no end in sight to his expenses and because, from 1834 onwards, Babbage had been paying more attention to a new device called the analytical engine.

What is the analytical engine?

It was conceived as a general purpose programmable machine – the direct ancestor of the modern computer. It had four components: the mill (like the modern CPU), which performed basic mathematical operations like addition and subtraction; the store (memory), capable of holding up to 1,000 numbers each 50 digits long on wheels; the reader (input), consisting of punched cards then used in Jacquard looms of the textile industry; and the printer (output), a mechanism to automatically stamp the results out on metal plates.

The analytical engine was not just advanced for its time: it was practically revolutionary because it was (i) programmable – it could receive instructions and solve different problems – and (ii) it had conditional branching, meaning it could make logical decisions like “do A if B”. It could also repeat particular steps.

What did the punched cards do?

In a Jacquard loom, users would punch holes into cards to control the weaving pattern. One specific pattern of holes which threads to raise or lower, for example. So if Babbage wanted to calculate (7 + 5) x 3, he would load the numbers into the store – as in the difference engine – and then place cards in the machine with these instructions:

- Put 7 in storage location A
- Put 5 in storage location B
- Put 3 in storage location C

Then, another sequence of punched cards would instruct the mill:

- Add A and B
- Store result in D

Then the machine would compute:

7 + 5 = 12

Now D = 12.

Yet another set of punched cards might say:

- Multiply D by C
- Store result in E

So the analytical engine would compute:

12 x 3 = 36

A final card would say ‘Print E’, so the engine would stamp out:

36

The same analytical engine could solve a different problem; Babbage just had to change the order of the punched cards.

More advanced sequences of cards could also instruct the analytical engine to repeat some operation multiple times (looping) and execute conditional branching. For example, to perform division by repeated subtraction, the analytical engine would have to subtract the divisor from the number, and repeat that operation if the result is positive or stop if the result is negative.

(Aside: The German-American inventor Herman Hollerith also used punched cards to automate the U.S. Census in the 1890s and founded the company that was a piece of what would become IBM. However, there is no evidence he was inspired by Babbage’s choice.)

What happened to the analytical engine?

All this said, Babbage could not complete a full-scale analytical engine either. Due to his experiences with the Difference Engine No. 1, the analytical engine never attracted any serious funding. In fact, Babbage spent the rest of his life without any state support for his designs.

His efforts were not for nothing, however. His collaborator Ada Lovelace recognised an idea that most of her contemporaries missed: if a machine could manipulate numbers, and if those numbers could represent other data-types like letters, musical notes or images, the analytical engine could effectively be a universal symbol processor. This is like how today Spotify represents music as numbers, Photoshop represents colours as numbers, large language models represent words as numbers, and so on.

Babbage’s designs were the ancestors of modern computers in the same way the first cells are ancestors of modern humans: they were important foundations that proved something was possible but there are also significant differences between them. Babbage helped the world realise that machines could perform different mathematical functions using the same hardware.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

“Welcome back. How was your trip to Goa?”

“Oh, it was so tiresome. I couldn’t believe the amount of.....”

“.....tiresome or tiring?”

“What’s the difference between the two?”

“When you say that something is tiresome, it means that it is annoying, tedious, or troublesome.”

“Annoying or troublesome, eh? Sounds like Sujatha to me!”

“Why do you always pick on Sujatha? Here’s an example with ‘tiresome’.

I find most of Dravid’s jokes tiresome.”

“You are not the only one, I can assure you. How about this example?

I went to the club yesterday and the manager told me that he had misplaced my application form. So I had to go through the tiresome process of filling out another one.”

“That’s a good example. My next door neighbour is trying to sell his car. He says that it’s tiresome business.”

“I am sure it is these days. But tell me, what about ‘tiring’? Is it related to ‘tired’?”

“It certainly is. When you say that something is ‘tiring’ it means it is exhausting. For example, being the host of a television programme can be very tiring.”

“My friend asked me to go through his assignment. It was tiring. I can now appreciate the amount of work that teachers have to put in while grading assignments.”

“So, was your trip ‘tiresome’ or ‘tiring’?”

“Tiring, I guess. Met a lot of interesting people, though. The people at the hotel were very friendly, specially the waiters.”

“Especially.”

“What?”

“The people were friendly, especially the waiters.”

“What’s the difference between ‘specially’ and ‘especially’?”

“Well, one normally uses the word, ‘specially’ when one has a single purpose in mind.”

“In other words, when something is done for a particular purpose. Is that what you mean?”

“That’s right! You have a single purpose in mind.”

“When do you use ‘especially’ then?”

“It is normally used when you want to mean ‘particularly’. For example, Kodaikanal is crowded, especially during the summer.”

“The students in our class, especially the girls, are very hard working.”

“Girls in general tend to work much harder than boys.”

“I know. The girls in my class are always surfing the Net trying to find new material. Talking about the Net, I came across a search engine called “Google”. Does the word ‘google’ mean anything?...”

“...I don’t know about the word ‘google’, but I came across the word ‘googol’ recently.”

“Googol! What does it mean?”

“I understand it is a term used in mathematics. It means ten to the power of hundred.”

“In other words, a ‘googol’ is ten followed by a hundred zeros?”

“I guess you could say that. Did you know that a nine-year-old boy invented the word. It was coined by the nine year old nephew of a mathematician named Milton Sirota.”

“The word sure sounds like something that a kid would come up with.”
Published in The Hindu on November 28, 2000

Word of the day

Transient:

lasting for only a short time

Synonyms: temporary, brief, passing

Usage: *The delay in bus service was transient*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/transient

International Phonetic Alphabet: /trænziant/

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

THE DAILY QUIZ

The 2026 French Open was a Grand Slam tennis tournament held at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France, from May 24 to June 7. A quiz on the tournament

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

Let’s start with an easy question. Alexander Zverev defeated which Italian player in five sets for his first major title in his fourth final?

QUESTION 2

Zverev, upon winning the final, became the first German to win a men’s major singles championship since _____ in 1996. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

Starting at the 2026 French Open, the Grand Slams permitted the use of this object, allowing players access to a broader range of performance-related information during competition. What is it?

QUESTION 4

Who among the champions from last year successfully defended their titles?

QUESTION 5

Which male tennis player, who was also the 2015 champion, competed in his 21st and final appearance at Roland-Garros in 2026?



Visual Question:

Identify this player. What is the feat she achieved in this edition?

Questions and Answers in the previous day’s daily quiz:

1. Which nineteenth-century movement preceded Birsa’s uprising and influenced the political climate in Chotanagpur? **Ans: The Sardari Larai (Sardar Movement)**

The Munda uprising led by Birsa Munda at the turn of the twentieth century is popularly known by what term, meaning “Great Tumult”? **Ans: Ulgulan**

What slogan associated with Birsa Munda called for the end of British rule? **Ans: “Abua Raj ete jana, Maharani raj tundu jana” (“Let our rule come, let**

the Queen’s rule go”)

Birsa Munda’s religious teachings led to the emergence of a distinct faith community known by what name? **Ans: Birsait**

Birsa Munda died in Ranchi Jail in 1900. What was the official cause of death recorded by the British authorities? **Ans: Cholera**

Visual: This famous photograph of Birsa Munda was reproduced in which pioneering ethnographic work by Sarat Chandra Roy? **Ans: The Mundas and Their Country (1912)**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Jose Jogi | Lalchand Bhutani | Sunil Madhavan | C. Saravanan

Govt.'s claims have not translated into tangible gains, says Congress

Opposition party releases 75-page 'promise versus reality' document to mark the second year of third term of Modi govt.; Rahul Gandhi says poor are paying a price for 12 years of 'compromised foreign policy and anti-poor economic policies'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Releasing a 75-page document titled *Prachaar* versus *hisaab* to mark the second year of the third term of the Narendra Modi government, the Congress on Tuesday said the Centre's claims on employment, economic growth, democracy, infrastructure, and education have not translated into tangible gains for citizens.

In a post on social media platform X, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi alleged that 12 years of "anti-poor economic policies and a compromised foreign policy" had pushed the country into a situation where millions of poor families and women had been forced towards the "poisonous smoke of fire-wood stoves".



"The number of subsidized cylinders under the Ujjwala scheme has been reduced from 9 to 4. On top of that, the price of domestic LPG cylinders has been increased by ₹89 in the last 3 months – meaning, first hike the prices, then cut the subsidy, and snuff out the poor's hearth," Mr. Gandhi said.

"The lifeline of migrant workers, the 5 kg cylinder, has also been made ₹323 more expensive – what will they earn, what will they eat, and what will they save? Arranging debt waivers worth millions of

crores for billionaire friends and passing the bill of your failures onto the poor – this is Modi's loot model," he said.

The document, prepared by the All-India Congress Committee's research department, was released by its chairman Rajeev Gowda and his colleague Amitabh Dubey.

The past 12 years had been characterised by "big announcements, grand statements, and headlines", but little meaningful change in people's lives, Mr. Gowda said.

"Under Prime Minister

Modi, the rupee is the worst performing currency," Mr. Gowda said, adding, "Over the last 12 years, promises have been accompanied by big announcements, grand statements, and headlines. But the reality is that none of those headlines actually translate into anything that is meaningfully transforming the lives of the people."

On unemployment

"Four out of 10 graduates remain unemployed," he said, claiming that the government had failed to generate adequate employment. Urban youth unemployment stood at 18.4%, and only 7% of unemployed graduates had secured a permanent salaried job within a year, Mr. Gowda said.

On women's participation in the workforce, Mr. Gowda said India's ranking in the Global Gender Gap

Index had fallen from 108 to 131. Referring to the MSME sector, he said nearly 40,000 enterprises had shut down in the previous financial year.

Mr. Gowda alleged that "6.5 crore voters have been deleted across the country", adding, "We have a situation where our democracy is deeply flawed, and this is a real tragedy for every citizen of India."

Mr. Dubey criticised the government on inflation, claiming that the prices of LPG, petrol, diesel, milk, and pulses had increased sharply since 2014.

"Narendra Modi had claimed that India would become the world's third largest economy and reach a \$5 trillion economy by 2024. But the reality today is that the economy has fallen below \$4 trillion, and India has slipped to the sixth largest economy," Mr. Dubey said.

Mamata and Sonia hold talks on strategy, discuss alliance for future polls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the INDIA bloc meeting, Trinamool Congress national president Mamata Banerjee met senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi at her 10 Janpath residence on Tuesday.

Ms. Banerjee had a long conversation with Ms. Gandhi at the INDIA bloc meeting as well.

Sources said that on Tuesday, the two discussed strategies for the future, with the possibility of an alliance for the 2029 Lok Sabha election on the cards. Ms. Banerjee who reached Delhi for the INDIA meeting, had decided to stay back for another day, to meet Ms. Gandhi. The Congress shared pictures of the bonhomie between the two leaders. This was the first closed-door meeting between Ms. Banerjee and Ms. Gandhi after the Trinamool's defeat in the polls, and the al-



Mamata Banerjee departs from the residence of AICC chairperson Sonia Gandhi after a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

leged attacks on party workers and MP Abhishek Banerjee.

Coinciding with her meeting with Ms. Gandhi, the West Bengal CID conducted searches at the Trinamool Congress headquarters and Ms. Banerjee's residence. The party's newly appointed joint secretary, Derek O'Brien, in a post on X, said it was part of political vendetta by the government ruling the Centre and State. "EXACTLY AT THE

SAME TIME as @AITCofficial Chairperson @MamataOfficial was having a meeting today in Delhi with Mrs Sonia Gandhi, CID was forcefully trying to enter the AITC party HQ adjoining residence in Kolkata. First loot vote, now loot files of a political rival. Democracy ? Main entrance overloaded with CRPF," he posted.

Ms. Banerjee met former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal.

New law is needed to tackle AI, says Vaishnaw

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The information technology law was framed much before the rapid emergence of AI, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Tuesday, adding that he believes a new legal framework may be required to deal with the changing landscape.

Mr. Vaishnaw said discussions were on with the industry and that the government would seek to strike a balance between innovation and regulation.

Asked whether India will look at a dedicated AI law or continue to address it through amendments to the IT Act, he said the issue was a complex one.

"It's a very complex topic. Certain things have been done under the IT Act framework, but I do think that there is a requirement for a new law because the world of AI is very different from the world when the IT Act was enacted in 2000."

"We are discussing with the industry...as always, our objective and approach will be to balance innovation and regulation in a manner that innovation keeps happening, while our citizens remain safe," he said.

Cong. attacks Centre over 'cut in Ujjwala scheme LPG refills'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused the Narendra Modi government of undermining its flagship welfare schemes, citing a reduction in the number of subsidised Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder refills provided under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) to four.

The decision exposed the gap between the government's promises and its delivery on them, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on social media platform X.

The government had steadily diluted the benefits promised under the scheme, which was launched in 2016 with the stated objective of providing relief to women from the health hazards of traditional cooking fuels, Mr. Kharge said.

"2016: Modi ji claimed that the Ujjwala Yojana would liberate women from the smoke of wood-burning stoves. There was a promise of 12 subsidized cylinders a year. However, last year, that number was reduced from 12 to 9. 2026: Now, the number of subsidized cylinders has been further cut from 9 to just 4. In short, a promise of 12,



Mallikarjun Kharge

but an intention of giving only 4," the Congress president said in his post.

Official data

Repeated increases in LPG prices had made refills unaffordable for a large number of beneficiaries, the Congress leader alleged. Citing official data, he claimed that 5.56 crore Ujjwala beneficiaries were unable to afford cylinder refills, and were being forced to return to traditional cooking methods.

"The Modi government sheds crocodile tears for women while being intoxicated by power," Mr. Kharge said, adding that the government had first weakened employment guarantees under the erstwhile Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), and was now curtailing welfare support for poor households.

Police arrest ex-Trinamool MLA in 2018 extortion case

Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

Sabyasachi Dutta, former Trinamool Congress MLA and the first Mayor of the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, was arrested on Monday night for allegedly extorting over ₹1.05 crore from a Salt Lake-based businessman in 2018.

According to the officials, a team from Bidhannagar North police station immediately conducted a search operation at Mr. Dutta's residence in Rajarhat, as per the complaint lodged by the businessman Mahdusudan Chakraborty. He was later arrested.

"We have gathered some evidence against him during the raid. Mr. Chakraborty has alleged that Mr. Dutta extorted the money in 2018 and later had also been threatening for more," said an officer.

However, Mr. Dutta denied all the allegations. While he was being taken for a medical examination, Mr. Dutta told presspersons, "All the allegations are fabricated. The complainant, Mr. Chakraborty, himself was arrested in connection with a forgery case, following which his family approached me to get him out."

Rebel Trinamool MPs lack political morality and must resign, says Kalyan

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

A day after 20 Lok Sabha members of the Trinamool Congress revolted against the party leadership, loyalists of Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the rebel MPs alleging that they are siding with the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Trinamool MPs Kalyan Banerjee and Kirti Azad addressed a press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday, and said that "Today their (rebel MPs) leader is Narendra Modi. They have become BJP."

Mr. Kalyan, who is also the Chief Whip of the party in the Lok Sabha, said the leaders were free to leave the party but urged them to "stop writing Trinamool leader/MP beside their name".

Several MPs from the Trinamool met Union Minister and BJP West Bengal observer Bhupendra Yadav at his residence on Monday and said that they were creating a separate bloc of Trinamool which will support the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government.

"If you are so honest, why don't you make it pu-



Trinamool Congress leaders Kalyan Banerjee and Kirti Azad addressing a press conference on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

blic? Why don't you have the courage to give the letter to the press?" Mr. Kalyan asked, alleging that the entire exercise lacked transparency.

'Questions on letter'

Questioning the authenticity of the letter, he said such an important document has not been placed in the public domain.

Mr. Kalyan and Mr. Azad also accused the rebel MPs of lacking political morality, maintaining links with the BJP and abandoning party workers at a time when they were allegedly facing harassment and political attacks.

"Sukhendu Sekhar Roy has resigned from the Ra-

jya Sabha after making allegations against our party. Those who are making allegations against the party must follow the path of Sukhendu and show political morality by resigning as MPs," Mr. Kalyan said.

The rebellion in the Trinamool started last week with 58 party MLAs selecting a new Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly on June 3. Almost a week after the rebellion, Lok Sabha MPs have begun a revolt against party leadership.

Barasat Lok Sabha MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar is emerging as the leader of the rebel bloc and has claimed the support of the rebel Trinamool camp.

Court orders restitution of assets in PACL case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A special court has ordered the restitution of 282 immovable properties, valued at approximately ₹9,420.57 crore, which were attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the PACL Limited case, to the Justice Lodha Committee for the purpose of returning funds to the investors who were cheated.

The agency has so far attached assets worth close to ₹28,626 crore in India and Australia. The ED probe is based on a case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the PACL and its promoters for allegedly defrauding lakhs of investors. The accused had mobilised over ₹68,000 crore from investors across India, under the pretext of investment schemes, of which ₹48,000 crore remained unpaid to them.

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e-Tender Ref.No:01/2026-27, Supply of PP Laminated bags on F.O.R basis at Ariviyar Cement Works, Ariviyar District on piece work / rate contract basis
Est. Value: Rs. 8.78 Crore, EMD: Rs. 5,00,000/-
Submission of tender: Up to 12.00 Noon on 09.07.2026
Important Note:
A pre-bid meeting will be held on 18.06.2026 at 3.00 pm at TANCEM, Registered Office, 5th Floor, Avinil Ilam, No.3A, Pasupum Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandaram, Chennai-600 035.
The Tender document can be downloaded from <https://tenders.gov.in> Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.
DIPR/2024/TENDER/2026 General Manager (Marketing) DRO

Delhi court dismisses bail plea of NEET-UG paper leak accused

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday dismissed the bail application of Manisha Waghmare, a tutor and an accused in the alleged NEET-UG paper leak case being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The plea was rejected by the Rouse Avenue Court, which is hearing matters connected to the alleged leak of the national medical entrance examination.

Her counsel told the court that she is a certified education counsellor and had not indulged in any illegal activity. It was also claimed that the money

It also sought the CBI's response to an interim bail plea filed by co-accused Yash Yadav

that landed in her bank account was a gift from her relatives.

In a related proceeding, the court sought the CBI's response to an interim bail plea filed by co-accused Yash Yadav.

Mr. Yadav, a student, has sought temporary relief for 15 days to appear for the NEET-UG examination scheduled on June 21 and to attend his sister's wedding functions.

The court directed the

CBI to file its reply and posted the matter for hearing on June 12.

The alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG examination surfaced following reports that the question paper had been leaked before the test conducted by the National Testing Agency.

One of the country's largest entrance tests, it was taken by more than 22 lakh aspirants seeking admission to undergraduate medical courses.

The probe has since led to multiple arrests, with agencies continuing to examine the alleged network behind the leak and distribution of examination material.

Disruptions in legislatures pose a serious challenge: LS Speaker

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Tuesday that frequent interruptions and disruptions in the Houses of Parliament and the State Assemblies pose a serious challenge to democratic institutions.

He said that the solution to this problem lies within the legislative institutions themselves, urging them to promote conduct aligned with public expectations, dialogue, and meaningful discussion. He was speaking at the second conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone-II (North Zone),



Om Birla

which concluded here.

He called on the public representatives to ensure that their conduct in legislative institutions is exemplary, so that the welfare of the last person in society can be secured. "Society is shaped by the conduct and behaviour of its leadership," he said.

He said the conference concluded with four important resolutions aimed at making legislative institutions more effective, accountable, and people-centric.

"The dream of a developed India, 'Viksit Bharat', is anchored on strong parliamentary and legislative institutions. To achieve this, it is absolutely essential to increase public participation, maximise the use of technology, enhance the capacity of legislators, ensure the involvement of citizens in framing policies and laws, and raise awareness toward the Constitution and constitutional institutions," Mr. Birla added.

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GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
01. Tender Notice No : Tender Notice No.01/2026-27/CE(GVMC)/SE-GWK/E-E-GWK, Dt: 08.06.2026
02. Number of works : 1 No.
03. Value of works : Rs. 246.79 Lakhs
04. Download Starting Date : 09.06.2026 @ 02.00 PM
05. Download Ending date : 23.06.2026 @ 03.00 PM
Note: Further details @ www.apetprocurement.gov.in
O/o. CE (GVMC) or EE-VI (Contact No. 9848933235) For Commissioner

Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage & Infrastructure Corporation Limited
Office of the Project Director (Housing), c/o-3A, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur-302004 (RAJ)
Tel & fax : 0141-4001167, Email : raduco.housing@rajasthan.gov.in Date : 04/06/2026
No. - RUDSICO/CP (H)/Jpr/2026-27/03218/RajKaj 2264101
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for Repair and Renovation work at Jaipur, Billara (Jodhpur) up to 18:00hrs, 15.06.2026 under Single bid system & Repair and Maintenance work at Udaipur up to 18:00hrs, 23.06.2026 under Two bid system on E-procurement for E-NIT 05/2026-27 Other particulars of the Bids may be visited on the procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajic.nic.in> of the state. The total approximate value of procurement is Rs. 302.25 Lacs.
E- NIT No. 05/2026-27
UBN- RDP2627WS0800018 to 20
Raj.Samwad/C/26/4427 General Manager (W), RUDSICO, Jaipur

INBRIEF



SC to hear actor’s petition in money laundering case

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Thursday a plea filed by actor Jacqueline Fernandez challenging a Delhi court’s decision to frame charges against her in a ₹200-crore money laundering case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar. The petition has been filed against a May 30 order of a Delhi court directing the framing of charges against Ms. Fernandez in a case investigated by the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Additional Sessions Judge observed that a prima facie case was made out to charge her with the offence of money laundering. The Bench said, “We will post the matter the day after tomorrow.”

Vijay to attend NITI Aayog meeting in New Delhi

Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay is scheduled to take part in the 11th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog, to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in New Delhi on Thursday. Sources said Mr. Vijay is scheduled to leave Chennai by flight on Wednesday. He is expected to meet some political leaders in New Delhi. In his speech at the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting, Mr. Vijay is expected to highlight some of the key issues concerning Tamil Nadu. He is expected to return to Chennai on Friday. This is the second time Mr. Vijay is visiting the national capital after assuming office as Chief Minister.

Govt. notifies resettlement census on Nicobar island

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration has notified the beginning of the resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) census in the Great Nicobar Island to make way for the trunk infrastructure part of the Centre’s ₹92,000 crore container port, airport, and tourist-township project.

In a public notice put up on Tuesday, the Office of the Assistant Commissioner in Campbell Bay notified that document verification for the rehabilitation and resettlement census will begin on June 10 at the recreation hall in Kamal Basti.

The notice called for all families affected by the trunk infrastructure part of the Great Nicobar Island mega-infrastructure project to keep about 24 different types of documents ready that may be required by the census team.

The trunk infrastructure includes the construction of the trunk road and related infrastructure on Great Nicobar Island as the first steps for the project that has a timeline going up to 2050, according to the draft Master Plan.

Zojila tunnel is gamechanger for India’s security: Gadkari

Union Minister oversees breakthrough of the 13.14-km-long tunnel between Kashmir and Ladakh, says project will help in regional development and make movement of armed forces faster, safer

Peerzada Ashiq
MEENAMARG

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday oversaw the breakthrough of the 13.14-km-long Zojila tunnel, terming it a “game-changer from security perspective and [the perspective of] national integration”.

“From the perspective of national security, this project will prove to be a gamechanger. With round-the-year connectivity, the movement of the Indian Army as well as the supply of Army materials, equipment, and logistics will become faster, safer, and more effective, thereby strengthening the country’s strategic preparedness,” Mr. Gadkari said.

Besides serving as “a foundation for employment, economic opportunities, and better quality of life for local people”, Mr. Gadkari said, “by establishing all-weather connectivity, this project will provide new strength to regional development and national integration”.

Earlier in the day, the



Officials during the inspection and breakthrough of the Zojila tunnel at Meenamarg in Ladakh on Tuesday. IMRAN NISSAR

Union Minister oversaw the final blasting of the Zojila tunnel from the Kargil side, and termed the tunnel the world’s longest, single-tube, bi-directional road tunnel at an altitude 11,578 feet.

‘Crucial chapter’

Describing the tunnel as “a crucial chapter in providing all-weather connectivity between Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh”, the Union Minister said the project had been completed at a cost of ₹6,800 crore, despite an early estimate of ₹12,000 crore.

“Despite extreme snow-

fall, harsh weather, and complex geological conditions, India’s engineers and workers have transformed this challenging task into reality,” Mr. Gadkari said.

The tunnel offered unique safety measures for passengers, including a modern ventilation system, automatic fire detection, an advanced CCTV surveillance system, and cross-passage facilities for pedestrians.

“The approximately two-hour journey from Sonamarg in J&K to Minamarg in Ladakh will be reduced to just 30 minutes.

This will save time and fuel. There will be a reduction in accidents and the risk of avalanches,” Mr. Gadkari said.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the tunnel was taking shape in the midst of the snow-covered Himalayas and “is not only connecting mountains but also possibilities”, the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said. “We are committed to the overall development of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh through modern infrastructure construction,” he added.

‘Dream come true’

“It’s a dream come true for the people of Kargil. This milestone marks a transformative step towards ensuring all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh, boosting economic growth, strengthening tourism, and bringing the people of the two regions closer together,” J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said. Mr. Abdullah urged the Union Minister to push for Kargil’s air connectivity with the rest of the country.

Dalit youth beaten to death in Uttarakhand

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A suspected case of caste-based violence has come to light in Uttarakhand’s Tehri Garhwal district, where an 18-year-old Dalit youth was allegedly beaten to death over his relationship with a minor girl from an upper-caste family. His friend was grievously injured.

The victim’s relatives have claimed that iron nails were found embedded in the body and demanded stringent action against those responsible.

According to a copy of the FIR accessed by *The Hindu*, Dhanpal Lal, a resident of Deval village, received a phone call on the morning of June 8 from a man who identified himself as Yashbir Singh Panwar. The caller allegedly informed Mr. Dhanpal that his son, Ketan Lal, and his friend, Diwakar Dimri, were being held by the Panwar family. Mr. Dhanpal rushed to the location and found the two youth critically injured.

The FIR states that Ketan Lal, while being taken to hospital, told his father that he and his friend were allegedly assaulted through the night.

Delhi data centre fire may have destroyed equipment worth crores

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

A fire at a data centre in the Greater Kailash area of Delhi on June 5 may have caused losses of hundreds of crores in equipment, data, and revenue, impacting traffic from Google, Netflix, and multiple local Internet service providers in the National Capital Region, companies affected by the blaze told *The Hindu*. While no loss of life was reported, key network routers and servers belonging to local providers and big tech companies were damaged.

Fires at data centres, where multiple companies bring their own equipment for “co-location”, are rare. Industry best practices typically require facilities to douse fires with inert gas systems, and data centres usually have limited on-site presence of people during their day-to-day opera-



Traffic from Google and Netflix was impacted by the fire at the data centre.

tions. Those safeguards, however, may not have been enough at ST Telemedia GDC’s facility, which operated out of a building owned by Tata Communications Ltd. STT GDC had “leased the premises,” Tata Communications said in a stock exchange filing on Friday.

At least two local networks *The Hindu* spoke with found themselves cut

off from the Internet around 2.30 a.m.

Video footage shared by one client and reviewed by *The Hindu* showed equipment in a server room completely blackened and charred as three fire tenders were seen standing outside the building. Ten fire tenders were deployed overall, and the firefighting operation lasted several hours.

“On one floor, there are about 200 racks of servers,” Sanjay Singh of R2 Net, a local Internet provider said. “Fifty of those racks belonged to Google. They have an independent cage on the left side of the third floor. (Google did not respond to a request for a comment) We are a small operator, but we have lost ₹2 crore worth of equipment.” While Netflix also had infrastructure at the data centre, its Open Connect architecture may have insulated it from shocks, as

caches are deployed directly within many ISPs’ local networks.

Raunak Maheshwari, country head of Megaport Ltd, which runs Internet exchanges for content and service providers at the facility, said the losses extended to data that may be irrecoverable. His own accounting-software vendor kept its data servers on the third floor, he said.

Asked about an estimate that losses could at least be around ₹500 crore, Mr. Maheshwari said that equipment losses alone could run into hundreds of crores, given the facility’s size.

“The cost of the data, who knows that?” he said. STT GDC declined to comment on the commercial value of the damaged equipment, but said some customers’ servers had been safely migrated.

(With inputs from Shrimansi Kaushik)

India calls for dialogue on climate finance, adaptation at Bonn meet

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India has called for the shrinking pool of climate finance and a widening adaptation finance gap to be tackled head-on at the United Nations climate negotiations-linked talks under way in Bonn, Germany. It has urged that a Paris Agreement provision which obliges developed countries to provide funds to developing nations, be given dedicated agenda space to enable substantive progress.

The intervention came in India’s statement to the 64th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB64), delivered by Harkeerat Randhawa of the External Affairs Ministry.

India associated itself with the positions taken on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC), and the BASIC



India associated itself with the positions taken on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the LMDC and the BASIC bloc. REUTERS

bloc (Brazil, South Africa, India, China).

The Bonn meeting runs from June 8 to 18 and is the mid-year session of the two subsidiary bodies – on implementation (SBI) and on scientific and technological advice (SBSTA) – that prepare draft decisions for the annual Conference of the Parties. It is the first multilateral climate conference since COP30, held in Belém, Brazil, last Novem-

ber, and is tasked with turning those outcomes into negotiable text ahead of COP31. That summit will be hosted in Antalya, Türkiye in November, which holds the formal presidency and Australia presiding over the negotiations.

Unilateral trade

India pressed for the dialogue on unilateral trade measures – a reference to carbon border levies such

as the EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) – to address their adverse effects on developing countries’ climate action, anchored in Article 3.5 of the Convention.

It cautioned that the Mitigation Work Programme’s facilitative, non-prescriptive character be preserved, that the adaptation goal remain balanced and Party-driven, and that no obligations beyond agreed mandates be introduced.

This year’s agenda is dominated by a shift to an implementation phase. Key items include the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Just Transition Work Programme and the Global Stocktake, alongside climate finance and the contested future of the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Work Programme, which is due to conclude in 2026 with a possible extension on the table.

THE CROSSWORD+ 14816

(set by Incognito)

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

SCAN TO PLAY

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13 Analysing quantity of arsenic, for example, in groundwater at first (8)

15 Ladies restated expected standards (6)

17 Check manufacture of pectins (7)

19/22 Old weapon found in Shakespearean plays (7,6)

24 Driving in absence of medico, following a Rolls Royce and coming (8)

26 Spotted animals tearing her pants (8)

28 Stick electrical component (6)

30 What a golfer might shout from a wooded area after losing some time initially? (4)

31 Other actors seem to be deaf to this kind of dialogue (5)

32 Warmth in the theatre (4)

Down

1 Destruction of shale oil after leaving isle produces ring of light (4)

2 Excitedly help Adam to get illumination for biker, for example (8)

3 It's him wandering around tomboles, for example (6)

4 Vegetable produced by a couple of boys in Co-op (7)

5 Stone thrown by Scotsman and North European (8)

6 Horrible shame! Purling one golf club! (6)

7 Employer's devious ruse (4)

14 Transgression at top-class peninsula (5)

16 Leader left 9 on return (5)

18 Sal cared about collapsed magma chambers (8)

20 Iodine and vanadium found in damaged hinges and rails (8)

21 Legal action arising from bad awl and spades, for example (7)

23 Tie broken teeth at beginning of ritual (6)

25 Duty schedule from hero's terrible (6)

27 Ace spinner on the summit (4)

29 Cove between last part of beach and a part of port (4)

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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INBRIEF



Adani unit to buy smart meter firm IntelliSmart for ₹3,050 cr.

Adani Energy Solutions Ltd. (AESL) has inked a securities purchase agreement to acquire a 00% equity stake in IntelliSmart Infrastructure for ₹3,050 crore. IntelliSmart Infrastructure is a leading smart metering JV between National Investment and Infrastructure Fund and Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL), a statement said. The proposed acquisition will strengthen AESL's position as India's largest smart metering platform with over 4.7+ crore smart meters. PTI

Centre publishes rules for setting up coal exchanges

Paving the way for establishing coal exchanges in the country, the government on Tuesday published the Coal Exchange Rules (2026) - formally putting down rules and eligibility criteria for operating and instituting the exchange. Prominent among them are statutory regulations about contract payment and settlement, minimum eligibility needs to be met by an entity to establish the exchange and its governance structure, among other things.

Dark patterns: Indian online buyers losing up to ₹28,000 cr.

Indian consumers are losing an estimated ₹25,000 crore to ₹28,000 crore annually due to deceptive interface designs, known as dark patterns, across online marketplaces, a report said. The 'Dark Patterns in India's Online Marketplaces' report, by market research firm Datum Intelligence, said 88% of India's 304 million online buyers lose about ₹78-₹87/month to hidden changes, forced add-ons, drip pricing, false urgency rules and subscription traps. PTI

‘TCS to have as many AI agents as human staff in three years’

In next 3 years, most consequential work will be done, says TCS chief; in fourth quarter of FY26, TCS logged annualised AI revenue of \$2.4 billion

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

At the pace Artificial Intelligence (AI) is replacing human beings at workplaces, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) will have as many AI agents as human employees in three years, chairman N. Chandrasekaran said on Tuesday.

“I predict over the next three years, TCS will have as many AI agents as human employees. What we build in this next chapter - for clients, for India, and for you - will be the most consequential work this company has ever done,” he said addressing the Annual General Meeting.

He said AI would soon make inroads into the physical world viz. stores,



N. Chandrasekaran

factories, warehouses, energy networks, vehicles and supply chains.

Need experts

“This will require experts who understand how to link IT, AI, physical equipment and infrastructure.”

For global agribusiness, TCS deployed an agentic + physical AI solution using a four-legged robot, with

cameras and sensors to patrol hazardous warehouse environments that previously required human workers, he said without naming the company.

“Across areas, TCS is already building, delivering and proving,” he stressed.

Stating these opportunities cannot be captured by giving organisations access to AI technology, he said enterprises need to organise data and integrate it into unwieldy IT systems that have evolved over decades.

“AI talent gap between established firms and new challengers can be closed. But established firms still have the edge on context and trust.”

In Q4FY26, TCS had an annualised AI revenue of \$2.4 billion, growing at a CQGR of 22.4%.

‘Rising dormant demat accounts pose risk to system’

NEWS ANALYSIS

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

India's retail investing boom seems to be beginning to show signs of decline with a sharp fall in active market participation by this segment, raising concerns over quality of investor growth and the risks posed by dormant demat accounts to the system.

The National Stock Exchange's (NSE) active investor base is estimated to have slid by almost 35 lakh in FY26 to 4.58 crore after several years of rapid expansion led by digital brokerages, low-cost trading apps and strong retail participation in equities and derivatives.

This has attracted attention to a wider structural issue. Of the estimated 22 crore accounts in early 2026, almost three-fourths of demat accounts were either dormant, inactive or not meaningfully participating in the market, analysts said.

Changing nature

Market participants believe the gap between registered and active investors reflects the changing nature of retail participation. Bulk of the accounts were opened during post-pandemic equity boom, primarily to apply for IPOs, access app-based trading platforms or test short-term opportunities.

Many such investors are believed to have since exit-



Bulk of the accounts were opened during post-pandemic equity boom.

ed active participation, especially after volatility in small-cap stocks and losses in options trading.

Easy target

“Dormant and nil-balance demat accounts are prime targets for unauthorised access. Without regular monitoring, they can be exploited for mule activities or fraudulent transfers, eroding trust in the digital depository framework,” said Kamlesh Shroff, national president, Association of National Exchanges Members of India.

“When a significant share of demat accounts becomes dormant or remains at a nil balance, it signals not just disengagement but a breakdown of this economic function,” said Venkatachalam Shunmugam, partner, MCQube.

According to industry officials, the next phase of market deepening must focus less on account-opening numbers and more on account quality, verified activity and investor protection.

Micro-loans show early signs of stress amid global risks: report

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The share of loans to micro industries showing signs of early stress increased in April 2026 from the month before amid heightened geographical tensions on the West Asia crisis.

Micro borrowers are those with an exposure of less than ₹2crore.

As per data from CRIF High Mark, a credit bureau, share of loans awaiting repayment for 91 to 180 days rose to 1.4% in April against 1.1% in March.

However, the share of shorter period loans (31 to 90 days) at risk of non-payment stayed at 2.7% for second consecutive month.

The data becomes crucial as credit to micro industries constitutes about 86% of active loans in the Micro Small Medium Enterprises segment.

There has also been a slowdown in the outstanding credit across the board with micro industry credit dipping 4.6% in fiscal 2026 as against a growth of 1.5% in the previous fiscal.

“India's MSMEs Business sector has so far navigated the geopolitical factors with domestic demand resilience, policy support and adaptive working capital management. However, there are areas like rising early stage delinquencies in certain borrower segments that lenders and policymakers may need to observe closely,” CRIF said in its report on MSME lending.

HDFC Bank hikes lending rate by up to 10 basis points

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Private sector lender HDFC Bank has increased the Marginal Cost of funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR) by up to 10 basis points across tenors effective June 8, 2026.

The maximum hike of 10 basis points was for loans having a maturity of two years to 8.55% from the earlier 8.45%.

The benchmark one-year MCLR has been revised upwards by 5 basis points to 8.40%, according to the data available on the website of the private sector lender.

Zepto files ₹8,010-cr. IPO papers, loss widens in Q4

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Quick commerce start-up Zepto filed prospectus for initial public offer (IPO) ₹8,010 crore on Tuesday.

The IPO will also consist of an offer for sale of 11.3 crore equity shares by six promoter shareholders with Nexus Ventures VI Holdings, LLC selling more than half of that.

Meanwhile, the firm's loss widened to ₹5,889 crore in Q4FY26 from ₹4,707 crore in Q4FY25 and ₹1219 crore in Q4FY24.

ED summons

Zepto co-founders Aadit Palicha and Kaivalya Vohra received summons from



Deep red: The firm's loss widened to ₹5,889 crore in Q4FY26 from ₹4,707 crore in Q4FY25 and ₹1,219 crore in Q4FY24. REUTERS

Enforcement Directorate (ED) in April this year, seeking information and documents related to foreign investments, financials and the company's business, in connection with proceedings under the Foreign Exchange Man-

agement Act (FEMA), the firm disclosed in its updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus (UDRHP).

The ED sought details, including foreign and overseas investments and audited financial statements, among others.

T.N. got nod but ‘nothing moving forward’: Shipping Ministry sources

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

An in-principle approval has been given to the Tamil Nadu government for a greenfield mega ship-building cluster at Thoothukudi, based on the recommendation of the Directorate General of Shipping, top sources in the Shipping Ministry told *The Hindu*. But they raised concern there was no further communication from the State government and a DPR (Detailed Project Report) was awaited.

This was after *The Hindu* reported on how India's premier shipbuilding company Mazagon Dock Ltd. (MDL) was eyeing investment in Andhra Pradesh after being pushed away by



Even the detailed project report was awaited, the official said.

the Tamil Nadu government for building greenfield ship-building cluster at Thoothukudi. The State government is learnt to have brought a foreign firm on-board. An in-principle approval has also been given for the project.

“But, there is no move-

ment on that front for some time now. We have been discussing but nothing has been moving forward. We do not know what happened after the in-principle approval. There seems to be a lack of communication,” a senior official from the Ministry of Shipping told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity.

Asked if the process for competitive bidding was followed before a special purpose vehicle was set up, the official said DG Shipping did not have any role in ascertaining that.

“As per guidelines, the National Ship Building Mission takes the decision on the basis of the recommendation given by DG Shipping. After the first stage was reviewed, in-principle

approval was granted. We mentioned in the letter that all the necessary clearances should be submitted. But we haven't yet received the DPR.”

Meanwhile, sources in MDL said they were willing to wait to hear back from the Tamil Nadu government on the Thoothukudi project. “It cannot be denied it is a strategic location with deep-water access, extensive coastal land, favourable seabed conditions, natural cyclone shielding and proximity to international shipping lanes,” a senior official of MDL said.

The State government, however, did not respond to any of the detailed queries sent by *The Hindu* despite repeated follow-ups.

CENTRE FOR MULTI-DISCIPLINARY DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH (CMDR)
(An ICSSR Institute)
DHARWAD- 580004 (KARNATAKA)
Applications are invited for following posts on regular basis :
Associate Professor- 3 posts (UR) -Advt No-02/2026-27
For application form and other details please visit CMDR website
www.cmdr.ac.in. Last Date to receive the application is **July 9, 2026**.
Date : 04/06/2026 Sd/- Registrar

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: md@kmmml.com, URL: www.kmmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmmml.com

Sl.No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2026_KMML_854783_1	Supply of Electric Hoists
2	2026_KMML_852965_1	Rubber lining work of slurry storage tank
3	2026_KMML_854964_1	Supply of coconut
4	2026_KMML_854967_1	Supply of Refrigerant Gas Freon 22 in Cylinder
5	2026_KMML_854765_1	Supply of Flocculant / Indifloc 442 / Flomin 4913K or Equivalent-12800 Kg
6	2026_KMML_854968_1	Global Tender for Supply of Alumino Silicate Ceramic Bead 16/20
7	2026_KMML_855032_1	Fabrication and Supply of Tickle Condenser
8	2026_KMML_854982_1	Supply of 4000 Nos Wooden Pallets-Export quality
9	2026_KMML_855008_1	Supply of Oilwet Filter Assembly with 200 & 80 NB Nozzle

Chavara 09.06.2026 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh undertaking)
Head Office: 3rd Floor, P.V.S Land Mark, Near APJCL Towers Mangalagiri, Guntur District, AP-522503; LL no: 08645-297211 & 08645-297721
E-mail: vcmd_apfdco@yahoo.co.in, vcmd.apfdcl@gmail.com, Website: www.apfdcl.ap.gov.in
EUCALYPTUS DEBARKED PULPWOOD SALE NOTICE
Ref.No. OP.001/ EDPW/2025-26/Gen/Vol-I/399 Date: 09.06.2026
Sale of about 2.66 lakh metric tonnes of Eucalyptus Debarked Pulpwood anticipated from Eucalyptus Plantations of A.P. Forest Development Corporation Limited, grouped into (30) units is proposed to be held through e-Tender cum e-Auction on "Konugolu", a Govt. of Andhra Pradesh e-Portal i.e., "<https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in>" from 12.00 hrs to 14.00 hrs (1st spell) and from 15.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs (2nd spell) on **24.6.2026**. Sale Units that remain unsold/unconfirmed will be exposed for sale again on **01.07.2026 & 08.07.2026**. For more details, please visit the websites: <https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in> & <https://www.apfdcl.ap.gov.in>.
Sd/- Dr.S.S. Sreedhar, IFS.,
DIPR 5146PP/CL. Dt: 09/06/2026 PCCC/ Vice Chairman and Managing Director

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bengaluru Division,
2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-01.
Phone: 080-22133370
No. 05/2026-27 Date: 08.06.2026
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, **Anekal** Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification are Published for **01 Work (Rs. 990.00 Lakhs)**. Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.**
(1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before 4.00 PM on Dated: 17.06.2026. (2) The opening of tenders through KPP portal on Dated: 18.06.2026 at 4.30 PM or further date and time will be Intimated.
Sd/- Executive Engineer.
DIPR/DD-C.P/1056/KSMCA/2026-27

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)
SRM e-Tender No. T-2640/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001532) (3rd Call)
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
“Establishment of 132/33kV Shirud Substation along with construction of LILO Line on 132kV Borvirhir-Chalisgaon line for proposed 132kV Shirud Substation (RL – 4.865 km) Dist. Dhule under Nashik zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra.”
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website <https://srmetender.mahatransco.in>
The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 05.06.2026.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

RAJASTHAN STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Rajasthan Government Undertaking)
Udyog Shwani, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302005, Phone- 0141-2227751, 4593201
E-mail: rrico@rico.co.in Website-rico.rajabsthan.gov.in
TENDER NOTICE
RICO invites sealed tenders/bids through eproc.rajabsthan.gov.in for the following works/ services/supply etc.

Sr. No.	Office & Type of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.in Lacs)
1.	Unit Head, Jaipur(South) 1.1 Construction of Road at RICO Land Daulatpura, Jaipur.	1323.19
1.2	Unit Head, Jaipur(South) 1.2 Development Works (Improvement of ROW by P & F of Interlocking Tiles, Improvement & Covering of Drains & Construction of RWHS) at Industrial Area Bassi, Jaipur. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00663	620.71
1.3	Unit Head, Jaipur(South) 1.3 Infrastructure Improvement Works at Industrial Area Malviya, Jaipur. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00664	475.68
1.4	Unit Head, Jaipur(South) 1.4 Development Works at Industrial Area Bassi (Ext.), Jaipur. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00665	518.73
1.5	Unit Head, Jaipur(South) 1.5 Development Works at Industrial Area Hirawala and Hirawala (Ext.), Jaipur. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00666	837.42
2.	Unit Head, Bhiwadi-I 2.1 Upgradation of Power Line Infrastructure at REIZ Bhiwadi. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00622	2606.99
3.	Unit Head, EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur 3.1 Providing Laying and Joining of Distribution Pipe Line with Associated Works at Industrial Area EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00599	332.20
3.2	Unit Head, EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur 3.2 Widening of Roads with Raised Footpath, Construction of RCC Box Drain and Upgradation of Existing Drains at Industrial Area EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00600	853.62
3.3	Unit Head, EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur 3.3 Improvement of Infrastructure at I/A SEZ-II, Sitapura, Jaipur. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00601	885.68
3.4	Unit Head, EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur 3.4 Providing & Fixing Street Light System on Octagonal Poles at SEZ-II, EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00602	320.99
4.	Unit Head, Ghiloth 4.1 Providing and Fixing of Reinforced Ferro Cement Covers on Open Drains at Industrial Area Ghiloth. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00573	1283.96
5.	Unit Head, Jaipur(North) 5.1 Upgradation of Power Line Infrastructure at Industrial Area Jhotwara (T.A.), Jaipur. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00596	1056.69
6.	Unit Head, Pali 6.1 Various Development Works at Ind. Area Mandia Road, Phase I/II Pali and Phase IV Pali. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00607	1805.50
7.	Unit Head, Banswara 7.1 Strengthening of Road and Construction of RCC Drains at REIZ IGC Khara. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00630	926.34
7.2	Unit Head, Banswara 7.2 Upgradation of Power Line Infrastructure at REIZ Khara IGC. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00629	347.98
7.3	Unit Head, Banswara 7.3 Upgradation of Power Line Infrastructure at REIZ Karni Ph I & II. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00632	579.71
8.	Unit Head, Kota 8.1 Construction of RCC Retaining Wall along the Nallah Passing through Institutional Area, Ranpur, Kota. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00631	629.33
9.	Unit Head, Rajasthangarh 9.1 Providing, Laying & Shifting of Power Line at Industrial Area Udaipur Khurd. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00548	469.04
10.	Unit Head, Banswara 10.1 Construction of RCC Drain, Box Culverts and Boundary Wall at IGP Peepalwa, Banswara. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00619	358.37
11.	Unit Head, Neemrana 11.1 Upgradation of Power Line Infrastructure at I/A Sotanala. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00616	308.40
11.2	Unit Head, Nagaur 11.2 Upgradation of Power Line Infrastructure at I/A Neemrana Ph-II. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00618	319.14
12.1	Unit Head, Nagaur 12.1 Up-gradation of Infrastructure at Transferred Ind Area Nagaur. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00658	207.10
12.2	Unit Head, Nagaur 12.2 Upgradation of Infrastructure at Industrial Area IGC Parbatsar. UBN-RDC2627WLOB00659	461.28

Bidders/contractors may download and submit tender online. Detailed information of tenders and any kind of corrigendum/ date extension, if any in future, may be seen by bidders on websites rico.rajabsthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajabsthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajabsthan.gov.in For queries please contact: GM (Civil) Ph. 0141-4593214
Raj.Samwad/C/26/4492

Sport

BACK WHERE SHE BELONGS

Serena, all of 44, makes a winning return to professional tennis



AFP

Serena Williams made a successful return to professional tennis on Tuesday. The 44-year-old walked onto the court at Queen's Club for her first-round doubles match with Victoria Mboko. They beat the third-seeded duo of Nicole Melichar-Martinez and Erin Routliffe 7-6(2), 6-2 in Serena's first professional match in nearly four years.

TEAM UPDATE

Netherlands replaces injured Timber with Geertruida in squad



GETTY IMAGES

Arsenal defender Jurrien Timber has been replaced in the Netherlands FIFA World Cup squad by Sunderland's Lutsharel Geertruida, the Dutch football federation announced on Monday. Premier League winner Timber, 24, has suffered a groin issue to add to the side's injury list ahead of the quadrennial event.

GREEN LIGHT

Hardik, Rohit cleared for ODI series against Afghanistan



AP

Hardik Pandya and Rohit Sharma have been cleared by the sports science team of BCCI's Centre of Excellence to participate in India's three-match ODI series against Afghanistan. Hardik and Rohit missed a few IPL 2026 matches for Mumbai Indians due to back spasms and a hamstring issue, respectively.

FAILING THE TEST

Lord's and Gaddafi Stadium pitches rated 'unsatisfactory'



AP

The pitches for the first Test between England and New Zealand at Lord's, in pic, in London and the third ODI between Pakistan and Australia at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore were rated "unsatisfactory" under the ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process. The two venues have been handed one demerit point each.

Argentina has a shot at immortality

Ronaldo-led Portugal seeks a maiden crown; Kane eager to land a first silverware for the Three Lions in 60 years; Croats remain strong challengers

FIFA WC COUNTDOWN

Anirudh Velamuri

Lionel Messi's Argentina will begin its FIFA World Cup defence against Algeria in Group J. Austria and debutant Jordan complete the group. Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal is placed in Group K along with Colombia, DR Congo and Uzbekistan. Perennial underachiever England, under Harry Kane, finds itself in a tricky Group L, also featuring Croatia, Ghana and Panama.

Group J (Argentina, Austria, Algeria, Jordan)

No nation has successfully defended the FIFA World Cup since Brazil's immortal side of 1962. Sixty-four years later, Argentina arrives in North America with a chance to break that jinx and etch its name alongside football's most enduring legacies.

Lionel Scaloni's men topped CONMEBOL qualifying to secure their place at the global showpiece. More importantly, they bring continuity, with as many as 17 members of the squad that conquered Qatar being picked. On paper, they possess one of the tournament's most complete squads –balanced, battle-tested, and brimming with quality.

Yet history has shown that defending a crown is often harder than winning it. Questions linger over whether Argentina can summon the same edge and hunger that drove it to glory four years ago.

Scaloni has already cemented his place in Argentine football folklore, becoming the first coach to deliver both the World Cup (2022) and the Copa America (2021 and 2024). But *La Albiceleste's* destiny may ultimately rest with the other Lionel. At 38, Messi remains the heartbeat of the team – his presence alone can change the complexion



Talismanic: Messi will be eager to bow out on a high while Ronaldo has one final chance to win the biggest prize in world football. GETTY IMAGES & REUTERS

of a match, and the hopes of a football-mad nation rest on his shoulders.

Its rivals are anything but supporting actors. Austria returns to football's grandest stage for the first time since 1998. Under Ralf Rangnick, the Austrians have become one of Europe's most relentless sides, capable of overwhelming even elite opponents with their pressing and organisation. Having guided them to the round of 16 at Euro 2024, Rangnick will believe another knockout appearance is well within reach.

Algeria arrives armed with flair, pace, and devastating efficiency in transition. Mohamed Amoura announced himself during qualifying with 10 goals – more than any African player – and the 26-year-old will spearhead its bid to upset the established order alongside captain Riyad Mahrez.

While debutants are often dismissed as outsiders, Jordan has earned its place on merit, scoring a national record 32 goals during

qualification and remaining unbeaten away from home. Unburdened by expectation, it could prove far more dangerous than its inexperience suggests.

Best finish: Argentina: Champion (1978, 1986, 2022); Austria: Third place (1954); Algeria: Round of 16 (2014); Jordan: Debutant.

Group K (Portugal, Colombia, DR Congo, Uzbekistan)

The World Cup has always been a stage where individual brilliance collides with collective ambition, and Group K offers a compelling snapshot of that eternal tension.

Portugal arrives armed with experience, depth and no shortage of star power under Roberto Martinez. Built around possession control and creative dominance through central areas, *Os Navegadores* will expect nothing less than the top spot. Yet the spotlight inevitably falls on Ronaldo, set to make a record sixth World Cup appearance just like Messi. At 41, his role may be more measured than before, but his

influence remains immense. Defenders are still drawn to him, spaces still open around him, and every touch still carries the weight of history.

Four years after Messi completed football's ultimate quest, Ronaldo steps onto the grandest stage once more with perhaps one final chance to do the same.

Colombia, meanwhile, brings South American flair and unpredictability after finishing third in CONMEBOL qualifying with 28 points from 18 matches. *Los Cafeteros* are packed with technically gifted midfielders and explosive wide attackers, thriving in a style that often feels chaotic but is undeniably creative.

For neutrals, they promise entertainment; for opponents, a difficult puzzle. While capable of carving open defences with ease, their adventurous approach can leave them vulnerable in transition.

For DR Congo, this tournament marks the end of a 52-year wait – its only previous appearance came in

1974, when it competed as Zaire. Under Sebastien Desabre, it has developed a clear identity built on athleticism, aggressive pressing and set-piece threat. *Les Leopards* relish physical battles and seek to punish opponents through quick transitions, though maintaining tactical discipline against elite opposition will be crucial.

Uzbekistan enters uncharted territory with its maiden World Cup appearance. Coached by Fabio Cannavaro, the side reflects its head coach's philosophy: organised, disciplined and difficult to break down. In a group filled with bigger names, it could emerge as the dark horse, turning tight contests into a pathway toward the knockouts.

Best finish: Portugal: Third place (1966); Colombia: Quarterfinals (2014); DR Congo: Group Stage (1974); Uzbekistan: Debutant.

Group L (England, Croatia, Ghana and Panama)

Desperate to finally end a cycle of hope followed by heartbreak, England turned to Thomas Tuchel with one mission: bring an end to 60 years of tournament agony.

The early signs were emphatically positive. England stormed through qualifying with eight wins from eight, conceding no goals and becoming the first UEFA nation to secure its place at the 2026 edition.

The mood, however, has cooled slightly. A 1-1 draw with Uruguay, a 1-0 defeat to Japan and a laboured 1-0 win over New Zealand have tempered expectations.

This England side is comfortable controlling matches, dictating tempo and patiently probing for openings before accelerating with purpose.

Yet for all its possession and structure, it still leans heavily on individual bril-

liance to unlock stubborn opponents. Tuchel's blueprint is clear: defensive solidity as the foundation, elite attacking talent as the difference-maker – a philosophy built for tournament football, where fine margins separate glory from despair.

England may be the favourite to top the group, but Croatia will ensure nothing comes easily.

Under Zlatko Dalic, ball retention, tempo control and positional discipline remain defining traits, allowing Croatia to navigate pressure with remarkable composure. Defensive organisation and intelligent game management make *Vatreni* dangerous in tight contests. While the winless group-stage exit at Euro 2024 raised doubts, Croatia responded with an outstanding qualifying campaign, collecting 22 points from a possible 24. For a nation that finished runner-up in 2018 and third in 2022, belief in another deep run remains strong.

Since its World Cup debut in 2006, Ghana has become a familiar presence on football's biggest stage, missing only the 2018 edition in the last two decades. The Black Stars thrive in transition, using athleticism, pace and direct running to turn open games into dangerous affairs.

Panama arrives as the disciplined outsider. Featuring the second-oldest squad at the tournament, *Los Canaleros* are making just their second World Cup appearance, eager to erase memories of 2018, when they lost all three group matches and conceded 11 goals. Their path to success lies in organisation, set pieces and seizing opportunities whenever they arise.

Best finish: England: Champion (1966); Croatia: Runner-up (2018); Ghana: Quarterfinals (2010); Panama: Group stage (2018).



In full flow: Australia opener Voll is the world's No. 1-ranked batter in the shortest format. FILE PHOTO

Australia looks the strongest in Group A

T20 WC COUNTDOWN

P.K. Ajith Kumar

No sport is as enchantingly uncertain as cricket. The Women's T20 World Cup, however, begins with a grim certainty: one of the three best teams will not last beyond the group stage.

Australia, India and South Africa are all fabulous outfits with some of the biggest superstars in the game. Australia has won six of the nine previous editions; India is the reigning ODI World champion; South Africa has contested the last three World Cup finals across formats.

Sadly, at least one of those sides will not make it to the semifinals from Group A.

Australia may be going through an inevitable stage of transition, post the retirements of long-time captain Meg Lanning and recent skipper Alyssa Healy, but it still looks the strongest, most complete side. Healy had led the Aussies admirably, from behind and in front of the stumps, after taking over from Lanning. Many of her teammates, who have known her for several years, must be missing her banter, sense of humour, not to mention her obvious skills: she had bid farewell only three months ago.

Her replacement at the top of the order hasn't done badly, though. Georgia Voll is, in fact, the world's No. 1 batter in T20 cricket. That is how solid the Australian bench is.

Apart from Voll, the batting boasts such proven performers as Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Phoebe Litchfield, Annabel Sutherland, Ashleigh Gardner and Grace Harris. Many of them are proper all-rounders,

too. Bowling has variety, in pacers like Megan Schutt, Nicola Carey and Lucy Hamilton and spinners such as Alana King, Georgia Wareham and skipper Sophie Molineux.

The South Africans may not have to deal with such a problem of plenty. But they have Laura Wolvaardt.

And the captain fantastic is in incredible form. In the five-match T20I series against India at home she had scores of 51, 54, 115, 18 and 92 not out. South Africa won 4-1: no prize for guessing which match her team lost.

Ahead of the World Cup, South Africa got a big boost with Shabnim Ismail coming out of retirement. Her sheer pace should complement the remarkable skill-set of Marizanne Kapp, who is also one of the game's premier all-rounders.

South Africa has several other talents, such as Sune Luus, Tazmin Brits, Chloe Tryon and Ayabonga Khaka. They all should be keen not to give the world another reason to call their country a bunch of chokers at cricket.

Two other Asian countries are grouped with India. The expectations aren't high from Pakistan or Bangladesh, though. Both teams possess some fine players, but they could find it tough to challenge the big three in the group. The likes of Pakistan's captain Fatima Sana and Bangladesh's Marufa Akter have the game to take on the big girls.

The Netherlands completes the group. The Dutchmen had done their country proud at the 2023 ODI World Cup in India. Skipper Babette de Leede's cousin Bas was part of that team. She would want her team to pen a similar inspiring story.



On the rampage: South Africa captain Wolvaardt has been in incredible form. GETTY IMAGES

Playing World Cup a dream-come-true moment

The striker cannot wait for the 2026 showpiece to start, adding that Norway has prepared to be at the best of its physical, mental and tactical abilities



Haaland has quality written all over him. GETTY IMAGES

INTERVIEW

Erling Haaland

Norwegian striker Erling Haaland believes the team returning to the FIFA World Cup after 28 years will be celebrated back home.

Excerpts:

Your debut World Cup is here...

I cannot express my excitement! It's such a big thing. I had never experienced it. When Norway played in a World Cup (1998), I was

not born. So, it is going to be the first time I shall be enjoying a World Cup with my countrymen.

When I started playing professional football, it remained a dream to see my country participate in a FIFA World Cup. Now it is a dream-come-true moment for me.

You also played a significant part by scoring the most goals (16) in the qualifiers...

It was a team effort, and my teammates helped me be there to score. It is really amazing to be part of the squad that made history by

qualifying for the biggest stage.

Personally, it should be a bigger celebration since you will be emulating your father, Alf-Inge, in terms of playing in a World Cup in the USA...

That's so satisfying and at the same time, so challenging! Dad always shared memories of playing in a World Cup. Now, I shall be sharing my journey with him with the same excitement.

Will there be comparisons?

No comparisons, absolutely! It is all about celebration and pure joy. That we shall be playing the World Cup after 28 years is already the biggest thing to have happened in our footballing history. Kids of Norway will have memories to share when they grow up, something I could not...

Norway is in a tough group (I) with France, Senegal and Iraq...

This is impossible to predict in a World Cup. Yes, we have three nations with great football history. We are trying to write ours as well. And in the World

Cup, every match will be tough. We have prepared to be at the best of our physical, mental and tactical abilities during that phase and that's all for now.

Is it not easier to qualify for the knockouts now?

This, from another angle, is true. But that is never a concern. We need to play at our best against three best countries in the group phase. Forty-eight best football-playing nations will be there and we are one of them.

(Professional Management Group).

The king’s coronation



Over the last few years, PBKS skipper Shreyas not just knocked on the door but banged it; he deservedly enjoyed a double delight when he returned to India’s T20I set-up not only as player but also as captain

Amol Karhadkar

There are cricket careers. Then there are careers where the plot twists appear too unrealistic even for fiction. Shreyas Iyer’s professional life over the last three years belongs firmly to that category.

He had a recurring back injury which threatened not merely form but longevity. There were questions over his commitment towards domestic cricket. He lost a BCCI central contract. He went from being considered an all-format certainty – and at one point even a leadership candidate – to becoming only an ODI regular.

Shreyas led two different IPL franchises (Kolkata Knight Riders and Punjab Kings) to finals in successive years, winning one and losing the other. He produced one of the greatest World Cup knockout innings by an Indian batter and still found himself outside certain squads months later.

The latest episode

If Indian cricket ever runs out of scripts, somebody only needs to document the past few years of Shreyas’ cricketing life. The latest episode was released last Saturday. The 31-year-old was not just recalled into India’s T20I set-up after two-and-a-half years away from the squad. He was handed the captaincy!

That he returned to the side is understandable. That he returned to the side as skipper is fascinating. Though Shreyas being chosen for the top job may not be surprising, the circumstances under which he became captain certainly are. For years, conversations on Shreyas revolved around leadership potential.

Could he command a dressing room? Could his personality dominate elite players? Could he tactically survive international cricket? Could he transition from an instinctive leader to a traditional one? Over the last 18 months, those questions were answered in the affirmative at the domestic and franchise level.

Providing evidence

Shreyas simply went out and provided evidence. He led KKR to the IPL title in 2024. He guided Mumbai to the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy later in the year. In 2025, he steered PBKS to the IPL summit clash.

He handled dressing rooms full of superstars. He managed retention cycles, changing squads and the increasingly exhausting ecosystem of franchise cricket, where captains are analysed after every over and judged every morning.

The question of whether Shreyas could captain was no longer asked. Could Indian cricket continue ignoring those credentials became the real question.

What made Saturday’s announcement peculiar was not Shreyas’ promotion. It was the man he replaced. Suryakumar Yadav’s removal is what makes this transition feel unusual. Because unlike many leadership changes, India did not replace a failing captain. India replaced a successful captain who had diminishing returns with the willow. A very successful one, for that matter.

When Rohit Sharma’s team ended India’s 17-year wait for a T20 World Cup title in June 2024, it felt like closure. When Suryakumar and Co. defended that crown in March, it felt like confirmation.

India under Suryakumar did not merely win. It established control. The domination in bilaterals continued. The pool of talent expanded.

India in T20Is increasingly resembled what Australia once was in the late 1990s and early 2000s – a side where changing personnel rarely altered results.

And yet only months later, Suryakumar lost not only captaincy but also his place. That perhaps tells us more about the current team administration than anything else.

Indian cricket, just like most other spheres in a country busy hero-worshipping, has traditionally functioned around personalities. But this version increasingly appears to function around timelines.

The current team management – especially the head coach and chief selector axis of Gautam Gambhir and Ajit Agarkar – has repeatedly shown willingness to make difficult calls before circumstances force them.

Sometimes those calls have looked brave. Sometimes unnecessary. Sometimes downright ruthless. But almost always, they have followed a pattern. The team first, individuals second.

Beneficiary and survivor

Rohit experienced the bitter feeling despite clinching an ICC title (Champions Trophy). Now Suryakumar experiences the same despite having lifted one. And somewhere between those decisions sits Shreyas – simultaneously a beneficiary and survivor. Perhaps the most fascinating subplot are Shreyas and Agarkar. Few player-selector relationships have generated as much speculation over the years.

When Agarkar functioned as Mumbai’s chief selector towards the end of the previous decade, stories of friction between him and Shreyas emerged repeatedly. There was the famous incident where the batter was reportedly asked to undergo a fitness test minutes before boarding a flight for a Ranji Trophy game in 2018. Then came the stronger stance around domestic cricket participation. Eventually came Shreyas’ removal from the central contract list.

The word on the street was that there were personal issues. The selection committee meeting held last Saturday complicated that narrative. Because if personal differences truly dictated decisions, recalling someone and trusting him with captaincy directly become difficult to explain.

What came out of the meeting was something else. The selection panels may disagree. They may challenge. They may punish. But increasingly, decisions appear linked more to long-term planning than personality clashes. This does not automatically make every decision correct. But it makes the process easier to understand.

Strange task

Shreyas’ challenge extends far beyond captaincy. The first task is perhaps the strangest one. He must cement his own place. Modern T20 cricket offers captains

authority, not security.

Hardik Pandya remains in the ecosystem. Jasprit Bumrah will almost certainly return closer to the next T20 World Cup.

Axar Patel is an important senior figure. Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma were all discussed as leadership candidates.

It means captaincy does not protect Shreyas. Performance is still a must.

The second challenge is acceptance. Captaining an IPL side and leading India are different jobs. IPL dressing rooms are in place only for about 10 weeks a year. National team dressing rooms last years. Franchise cricket allows resets. But international cricket rarely does.

Added dimension

Managing players who captain franchises themselves creates another dimension. Managing players who may believe that they can captain India at some point creates an even bigger one.

Shreyas must therefore not just lead. He must convince.

The third task is maintaining standards. This might actually be the hardest. Rohit inherited a side recovering from repeated ICC disappointments. Suryakumar inherited a functioning machine. Shreyas inherits something arguably tougher. A champion side expected to remain champion. Expectations are dangerous because they rise faster than the time teams take to evolve.

The next T20 World Cup only complicates matters. Australia and New Zealand will host it in October-November 2028.

Conditions change everything. Larger boundaries compared to Indian grounds, bouncier pitches, possibly more seam movement than flat-beds at home. Different finishing requirements.

Batters who dominate in Asia sometimes appear ordinary there. Twenty-eight months sounds comfortably distant. But international cricket rarely permits such comfort.

Most underrated complication

Then comes perhaps the most underrated complication.

The ecosystem around him may change before the T20 World Cup arrives. Gambhir’s contract, for now, is until the ODI World Cup in 2027.

Agarkar’s stay period is similar unless extensions emerge and the BCCI rulebook is modified. Meaning Shreyas may operate with different selectors, different coaches and perhaps different philosophies.

That effectively leaves him with roughly 15 months to establish authority. Fifteen months to create a leadership identity. Fifteen months to make himself indispensable irrespective of future decision-makers. It perhaps explains why sympathy naturally flows towards Suryakumar.

Irrespective of what one thinks about his form, removing a World Cup-winning captain entirely feels harsh. Especially when it is about India’s most transformative T20 batter.

For a major part of the last five years, Suryakumar raised batting expectations. Perhaps he deserved another series. Perhaps two. Yet harshness increasingly appears central to this regime.

And while criticism exists, results continue strengthening their arguments. Which brings the story back to Shreyas.

Operating at extremes

Few careers in Indian cricket have operated at such extremes.

Too much hype. Too much criticism. Too many injuries. Too many comebacks. Too many questions. Now comes the strangest phase. For the first time in years, Shreyas is not fighting for relevance. He is set to define direction.

If he establishes himself and successfully carries India into another T20 World Cup cycle, Saturday’s call may eventually be remembered as ‘the moment’.

And if India eventually completes a hat-trick of T20 World Cup triumphs while adding the Olympic gold along the way, the Shreyas ‘web series’ may require more than just another season.

It might require a cinematic universe.

THE GIST

In 2024, Shreyas led KKR to the IPL title and Mumbai to the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. In 2025, he steered PBKS to the IPL summit clash

Maintaining the lofty standards will be a tough challenge, considering that India has won the last two T20 World Cups

If he establishes himself and successfully carries the national team into another T20 World Cup cycle, the selection panel’s call may eventually be remembered as ‘the moment’



K.R. DEEPAK

Scientists find a blood test that predicts lung cancer years early

A new study has zeroed in on a set of 14 blood plasma proteins, called the '14-protein signature', as a strong predictor of being diagnosed with lung cancer years in advance; the team also identified an existing drug that could potentially be used to reduce the risk of developing lung cancer

S. Swaminathan

Lung cancer is one of the more common cancers affecting people worldwide. This is mainly due to smoking and, to a lesser extent, air pollution and occupational exposure. According to the latest World Health Organization estimates, there are about 2.5 million new cases and 1.8 million deaths every year. Prevention offers the ideal solution to this public health problem.

Scientists are currently on the threshold of finding a new way to identify people who may be predisposed to developing lung cancer and protect them proactively. A multinational team, from almost a dozen countries, led by Charles Swanton of the Francis Crick Institute, London, published its findings on an exciting discovery in *Cell* on May 4. The team has zeroed in on a set of 14 blood plasma proteins, which they call the “14-protein signature”, as a strong predictor of being diagnosed with lung cancer years in advance.

The team also identified an existing drug that could potentially be used to reduce the risk of developing lung cancer.

Looking in the blood

Blood plasma is the liquid portion of the blood that flows in our body. It contains thousands of proteins that come from every organ and tissue. This entire set of proteins is called the plasma proteome. The large-scale systematic study of the proteome is called proteomics.

Sampling blood plasma is akin to a liquid biopsy. The plasma proteomics profile provides a real-time snapshot of health and disease. If scientists could compare the profiles of people before and after the onset of a disease, they can glean important clues about changes in the plasma proteome as a person goes from well to unwell.

To get such data pertaining to lung cancer, Swanton et al. turned to the U.K. Biobank, an ongoing initiative that tracks the lives of approximately half a million volunteers to find out who falls ill and why. The Biobank is a repository of anonymised biological samples and corresponding health-related information of all these volunteers. It is accessible to scientists around the world to develop diagnostics and therapies for everyone, everywhere.

For a subset of the volunteers, around 10%, the plasma proteomics profiles became available in 2023.

The team used the profiles of about 48,000 volunteers to train a machine-learning model along with patient characteristics, such as age,



Sampling blood plasma is akin to a liquid biopsy. The plasma proteomics profile provides a real-time snapshot of health and disease. ADRIAN SULYOK/UNSPASH

gender, smoking status, lung cancer diagnosis, etc. This way, the team identified 14 plasma proteins linked to lung cancer.

How a cancer forms

Next, the researchers used the model to predict the incidence of lung cancer diagnoses using the proteomics data of about 12,000 patients whose data had been excluded from the model's training. This set included 75 individuals of lung cancer with a median time to diagnosis of 5.1 years. The model predicted lung cancer diagnosis with a very high sensitivity, successfully identifying more than 75% cases.

The 14-protein signature was also found in eight additional datasets, including one from life-long non-smokers, essentially validating the signature's usefulness.

The scientists also found that the signature was more pronounced when specific inflammatory pathways involving smoking and air pollution were activated. In a previous study, the same team had found that air pollution causes inflammation that awakens dormant mutant lung cells, which eventually become cancer cells.

This detail, together with the observations in the new study, led the team to hypothesise that smoking induces mutations, lung inflammation triggered by environmental cues follows, and this culminates in lung cancer.

The signature was also more distinct in people who developed chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and pulmonary fibrosis.

The CANTOS trial

If future research finds that this is indeed one way that lung cancer develops, scientists can think of treating the inflammation before the cancer takes root. Canakinumab is a drug made by Novartis and which currently has the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval to treat inflammatory disorders. Swanton et al. were aware of a previous clinical trial called CANTOS that tested canakinumab's ability to reduce the risk of recurrent cardiac events in patients who had experienced a prior heart attack and were suffering from persistent inflammation. Its effect was modest.

However, Swanton et al., who carried out a retrospective analysis of the trial data, found that 2,300 of the CANTOS participants who received canakinumab happened to display the 14-protein signature – and the risk of lung cancer was down by 50% in this group.

The data suggested that canakinumab could be a potential drug to prevent future lung cancer in those with the 14-protein signature.

Step by step

The 14-protein signature needs to be further validated. It has been derived

from a population of limited diversity, representing the U.K., the U.S., and East Asia. If the signature is found to be relevant in many or even all populations, scientists will then have to develop a diagnostic test to detect all 14 proteins in blood plasma.

Assuming such a test also becomes available, canakinumab will have to be tested in clinical trials for its new purpose. Unfortunately, the CANTOS trial found that canakinumab could have serious side effects. The European Medicine Agency's report concluded that the drug's toxicity could outweigh its benefits.

Canakinumab is also prohibitively expensive. Treatments usually involve multiple doses over long periods of time. In the U.S., it costs \$73,000 for a year. It is neither registered nor commercially available in India, and it would be imperative to explore inexpensive alternatives with similar function and with more acceptable safety profiles.

Ultimately, if we manage to tick all these boxes, the diagnostics and the drug would be of great benefit for individuals at risk of lung cancer worldwide. The work of Swanton et al. is a step in this direction.

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THE GIST

The 14-protein signature has been derived from a population of limited diversity, representing the U.K., the U.S., and East Asia

While promising, it still needs to be further validated

If the signature is found to be relevant in many or even all populations, scientists will then have to develop a diagnostic test to detect all 14 proteins in blood plasma

BIG SHOT



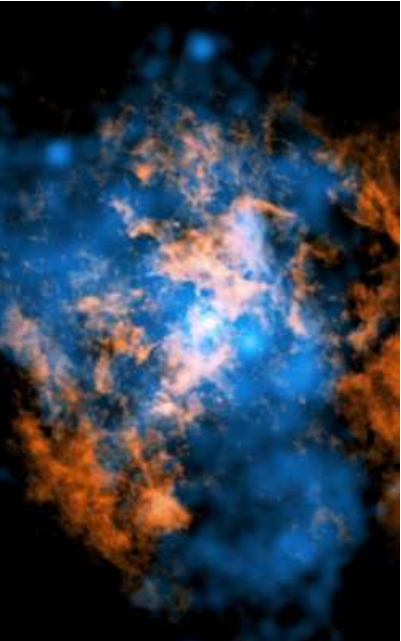
Preventive measures: A drone view of farmers planting rice seedlings in a paddy field in Cirebon regency in West Java province, Indonesia, on June 3. The Indonesian government has urged farmers to immediately replant their plots, responding to the erratic forces of weather for a possible prolonged dry spell linked to El Nino. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

A black hole's elusive wind

Vasudevan Mukunth

For more than 50 years, astronomers have suspected that Sagittarius A*, the supermassive black hole at the centre of the Milky Way, was blowing a wind of hot gas into space. However, they couldn't find evidence of it. This has now changed if the results of a new study, using the ALMA telescope in Chile, are to be believed. By combining five years of data from ALMA, researchers from Northwestern University, U.S., have reported a large cone-shaped clearing in the dense molecular gas surrounding the black hole. This clearing is at least 3.2 lightyears long and opens at a 45-degree angle, as if the black hole is 'blowing' away cold gas that would otherwise fall into it. According to the study, the finding is the first definitive evidence of a "presently active" wind from Sagittarius A*. By blowing away the gas, the wind keeps too many stars from forming, which would deplete the gas and prevent future star formation. If too many stars explode when they die, they could also blow away the remaining gas, nixing the galaxy's ability to evolve. When the black hole pulls on some gas, it swirls around instead of falling straight in. As it accelerates, the gas particles are heated by friction as the gravity pressurises them. Eventually the gas becomes a plasma burning millions of degrees hot. As per the study, just 1 g of this gas can release



An image depicting evidence of a wind blowing away from Sagittarius A*, the Milky Way's supermassive black hole. NASA

enough energy to push away 100 kg of nearby gas. The pushed gas makes up the wind.

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