

INBRIEF

HC declines status quo on Jaipur Polo Ground takeover

The Delhi High Court on Monday declined the Indian Polo Association's request for a direction to maintain status quo with respect to the Centre's move to take possession of the 15.20-acre Jaipur Polo Ground in the Race Course area. A Vacation Bench of Justice Tejas Karia, however, directed a sessions court to decide on merits the association's appeal against the eviction order, as well as its application seeking an interim stay. The senior counsel appearing for the association said the sessions court was scheduled to take up the matter on June 17 and urged the High Court to direct maintenance of status quo till then. "No. We can't decide on merits. Argue before the appellate authority," Justice Karia stated.



Dust storm sweeps across city; IMD issues red alert; metro hit

A powerful dust storm swept across Delhi and the National Capital Region on Monday afternoon, reducing visibility in several areas and prompting the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to issue a red alert for thunderstorms and rain. Wind speeds touched 92 kmph at the Palam weather station around 2.30 p.m. while gusts of 70-90 kmph were recorded in several other parts of the Capital. Public transport services were disrupted across the city, with the Delhi metro announcing delays at some stations. Metro trains were run at slower speeds on elevated corridors as a precautionary measure, said an official.

Census 2027 Phase 1 ends in Delhi; nearly 76 lakh houses, 55 lakh households counted

Month-long drive helmed by 52,000 enumerators, supervisors across Capital concludes, laying groundwork for population enumeration phase; most households recorded in South West district

Suruchi Kumari
NEW DELHI

The first phase of Census 2027 in Delhi – Houselisting and Housing Operations (HLO) – concluded, officials said on Monday. A total of 54.98 lakh households were enumerated during the month-long exercise, laying the groundwork for the second phase of population enumeration, officials added.

Enumerators identified 75.98 lakh houses across 45,863 houselisting blocks (HLBs). Officials said the door-to-door exercise ended as per schedule on Sunday, adding that the process of digitally syncing physical maps is expected to be completed within the next few days.

More than 52,000 enumerators and supervisors, predominantly teachers and government officials, were deployed for the exercise.

"Data collected in this phase provide the framework for the second phase. Ascertaining the number of commercial and residential structures, as well



Counting heads: Enumerators interacting with a resident in north-west Delhi's Jahangirpuri on June 10. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

as households, will help us assess the manpower and planning required for the next phase in which the population will be counted," said an official.

He added, "This phase focused on household-level information such as living conditions, assets and amenities. The next phase will collect details for every household member. We now have the house counts and mapped blocks that will guide that exercise."

Of Delhi's 13 districts, South West recorded the highest number of households at 6.26 lakh, followed by North East (6.25 lakh) and West (5.89 lakh).

L-G directs revamp of 32 Yamuna ghats within six months

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Taranjit Singh Sandhu has directed officials to begin restoration work on 32 historic ghats in the Yamuna Bazar area in a phased manner over the next six months. The revamp work is intended to revive the Capital's historic riverfronts and strengthen public access to the Yamuna, according to a statement issued by the L-G's office on Monday. The direction followed a review meeting on the Yamuna rejuvenation projects undertaken by the Delhi Development Authority on June 12.

On Sunday, the Delhi government also carried out a cleanliness drive at several Yamuna ghats.

Coordinated effort

According to officials, the L-G was informed that a plan to revitalise the historic Yamuna Bazar stretch is being pursued in coordination with multiple agencies. Based on a study conducted by INTACH, the project proposes conservation-led restoration of the ghats, along with landscaping, improved pedestrian connectivity and visitor amenities. Mr. Sandhu directed officials to expedite approvals and complete



L-G Taranjit Singh Sandhu has ordered the revamp to revive Delhi's riverfronts and boost public access to the river. ANI

preparatory work so that restoration can begin in phases within six months.

During the meeting, the L-G also reviewed progress on river restoration and floodplain management projects and asked agencies to speed up the implementation of ongoing works. An official said restoration activities have been completed across nearly 1,700 hectares of the Yamuna floodplains. As part of the exercise, around 88,574 metric tons of construction and demolition waste and 4,998 metric tons of municipal solid waste have been removed. About 1,425 acres of floodplains have also been reclaimed, restored and secured from encroachment, the official added.

The official said 35 wetlands, with a combined capacity to hold 1,420 million litres, have been developed along the river.

Govt. to plant 70 lakh saplings in mega drive starting next week

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Monday announced that 70 lakh saplings will be planted under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam - Delhi Mega Plantation Drive 2026', which will be launched on June 22.

According to a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), the first phase of the campaign will begin with a digital launch on June 22, when the e-Forest Green Drive portal and the campaign's official video will be unveiled.

The second phase will be held in the first week of July as the 'Mega Ridge Plantation Campaign'. Ecological restoration plantation programmes will be



Chief Minister Rekha Gupta watering a sapling during a plantation drive in New Delhi on June 5. ANI

launched at various locations across the Delhi Ridge area, including Central Ridge, South Central Ridge and Nanakpura Ridge. The third and largest phase of the campaign will be organised in mid-July as a mega public participation plantation programme.

The central event will be held at Swarn Jayanti Park in Rohini, along with 51 other locations across Delhi.

Around 11,000 people are expected to participate. The campaign will extend across all 70 Assembly constituencies and 13 districts of Delhi, according to the CMO.

People can register on the 'e-Forest Green Drive' portal. After registration, they can select a plantation site, from where a sapling will be provided free of cost. After uploading a geo-tagged photograph of the planted sapling, participants will instantly receive a 'Paryavaran Rakshak' e-certificate, signed by CM Rekha Gupta, through the portal, the CMO stated.

'Relocate first': HC stays Race Course slum demolitions

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday said authorities cannot demolish the houses of residents in the Race Course slum clusters who have not accepted alternative accommodation and relocated until July 1.

"If they have not voluntarily gone, you cannot touch them till July 1," a Vacation Bench of Justices Tejas Karia and Madhu Jain orally observed while hearing an appeal filed by residents of Bhairam Camp, DID Camp and Masjid Camp, challenging an order of a single judge that had refused to interfere with their eviction.

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION		Sl. No.	Name of the Work
Office of the Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division, 8th Cross, 12th 'A' Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru - 560038.		24	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara - BDA Layout. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00
No: EE/CVR/KPPP/03/2026-27 Date: 12-06-2026		SC / ST Category - (Call-2)	
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)		25	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Gover Road, Charles Cambell Road & M.M Road. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.00, EMD (in Rs.): 45,000.00
The Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division, BCCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP / KPWD / CPWD / Railway / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organization for the works detailed below. (Standard Tender Document - KW-2)		26	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Thimmaiah Garden, Nanjundappa Garden. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 40,000.00
Sl. No.	Name of the Work	27	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Lalbahadur Nagara. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 35.00, EMD (in Rs.): 35,000.00
Improvements, Asphalting and Construction of CC Roads, Drains and Culverts below Wards		28	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Malleshpalya. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 30,000.00
General Works (Call-2) - (Others)		29	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Chaitanya School. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00
1	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - PSK Naidu Road. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00	30	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Malleshpalya. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 40,000.00
2	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Gajendranagara and Old Bayapanahalli. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00	31	Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra - LIC Colony and Geethanjali Layout. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00
3	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Kalahalli. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00	32	Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra - G.M Palya and Byrasandra. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00
4	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Pilla Reddy Nagara. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00	33	Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra - 515 Colony and Venkateshwara Layout. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00
5	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Sadanandanagara. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00	34	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara - Bank Road. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 30,000.00
6	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - B. Channasandra. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 35.00, EMD (in Rs.): 70,000.00	35	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara - Murugesh Palya, A.K. Colony and Cauvery Nagara. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00
7	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Krishnaiahnapalya. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00	36	Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra - Surrounding. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00
8	Ward No. 110, C.V. Ramannagara - Rahat Bagh. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00	37	Ward No. 113, Hoysalanagara - Cauvery School. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00
9	Ward No.110, C.V. Ramannagara-Suddagunte Palya. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00	CATEGORY-I (Call-2)	
10	Ward No.110, C.V. Ramannagara-Suddagunte Palya. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00	38	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - New Bayapanahalli and Adjacent Roads. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD (in Rs.): 25,000.00
11	Ward No. 110, C.V. Ramannagara - Vartur Road. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00	39	Ward No. 114, Jeevan Bhima Nagara - Anandapura. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00
12	Ward No. 110, C.V. Ramannagara - Sanjeevappa. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00	40	Ward No. 114, Jeevan Bhima Nagara - HAL 2nd Stage. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00
13	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Malleshpalya. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00	CATEGORY-II(A) (Call-2)	
14	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Surrounding. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00	41	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Kallipalli. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 25,000.00
15	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Varsova Layout. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00	42	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Chikkabanasawadi. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 40,000.00
16	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Balaji Layout. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00	43	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Surrounding Area. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 20,000.00
17	Ward No. 113, Hoysalanagara - Michel Palya. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00	44	Ward No. 110, C.V. Raman Nagara - Nagavarapalya. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 40,000.00
18	Ward No. 114, Jeevanbhima Nagara - Baba Saheb Colony. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00	45	Ward No. 110, C.V. Raman Nagara - Kaggadasapura Road. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 30,000.00
19	Ward No. 114, Jeevanbhima Nagara - PWD Quarters. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00	46	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Surrounding Area. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 30,000.00
20	Ward No. 114, Jeevanbhima Nagara - Kodihalli. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00	Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 17-06-2026. 2) Date of Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 25-06-2026 at 3.30 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, C.V. Raman Nagara Division, 8th Cross, 12th 'A' Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru - 560038. 3) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document: 02-07-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: 03-07-2026 after 4.30 PM. Further details can be had from the above office.	
21	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara - Vinayakanagara. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00	Sd/- Executive Engineer C.V. Ramannagara Division, BCCC.	
22	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara-Muniyellappa Garden. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00		
23	Ward No. 113, Hoysalanagara - Defence Colony. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00		

GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH				
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT				
Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Tulsi Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.)				
Email Id: ce.tender.wrdmp@gmail.com Tel: 0755-2767635 Fax: 0755-2552406				
N.I.T. No. 1226/2026-27/E-in-C/e-tendering Bhopal, Dated 10.06.2026				
Bids for following works are invited on website https://www.mptenders.gov.in Last Date of purchase/download of Bid Document and submission of bid is 29-06-2026 17:30 hrs. Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.				
S. No.	Tender No.	Work	District	Amount (Lakhs)
1	2026_WRD_514195	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Ojhad Barrage, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Alirajpur	281.84
2	2026_WRD_514196	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Gundirela Tank, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Dhar	342.89
3	2026_WRD_514197	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Bhurkhal Khapa (MPIDC) Tank, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Seoni	493.62
4	2026_WRD_514199	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Nayamalaheda Tank, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Neemach	269.78
5	2026_WRD_514200	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Kaliya Kho Tank, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Neemach	393.78
6	2026_WRD_514201	Special Repair work of Chunar Tank (without canal)	Dhar	67.72
7	2026_WRD_514376	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Gujri Barrage across Sukkad River, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Dhar	531.29
G14424/26			Chief Engineer (Procurement)	

Fire at south-west Delhi hospital; 15 patients rescued

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Fifteen patients were evacuated from a private hospital in south-west Delhi's Dabri area after a fire broke out on Sunday night, the police said on Monday. No injuries or fatalities were reported.

The staff at A.S. Multi Kidney Hospital in Vijay Enclave had extinguished the flames before the arrival of emergency services, the police said, adding that a preliminary inquiry indicated a short circuit in the electricity meter and panel as the cause of the blaze.

A police officer said the Sagarpur police station received a call regarding the fire at 10.27 p.m., after which 15 personnel rushed to the site. "There were at least 15 patients inside the hospital when the fire broke out. The hospital staff swiftly shifted all the patients to safe locations. Security guards deployed at the rear of the building also assisted in evacuation efforts," the officer added.

According to the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), a call regarding a fire was received at 10.25 p.m. A DFS official said three water tenders, a water bowser and a breathing apparatus support vehicle were rushed to the spot. The blaze was confined to an electric meter junction box on the ground floor of the hospital.

INBRIEF



Haryana govt.'s ban on rallies, gatherings dictatorial: INLD

INLD chief Abhay Singh Chautala on Monday said the Haryana government recently imposed a ban on holding rallies, taking out processions and holding large gatherings, a move which he termed “dictatorial”. He also said the ruling BJP was not making these restrictions applicable to itself. Addressing a press conference in Chandigarh, Mr. Chautala said the “ban imposed by the Haryana government on June 10 regarding rallies, sit-ins, protests, and holding large gatherings is undemocratic and dictatorial”. PTI

Ex-MLA arrested over viral clip linked to Ankita Bhandari case

Former BJP MLA Suresh Rathore has been arrested in connection with a probe into a viral audio-video clip related to the alleged naming of a ‘VIP’ in the Ankita Bhandari murder case, police said on Monday. Superintendent of Police (City) Pramod Kumar said Mr. Rathore was detained from his office in Buggawala, Haridwar, and brought to Dehradun before being formally placed under arrest. The development follows a press meet held by Mr. Rathore three days ago, where he stated that the Uttarakhand HC has quashed two of the four FIRs registered against him. The FIRs had been filed against Mr. Rathore over the alleged circulation of objectionable audio and video clips related to the case. PTI

‘We are nature worshippers’: tribal villagers in Uttarakhand block installation of Shivling

Press Trust of India
PITHORAGARH



The Rung community in a village in Uttarakhand’s Vyans valley on Monday refused to allow the installation of a three-tonne Shivling and Nandi in front of Om Parvat, stating they are “nature worshippers”, who do not allow artificial structures on their land.

Rung is an indigenous community residing primarily in the border valleys of Dharchula in Pithoragarh district, known for their distinct cultural traditions of nature worship.

The Adi Kailash 20-20 Trust, an organisation claiming to work towards spreading Sanatana Dharma, had proposed the installation of a Shivling in the area.

The local administration intervened after the Rung Kalyan Sanstha raised an

The administration cannot give permission to the trust until the gram sabha and tribal association agree to the installation of the idol

ASHISH JOSHI
Dharchula Sub-Divisional
Magistrate, Uttarakhand

objection regarding the “unauthorised” import of religious installations into the valley.

The matter escalated when the trust transported the three-tonne Shivling and Nandi up to Garbadhar, 27 km beyond Dharchula, without consulting the local tribal community or obtaining permission from the panchayat.

Prakash Gunjiyal, president of Rung Kalyan Sanstha, Dharchula - represent-

ing the Rung people from the three valleys of Vyans, Darma and Chaudans - said the installation violates their belief of worshipping Lord Shiva solely in his natural form.

“Besides the violation of our belief of only worshipping natural forms, the installation of any artificial structure cannot be permitted on Amavasya, June 15,” Mr. Gunjiyal said.

Dharchula Sub-Divisional Magistrate Ashish Joshi said the administration recalled the vehicle to Dharchula after learning that the group had not obtained permission from the gram sabha concerned and the Rung community. “It is a matter between the community and the trust. The administration cannot give permission to the trust until the gram sabha and tribal association agree to it,” the official said.

When a small town sends one of its own to Raisina Hill

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

What happens when a nondescript town produces the occupant of India’s highest office? Transformation becomes inevitable. If even a fraction of the projects lined up materialises, Rairangpur in Odisha, the hometown of President Droupadi Murmu, will have a compelling story to tell. With just over a year left in her tenure, the town is poised to host some of the country’s prominent educational institutions and a slew of development projects. Her tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district is also set to receive a share of the investments.

Some of the projects are likely to be announced during the scheduled visit of the President and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Mayurbhanj this week.

A Government Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital will be set up on 50 acres identified under Rairangpur Tahasil.

The Odisha government has accorded approval for the establishment of a second campus of the Indian Institute of Forest Management at Rairangpur. An area of 134.89 acres in Suliduma and Kusumi villages under Kusumi Tahasil in Mayurbhanj has been identified for the institute.

In-principle approval has been granted for the establishment of an Indian Institute of Information Technology at Rairangpur, which will function under Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Baripada. The State Higher Education Department has released a one-time capital grant of ₹1,67,25,600 toward non-recurring expenditure for the institute’s in-



Some projects are likely to be announced during the scheduled visit of President Droupadi Murmu to Mayurbhanj from June 20. FILE PHOTO

ital establishment.

A Central Tribal University has also been proposed for Rairangpur. The Higher Education Department has identified 70.79 acres in Bijatala block near Rairangpur for the purpose. At Nuagaon in Rairangpur, 25 acres have been identified for an AI-

IMS Bhubaneswar satellite centre. A Central Agricultural and Horticulture College of the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology will be established in Rairangpur.

The State Industries and MSME Department has been requested to provide the necessary guidance for

establishing IT park infrastructure at Bamanghaty near Rairangpur.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has been requested to involve the Wildlife Institute of India in preparing a dossier for the nomination of Simlipal National Park as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A proposal has also been submitted for setting up a world-class skill university on the lines of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Palwal, Haryana, at Rairangpur.

The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has allocated ₹45 crore for operationalising flights between Rairangpur and Rourkela once the Dandbose airstrip is ready. Sports infrastructure, including a national-level sports complex, an archery complex and an international-standard indoor stadium, has also

been proposed for Rairangpur.

The government has proposed increasing the area under irrigation in the district to 60% from the present 37%.

Several other projects, including a National Institute of Design, a major office of the Postal Department, a Mayurbhanj campus of the College of Fisheries, girls’ hostels in the district and the development of Rairangpur as a separate police district, have also been proposed. In addition, some industrial projects have been proposed for Rairangpur.

The proposals to establish institutions of higher education in and around Rairangpur are being viewed as a tribute to Ms. Murmu’s perseverance and journey from the region to the country’s highest constitutional office.

Displaced Pandits seek ‘genocide’ recognition in official public policy

Several Kashmiri Pandit organisations pass joint resolution in Srinagar, call for ‘property recovery’, township in UT; two community outfits decry ‘attempt to undermine separate homeland demand’

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR



Dignitaries, including J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha (left), at the launch of the two-day conclave in Srinagar on Saturday. ANI

one,” said Surinder Koul, head of the Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora.

A number of Pandit organisations on Monday passed a joint resolution after the two-day conclave in Srinagar, where Pandit leaders and professionals expressed their views. The groups that participated include the Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora, Jammu Kashmir Vichar Manch, the U.S.-based Kashmiri Overseas Association, Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj, Sanjeevani Shardha Kendra Kashmiri Pandits’ Association, Mumbai, and

All Minority Employees Association Kashmir.

The joint resolution called upon both the Centre and the Government of the Union Territory of J&K “to formalize community engagement through official mechanisms at the highest levels, with broad, representative, and accountable participation of Kashmiri Pandits worldwide”.

It also pressed for the formal recognition of the “Kashmiri Pandit genocide” in public policy and urged the establishment of an appropriate commis-

sion of inquiry.

“The term ‘genocide’ has increasingly entered public discourse and is now used by public representatives and government officials, delegates emphasized that recognition must move beyond rhetoric and be reflected in official policy, institutional action, and historical documentation,” it added.

‘3.50 lakh forced to flee’ According to the resolution, approximately 3.50 lakh community members were “forced to flee the Kashmir Valley amid violence and persecution, scattering across Jammu, Delhi, and countries around the world” in 1989-1990.

Meanwhile, two organisations, Roots in Kashmir and Youth for Panun Kashmir, distanced themselves from the conclave and termed it “an attempt to undermine the long-standing demands of the community to create a separate homeland”.

3-year-old girl dies after sexual assault in T.N.; accused held

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A three-year-old girl, the daughter of a couple from Bihar, died after she was subjected to penetrative sexual assault allegedly by a 19-year-old man, also from Bihar, near Gummidipoondi in Tiruvallur district.

Police sources said the girl’s parents work at a steel company in the SIP-COT Industrial Estate. The accused was employed at the same company, lived in the couple’s neighbourhood, and was known to them.

Around 8 p.m. on Sunday, she was playing with other children on the street, while her parents were at home. The accused allegedly took her to a nearby shop under the pretext of buying her chocolates and committed the penetrative sexual assault at a secluded spot, the police said. A passer-by witnessed the incident and alerted residents. A crowd gathered at the scene. The accused tried to escape, but was apprehended. The police took him into custody and arrested him.

The girl was admitted to the government hospital at Kottakarai before being

Udhayanidhi urged the CM to convene a meeting of police officers and direct officials to prevent the deterioration of law and order in T.N.

shifted to the Government Stanley Hospital. She succumbed to her injuries on Monday morning.

The police have registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and murder-related provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The accused was remanded in custody, officials said.

Leader of the Opposition in Tamil Nadu Assembly Udhayanidhi Stalin urged Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay to convene a high-level meeting of police officers and direct regional and district-level officers to prevent the deterioration of law and order in the State. We The Leader founder K. Annamalai urged the government to properly monitor north Indian workers by collecting details about them from the contractors who employ them in the State.

Meeting of INDIA bloc MLAs in Jharkhand planned to outline strategies for Rajya Sabha poll

Press Trust of India
RANCHI



Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren meeting Congress leaders, including State in-charge K. Raju, to discuss strategy for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections, in Ranchi on Monday. ANI

A meeting of the ruling INDIA bloc legislators in Jharkhand will be held on June 16 and 17 to chart strategy for the upcoming Rajya Sabha election for two seats in the State, the Congress’s Jharkhand affairs in-charge K. Raju said.

JMM candidate Baidyanath Ram, Congress nominee Pranav Jha and BJP-backed Independent candidate Parimal Nathwani are contesting for the two Rajya Sabha seats in the State.

A five-member Congress delegation led by Mr. Raju and the party’s State unit president Keshav Mahto Kamlesh met Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday to discuss strategies for the poll.

“We had a fruitful meeting with the Chief Minister.

A meeting of legislators from the ruling parties has been called on June 16 and 17, where every strategy regarding the Rajya Sabha poll will be discussed,” Mr. Raju told reporters.

Mock poll planned

Mr. Raju said they also decided to conduct a mock poll during the meeting, so there is no confusion among the legislators regarding the voting exercise.

Exuding confidence that

the INDIA bloc will win both the seats, Mr. Raju said, “The RJD and CPI (ML) Liberation have confirmed their support to INDIA bloc candidates in the election.”

BJP state general secretary Amar Kumar Bauri on Monday claimed that the candidate backed by his party will secure victory with an absolute majority in the poll. “If the Congress has the numbers, then why is the party so scared?” he said.

SC allows Himachal MLAs to cast vote in civic body elections

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday permitted Himachal Pradesh MLAs, who are *ex officio* members of municipalities, to cast their votes in the election of presidents and vice-presidents of civic bodies, while staying the June 4 order of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

“Wherever the elections of municipalities have been held hitherto, the members of the Legislative Assembly representing the constituencies that comprise wholly or partly in the area of the municipality shall be entitled to vote for the election of the office-bearers of the municipi-

The Bench made it clear that the result of the elections shall be subject to the HC’s final decision

pality,” a Bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana said.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by the Congress government and others challenging the High Court’s interim order. While permitting the MLAs to cast their votes, the Bench made it clear that result of the elections of such office-bearers shall be subject to the final decision of the High Court. It posted the matter for further hearing on August 17.

Kin of T.N. custodial torture victim refuses to receive his body

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI

More than three months after Akash Delison, 26, died following alleged custodial torture by the Tamil Nadu police, his family on Monday refused to receive his body from the mortuary of the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai, despite a 5 p.m. deadline set by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court.

Earlier in the day, Justice L. Victoria Gowri directed A. Rajeshkannan, the father of the deceased who belonged to the Scheduled Caste, to receive the body by 5 p.m., adding that otherwise, the State would be directed to take steps to dispose of it. The judge posted the matter for compliance to June 16.

Delison, who was allegedly tortured in custody at Manamadurai in Sivaganga district, died while undergoing treatment at the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai on March 8. His family refused to accept his body, demanding the arrest of all the policemen involved in the incident.

Recently, the court disposed of Mr. Rajeshkannan's petition for a direction to the government to



The Madurai Bench of the Madras HC on Monday posted the matter for compliance to Tuesday. FILE PHOTO

register a criminal case for the murder, arising out of the alleged custodial torture, under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with the relevant provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Lauds Judicial Magistrate
The court directed the CB-CID to expeditiously conclude the investigation and file the final report before the jurisdictional court. It also appreciated Manamadurai Judicial Magistrate M. Afzal Fathima, whose remand proceedings ensured the preservation of a crucial contemporaneous account that now forms part of the investigative record.

Will remind Centre of Statehood promise at Jantar Mantar: Omar

MLAs to hold sit-in on first day of Monsoon Session: CM says he discussed issue with PM, adds J&K govt. will pursue demand through all democratic, constitutional means

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the ruling National Conference (NC) legislators would go ahead with their plan to hold a sit-in at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on the first day of the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament and press for Statehood.

“At the beginning of the Monsoon Session, we will remind the Centre of the promise made to the people of J&K regarding Statehood. We will convey our message to the nation at Jantar Mantar,” said Mr. Abdullah.

Referring to his recent meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, he said, “I discussed the [restoration of] Statehood with PM besides J&K’s financial position and developmental priorities.”

The CM said the NC government would continue pursuing Statehood “through all democratic and constitutional means”.

On the current reservation policy, which has irked general category aspirants in J&K, Mr.



Standing firm: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah with his deputy Surinder Kumar Choudhary in Srinagar on Monday. PTI

Abdullah said the Centre had sought clarifications on the reservation report prepared by the J&K Cabinet subcommittee and forwarded it to Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha.

‘Response on quota ready’
“The department concerned has prepared replies to all the clarifications sought by the Centre. The response has been ready for the last two to three days,” said Mr. Abdullah, adding the Cabinet would meet shortly to approve it.

“It will be sent back to the Centre,” he added.

The CM’s response came following a press conference organised by general category students in Budgam.

“The reservation file has seen more offices than resolutions. Students are still waiting. We are suffering,” said student leader Sahil Parray, who has been advocating for the “rationalisation” of reservation quota in J&K.

During the Central rule in J&K, a new reservation policy was framed, increasing the quota for Scheduled Tribes to 20% by including Paharis, and raising the OBC quota to 8%.

Saini giving priority to Punjab over Haryana’s issues, alleges Congress

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Congress on Monday hit out at Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini,

accusing him of prioritising Punjab’s politics over Haryana’s people, where the Assembly election is due in 2027, pointing out that while the State’s farm-

ers, youth, employees, and traders are left struggling with unresolved problems, the Chief Minister is busy in neighbouring Punjab.

HC directs govt. to give protection to ex-judge, kin

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday ordered the Maharashtra government to provide protection to former judge Justice Gautam Patel, who has been facing threats for over ten months following his 2024 judgment in the Dawoodi Bohra succession dispute.

The court also asked the Centre to report on the steps taken to protect the judge’s daughter, who was attacked in London.

Timings
DELHI

TUESDAY, JUN. 16			
RISE	05:23	SET	19:21
RISE	06:15	SET	20:59
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 17			
RISE	05:24	SET	19:21
RISE	07:28	SET	21:50
THURSDAY, JUN. 18			
RISE	05:24	SET	19:21
RISE	08:39	SET	22:31

Delhi Weather		
Delhi City	38	26
Safdarjang	38	26
Palam	39	26

Delhi Palam Today 39°C The weather will be hot and uneasy. Night will be comfortable. Spell of duststorm and thundershower with strong winds may occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 37°C Morning will be comfortable. The weather will be very warm. Night also will be comfortable. Chances of duststorm and thundershower.

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THE HINDU

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APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF COMMISSIONER & ONE COMMISSIONER IN HARYANA RIGHT TO SERVICE COMMISSION

Haryana Government intends to appoint Chief Commissioner and one Commissioner in Haryana Right to Service Commission in accordance with the provision made in section 13 of Haryana Right to Service Act, 2014. Persons fulfilling criteria for appointment as Chief Commissioner and Commissioner and interested for appointment may send their particulars, in prescribed proforma available on website (<https://csharyana.gov.in>) to the office of Commissioner & Secretary to Government, Haryana, General Administration Department Room No. 44B, 6th Floor, Haryana Civil Secretariat, Sector 1, Chandigarh by 01st July 2026 (05:00 PM). Detailed instructions are available on the above website.

Chief Secretary to Government, Haryana
1016/11/62/2027/46281/199/7



The Jammu and Kashmir Bank
Cross Selling Department,
Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road,
Srinagar 190 001 J&K.

Online Request for Proposal (e-RFP) FOR Group Accidental Insurance Cover to Permanent Employees of UT Governments of J&K & Ladakh including those in Corporations, PSUS, Autonomous bodies, local bodies, Universities, and Police Personnel/SPOS

RFP Notice along with Complete RFP document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks’ e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. June 16, 2026 16.00 Hrs. Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank’s Official Website <https://jkb.bank.in/tenderNotice> Last date for submission of Bids is June 30, 2026. 17.00 Hrs.
e-RFP Ref. No JKB/CHQ/CS/GAI-G-Emp-UT-Ladakh/2026-1771
Dated: 15-06-2026

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
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E : info@jkbmail.com ; **W :** <https://jkb.bank.in>

GOVERNMENT OF N.C.T. OF DELHI DELHI FIRE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI-110001

Public Notice

Kind attention: All owners/ occupiers of following Categories of the building

Please be informed that the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have enacted Delhi Fire Service Act, 2007 (Delhi Act 2 of 2009) and Delhi Fire Service Rules 2010 w.e.f. 01.07.2010. In pursuance to the said Act and Rules, every owner/occupier of premises /building falling under the category defined under Rule 27 are required to provide fire prevention and fire safety measures as per National Building Construction Standards -2026 (Part-F) as prescribed under Rule 33. Further, they shall apply to Principal Director, Delhi Fire Service for issuance of “Fire Safety Certificate” as per provision contained in Rule 35. The following classes of occupancies for the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Act are required to obtain “Fire Safety Certificate” from Delhi Fire Service:

- Residential buildings (other than hotels and guest houses) having height more than 15 meters or comprised of Five or more stories, including mezzanine/stilt floor above ground level.
- Hotels and guest houses building having height more than 12 meters or comprised of four or more stories, including mezzanine/stilt floor above ground level.
- Educational buildings having height more than 9 meters or comprised of three or more stories, including mezzanine/stilt floor above ground level.
- Institutional buildings having height more than 9 meters or comprised of three or more stories, including mezzanine/stilt floor above ground level.
- All Assembly buildings.
- Business buildings having height more than 15 meters or comprised of five or more stories, including mezzanine/stilt floor above ground level.
- Mercantile buildings having height more than 9 meters or comprised of three or more stories, including mezzanine/stilt floor above ground level.
- Industrial buildings having covered area on all stories more than 250 square meters.
- Storage buildings having covered area on all stories more than 250 square meters.
- All Hazardous buildings having covered area on all stories more than 100 square meters.
- Underground Structures comprising of two or more Levels.

Further the ‘Fire Safety Certificate’ issued under Rule 35, unless sooner cancelled, shall be valid for a period of 5 years for residential buildings (other than hotels) and 3 years for non-residential building including hotels from the date of issue. The buildings which are not having Fire Safety Certificate from this department, are hereby requested to submit an application for obtaining Fire Safety Certificate for their respective occupancy. The application alongwith sanctioned/ as built drawings through concerned building sanctioned authority in scale, are required to be forwarded to this department. In case your Fire Safety Certificate has expired, you can apply for renewal on the online portal for renewal of Fire Safety Certificate of this department.

DIAL :101/112 IN CASE OF FIRE
Issued in the interest of Public Safety, by Principal Director, Delhi Fire Service

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0110/26-27

WE SERVE TO SAVE

Principal Director
Delhi Fire Service

‘Abnormal hike in diesel cost’: Odisha fishermen to stay away from sea

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Marine Fish Producers’ Association (OMFPA) on Monday said its members have stopped venturing into the sea to protest against the “abnormal increase in diesel cost”. The announcement came a day after the annual ban on fishing ended.

“While diesel is available to the general public at retail rates of approximately ₹99-101 per litre, fishermen are being forced to purchase diesel through harbour consumer outlets at bulk industrial rates ranging from ₹140-142 per litre. This difference has made operational costs unsustainable,” said Srikant Parida, a vessel owner and OMFPA member.

Rise in expenses

He added, “On average, we get to fish for 180 days a year. Moreover, these days, we don’t get fish near the shore. We have to rely on deep-sea fishing. A deep-sea fishing ves-



Around 1,730 mechanised vessels and 4,500 mechanised boats operate along Odisha’s coastline. FILE PHOTO

sel consumes several thousand litres of diesel on a single trip.”

The association stated that fishermen have become vulnerable to a steep rise in operating expenses, adding that boats are idle at the harbour because operators can no longer afford fuel.

Around 1,730 mechanised vessels and 4,500 mechanised boats operate along Odisha’s 575-km coastline, and nearly 15,17,000 families directly depend on fishing.

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E-mail ID : it@upcl.org, Website: www.upcl.org, Tel.: 0135-2763672-75, Ext : 263

Notice Inviting e-Tender
Tender No. 01/SE (SCADA & ERP) /UPCL/2026-27 dated: 15-06-2026
E-tender for "Appointment of an agency to assist UPCL in ERP SAP (S4-Hana) EnhancementActivities"
Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited, Dehradun invites tender from eligible bidders for Appointment of an agency to assist UPCL in ERP SAP (S4-Hana) Enhancement Activities. The references for the tender are given below:
Tender Identification No. 01/SE (SCADA & ERP) /UPCL/2026-27 dated: 15-06-2026
Cost of Tender Document (Tender Fee) Rs. 5,000.00(5,000.00 + 900.00) inclusive of GST @ 18%
Earnest Money Deposit/Bid Security Rs. 1,60,000.00 (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Thousand Only)
Estimated cost (including GST) Rs. 79.46 Lakh
Date & time of Pre-bid conference 24th June 2026 at 12:30 Hrs.
Last Date & Time of submission of Bid (online & offline mode) 10th July-2026 at 11:30 Hrs
Due Date of Opening of Technical Bid 10th July-2026 at 16:30 Hrs
Due Date of Opening of Financial Bid To be notified later
Detailed document, eligibility criteria and prescribed/format for submission of bids will be available on website www.uktenders.gov.in and www.upcl.org, from 17th June-2026 onwards. In case any of the above date, is a holiday, the due date shall be the next working day at the same time. Any amendment/ corrigendum in the future against the above-mentioned tender shall be uploaded at <https://uktenders.gov.in> and www.upcl.org only.
No. 426/EEE(cm) /UPCL/A-2 Date 15.06.2026
Superintending Engineer (SCADA & ERP)
Use LED Bulb Save Electricity. (Toll-Free- 1912)
"Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org" (For information on Electricity Theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185/Fax No.: 0135-2760911)

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kashmir
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
E-NIT NO: 03/CE/PMGSY/KMR OF 2026-27 dated 15-06-2026
The Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kashmir on behalf of Government of Jammu & Kashmir invites Percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction and maintenance of road under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for the following work including its maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

S. No.	Name of Work with Package No.	Tendered Cost including GST (Rs in lacs.)		Cost of documents (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in lacs.)	Time for completion of construction (in weeks)	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of (Technical Bid)	Class of contractor
		Construction	Maintenance	Total					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	Construction and Maintenance of Road from L028- (Link Road) Binmray To Mooriya via Pethgram, Sanctioned Length: 3.400 km, Carriageway Width 3.75 mtr.(Waste Plastic Technology) PMGSY-IV (Batch-4, 2026-27) Package No. JK03-4544, PMGSY Division Uri	775.94	62.29	842.33	0.10	16.85	548 days	2nd 30-06-2026 AT 11:00 A.M	"X" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments

- Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement:15-06-2026.
- The payment of Bid security and cost of Bid document is to be done online on e-tendering website along with the submission of Bids.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available on line and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstyenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA).As piring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: <http://pmgstyenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.
- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://pmgstyendersjk.gov.in> from 16-06-2026(10:00AM) to 29-06-2026 upto (4:30 PM).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://pmgstyendersjk.gov.in> from 19-06-2026 (10:00 AM) to 29-06-2026 upto 4:30 PM. The bids uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened online on 30-06-2026 at 11:00 AM in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The complete bidding process will be on line.
- The advertised amount inclusive of GST. The bidder shall quote % age (above or below) for the construction component only in the BOQ. However, GST @18% shall be added separately at the time of allotment. All duties, taxes, royalties and other levies payable by the Contractor under the Contract, or for any other cause, shall be included in the rates, prices, and total Bid price submitted by the Bidder.
- A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 18-06-2026 at 12:00Noonin the Office of Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kashmir at Engineering Complex Bund Road Rajbagh Srinagar to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents. The intending Bidders, before attending the Pre-bid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site of conditions. It has been made mandatory for all the intending bidders to participate in the pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.
- The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the dead line date for bid submission.
- Bidders may bid for anyone or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.
- The Hard Copy of original instruments in respect of original copy of affidavits, [(cost of tender document, bid security (online mode)] and credit facility must be delivered by participating bidders in the office of Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) at Engineering Complex, Bund Road Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir on a date not later than three working days after the opening of Technical qualification part of the bid either by Registered Post or by hand failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.
- The bidders are advised to upload the required documents/information strictly as per the formats given in Section 3-Qualification Information. The bidder who fails to comply with the said instructions shall be declared as non-responsive.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://pmgstyendersjk.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly on line on same Web Site at the Office of Chief Engineer PMGSY Kashmir, Engineering Complex Rajbagh, Srinagar Kashmir.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents/bid data sheet.
- The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify and check the website for the latest information related to the tender. Corrigendum (if any) will be posted on the <https://pmgstyendersjk.gov.in>. All future correspondence/ corrigendum shall be published on the same website which should be regularly monitored by the intending tenderer.

NOTE:- The intending bidders are advised to study the entire bidding document before preparation and submission of their bids. This includes clause 3 (Eligible Bidders), 4 (Qualification of Bidders) of ITB (Instruction to Bidders), Appendix to ITB, Section 3 (Qualification Information), Contract Data to G.C.C. & Section 7 of Bidding Document.

No.- CE/PMGSY/KMR/e-Tendering/2120-52
Dated:-15-06-2026
DIP/K-2152/26

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kmr.

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TENDERS

TENDER NOTICE

NIT,

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Tender No.: DEPL/GONGRI HEP/2026

(INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

"EPC Execution of Civil, Hydro Mechanical & Electro-Mechanical works including Infrastructure works of Gongri Hydro Electric Project (144 MW) in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, India".

DIRANG ENERGY PVT LTD. having its registered office at Patel Estate Road, Jogeshwari (West), Mumbai-400102, is developing Gongri Hydro Electric Project (144 MW), West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh, hereinafter referred to as the "DEPL/ Developer". WALMAN INFRA & ENERGY PVT. LTD. having its corporate office at 408, 4th floor Ansal Tower -38, Nehru Place, New Delhi -110019, has been authorized to act on behalf of DEPL to invite bids, evaluate and recommend the lowest evaluated responsive bidder to DEPL for awarding the aforesaid work, hereinafter referred to as the "WALMAN/Consultant".

Walman Infra & Energy Pvt Ltd invites bids from prospective bidders fulfilling the Qualifying Requirement under Single-Stage Three-Envelope bidding system through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) route for "EPC execution of Civil, Hydro mechanical & Electro-mechanical works including Infrastructure works of Gongri Hydro Electric Project (144 MW) in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, India".

For the eligibility criteria and other details, the interested bidders may visit websites www.walmanco.com.

Sale of Bid document is from 22nd June 2026 to 6th August 2026 and Last date for submission of bids is 10th August 2026 by 14:00 Hours IST.

Further, E-mails /Correspondences can be marked to the Vice President (Projects) at walman.tenders@gmail.com & Contact No: +91-11-44798339

Dated : 16th June 2026 Vice President (Projects)

Developer : DIRANG ENERGY PVT LTD (DEPL)

Consultant : WALMAN INFRA & ENERGY Pvt. Ltd (WALMAN)

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Renu, W/o. Sunil Solanki R/o. H.No. 375, Pooth Kalan, NW Delhi, 110086, Changed my Name as Renu Solanki for all purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
STREET ADDRESS: 201 North First Street, San José, CA 95113
MAILING ADDRESS: 191 North First Street CITY AND ZIP CODE: San José, California 95113
BRANCH NAME: Family Justice Center
PETITIONER: Anurag Bhardwaj
RESPONDENT: Kiran Kumari
FAMILY LAW NOTICE
Dissolution /Legal Separation/Nullity/Parentage
Electronically filed by Superior Court of CA, County of Santa Clara, on 11/8/2024 4:22 PM
Reviewed By: J. Gamez Case #24FL003799 Env. #17253632
[CASE NUMBER 24FL003799]
PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE FORM
Your case has been assigned to Judge Delgado, Jessica M. in Department: for all purposes at the Family Courthouse Located at: 201 North First Street, San José, CA 95113.
TO THE PETITIONER (the person who started the case): You must serve a copy of this notice on the other party. You CANNOT SERVE THE OTHER PARTY YOURSELF.
TO THE RESPONDENT (the person who did not start the case): If you want to protect your rights and participate in this case, you must file a Response with the Court within 30 days of being served.
RULES FOR THE STATUS CONFERENCE: You must follow the California Rules of Court, the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara Local Family Law Rules and you must use the correct forms. You can access the California Rules of Court and Judicial Council forms at www.courts.ca.gov/rules.htm and the Local Family Law Rules and Local forms at www.sccscourt.org.
A final Judgment will NOT be entered in your case automatically. You must take further action to finish your case!
IF YOU NEED HELP:
Please visit the Self Help section on the Court's website at www.sccscourt.org
For a low cost consultation with a private attorney contact the Santa Clara County Bar Association at (408) 971-6822 (or www.sccsba.com)
You can also email, call or Live Chat the Court's Self Help Center by going to www.sccscourt.org, then click "Contact the Self Help Center".
If, after reviewing the Court's website or other information, you would like to schedule a Status Conference to review the status of your case and next steps to finish it, you may contact the Family Court Clerk's office at (408) 534-5600 or visit them in person at one of the three courthouses listed above during regular Court business hours. The purpose of the Status Conference is to review your case's progress; it is not the date when your case is actually finished.
SUMMONS (Family Law) NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Name): Kiran Kumari
You have been sued. Read the information below and on the next page.
Petitioner's name is: Anurag Bhardwaj [CASE NUMBER 24FL003799]
Electronically filed by Superior Court of CA, County of Santa Clara, on 11/8/2024 4:22 PM
Reviewed By: J. Gamez Case #24FL003799 Env. #17253632
You have 30 calendar days after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter, phone call, or court appearance will not protect you.
If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs.
For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center/www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp, at the California Legal Services website (www.lawhelpca.org), or by contacting your local county bar association.
NOTICE-RESTRaining ORDERS are on PAGE 2: These restraining orders are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. They are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.
FEE WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party.

LEGAL NOTICE

community property is divided, the language in the deed that characterizes how title is held (i.e., joint tenancy, tenants in common, or community property) will be controlling, and not the community property presumption. You should consult your attorney if you want the community property presumption to be written into the recorded title to the property.
FL-100
PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY OR ATTORNEY STATE BAR NUMBER: 278629
NAME: DAVID WORSHAM; BROOK MEAKINS, SBN 264577
FIRM NAME MEAKINS LAW
STREET ADDRESS: 715 HEARST AVENUE SUITE 203
CITY: BERKELEY STATE: CA ZIP CODE: 94710
TELEPHONE NO. (510)922-1031
FAX NO (510) 621-7878
E-MAIL ADDRESS: brook@meakinslaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR (name) Anurag Bhardwaj
Electronically filed by Superior Court of CA, County of Santa Clara, on 11/8/2024 4:22 PM
Reviewed By: J. Gamez Case #24FL003799 Env. #17253632
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Santa Clara
STREET ADDRESS: 201 N. 1st St. MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: San Jose, 95113
BRANCH NAME: Santa Clara Family Court
PETITIONER: Anurag Bhardwaj
RESPONDENT: Kiran Kumari
PETITION FOR ☐ AMENDED ☒ Dissolution (Divorce) of: ☒ Marriage ☐ Domestic Partnership ☐ Legal Separation of: ☐ Marriage ☐ Domestic Partnership ☐ Nullity of: ☐ Marriage ☐ Domestic Partnership
CASE NUMBER: 24FL003799
1. LEGAL RELATIONSHIP (check all that apply):
a. ☒ We are married.
☐ We are domestic partners and our domestic partnership was established in California.
c. ☐ We are domestic partners and our domestic partnership was NOT established in California.
2. RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS (check all that apply):
a. ☒ Petitioner ☐ Respondent has been a resident of this state for at least six months and of this county for at least three months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition. (For a divorce, unless you are in the legal relationship described in 1b, at least one of you must comply with this requirement.)
b. ☐ Our domestic partnership was established in California. Neither of us has to be a resident or have a domicile in California to dissolve our partnership here.
c. ☐ We are the same sex, were married in California, but currently live in a jurisdiction that does not recognize, and will not dissolve, our marriage. This Petition is filed in the county where we married.
Petitioner lives in (specify): Respondent lives in (specify):
3. STATISTICAL FACTS
a. ☒ (1) Date of marriage (specify): 2/1/2013 (2) Date of separation (specify): 1/31/2016 (3) Time from date of marriage to date of separation (specify): 3 Years 0 Months
b. ☐ (1) Registration date of domestic partnership with the California Secretary of State or other state equivalent (specify below): (2) Date of separation (specify): (3) Time from date of registration of domestic partnership to date of separation (specify): Years Months (1) ☐ continued on Attachment 4b. (2) ☐ a child who is not yet born.
c. If any children listed above were born before the marriage or domestic partnership, the court has the authority to determine those children to be children of the marriage or domestic partnership.
d. If there are minor children of Petitioner and Respondent, a completed Declaration Under Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCC/JEA) (form FL-105) must be attached.
e. ☐ Petitioner and Respondent signed a voluntary declaration of parentage or paternity. (Attach a copy if available.)
Petitioner requests that the court make the following orders:
5. LEGAL GROUNDS (Family Code sections 2200-2210, 2310-2312)
a. ☒ Divorce or ☐ Legal separation of the marriage or domestic partnership based on (check one): (1) ☒ irreconcilable differences. (2) ☐ permanent legal incapacity to make decisions.
b. ☐ Nullity of void marriage or domestic partnership based on (1) ☐ incest. (2) ☐ bigamy.
c. ☐ Nullity of voidable marriage or domestic partnership based on (1) ☐ petitioner's age at time of registration of domestic partnership or marriage. (2) ☐ prior existing marriage or domestic partnership. (3) ☐ unsound mind. (4) ☐ fraud. (5) ☐ force. (6) ☐ physical incapacity.
6. CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION (PARENTING TIME)
a. Legal custody of children to: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent ☐ Joint ☐ Other
b. Physical custody of children to: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent ☐ Joint ☐ Other
c. Child visitation (parenting time) be granted to: ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent ☐ Joint ☐ Other
As requested in ☐ inform FL-311 ☐ form FL-312 ☐ form FL-341(C) ☐ form FL-341(D) ☐ form FL-341(E) ☐ Attachment 6c(1)
7. CHILD SUPPORT
a. If there are minor children born to or adopted by Petitioner and Respondent before or during this marriage or domestic partnership, the court will make orders for the support of the children upon request and submission of financial forms by the requesting party.
b. An earnings assignment may be issued without further notice.
c. Any party required to pay support must pay interest on overdue amounts at the "legal" rate, which is currently 10 percent. (1) ☐ Other (specify):
8. SPOUSAL OR DOMESTIC PARTNER SUPPORT
a. ☐ Spousal or domestic partner support payable to ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent
b. ☒ Terminate (end) the court's ability to award support to ☒ Petitioner ☐ Respondent
☐ Reserve for future determination the issue of support payable to ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent
☐ Other (specify):
9. SEPARATE PROPERTY
a. ☐ There are no such assets or debts that I know of to be confirmed by the court.
b. ☒ Confirm as separate property the assets and debts in ☒ Property Declaration (form FL-160). ☐ Attachment 9b. ☐ the following list. Item Confirm to
10. COMMUNITY AND QUASI-COMMUNITY PROPERTY
a. ☐ There are no such assets or debts that I know of to be divided by the court.
b. ☒ Determine rights to community and quasi-community assets and debts. All such assets and debts are listed ☒ in Property Declaration (form FL-160) (Continued...)

LEGAL NOTICE

FL-160) ☐ in Attachment 10b. ☐ as follows (specify):
11. OTHER REQUESTS
a. ☐ Attorney's fees and costs payable by ☐ Petitioner ☐ Respondent
b. ☐ Petitioner's former name be restored to (specify):
c. ☒ Other (specify): Each Party To Bear Their Own Attorney's Fees and Costs.
☐ Continued on Attachment 11c.
12. I HAVE READ THE RESTRaining ORDERS ON THE BACK OF THE SUMMONS, AND UNDERSTAND THAT THEY APPLY TO ME WHEN THIS PETITION IS FILED.
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.
Date: 10/30/2024
Anurag Bhardwaj (ID 6Th42NrbIHX3SwHP41y6KeCN) (TYPE OR PRINT NAME) (PETITIONER)
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Read Legal Steps for a Divorce or Legal Separation (form FL-107-INFO) and visit "Families Change" at www.familieschange.ca.gov - an online guide for parents and children going through divorce or separation.
NOTICE: You may redact (black out) social security numbers from any written material filed with the court in this case other than a form used to collect child, spousal or partner support.
NOTICE-CANCELLATION OF RIGHTS: Dissolution or legal separation may automatically cancel the rights of a domestic partner or spouse under the other domestic partner's or spouse's will, trust, retirement plan, power of attorney, pay-on-death bank account, survivorship rights to any property owned in joint tenancy, and any other similar thing. It does not automatically cancel the right of a domestic partner or spouse as beneficiary of the other partner's or spouse's life insurance policy. You should review these matters, as well as any credit cards, other credit accounts, insurance policies, retirement plans, and credit reports, to determine whether they should be changed or whether you should take any other actions. Some changes may require the agreement of your partner or spouse or a court order.
FL-100 (Rev. January 1, 2020) PETITION-MARRIAGE/DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP (Family Law)

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INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Ahlcon Public School conducted their Investiture Ceremony for the academic session 2026–27 in the school auditorium. Principal Dr. Deepak Raj Singh Bisht inaugurated the programme along with Section Heads Ms. Mamtha Mahale, Ms. Monika Karnatak, Ms. Seema Soni and Ms. Kuhu Ganguli. In his address, Dr. Bisht encouraged student leaders to lead with compassion, discipline and dedication.

Aarav Parashar and Siddhi Sehgal were inducted as Head Boy and Head Girl respectively, while other members of the School Prefectorial Board were honoured. The ceremony concluded with the oath-taking, acknowledgement speech and vote of thanks.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT CAMP

Army Public School, Meerut Cantt successfully organised the five-day Talent Treasure Camp 2026, offering students opportunities to explore their interests, develop new skills and showcase their talents. Participants engaged in activities including Bollywood singing, dance, sports, yoga, musical instruments, Warli art, planter making, culinary sessions and Bharatiya Bhasha Summer Camp activities based on Marathi. Daily yoga and sports sessions promoted fitness, discipline and teamwork, while artistic, cultural and language-based activities encouraged creativity, innovation and appreciation of India's diverse heritage. The camp provided a joyful learning environment and contributed to students' holistic development.

FAREWELL TO P5 STUDENTS

Raghubir Singh Junior Modern School hosted the Valedictory Function for their outgoing P5 batch at Modern School, Barakhamba Road. The event was attended by Chief Guest Mr. Arjun Sharma, Chairman, Select Group; Ms. Mira Pradeep Singh; Mr. Ashok Pratap Singh; Ms. Anuradha Singh; Mr. Ajay Verma; Justice Mukul Mudgal; and Dr. Vijay Datta. Mrs. Nalini Singh Rajput, Headmistress, welcomed the gathering and encouraged students to pursue their dreams with confidence. The school magazine Sandesh was unveiled by Mr. Sharma. The programme concluded with a graduation song and cap-flinging ceremony, marking the students' transition to senior school.

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(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)

Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangalore - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. E-299008/308899/62138 Date: 12.06.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

MESCOM invites Short term tender for Manufacture & Supply of following materials.

Sl. No	Tender No	Particulars of Materials proposed to be Procured	Quantity
1	MESCOM/2025-26/IND0157/CALL-2	LT Single Phase Reference Standard Meters LT Three Phase Reference Standard Meters HT Reference Standard Meters	7 Nos 5 Nos 3 Nos
2	MESCOM/2026-27/IND0158/CALL-2	7/10SWG Guy Wire	150 MT
3	MESCOM/2026-27/IND0159/CALL-2	Silver Memento as per specification	66 No's.

The interested bidders may log on to www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 16.06.2026.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Procurement)

For Power Related Complaints contact: MESCOM Helpline: 1912 9483041912 mescom_official mescom_official

The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited

Door No. 294/1D, 100 feet Road (Tadigadapa to Enikepadu Road), Kanuru, Vijayawada-521137, Andhra Pradesh, India, Tel: +91-866-2429999 Fax: +91-866-2429977, Email: contracts-ho@apmdc.in

SHORT TERM TENDER

Ref: APMDC/HO/P&C/Science Lab Equipment - APMDC - DAV Model School at Suliyari/2025-26/II. Date: 16.06.2026.

APMDC invites E-tender from reputed Agencies for "Supply of Laboratory Setup Accessories to APMDC - DAV Model School at Suliyari Coal Project, Madhya Pradesh". For more information on the eligibility criteria, tender fees, timelines and other details, please visit APMDC website (www.apmdc.ap.gov.in). The Tender document is available for downloading from APMDC website from 16.06.2026 and the last date for submission of bid is 23.06.2026.

Place : Vijayawada Sd/- Managing Director
Date : 16-06-2026 The A.P. Mineral Development Corporation Limited
DIPR No.5172PPI/CL, Dt:15.06.2026

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD

BID NO. ETENDER/EE/PWSSD/ROPAR/21/2026/DATE:12.06.2026

Executive Engineer, Pb. W/S & Sew., Divn. Ropar on the behalf of Chief Executive Officer, Pb. W/S and Sew. Board Chandigarh invites online bids for the following:-

Sr. No.	Items	Amount / Time Limit
1	Providing Sewerage System Construction of MPS & STP Construction of Roads and Making Sewer house connections at Naya Gaon, Distt. S.A.S. Nagar (Phase 1 Part II)	As per DNT

Closing date & Time :- 08.07.2026 upto 3.00 P.M.
Opening date & Time :- 09.07.2026 upto 01.00 P.M.
Prebid Meeting Date :- 22.06.2026 at 09.00 A.M.

For detailed log onto https://sproc.punjab.gov.in.
Note: Any Corrigendum (s), to the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Executive Engineer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn., Ropar.

1796/12/2026-27/12352

1. The name and address of the court are: Superior Court of California, Santa Clara County Santa Clara Family Court 201 N. 1st St. San Jose, CA 95113

2. The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are: DAVID WORSHAM, SBN 278629; (510) 922-1031, BROOK MEAKINS, SBN 264577 MEAKINS LAW 715 HEARST AVE, STE 203 BERKELEY, CA 94710
Date: 11/8/2024 4:22 PM
Clerk , by /s/ J. Gamez, Deputy

STANDARD FAMILY LAW RESTRaining ORDERS
Starting immediately, you and your spouse or domestic partner are restrained from:
1. removing the minor children of the parties from the state or applying for a new or replacement passport for those minor children without the prior written consent of the other party or an order of the court;
2. cashing, borrowing against, canceling, transferring, disposing of, or changing the beneficiaries of any insurance or other coverage, including life, health, automobile, and disability, held for the benefit of the parties and their minor children;
3. transferring, encumbering, hypothecating, concealing, or in any way disposing of any property, real or personal, whether community, quasi-community, or separate, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court, except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life; and
4. creating a nonprobate transfer or modifying a nonprobate transfer in a manner that affects the disposition of property subject to the transfer, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court.
Before revocation of a nonprobate transfer can take effect or a right of survivorship to property can be eliminated, notice of the change must be filed and served on the other party.
You must notify each other of any proposed extraordinary expenditures at least five business days prior to incurring these extraordinary expenditures and account to the court for all extraordinary expenditures made after these restraining orders are effective. However, you may use community property, quasi-community property, or your own separate property to pay an attorney to help you or to pay court costs.

NOTICE-ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE: Do you or someone in your household need affordable health insurance? If so, you should apply for Covered California. Covered California can help reduce the cost you pay towards high quality affordable health care. For more information, visit www.coveredca.com. Or call Covered California at 1-800-300-1506.

WARNING-IMPORTANT INFORMATION California law provides that, for purposes of division of property upon dissolution of a marriage or domestic partnership or upon legal separation, property acquired by the parties during marriage or domestic partnership in joint form is presumed to be community property. If either party to this action should die before the jointly held (Continued...)

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(1) ☐ petitioner's age at time of registration of domestic partnership or marriage.
(2) ☐ prior existing marriage or domestic partnership.
(3) ☐ unsound mind.
(4) ☐ fraud. (5) ☐ force.
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A ND-NDE



Politics over people

Pragmatism should guide India's demographic governance

In constituting a panel to study demographic changes in India, the Centre was guided by a paranoid mindset that saw devious conspiracies everywhere. The move gave shape and substance to a thought expressed by Home Minister Amit Shah: “unnatural demographic change” is a “very significant challenge to the present and future of any nation”. In his Independence Day address in 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the proposal, characterising illegal infiltration as a “premeditated conspiracy” to alter India’s demography. The committee, chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Justice P.P. Nao-lekar, is to assess demographic changes, examine patterns of abnormal population shifts among religious and social communities, and recommend a time-bound solution. Mr. Shah linked demographic changes not only to sovereignty but also to national security, law and order, “profound changes in social structure and the preservation of tribal society”. According to the government, demographic shifts have affected public service delivery, local governance, resource distribution and social cohesion, and Justice Naolekar has said that the panel will also formulate a system for the custody and deportation of infiltrators.

It is indeed true that the management of population dynamics is a key instrument of governance. On June 14, Switzerland held a referendum and rejected a proposal to cap the country’s population at 10 million. Across the world, immigration has become contentious, with unregulated cross-border movement seen as a challenge to sovereignty. Population management, however, is not entirely about illegal infiltration, and securitising demographic trends at the cost of all adjacent factors could do more harm than good. As the recent experience with the SIR of electoral rolls shows, facts about people would be seen as valid only to the extent that these are established through documentation. If this exercise creates a large stateless population with no country willing to accept them, it could result in a demographic deadlock rather than a solution. The fear of communal profiling of Muslims is real, and the Centre should also seriously consider whether the human costs are worth it. India faces major demographic challenges. Rising life expectancy and falling birth rates are changing the composition of India’s population. There are concerns of India losing its demographic dividend, as the quality of education and health, and the evolving dynamics of work, remain very challenging. Migration continues to shape India’s trajectory. Partition created three sovereign countries out of a geographical and cultural continuum, and its legacy included voluntary and involuntary movement of people. Sensitivity and a long-term view should guide India’s demographic governance.

Peace with peace

Preventive detentions are misused by the state in the name of order

In *Chander Pal Singh*, a matter involving preventive proceedings, the Allahabad High Court has simultaneously addressed a part of the criminal justice system that often receives less attention than ordinary criminal proceedings and the more overbearing reality of mechanisms designed to avert disturbances having gradually become instruments to deprive people of liberty. The state has the power to intervene before a crime occurs if it is reasonably apprehensive that a person is a threat to public order. However, it has acquired a habit of exercising that power routinely, resulting in detentions without any substantive criminal charge. The High Court’s order was based, the Bench said, on a “highly irresponsible” deprivation of personal liberties in Uttar Pradesh, where police officers and executive magistrates were using preventive powers to incarcerate individuals on the basis of arguably minor apprehensions. In *Chander Pal Singh* as well, the petitioner, a physically challenged Dalit advocate, had been arrested over a petty dispute with a neighbour. The Bench said that between May 2025 and April 2026, around 2,500 people were reportedly subjected to preventive detention proceedings in Ghaziabad, despite a 2021 State policy to guide the exercise of such powers.

The guidelines in response are commendable; if implemented appropriately, they could reduce the use of preventive incarceration in neighbourhood and property disputes; require executive magistrates to justify their decisions; encourage constitutional challenges to unlawful preventive detention; and generate appellate scrutiny of the compensation framework. They may also snap at the heels of magistrates who cite unspecified “communal tensions” to jail protesters and who impose prohibitively unaffordable bonds for release. Further, even if the ruling does not directly impinge on the detention of activist Sonam Wangchuk under the NSA, it critiques the idea of using the excuse of maintaining peace to silence dissent and reminds the state that it still has a responsibility to maintain peace with peace. The ruling may also apply to workers and activists recently detained in New Delhi if held under Sections 126 or 170 of the BNSS without valid grounds. That said, implementing the ruling will be difficult. The Bench said that compensation for unlawful detention can be recovered from the salary of the magistrate concerned and/or police officer following a disciplinary hearing. However, the executive has been historically reluctant to penalise its personnel. Second, executive magistrates are part of the State administration and their careers may depend on maintaining ‘peace’ as the State defines it. Addressing these barriers could reform preventive proceedings in India.

It is perhaps the first time that Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has released his speech delivered at a meeting of Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc leaders to the public. While his focus on building a united resistance to the Sangh-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)’s assault on the constitutional foundations of the Indian republic, as well as on the liberties and livelihoods of millions of Indians, is welcome, a few constructive observations may be in order in the interest of building a truly powerful and sustained resistance.

This writer has attended all INDIA bloc meetings, including the formative gathering in Patna, Bihar, in June 2023 before the alliance adopted the INDIA name. Mr. Gandhi’s impassioned speech, delivered at a time when the BJP’s ‘double-engine’/National Democratic Alliance (NDA) governments span over 20 States and Union Territories, was both reassuring and somewhat concerning. While it would have resonated strongly at a Congress meeting, parts of it seemed somewhat discordant in a gathering of 23 parties representing diverse ideological streams united in defence of India’s sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic.

Mr. Gandhi is right in reminding us that the Congress became a movement of resistance after Purna Swaraj (complete independence) became the official goal of the Congress. The resolution, introduced in the 1927 Madras session, and adopted two years later in the 1929 Congress session in Lahore, did propel the Congress into the leading position in India’s freedom movement, with communists, socialists, and what is now known as the Phule-Ambedkar-Periyar stream serving as other prominent stakeholders. We must not however forget that the Purna Swaraj idea was first presented in the Ahmedabad session of the Congress in 1921 by two communist delegates, Maulana Hasrat Mohani and Swami Kumarananda. And Bhagat Singh and his comrades made a clear and bold ideological statement with the launch of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association in 1928.

The battle against authoritarianism

The battle today is between the only ideological stream that stayed away from, and often opposed, the freedom movement and the diverse ideological currents that fought for and won India’s independence. The INDIA alliance represents a regrouping of these forces against the Hindutva school of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-BJP, which is seeking to reshape state institutions and the architecture of parliamentary democracy to advance its ideological agenda.

If the BJP gets a free hand in its push for ‘one nation, one party’, the Congress will suffer no less than other political parties; indeed, it has often proved more vulnerable. For all our



Dipankar Bhattacharya

General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation

glorious chapters from the history of the freedom movement, there is no accumulated ideological insulation or immunity for any party in the face of today’s all-out fascist offensive and ideological assault. The BJP itself is filled with leaders who were in the Congress not long ago. Even as Mr. Gandhi emphasised the need to resist the BJP, the Congress’s Chief Minister in Telangana was proudly invoking Hitler while defending Hyderabad’s controversial demolition drive.

If institutions are captured and the electoral system manipulated – from voter rolls to vote counting and the declaration of results – what option remains for the people who inherited a Constitution that envisions India as a sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic? Mr. Gandhi is absolutely right in arguing that the only answer is resistance – not sporadic or symbolic opposition, but sustained, broad-based and determined democratic resistance.

Towards a just republic

We can no longer afford policies that have proved disastrous for the country and the vast majority of its people. An economic model of crony capitalism that transfers all of India’s resources to a handful of corporations while impoverishing the masses and damaging the environment will have to go. A foreign policy that mortgages the strategic autonomy of India to the United States-Israel axis of aggression even as Indian sailors are killed by U.S. missiles needs immediate change. The assault on Adivasi land and forest rights, and attempts to rob them of their constitutional protections, must stop. A governance model that glorifies bulldozers and encounters while criminalising dissent has no place in a democratic republic. Equally, the ideology of cultural nationalism that defines nationhood through religious supremacy and exclusion must be rejected. Finally, an electoral system that sacrifices credibility and transparency needs urgent and comprehensive reform.

To be sure, such resistance is already underway. Farmers forced the Narendra Modi government to abandon the land acquisition ordinance in 2014 and, seven years later, repeal the three farm laws. The Shaheen Bagh-led movement against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in 2019 sparked nationwide opposition to what many saw as a threat to constitutional values. More recently, workers’ protests across north India against rising workloads and diminishing wages have highlighted growing economic distress. Student demonstrations, led by organisations ranging from the National Students’ Union of India (NSUI) or left student organisations such as the All India Students’ Association (AISA) and the Students’ Federation of India (SFI) or the new digital phenomenon called the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), are demanding accountability for the deepening crisis in the education and examination system. We must also acknowledge the price people

The INDIA bloc needs a new impetus rooted in democratic resistance, unity, humility and renewed political purpose

Technology drives India-France strategic convergence

It is a measure of the importance that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron attach to the India-France relationship that they are meeting again in France, on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit in Evian (June 15-17), barely months after Mr. Macron’s visit to India for the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi in February. During that visit, the two leaders jointly inaugurated the India-France Year of Innovation 2026.

In normal diplomacy, such announcements often take time to translate into action. It is therefore notable that Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron are already moving swiftly to advance bilateral technology cooperation. They jointly inaugurated the “Bharat Innovates” event in Nice (June 14-16), bringing together leading Indian start-ups and venture capital funds. Mr. Modi will then attend the VivaTech Summit in Paris on June 18, Europe’s largest technology and start-up event, underscoring the growing India-France technology partnership.

The new pillars of partnership

The India-French relationship is constantly evolving and is consequently being updated by the two leaders who are committed to the cause.

While the recently elevated Special Global Strategic Partnership has always included traditional areas such as defence, nuclear and space, it is the focus on tech and innovation that is now exciting for the relationship.

This focus will include cyberspace, Artificial Intelligence (AI), health care, sustainable development, creative economy, education and research. These are new facets of the evolving and dynamic relationship and will no doubt take



Mohan Kumar

Former Indian Ambassador to France and now Dean/Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University

Technology and innovation power the next phase of India-France ties

ties to greater heights. Tech and innovation has tremendous mutual advantages for both sides. France has some of the best state-of-the-art technology in aerospace, AI, robotics, biotech, health care, green tech and sustainable development, besides being a European hub for the digital economy.

It is not hard to see how India can not only benefit from access to technology in these areas but also bring its own added value in terms of frugal innovation, start-ups, digital public infrastructure and biotech, just to name a few. The possibilities are endless. It must be hoped that the two tech summits – “Bharat Innovates” and the “Vivatech” – will enable the private sector on both sides to come up with substantive collaborative arrangements.

Defence, space and Africa

The two leaders are also expected to take stock of the special strategic partnership. There are a number of dossiers which can benefit from their political and strategic guidance. The first is certainly the idea of the co-designing and co-production of defence platforms which must be expedited. Progress is also desirable in emerging areas such as small modular reactors, joint satellite development and human flight programmes.

The potential for Franco-Indian cooperation in Africa has not been fully exploited and this must get the attention of both sides. This becomes even more important in light of the postponement of the India-Africa Forum Summit (May 2026) due to the Ebola crisis in Africa. The two leaders will doubtless exchange views on the ongoing conflicts: in Ukraine and in Iran, which have

have paid for this resistance. More than 700 farmers died during the historic farmers’ protest at Delhi’s borders. Father Stan Swamy died in custody. Activists such as Surendra Gadling, Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, among others linked to the Elgar Parishad and CAA protests, have been languishing for years. Workers and activists are facing imprisonment for demanding basic rights and fair wages. Activist Sonam Wangchuk appears to be a rare exception, having been released after months of detention under the National Security Act without any clear explanation. Journalists, too, have faced severe pressure, with Prabir Purkayastha among the few to secure relief after prolonged legal action.

Contrast this record of courage and perseverance among the people with the disturbing state of political parties, many of which are splitting or imploding under the pressure of intimidation or the lure of power. It is a reminder of how humble we must be when speaking of building resistance. The challenge before the INDIA bloc is to connect with these ongoing struggles, tap into the reservoir of public disillusionment, anger and aspiration, amplify demands for justice, and strengthen the collective struggle for democracy.

Reenergise the Opposition

The impact of two successive powerful struggles such as the equal citizenship campaign, the historic farmers’ movement, the message of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, and a series of encouraging electoral outcomes – from the BJP’s narrow escape in Bihar in 2020 to its defeats in West Bengal (2021) and Karnataka (2023) – created the ideal backdrop for the emergence of the INDIA coalition in 2023. Despite the exit of the Janata Dal (United) and the Rashtriya Lok Dal and the absence of electoral coordination in States such as West Bengal, Kerala and Punjab, the INDIA bloc came close to defeating the BJP-led NDA in 2024. The results in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu – and, to some extent, Bihar – demonstrated INDIA’s electoral potential, raising the Congress tally to 100 seats and the alliance’s total to 234.

Since then, a series of electoral setbacks – beginning with the defeats in Maharashtra and Haryana in 2024 and Delhi in 2025 – has eroded the INDIA bloc’s strength and influence. These reverses, aided by multidimensional electoral frauds, have further tightened the BJP’s stranglehold over what remains of India’s electoral democracy. The INDIA bloc clearly needs a new impetus and a turnaround. Mr. Gandhi has a crucial dual role to play in this context – reenergising the Congress and facilitating the broader INDIA platform by ensuring mutual respect, trust and accommodation of parties with diverse histories and ideological inclinations. If India as a country can grow only on the basis of unity in, or rather through, diversity, the same also applies to INDIA as a political coalition.

adversely and disproportionately affected countries of the Global South.

Mr. Modi’s Europe visit (June 13-18, 2026) also includes a state visit to Slovakia, the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since its independence in 1993.

Watching the ‘D10 debate’

France, as the current chair of the G-7, will host the G-7 summit in Evian from June 15 to 17, 2026. It is difficult to imagine a G-7 summit without India being invited, and Mr. Modi’s participation is particularly important given the geopolitical turbulence of the present moment. United States President Donald Trump is also expected to attend it. While attention will naturally focus on the possibility of a Modi-Trump meeting, any interaction may not be a substantive one, given the G-7 atmospherics.

More important is the evolving role of the G-7 itself in global geopolitics. With the G-20 having lost some of its momentum in recent years, discussions have resurfaced about expanding the G-7 into a D10 – a grouping of 10 major democracies. Whether, and how soon, such a transformation materialises remains uncertain, but it is a development India will need to watch closely.

At the end of the day, two middle powers – India and France – which set great store by strategic autonomy, have a fundamental role to play in contributing to geopolitical stability and ensuring a smooth transition to a multipolar world. In that sense, Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron shoulder a significant responsibility.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Revised dress regulations

The move by the Indian Army to introduce new uniform regulations is commendable. Through these combined measures, the Indian Army cultivates a distinct institutional identity rooted in India’s own cultural fabric (June 15). These measures reflect the Army’s continued commitment to ensuring that the institutions, traditions and spaces where soldiers live, train and serve

increasingly embody India’s own heroes, values and national legacy while preserving the professionalism and heritage of the force.

R. Sivakumar, Chennai

The constant invocation of the “colonial vestige” argument is becoming tiresome. This is the Army that has stood firm through wars, crises and security challenges, delivering when

the nation needed it most. Before lecturing institutions or changing traditions and symbols that have proven their worth, the government would do well to address its own shortcomings – from repeated controversies over NEET and infrastructure failures to concerns about electoral processes. Credibility is strengthened by performance, not rhetoric.

Vivek Gupta, New Delhi

Portal closure

The admission application portal for the BS (Research) programme, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) closed on June 7 before the declaration of the IISER Aptitude Test (IAT) results – expected by June 20. Since admission through the IAT channel is based on rank, applicants were unable to provide this crucial information while applying. As admission processes generally commence only

after the declaration of qualifying examination results, many candidates reasonably assumed that applications could be submitted after the IAT results were announced. Owing to the unusual admission schedule and limited awareness that IAT details could be updated later, several deserving students may have missed the application deadline despite appearing for the examination. All applicants

had to pay a non-refundable fee. In view of these circumstances, the IISc must consider reopening the portal to enable eligible candidates to apply. Such a step would ensure equal opportunity for all applicants seeking admission through the IAT route.

Lalit Manohar K., Hyderabad

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

How T.N. severed religion, caste from politics

C. Joseph Vijay, actor and founder of the recently floated Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), assumed office as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu last month. One cannot help but be reminded of how M.G. Ramachandran or more popularly known as MGR, also a highly successful actor, took charge as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 1977 and went on to win two more consecutive terms, until his death in 1987. He was the first actor-turned-CM in India.

However, apart from being successful film stars, there is hardly much in common between MGR, a Hindu of the Nair community of Kerala, and Mr. Vijay, a Tamil Christian. MGR's best-known co-star and successor, Jayalalithaa, who ruled the State for 16 years, was a Tamil Brahmin. Moreover, C.N. Annadurai, the first non-Congress CM of the State, his successor M. Karunanidhi, and his son M.K. Stalin were/are non-Brahmin Hindus.

As per Census figures, the electorate of Tamil Nadu comprises 88% Hindus and 6% Christians and Muslims each. It has regularly chosen leaders with varied religious and caste backgrounds without much fuss. How did this happen? And is it a replicable model?

A political history

The credit goes partly, among others, to the Dravidian movement whose genesis harkens to the 1920s/1930s. The Justice Party founded in 1916 by a group of non-Brahmin elite with the goal of ending Brahmin 'domination' in top government jobs succeeded in getting reservations for non-Brahmins as early as 1920. The 'self-respect movement' as well as the 'Dravidar Kazhagam' movement (DK) of E.V. Ramasamy (EVR), or 'Periyar' as he was known, avowed to create a society free of caste oppression and inequality, and became a strong oppositional force to the largely Brahmin priestly class in the State. Periyar's anti-Brahmin rhetoric



S. Ramasundaram

Retired IAS officer of the 1979 batch in Tamil Nadu, and writes on macro-economy, population and public health. Views are personal

often manifested in the form of inflammatory speeches against Brahmins besides leading to the desecration of Hindu deities.

The rise of the Congress Party during the freedom struggle led to the decline of the Justice Party by 1937, despite them forming a government four times since 1920. In 1949, the DK experienced a split with the breakaway faction led by C.N. Annadurai forming the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). It came to power in 1967 and distanced itself from the anti-Brahmin and anti-religion ideas of Periyar. And while the DK has very little role in the politics of Tamil Nadu today, even after a century of his most active years, a Tamilian tends to either be a staunch supporter of Periyar or a vocal opponent of EVR – there is no middle ground.

Inclusive policies

The foundation laid by these parties and their inclusive social reforms over three decades led to the broad-basing of education among all communities and reservations in government jobs for non-Brahmin castes and, to a lesser extent, Dalits. The K. Kamaraj-led Congress government stressed free education for all. The 'Kalaigarnar' Karunanidhi-led government focussed on uplifting the Dalit community through inclusive townships known as *Samathuva Puram* (Equality village). MGR's mid-day meal scheme resulted in an increase in girls enrolment, their retention in schools and resolve to work.

From the 1990s, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) government of Jayalalithaa and the DMK governments of Karunanidhi and later his son, Mr. Stalin, focussed on attracting FDIs in manufacturing, especially in the auto sector. As a result, Tamil Nadu has the highest proportion of urban population (almost 50%) in India, which is the engine driving its rapid economic growth and upward social mobility for all religions and castes.

Another remarkable achievement has been that around 42% of India's female factory workers are from Tamil Nadu while making up just 6% of the national population. Such a successful social reform is among the lasting contributions of the social justice and self-respect movement to Tamil society.

The role of films

An equally significant factor for the lack of caste or religious bias in the average Tamil Nadu voter is the role and influence of Tamil films and its actors. The Tamil film industry is reputed for rewarding only meritorious artists, without any consideration for religion or caste. While MGR, Jayalalithaa and now Mr. Vijay were/are stars, Karunanidhi was a script writer of many hit films, including some of MGR's. Between Karunanidhi (16 years), MGR (10 years) and Jayalalithaa (16 years), the film industry's connection with governance in Tamil Nadu has been as long as 42 years. By organising the 1,000th year of the Thanjavur Big Temple in a grand manner in 2010, Karunanidhi demonstrated that an atheist ruler need not be against the devout practising their faith.

Now, the TVK, Mr. Vijay's party, has managed to field and secure victories for a high number of MLAs who are Dalit and women.

In conclusion, the Tamil Nadu voter has almost always voted on considerations other than the religion or the caste of the candidate due to historical movements over the past century, and due to the positive influence of films produced by the secular Tamil film industry. Tamil Nadu has achieved something that required a great struggle in Europe in the 18th century, namely the separation of the Church and the Crown. Tamil movies and Tamil Nadu politics are an inseparable *jodi* that has largely been of benefit to the State socially and economically. For the same reason, it is not an easily replicable model for other States.

A highly-contested Rajya Sabha rejection

Rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination has exposed Congress faultlines

STATE OF PLAY

Ravi Reddy

The political after-shocks of the rejection of All India Congress Committee (AICC) Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan's Rajya Sabha nomination from Madhya Pradesh is reverberating across Hyderabad.

On June 9, the Returning Officer for the Rajya Sabha elections decided to invalidate Ms. Natarajan's nomination on the grounds of non-disclosure of a pending criminal case in her Form 26 affidavit.

The procedural dispute over an election affidavit has now spiralled into a narrative battle, exposing organisational deficiencies within the Congress, showcasing the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) agility, and giving the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) fresh ammunition against the ruling Congress in the State. Despite approaching the top court and the Election Commission of India, Ms. Natarajan has not got any relief.

The case in question, stemming from a private complaint in 2022 in Telangana, does not accuse her directly of a criminal act but names her as a respondent for not acting against a party functionary. The Congress has maintained that such a matter, not amounting to an FIR or a criminal charge, did not merit disclosure. However, the BJP has framed the omission as a concealment of material information. This re-framing of a technical lapse as a question of transparency proved politically decisive.

More significantly, it highlighted the BJP's ability to harness local networks and institutional knowledge across States. Telangana BJP leaders reportedly moved with speed,



tracking down the complaint, verifying its legal standing, and presenting it before the Returning Officer. The episode underscores how political coordination and preparedness can intersect to yield outsized outcomes in tightly contested procedural routines.

Double whammy

For the Congress, the episode has been doubly damaging. First, it has exposed gaps in due diligence. That a senior leader's nomination could be jeopardised by a case linked to the very State she oversees points to a breakdown in internal vetting mechanisms. Such oversight reflects poorly on organisational discipline. Second, and perhaps more politically damaging, are allegations of internal sabotage. The claim, fuelled by remarks from a Madhya Pradesh Minister, has intensified factional fault lines in Telangana. Though evidence remains elusive, the very plausibility of an 'inside job' has damaged the party's credibility. Ms. Natarajan's tenure as AICC in-charge, marked by a reportedly firm and hands-on approach, had already generated unease among sections of the State leadership. The controversy has amplified those tensions.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has sought to contain the fallout by framing the rejection as a politically motivated act. He alleged that the BJP

has shifted from 'vote theft' to 'seat theft'. At the same time, the Congress has drawn a distinction between criminal cases and procedural notices, arguing that the Returning Officer's interpretation stretches legal norms. Yet, these arguments have struggled to gain traction in the face of a more potent opposition line – that non-disclosure equals disqualification.

The BJP, for its part, has maintained that the process was entirely lawful, citing adherence to Supreme Court guidelines on disclosure requirements. Even if the BJP's operational role remains contested, its success in shaping the narrative is unmistakable.

The BRS has been the third beneficiary of this event. While not directly involved in the events leading to the rejection, it has seized the moment to question the Congress party's internal unity. BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao's allegation of backstabbing within the Congress has added to the perception of instability within the ruling party.

Beyond the immediate rhetoric, the episode raises broader questions about the ruling party's organisational robustness in Telangana. Since assuming power, the party has faced the dual challenge of governance and internal consolidation. In this context, the Natarajan episode becomes more than a legal dispute. It becomes a test of the Congress party's ability to manage crises, enforce accountability, and maintain internal cohesion. It has exposed vulnerabilities in the Congress' machinery, demonstrated the BJP's organisational capacity, and allowed the BRS to reinsert itself as a critical observer.

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Refugees are returning home but not for the right reasons

Data from the UN says that more refugees went back to their countries due to adverse conditions, while citizenship confirmations reduced

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Despite the fact that the estimated number of refugees fell marginally by 3% in 2025 to 4.16 crore, the recent report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for 2025 shows that certain groups continue to be affected. Of these, about 60 lakh (15%) are Palestinian refugees.

The drop was mainly driven by 1.47 crore returning to their countries, which is the second highest number of people returning since the UNHCR first reported the figures in 1965. This is reflected in the increase in the number of refugees attaining "solutions" for their predicaments (**Chart 4**).

However, the report noted that they returned to fragile situations due to adverse conditions and mounting pressures in the asylum countries. For instance, Iran and Pakistan had granted asylum to people from Afghanistan, who had been forced to escape war, violence and persecution. However, both countries have now introduced restrictive policies towards Afghans, due to which the two nations saw a notable decline in the number of people needing protection in 2025 (**Chart 2**). Nearly 19.5 lakh refugees from these two countries returned to Afghanistan.

Owing to governance and economic crises, Venezuela recorded the sharpest increase in refugees, people in refugee-like situations, and others in need of international protection, at 3%. Other countries that saw increases include South Sudan and Ukraine (**Chart 1**).

Chart 3 shows the flows of asylum applications. More than nine lakh persons applied for asylum in the U.S. Ukraine remains the country of origin for most applications (7 lakh). The number of stateless people who have had their nationality confirmed or who acquired citizenship declined in 2025.

No way home

The data for the charts were sourced from the Global Trends Report by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

CHART 1: Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation, and other people in need of international protection by country of origin (2016-2025)

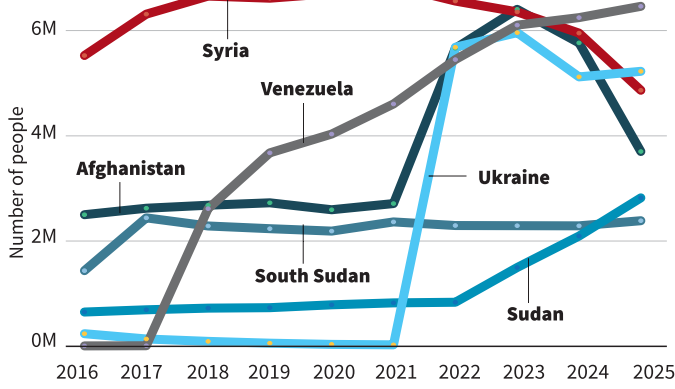


CHART 2: Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection by country of asylum (2016-2025)

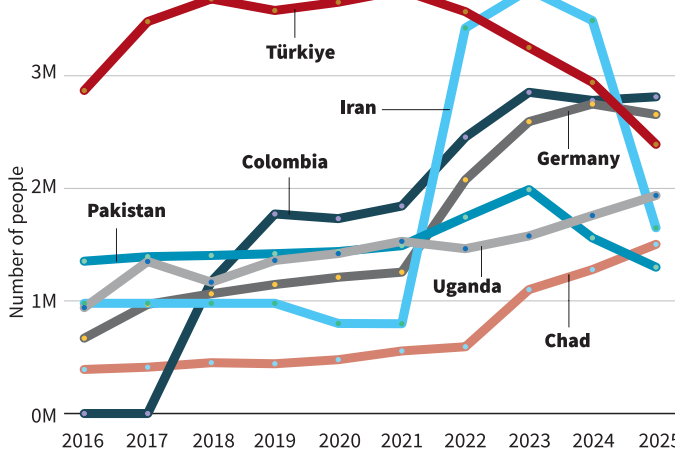


CHART 5: Number of stateless people who have had their nationality confirmed or who acquired citizenship (2014-2025)

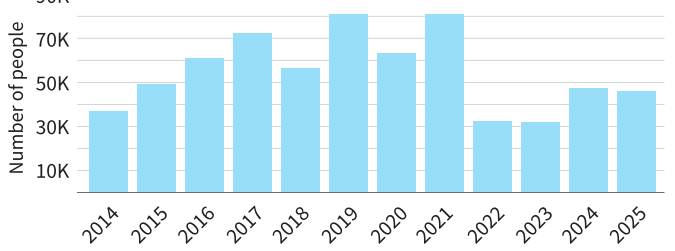


CHART 3: Number of people registering new individual asylum applications, recognised on a group basis or granted temporary protection in 2025

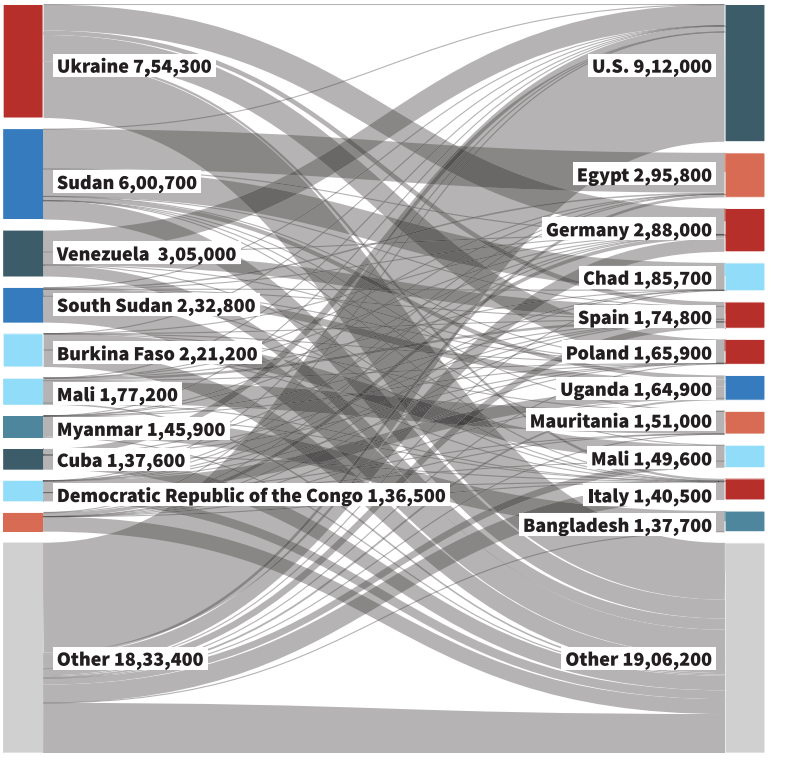
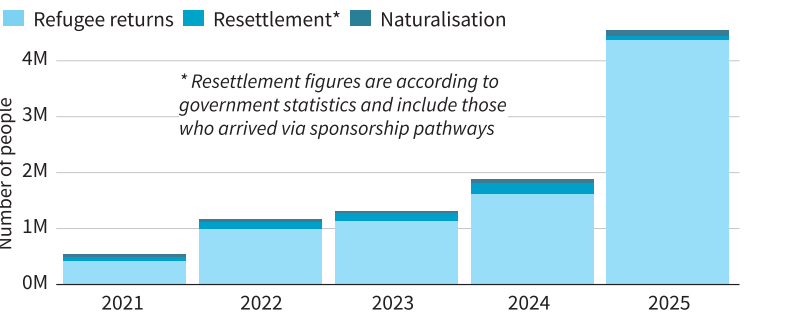


CHART 4: Refugees attaining "solutions" for their predicaments, a majority of which involved returns to their countries of origin, often due to adverse conditions



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 16, 1976

Survey to locate hidden treasure in Jaipur

New Delhi, June 15: A survey operation is on in Jaipur Fort to locate what is believed to be a hidden treasure lying in a secret chamber of the Maharaja's place for 250 years.

The survey has been undertaken on the basis of an ancient document which came to light recently, and which spoke of a treasure worth about Rs. 100 crores including jewellery valued at Rs. 32 crores having been hidden underground in the fort. The document said it belonged to the then Maharaja Jaisinghji of Jaipur. The Union Minister of State for Revenue and Banking Mr. Pranab Mukerjee said to-day that since the document after examination by experts of the national archives appeared to be genuine it was considered worthwhile to undertake the search operation though "there is no certainty whether the reported treasure is still in existence".

Mr. Mukerjee said it had been agreed with the owners of the Jaigarh fort that in the event of discovery of the treasure, it would be shared between the Government of India and them in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878. This Act has been made applicable to Rajasthan under a notification issued by the State Government.

He made it clear that the search was being carried out on the basis of an agreement with the owners of the fort.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 16, 1926

Slavery in India

Mr. Lansbury asked whether the Government of India intended to deal with the form of slavery known as Kumis in Bengal and Chota Nagpur and whether the practice obtained over a large part of India and was condemned by the British population.

Earl Winterton replied that there was Kamiuti system in Bihar and that probably existed in other provinces under other names, but he would hesitate to agree that it obtained over a large part of India and he did not know the views of the British population on it. Legislation already existed in Bihar and Orissa to regulate this form of agreement and doubtless the local Government would take steps to render it more effective than appeared to be at present.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of protesters executed in Iran in 2026

18 Iran has executed at least 40 people, including 18 protesters, on “national security grounds” since the start of 2026, the United Nations said on Monday. UN rights chief Volker Turk said he felt “deeply for the people in Iran, caught between war and cruel repression”. Iran executes more people annually than any other nation besides China, according to rights groups. AFP

Percentage rise in India’s exports in May 2026

18 in per cent. The country’s merchandise exports rose 18% to \$45.2 billion, according to the commerce ministry data. Imports, too, grew 20.62% to \$73.41 billion in May, leaving a trade deficit of \$28.21 billion. India’s merchandise exports rose to \$88.91 billion during April-May 2026-27, marking a 16.09% growth over the corresponding period last year. PTI

Drone-strike deaths in Sudan in first five months of 2026

1,000 The UN rights chief on Monday condemned a “sharp increase” in the use of drone warfare in conflict-torn Sudan, where more than 1,000 civilians were killed in such strikes in the first five months of this year. Drone warfare has become an increasingly prominent feature of Sudan’s conflict since it erupted in April 2023. AFP

Number of persons killed in Haiti gang violence this year

2,300 Gang violence has killed at least 2,300 people in Haiti this year, while nearly 100 have been kidnapped, the United Nations said on Monday. UN human rights chief Volker Turk called on the authorities to tackle the rampant impunity in the crisis-ravaged Caribbean nation of 12 million people. AFP

Amount allocated for Bengal under VB-G RAM G scheme

8,508 in ₹ crore. West Bengal has been allocated ₹8,508 crore under the scheme for the 2026-27 financial year, according to figures released by the Union government. Under the Gram Sadak Yojana, allocations worth ₹2,400 crore have been approved and ₹1,000 crore released by the Centre. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Drone revolution and modern warfare

The wars in Ukraine, Lebanon and West Asia have shown how drones have become central to modern warfare; as cheap, mass-produced unmanned systems proliferate, military power is increasingly shaped by industrial scale, technological adaptation and the ability to build, deploy and counter drones

EXPLAINER

Rahul Bedi

For decades, military power has been defined by the scale and sophistication of conventional arsenals – combat aircraft, tanks, artillery, warships, air-defence systems, precision-guided missiles, and other high-end assets.

End of superiority
In this environment, battlefield superiority belonged to armies with technologically advanced platforms and equipment, sophisticated intelligence networks, and large budgets. Smaller militaries and non-state actors, by contrast, were largely confined to asymmetric tactics that relied on guerrilla warfare, ambushes, and other unconventional methods to offset their opponents’ superior firepower and operational dominance.

But the ongoing wars in Ukraine and Lebanon, together with the wider U.S.-Israel-Iran theatre of conflict, have irrevocably shattered this paradigm, demonstrating that commercially derived drones – mass-produced at scale, rapidly reconfigured for multiple operational roles, and widely deployed – have become a defining feature of contemporary warfare. Performing functions ranging from intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and target acquisition to precision strikes, artillery spotting, electronic warfare, and logistics support, they have evolved from auxiliary assets into central instruments of military operations.

In doing so, they have transformed the 21st-century battlespace into an environment of persistent visibility and rapid engagement, where front lines remain continuously exposed, and rear areas can no longer be assumed secure, as multiple types of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) can locate, track, and strike targets with unprecedented speed and precision.

Across these concurrent theatres of conflict, the widespread – and in some cases decisive – employment of drones has challenged established assumptions about how military power is generated and applied, reshaping doctrine, force structures, and future warfighting concepts. The consequence has been the emergence of a continuous and interconnected battlespace in which no position is truly beyond reach, and no movement can safely assume it will remain concealed for long, as detection is increasingly followed by rapid engagement and destruction.

Ukraine drone war
Nowhere has this transformation been more visible than in Ukraine, where Russia’s ‘Special Military Operation’ launched in February 2022, as a conventional war involving combat aircraft, tanks and artillery, evolved within two years into the world’s first industrial-scale, drone-intensive conflict.

From the earliest stages of the Russian invasion, Ukraine rapidly adapted commercially available drones – originally designed for civilian purposes such as aerial photography, mapping, and basic surveillance – alongside a limited number of pre-existing military Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) assets into improvised reconnaissance and strike systems.

What had initially functioned as a support tool for intelligence gathering and



From the earliest stages of Russian invasion, Ukraine adapted commercially available drones. FILE PHOTO

guiding artillery fire quickly evolved into a decisive combat capability, as small quadcopters and First-Person View (FPV) drones were progressively weaponised and deployed as low-cost, precision-guided munitions. This shift marked a fundamental transformation in how unmanned systems were used on the battlefield: from passive information-gathering platforms to active instruments of destruction. By around 2024, drones had become fully integrated into almost every layer of Ukrainian combat, ranging from tactical battlefield surveillance to frontline targeting and deep-strike missions against logistics hubs, supply routes, and rear-area infrastructure.

The operational template that emerged from this experience in Ukraine was subsequently replicated, albeit to varying degrees and in different forms, across the continuing West Asian conflicts, underscoring the growing centrality of drones to contemporary warfare.

FPV revolution
At the heart of Ukraine’s drone revolution is the FPV system – an inexpensive, commercially available platform originally designed for recreational racing and aerial photography. Controlled through a live video feed transmitted from an onboard camera to virtual-reality-style goggles worn by their operators, FPV systems offer exceptional precision, manoeuvrability, and responsiveness.

These were then rapidly transformed into a broad spectrum of combat systems, including FPV strike drones, bombers, interceptors, and long-range attack variants. Among the most prominent are heavy-lift hexacopter Vampire drones – nicknamed “Baba Yaga” by Russian forces after the fearsome figure from Slavic folklore – alongside a vast number of improvised modular platforms, assembled in multiple workshops across Ukraine.

The most common are FPV kamikaze or strike drones, inexpensive quadcopters carrying explosive payloads such as modified rocket-propelled grenade warheads or purpose-built munitions, flown directly into targets as disposable precision-guided missiles. Their extremely low cost has radically reshaped battlefield economics which enable systems worth only a few hundred dollars to destroy armoured vehicles and equipment valued in the millions.

These systems operate within a broader Ukrainian deep-strike drone architecture that includes loitering munitions such as RAM II and UJ-31 Zozulya. The latter functions as an aerially deployed “parasite drone,” carried by the Ukrainian-designed multi-purpose UJ-22 Airborne long-range UAV’s, enabling penetration of contested airspace under intensive electronic warfare conditions and extending operational reach. RAM II, by contrast, is a short-range precision loitering munition employed in coordination with reconnaissance drones like the locally developed Shark and PD-2, with improved variants offering greater range and endurance to expand their engagement envelope against air defence systems and rear-area targets.

Also included within Ukraine’s expanding drone inventory are bomber drones – largely adapted from commercial DJI Mavic 3 and DJI Matrice 300 RTK quadcopter platforms originally designed for aerial photography, surveying and industrial applications – which carry and release grenades, anti-tank mines and improvised munitions. Unlike kamikaze systems, they survive missions and can conduct multiple sorties, making them particularly effective against trenches, bunkers and other static positions.

Alongside these, Ukraine fields FPV-based strike systems like Pegasus and long-range, one-way attack drones designed to strike deep inside Russian territory against logistics hubs, airbases and critical infrastructure, far beyond the frontline. In practice, however, the distinction between FPV strike drones and loitering munitions has become increasingly blurred, with many FPV-based thermal and night-vision-equipped variants for round-the-clock operations.

But, Ukraine’s most significant innovation has been the emergence of fibre-optic FPV drones, an electronic warfare (EW)-resistant class of systems. Unlike conventional drones, which rely on radio-frequency links vulnerable to jamming, these platforms transmit commands and video through ultra-thin fibre-optic cables that spool out during flight, rendering electronic interference largely ineffective. In heavily contested electromagnetic environments, this capability restores a significant operational advantage to drone operators by enabling missions to be conducted

largely free from electronic disruption.

Regional drone networks

Meanwhile, unlike Ukraine, Hezbollah’s offensive UAS capability is primarily built around Iranian-supplied platforms with limited local modification, relying heavily on systems like Ababil, Mohajer, and Shahed series. These platforms provide a layered operational architecture spanning ISR and strike functions. Within this framework, the Mohajer-4 and Shahed-129 provide tiered-ISR coverage across medium- to long-ranges, while the Shahed-136 loitering munition fulfils a ‘dedicated’ one-way strike role across a wider regional theatre.

More recently, Hezbollah has also adopted jamming-resistant fibre-optic FPV drones, enabling operations in heavily contested electromagnetic environments and enhancing close-range reconnaissance and precision strike effectiveness despite extensive Israeli EW measures.

In response, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) in Lebanon have developed a layered counter-drone architecture, integrating EW systems, specialised radar arrays, and experimental platforms like the AI-enabled Iron Drone Raider, designed to neutralise low-altitude UAVs through kinetic, non-explosive interception methods such as net capture – by which a physical net is deployed to entangle and disable an incoming drone mid-air – or direct collision, rather than costly missile engagements. Alongside this, the IDF operates a multi-tiered UAV force structure combining long-endurance Heron systems for persistent ISR with armed drones and loitering munitions integrated into reconnaissance-strike complexes for rapid engagement.

Iran, for its part, constitutes a third and structurally distinct model of drone warfare.

Rather than employing drones solely as tactical assets, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) integrates them into a broader strategy of deterrence, coercion, and power projection against the U.S.-Israel combine and their regional partners across West Asia.

Through indigenous systems such as Shahed drone variants, alongside platforms supplied to proxy forces across Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen, the IRGC has demonstrated an ability to threaten military bases, critical infrastructure, and naval assets across West Asia at relatively low cost.

Economy shift
Thus, across ongoing wars and conflicts, the drone revolution is defined as much by economics as technology. Cheap, mass-produced unmanned systems are swiftly and irreversibly replacing reliance on expensive platforms, complex logistics, and specialised military structures, shifting the advantage toward the scale, speed, and production capacity of UAS ecosystems.

Warfare, therefore, is increasingly becoming a test of industrial endurance and relentless technological adaptation, where success depends on the ability to build, deploy, and counter fast-evolving, continuously reconfigured drone systems. And, in this rapidly evolving battlespace, drones are no longer just weapons, but the very infrastructure of modern-day war – shaping how conflicts are surveilled, fought, sustained, and ultimately decided.

(Rahul Bedi is a journalist based in New Delhi and Chandigarh specialising in military, defence and security matters)

THE GIST

- ▼ Ukraine has pioneered industrial-scale drone warfare, integrating FPV drones, loitering munitions, bomber drones and fibre-optic systems across reconnaissance, targeting and deep-strike missions.
- ▼ Low-cost FPV strike drones have transformed battlefield economics, enabling systems worth a few hundred dollars to destroy armoured vehicles and equipment valued in the millions.
- ▼ The widespread adoption of drones has challenged traditional assumptions about military power, creating a continuous battlespace where detection is increasingly followed by rapid engagement and destruction.

‘The U.S. govt. policy is to systematically cut off any source of income to Cuba’

Mitchell Valdes-Sosa, one of the architects of Cuba’s biotechnology strategy, says U.S. sanctions are straining the country’s healthcare and biotech sectors; however, Cuba is prioritising key research and expanding international collaboration to keep its biotech industry functioning, he adds

INTERVIEW

Mitchell Valdes-Sosa

Vasudevan Mukunth
Srinivasan Ramani

The Cuban healthcare and biotechnology sectors – crown jewels of the country’s revolution – today find themselves at breaking point thanks to the U.S. campaign of economic strangulation. Washington DC has also intensified pressure on the Global South to dismantle Cuban medical missions. For the first time in decades, the island’s renowned health indicators are wavering and its factories are often paralysed by power cuts and resource shortages.

Navigating this intersection of high-level science and survival is Mitchell Valdes-Sosa, General Director of the Cuban Center for Neuroscience and a member emeritus of the Cuban Academy of Sciences. Dr. Valdes-Sosa is one of the architects of Cuba’s biotechnological strategy and an advisor to the Minister of Science. He recently answered questions from *The Hindu* about how his country and compatriots are negotiating the crisis. Excerpts:

Washington DC has intensified its campaign to discredit Cuba’s medical internationalism, applying pressure on other countries to cancel cooperation agreements. How is the Cuban administration responding?

The U.S. is trying to scare countries into not collaborating with Cuba. Cuba has had doctors in over 62 countries, always serving areas that have little access to medical services. The people of many countries really appreciate this help. But the U.S. has said that if any health official in any country hires Cuban doctors, the U.S. will sanction them. Several countries have buckled under this. The U.S. says there’s forced labour, which is false. Doctors who go abroad from Cuba have higher salaries than doctors in Cuba. The vast majority agree to this kind of work because it is a source of income for buying supplies for Cuban hospitals. So the real reason the U.S., which has benefited from sweatshops, cheap labour and exploitation around the world, wants to disrupt this international collaboration is that it is a source of income to Cuba and the U.S. government policy is to systematically cut off any source of income to starve the country into submission.

The second reason is that this international collaboration has won many admirers around the world, including Cuba’s friends. And it’s a form of noble diplomacy, not the military-threat-based diplomacy of the U.S. Countries in the Global South must resist U.S. pressures because this is an intervention into Cuba’s, into many countries’ internal affairs.

They really would like to see Cuba’s pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries affected. It would contribute to a deterioration of social conditions and create suffering in the Cuban population. Second, they do not conceive of a biotechnological industry that is not for profit as the main goal. We’re resisting. We’re in first place, making the green transition in the biotech and pharmaceutical industries. We’re optimising production strategies. And we’re increasing collaboration with other countries, especially the BRICS



Mitchell Valdes-Sosa. X/@JOHANATABLADA

countries. Through international collaboration and making optimal use of the resources we do have, we’re struggling to keep the biotechnological industry of Cuba functioning and at the service of its people.

The new General Law defines science as a “public good at the service of socialism” but also highlights the need for institutional “innovation management”. How will this law balance state-directed priorities like food sovereignty with the intellectual autonomy required for biotech breakthroughs?

Cuba is opening parts of its economy to the private sector and in the field of biotechnology and of neurotechnology and other services, it’s developing a [new] arrangement. For example, the care of old people has been decentralised, and they’re now cooperatives or private companies that are providing services for elderly people, which Cuba has a problem with. It’s a problem created by the success of its health system and social policies. Cubans are living much longer than before, and our demographic pyramid is inverted now because less children are being born. But the basic and most important factors of the biotech and pharmaceutical industry are state-owned. They will increasingly collaborate with the private sector, with external investors. The Cuban strategy is to [produce] medicines and pharmaceutical and biotechnological products where the important thing is not to make a lot of money. In the U.S., medicines are so expensive, and the reason is that the whole philosophy is not saving lives. The philosophy is making as much money as possible.

Intellectual autonomy, which is very important in science and biotech innovation, was fostered by Fidel Castro’s decision when he started promoting and directly intervening in the creation of new scientific centres with their factories. The basic idea was to give these centres maximum autonomy. And the biotech sector in Cuba, which is grouped in the organisation called BioCuba Pharma, is the most successful example of a decentralised organisation of companies, with autonomy to make strategic and tactical plans, and the ability to import and export directly with no intermediate entities. BioCuba Pharma has over 36 units and more than 20 joint

ventures or joint laboratories across the world. They were created with the idea of what we call in Cuba “full cycle”. In other words, the same centre does basic research, applied research, and translational work. It has development and production facilities and its own commercial company.

Following discussions at BioHabana 2026 in May, how is the industry prioritising which molecules to move into clinical trials, given the scarcity of imported reagents and active pharmaceutical ingredients?

Anything that is a source of income for Cuba, the U.S. has targeted and tried to cut off. We have accepted this challenge because we need all these new treatments for the benefit of our population and for the benefit of the world population. One of the things we’re doing is concentrating resources, trying to prioritise projects that have the highest probability of success. Second, we’re intensifying all efforts for international collaboration. We’ve established with many countries joint research calls where the project is funded by each country in its own territory, but the projects are prepared together. They’re put together by scientists from the two countries that are in this arrangement. And then the results are shared. Cuba is now also creating joint research centres in other countries. This is a way of, despite the difficulties, having all the science that Cuba has developed, have all the science progress and reach final clinical stages so they can help people.

The 2026 National Science System pivot emphasises ‘One Health’, bridging human medicine with agricultural biotechnology. Given the severe food shortages today, are we seeing a temporary diversion of biotech talent and resources away from human oncology and towards bio-fertilizers and transgenic seeds?

It’s true that the Cuban national science system emphasises One Health. But this is not a diversion of biotech talents and resources away from, say, human oncology or other diseases. From the very moment the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology was created, Fidel Castro asked it to have two divisions. One is

health and the other is biotechnology for agriculture and for animal health and food production. So there’s really no competition because for over 30 years, these have been two pillars of the work of the Center for Genetic Engineering. Fidel created in 1965 the National Research Center, which was a nursery where other centres were incubated. So all of the big centres now branched off from the National Research Centre. [Today] this is an ecosystem with a university and several research centres.

This has become increasingly important for Cuba because Cuba has to have food security. And [the centres have developed] transgenic variants of corn and soybeans, [are] working very closely with the agricultural sector of Cuba. So I say there’s no competition. It’s been cooperation. It’s complementary. And the One Health approach is important because as we saw with COVID-19 and with other diseases, the barrier between humans and other animals is very tenuous. But I repeat: this [has been] the whole strategy since Cuban biotechnology began.

Survival rates for childhood cancers in Cuba have reportedly dropped from 80% to 65% due to supply shortages. As a scientist, how do you navigate the ethical challenge of having the intellectual know-how to produce world-class treatments within the current energy and supply blockade?

Cuban infant mortality for over a decade was below 5 per 1,000 children, which is very good, even better than the U.S. However, all health indicators are suffering from the intense blockade because there are power cuts due to no electricity. The United States has blocked entry of oil to Cuba. This is severe. Childhood cancer survival has dropped from 80% to 65%. The infant mortality rate of 5.5 per 1,000 is now near 10. The U.S. is a bully. The moment anybody does business with Cuba, they try to scare them off. We have examples of very expensive equipment we bought from European countries, and then after a number of years, [companies from Europe] said, we can’t sell you spare parts because we’re afraid of U.S. sanctions. It’s illegal because the European Union does not recognise the U.S. sanctions. They can’t be extraterritorial. U.S. law cannot apply in Europe. But the individual companies are scared. So this is, as I said before, an attempt to starve Cuba almost to death. They’re trying to force us to submit to their policies and whatever they want. This is not going to happen.

I think the international scientific community can help with several things. First, they should express their anger against the U.S.’s inhumane policies against Cuba. All the scientists I speak with – American, European, Asian, African, South American – believe this is a horrible thing that the U.S. is doing to Cuba. The second thing is we need international collaboration. Things that we may not be able to finish in Cuba because of the lack of supplies and the power cuts but that are very advanced could be taken to the end by international collaboration. So the second thing we would ask of the international community is to promote agreements, like for example, joint calls for research, exchange of information, and to create joint research labs.

(Read the full interview here: newsth.live/mitchellvaldessa)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of the expression “to pass the buck”? (L. Suhasini, Cuttack)

When you “pass the buck”, you shift the responsibility for something to someone else. Our not-so-beloved politicians do this every day – especially when something goes wrong! Passing the buck implies putting the blame for something that has gone wrong on someone else. Instead of taking the blame yourself, you find a scapegoat and pin the blame on him.

For a change our Director didn’t pass the buck. He admitted that what he had done was wrong.

The word “buckpasser” is used to refer to a person who is unwilling to take responsibility for something. The word is used in informal contexts; it is considered to be slang.

Jai is the most irresponsible buckpasser I have had the misfortune to meet.

Like the expression “up the ante”, “pass the buck” is believed to have its origins at the card table. Some scholars are of the opinion that the word “buck” is the short form of either “buckshot” (a bullet) or “buckhorn knife”. The knife was so called because its handle was made out of a buck’s (a male deer) horn. When poker was played, one of these items was placed in front of the player who was acting as the “bank”. This person was usually the dealer. The buck knife or the buckshot informed everyone which player was responsible for looking after the bank. When the dealer changed, he would hand over this responsibility to someone else. He would do this by handing over the buck to someone else. He literally passed the “buck”!

It is also believed that later, a silver dollar coin was placed in front of the banker instead of a knife or a bullet. The coin became the “buck” and it is for this reason Americans refer to a dollar as a “buck”. It’s very common to hear Americans say, “Give me a couple of bucks, will you?” “I gave him a few bucks.”, etc.

What is the meaning of “deja vu”? (T. Sreenath, Nellore)

Sometimes when we visit a place for the first time, we have a funny feeling that we have been to the place before. There is a strange sense of familiarity about the place and we can’t really explain why we have this feeling. This is what the expression *deja vu* means. It is the feeling that you have that you have already experienced in the past the sequence of events that are happening to you now. You have the feeling of reliving the past.

What is the difference between complimentary and complementary? (E. Raju, Chennai)

Though the two words are pronounced the same way, there is a difference in meaning. The word “complimentary”, as you can probably guess, comes from the word “compliment”. When someone is complimentary, he usually expresses his admiration or respect for something that you have done or achieved.

When something is “complimentary”, it is given to you without charge.

The word “complementary”, on the other hand, comes from “complement”. When you complement someone, you combine well with him/her to form a whole. You may have qualities that the other person lacks, and the other person may have qualities that you lack. Together, the two of you complete each other.

Published in *The Hindu* on December, 19, 2000

Word of the day

Slapdash:

in a careless or reckless manner

Synonyms: random, scattered, erratic

Usage: His homework was done in a slapdash manner and was full of mistakes.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/slapdash

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /slæpdæʃ/

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

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here is a quiz on major tech-related news that transpired last week

Mohammed Hidayat

QUESTION 1

Which U.S. AI company has temporarily disabled access to some top-tier models after a government order restricting foreign access?

QUESTION 2

Which country announced plans for a social media ban for under-16s last week?

QUESTION 3

What initiative did Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron launch in Nice, France?

QUESTION 4

Which milestone did Elon Musk achieve following SpaceX’s IPO on June 12?

QUESTION 5

Recently, Apple unveiled a rebuilt Siri. Which external AI ecosystem is powering significant parts of the new experience?

QUESTION 6

Which Indian fintech firm confidentially filed papers for a \$600 million IPO?

QUESTION 7

This embattled Indian edtech founder got some relief from a Singapore court regarding a contempt sentence. Name the person and the company associated?



Visual Question:

At Nintendo’s June Direct, the long-rumoured remake of which beloved N64-era video game was officially announced? AP

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

1. Who is widely believed to be the woman depicted in the Mona Lisa? **Ans: Lisa Gherardini del Giocondo, the wife of Florentine merchant Francesco del Giocondo**
 2. Around what year is Leonardo da Vinci believed to have begun painting the Mona Lisa? **Ans: Around 1503**
 3. What is the approximate size of the Mona Lisa? **Ans: About 77 cm × 53 cm (30 in × 21 in)**
 4. Which artistic technique, heavily employed in the Mona Lisa, creates the painting’s characteristic soft transitions between light and shadow? **Ans: Sfumato**
 5. Which French king acquired the Mona Lisa for the royal collection? **Ans: King Francis I of France**
 6. What major event in 1911 dramatically increased the painting’s worldwide fame? **Ans: It’s theft from the Louvre by Vincenzo Peruggia**
- Visual: Which Italian Renaissance master executed this sketch of a young woman before a landscape, believed to have been directly influenced by Leonardo’s Mona Lisa? **Ans: Raphael**
- Early Birds: Prem Nath Tiwari | K.N. Viswanathan | Piyali Tuli | Tamal Biswas | Arun Kumar Singh

From Page One

U.S., Iran reach a deal to end fighting, open Strait

“We have always maintained that we do not seek to collect transit tolls, but fees for navigation services, environmental protection, ship insurance and other necessary services will be charged,” Mr. Baqaei said on Monday.

“Under the agreements reached, the war and military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, are ended immediately and permanently. Furthermore, the naval blockade against Iran is terminated immediately and completely,” read a statement issued by the Council Secretariat, which doesn’t say anything about the Strait of Hormuz.

Talks for a final agreement, which would involve Iran’s nuclear programme and sanctions, “will be postponed until after the other side has implemented its commitments under the memorandum”, the secretariat added.

U.S. officials say the deal would extend the ceasefire by 60 days during which time talks on the core issued would be held.

Iran took control of the strait, a critical waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea, after the U.S. and Israel launched the war on February 28.

“This Great Deal will bring Peace and Security to the whole Region. With the opening of the Strait upon the signing of the Deal on Friday, for purposes of mine removal, oil will flow on both ends again for the Region, and the World,!” Mr. Trump wrote in another post.

He said on Monday evening that “ships are starting to move, many loaded up with oil, out of the Strait of Hormuz.”

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also confirmed the agreement, adding that “both sides have declared the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon.”

“These pre-implementation discussions will lay the foundation for the technical talks and the official signing ceremony,” he added.

India, Slovakia expand ties with a slew of MoUs

Slovakia has continued to support India’s quest for a permanent seat on the UNSC and “reaffirmed its constructive approach” to India’s membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group, as per the joint statement.

Defence and security cooperation would be “one of the key pillars” of the India-Slovakia relationship, as per the joint statement.

The two sides signed a Letter of Intent to promote defence cooperation – a move welcomed by Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico in their press statements. Through this framework, the governments would seek to collaborate more in defence technologies, defence industrial cooperation, capacity building, and research and development.

The two governments signed an MoU on digital technologies to provide structure to their digital cooperation, as they committed to deepening collaboration in AI, semiconductors and start-ups. They also agreed to explore cooperation in emerging fields, including the Internet of Things and 6G standardisation.

Largest parliamentary force from Bengal: NCPI

A few functionaries who were associated with the party in the past said that they were completely in the dark as far as the development of the merging of Trinamool MPs was concerned.

“Uttiya Kundu and Shewly Kundu are in Delhi. Their phones have been switched off since last night. Nobody else in the party has any idea about the development. We started as a small party. Our organisation was never in touch with the BJP. But, it seems some people, as individuals, were in regular touch with the BJP,” Titas Bhattacharya, who claimed to be the general secretary of the party, said.

The green-and-saffron party office in rural Howrah saw the deployment of police and Central forces outside it on Monday. The compound housing the office bears graffiti reading “Jaago Biswa (Awaken the World)” and references to a Bengali periodical. The names of the Kundu couple are also written on the boundary wall at the entrance of the compound. Inside the compound, a banner of the NCPI was hung.

According to the Election Commission of India records, the NCPI was registered on February 2, 2023, at Jago Biswa building in Sankrail, Howrah. The party was allotted the symbol of a fountain pen by the EC. Three NCPI candidates had contested the Tripura Assembly election and secured a total of 822 votes.

Trinamool Congress MLA Kunal Ghosh, considered a loyalist of party supreme Mamata Banerjee, said that the rebels were not welcome in the party that had engineered their defection and it sent them to a little-known third party.

The decision by the rebel Trinamool MPs to merge with a registered regional political party and not form a separate bloc within the Trinamool Congress was to avoid any legal complications under the anti-defection law. The law states that when two-thirds of the legislators of a political party decide to merge with another political party, neither the members who join the merger nor the ones who stay with the original party face disqualification.

PM welcomes West Asia deal, hopes peace will be restored

Modi is scheduled to meet U.S. President tomorrow on the sidelines of the G7 meeting to be held in France; several G7 countries have said the urgent opening of Strait of Hormuz is essential

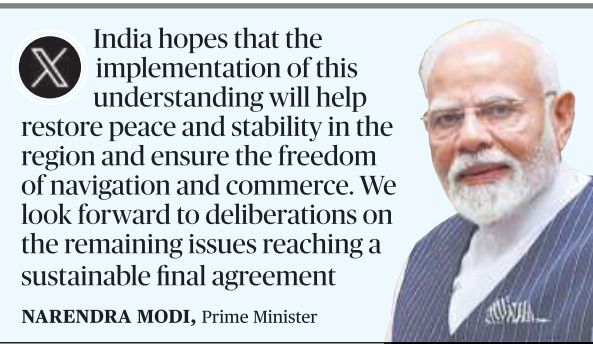
Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the agreement between Iran and the United States to end the conflict in West Asia that has been raging for more than three months, killing and injuring thousands, and disrupting shipping and energy markets.

“I welcome the understanding reached between the United States and Iran on ending the conflict in West Asia, which has caused serious economic disruption across the world and led to loss of life in many countries,” Mr. Modi said on X, from the Slovakian capital of Bratislava.

The Prime Minister arrived in the city on Sunday night for a bilateral visit after a day of events and meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron in Nice.

India hoped the deal



Death of 3 sailors in U.S. attacks off the coast of Oman has evoked anger and grief in India

would restore peace and stability as well, while ensuring the freedom of navigation and commerce, Mr. Modi said, welcoming further deliberations on the remaining issues so a “sustainable final agreement” is reached.

The deal is expected to be signed by Iran and the U.S. in Geneva on Friday, but details of the terms re-

main hazy. Mr. Modi will travel to Evian-les-Bains in the French Alps on Tuesday morning to participate in sessions with the leaders of the G7 group of wealthy countries.

Mission for Hormuz

Host nation France, along with the U.K., Germany, and Italy welcomed the U.S.-Iran understanding on Monday, congratulating the two countries and others, including mediators Qatar and Pakistan.

The countries said the urgent opening of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway transporting

20% of the world’s oil, was essential.

They are willing to conduct a “strictly defensive and independent” mission to “reassure commercial shipping” and to clear mines, the statement said. These countries - all members of the G7 - also said that Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon.

The focus, however, at the G7 will be U.S. President Donald Trump, who arrived at the resort on Monday evening. A meeting between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump is set for 2.45 p.m. local time on Wednesday. The two men go into the meeting with several challenging issues looming before them.

Indians have reacted – on the streets and online – with anger at the death of three Indian sailors killed in U.S. attacks off the coast of Oman last week. There is also the issue of a protracted trade agreement which was announced in February but has still not been formally singed.

Limited traffic through Hormuz, despite Trump’s announcement

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

Announcing the peace deal with Iran, U.S. President Donald Trump said he had authorised the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and the removal of the U.S. naval blockade. He later indicated that ships were already moving along the route close to Oman.

However, vessel-tracking data suggested that traffic through the Strait remained limited on Monday. While a few ships transited the passage during the day, many vessels remained clustered near Iran’s Qeshm and Larak islands, with smaller concentrations south of the Strait and around Oman’s Shinas port.

Among the vessels that crossed was Petronet LNG’s *Disha*, expected to arrive at Dahej in Gujarat on June 18. Since the conflict began, 15 India-bound ships, including 10 Indian-flagged vessels, have transited the Strait. Another 13 Indian-flagged ships carrying 325 seafarers remain west of the waterway.

Maritime intelligence publication *Lloyd’s List* es-



In limbo: A drone view shows vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from Musandam, Oman on Monday. REUTERS

timates that about 600 ships remain stranded west of the chokepoint. Last week, Mr. Trump claimed that the U.S. military had quietly assisted around 200 commercial vessels through the Strait since May.

Industry stakeholders remain cautious, seeking greater clarity on transit arrangements before resuming normal operations. Shipping companies would prefer a return to the earlier regime of unrestricted passage through the established traffic separation schemes largely in the centre of the Strait.

Capt. Ritesh Kumar, who has transited the strait some 150 times on a ship,

says that in the past, Strait of Hormuz passage was like open sea passage with no payments to any nation whatsoever or even reporting, unlike say in the Singapore and Malacca straits, where reporting is mandatory for safety of navigation.

Maritime service fee

On Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Tehran did not intend to impose transit tolls, though maritime service fees for navigation and environmental protection would be charged.

“The statements by the U.S. and Iran remain unclear and do not provide

Indian seafarers not to be deployed in conflict zones: DGS

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) has advised maritime recruitment and placement agencies not to deploy Indian seafarers to conflict zones until further notice. However, companies may carry out crew changes in emergency situations with the consent of the crew.

The safety advisory sent to all stakeholders comes days after three Indian seafarers were killed in a U.S. strike on *Settebello* off the coast of Oman. The shipping regulator said recent developments in the Gulf region, particularly in and around the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, had resulted in multiple security incidents involving merchant vessels carrying Indian seafarers.

Navigational warnings

Incidents involving *Marivex*, *Settebello* and *Jaaveer* during the past few days highlighted the increasing risks faced by commercial ships operating in the re-

gion. The DGS directed masters of vessels operating in or transiting through the Gulf region, including the Strait of Hormuz, to maintain heightened security awareness, closely monitor navigational warnings issued by security agencies, and implement all applicable ship security measures.

“This Directorate further reiterates that all Recruitment and Placement Service License (RPSL) companies and shipping companies are advised not to deploy or send Indian seafarers to conflict areas until further orders.”

The DGS said it was closely monitoring the evolving situation in coordination with various Ministries, the Indian Navy and other stakeholders to ensure safety and welfare.

The DGS urged all maritime stakeholders to exercise the highest degree of vigilance and caution while operating in the conflict zone and to promptly report any incident involving Indian seafarers to the authorities concerned.

Congress flays Union govt. over foreign policy issues

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress has criticised the Modi government over its foreign outreach, underlining that Pakistan’s role in the U.S.-Iran deal coupled with its deepening strategic ties with China poses a formidable geopolitical challenge for India.

Congress general secretary in charge of (communication) Jairam Ramesh said that while the unrestricted re-opening of the Strait of Hormuz will certainly bring great relief to India, it does not mean the structural problems the economy faces will be resolved.

Pakistan, which had been successfully isolated by India after its orchestration of the terror attacks in Mumbai in November 2008, now seems to have acquired a new regional and global influence, the Congress leader claimed.

“This, coupled with China’s deep embedding in Pakistan’s strategic apparatus, poses a formidable geopolitical challenge for India’s foreign policy,” Mr. Ramesh said.

Centre issues alert on potential drone attacks on vital installations

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Union government has warned of possible rogue drone attacks targeting vital installations along the borders, prompting security agencies to work on deploying counter-drone technology systems to safeguard critical assets across the country.

According to official sources, the Marine Security Wing of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways issued the alert on the emerging drone threat at Vital Assets and Vital Installations (VAVIs) located around the land and sea borders. It was stated that the current geo-political

situation across the world had demonstrated that hostile drones could disrupt operations of critical VAVIs. “There is an urgent need to take concrete steps to safeguard our assets, especially those located near the borders from rogue drones by installing Anti-Drone Systems,” the communication said.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted the Anti Rogue Drone Technology Committee in the Border Security Force for evaluation and certification of new technology systems.

The Central Industrial Security Force had also formed a Sub-Committee Board of Officers to carry out surveys of VAVIs.

Amit Shah responsible for Trinamool ‘split’, merger bid, says Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday accused Union Minister Amit Shah of masterminding the split in the Trinamool Congress, which is the third-largest Opposition party in the Lok Sabha, and of orchestrating the merger of the rebel group with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) to engineer a two-thirds majority for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the Lower House.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh alleged that “decency, decorum, and devotion to constitutional values and principles remain vulnerable and threatened” every day that Mr. Shah continues in office.

“A desperate Union Home Minister – who is an absolute disgrace to the position once held by Sardar Patel – has taken Indian democracy to new lows in a shameless manner,” he said on X.

Terming the merger an “illegal breakaway”, Mr. Ramesh said that the NCPI was only a three-year-old political outfit that was hardly known. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Janata Dal (United), Mr. Ramesh said, should actually protest their “downgrade” through such “underhand tactics” and in such a “disgusting” manner, since the NCPI would now be the largest NDA ally.

No idea about merger, says Bengal MLA after Trinamool MPs’ move

We are principal Opposition party in the Bengal Assembly, says Ritabrata, a day after 20 MPs announced they will merge with regional party NCPI

Sobhana K. Nair
Sreeparna Banerjee
NEW DELHI

Indicating further fragmentation in the Trinamool Congress, the rebel factions of the party – one in the Lok Sabha and the other in the West Bengal Assembly – have spoken in different voices.

While the Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, Ritabrata Banerjee, who claims the support of 65 MLAs, said the Legislature Party had “no idea” about merging with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), their colleagues in the Lok Sabha had already announced such a move.

On Sunday night, 20 MPs elected on the Trinamool symbol informed the Lok Sabha Speaker that they had merged with the NCPI, a registered regional party. Later, speaking to reporters, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, who is leading the faction, said that this group “will collaborate” with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Mr. Banerjee, meanwhile, struck a different note, insisting on playing the role of the Opposition. Speaking to *The Hindu* on Monday, Mr. Banerjee said: “We are the principal Opposition party in the West



Ritabrata Banerjee said the Legislature Party had ‘no idea’ about merging with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India. FILE PHOTO

Bengal Assembly.” On whether the rebel MLAs would merge with the NCPI, he said no such decision had been taken.

Mr. Banerjee later told reporters in Kolkata that he had learnt about the decision of the 20 MPs to merge with the NCPI through the media. “It is their decision; their collective has taken such a decision. As far as our collective is concerned, we have no such idea,” he said. He added that while not all 65 MLAs were present in Kolkata, many met and consulted. “As far as the Legislature Party is concerned, we do not know any such thing,” he said.

For a merger, the support of two-thirds of the Legislature Party in Parliament as well as the As-

sembly is required. With Mr. Banerjee’s bloc refusing any such move, it will be difficult for Ms. Dastidar’s faction to press its claim on the party and symbol.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool faction aligned with party founder Mamata Banerjee remained silent on any action against the 20 MPs. On Sunday, Trinamool MPs Sagarika Ghose and Kirti Azad had submitted a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla before the 20 rebel leaders met him. The letter urged the Speaker not to recognise or grant separate status to any rebel faction. The letter from party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee said the Trinamool was a “single, indivisible political party”.

Merger may allow rebels to vote in LS prior to any ruling on disqualification

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The decision made by the rebel MPs of the Trinamool Congress to merge with the little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India might not be a foolproof way of avoiding disqualification under the anti-defection law, but it can allow them to vote in the Lok Sabha, pending a decision from the Speaker in case the party files a petition seeking their disqualification.

With sources in the government indicating that the Centre is likely to bring the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty First Amendment) Bill, 2026, or the Delimitation Bill, as early as the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which is likely to begin in mid-July, it becomes crucial that this bloc, which has promised support to the Na-



Political shake-up: Rebel Trinamool MPs meeting Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at his residence in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

tional Democratic Alliance (NDA) gets to vote when the said Bills are taken up. In April, the government had fallen short of the two-thirds majority required for its passage.

On Sunday, the rebel Trinamool camp had approached Speaker Om Birla, submitting the names of 20 MPs who make up two-thirds of the Trinamool Parliamentary Party in the House, that they would be merging with the NCPI.

“Under the 10th Schedule, only the original political party can merge with another party, and thereafter the MPs or MLAs can make a claim that their original party has merged, and they agree to that merger, and have become members of that party. Thus, MPs alone cannot merge with any other party. However, till the Speaker gives any ruling, these MPs can vote in favour of any Bills which are taking

up as part of the legislative business,” according to former Lok Sabha Secretary General and constitutional law expert P.D.T. Achary.

The Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool is yet to file a disqualification petition.

The move to merge helps the rebel bloc avoid a long process, which would have ensued in case they had approached the Election Commission, and staked claim to be the “real Trinamool Congress”, especially in view of the Supreme Court judgment in the case of the Shiv Sena’s split in Maharashtra.

The rebels seem to have chosen to merge with the NCPI to secure immediate parliamentary recognition as a separate bloc rather than fighting a long-drawn symbol battle as, under Para 15 of the Symbols Order, the Election Commission relies on the strict legal framework of the 1971 *Sadiq Ali* ruling.

Kakoli seeks Kalyan’s expulsion from LS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a letter to Speaker Om Birla, Lok Sabha member Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, who is leading the rebel faction of Trinamool Congress MPs, has sought the expulsion of party chief whip and Mamata Banerjee loyalist Kalyan Banerjee for “repeated verbal

abuse and misogynistic remarks directed” at her and other women members during the sittings of the House.

In her letter dated June 10, the MP from Barasat constituency in West Bengal said the complaint was a follow-up to an earlier one dated May 28 and sought immediate intervention and action against

Mr. Banerjee. Ms. Dastidar said Mr. Banerjee had, on several occasions, used “objectionable, disrespectful and inappropriate language against her and other women members during parliamentary proceedings.” She said the conduct formed part of a recurring pattern of “personal attacks, intimidation and misogynistic com-

ments that went beyond the limits of robust political disagreement and entered the realm of personal abuse and harassment.”

Ms. Dastidar said the conduct had not only caused personal anguish but had created an atmosphere that discouraged the free participation of women in parliamentary proceedings.

ED questions Abhishek for 11 hours in primary school recruitment scam case

Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA



Abhishek Banerjee arriving at the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office on Monday. PTI

The Enforcement Directorate questioned Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in Kolkata for 11 hours on Monday, in connection with the alleged primary school jobs scam case.

Mr. Banerjee arrived at the ED’s CGO Complex office at 11 a.m. in response to a summons in a money laundering probe linked to alleged irregularities in the recruitment of primary school teachers. He left the ED office at night.

“I was questioned for over eight hours yesterday [on Sunday] and for 11 hours today [Monday]. This is a 2023 case and I have appeared before the agency 10-12 times. I won’t say whether there is a political pressure or not. The less said of the BJP, the bet-

ter. On the one side, they break our party and indulge in post-poll violence. Even if you slit my throat, I won’t cower down...I will appear before the agency if they summon me even in the future.” Mr. Banerjee said, while leaving the ED office.

Officials said Mr. Banerjee was questioned over the alleged money trail in the scam. “He was asked

questions regarding some financial documents, digital records, and statements of other accused to trace the alleged proceeds of crime. Investigators sought details about who handled the funds, how they were moved across accounts and entities, and whether these transactions were layered to conceal their origin,” said an officer on the request of anonymity.

The ED questioning came a day after Mr. Banerjee was quizzed by the West Bengal CID in connection with the alleged forgery of Trinamool Congress MLAs’s signatures on documents related to the appointment of the Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly.

He is also scheduled to appear before the CID again on Tuesday in connection with the same case.

Bhagwat dismisses Priyank letter seeking ‘transparency’ in RSS

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat has brushed aside Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge’s call for greater transparency from the organisation, saying that the demand is “driven by politics rather than genuine concerns over accountability”.

The controversy began after Mr. Kharge wrote an open letter to the RSS chief on June 13, seeking details about the organisation’s registration status, sources of funding, income, expenditure, and assets. Arguing that an organisation with a nation-wide presence and thousands of daily *shakhas* should be subject to public scrutiny, the Congress leader said the RSS should adhere to the same disclosure norms applicable to NGOs, companies, and religious institutions.

Asked about the letter during an RSS centenary outreach programme in Thrissur on Sunday, Mr. Bhagwat said he saw no reason to respond to the demand and dismissed it as politically motivated.

‘Not secretive’

“I don’t need to respond. There are so many unregistered things functioning in the country. We are not secretive; we work openly and people know what we do. We are used to such allegations. Those who seek government funds require registration,” he said, adding that even Hindu Dharma is not a registered entity.

He also maintained that the Sangh’s activities were conducted publicly.

The RSS chief noted that courts and tax authorities had recognised the RSS as a “body of individuals” and granted it income-tax exemptions.

Cockroach party founder manhandled, slapped during protest in Jaipur; two youth detained

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke was allegedly manhandled and slapped during a protest in Jaipur on Monday, triggering chaos and a brief struggle at the venue. The police detained two youth in connection with the incident.

The demonstration, attended by a large number of youth, was organised at Shaheed Smarak to protest over the issues of the alleged National Eligibility-

cum-Entrance (NEET) paper leak, unemployment and corruption.

When Mr. Dipke arrived at the protest site and was being carried on shoulders of supporters, some miscreants in the crowd allegedly manhandled him, slapped him multiple times and attempted to pull him down. Mr. Dipke’s supporters caught hold of the accused and assaulted them before the police intervened.

As tempers ran high, Mr. Dipke appealed to the protesters not to assault the in-



Abhijeet Dipke

dividuals involved in the attack. The CJP founder said physical attacks were a sign of “fear and cowardice”. “I am a follower of Gandhi and Ambedkar,

and I will keep fighting this battle with peace and love,” he said.

‘Tactic to threaten CJP’

In a video message released on his X account, Mr. Dipke urged his supporters not to get distracted from the demand for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation. He said the attack was a tactic to threaten the CJP and divert attention from the real issues, and added: “To the haters, I want to say ‘get well soon!’”

During the protest, many youngsters carried banners and placards and raised slogans demanding Mr. Pradhan’s resignation over alleged irregularities in major examinations.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Dipke criticised the handling of education-related issues and questioned the remarks of a Rajasthan Minister who had described the NEET paper leak as “no big deal”.

He cited the collapse of a government school building in Jhalawar, in which seven students were killed.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC –SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA-524124**

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

No: SHAR: CMG CIVIL:MAINT-E-PT-04/26-27Dt: 11.06.2026

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for following works;

Name of Work	Tender No	Estimate Cost
AMC for Civil & PH works in PHC-II area, SDSC for year 2026-2027 & 2027-2028 (Two years).	T/C-26-007	₹ 227.54 Lakhs

Tender documents can be downloaded up to **29.06.2026, 14:30** hrs. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website <https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html> and tender free view at <https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro>

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

**KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD**
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600)
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/17/2026**Date : 12.06.2026**

E- TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from **manufacturers/direct importers/ loan licensees** on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of drugs for the year 2026-27.

Sr. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/VIT-A/RC/2026/016 Dtd. 12/06/2026	1

The last date and time of online uploading of tenders will be 24.06.2026, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 29.06.2026, 11.30 am. Tender documents can be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

**अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गोरखपुर**
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur
(स्वायत्त एवं विश्वविद्यालय कक्षास्थान में मान्यता प्राप्त भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित एक स्वायत्त संस्थान)
(An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Website-<https://aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in>

NON-FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Offline applications from eligible Indian citizens/other citizens as permissible under the applicable Act/Rules are invited to fill up following **Non-Faculty (Group A)** various posts on **Direct Recruitment Basis** at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh):

Sr. No.	Name of the post	Group	Pay level (7th CPC)	No. of Vacancies					
				UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total
1.	Child Psychologist	A	Level 10	1	-	-	-	-	1
2.	Clinical Psychologist	A	Level 10	1	-	-	-	-	1
3.	Medical Officer (AYUSH)	A	Level 10	3 (Ayurveda-01, Homeopathy-01, Yoga & Naturopathy-01)	-	-	-	-	3

The above vacancies are provisional and subject to variation. The Executive Director, AIIMS, Gorakhpur reserves the right to change the number of the vacancies including reserved vacancies as per the Govt. of India rules/circulars. **Application form along with Brief and PowerPoint formats are available on institute's website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in**

All the applicants are advised to check AIIMS, Gorakhpur website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in on Regular basis for any further updates.

Sd/-
Executive Director
AIIMS Gorakhpur

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INBRIEF



SC seeks govt. response to plea on RTE quota in Punjab

The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and the Punjab government on a plea alleging failure to implement the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 in Punjab, particularly the mandate under Section 12(1)(c) requiring private unaided schools to reserve 25% of entry-level seats for children from weaker sections and disadvantaged groups. At the outset of the hearing, a Bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana asked the petitioner, who runs an NGO and appeared at the court in person, whether he had conducted any survey to substantiate the allegations. The petitioner submitted that the law remained unimplemented in Punjab for the past 15 years.

Centre hikes windfall tax on diesel, aviation fuel exports

The government on Monday hiked windfall gains tax on exports of diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), while retaining the levy on petrol for the fortnight beginning June 16. The rate of special additional excise duty (SAED) on export of diesel will be ₹14 a litre, up from ₹13.5 a litre at present. The SAED on export of ATF will be ₹12.5 a litre, up from ₹9.5 a litre. There is no change in the rate of duty on exports of petrol and it continues to be at ₹1.5 a litre. The Finance Ministry, in a notification, said the duty hikes would be effective from June 16. Also, there is no change in the existing duty rates on petrol and diesel cleared for domestic consumption. PTI

After flak, NCERT to restore original 'Dancing Girl' image

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will replace the modified image of the iconic “Dancing Girl” figurine of Mohenjo-daro in its Class 9 Arts textbook with the original version, following criticism over the ‘clothed’ depiction of the artefact, confirmed its Director Dinesh Saklani. The move comes as a debate erupted over the representation of one of the most recognisable archaeological artefacts from the Indus Valley Civilisation in school textbooks. The bronze figurine was depicted with its bare torso covered in the opening chapter, “History of Arts”, of *Madhurima*, NCERT’s new Class 9 Arts education textbook. In the version carried in the textbook, the torso of the figurine appears visually altered compared to the photographs of the original artefact, with shading used across the upper body that obscures anatomical details visible in the sculpture. PTI

Marginal increase in unemployment rate in May

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The unemployment rate (UR) in the country increased by 0.3 percentage points to 5.5% in May com-

pared with April, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in New Delhi on Monday.

While rural unemployment increased from 4.6% in April to 5.1% in May, urban unemployment decreased marginally from 6.6% in April to 6.4% in May. The unemployment

rate among rural males of 15 years and above was 5.2% during May. For rural females in the same age group, it was 4.7%. In urban areas, the unemployment rate among females

was 8.2% compared with 5.9% observed for males. The Labour Force Participation Rate for persons aged 15 years and above stood at 54.4% in May. It was 55% in April.

THE CROSSWORD+ 14821
(Set by Dr. X)

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

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Across

1 Fail to impress female? Totally overweight after gaining pounds (4,4)

5 Save share certificate to receive money (6)

10 Resume painting after break (7)

11 Special talent of performer behind revolutionary special effects (1,6)

Down

1 In spite of slump, acquires gold (3,3)

2 Missing error in journal (6)

3 Husband lives in European country? Right (9)

4 Ability to tolerate unpleasant things is a result of doing sit-ups? (1,6,7)

6 Raccoon-like animal in bed, biting a kid at centre (5)

7 Endlessly nattering about private communications system (8)

8 Hanger-on in usual spot, drinking alcohol at premiere (8)

9 Show-offs, both in sixties, romping around island (14)

15 One seen in kitchen, say, above good British diner (9)

16 Picaresque novel is copied (8)

17 American economist fired reckless fellow (8)

18 Observed stealing crown in disguise (6)

20 Twisted ankle, crossing ultimately slippery compound (6)

22 Mechanical device stolen by robber at chalet (5)

Heatwaves, ozone raise cardiac death risk: study

Peer-reviewed study reports that surface ozone reaches 85-110 micrograms per cubic metre in northern India during heatwaves; exceeds the WHO guideline of 70 micrograms per cubic metre

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

While surface ozone – a pollutant harmful to the heart and lungs – already exceeds safe limits across much of India in the hot pre-monsoon months, a new study finds that heatwaves push it to still higher levels, thus adding several hundred deaths to a far larger toll that the study links to ozone across the season.

The peer-reviewed study, published in the Nature Portfolio journal *npj Clean Air* on June 12, reports that surface ozone reaches 85-110 micrograms per cubic metre in northern India during heatwaves and exceeds the World Health Organization guideline of 70 micrograms per cubic metre in every region of the country. The levels fall back within three to four days of a heatwave ending.

Because ozone level stays high for much of the season, the study attributes a large number of deaths to it even outside



Surface ozone is not released directly but forms when sunlight drives a reaction among other pollutants. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

heatwaves. During the heatwave days of 2024, it links about 26,500 deaths from ischaemic heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) to ozone exposure.

However, such health conditions are present before as well as after the heat too. The heatwave's contribution to the toll is the rise in it over the preceding days: about 490 additional heart-disease deaths and 342 from COPD, or roughly 830 in all.

The overall numbers are so large mainly because of how they are calculated.

They are not directly counted. The study applies a small increase in an individual's risk of dying from these two common diseases to India's population of more than a billion; even a slight per-person risk, spread across so many people and two of the country's leading causes of death, adds up to tens of thousands.

The authors note that the mortality figures had to be modelled, as continuous ground-level ozone measurements were not available for the specific heatwave days in many affected cities. Therefore,

the estimates rely on the assumed relationship between ozone exposure and disease rather than direct observation.

Surface ozone is not released directly but forms when sunlight drives a reaction among other pollutants, a process that speeds up in heat. “Ozone is very harmful, while NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide) and HCHO (formaldehyde) directly damage the respiratory system,” the authors write, referring to two of the gases involved in forming ozone.

The authors describe the work as the first comprehensive, long-term, and country-wide assessment of surface ozone during heatwaves in India, noting that previous studies were largely limited to individual cities or regions. They counted 188 heatwave events over the two decades with most severe years – 2010, 2016, 2019, and 2024 – following strong El Niño episodes. The Western Himalayas recorded the steepest long-term rise in ozone level.

NEET scams: three held for targeting medical aspirants

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ahmedabad Police have arrested three persons in separate cyber-fraud cases for targeting medical aspirants.

The Cyber Crime Branch uncovered a Telegram scam falsely promising leaked NEET-UG 2026 re-exam papers, and in a separate case, a 19-year-old from Bihar allegedly hacked hundreds of student accounts to steal their NEET-UG refunds.

In the first case, the police arrested two key suspects in Rajasthan – Sumer Singh from Jaipur and Akash Meena from Kota – for running a cyberfraud network that swindled unassuming persons.

According to the police, the accused created a network of Telegram channels, including one named “Raghav Singh_NEET” and seven others, which they later handed over to an anonymous Telegram user operating under the alias “Private Mafia”. Using these channels, the duo circulated highly deceptive posts and advertisements claiming they possessed

Home Secretary reviews security

NEW DELHI
Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Monday reviewed the preparedness of the State governments for the coming National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate NEET(UG) re-examination, with a special focus on student convenience, security arrangements, and the integrity of the examination process, the Union Home Ministry said in a statement. The examination will be held on June 21.

the confidential NEET re-exam question papers.

Over the last month alone, the suspects contacted about 1,000 mobile numbers and Telegram channels, executing transactions worth ₹1.5 crore.

In the other case, authorities tracked a 19-year-old suspect, Navin Kumar, to Bihar for executing a massive digital heist targeting individual student accounts. Mr. Kumar reportedly targeted the official NEET-UG 2026 portal accounts of 350 candidates.

Social media, video platforms surpass traditional outlets as leading news sources: report

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Trust in news is at its lowest level globally since 2015, as interest in news dwindles; at the same time, more people around the world are accessing news through third-party platforms, such as social media and video networks, rather than through websites and television channels of established news brands, according to the 15th edition of the Reuters Institute's Digital News Report.

The report, produced in collaboration with the Asian College of Journalism, Chennai, is based on an online survey of nearly one lakh people across 48 markets worldwide.

Consumption patterns have changed, the study found, with audiences' growing disengagement with news; even so, trust in established news brands

and support for the idea of impartial news persist.

However, globally, social media and video networks – Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube – have overtaken news organisations' own websites and apps as the most widely used means of accessing news.

The proportion of people using social media and video networks as their primary source of news has also risen; while this trend is more evident among younger audiences, it is prevalent across all age groups, the study found.

It also found that the younger generations are unlikely to acquire the news habits of their parents, such as reading a newspaper.

In fact, older audiences are moving towards the consumption habits of younger audiences, the study found.

There has also been a

rise in the use of AI chatbots as a means of accessing news, the study found, with 10% of respondents globally now using them. This is especially true among audiences below 35 years of age.

Less trust in news

Paradoxically, while traditional news sources decline amid the emergence of platforms, people are also more concerned about misinformation and put less trust in the news they come across.

There has been a marked rise in the consumption of online news videos. The study found that 77% of its global sample consume online news videos every week.

These people are, however, consuming them not on news websites or apps but on third-party platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook.

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH

The power of Govinda nama

Kurai Ondrum Illai Govinda (I have no grievances) is a famous lyric familiar to all devotees, wherein the composer (Rajaji) uses Venkateswara (Srinivasa) and Govinda (Krishna) interchangeably. Spiritual scholars have for long held that Srinivasa, the Lord of Tirupati, is a combination of Rama and Krishna, who manifested to alleviate the grievance of devotees.

In Tiruppavai, Andal starts with Narayana (and after chanting His many names), ends it with Govinda, three times. When one says Govinda, one gets the impression that He is very near, rushing to help one, said Damal Perundeivi.

‘Do not worry, I will take care of you,’ was Krishna’s stance, as He held the Govardhana mountain with one hand, herding cows, calves and all the residents under it safely, while Indra unleashed relentless rain. Seeing how Krishna held the mountain for seven days in the severe downpour, Govardhana mountain wanted to show appreciation in turn and when Srinivasa manifested, Govardhana became the seven mountains upon which Srinivasa rests. Govinda means nourisher of earth and when one chants His name, He comes running to the aid of the devotee.

All the Azhwars have sung on Tirupati (Srinivasa, Govinda), but Andal’s salutation holds a special significance. During the Brahmotsavam, the Garuda Seva attracts lakhs of devotees. The procession will start only after the deity is adorned with the garland from Andal’s home Srivilliputur. It is an averment that Perumal will accept the devotion of those who surrender to Him and will protect them.

Business

INBRIEF



Investors upbeat as clarity emerges on U.S.-Iran deal

Indian investors were elated as clarity emerged regarding the US-Iran deal, leading to decline in Brent crude prices. Sensex jumped 736.38 points, or 0.97%, to settle at 76,264.33. During the day, it zoomed 1,293.12 points, or 1.71%, to 76,821.07. Nifty surged 231 points, or 0.98%, to end at 23,853.90. During the day, the benchmark rallied 388.5 points, or 1.64%, to 24,011.40. “With core inflation firming to 3.9% and RBI raising its FY27 CPI forecast to 5.1%, inflation dynamics remain a key monitorable despite the near-term relief from softer crude prices. Going forward, investors will closely track the formal signing of the U.S.-Iran agreement, crude oil price trends, FII flow dynamics and evolving inflation expectations for further market direction,” said Siddhartha Khemka - Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

IRDAI moots changes to key norms governing insurers

Insurance regulator IRDAI is proposing amendments to registration regulations for insurance companies with the aim of enhancing ease of doing business, simplification of regulatory processes, reduction of compliance costs, enhancement of operational clarity and facilitation of capital infusion. The changes relate to eligibility criteria for Indian as well as foreign promoters; foreign investment safeguards, special purpose vehicles (SPVs), approval for transfer of shares, amalgamation of insurance companies with non-insurance companies, processing fees for applications, name of insurance companies; and forms and application procedures. On amendments proposed in definitions relating to foreign promoter, Indian promoter and SPV, IRDAI said the proposed amendments seek to ensure consistency and put in place safeguard mechanisms in view of the increase in limit of FDI to 100%.

‘SEBI move to group AMC staff pay a course correction’

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Market experts backed SEBI’s move to water-down executive remuneration disclosure norms for AMC staff stating it was a ‘correction of overregulation.’

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)’s had proposed disclosure of salaries of high earning staff in mutual fund firms as a group would suffice, a departure from the current individual disclosure.

The decision was taken after industry bodies reached out to SEBI stating norm had to be relaxed considering staff privacy and the information being less significant to retail investors, according to the consultation paper.

As per March 20, 2026



Unit holders do not require the granular disclosure shareholders would need.

Master Circular on MFs this benchmark was ₹1.02 crore in annual income and the top 10 staff earnings.

Ashish Gupta, an industry professional, said unit holders were part of a trust structure and hence, do not need the granular disclosure shareholders would require. He agreed

U.S. SC rejects TCS appeal in \$168-mn trade secrets case

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Supreme Court turned away on Monday a bid by India-based Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to overturn a \$168 million award won against it by DXC Technology for allegedly stealing trade secrets related to life-insurance software.

Tata had appealed after a lower court upheld a judge’s decision to set the award at \$56 million in compensatory damages and \$112 million in punitive damages to Ashburn, Virginia-based DXC.

Passenger vehicle wholesales rise 27% in May to 4.39 lakh

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Passenger vehicles recorded wholesales of 4.39 lakh units, a growth of 27.3% year-on-year.

As many as 0.71 lakh three-wheelers were sold, in May, up 31.1% while the offtake of two-wheelers was 19.02 lakh, representing a growth of 14.8%, according to the data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

Rajesh Menon, director general, SIAM said, “Passenger vehicles, three-wheelers and two-wheelers recorded the highest-ever sales of May in 2026,

WPI inflation jumps to 9.7% in May on surging fuel prices

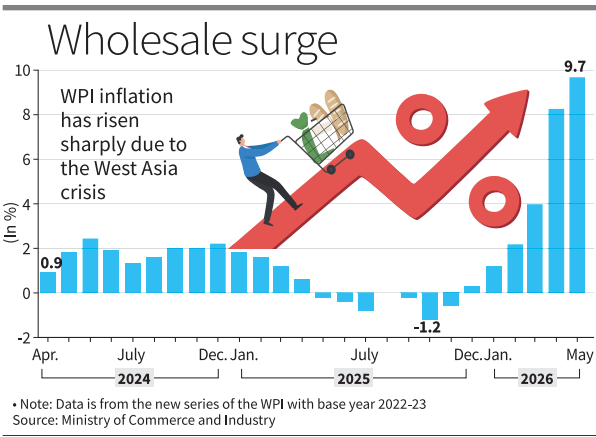
Govt. releases new series of Wholesale Price Index with an updated base year of 2022-23 along with new producer price indices in line with global best practices and IMF recommendations

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Inflation at the wholesale level rose to 9.7% in May 2026, primarily driven by surging prices of crude oil, natural gas, mineral oils and to a smaller extent, manufactured products, according to official data.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday released the new series of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with an updated base year of 2022-23 and wider ambit of goods measured. Due to the base year update, a historical comparison further back than April 2024 is not available. The May 2026 inflation rate is the highest since at least then.

Along with the new WPI, the Commerce Ministry also released the first editions of its Output Producer Price Index (OPPI), Trial Input Producer Price



Index (IPPI), and Service Producer Price Index (Service PPI) of seven services – Banking, Securities Transaction, Insurance, Management of Pension Funds, Railways, Passenger Air, and Telecom.

WPI to be phased out
The government also said that the Producer Price Index (PPI) will replace the WPI in five years. “Considering the wide

usage of WPI in price escalation clauses, this index will be released for five years from the date of its release, along with PPI, and will be discontinued thereafter,” the Commerce Ministry said in its release. “This would give sufficient time to users to switch from WPI to PPI.”

It added that the transition from WPI to PPI is in line with the global best practices adopted by ad-

vanced economies and the recommendations of the IMF.

The surge in the WPI in May 2026 was driven overwhelmingly by soaring fuel prices that month as a result of the West Asia crisis.

Inflation in the crude oil and natural gas category jumped to 61.5% in May 2026, from 56.3% in the previous month. While this is a reflection of the elevated global oil and gas prices, it is also a result of a low base, since the new series of the WPI shows prices in this category contracted by 15.5% in May last year.

Similarly, inflation in the mineral oils category accelerated to 49.8% in May 2026 from 40.7% in April. Here, too, prices had contracted in May last year.

The WPI shows that inflation in the manufacturing and food segments also quickened in May 2026, albeit not as quickly as for fuel.

Sarvam raises \$234 mn in funding round from HCLTech, others

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sarvam, a sovereign AI firm, on Monday said it had raised \$234 million in the first close of its \$300 million Series B at a post-money valuation of \$1.5 bil-

lion. HCLTech and Bessemer Venture Partners invested in the round, with continued support from existing investors Khosla Ventures and Peak XV Partners, Sarvam said in a statement. HCLTech would invest

\$150 million as the lead strategic investor in this round.

HCL’s investment in Sarvam marked a significant step toward building the country’s globally competitive AI ecosystem, CEO & MD Vijayakumar said.

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The rupee strengthened 60 paise to settle at 94.58 against the U.S. dollar on Monday as global crude oil prices dropped sharply after U.S. President Donald

With peace deal in sight, oil prices slip to lowest in 3 months

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Benchmark Brent Crude futures slipped to a more than three-month low on Monday with a peace deal between Iran and the United States in sight – putting an end to more than a 100 days of hostilities in West Asia that led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

During Monday’s trade, Brent Crude futures (August) tumbled approximately 5.47%, or about \$4.77, to \$82.56 per barrel.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) also slipped about 6.1% to \$79.71 per barrel on Monday.

Unrelatedly, addressing reporters at the bi-weekly briefing about the situation in West Asia, Sujata Sharma, Joint-Secretary at the Union Petroleum Ministry, informed that State-owned oil-marketing companies’ under-recovery on petrol and diesel too had come down to ₹3 per litre and ₹27 per litre respectively. OMCs continue to incur



Crude prices could take up to a year to normalise to pre-war levels. REUTERS

an under-recovery of about ₹700 per cylinder on LPG cylinders meant for domestic consumption.

Analysts opine that complete normalisation of prices may take time.

“Beyond the immediate price action, crude prices could take six months to a year to normalise to pre-war levels given that almost 10-11 million barrels per day of production has been shut in West Asia besides which some facilities have suffered damages,” said Prashant Vasisht, Senior Vice President and Co-Group Head, Corporate Ratings at ICRA.

Rupee strengthens 60 paise to settle at 94.58 against U.S. dollar

Trump announced that the U.S. and Iran finalised a deal to end the war.

A surge in the domestic equity markets and a weaker U.S. dollar further drove the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee

opened at 94.70 against the U.S. dollar and traded in the range of 94.45-94.77. Eventually, it settled at 94.58, up 60 paise from its previous close. The rupee jumped 67 paise to close at 95.18 against the green-back on Friday.

APPOINTMENT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

Recruitment of Chair Professor on 'Rural Labour' in honour of Late Shri S.R.Sankaran
NIRDPR invites applications for Chair Professor constituted in honour of Late Shri S.R. Sankaran, an eminent civil servant and acclaimed rural development administrator. The Chair Professor should be a person of National/International Eminence either from India or abroad who can guide and inspire research, consultations and also networks with academicians, administrators, political parties and civil society groups. He/she should possess qualifications normally required for a Senior Professor in a Central University.

Those who applied with reference to **Advt. No.07/2024 & 18/2025** need not apply again.

For Job profile, online submission of application and other details please visit: <http://career.nirdpr.in/>

Last date for submission of online application is **15/07/2026**.

Advt.No.08/2026 **File No: SRSC/16/1** **Comp.no. 5100**

Sd/-
Assistant Director
Administration (Section-I)

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
262713 001445	Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported) with 4200 GAR on Stock and Sale Basis	20.06.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites : www.tnpl.com/ & <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

DIPR/2063/Tender/2026 **TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper**

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अजमेर विकास प्राधिकरण, अजमेर
Website :- www.rajasthan.gov.in/ada, Tel.No. :- 0145-2627748-2627749
क्रमांक :- अजपा/ए.2/राजनीति/2026-27/राजकाज 22734586 दिनांक :- 09/06/2026

E-TENDER - 08/2026-27

Bids for various work amounting Rs. 943-16 Lacs are invited from interested bidders for up to 22.07.2026, 6:00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>) & (<http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) <http://www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/ada> departmental website.

UBN No. : AJD2627WSOB00055 - 00056
Raj.Samwad/C/26/4869 **Executive Engineer**

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Ajmer
Qtr. No. II/2, PHED Colony, Vaishali Nagar, near RILCO Watch Factory, Ph. No. 0145-2640265,
email: acepajmer@gmail.com, acepajm.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
S.No. F(ACE/Proj)/AJAR-JJM /2026-27/1489 Date: 10/06/2026

CORRIGENDUM NO. 6
NIB Code:- PHE2526A6441 & UBN No. PHE2526WLOB13856
In continuation to this office NIT No. 03/2025-26 issued vide letter no. 2436-2491 dated 11.02.2026. The following amendment are hereby notified:-

S.N.	Description	As per original NIT & Corrigendum 5	As per this corrigendum
1	Date & time for downloading of tender document	13.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to 11.06.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to 09.07.2026 up to 6:00 PM
2	Date & time for online submission of tender	From 24.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to up to 11.06.2026 at 6:00 PM	Up to 09.07.2026 at 06:00 PM
3	Date & time of physical submission of tender fee, RISL charges and EMD	12.06.2026 at 01:00 PM	Up to 10.07.2026 at 01:00 PM
4	Date & time of opening of technical bid	12.06.2026 at 03:00 PM	Up to 10.07.2026 at 03:00 PM

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as mentioned in tender document.

(K.K. Agarwal)
Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED, Ajmer
DIPRC/10387/2026

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - Expression Of Interest
O/o the Chief Engineer (REES & PED),
Vidyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.
Notice inviting Expression Of Interest (EOI) for Repowering of the existing 2.025MW (22SKWx 9 nos), WIND FARM of KSEB, to SHW at KANJIKODE under TBCEB model
E tender ID 2026_KSEB_855306_1
Last date & Time of submission of (EOI) 10-08-2026, 03.00 pm. The EOI documents and other details may be downloaded from the website <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in>.
Email/Phone ceres@kseb.in-0471-2514336
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref: PR/MC/1/F390/2026

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, साठनिठिठि वृत्त चूरू
क्रमांक :- 375 दिनांक :- 09.06.2026
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 02 / 2026-27
इसक निविदादाताओं से जिला चूरू में सड़क कार्य व आरक्षी कार्य (निगमनसार दोष निवारण व सुधार अर्थात्) कार्य हेतु अनुमानित लागत राशि ₹ 950.57 लाख की ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य के निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 07.07.2026 सांघ 6.00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन अपलोड करना आवश्यक होगा। जहाँ निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण राज्य सरकार के प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> व विभागीय वेबसाइट <http://pwwd.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखे जा सकते हैं।
NIB No- PWD2627A0947
UBN No-
1- PWD2627WLOB064105
2- PWD2627WSOB064104
DIPRC/10166/2026 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. चूरू जिला

Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited
"SARAS SANKUL" J. L. N. MARG, JAIPUR - 302017, Ph. No. 202501-08 : Direct 0141-2720209
Email : rcdf@rajasthan.gov.in

No. :- RCDF/EDP/F.8(284)/2026-27/12786-823 Dated :- 10/06/2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-tenders are invited for "Selection of Service Provider for Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation (RCDF) for "Upgradation of existing ERP to ERP 2.0 for Milk Unions with Real time monitoring & AI and AMC of 2 years, Upgradation of existing ERP to ERP 2.0 for Cattle Feed Units with Real time monitoring & AI and AMC of 2 years, Design, Development and Implementation of ERP for Additional Units of RCDF including RCDF Head office with AMC of 2 Year and ERP Implementation for New Milk Unions and New Cattle Feed Units with AI and AMC of 2 Years" from ERP solution Providers". Other details can be obtained from <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) i.e. spp portal and our website: www.sarasmilfed.rajasthan.gov.in (UBN No: CDF2627SLOB00381) and Tender ID (2026_RCDF_566434_1)
Raj.Samwad/C/26/4867 **General Manager (P&A)**
जीएन सी को-ऑपरेटिव डेयरी

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT) (Through KPP portal)

No: BESCOM/CGM(Proj)/DGM-1/AGM-1/BC-14/26-27/87
The Notification for Inviting Tender was issued vide No. CYS-51 on 13-05-2026 in Prajavani and The Hindu newspaper is modified as under:
Tender Enquiry No: BESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT1100 (1)Availability of Bid documents: **18-06-2026** onwards. (2) Last date for submission of bid Queries: **20-06-2026** before 17:00 Hrs. (3) Pre-Bid meeting: **30-06-2026 @ 11:30 Hrs. Venue of Pre-Bid meeting : O/o Chief General Manager (Ele), 4th Floor, Project Section, B Block, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R Circle, Bangalore- 560 001.** (4) Last date for bid submission: **20-07-2026 @ 15:00 Hrs.** (5)Opening of Technical Bids: **21-07-2026 @ 15:30 Hrs.**
The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the website. <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>
KPP Portal Help Desk: Phone No: **+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777** E-mail: support@eprocshelpdesk.com
Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Bidders can take the assistance from the KPP during office working hours.

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Record daily jump in Ebola cases in Congo pushes death toll to 181



Myanmar's ex-junta chief kicks off first China trip as civilian President



G7 leaders gather in France under shadow of Trump's tariff threats



China rejects security report, says its military growth aids world peace



Russian strikes across Ukraine kill 11, famed monastery in Kyiv catches fire

'Israel won't withdraw troops from Lebanon, Syria, Gaza'

Hegseth denies U.S. facing shortage in munitions stockpile

Bangladesh PM's Adviser 'stopped' at Delhi airport

U.K. govt. bans social media for children under 16

Sport

Gurnoor — a choice driven by instinct and beyond the numbers



The winner of the Nations Cup will be promoted to the elite Pro league, from which India was relegated last season.

TUNISIAN HERITAGE

Sweden's Yasin doesn't celebrate goal against his father's country



After he opened the scoring in Sweden's 5-1 win over Tunisia in the World Cup, Yasin Ayari chose not to celebrate. Instead, he raised his hands in apology. The 22-year-old was born in Solna, Sweden, to a Tunisian father, Azzouz Ayari. Yasin was given the chance to play for Tunisia ahead of the 2022 World Cup, but he declined.

SPOTLESS

Continuing tradition, Japanese fans clean up stadium post match



Japan fans left the stands spotless after their World Cup opener against the Netherlands in Texas on Sunday, saying it was "Japanese culture" to tidy up after themselves. Spectators stayed behind to make sure they left the stadium as they found it, meticulously picking up litter and stuffing it into blue plastic bags.

KEEN TUSSLE

Messi's Argentina begins title defence against Mahrez's Algeria



Argentina starts its bid for back-to-back World Cups on Tuesday with a side full of familiar faces from Qatar 2022, facing Riyad Mahrez's Algerian team buoyed by warm-up wins. When the teams line up in Kansas City, all eyes will be on 38-year-old captain Lionel Messi, playing in a record sixth World Cup.

RARING TO GO

Odegaard says he is fit to play in Norway's opener against Iraq



Norway captain Martin Odegaard says he has no concerns about fitness ahead of his side's opening World Cup Group I match in Foxborough, Massachusetts, on Tuesday. "I feel good. I don't know what you're so worried about — yes, I've had some trouble, as you know, but I feel good now," Odegaard said on Sunday.



The hero: Vozinha kept Cape Verde in the game with a number of saves. REUTERS

Gritty Cape Verde holds mighty Spain

The Africans do their nation proud on debut; the European champion fails to break the deadlock despite Yamal's entry late in the second half

FIFA WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
ATLANTA

Spain's ghosts of recent World Cup horror shows reappeared in Atlanta as the European champion was held goalless by debutant Cape Verde in its opening game on Monday. Lamine Yamal was left on the bench as the Barcelona superstar gets back to top fitness after nearly two months out with a hamstring injury. Even his appearance as a second-half substitute failed to break down Cape Verde's dogged defence.

Since winning the World Cup for the first time in 2010, Spain has not won a knockout game. Ranked 67th in the world, Cape Verde was making its debut on the global stage and did a nation of just over 500,000 people proud. Atlanta's state-of-the-art air conditioned stadium meant there was no excuses for the slow tempo of Spain's build-up. It took until six minutes before half-time for Spain to seriously threaten. Marc Cucurella sent over a teasing cross that Ferran Torres tipped onto the crossbar and Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha got back on his feet to turn Mi-

kel Oyarzabal's looping header over the bar. Torres tested Vozinha again moments later before Aymeric Laporte's header from a corner was also clawed away by the Cape Verde No. 1 just before half-time. Yamal's appearance in the 71st minute instantly lifted the crowd and injected life into the pedestrian Spanish attack. His first involvement set up a decent opening for fellow substitute Mikel Merino which was too close to Vozinha. Yamal also began the move that saw Oyarzabal's effort deflected over in what was Spain's best chance of the second half.

Diallo's late strike wins it for Ivory Coast against Ecuador

Ayon Sengupta
PHILADELPHIA

World Cups have a habit of bringing together footballing worlds that rarely cross paths. In 33-degree heat, the rhythm of West Africa eventually overcame the resilience of the Andes as Ivory Coast beat Ecuador 1-0 here on Sunday to begin its 2026 World Cup campaign with a crucial victory. Neither side arrived in North America bearing the burden of expectation that follows the game's traditional powers, and it was Ivory Coast that left with momentum and belief on its side. Ecuador almost made the perfect start. Veteran striker Enner Valencia should have given the South Americans the early lead after Emmanuel Agbadou slipped in the 10th minute while attempting to clear a hopeful ball into the box. The opportunity fell kindly for the skipper, but he dragged his effort just over the bar, much to the agony of the largely Ecuadorian crowd. Ivory Coast, returning to the World Cup after missing the last two editions, responded seven minutes later. Bazoumana Toure cut in from the left and unleashed a shot that passed the post by the length of a shoelace, the difference in millimetres between a roar and a groan. Agbadou's difficult opening spell almost proved costly again in the 23rd minute when another mistake allowed John Yeboah to unleash a shot that



Delight and despair: Sangare carries goal-scorer Diallo while an Ecuadorian player looks crestfallen. AP

left Yahia Fofana frozen in place. The goalkeeper watched in horror as the ball collided with the crossbar. Moments later, Alan Minda came even closer. Played through by Pedro Vite, he struck the woodwork once more as Ecuador, one of South America's most organised and dependable sides, began to find further cracks in the opposition defence. Ivory Coast, however, remained dangerous on the break. Alan Franco was forced into a last-ditch block to deny Nicolas Pepe after the former Arsenal winger had worked his way into a promising pocket of space, ensuring a breathless end to the opening half. After the restart, it was Ivory Coast's turn to rattle the crossbar as Elye Wahi burst clear of his marker. Yan Diomande then danced past a series of challenges inside the box, but the finish failed to match the choreography as

the ball sailed harmlessly high. Gonzalo Plata's powerful strike from distance forced Fofana into a rare moment of alarm. Fofana chose caution over confidence, parrying the ball back into play rather than holding on, but Ecuador was too slow to profit from the rebound. But after much of the evening was spent flirting with a breakthrough, it was Ivory Coast who found it in the dying embers of the match. Wilfried Singo threaded a pass to the edge of the box, and Amad Diallo supplied the composure that had been missing for much of the night, caressing his finish into the bottom-left corner to send his team into delirium. It was a cruel ending for Ecuador, which was left with nothing to show for its efforts. The victory kept Ivory Coast level on points with Germany, which had earlier started its Group E campaign with a 7-1 demolition of Curacao.



Stellar show: Deepti recorded the best figures by an Indian in the tournament. GETTY IMAGES

Deepti underlines her class on the big stage yet again

T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
BIRMINGHAM

When it comes to World Cups, Deepti Sharma would rather like to take five wickets. With the bat, she prefers to play innings that impact a game. Well, that may be a bit of an exaggeration, yes, but not totally untrue, if you consider her performance over the last few months. In the final of the 2025 ODI World Cup final at Navi Mumbai last November, she made a run-a-ball 58 that ensured India would put up a good enough total that would be beyond even the brilliant Laura Wolvaardt. And then she took five wickets, including that of the prolific, stylish South African captain.

Match-changing stand In her next World Cup match, albeit in a different format, she picked up five wickets again. That was after she was involved in a match-changing sixth-wicket partnership with Richa Ghosh in India's opening match at the T20 World Cup, against Pakistan at Edgbaston here on Sunday. So what is it with Deepti and World Cups? The 28-year-old answered that question at the press conference with her broadest smile.

Revel in pressure "I like the pressure (situations) and the ICC tournaments," she revealed. "I feel I have started (at this World Cup) from where I had finished. It feels good." Deepti has more than one reason to feel good now. With 166 wickets, she has once again become the leading bowler in Women's T20Is, overtaking Thai-

I don't know what the reason behind not shaking hands was. But if things are going to be like this, let it go like that. It won't make a big difference. **WAHAB RIAZ** Pakistan coach land's Thipatcha Putthawong. Deepti had snatched that honour from Australia's Megan Schutt at Thiruvananthapuram last December during the series against Sri Lanka. Her spell of five for 10 is also the best by an Indian at the Women's T20 World Cup; overall, only West Indies' Deandra Dottin (five for five) and South Africa's Sune Luus (five for eight) have better figures. Against Pakistan, it was Deepti who provided India the breakthrough, removing Gull Feroza, whose opening stand with Muneeba Ali was worth 38 and promising more. Deepti would later run Muneeba out with a direct hit. She signed off in style, too, claiming Pakistan's three last wickets in her final over. It truly was another standout performance by Deepti, underlining her stature as one of the finest all-rounders in the women's game. **Vital part** Her off-spin has become such a vital part in India's attack, regardless of conditions. And people have almost forgotten that she had once made 188 in an ODI. That was in 2017 against Ireland at Potchefstroom in South Africa. She had put on 320 for the opening wicket with Punam Raut. That remains the highest stand in women's ODIs.

Stat attack

1

Curacao became the first team to concede seven or more goals on World Cup debut since 1954 (South Korea 0-9 vs. Hungary)

1

For the first time, The Netherlands failed to win a World Cup game after taking the lead twice

1

The Netherlands started a World Cup match without a player from the Eredivisie for the first time ever. Its opponent Japan fielded two players from the Dutch league (Watanabe and Ueda)

2

Svanberg's goal 18 seconds after entering the field is the second fastest by a substitute in the World Cup since 1966, behind only Richard Morales (16 seconds, Uruguay vs. Senegal, 2002)

5

Sweden's goals were its second highest after the eight it scored against Cuba in the 1938 quarterfinal

7

Germany scored seven goals or more in a World Cup match for the third time

19

Ecuador's unbeaten run in all competitions came to an end

20

Neuer became the second goalkeeper (after Lloris) to make 20 appearances in the football extravaganza

23y 338d

Diallo is the youngest scorer for Ivory Coast in World Cup history

34y 341d

With his maiden goal in a major tournament, van Dijk became the Netherlands' second-oldest World Cup scorer (after Giovanni van Bronckhorst vs. Uruguay in 2010 - 35y 151d)

88

Kamada's 88th-minute equaliser was the 'late'st goal in Japan's World Cup history

Shadows of Seoul 2002 resurface as France takes on Senegal

Ayon Sengupta
NEW JERSEY

Twenty-four years is a long time in football. Yet, when France and Senegal meet at the MetLife Stadium on Tuesday, the events of a June evening in Seoul will inevitably return to the conversation. The fixture carries echoes of one of the World Cup's most famous upsets, when Senegal, in 2002, marked its tournament debut by defeating defending champion France. Since then, the Frenchmen, under Didier Deschamps, have established themselves as one of international football's superpowers while Senegal has grown from an emerging force into one of Africa's most consistent sides. Deschamps' side has evolved from the pragmatism that delivered the 2018 triumph into a team equally comfortable controlling games through possession. The midfield, expected to revolve around Aurelien Tchouameni, will seek to



Target men: Senegal's Mane and France's Mbappe will be tasked with scoring the goals. AFP

give France's attackers the freedom to drift between the lines. The challenge against Senegal will be to move the ball quickly to stretch a compact defensive shape and create the one-versus-one situations in which its forwards usually thrive. At the heart of that threat will be Kylian Mbappe, operating from the left or drifting centrally to use his pace to create problems that few defenders can solve. But Senegal is unlikely to

spend the afternoon merely absorbing pressure. Its midfield is built around intensity, ball recoveries and vertical runs, while its attack thrives on directness rather than prolonged spells of possession. That approach could be especially effective against a French backline that can be exposed when Theo Hernandez and Jules Kounde surge forward, leaving Nicolas Jackson with opportunities to exploit the space left behind. The shadows of 2002

THE RESULTS

- Group E:** Ivory Coast 1 (Diallo 90) bt Ecuador 0.
- Group F:** Netherlands 2 (Van Dijk 50, Summerville 64) drew with Japan 2 (Nakamura 57, Kamada 88); Sweden 5 (Ayari 7, 90+6, Isak 30, Gyokeres 59, Svanberg 84) bt Tunisia 1 (Rekik 43).
- Group H:** Spain 0 drew with Cape Verde 0.

Wednesday's matches

GROUP I

France vs. Senegal, 00.30 a.m.

Iraq vs. Norway, 3.30 a.m.

GROUP J

Argentina vs. Algeria, 6.30 a.m.

Austria vs. Jordan, 9.30 a.m.

GROUP K

Portugal vs. DR Congo, 10.30 p.m.

The day and time(s) pertain to India

will inevitably follow this fixture. But France will insist that this is a different era and a different team. Senegal, meanwhile, will be keen to prove once again that reputation matters very little in football.

Today's matches

Southampton, 7 p.m. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 17

New Zealand 14 | Sri Lanka 2

NR 1

Southampton, 11 p.m. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 4

England 3

Ireland 1

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

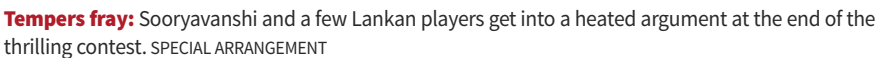
A ND-NDE

Shayan Acharya
DAMBULLA

As the Indian players walked off, there was a sense of disbelief. A match that had seemed within their grasp had somehow slipped away. After recovering to make 265, thanks to maiden List A fifties from Suryansh Shedge and Vipraj Nigam, India-A found itself in winning positions before Sri Lanka-A fought back, led by a determined 93 from Sadeera

Sources told *The Hindu* that the officials had informed the Indian team that play would be stopped if the umpires deemed the

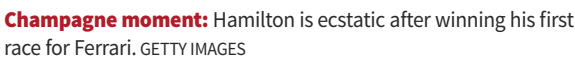
Toss: Sri Lanka; **PoM:** Samarawickrama.



Football World Cup: United States vs. Mexico, Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 6.30 a.m. (Wednesday)
12.30 & 3.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7 & 11 p.m. (Wednesday)

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD



The euphoria surrounding Hamilton's switch slow-

ly gave way to frustration as it became painfully clear that the Prancing Horse did not possess a car capable of carrying him to an unprecedented eighth

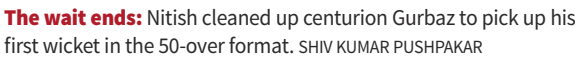
World title. Suddenly, what was supposed to be the final glorious chapter of a legendary career began to look like a gamble gone wrong.

Mercedes – the team Hamilton had left behind – returned this season with the benchmark car, sweeping every race heading into the Spanish GP. Week after week, the Silver Arrows disappeared into the dis-

The precision in qualifying was vintage Hamilton. The racecraft was relentless. Even Ferrari's often-maligned strategy delivered when it mattered most. For one glorious afternoon, driver, car and team moved as one.

Only, this is no longer a dream. It is reality. A scarlet reality.

S. Dipak Ragav
DHARAMSHALA



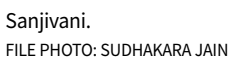
Ahead of the next year's ODI World Cup, even as the selectors are keen on Hardik focusing on the 50-over format, there is a pressing need to find a cover for him. Since the back end of 2025, Nitish Kumar has been trialled in Hardik's absence in ODIs and could become a key cog in

Speaking after the

On the specific areas he has worked on, Nitish said:

Considering the conditions in South Africa, India will hope Nitish can rise to the task of not just being a cover for Hardik but also be ready to complement him.

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA



Sanjivani, who stayed marginally ahead after about 10 minutes, maintained her lead while being closely chased by Harmi-

lan and Sonam. In the last lap, Sonam moved forward briefly before Harmilan got into the lead at the final bend. However, the experienced Sanjivani wrested her lead with about 40m to

The results (winners only):
Men: 100m: 1. Dondapati M. Jayaram (Odi) 10.56; **200m:** Astik Pradhan (Odi) 21.29; **400m:** Mijo Chacko Kurian (Air Force) 46.52; **800m:** Shyam Milan Bind (UP) 1:49.93; **5000m:** Ravi Gulia (Rly) 14:09.94; **Discus:** Ujjwal (Har) 48.57m; **Long jump:** Jiwannukti Bilung (Odi) 7.28m; **Shot put:** Rahul Krishna Air (Mah) 15.54m; **Javelin:** Anil Rohidas (AIP)

U-20: 100m: Archita Banerjee (WB) 12.13; **200m:** Nancy (Har) 24.26; **800m:** Purnima Sandil (Odi) 2:17.82; **Javelin:** Tanushree Mahalder (WB) 46.01m.

England pacer Robinson ruled out of second Test against New Zealand

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Robinson made a superb return from more than two years in international

Robinson was named Player of the Match after

England announced on

Robinson will remain with the squad and undergo rehab work on his knee with the aim of being available for the third Test at Trent Bridge, beginning on June 25.

Ayon Sengupta
PHILADELPHIA

"My wife and I have been constantly scanning the internet for the last three months," he says.

The closest he came to World Cup action was paying \$70 to attend Moroc-

“A World Cup is coming to our backyard, and we want to ensure working-class New Yorkers have the opportunity to be part of it,” Mamdani said.

Defending the charge, New Jersey Transit said the fare structure was designed to support the additional services required for the World Cup and later noted that a revised \$98 round-trip ticket was made possible through additional advertising revenue rather than taxpayer subsidies.

Golf in India needs more infrastructure and promotion

As president of the PGTI, the Indian cricket legend is determined to take the sport to different parts of the country, broaden its reach and generate greater interest; laments the lack of courses in smaller cities

INTERVIEW

Kapil Dev

Anirudh Velamuri

Some victories fade with time. Others grow larger than the moment itself. More than four decades on, India's triumph at the 1983 World Cup belongs firmly in the latter category.

For an entire generation, it was the day Indian cricket discovered what was possible. For those that followed, it became the moment that changed everything. At the centre of that transformation stood Kapil Dev, the man who altered the trajectory of Indian cricket forever.

That version of him has become part of India's sporting consciousness, preserved in memory and immortalised in countless highlight reels. The man, however, has long since moved on.

Retirement opened the door to a different passion. Golf, a sport he discovered after cricket, gradually became a defining part of his life. What began as a post-retirement curiosity evolved into a passion, and eventually a mission. Today, as president of the DP World Professional Golf Tour of India, Kapil finds himself championing a sport he only discovered after hanging up his cricket boots, investing in its future with the same enthusiasm that once powered India's charge on cricket fields around the world.

The setting for this conversation could scarcely be further removed from the frenzy that once surrounded him. Tucked away well outside the hustle and bustle of New Delhi city is Kapil's farmhouse, where there are barely any indications that it's the residence of one of India's most celebrated athletes. There are no ostentatious reminders of sporting greatness, no shrine to a glittering career. Instead, the property breathes a different kind of richness.

Vegetable patches stretch across the grounds. Open spaces invite silence rather than spectacle. More than 40 rescue dogs, cared for by his wife Romi, roam the expansive compound. It is here, amid the stillness, that *The Hindu* sat down with the 67-year-old to discuss what he calls, somewhat surprisingly, the finest phase of his life. Excerpts:

Talk to us about your interest in golf. How did that happen?

This has been a beautiful journey. Basically, when I stopped playing cricket, I wondered what to do next. Either you go to television and start talking about cricket or do coaching, most probably. But I wanted to stay away from people,

because you're with them for almost 15-20 years. You now want to just chill and relax.

A friend of mine introduced me to golf and I loved it. Why? Only one reason. I'm not depending on somebody. I played sports where I depended on others (before) but this gave me a thrill.

I'm not saying cricket didn't give me that, it gave me more than anything I could ever imagine in several lives. But this gave me a special kick.

How did it go from a hobby to serving as the president of PGTI today?

When you meet golfers here, you come to know how much hard work they put in and the reward they get is not up to that standard, even though they work even harder than cricketers. I felt that we can help them have a better life with the sport

Why should they not get a chance to become better athletes and also earn a livelihood? That's what changed my thought process and I told myself that I should do something for golf.

Had I not (started) played the game, I wouldn't have done anything, to be honest.

And any sport in India, not just golf, the moment people start following it, their bar for it is cricket, where India is a dominant force. So when somebody like Aditi Ashok plays in the Olympics, or Jeev Milkha Singh and Shubhankar Sharma take part in other international events, the expectations inherently comes with an unfair expectation of medals and titles...

It's not right to compare. Cricket has its own place, as does golf and football and every other sport. Yes everybody talks about cricket in India and that's because the administration has done well to take it up to that level. At this stage, golf in India needs infrastructure, the most important thing for any sport.

Look at cricket today, we're talking about being the best in the world because our infrastructure is better than any other country's. Hats off to the cricket board, they're giving young players all the facilities they require.

Take any sport, or even beyond. Our country has produced so many software engineers because we've given them the right platform. That's why today we're talking about Indians being some of the best in that field.

And how is PGTI working on extending those opportunities beyond your big cities?

We don't have many golf courses in smaller cities. They're coming up only now. In the last 10 years, we have organised tournaments in various 'smaller' cities, like the one in Raipur.

If you give people a chance, maybe golf will also have someone like (MS)



I admire Tiger Woods, without a doubt. I would say he has done more for golf than anyone else. I'm not taking the credit away from others but I think he was one person who had the biggest impact

Dhoni come from Jharkhand or elsewhere. We need to give those opportunities, for which we require a lot more golf courses. If we have that, we will produce a world champion. As administrators, it is our job to give those opportunities, not only boys but girls also. Take Aditi, she has done impressively globally and now people understand that Indians are very close to winning the medals that nobody thought we could.

Is there a push from PGTI to ensure that this kind of interest is taken up at the school level?

That's very tough. Yes, it will be nice, but every school can't have a driving range, even the bare minimum required for kids to start hitting the ball. Schools in smaller cities can do it a lot more easily than those in big cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Chennai, because the land is not so freely accessible. But we want to walk, slowly, before we run. We want to make sure every year we take the sport to different parts of the country to not only expand its footprint but also increase the interest.

Is live telecast, on TV or online, something you are focusing on?

We cannot compare any sport with cricket, they're doing it for the last 50 years. Besides cricket, no game is really televised that much in India. Yes, we're working very hard with our commentators to help people look at golf as the beautiful game that it is.

When a big event, like the Olympics, comes around, fans are focused on the sports where they think a medal is a possibility. This makes golf an afterthought. How do you, who has been one of the greatest athletes the country has produced, think we can get over this mindset?

Yes, you would like to see your country win medals but people should go and admire the sport for what they are. We should admire and support our own people.

In our country, people are still not eagerly making a profession out of sports. They're not making a life out of that. In cricket, they are. Today people come to me and say that they want to play in the IPL. I feel very sorry. I want them to say that they want to play for India. But I can understand as they see how they're going to make their life through the IPL. But my aim is always higher. You should look to make a name for your country.

On that note, PGTI has done well to increase the prize money pool every year. How easy or difficult has that been? And what is your aim going forward?

It was not hard. I just talked to my friends and tried to convince them. Lots and lots of friends of mine have come forward to try and promote the game. I can only say we shouldn't expect the government to solely do everything for us, for any sport.

We can take help from the corporate world, they have the money to put in sports. Not only golf but anything. It's our responsibility to tap that avenue and make the game bigger. We're ready to take CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) money also.

If there is no money, people will let it go. The young kids will have a passion up to one level. When we start making life through sports the game will change in our country, the way cricket has.

The league system is one obvious way to take a sport forward in India and golf has two of them. Despite being rivals, you welcomed it wholeheartedly.

IPL has given a lot of sports thought process. We should have a league where we can make a life for the players. And, 72 The League is a way for us to look after our people. You can't look after all the 400-500 people but if you look after the top 50-100 people, it will trickle down. This league gives opportunities for players to show their talent and play like a team. Golf is very individualistic but we wanted to give them the taste of teamwork also.

We want to have four or five leagues, as long as every league has its own agenda. We are very happy as long as they look after the players. I would welcome anybody to put money into golf.

According to you, what has been the biggest change you have seen in golf in your time with PGTI?

I think the self-belief in youngsters has increased. Not in golf, but in all sports. In our time, cricketers were slightly subdued. Today, you see the younger

kids come out and speak their mind. We never used to do that. That's a good thing, but they also have to know where to draw a line on what they say. We have to learn how to balance.

Do you think your stature in the country has helped golf in a way?

I can't say that about myself. I do have a passion for golf. And if people pick up because of that, I will feel very happy. But it's not for me to say how much my stature has helped golf.

You recently met the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi to make it the golf capital of the country. Can you shed some light on that?

We have around 14-15 golf courses here. I don't know any other city that has more.

In winter, if you want to play golf, you will not get a chance at all of them in Delhi, as the game is growing. But we have to make it more professional. At the moment, people want to play for fun. But when a top player comes out from this game, it will be different. That is what we spoke about. We want to promote the game.

And do you have a favourite golf course, either in the country or abroad?

More than the location, I think it's the company that's very important. I mean, if you're playing cricket and get a chance to play with Virat Kohli, Sachin Tendulkar, Jasprit Bumrah or Sunil Gavaskar, that is enjoyable and memorable.

It is the same for me too, it's not the golf courses but the people whom you play with that is very, very important. Because I'm not a professional, I like to go and meet successful people, understand them and enjoy the experience. I remember once I went to Australia for some company I was working with. The chairman of that company played golf on a Sunday with me. On Monday, I had a meeting with him for something. I went to his office for a 10 o'clock meeting but he was busy with other things. He just signed my papers, saying that he can judge someone by playing with them on the golf course.



I don't see anything as a challenge. I enjoy my work. But when you walk out or go to office, only one thought persists: Can I do something more for the community?



SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

