

INBRIEF



CM to join Yoga Day event at Asola Bhatti sanctuary today

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta will take part in a yoga programme at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in south Delhi on Sunday morning to mark International Yoga Day. The event will be held at the Neeli Jheel area, set amid greenery, where the she is expected to perform yoga and encourage citizens to adopt a healthy lifestyle, according to the Chief Minister's Office. Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, senior government officials, environmental experts, and local residents are also expected to take part. The programme aims to promote yoga alongside environmental conservation and a sustainable lifestyle. Ms. Gupta said yoga is an ancient Indian tradition that has guided the world towards health and balanced living.

Fire breaks out in electrical goods godown; one rescued

One person was rescued after a fire broke out in an electrical goods godown in east Delhi's Shahdara area early on Saturday, officials said. The Delhi Fire Services received a call about the blaze at 4.50 a.m., and six fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The fire broke out in a ground-floor godown of a two-storey building where electrical items were stored. Firefighters rescued one person from the first floor during the operation. No casualties were reported. The blaze, which affected an area of around 100 sq. yards, was brought under control by 6.20 a.m., officials said. They said the cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained and cooling operations continued for some time to prevent any flare-ups at the site after it was doused. PTI

One more Karnataka Bhavan to be set up in Delhi for students

CM Shivakumar says the ₹80-cr. facility will provide housing, study space for aspirants; Cong. govt. also plans a law and order division in Capital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday announced a series of decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting, including the construction of Karnataka Bhavan-4 in New Delhi for civil services aspirants.

"We have decided to construct Karnataka Bhavan-4 in New Delhi. This facility is not meant for legislators or officials. It is intended for students preparing for IAS, IFS, IRS and other competitive examinations," Mr. Shivakumar told reporters after the second Cabinet meeting of the Congress government.

He said the government also plans to set up a "robust" law and order division in Delhi, deploy a team of officers to bring Central schemes to Karnataka.

Mr. Shivakumar said the proposed Karnataka Bhavan-4 would be developed by the Public Works Department at an estimated cost of ₹80 crore and provide accommodation and study facilities for students preparing for national-level competitive examinations.

According to officials,



Karnataka CM D.K. Shivakumar said the govt. was exploring the possibility of engaging retired IAS, IRS, IPS officers in Delhi. ANI

the existing Karnataka Bhavans in the national capital are used for administrative purposes. The Chief Minister said at least 50% of the accommodation would be reserved for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students while the remaining seats would be available to candidates from other categories.

Tracking projects

Mr. Shivakumar also announced a reorganisation of the Resident Commissioner's Office in New Delhi, saying the State government would establish a dedicated mechanism to monitor Central government projects and schemes, and improve Karnataka's engagement with

the Union government.

"We are reorganising it. We are setting up a new structure to track Central government projects, schemes available in other States, and the benefits being secured by States such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat," he said.

Dedicated legal cell

The CM said the government was also exploring the possibility of engaging retired IAS, IRS and IPS officers in Delhi and would establish a dedicated legal cell in the national capital to handle the Supreme Court cases and other important litigation involving Karnataka.

(With inputs from PTI)

16 more DSTPs in pipeline to curb Yamuna pollution, govt. to award contracts by July

Nikhil M Babu
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government plans to award contracts for construction of 16 more decentralised sewage treatment plants (DSTPs) by July as part of its Yamuna-cleaning initiative and to ramp up the city's sewage treatment capacity, an official told *The Hindu*.

DSTPs are considered crucial to cleaning the Yamuna as they are expected to treat sewage generated in several unauthorised colonies that currently flows into the river due to the lack of sewer networks. Work for 13 DSTPs was awarded following a tender process in May. With the addition of the 16 new plants, the total treatment capacity of the DSTPs is expected to reach 170 million gallons per day (MGD).

"The tender for the 16 DSTPs has already been floated, and the process is under way to award the work to selected private companies by July," the official said this week. The project forms an important part of the government's plan to clean the Yamuna.

In July last year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a meeting on the river's rejuvenation and directed the Delhi government to nearly double its sewage treatment capacity to 1,500 MGD by 2028. The DSTP project has been



Home Minister Amit Shah in July directed the government to nearly double its sewage treatment capacity to 1,500 MGD by 2028. PTI

pending for years, with the non-availability of land emerging as a major hurdle.

Political tussle

The issue was compounded by a tussle between the previous Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi and the BJP-led Centre, as much of the required land is under the Centre's control.

Through DSTPs, the government plans to treat sewage close to the source of generation. Currently, Delhi's 37 larger sewage treatment plants (STPs) are in distant parts of the city and require sewage to be transported through extensive sewer networks and pipelines for treatment.

DSTPs, in contrast, will be built on smaller parcels of land and linked to clus-

ters of nearby unauthorised colonies, which will reduce the need to transport sewage over long distances.

The AAP government had initiated plans to build DSTPs in 2015, but the project failed to take off for many reasons, including the lack of available land. The number of DSTPs was later reduced from 48 to 40 during the AAP's tenure, and from 34 after the BJP came to power last year to 29 now.

"The number of DSTPs has been reduced to 29, but they will cover the same areas planned earlier because their capacities have been increased," the official said.

The government is targeting completion of all 29 DSTPs by January 2028 and the associated sewer networks by June 2028.

Man killed in scuffle while boarding train in east Delhi

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by fellow passengers while attempting to board the Yoga Express at Shahdara railway station in east Delhi on Saturday, the police said.

The incident took place on platform number 3, where a quarrel broke out

among passengers amid a rush to board the train, a senior police officer said. According to police, information regarding the scuffle was received at the Old Delhi railway police station following which an investigating officer rushed to the spot.

The victim was identified as Pankaj Dhama, a resident of Baghpat in Uttar

Pankaj Dhama was assaulted with punches and kicks by co-passengers during the altercation, the police said

Pradesh. Preliminary investigation revealed that Dhama was assaulted with punches and kicks by co-

passengers during the altercation, the police said.

Case registered

He was immediately taken to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival, the officer said. A medico-legal case has been registered, and proceedings have been initiated under Sections 105 (culpable

homicide not amounting to murder) and 3(5) (common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the officer said. Efforts are under way to identify and trace the persons involved in the assault, the police said, adding that CCTV footage from the railway station is also being examined and eyewitnesses are being questioned.

Schools ordered to suspend staff accused of abusing children

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has directed schools to immediately remove any employee involved in offences against children and to report suspected sexual offences without waiting for internal inquiries, as part of child protection measures under the Directorate of Education (DoE).

In a circular issued on Friday, the DoE asked schools to set up child protection committees and complete background verification of teaching and non-teaching staff, contractual workers and other personnel in contact with students. Institutions have been directed to submit compliance reports, safety checklists and self-certification documents within 15 days.

"Any employee with a criminal record related to these offences must be suspended from active duty immediately, pending legal proceedings," stated the circular.

The DoE has ordered that employees must submit affidavits declaring that

Staff training on the POCSO Act and Juvenile Justice framework has been made compulsory

they have no history of offences against children or violent crimes. The circular mandates immediate reporting of suspected sexual offences, warning that failure by school heads to do so may attract legal action, including imprisonment of up to one year.

Schools have been asked to conduct awareness programmes on child safety, including body autonomy, safe and unsafe touch, cyber risks, sextortion and reporting mechanisms. Staff training on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Juvenile Justice framework has been made compulsory. Each school will constitute a child protection committee headed by the principal with representatives from teachers, parents, counsellors and students, to review complaints and safety measures quarterly.

Nine civic hospitals set for quality upgrade

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Delhi's municipal hospitals are set to undergo a quality upgrade this year, with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) bringing nine facilities under the Centre's 'Kayakalp' programme and expanding critical care infrastructure, officials said on Saturday.

The MCD plans to introduce mechanised sweeping, expand zero-waste-to-landfill programme and boost compliance with patient-safety and disaster-management protocols.

The nine hospitals identified for the initiative are Hindu Rao Hospital, Maharishi Valmiki Infectious Diseases Hospital, Mata Gujri Hospital, Swami Dayanand Hospital, Kasturba Hospital, Mrs Girdhar Lal Maternity Hospital, Balak Ram Hospital, Rajan Babu Institute of Pulmonary Medicine and Tuberculosis and Veer Savarkar Aranya Sansthan.

"Hospitals will be required to secure more than 80% marks to qualify for incentive," a senior official said.

Sood inspects facilities at NEET exam centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Education Minister Ashish Sood on Saturday inspected arrangements for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) re-examination at CM Shri School on Pandara Road and said all necessary preparations have been made for the exam scheduled for Sunday.

Mr. Sood said the go-

vernment has set up air-conditioned 'Cooling Zones' at examination centre for parents accompanying the candidates. He said the district administration and police have put in place stringent security measures at all centres.

Mr. Sood said the government's objective is to ensure that students can take the re-examination in a comfortable and stress-free environment.

WALK-IN INTERVIEW / RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Recruitment for the post of **Nuclear Medicine Physician** under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Regional Cancer Centre, Agartala, Tripura on purely contractual basis. Last date of submission: 29th June 2026

Aspiring candidate(s) may visit website of **AGMC** (<https://agmc.ac.in>).

Medical Superintendent
ABV Regional Cancer Centre, Agartala
Email: rccagartala@yahoo.com

ICA/D/382/26

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
WEST ZONE-2
Office of the Executive Engineer, Vijayanagara Division, 1st Floor, Shasakara Bhavana, 3rd Main Road, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560 040.
No: EE/(VJN)/TEND/KPPP/03/2026-27 Date: 20-06-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK KPP Portal** <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)
The Executive Engineer, Vijayanagara Division, BWCC invites standard tender documents KW-3 & KW-4 on behalf of the Commissioner, BWCC Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers registered in GBA or equivalent registration with PWD/CPWD or any state governmental organization for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Annual Maintenance for filling up of Potholes and Maintenance of Footpath and Desilting of Drains and Shoulders in Arterial and Sub- Arterial Roads in Ward No- 83,84,85,86,87,88 and 89 Vijayanagara Sub Division Est. Cost: ₹.105.00 Lakhs, Amount put to Tender: ₹.87.23. Lakhs EMD: ₹.1,30,845.00
2.	Annual maintenance for filling up of Potholes & maintenance of footpath & desilting of drains & shoulders in Arterial & sub arterial roads in Ward No 82, 90, 91, 92, 93 & 94 Gali Anjaneya Temple sub division Est. Cost: ₹.90.00 Lakhs, Amount put to Tender: ₹.74.75. Lakhs EMD: ₹.1,12,125.00
3.	Annual maintenance of storm water drains in Vijayanagara Constituency in BWCC Est. Cost: ₹.97.56 Lakhs, Amount put to Tender: ₹.97.51. Lakhs EMD: ₹.1,46,265.00

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal from **23-06-2026**, (2) Last Date & Time for uploading Tender documents on **03-07-2026** upto **4:00 pm**, (3) Pre-Bid meeting on **30-06-2026** at **3:00 pm**, (4) Opening of Technical document on **04-07-2026** at **4:30 pm**, (5) Financial Opening (Opening date will be intimated through KPP Portal)

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Vijayanagara)
BWCC, Zone-2

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Lokseva Bhawan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001
No.HE-SCH-PLAN-0072-2025/33545/HE, Bhubaneswar, Dated:20.06.2026

Corrigendum-I

NOTICE INVITING RFP FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF SMART CLASSROOMS IN 16 Hls UNDER GSC COMPONENT OF PM-USHA.
RFP No. PM-USHA/01/2026 Date: 05.06.2026

Sl. No.	RFP Cl. No.	Page No.	Description as per RFP	Modified Provisions
1	SI No. 5 of Data Sheet Table	5	10,000/- (In shape of DD / BC from any Schedule Commercial Bank)	10,000/- + Applicable GST (In shape of DD from any Schedule Commercial Bank) in favour of "DDO-cum-Under Secretary, Higher Education Department, payable at UCO Bank, Secretariat Branch, Bhubaneswar"
2	SI No. 6 of Data Sheet Table	5	Demand Draft / Bank Guarantee (as specified in RFP)	Demand Draft (as specified in RFP)

11001/139/2627
Joint Secretary to Govt. & SPD, PM-USHA
OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0017

BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)
ब्रिज, रोपवे, टनल एण्ड अदर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)

पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य अवस्थाना विकास निगम लिमिटेड
प्रधान कार्यालय: अवस्थाना भवन, 583-0, राजकीय आइटीओआईडी निरंजनपुर रोड-248001
टेलीफोन: 0135-2522941, ई-मेल: bridcul@gmail.com GIN No: U45202UR2008SGC032591

Ref: 973/BRIDCUL-844 Elect/26 Dated 20/06/2026

E-Tendering

On behalf of Hon'ble, Governor of Uttarakhand, E-Tenders are invited by Managing Director BRIDCUL, from the Contractors registered with any Govt./Semi Govt./PSU/Nigam in suitable Class & Category for the works given as below:-

S. No.	Ref No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (In lac Including GST)	Earnest Money (In Lac)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Time Period
1.	BRIDCUL/HQ DDN /12/ 2026-27)	SITC of 08 Passenger Elevator Lift & Allied work at CIPET Doiwala Distt, Dehradun	28.94	0.58	5000+ 18% GST	18 Month

For above tenders, document download start date is 22.06.2026 and Bid submission end date is 06.07.2026 at 1500 Hrs. The details of e-tender of above works can be obtained directly from website <https://uktenders.gov.in>
Changes, if any will be intimated only through website <https://uktenders.gov.in> **DGM (HQ)**

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SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY & COMMISSIONING WORK

E-Tender Notice No. NIT/11/26/17, Dated:- 17/06/2026
On behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Materials Manger /South East Central Railway, Bilaspur Division invites e-tender for the following items:- **Tender No.:** 11265340
Description: Supply and commissioning of digital Crimping tool for mil-grade connector as per attached specification. (Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery)
Due Date: 08/07/2026, **Due Time:** 10:30
Tender Cost (Rs): 0.00, **EMD (RS.):** 127410.00/-
Tender, please visit IREPS Website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note:- In controversial condition regarding description, English text version will be considered certified
Sr.Divisional Material Manager
S.E.C.Railway, Bilaspur
CPR/10/PH/223
f South East Central Railway x@seccrail

IUML ends alliance with DMK after six decades

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

After sailing with the DMK for nearly six decades, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) on Saturday announced its decision to leave the DMK-led alliance. The party has already extended support to the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam and joined its Ministry. “The ‘whistle’ symbol resonated across the State, people rallied behind C. Joseph Vijay,” said Kader Mohideen, national president of the IUML.

☀️🌧️ Timings			
DELHI			
SUNDAY, JUN. 21			
☀️ RISE	05:24	🌃 SET	19:22
🌧️ RISE	11:49	🌃 SET	00:00
MONDAY, JUN. 22			
☀️ RISE	05:24	🌃 SET	19:22
🌧️ RISE	12:46	🌃 SET	00:09
TUESDAY, JUN. 23			
☀️ RISE	05:25	🌃 SET	19:23
🌧️ RISE	13:42	🌃 SET	00:38

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	40	29
Safdarjang	40	29
Palam	40	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 to occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
38°C Morning will be comfortable. The weather will be hot and uneasy. Chances of duststorm & thundershower. Night also will be comfortable.

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THE HINDU
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Shah launches temple corridor project in Kolhapur, says India witnessing cultural renaissance

‘Project would transform the 7th-century Mahalaxmi shrine into a modern pilgrimage centre’; amid ongoing flux in Shiv Sena (UBT), Union Home Minister says ‘now there is only one Shiv Sena headed by Eknath Shinde’

Press Trust of India
KOLHAPUR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Kolhapur on Saturday said a cultural renaissance was taking place across the country under the mantra of ‘vikas bhi, viraasat bhi’ (development as well as heritage), and described the Ambabai temple corridor project as another step in preserving India’s religious and cultural legacy.

Mr. Shah was in the city to lay the foundation for the new Pradakshina Marg and for the conservation work of Parivar Devata Mandir at the famous Mahalaxmi temple.

He said the ₹500-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurating the renovation work in Mahalakshmi (Ambabai) temple in Kolhapur on Saturday. Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde are also present. ANI

crore project would come up over 28,058 square metres and transform the historic 7th century shrine into a modern pilgrimage centre equipped with AI-based security systems, LED lighting, heritage galleries, a light-

and-sound show, a multi-purpose hall and other facilities.

‘Inspiring nation’

He added that 41 temples in and around the Mahalaxmi temple would be conserved in consultation with the

Archaeological Department and thanked CM Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy CM Eknath Shinde and the State government for taking up the project. “Spending ₹1,500 crore on places where our history, religion and culture reside is not a big amount. Such places inspire the entire country,” Mr. Shah said.

After paying obeisance to goddess Mahalaxmi with his wife and performing puja at the temple, Mr. Shah inaugurated various development works in the precincts and reviewed projects undertaken under the Western Maharashtra Temple Development Plan in the temple area.

He inaugurated va-

rious conservation, preservation and development works under the development plan of the Karveer Nivasini Shri Ambabai Mahalaxmi Temple.

He also took a jibe at Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, accusing him of sitting in “Congress’s lap” and trying to turn infiltrators into a vote bank, warning that India is not a dharmshala (charitable shelter).

In an apparent reference to the imminent split in the Sena (UBT), Mr. Shah said earlier people had to refer to the Shinde-led faction separately, but “now no faction remains, and there is only one Shiv Sena, which is headed by Eknath Shinde”.

Cong. opposes Goa circular on Yoga Day attendance for students and teachers

Press Trust of India
PANAJI

The Congress on Saturday demanded that the State Education Department in Goa withdraw its circular making it compulsory for school students and teachers to attend Yoga Day programmes.

The Directorate of Education has instructed all schools to hold yoga sessions on June 21, which is celebrated as International Yoga Day.

In a statement, State Congress chief Girish Chodankar said, “Yoga is a personal choice, and should never become a compulsory obligation. Sunday is the only day many families spend together. It is also a day of prayer and religious observance for many communities

across Goa.”

Responding to Mr. Chodankar’s statement, Goa BJP Medical Cell’s co-convenor Sneha Bhagwat said that it was “sad and unfortunate” that the circular was being politicised, and pointed out that a student can attend a yoga session at any place near their house.

‘Benefits of yoga’

“Yoga is for health, wellbeing, mental and emotional stability which is a very much a necessary right for students,” she said.

“More than 193 countries have accepted yoga and over 300 research papers have established that a daily 20-minute yoga practice can improve life expectancy and the quality of life by 70%,” she added.

Wife of TMC’s Jahangir Khan held for ‘role’ in police station attack

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

The wife of Trinamool Congress leader Jahangir Khan, Regina Bibi, was arrested on Saturday from South 24 Parganas district for allegedly masterminding an attack on the Falta police station in a violent attempt to free him from

police custody earlier this month, the police said.

According to police, Ms. Regina played a key role in mobilising supporters and planning the agitation that allegedly sought to secure the release of Mr. Khan, TMC’s Falta repoll candidate. “Serious charges have been invoked against her,” an officer said.

Akali Dal defaming Punjab CM, say AAP workers; Akal Takht releases Mann’s Jan. 15 video

Press Trust of India
MOHALI/ AMRITSAR

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers on Saturday hit the streets across Punjab to denounce the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) for allegedly circulating a “fake” video of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to “defame him”. Ministers, MLAs, senior leaders and workers held demonstrations at several places, accus-

ing the SAD of “misusing religion, spreading propaganda and hatching political conspiracies to mislead the people”.

Meanwhile, the Akal Takht released a video of Mr. Mann’s appearance before it in January this year regarding the ‘objectionable’ video. In a statement, the Akal Takht said Mr. Mann appearing before it on January 15 had claimed that the “video was fake”.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)
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B.Ed. Special Education (Multiple Disabilities) (2 Years)	30.07.2026
D.Ed. Special Education (Multiple Disabilities) (2 Years)	Admission process will be announced by RCI
Diploma in Office Automation and Assistive Technology (1 Year)**	Admission through BDU, please visit https://onlinesbi.sbi.bank.in/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm?corpID=378892
Certificate Course in Care Giving (RCI) (1 Year)	Admission process will be announced by RCI

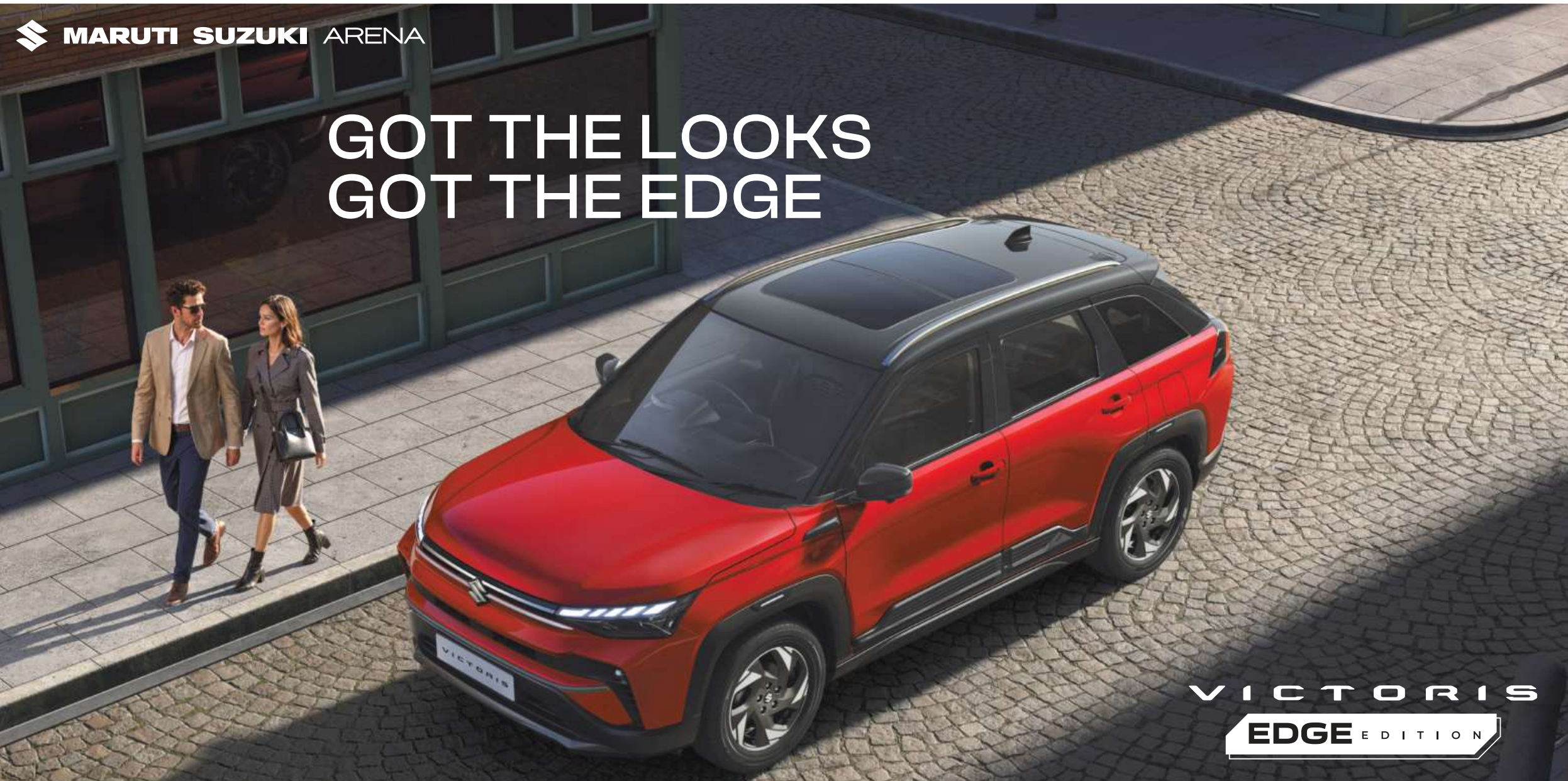
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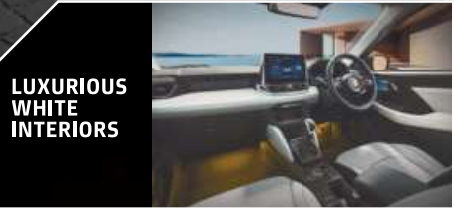
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A ND-NDE



CM
YK



Gated Society

Classifieds

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Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL
BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
<i>Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms</i>
ASSAMESE
AWADHI
BENGALI
BHOJPURI
BIHARI
CHHATTISGARHI
ENGLISH
GUJARATI
HARYANI
HINDI
KANNADA
KASHMIRI
KONKANI
MALAYALAM
MANIPURI
MARATHI
MARWARI
NEPALI
ORISSA
PARSI
PUNJABI
SAURASHTRA
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WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

BIHARI
Bihari Rajput Family settled in Hyderabad invites alliance for Daughter, 32Yrs / 152 cm, B.A. LL.B (Hons), M.A. (Psychology), Counselor. Father retired Central Govt. Class-I Officer, Mother Homemaker, elder sister settled in Hyderabad. Seeking well-educated, cultured Groom from respectable Rajput/ Bhumihar/ Kayastha/ Brahmin Family. Contact: 9711184100

COSMOPOLITAN
SUITABLE GROOM sought for our daughter, a well-educated professional in her late twenties, working in the UK. Looking for a well-settled groom (30/33 years) with progressive values, an egalitarian outlook, and free from rigid patriarchal or caste-hierarchical beliefs. Mob:9840993455

WANTED GROOM
Balija Naidu Bride, Chennai - Born, 32, 5'7", Fair, Qualification: IIM (Calcutta) - PG Dip. in Digital Marketing, well-settled family seeks educated, cultured groom from a suitable family
Contact:
9769263777
balajienka@gmail.com

INVITING TELUGU Groom, 35y, pref unmarried industrialist. Wapp only: 9994032994 (parents only).
HINDU 50YR ISSUELESS divorcee ACS working MNC seeks issueless groom CNB. 8778873501

DOCTOR
FAIR, CULTURED. Good looking, Slim, Doctor girl 36/165 MD, Cardiac, Anesthesiologist. Chennai based affluent Doctor family. Father Keralaite Nair, Mother from TN. Looking for Doctor or Engineer groom from respectable family. 9840050381/ 9840985383
VANIVAR 31, MBBS/ MS, Mithunam, Thiruvadurai, Slim seeks MBBS/ MS Doctor. Groom only. Contact: 9444259255
DOCTOR MD, DM, Salary 3 Lakhs pm, 1992/155cm Hindu (BC) Girl, fair, slim, cultured family, well settle in Bangalore, upper middle class seeks bridegroom MD/MS/DM or Highly qualified engineer with good Salary, caste no bar. Contact: 9845522122
KONGU VELLALAR Gounder Othala Kootam Anusham Viruchigam Girl 26/ 165 Studying MD, seeks MD/MS same caste. Whatsapp only 9025523332/ No Broker
ALLIANCE INVITED for my daughter born in Dec 93 fair 160 CM completed MS General Surgery and now doing MCh Neuro Surgery 3rd year from Doctors with PG or suitably qualified from Mudaliar/ Vellalar Contact 9444012939.

Affluent Hindu Nadar Family invites an Alliance for their daughter: 32 yrs, 5'4", Fair, Doctor, currently in USA (willing to relocate) Belongs to a prominent, wealthy background. Seeking a well educated Groom, settled in USA or India. Ct: +91 9791994449 vsajsr@gmail.com

Tall, Elegant, Dr. from Biz Family '93 Born, 5'5", M.D., High Profile, Cultured & Respectable Family looking for an equal Match.
SUDHIR BHATT
9920099889 / 9619101019 / 20 sudhirmatrim@gmail.com

ENGLISH
Vaniachettiar Divorcee Fair, white 158 cms, 32 age, M.Sc B.Ed. Lost one Kidney in Corona, now healthy parents Govt. Pensioners owning Export pack House Krishnagiri. Groom must below 37 years, wish to settle with Girl. Contact 9443240425.

GOVT / QUASI GOVT
BRIDE GROOM WANTED
Hindu Nadar 26 yrs, 168 cm, Civil Judge Seeks Bridegroom Below 30 yrs from Same Profession / Group I / Group II Officer in Tamilnadu Only.
9710209761, 9840425972

MALAYALAM
LC GIRL, 36/175, Postal Department, Tiruvandrum, salary 75,000 pm. Phone: 9495269815.
HINDU NADAR girl, 30, Govt. Agriculture Officer seeks suitable groom. Caste no bar. Contact : 9495036447.
PROPOSALS INVITED for my daughter 25years, 167cm, Malayali Hindu Thiruvya, MSc statistics, working MNC Bangalore, star Bharani, Cell- 97468 89952 Email: krishnakumarex@gmail.com
HINDU SAMBAVA (SC) Girl, 29/163, Anizham, MBBS, doing MD, seeks alliance from Doctors of SC community in Kerala. 9446553479, 9778729934.
NAIR Unmarried Girl, 39, Chothi MBA CUSAT, invites proposals from Unmarried Doctors/Engineers/ CA/ MBA settled abroad. Phone No. 9847699504

NRI
QUALIFIED(ABROAD) B.FUL Girl (Hindu), 1990/165cm, father cardiologist, seeks qualified groom. Caste no bar, open to all regional backgrounds. Preferred NRI: US/Canada/Eur. Contact 9266863038
NRI GROOM wanted. Nair girl unmarried August 1974, well employed US citizen, caste no bar. Malayalam / Tamil US residents only Contact: 9895824803
30 Years/175 cm, Employed in Canada, Divorced, looking for a Genuine understanding life Partner. Contact 93810 57689
TAMIL CHETTIAR Girl, BE - CSC / MS - USA, Fair 25 / 162 cm, working in USA seeks suitable / well educated horoscope matching groom with good family background from same community. Ph: 98404 22281

TAMIL
MUSLIM girl 32/158cm, AVP-Principle Product Engineer, MNC, 34LPA, well-settled family, seeks Tamil speaking never married groom with similar bg. Ct. 63832 76233
NATHAMAR UDAYAR, catholic, 1993 borned, HR professional-MNC , with null and void order looking for Christian boy below 35 yrs, premier institute or IT professional with legal church orders with clean habits, WhatsAp 9940099429
CHRISTIAN CSI, Doctor, looking for same profession groom in any caste, settled or working in USA, UK, Canada and Australia from 24-29. 9839000682
CSI, ADIDRAVIDAR, B.Tech, Government staff, searching for a groom in Qatar from 28-31 in equal caste. 8137003550
CSI, ROYALE profile, BE, Business, seeking for a Rich/affluent match in CSI or Christian nadar. 8138900487
UDAYAR CHRISTIAN, 32, divorced, UK, looking for a Rich/affluent groom from 31-36 from Hindu or Christian. 8137001257

✓ PARENTS OF Tamil Muslim doctor girl doing MD and Residenship in govt medical college, 27yrs, 160cm, smart, reputed family, seek matching proposal from parents of doctor groom only. 9489465536 / 98406115274
CHRISTIAN, PILLAI, 36,M.Sc., M.Phil, Asst.Prof. PondySeeks Groom FC/BC, below 39yrs. Ct: 98946 77892.
HINDU NADAR, - M.S. Ophthalmology - 33/168cm Vitreo-Retina Surgeon - Chennai Seeking Bridegroom Cell: 9840038499
Pillai NonVeg 26yrs/164cm Pooja Fair B.E., Healthcare Admin Canada seeks NRI Groom. 9894107825, 9900595339
MUDALIAR 33/160, Anusham, M.A (HR) - Father Business, Working Teacher International School, Own House at Adyar, Rental Income 1L, 10Acres, Seeks Qualified Well Placed Groom. Subject No Bar, OBC Also. 9884863220.
MUDALIAR 25, BE, MS, 161cm, Good Looking Well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB. Ct. 8778514465/ 7200866346
PILLAI/MUDALIAR Prof uold working Groom wanted for Hasfham 38, fair MCA Chennai.8220757159/ 9444136336
KARKATHAR PILLAI 30/ 155, B.E Software Engineer in USA, H1B seeks Tamil vegetarian groom in USA/ Canada/ India. Ct: +91 6382662451/ +91 9444409471/ vimbasekaran@yahoo.com
SEEKING GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL for 44yrs unmarried Tamil SC Hindu Adi Dravida Female IT professional (29yrs exp) from Chennai holding Singapore PR. Contact +919790921761/+91 7200942776.

LOOKING FOR Bridegroom for 28 yr. smart Girl, (Nadar) MBA from NUS Singapore, not particular about Horoscope. Broad Minded with Modern outlook. What'sapp details to : 93421 04357
Hindu Agamudaiyar, 1997, MS (USA) serving in the EU, seeks suitable and Qualified Groom. 9442614293
MUDALIAR 29 165cm BE MBA Chennai seeks professional Handsome Mudaliar Pillai Grooms Geetham 9884858014
VALLUVAN 40/160 BE Remarriage 2 Daughters Kerala seeks Educated Broad Minded Groom CNB Geetham 9884858014
MUDALIAR 40/163 BE MBA Phd doing Madurai seeks Educated Employed Mudaliar Pillai Groom Geetham 9884858014
GROOM WANTED CNB,26yrs, MBBS, MD, Running schools & Institutions in ChennaiPh: 6385293227
HINDU SC Arunthathianr MS Ophthalmologist 35/165 Fair Chennai seeks well educated good family groom. 9962830417
MUDALIAR 39 167cm, Fair, BE (CS), Parents Hindu / CSI, Seeks Groom Dr./Er. / Abroad. Ct:8056143638
HINDU MUDALIAR, 31 Age, 160cm, BE, Working in IT MNC 21 LPA, Seeks Suitable Groom CA, BE or Btech from Mudaliar or Sub Caste Call 7550251015
HINDU MARUTHUVAR well-educated, affluent family seeks suitable groom for their daughter, 26 years, Software Engineer, Currently in USA. Same community preferred. Others welcome. Ph. 9384816370
HINDU SC AD 26/151 MSC Thiruvonnam Magaram Fair Good Looking Chennai. Seeks Govt Pvt/Engineer Groom From Chennai Good Family Wh:9629412661
FASHION DESIGNER SaivaMudaliar Anusham 33 Very Fair Propertied NeedVeg 17/ Govt Employee Groom 9566268349

TAMIL
FAIR GOOD looking 26 yrs living at Chennai M.com(P.hd) working as Asst.Prof in pvt college 5.5ft (165cm) seeking pure vegetarian bridegroom of sozhiva vellalar any pillai with expectation of height 5.11 to 6 feet and fair, with age 3yrs difference chennai based with any profession. Contact 9445428534 / 9940338846
ALLIANCE FOR 26, Pretty pursuing Ph.D in US seeks professionally qualified groom. Caste nobar. 8248569028
SC/ADIDRAVIDAR/MS DOB 1983 bride seeks suitable qualified employed bridegroom 8754354205
MUDALIAR PARENTS seek professional groom settled in UK for their daughter age 34 height 172 cm Re-vathi studied medicine in UK and working as surgeon. Ph: 9884452926
HINDU VISHWAKARMA Goldsmith girl B.Pharm, working in PRS Hospital, 24, 156 cm, TVM, Ph: 9387820222.
ISAIVELLALAR, MBBS Preparing for PG, May 98, Kruthigai, Mesham, Doctor Parents in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Preferably Doctor. Caste no bar. Ct: 9003204007
VANNIYAR, RE Marriage, Age 30, Ayiyam, Employed in Bank, Groom Needed from Thanjavur, Kumbakonam & Madras Area only. Cont: 9840961251
PILLAI 30/165CM BE Canada seeks IT professional Canada PR/Citizen only. Geetham 9884858014
TWIN GIRLS, Tirunelveli Saiva Pillai, both software engineers in MNC Chennai, elite family, 28yrs, seeking suitable professional groom from same community. 9790888839
MUDALIAR ELITE 26/162 Fair, B.Tech, MS, SRSWE, Microsoft, B.Lore, 2800000 PA, CNB, 9043991629, 9043987029
HINDU, SC, 38 yrs, BE, MBA, 80,000 P/M, Divorcee, No Children. Looking for Groom in Chennai under 42 in a well Settled Job 9840429449
Looking for Brahmin, non-Kaushika groom for Iyer girl, 42/165, BE, MBA, earning 30 Lakhs pa. Contact: 9441243172
Vadamal-Girl 24 Yrs, Iyer Athreyam B.E Sr. Engineer TAFE Chennai. Contact: 9543411210 / 9894679685.

Seeking alliance for a Ph.D. Cultured, Naidu Girl 35 yrs, 165cm from a respectable family. Looking for a qualified well settled groom not exceeding 37 years. Caste no bar 97909 08109
SUNNI MUSLIM Doctor MS, 27yrs, Fair, Ht. 5.7 Seeking Tamil Nadu & Karnataka BRIDE GROOM Well Educated, Well Settled, Financiatly Stable, Pref. Any Administrative Services or Master Degree or Doing Business. Pref. height 5.9 & Above 99402 99922
Hindu Valluvan 41yrs, MBA, IT, MNC Working, seeks Suitable Groom, CNB, First Marriage only. Ct: 98862 34181
Doctor MD FRCEM, Unmarried 37 Years/175, Working in UK seeks Hindu Professional Groom with clean habits Contact: 8826501199
INTERCASTE, M.TECH, Private, Ireland, looking for a 29-33 groom in European countries, rich/affluent any caste. 81389000575
ADIDRAVIDAR, CZECH republic, MS, looking for a same caste groom from 27-30 in rich/affluent. 7356483111
TAMIL YADHAVIA, BE MBA (IIM) 32/162, well employed, seeks Professionally qualified and employed Groom from respectable Family. Contact: 98402 30025
Tamil Iyengar Kausiga Uthram Doctor 29/165 working London seeks alliance from UK based Grooms. Contact: 9841031480 / 9444034369, Email id: kodyalam@gmail.com
Mudaliar 27/160/ Fair / Normal / MBA daughter of an affluent family looking for a Groom of Chennai based - 9600136660
Tamil SC Brides- 29 yrs, B.Tech, MBA, IT, 13 LPA & 26 yrs, B.Sc. Seeking suitable Grooms. Contact - 9441677205
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TAMIL YADHAVIA, BE MBA (IIM) 32/162,

From Page One

Iran ‘closes’ Hormuz as Israel attacks Lebanon

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance, however, said there is no evidence that the strait is closed again. “We are not seeing any evidence the Iranians are still closing down the Strait of Hormuz,” the U.S. Vice-President told Fox News. “We actually got 16 million barrels of oil out of the strait yesterday (Friday). So you are seeing those ships move,” he said.

“The U.S. and Iran and their allies in the current war declare the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon, and undertake from now on not to initiate any war or any military operation against each other, and to refrain from the threat or use of force against each other, and ensuring the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon,” reads the first clause of the Memorandum, signed by U.S. President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian. The U.S. has also lifted its maritime blockade on Iranian ports as it promised in the MoU after its signing.

But Israel, which occupies parts of southern Lebanon, has stated that it would not withdraw forces from the territories it has seized. Over the past two days Israel has carried out multiple air strikes in Lebanon, killing dozens of people. It claims it is responding to attacks from Hezbollah, the Iran-backed Shia militia which is resisting the Israeli occupation.

In Odisha, PM unveils ₹47,000-cr. infra push

Rairangpur, playing host to the celebrations marking two years of the BJP government in the State, is the northern Odisha town closest to Ms. Murmu’s tiny home village of Uparbeda.

Starting his one-day visit to the State, Mr. Modi observed tribal traditions at Pahadpur. Accompanied by Ms. Murmu, he toured the village, interacted with residents, and paid obeisance at the *Jahera*, the sacred Santhal place of worship.

“It is a matter of great pride for all of us that Odisha’s daughter has reached such a high office in the country and is guiding us. Her personality, her generous and compassionate nature, and her unwavering dedication to serving the nation and society have strengthened not only Mayurbhanj but the identity of the entire Odisha,” Mr. Modi said, extending birthday greetings to Ms. Murmu.

Mr. Modi, at Rairangpur, laid the foundation for a ₹25,016 crore coal gasification unit being established in Jharsuguda district and launched ₹700 crore worth of rail infrastructure under East Coast Railway. “So far, investment proposals worth around ₹20 lakh crore have been received. Work is underway on mega projects worth over ₹3.5 lakh crore. Efforts are being made for holistic development to create a favourable environment for industries. More than ₹6,000 crore is being invested in the power sector,” Mr. Modi said.

“I also want to inform you about a government decision that Pahadpur village will be rapidly developed as a Suryagram, a solar village. That means every household will generate solar power. We can proudly say that just as Odisha is known for the Sun Temple in Konark, Pahadpur will gain recognition as a Suryagram,” he said.

Mr. Modi said, “The Centre’s vision is that India’s development will come through the development of eastern India. That’s why we are working on the ‘Purvodaya’ policy. The eastern region, which was once synonymous with backwardness during the Congress era, is now becoming the gateway to progress...”

NEET-UG retest to be held today amid tight security

22 lakh aspirants are likely to attend the exam after previous test was cancelled over paper leak allegations; CCTV, jammers installed at all exam centres; additional staff and invigilators deployed

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid unprecedented security, over 22 lakh aspirants are scheduled to take the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination on Sunday across 5,440 centres in 551 cities in India and 14 centres abroad.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) had cancelled the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) held on May 3 following allegations of paper leak.

The NTA has put in place comprehensive arrangements to ensure a fair, secure and candidate-friendly examination on Sunday, it stated in an official release on Saturday.

The test will be held at more than 95,000 examination rooms, each



Security personnel at a NEET-UG examination centre during a mock drill on Saturday, ahead of the retest. ANI

equipped with CCTV. A total of 1,38,560 CCTV cameras have been installed, with feeds monitored virtually at the national, State and Ministry levels. To secure the examination against electronic malpractice, 51,311 jammers have been deployed.

A nationwide mock drill was conducted on Saturday to verify all systems, including jammers, CCTV, and frisking arrangements.

A large number of personnel have been mobilised for examination-day duties. Each of the more than 95,000 examination rooms will have two invigilators, and every centre will have more than 10 additional examination staff.

Candidate verification has been strengthened with the deployment of 38,795 frisking staff and 48,448 personnel for biometric verification. A centre systems officer has been deployed at each of the centres to monitor the CCTV feed and resolve any technical issue on the spot.

There has been extensive mobilisation of the State and district administrations for the re-test. Paramilitary forces and the Indian Air Force are also involved in the exercise, apart from the police and postal departments. On average, around 40 to 50 security personnel will be deployed at each examination centre.

The NTA is monitoring social media and is taking action against rumour-mongering and fraudulent “paper leak” claims.

Exam venue row: NTA says student picked the centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After a NEET-UG aspirant from Nagpur was allotted a centre in Abu Dhabi for the re-examination on Sunday, the National Testing Agency (NTA) has said that its “web-activity records indicate that the city change in this case was made through the candidate’s own registered login during the open correction window”.

The family of the student – Abdulla Talib – said he had given preference to Nagpur, Wardha, and Bhandara centres. The family had expressed shock at the allotment of venue and raised a complaint stating that they could not arrange for passport or visa at short notice.

At first, the NTA had said it was a technical glitch but later on Saturday said a detailed probe had shown that the student’s

own credentials had been used to request Abu Dhabi as the exam centre.

Elaborating on its records, citing “consistent single-user access pattern”, it further said: “NTA has observed that on 3 occasions, one – the centre was changed to Abu Dhabi using candidate’s credentials and twice it was pre-viewed that the centre is Abu Dhabi. Despite that NTA has accorded to aspirant’s request and the change of centre was actioned.”

When asked about the NTA’s statement, the student’s father Mohammed Talib said, “We don’t know how it [Abu Dhabi] got selected. We had chosen Nagpur, Wardha and Bhandara... Now, due to stress and this goof-up our son is not willing to appear for the exam. But we are trying to convince him to take the re-test.”

(With PTI inputs)

CJP presses for Education Minister Pradhan’s resignation at second Jantar Mantar protest

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke returned to the capital on Saturday after demonstrations in six cities and held a second protest at Jantar Mantar, which police moved to evacuate after the permitted 5 p.m. deadline. Mr. Dipke vowed to continue the agitation until Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned, the key demand of the CJP, which gained over two crore social media followers in a matter of days last month.

Crowds at the venue were comparable to those at the June 6 protest, when Mr. Dipke came straight from the airport after arriving from the U.S. However, the crowds largely started dispersing after police repeatedly announced over loudspeakers that the permission for the demonstration had expired at 5 p.m. A few hundred protesters nevertheless stayed back, surrounding Mr. Dipke,



Abhijeet Dipke, founder of the Cockroach Janta Party seen during a protest against the Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

amid concerns within the CJP that he could be detained.

As the 5 p.m. deadline approached, Mr. Dipke declared that the protest was not over and that it would continue until Mr. Pradhan stepped down. Mr. Dipke then shared a handwritten letter requesting permission from the police to extend the demonstration. While the police ruled out

extending the CJP’s sanctioned protest time, they also reduced their presence at the site later in the evening as the crowds thinned out.

Late into the evening, Mr. Dipke remained on the stage constructed at the venue even as the police restricted access to the stretch of the Jantar Mantar road where protests are usually permitted.

Mr. Dipke said that food and water were not being allowed into the venue, calling it a “human rights violation”. He said that, like Mahatma Gandhi, they too were prepared to fast.

After sunset, authorities switched off the floodlights, forcing protesters to rely on mobile phone flashlights. He urged the police to restore lighting. “If anything happens to me

in this darkness, those who switched off the lights will be responsible,” he said. The police later relented, turning the floodlights back on and allowing water into the venue.

“Why is Dharmendra Pradhan still continuing as Minister?” Mr. Dipke asked amid the evacuation. “Is the law only for us? You [Delhi Police] are giving us a warning that your protest time has ended. You should also give a warning to Dharmendra Pradhan that your time in the Ministry has ended.”

Mr. Dipke had asked supporters to arrive with metal utensils and bang them during the protest, echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s call in 2020 for citizens to express gratitude for frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The protest followed similar demonstrations in Pune, Lucknow, Amritsar, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Jaipur.

(With inputs from Nikhil M. Babu)

EU removes restrictions on travelling to Assam

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The European Union (EU) has lifted a restrictive travel advisory for citizens of its 27 member countries travelling to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday.

Most countries in Europe, Oceania, and the Americas began warning their citizens against travelling to the restive north-east States in 1979, when the six-year Assam Agitation started and led to extremism of the United Liberation Front of Asom.

Mr. Sarma said Chief Secretary Ravi Kota received a letter from Hervé Delphin, the EU’s envoy to India, on Friday, stating that the 27 European nations lifted travel curbs for their citizens keen on exploring Assam. “After Australia and Japan, EU member-states have revised their travel advisories and removed restrictive guidance for their citizens visiting the State,” he posted on X.

Cong. targets Tharoor’s praise of PM; Kerala MP says remarks were twisted

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday slammed party leader Shashi Tharoor over his “admiration” for Narendra Modi, saying it appears to have transcended the physical world as he now seems capable of hearing what the Prime Minister never even said.

Mr. Tharoor, the party’s Thiruvananthapuram MP, however, said he found it extraordinary that a statement about protecting Indian civilian sailors was given a partisan twist.

The row was sparked by Mr. Tharoor’s reported remarks that “PM Modi made his point clear both in the public and private meetings with the president.” He reportedly said, “It is important to convey the message that in wartime, civilian sailors on commercial ships should not be targets of combat. They are not soldiers, and that is the message PM Modi con-



Reacting to Pawan Khera’s statement, Shashi Tharoor (left) said he was merely alluding to published reports. PTI, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



veyed.” Asked about the comments, Congress’ media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said at a press conference that he had not seen Mr. Tharoor’s statement but he had also not seen in the India-U.S. joint statement a mention of the killing of three Indian sailors by the United States in the Gulf of Oman.

Mr. Tharoor on X responded, “Frankly, I find it extraordinary that a statement about protecting Indian civilian sailors is being twisted into a partisan political controversy. Three

Indians lost their lives. My remarks were about the safety of our citizens and the principle that civilian seafarers should never be targets of military action.” If some people are more interested in scoring political points than addressing that concern, that says more about them than it does about me, he said.

Concern for Indian lives should unite us, not divide us, the former Union Minister asserted.

Later, Mr. Khera on X said, “My senior colleague Dr Shashi Tharoor’s admiration for PM Modi appears

to have transcended the limitations of the physical world. He now seems capable of hearing what Modi doesn’t even say.” Mr. Khera said that according to the official MEA readout of the Modi-Trump meeting on the sidelines of the G7, there was no mention of the “cold-blooded killing” of three Indian sailors by the United States in the Gulf of Oman.

“...And yet, Tharoor ji somehow heard forceful assertions, robust push-back, and uncompromising diplomacy that never made it into the official record,” Mr. Khera said.

Later, in an apparent reference to Mr. Khera, Mr. Tharoor on X said, “For those who believe I ‘heard’ words that @narendramodiji never said at the G-7, I was merely alluding to widely published reports about his remarks. If you want to hear a report, here’s one.” Mr. Tharoor shared a link to a media report on YouTube.

Protesters demand justice for six slain Naga villagers in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Hundreds of people took to the streets in Manipur’s capital, Imphal, on Saturday, demanding justice for six Naga villagers whose dismembered bodies were recovered almost a month after they were allegedly abducted in May.

The six, including a pastor, went missing from Leilon Vaiphei village in Kangpokpi district after three church leaders were ambushed and killed in another part of the district on May 13.

The All-Naga Students’ Association, Manipur (ANSAM) organised the protest rally, seeking government intervention to ensure accountability in the case.

The organisation accused the armed Kuki National Front-Presidential (KNF-P) group of having carried out the execution of the six Naga villagers.

ANSAM president Anteshang Maring said the



All Naga Students’ Association Manipur demonstrators march through the city to demand justice for the six Naga civilians. ANI

protest was organised to draw attention to the families and community seeking justice for the six civilians, “who were held hostage for over 20 days” before being killed.

“Unfortunately, no arrest has been made in connection with the case,” he said, criticising the pace of the investigation.

The ANSAM also demanded the abrogation of the “misused” Suspension of Operations agreement

with 25 Kuki-Zomi extremist groups, and the removal of Deputy Chief Minister Nemcha Kipgen for the alleged links between her family and the KNF-P.

Railway line to Moreh

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Saturday said a peaceful environment was necessary to extend the railway network in the State up to Moreh, which lies on India’s border with

Myanmar. Addressing a public welfare camp in Imphal West district, he said Imphal would be on the country’s railway map within the next two years. “The railway line (from Jiribam on the Assam-Manipur border) has already reached Khongsang, and is expected to reach Imphal in two years,” he said. Khongsang, in Tamenglong district, is about 100 km west of Imphal.

Mr. Singh added that the rail network is planned to be extended up to Moreh, about 105 km southeast of Imphal. He indicated that Moreh could then serve as a gateway to Southeast Asia under India’s Act East policy.

The Chief Minister reiterated, however, that there could be no development in Manipur without a peaceful environment.

He urged all communities in the State to keep their differences aside and pursue dialogue to ensure long-lasting peace.

Trinamool’s 3 bank accounts frozen after complaints

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

After the party’s MLAs and MPs split up, the Trinamool Congress leadership is facing a new crisis, where three accounts of the party have been frozen by a bank in Kolkata. Funds to the tune of ₹440 crore are parked in these accounts, sources said.

Letters and emails accessed by *The Hindu* show that the bank has informed the officer-in-charge of the cyber crime police station of Bidhannagar city police, on Friday, that a “debit freeze” has been marked in the three account numbers.

Trinamool leader and former party treasurer Aroop Biswas had written to the bank, flagging the split in the party’s parliamentary and legislative wings, and demanding a halt to all financial transactions in its account.

“In order to safeguard the funds of the organisation... I request your good office to maintain the status quo and refrain from permitting any debit transactions or changes in operational mandates in respect of the following account...” Mr. Biswas, a former Minister, said in his letter to the bank.

It is not clear whether Mr. Biswas, who is facing investigation with regard to financial irregularities

Funds to the tune of ₹440 crore are parked in these accounts, according to sources

during footballer Lionel Messi’s 2025 Kolkata tour, consulted Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee or senior leader Abhishek Banerjee before writing the letter.

MLA Kunal Ghosh, a loyalist of Ms. Banerjee, said that Mr. Biswas was long held the post of treasurer and had no authority to speak for the party on financial matters.

Complaints by MLAs
The account freeze also follows complaints by 10 rebel MLAs aligned with the State’s Leader of the Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee to the cyber crime police station, seeking registration of a First Information Report, and a detailed investigation into the accounts.

“It has come to my knowledge through reliable circumstances and surrounding developments that certain funds, arising out of illegal activities, including misuse of influence, dishonest financial dealings and suspected unlawful collection of money, may have been routed and subsequently deposited into bank accounts,” the complaint stated.

Former MP Padamsinh and 7 others acquitted in Nimbalkar murder case

Sessions court cites lack of credible evidence, procedural lapses in CBI investigation, and inconsistencies in the account of a key witness to acquit all accused; CBI and Nimbalkar’s son say they will move Bombay High Court challenging the judgment

Chinmay Gaikwad
MUMBAI

Citing lack of credible evidence, a Mumbai sessions court on Saturday acquitted all eight accused, including Lok Sabha MP and senior leader of the Nationalist Congress Party - Sharadchandra Pawar (NCP-SP) Padamsinh Patil, in the 2006 murder of former MLA Pawanraje Nimbalkar and his driver.

The court pointed to multiple flaws in the investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), including unreliable witnesses, missing mobile phone records, and inconsistent statements.

Of the nine accused previously, one person had turned an approver.

Nimbalkar and his driver were shot dead by two assailants in Kalamboli, Navi Mumbai, on June 3, 2006. Mr. Patil and the others, who were accused of having hatched and executed a conspiracy to kill Nimbalkar for a sum of ₹25 lakh, stand acquitted after two decades. The prosecution had failed to establish the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt, the court said.

Apart from Mr. Patil, 86, the other accused are Satish Mandade, Mohan Shukla, Shashikant Kulkarni,



High drama: MP Omraje Nimbalkar, left, termed the judgment ‘unfortunate’ and said he would challenge it. (Right) Former MP Padamsinh Patil, who was acquitted, at the court on Saturday. PTI



Kailash Yadav, Dinesh Tiwari, Pintu Singh (allegedly the main shooter), and Chhote Pandey.

Then an incumbent MP, Mr. Patil was arrested by the CBI three years after the incident, on June 6, 2009, and secured bail a few months later following the filing of the chargesheet.

After Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde requested Union Home Minister Amit Shah to look into the case, the CBI is slated to challenge the verdict in the Bombay High Court. “As CBI had brought out very good evidence against the accused in the case, CBI will be challenging the judgment of the trial court before the High Court,” the CBI said in a statement on Saturday.

One of the primary reasons for the acquittal was the unreliability of a key witness, an accused who later turned an approver. This approver had a history of lying, and owned several properties and had substantial assets, making it implausible that he would commit such a crime for a sum of ₹50,000, the court said.

The investigation also suffered from significant procedural lapses. The police did not seize the mobile phones of the accused or obtain their call detail records, which could have clarified if the accused had been in contact with each other, the court said.

Moreover, the approver’s account of his movements on the day of the murder changed multiple times. The contradictions and frequent changes ren-

dered the approver’s testimony unreliable, the court said.

There were also discrepancies regarding the vehicle used for committing the crime. The car was completely burnt, but the seizure report mentioned its colour as green. How could the colour be determined from a burnt vehicle, the court asked. There were also differing accounts on where the vehicle had been found. One witness said the vehicle was found near a small house, another said it was found near a bungalow, while police records showed it was found on an open plot of land. These inconsistencies rendered the investigation suspect, the court said.

The key witness also claimed he had met former Commissioner of Police

Rakesh Maria and given him a bottle of scotch whisky. Mr. Maria had denied the claim, and the CBI had not investigated the matter further, the court said.

The CBI had included in the chargesheet a letter that Nimbalkar had written to a District Collector in 2003. In the letter, Nimbalkar had said he was concerned for his safety. The CBI had failed to investigate the origin and circumstances of this letter, which should have been a cause for concern, the judge said.

The court acknowledged the political rivalry between Nimbalkar and Mr. Patil following the 2002 Assembly election. However, that animosity alone was not enough to convict a person, the court said, emphasising the need for concrete evidence.

Unfortunate, says son
The Nimbalkar family expressed shock at the verdict.

Omraje Nimbalkar, the son of Pavanraje Nimbalkar and an incumbent MP, said the judgment was unfortunate and surprising. Mr. Omraje Nimbalkar said he would challenge the verdict in the High Court and, if necessary, in the Supreme Court.

Mr. Shinde also termed the court’s verdict “unfortunate”.

CID questions Sobhandeb in signature forgery case

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Saturday questioned veteran Trinamool Congress leader and MLA Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay in the Assembly signature forgery case.

He was the party’s original choice as the Leader of the Opposition before a majority of the MLAs sided with party rebel Ritabrata Banerjee.

The police had registered a first information report (FIR) after two MLAs, Mr. Ritabrata and Sandipan Saha, submitted a complaint to the Assembly Speaker, alleging that their signatures had been forged in the letter nominating Mr. Chattopadhyay as the Leader of the Opposition. The CID began the probe on the basis of this FIR.

The CID officials reached Mr. Chattopadhyay’s residence in Bhabanipur on Saturday morning and questioned him. “I have cooperated 200%. You can ask the officials if I have... And I will continue to cooperate in the future,” he told mediapersons.

He said he would not comment on the investigation process because the issue was *sub judice*.

Officials have also questioned other Trinamool MLAs such as Nayana Bandhopadhyay and Firhad Hakim.

Bihar CM orders judicial inquiry into alleged fake encounter

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Bihar government on Saturday ordered a judicial inquiry into the alleged fake encounter of Bharat Bhushan Tiwari, 28, who died on Wednesday in Bhojpur district under the Shahpur police station area.

Several people, including ruling party leaders, have raised questions about the police encounter of the man who had no criminal record and had been engaged in social work. The incident has sparked massive public outrage and protests across the region.

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary shared the information on X, saying, “It has been decided to conduct a judicial inquiry by a retired High Court judge for an independent and impartial investigation of the police encounter that took place in Bilaoti village of Bhojpur district. The objective of the judicial inquiry is to ensure a thorough investigation of all aspects of the incident with complete impartiality and transparency.”

Bengal is free of shackles and on the path to creating history, says Prime Minister

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Decades of misrule had held West Bengal back, and now, with the Bharatiya Janata Party government in the State, Bengal is free of shackles and on the path to creating history, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

Mr. Modi, who participated in an event to mark Paschim Banga Dibas at Tarakeswar in Hooghly district, congratulated the Suwendu Adhikari government on implementing several schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Annapurna Yojana, and Jal Jeevan Mission.

The Prime Minister also asked the gathering, “*Pari-bortan Bhalo lagche to* (Do you like the change)?”

Mr. Modi spoke about how land for border fencing has been made available by the BJP government after decades of imbroglia. He also praised the West Bengal government’s “Swachhata Se Swagat” initiative.

“The glory of West Bengal will return, and the



PM Narendra Modi being greeted by West Bengal CM Suwendu Adhikari during the ‘Paschim Banga Divas’ on Saturday. PTI

State is taking strides towards a new future,” Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister’s visit to Tarakeswar is his second to the State after the BJP came to power, winning more than two-thirds of the seats in the 2026 Assembly election. Mr. Modi had participated in the swearing-in ceremony of Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on May 9.

The Prime Minister devoted much of his 30-minute speech to highlighting the significance of Paschim Banga Dibas and said that the day should remind the younger generation of the history of the State and ensure that the mistakes of

the earlier government are not repeated.

“We need to repeatedly explain the significance of Paschim Banga Divas to today’s generation. It is important for young people to understand what was happening during that period when attempts were being made to include the whole of Bengal in Pakistan, as the Congress had surrendered before those conspirators,” he said.

After coming to power, the BJP government announced that it would observe June 20 as Paschim Banga Dibas. During the Trinamool regime, it was observed on Poila Baishakhwas.

Modi a ‘tough cookie’, been PM for over 12 years: Trump

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump lavished praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he is a “great leader” and “tough guy”, who has been in power for more than 12 years.

In an interview with news website *Axios*, Mr. Trump referred to China’s President Xi Jinping and Mr. Modi as the two greatest leaders he likes the most in terms of power and leverage, and the ability to execute on that. “I think Modi is very good... He stays out of wars, which is smart. He’s 1.5 billion people... India’s actually the biggest. And Modi’s a great leader,” he said.

“I know the real Modi is a very tough cookie,” Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump said he had watched India over the years and seen leaders change quite often.

“Somebody would be there for six months and then a year. And then all of a sudden, Prime Minister Modi ends up there; he’s been there for more than 12 years, very solid,” the U.S. President said.

Abhishek alleges security threat on Kolkata airport premises

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee has claimed that he faced a security threat on the premises of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport here on Friday night.

In a social media post on Saturday, he alleged that

while he was leaving the airport, “armed individuals were apprehended [in the parking area], leading to serious questions about his security”.

In a widely circulated video, a man in a yellow kurta can be seen trying to hide a gun under a cloth on the airport premises. He was reportedly dragged away by Trinamool sup-

porters and others. *The Hindu* was not able to verify the veracity of the video.

On Friday night, when Mr. Banerjee was scheduled to arrive at the airport, Trinamool and BJP supporters clashed outside the airport. Trinamool supporters who came to greet Mr. Banerjee alleged that women supporters were manhandled.

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Sl No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Bid Identification No.	Approx. Value of Work	Bid Security (through On-Line transfer/as per DTN) (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability & Submission of Tender (on-line)
01	Improvement to Kakatpur & Kundhei Distributary of Mahanadi Delta Stage-II by Construction of Barrage over river Prachi near village Bajapur under RIDF-XIV (Balance work & Construction of Intake well, pump house, raw water pumping machinery, electrical allied & instrumentation works, watchman tower & operation building, laying of UGPL to supply water to the canal including survey, investigation, planning, design and estimate of all components with O & M of the project for a period of five years after successful commissioning of the work)	Nimapara Irrigation Division	OCCL-HQP/02/2026-27	Rs.12.58 Crore	Rs.12,58,000/-	12 (Twelve) Calendar months	From 24.06.2026, 03.30 PM to 15.07.2026, 5.30 PM.

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL. **Date of Opening of the Tender :** 17.07.2026, 12.00 Noon onwards. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>
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EOI No : 01 **Date: 18/06/2026**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

General Manager, OSAM Board, Bhubaneswar invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Chartered Accountant Firms for conducting audit of accounts of RMCs / OSAM Board in the State of Odisha
The complete EOI document covering the details of the scope of the services, eligibility criteria, selection process and other details can be downloaded from <https://osamb.odisha.gov.in> .
The indicative bid process timelines are as below:

Sl.No.	Activity	Timeline
1.	Issue of EOI	20.06.2026
2.	Submission of Pre-Proposal Queries	25.06.2026
3.	Pre-Proposal Meeting	29.06.2026
4.	Upload of Pre-Bid Clarification date & time	01.07.2026
5.	Due Date for Submission of Proposal	17.07.2026
6.	Opening of Technical Bid	18.07.2026

Bidders are advised to prepare and submit their proposals confirming the service level requirements and baseline information for the purpose of preparation of their proposal. Any Clarifications/ Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation Notice of the EOI will be uploaded in the websites <https://osamb.odisha.gov.in>. The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any/all proposals/cancel the entire selection process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof

General Manager, OSAM Board
39001/24/2627
OIPR-39001/39024/1/26-27/0003

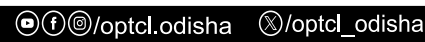
ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଡ଼
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)
Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

**ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
CPC-05/2026-27	Selection of Security agency for providing watch & ward service to OPTCL in 04 lots: LOT 1 LOT 2 LOT 3 LOT 4 Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 05.07.2026 upto 17:30 P.M.	Rs. 19,33,23,648/- Rs. 9,24,93,120/- Rs. 13,54,82,880/- Rs. 12,37,58,400/-
CPC-24/2026-27	Procurement of outdoor mounted live tank type, single phase, single unit type 400kV, 220kV, 132kV & 33kV type Current Transformers under triennial procurement plan 26-27, 27-28 & 28-29 in e-tendering mode only. Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 10.07.2026 upto 12:00 Hrs.	Rs. 10,62,69,241/-
CPC-41/2026-27	Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of work towards "Shifting of 3nos. Of 400 kV towers and thereafter construction of 3 nos. of new 400kV towers in 400kV Indravati Power house - PGCIL Indravati SC Line(Line Length-1KM Approx.) from the proposed lower reservoir site of Upper Indravati PSP. SCOPE- 3 NOS TOWERS (DC+3=1NO, DC+6=1NO, DD+3=1NO)" in the State of Odisha, on EPC contract basis in e-tendering mode only. Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 17.07.2026 upto 12:45 P.M.	Rs. 2,79,31,373/-
CPC-47/2026-27	Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Conversion of 132kV Kutra switching station to 2X 50MVA 132/33kV GSS, Kutra on Turnkey contract basis in e-tendering mode only Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 21.07.2026 upto 12:45 P.M.	Rs. 19,15,81,281.62/-

Complete set of bidding documents are available at www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL and www.optcl.co.in.



HIPR-29/2026-27

Flipkart Group has widened its lead in India's e-commerce market and strengthened its dominance in online fashion through Myntra, according to a Bank of America Securities report that points to resilient consumer demand despite intense competition across the Internet sector. The brokerage, citing Sensor Tower daily active user (DAU) data and industry checks, said Flipkart remained the leading e-commerce platform by user engagement as of June 2026, while Myntra continued to pull ahead of rivals in fashion. The findings suggest that competitive pressures in India's online retail market have yet to dent Flipkart's market position, even as rivals continue to invest heavily to gain share. BofA said Myntra's leadership in fashion appears to be deepening, aided by relatively limited competition in the premium fashion and beauty categories. PTI

Inactivity fee on dormant PhonePe wallets do not affect users' linked bank accounts or UPI transactions, according to clarifications issued by the company after notifications sent to some customers triggered confusion over how digital wallets operate. The notifications apply only to the PhonePe Wallet, a prepaid payment instrument (PPI) and not to payments made through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), where funds are debited directly from a user's bank account. The issue has highlighted a common misconception among consumers that their PhonePe account, UPI account and PhonePe Wallet are the same product. In reality, they operate independently and are subject to different rules. A key concern was, if an inactivity charge can be recovered from bank accounts if their wallet balance was insufficient. PTI

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D., CIRCLE-JHALAWAR
Room No. -158, Ground Floor (Public Works Department), Main Secretariat, Jhalawar
E-mail- p-w_d_jhalawar@rediffmail.com / sewar.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in Phone No. - 2432823233336
S. No. - 305 Date - 10-06-2026

Short Term NIT No. 11/2026-27
Notice Inviting Bid
NB No. PWD2627A1060

Bids for Repair of Single lane to Double lane of Sakani (Bhawal) Deaswala Raipur Dewalwara
Bhailasa Oasv Pirawa Rampurja Patpara road from Km. 27/70 to 57/500 & Remaining work
of widening and strengthening of Chawalni (MP Border) Himmatgarh Dharanaya Pirawa
Dhabla Bhoj dhataruya (MDR-228) Km. 0/0 to 20/0 (UB No. CRF-417/2016-18) are invited
from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM, Dated 23.06.2026 Other particulars of the bid may be viewed
on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the Rajasthan
and <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 55.38
Lacs.

S. No.	UBN No.
1	PWD2627WS0804584
2	PWD2627WS0804585

(Mukesh Chand Meena)
Superintending Engineer
Public Works Department
Circle-Jhalawar

DIPRC/10571/2026

IIT-Delhi study finds human activity drives India’s ‘wild’ weather

Vasudevan Mukunth

Of late, increasingly concentrated rainfall and violent floods have devastated India’s cities and farms alike. For years, scientists have debated whether this is simply natural variation or the direct result of climate change.

A new study in *Environmental Research Letters* has found the smoking gun. Specifically, for the first time, researchers have dispositive evidence that

human activity is the primary driver.

The researchers, from IIT-Delhi and KSMDDB College in Kollam, analysed rainfall data from 1905 to 2014. Then they used a technique called fingerprinting, where, the scientists looked for specific signs of human influence in the atmosphere. By comparing real-world observations with several computer models, they were able to separate natural weather cycles like the

El Niño from changes caused specifically by human activity.

The work has revealed a contest in India’s skies between greenhouse gases, which warm the atmosphere, and aerosols, particles from car exhaust and factories that scatter sunlight and can actually suppress rain. The impact was most visible in the country’s core monsoon zone, including West Central India. “In West Central India, we find observed increases in

extreme precipitation indices and evidence that greenhouse gas forcing is a dominant driver of this intensification,” T.S. Chaithra, a PhD student at the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, IIT Delhi, and the study’s first author, told *The Hindu*. “Together, these findings indicate that the statistical characteristics of extreme rainfall are changing over time.”

Many Indian scientists and policymakers are working to reduce air pol-

lution. However, as the air becomes cleaner and the aerosol load drops, the cooling effect will vanish. When this happens, the full force of greenhouse gas warming will be ‘unmasked’, potentially leading to a surge in extreme rainfall events that are now being kept in check.

However, Ms. Chaithra said the team is “cautious about saying urban planners should stop using historical rainfall baselines entirely” and that “histori-

cal observations remain essential” to understand “local rainfall characteristics and vulnerabilities”.

“Our results suggest that it may no longer be appropriate to assume stationarity in extreme rainfall,” she said, adding later: “More broadly, historical rainfall statistics alone may not provide a reliable guide to future risk in a warming climate, particularly in regions where extreme rainfall is already showing a clear upward trend.”

SNAPSHOTS



New seismic hazard spotted in Japan’s 2011 quake

Following the 2011 earthquake, 15 minutes after the main shock, the ground across Japan shifted east by up to 6 mm. Using satellite data, scientists have now found this movement was triggered by SCS waves, seismic waves that travel down from the earthquake source, bounce off the planet’s core, and return to the surface. Because these waves travel nearly vertically, they hit Japan’s tectonic plate boundaries all at once. The scientists called this a new seismic hazard.



War in Ukraine hit different mammals differently

Using camera traps, researchers in Ukraine compared animal activity during the 2022 Russian occupation to peacetime data from 2021 in the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone. They found mammals adjusted their habits quickly to survive. For instance, red deer and foxes significantly reduced their activity at night. When combat intensified, roe deer activity dropped while brown hares were spotted more often. And while wild boars avoided military sites, lynx and foxes stayed closer to human settlements.



The plague was deadly even before farming’s rise

Scientists have found evidence of plague outbreaks among hunter-gatherers near Lake Baikal in Siberia dating back 5,500 years. The findings challenge the old belief that the plague only became a major threat once humans began living in dense, crowded farming communities. The team analysed ancient DNA and estimated an infection rate of 39%. However, the strains lacked the genes needed to be spread by flea bites, suggesting they moved directly from person to person.

What a ‘super’ El Niño might mean for India’s monsoon

Setting the El Niño years since 1950 against IMD’s long-period rainfall series shows that, of roughly two dozen such years, about 15 produced a below-normal monsoon and around 10 tipped into outright deficiency

Jacob Koshy

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) confirmed this month that an El Niño has formed in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, and placed the odds at about 63% that it will strengthen into a “very strong” – colloquially, a “super” – event by the northern winter. India’s June rainfall, until the 16th, is roughly 35% below normal. The combination has revived a question that returns with every El Niño year: how reliably do the strongest of these events translate into a failed Indian monsoon?

An El Niño is the periodic warming of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific that tends to weaken the South Asian monsoon and whose potency is measured by how far sea-surface temperatures in a reference patch of the Pacific climb above their long-term average.

D.S. Pai, Chief Forecaster at the India Meteorological Department’s (IMD) Regional Meteorological Centre in Chennai, set out the gradations: a departure of 0.5-1° C is ‘weak,’ 1-1.5° is ‘moderate,’ 1.5-2° is ‘strong’, and anything beyond 2° is ‘very strong.’ He added that some forecasts suggest the current event could approach a record of around 2.5°.

The trade winds that normally drive warm surface water westward towards Asia weaken; the

Heat and rain

Several of India’s worst droughts have been in El Niño years

- The NOAA has confirmed an El Niño has formed, with high odds of becoming a very strong event
- India’s current rainfall deficit in June is mostly local and cannot reliably predict the entire season’s final outcome
- Roughly 60% of El Niño years produce deficient rainfall, often leading to significant agricultural deficits
- The Indian Ocean Dipole sometimes counters El Niño, but this year it may be too weak to do so
- Delayed monsoon onset and dry spells are often more concerning than the total volume of rainfall
- Contemporary climate change makes modern El Niño events more intense than those recorded in the past

El Niño follows a consistent calendar, which bears directly on its monsoon impact. THE HINDU

eastern Pacific warms, which in turn slackens the winds further generating a feedback loop that amplifies the anomaly. Scientists note that a warmer baseline ocean, the result of long-term climate change, has raised the heat available to recent events, making them more intense than earlier ones.

In the long term however, such events remain rare. Only a handful, the instrumental record shows, have crossed the 2° threshold – 1972-73, 1982-83, 1997-98 and 2015-16.

El Niño also follows a consistent calendar, which bears directly on its monsoon impact. “It starts in one spring season, peaks in the winter, and very fast it weakens in the next spring,” Pai said, noting that an event very occa-

sionally persists into a second year. Because the warming establishes only in spring and matures later, he said, its suppressing effect on the monsoon is felt mainly in the middle and later part of the June-September season rather than at its start. June rainfall and the pace of onset, he added, are governed largely by local and regional factors – so a weak June, including the present 35% shortfall, is not by itself a reliable guide to the season.

The 1982-83 El Niño was associated with severe drought and bushfires in Australia and dry conditions across Indonesia. The 1997-98 event drove severe forest fires and choking haze across Indonesia and Southeast Asia, killed an estimated one-sixth of the

world’s coral, and helped push global temperatures to a record. The 2015-16 episode triggered mass bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef, made 2016 the warmest year then recorded, and catalysed severe drought and food shortages across southern and eastern Africa.

Paradoxically, the 1997-98 El Niño actually brought 2% more rains than usual for India’s summer monsoon months. This was due to an effect in the Indian Ocean, called the Indian Ocean Dipole, that brought in warm water pools, countering the Pacific-induced drying. Since then, forecasters have consistently watched for the Dipole’s waxing and waning.

One of the reasons, IMD Director General, M. Mohapatra has said, for a

Microsoft introduces pay-as-you-go model for AI agents



John Xavier

For the past two years, the AI industry has been trying to solve a billing problem: how do you charge users for artificial intelligence?

Bundling AI services into software subscriptions and selling it the way enterprise software has been sold for years looked fine for some time. Microsoft, Google and others added AI assistants to their productivity suites and put a monthly price tag on them.

That logic worked if companies were already paying per employee for email, spreadsheets and collaboration tools. But AI is unlike traditional software.

One employee may use an AI assistant a few times a week to summarise meetings. Another may use it all

day to analyse documents, write reports and automate repetitive tasks. Increasingly, AI systems are also becoming agents that can perform actions on behalf of users, carrying out tasks that would previously have required hours of human effort. This leads to a mismatch between how AI is consumed and how it is billed.

That is what makes Microsoft’s latest move interesting. The company has introduced a pay-as-you-go model for its AI agents, allowing customers to pay according to usage rather than committing solely to fixed licences.

What Microsoft is really doing is moving AI closer to the economics of cloud computing.

Cloud computing became a trillion-dollar business because it replaced large upfront investments with consumption-based pricing. Companies could rent computing power as required and pay for what



Microsoft has introduced a pay-as-you-go model for its AI agents, allowing customers to pay according to usage. REUTERS

they used.

The model worked because it aligned costs with value. If a business needed more computing resources, it paid more. If demand fell, spending fell too. AI seems to indicate a similar trend.

The challenge with subscription pricing for AI services is that it assumes every user derives roughly the same value from the service. In reality, AI usage varies enormously. Some workers barely touch these tools. Others rely on them constantly. The gap is like-

ly to become even wider as AI agents become more capable and autonomous.

A flat monthly fee begins to look increasingly arbitrary in such a world. So, the new pricing attempts to solve that problem by linking spending to usage. Customers can experiment without making large commitments.

But the reason behind Microsoft taking this route isn’t just to give its customers more autonomy.

For instance, once Word is installed, Microsoft does not incur any additional

cost each time a customer types out a new document. The product has been sold. But with AI, the business relationship is back and forth. Every prompt, every response and every agent action consumes computing resources. This type of supplier and customer relationship will shoot up the token generation cost for cloud providers.

No wonder Microsoft picked a consumption-based model that reflects this reality far more accurately than a fixed subscription. In effect, the Windows software maker is likely treating AI as an organism that grows and takes new forms inside an organisation.

The company’s experience with Azure suggests it understands how to build operating models around metered consumption. Enterprises have already become comfortable paying for storage, computing power and databases this way. Paying for AI

capacity may not be such a dramatic leap.

Yet there are reasons for caution. The same pricing model that makes cloud computing flexible can also make it unpredictable. Anyone who has ever been surprised by a cloud-services bill knows that usage-based pricing has a downside. Customers like paying only for what they use, but they also like knowing what next month’s bill will look like.

But as the use of AI agents expands in organisations, it will be difficult to forecast how much to budget for the next quarter. Organisations face a challenge akin to modernising the plumbing of an old, large building.

If AI agents become deeply embedded in their business processes, usage could rise rapidly. Microsoft’s challenge will be convincing customers that they can scale their AI deployments without losing control of spending.



Question Corner

Dive and resurface

Why do recessive traits from older generations suddenly resurface in one individual?
– Deva Narayanan

Genes work in pairs. Every person inherits two copies of most genes, one from each parent. Some gene variants, called dominant alleles, express themselves even when only one copy is present. Others, called recessive alleles, express themselves when a person inherits both copies. Someone with one recessive allele alongside a dominant one is called a carrier: they will show no sign of the trait. So a family may carry the allele for a particular eye colour, yet a single person won’t display

it if in every generation, each carrier is paired with someone who has the dominant allele. But when two carriers have a child together, each parent may pass on their recessive allele, and if both do, the child inherits two copies. Thus, the trait will finally express itself. Chance has a starring role. When eggs and sperm form, genes get shuffled and distributed at random, creating a vast range of possible combinations, which is why even full siblings can inherit different traits from the same parents.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

What does the U.S.-Iran agreement say?

What are the main provisions of the U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding signed on June 15? What commitments have the two countries made under the deal regarding nuclear activities and sanctions? How does the issue of Iran's frozen assets feature in the agreement? Why is Israel opposed to the agreement? What are the main sticking points?

Stanly Johny

The story so far:
After 40 days of war and more than 60 days of intense negotiations, the U.S. and Iran, on June 15, agreed to a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to end the war and start more substantive negotiations on contentious issues. The deal has kicked off a geopolitical storm, with Israel opposing it firmly, causing an unlikely rift between Washington and Tel Aviv. U.S. President Donald Trump, who ripped up the 2015 Iran deal, which was signed by the Obama administration, calling it the “worst deal” in America’s history, is facing backlash at home for the concessions Washington has made to Tehran. Iran’s leadership claims that they defeated the U.S. and Israel in the war and that the terms of the MoU underscored their victory. While the agreement has brought lingering post-ceasefire skirmishes between the U.S. and Iran to an end, this is not a final settlement.

What does the deal say?
The opening article of the MoU calls for a ceasefire on all fronts, “including Lebanon”. It calls on both sides to respect each other’s sovereignty and to refrain from interfering in each other’s internal affairs. The U.S. has lifted its naval blockade of Iranian ports, while Iran has taken steps to remove its restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz. The text calls on Iran to remove all impediments, including mines, within 30 days of the signing of the deal.
One of the contentious issues during the talks was Iran’s demand for access to its frozen funds and for war reparations. The text says Iran will have its funds unfrozen contingent on progress in the second phase of the talks, without specifying the amount or timeline. Iranian state media have reported that Iran has demanded that \$24 billion be unfrozen. Mr. Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance have said that no American money will be paid to Iran. That could be technically correct as the frozen funds are Iranian assets held in different banks across the world under U.S. sanctions. If the U.S. lifts the sanctions, countries and banks could make the transfer.
The U.S. would also work with other regional countries to draw up a plan for Iran’s reconstruction and redevelopment, which would involve \$300 billion in financing. Iran will have access to these funds if a final settlement is reached.

What commitments has Iran made?
Iran, on its part, has pledged never to make a nuclear weapon. This has been the official Iranian position for years. The Iranians had made the same pledge in the 2015 Obama-Iran deal as well. While more contentious issues such as Iran’s possession of 60% enriched uranium (which is a step away from weapons-grade purity) and Iran’s enrichment capabilities are to be discussed in the second phase, according to the text released by the White House,

Both sides also agreed to maintain the status quo until they reach the final deal – Iran will not expand its nuclear programme and the U.S. will not impose additional sanctions and deploy more troops to the region



A woman weeps as she sits on the rubble at the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Qennarit on June 20. AFP

both sides have mutually agreed to “downblend” (dilute) Iran’s enriched material under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Other issues such as enrichment in Iran and the country’s nuclear needs will be discussed as part of the final deal.
Both sides also agreed to maintain the status quo until they reach the final deal – Iran will not expand its nuclear programme and the U.S. will not impose additional sanctions and deploy more troops to the region. Upon signing the MoU, the U.S. will issue waivers for the export of Iran’s crude oil, petroleum products, and other derivatives, and all associated services, including banking, transactions, insurances, and transportation.

Where does Israel stand?
For Israel, the U.S.-Iran deal appears to be a major strategic setback. Israel launched this war with the U.S. on February 28 to bring about regime change in Iran, destroy its nuclear and missile capabilities, and stop the country from supporting its non-state allies such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and Houthis. Israel had been a big proponent of a war on Iran – officials of former U.S. administrations had said Israel had pushed previous Presidents to launch strikes on Iran. After the attacks by Hamas in Israel on October 7, 2023, the Zionist state fought a multi-front war against Hamas, Hezbollah, and the then Syrian regime of President Bashar al-Assad – all Iranian allies. The fall of the Assad regime in December 2024 weakened Iran’s regional standing further, as Syria was a key link between Hezbollah and Tehran. In June 2025, Israel bombed Iran aimed at destroying

The war in Lebanon posed the first test to the deal on Saturday when Iran announced that it had closed the Strait of Hormuz, citing Israeli attacks on Lebanon

its nuclear facilities. The U.S. joined in, but after a single strike, Mr. Trump enforced a ceasefire between Israel and Iran. But the 12-day war, as it is called, was only a trial run.
What Tel Aviv wanted was regime change in Tehran, which it thought would reshape West Asia with Israel being at the centre of a new unipolar regional order. But this project collapsed as Iran survived the 40 days of bombing. Iran’s stranglehold of the Strait of Hormuz and its refusal to make concessions on the nuclear issue forced the U.S. to diverge from Israel’s maximalist demands and take a more narrowed-down approach to end the war and address the nuclear question diplomatically. But to address these issues diplomatically after the war’s failure, the U.S. would have to give substantial economic concessions to Tehran. As the U.S. is doing just that, Israel, increasingly isolated and frustrated, fears that the deal would render Iran conventionally stronger, altering the regional balance of power.

Why does Lebanon matter?
Despite being cut off from the Iran-U.S. diplomatic process, Israel still possesses a key card – Lebanon. Israeli troops have occupied parts of Southern Lebanon, a Hezbollah stronghold. Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shia militia-cum-political party, is a close ally of Iran. To have a ceasefire in Lebanon, which

has been mentioned in the MoU, Mr. Trump should get Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on board. Since Israeli troops are present in South Lebanon, Hezbollah, which is far from defeated, is targeting the occupying force. And in the name of striking Hezbollah, Israel is bombing Lebanon.
Both Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz have said that the Israeli troops will not pull back from Southern Lebanon. This keeps Lebanon as a flashpoint with a potential for escalation. An Iranian delegation was supposed to travel to Geneva to start direct negotiations for the second phase on June 19, but Iran called off talks, citing Israel’s attacks on Lebanon. Mr. Netanyahu seems determined to use the Lebanon card, making the U.S.-Iran peace process complicated. Israel’s continued attacks in Lebanon and its public criticism of the Iran MoU have triggered rare public criticism of Israel from top American officials, including Mr. Trump and Mr. Vance.

Will the agreement hold?
Both Mr. Trump and the Iranians seem determined to take the peace process to the next step. Mr. Trump, who bombed Iran for 40 days, and kept a blockade on Iran for roughly 60 days, realises the massive economic costs of the war. The war was also unpopular at home and cost the U.S. billions of dollars, depleting its stockpile of weapons.
Iran, on the other hand, has emerged regionally stronger. It will restart negotiations with the U.S. without the fear of a U.S. strike. But at the same time, Iran wants long-term economic relief and security guarantees to rebuild the country and address internal resentment. While there are incentives for both sides to reach a final settlement, there are three key sticking points. The first is Lebanon. As long as Israeli troops continue occupation of Southern Lebanon, the country will remain a tinderbox. And given that Israel is critical of the U.S.-Iran deal, Mr. Netanyahu could escalate the war aimed at torpedoing the detente. The war in Lebanon posed the first test to the deal on Saturday when Iran announced that it had closed the Strait of Hormuz, citing Israeli attacks on Lebanon.
The second is Iran’s highly enriched uranium (HEU). The U.S., until recently, argued that Iran’s HEU should be taken out of the country and destroyed, whereas Iran has always opposed such a move. Mr. Trump said last week that the HEU would be diluted “either in America or in Iran”, which was a concession. A final agreement should draw up the modalities for downblending under the IAEA’s supervision, which also means that Iran should restore IAEA access to its nuclear sites.
The third issue is Iran’s ‘enrichment right’. The U.S., until the war began, opposed any enrichment on Iranian soil, which had been the Israeli position as well. Iran says it will continue to enrich uranium for civilian purposes. The final agreement should narrow the gap between these two positions as well.

Why have India’s statistical databases been upgraded?

What key economic indicators have been revised? Why was an overhaul of the databases necessary? What changes were made to the national accounts and GDP estimates? How has the measurement of industrial output been improved? What changes have been made to India’s inflation indicators?

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:
Last November, the Indian government received a ‘C’ grade, the second-lowest grade, by the International Monetary Fund for the quality of its national accounts statistics. Over the last few months, it has made several upgrades to its statistical databases, improving their timeliness, representativeness, accuracy, and coverage. These improvements have been wide-ranging, covering the way India measures its gross domestic product (GDP), the value addition in the economy, industrial output, and price levels at the retail, wholesale, and producer levels.

What are the metrics that have been updated?
The most significant of these changes was made to India’s national accounts statistics in February this year by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). National accounts include several key metrics such as GDP, gross value added (GVA), sector-wise output and growth figures, and the contributions of each of the engines of growth to the economy – government expenditure, private investment, household consumption, and trade. These are released on a quarterly and annual basis.

In June, MoSPI also updated the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which captures how industrial activity in the economy is doing on a monthly basis. This includes key sectors such as manufacturing, mining, electricity, infrastructure, capital goods, and consumer goods. Apart from providing a regular snapshot of how the industrial sectors are doing, these monthly figures also feed into the GDP and GVA metrics.

The third broad set of upgrades were to how India measures inflation. Price changes at the retail level, which is meant to capture the consumer-end of the market, are measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Similarly, price changes at the wholesale level, which is ideally meant to capture the prices that producers get, are measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI). MoSPI releases the CPI while the Ministry of Commerce and Industry releases the WPI. Both these indices have been significantly

updated and upgraded – the CPI in February and the WPI in June.
In June, the Commerce Ministry also introduced a new index – the Producer Price Index (PPI) – which not only captures the price impact on producers more accurately, but will also replace the WPI entirely in five years.

Why was an update needed?
These databases were outdated and were becoming less representative of reality with each passing year. The GDP and GVA data, for example, had a base year of 2011-12, as did the IIP. The economy has changed substantially in the years since then, with the contribution of several sectors to the economy growing while others have diminished in importance. An outdated base year weakens the overall measurements and makes them less representative of the current reality.
Before they were updated, the WPI and CPI had base years of 2011-12 and 2012, respectively. Here, too, the outdated indices were measuring price changes and index values based on household consumption patterns that were about 15 years old. Several items used back then, such as DVDs and cassettes, were included in the indices even though



Items like DVD players and tape recorders have been removed from CPI. GETTY IMAGES

The databases were outdated and were becoming less representative of reality with each passing year. An outdated base year weakens the overall measurements and makes them less representative of the current reality

they are not used now. Conversely, several items that are being used now were not captured by the indices because they were not in use back then.
More accurate price information is important not just for policymaking but also for a more accurate measure of the size of the economy and its growth. The RBI’s Monetary Policy Committee, for example, uses the CPI to gauge inflation and decide on interest rates. The Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief given to current and former government employees, respectively, are pegged to inflation. The rate of growth of the real economy, which is the commonly accepted metric used to measure growth worldwide, is arrived at after having adjusted the impact of inflation on the economy.

What changes were made to the national accounts?
First, the base year was updated to 2022-23, immediately making the data more representative of the current situation. Apart from this, the new series of national accounts has also incorporated several methodological changes and measurement improvements.
One of the most important changes, and one that has long been advocated by statisticians, was the incorporation of the ‘double deflator’ method for estimating real GDP growth. This adjusts input and output prices separately, providing a much more accurate picture of the impact of price changes. Currently, the ‘double deflator’ method is being used for agriculture and manufacturing. It is expected to be adopted for the other sectors as well over time.
The other important change was the segregation of activities in multi-activity enterprises. There are several companies that are active across different sectors. Earlier, the data would capture the company’s entire output and allocate it to the main sector within which it was operating. This yielded a somewhat inaccurate measure of sectoral activity. Now, the output will be allocated to each sector proportionately, providing a more accurate picture.
The new series also incorporates new data sources such as the Goods and Services Tax data and the Periodic Labour Force Surveys. It also incorporates several improvements in statistical methodology that will reduce discrepancies.

What other changes were made to output measures?
MoSPI updated the base year of the IIP to 2022-23 and expanded its coverage by including sectors such as gas supply, water supply, sewerage, and waste

management activities, while retaining the previous sectors. Simultaneously, the index was revamped to provide greater granularity in terms of sources of electricity (renewable and non-renewable), and the types of minerals produced.
The revised item basket consists of 1,042 products mapped to 463 item groups, compared to 839 items mapped to 407 item groups in the previous series.

What are the inflation-related changes?
The base year of the CPI was updated to 2024, and the basket of items it measures as well as their relative weightages were pegged to the latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey of 2023-24. The price change metrics now better reflect the current consumption patterns of households.
The data is also more illustrative, with the tables providing 12 different categories of items compared to the six groups in the previous series. Overall, the total number of items measured – including both goods and services – has increased from 299 to 358.
These additions of goods and services include for the first time inclusion of rural house rent, modern consumption items such as online media services and fuels such as CNG and PNG, and improvements in the measurement of telephone charges, rail fare, air fare, fuel, postal charges and online media and streaming services. Items that are no longer used, such as VCRs, DVD players, radio, tape recorders, and cassettes, were removed from the CPI.
The WPI was similarly updated, with its base year revised to 2022-23 and the number of items expanded from 697 to 957. The new series also incorporates several methodological refinements.
The data have also been reorganised more logically. For instance, crude petroleum and natural gas have been moved from the ‘Primary Articles’ category to the ‘Fuel and Power’ major group, which already includes other key fuels such as coal, electricity and petroleum products.
The third major change introduced by the Commerce Ministry was the adoption of a PPI. Unlike the WPI, the PPI separately tracks the prices producers pay for inputs and the prices they receive for their outputs. The PPI excludes additional costs such as transport and indirect taxes, which the WPI includes. This makes the PPI a more accurate representation of prices at the producer level. It also incorporates both goods and services, which makes it more holistic. The government has indicated that the WPI will be phased out over the next five years, leaving the CPI and PPI as the country’s two principal price indices.

PROFILES

A platform for the globalised elite

Group of Seven

The grouping of industrialised nations, founded in the 1970s, has weathered major geopolitical storms across the 20th and 21st centuries to remain a key forum for discussions and decision-making on global conflicts and economic challenges

Kallol Bhattacharjee

The 1960s were a period of restlessness. The anti-Vietnam war protests and civil rights agitation made the Lyndon Johnson administration uneasy. It was in this backdrop that Johnson came to Michigan on May 22, 1964 to deliver his ‘Great Society’ speech. Johnson quoted Greek philosopher Aristotle to talk about how to create prosperity. “The Great Society” he said, “rests on abundance and liberty for all. It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice, to which we are totally committed in our time. But that is just the beginning.”

The previous decade had seen the arrival of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) that mobilised the decolonised societies. With the upswing in domestic disturbances in the U.S. it was obvious that the U.S. that had provided loans and economic assistance after the Second World War would no longer be able to provide leadership to the global north on its own and that it would require support from the partner countries in the West. As the decolonisation gathered speed, there was a greater need for the Global North to team up. Thus was born the idea of reviving the Global Economic Governance in favour of the industrialised economies out of which would emerge the Group of Seven (G7) in the following decade.

The Global Economic Governance (GEG) had been fashionable since the beginning of the Bretton Woods system but after nearly a decade of unrest in western societies, a definite push came in 1973 when the Yom Kippur war and hostilities between the Arabs and Israel triggered the first oil shock. The oil shock highlighted that the emerging order would challenge the domination of the western world.

In this backdrop, the first World Economic Summit was organised by French President Giscard d’Estaing and West Germany’s Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in 1975 who invited the leaders of the U.K., Italy, Japan and the U.S. for a meeting at the Chateau



AP

de Rambouillet in France. It began as the Group of Six and in 1976, Canada joined the grouping, making it the G7. The economic and financial crises of that time provided the G7 the agenda for the foreseeable future as it came to be known as a platform of industrialised countries for dealing with financial challenges.

Beyond economy

The 1970s were the decade of the New International Economic Order (NIEO) under which the Global south under the leadership of the Group of 77 and NAM demanded the establishment of a new economic order. Under this system, developing nations pushed for a transformation of global financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to deal with the requirements of the newly decolonised economies of Asia, Africa and Latin America. These demands, however, had to be adjusted against the overall power dynamics between the two superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

The G7 started playing a bigger role beyond pure economic issues during the 1980s when it provided a platform to industrialised countries to coordinate response to major conflicts that threatened to interrupt global supply chains. First was the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, which was followed almost simultaneously by the hostilities between the U.K. and Argentina over the Falkland islands and the Iran-Iraq war. It also played an active role in dealing with various sides for the Lebanese civil war. In 1982 when Israel invaded Lebanon, the G7 expressed shock on Israel’s actions. On the Falklands dispute, however, it supported the U.K. and warned about controlling the conflicts in the West Asian region as they could spill into larger disruption of energy and navigation.

Through coordination among the major economies, G7 for the first time in 1990 showed that it had acquired the ability to put economic pressure to a country that refused to abide by the norms of the international order. As

Saddam Hussein prepared to invade Kuwait in August 1990, the G7 convened a meeting in Houston and ensured that Hussein would not profit from forcibly acquiring the energy wealth of Kuwait. By handling a range of conflicts in the 1980s, G7 evolved from the strictly an economic platform to a strategic international mechanism that could play a greater role in maintaining the status quo and avoid shocks and disruptions to the system.

The end of the Cold War provided the G7 with the major opportunity to reinvent itself and this it did by opening its doors to Russia. Already during the Iraqi crisis of 1990-91, G7 had succeeded in getting the USSR on board. The new equation with the USSR was made evident with the arrival of Mikhail Gorbachev to the G7 London summit on July 14-16, 1991.

Following the dissolution of the USSR, the G7 invited Russian President Boris Yeltsin on multiple occasions, indicating a deeper integration of post-Soviet Russia into the international financial architecture.

During this period, the G7 also helped Russia deal with the demands for transition by supporting it with an economic package. In 1998, Russia formally joined the grouping, transforming it into G8.

France summit

The G7’s most visible role in recent years has been in opposing Russia’s military campaign in Ukraine. Following Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014, G8 expelled Russia reverting the grouping to its earlier avatar of G7. That apart, the grouping has emerged as a forum for important discussions in dealing with issues that are global in nature and require a collective action. Among the issues that the G7 has prioritised are climate change, pandemic preparedness, energy security, critical minerals and preservation of supply chains. In order to address these vital issues, the G7 has welcomed participation by other important countries such as India, Egypt, South Africa, Brazil, South Korea, Ukraine and the UAE to its summit meetings and consultations.

In 52nd G7 summit, held in France on June 15-17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had participated. Among the topics discussed at the summit were the Ukraine war, the U.S.-Iran deal, global economic imbalances, Artificial Intelligence and debt burdens in the developing countries.

As the world deals with major supply chain disruptions and uncertainties following the eruption of the U.S.-Israel war against Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the G7, with its permanent guest European Union, has provided an additional mechanism to discuss difficult issues, often providing its high power table to dissect policies that are relevant to the world order.

This informal meeting allows the global leaders a much required interaction that is not possible within the confines of the UN. While the world has gone through the Cold War and post-Cold War phases, the G7 remains a continuity as it maintains the globalised economic structure without allowing cracks to spread.

THE GIST

In the backdrop of the oil shock, French President Giscard d’Estaing and West Germany’s Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in 1975 organised a summit with leaders from the U.K., Italy, Japan and the U.S. in France to discuss economic challenges

It began as the Group of Six and in 1976, Canada joined the grouping, making it the G7

The economic and financial crises of that time provided the G7 the agenda for the foreseeable future as it came to be known as a platform of industrialised countries for dealing with financial challenges

Officer at the helm

Lt. Gen. Dhiraj Seth

The new Army Chief assumes command at a juncture marked by rapid technological advances, evolving security challenges, and a growing emphasis on joint operations

Saurabh Trivedi

Lt. Gen. Dhiraj Seth, presently serving as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff, will assume office as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff on June 30, succeeding Gen. Upendra Dwivedi upon his retirement.

Lt. Gen. Seth will be the seventh officer from the Armoured Corps to assume the post. Of the previous six Armoured Corps officers who became Army chief, two took over after the position unexpectedly fell vacant. While the Infantry has produced most of India’s Army chiefs, five have come from the Corps of Artillery and one from the Corps of Engineers.

Lt. Gen. Seth is set to remain in office until August 31, 2028. The last Armoured Corps officer to head the Indian Army was Gen. S. Roy Chowdhury, who served as Army chief from 1994 to 1997.

A highly accomplished Armoured Corps officer with nearly four decades of distinguished service, Lt. Gen. Seth brings to the position extensive operational experience, strategic vision and a strong record in military modernisation.

An alumnus of the prestigious National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, Lt. Gen. Seth was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986.



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Throughout his career, he has served across diverse operational environments, from desert warfare formations to counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

He commanded an Armoured Regiment in the desert sector, an Armoured Brigade in the Western Theatre and a Counter-Insurgency Force in Jammu & Kashmir.

Following his promotion to Lieutenant General, he led the prestigious Sudarshan Chakra Corps, one of the Indian Army’s premier strike formations, before serving as General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area. He later commanded both South Western Command and Southern Command.

Lt. Gen. Seth has also held several key staff and strategic appointments. These include Brigadier Major of an Independent Armoured Brigade in Jammu & Kashmir, Operations Officer with the UN Mission in Angola and Assistant Military Secretary at Army Headquarters.

Widely regarded as one of the architects of the Indian Army’s modernisation efforts, Lt. Gen. Seth has played a pivotal role in strategic planning, force structuring and capability development.

Tri-service exercises

He also oversaw major operational preparedness and training activities, including large-scale joint and tri-service exercises focused on emerging domains such as cyber, information warfare, multi-domain operations and amphibious capabilities. Among these, Exercise Trishul reflected the growing emphasis on integrated operations and joint warfighting concepts. His tenure witnessed continued emphasis on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), reflecting the Indian Army’s commitment to national resilience and support for civil authorities.

He has served as Colonel Capability Development for Mechanised Forces, Brigadier Perspective

Plans and Acquisition, and Additional Director General Capability Development. In these capacities, he contributed to the Army’s Long-Term Integrated Perspective Planning process and future capability enhancement roadmap.

As General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, he championed technology adoption, innovation and civil-military collaboration. A scholar-soldier, Lt. Gen. Seth is a graduate of the Higher Command Course and the National Defence College, and has attended advanced military courses in France and the U.S.

He comes from a military family. He is the son of Lt. Ge. Krishna Mohan Seth, former Adjutant General of the Indian Army and former Governor of Tripura and Chhattisgarh. The family shares a unique legacy, with both father and son having commanded the Sudarshan Chakra Corps. His younger brother, Rear Admiral Ravnish Seth, is a serving Flag Officer in the Indian Navy.

Lt. Gen. Dhiraj Seth assumes command at a crucial juncture marked by rapid technological advancements, evolving security challenges and an increasing emphasis on joint military operations. The task before him is to lead the Indian Army through its next phase of transformation and preparedness.

Mass messaging and more

Telegram

The ‘WhatsApp alternative’ with a strong commitment to user privacy, which has over 15 crore users in India, is facing a week-long ban in the country

Aroon Deep

The mythology surrounding Telegram founder Pavel Durov is one of exile and reinvention: Mr. Durov declined to cooperate with Russian diktats to fork over data on Ukrainian protesters in 2014, in the months following the Euromaidan demonstrations in Kyiv. Mr. Durov’s previous company, VKontakte, remains a popular social media platform with much of the same design language and content as Telegram, which was created around the same time he left Russia.

To understand Telegram’s success in the highly expensive and competitive messaging app market, it is useful to look at what the app does differently from WhatsApp, or even Signal. The service moved quickly in its early years to deploy features that have made it a favourite among activist and dissident circles. For instance, channels send push notifications at a massive scale to subscribers, allowing activists, politicians and even news organisations to quickly get instant viewership on fast-moving events like the Russia-Ukraine war.

While some of those features have found their way into WhatsApp, Telegram stayed relevant with two more things that its competitors may have had less



REUTERS

appetite for: incredibly large filesharing limits, and a penchant for performing its stated principles – a commitment to “user privacy and human rights such as freedom of speech and assembly,” according to an automated message shared with journalists who send the platform any inquiries.

Deep imprint

The latter manifested in its decision to quickly challenge a week-long ban in India starting June 16, following the National Testing Agency’s (NTA) concerns that exam paper leak related frauds, made possible by editing features the app provides to backdate newly uploaded documents, may cause mass confusion. Telegram lost its petition in the Delhi High Court seeking to overturn this ban.

Just like Meta and X, a billionaire founder’s personal philosophies have left a deep imprint on the app’s functioning. Mr. Durov said the firm loses “tens of millions of dollars” in India – an estimate that is consis-

tent with its 15 crore-strong user base and the likely hundreds of terabytes of data travelling through the platform each day.

Unlike Meta and X, which are part of a diversified galaxy of firms, allowing their founders to cross-subsidise heavy messaging, Mr. Durov’s firm is purely messaging-focused. That may have naturally incentivised the firm to vigorously fight bans and restrictions wherever possible.

But that confrontation has come with little representation. Even in a market where the firm loses millions of dollars with such a large user base, it has only a handful of employees, mostly to liaise with the Union government. It has been embroiled in copy-right-related cases at a massive scale, for instance with some Hindi newspaper publishers.

It ended up making concessions, but the last-minute participation in court – when its availability was under legitimate threat – was also visible in Brazil,

where it had no personnel or legal representation at hand until a judge blocked the platform entirely. Mr. Durov, a French-Emirati-Russian citizen, was himself arrested in France for allegedly lax moderation on the platform of child sex abuse and exploitation material.

A result of not having diversified business interests is that the firm gets to speak its mind. That is certainly not the case with firms like Meta and Google, which are often in a balancing act with the Union government in cases like censorship, since they have a vast array of digital revenues at risk if they are seen as too obdurate. Relenting to demands and a give-and-take approach to a relationship with the state is typical of the Big Tech giants.

Not Telegram. The firm’s official X handle quickly responded with open derision to the ban, even as advocates at Khaitan & Co. were strenuously making a legal case to quash the ban in court. “Over 300,000 people die of drowning each year. In order to protect society, it is now illegal to consume or possess water,” the account posted on June 17. “Your government is also considering banning solid food, as it presents a need-less choking hazard. You are not an adult. You are a baby. Eat the baby food,” it added.

GAZA CITY

Israeli strikes kill five, including a family of four, say Gaza officials



Gaza health officials said Israeli strikes on Saturday killed five persons, including four members of the same family, in the latest violence to rock the Palestinian territory. They said that the strike also injured 12 others. At least 1,012 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the ceasefire took effect on October 10 last year. AFP

PESHAWAR

Seven killed and three injured in twin blasts in northwest Pakistan



At least seven persons were killed and three others injured on Saturday in twin roadside blasts in Marka Bera area of the Bannu district in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said. No group has claimed responsibility for it yet. The police added that an investigation has been launched. PTI

GENEVA

UN rights chief 'deeply regrets' the new EU migrant return rules



The UN rights chief said on Saturday he deeply regretted the EU's new migration rules, which allow much broader detention powers and the creation of deportation centres outside the bloc. Volker Turk said the EU and its member states must ensure the rules fully comply with international human rights and refugee law. AFP

DHAKA

Bangladesh PM to visit Malaysia and China on his first foreign tour



Bangladesh's Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is set to visit Malaysia and China on his first trip abroad since assuming office, the Foreign Ministry said on Saturday, bypassing neighbouring India as his inaugural destination. Mr. Rahman will visit Malaysia on Sunday before travelling to China the following day. AFP

Israeli strikes in Lebanon kill 16 after claims of truce

Israel stays committed to truce and will continue to act against any threat to country or its forces, says a statement; Hezbollah claims that it will not permit Israeli freedom of movement in Lebanon

Reuters
ZURICH/DUBAI/WASHINGTON

Israeli strikes killed 16 people in Lebanon on Saturday, hours after a truce took effect, with Israel saying it was responding to attacks from Hezbollah and the Iran-backed group saying it would not allow Israel "freedom of movement" in Lebanon. A halt to fighting in Lebanon is a condition for starting 60 days of U.S.-Iranian talks on Tehran's nuclear program and other issues key to forging a more durable deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and stabilise global oil supplies. It was not clear when those talks might begin. Lebanon's state news agency NNA said Israeli warplanes and drones struck locations across southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley on Saturday, both Hezbollah strongholds. Lebanon's Civil Defence service said 16 people were killed in the raids. An Israeli military official said Hezbollah fired



Crushed dreams: A child stands at the site of an Israeli strike in Qennarit, southern Lebanon on Saturday. REUTERS

more than 50 projectiles at Israeli forces in southern Lebanon overnight, and that Israel had attacked what it described as Hezbollah targets in response. A military statement added that Israel was committed to the ceasefire and would continue to act against any threat to Israel or its forces. A Hezbollah statement said its fighters had confronted Israeli forces trying to infiltrate the Ali al-Taher hill area in southern Lebanon overnight, and had inflicted casualties. A senior Hezbollah official said that the group

would not allow Israeli forces freedom of movement in Lebanese territory. 'Committed to truce' The Hezbollah statement said the group remained committed to the ceasefire but would respond to any attempt by Israel to seize territory or expand its occupation. Lebanon was drawn into the regional war when Hezbollah attacked Israel after the U.S. and Israel began their war on Iran. Israel responded with an offensive against Hezbollah

that included invading south Lebanon. One of the deadliest Israeli strikes on Saturday hit a three-storey residential building in the town of Barish in the Tyre district, killing a father, a mother and their two children, a town official said. The Lebanese army said an Israeli strike had also killed a soldier on the Kfar-rumman-Nabatieh road. Israel's Arabic-language military spokesperson said calm and stability could be achieved if Hezbollah ceased what she described as hostile activities and violations of agreements. She said Israel's presence in Lebanon was intended to remove threats, not to harm Lebanese civilians. Lebanon's Health Ministry said that Israeli attacks since March 2 had reached 4,057 dead, including 135 health and emergency workers, and 12,121 people wounded. Israel says at least 32 Israeli soldiers and four civilians have been killed in the conflict with Hezbollah.

Meloni hits back as Trump escalates G7 photo spat

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni fired back at U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday, saying his "constant, unprovoked attacks are senseless" after he escalated a diplomatic row by accusing her of repeatedly seeking a photograph with him. The clash has opened an unusually personal rift between Mr. Trump and one of Europe's most prominent right-wing leaders, who had sought to cast herself as a bridge between Washington and the continent during Mr. Trump's return to power. Mr. Trump had initially told Italian broadcaster La7 that Ms. Meloni "begged" him for a picture at this week's G7 summit in France, saying he agreed only because he "felt sorry for her". Ms. Meloni angrily denied the claim, calling it "made up," but Mr. Trump doubled down in a post on Truth Social, saying Ms. Meloni had asked "over and over" for a photograph during the summit. He also accused her of trying to repair relations with Washington for domestic political reasons after Italy failed to support U.S. action against Iran. "Now, after the United States defeated Iran militarily, she wants to be friends again in order to get her 'numbers up.' No thanks!!!" he wrote. He said Ms. Meloni was doing "poorly in Italy" and suggested this was linked to her refusal to let the United States use Italian "landing strips or runways" during the conflict with Iran. Mr. Trump also revived his long-running complaint that the United States spends heavily to protect "so-called" NATO allies, saying Washington contributes hundreds of billions of dollars to defend Italy and others. Ms. Meloni, in a blistering response on Instagram, accused Mr. Trump of "constant, unprovoked... senseless" attacks and said her popularity did not depend on her relationship with the U.S. President. "Being your friend certainly has not helped it, nor does it depend on my relationship with you," she wrote. She rejected Mr. Trump's criticism over the use of U.S. military facilities in Italy, saying they were governed by agreements that Rome had respected. Ms. Meloni sought to draw a line under the spat, saying Saturday's response would be her last remarks on the subject.



Frosty handshake: Donald Trump had initially told La7 that Giorgia Meloni 'begged' him for a picture at the G7 summit. AFP

Diplomats hold talks on U.S.-Iran deal in Swiss resort

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

Diplomats from several countries were meeting on Saturday at a Swiss retreat in a bid to maintain dialogue on the preliminary U.S.-Iran deal to halt the West Asia war, said Bern. The Swiss Foreign Ministry said diplomats were in discussions at the luxury Burgenstock resort near Lucerne in central Switzerland, without giving further details. A diplomatic source said the discussions under way on Saturday were preparatory in nature. Senior-level talks at the hotel complex were initially planned for Friday, but were called off, with the process shrouded in layers of uncertainty, as Israel carried out deadly strikes in southern Lebanon. Swiss public broadcaster RTS said technical delegations from the U.S. and Iran, plus from mediators Qatar and Pakistan, were present at the discussions. "Diplomats from various countries currently present are continuing their efforts to maintain the dialogue," the Foreign Ministry said.

Bolivia declares state of emergency; major military deployment to follow

Reuters
LA PAZ

Bolivia's crisis intensified on Saturday as President Rodrigo Paz declared a state of emergency, enabling wider military deployment to clear blockades and restore order after protests brought the economy to a halt over the past 50 days. The move came in a live message to the nation just hours after Mr. Paz unveiled a deal struck on Friday with the main union, the Bolivian Workers' Confederation, (COB) that aimed to ease tension.

The conflict initially erupted after Mr. Paz abruptly cut long-standing fuel subsidies to shrink the deficit, amid a worsening dollar crunch and talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Despite later steps to stabilise fuel prices and reverse unpopular land reforms, protests intensified into broader discontent, with unions demanding wage increases, an end to fuel and dollar shortages, and Mr. Paz's resignation. Protesting groups have cut off key roads, stranding trucks and choking supplies of food, fuel and medicines to many areas.

President Donald Trump unveils the new Air Force One, a converted Qatari jet

Associated Press
JOINT BASE ANDREWS

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday showed off the new Air Force One, a formerly Qatari-owned jumbo jet that has been converted into the official U.S. presidential aircraft. The new aircraft eschews the Kennedy-era robin's egg blue exterior of the old plane for a bolder look, with the underbelly of the plane painted navy blue with a red stripe above it. The plane's left side, where the President boards,

features the presidential seal, while the tail of the aircraft has a massive American flag on it. "This plane was transformed into a flying White House at a level of luxury that nobody has ever seen before," Mr. Trump said from inside the massive Joint Base Andrews hangar, as a couple hundred assembled Air Force personnel looked on. The gift from Qatar is serving as a "bridge" aircraft to carry the President until the new planes ordered directly from Boeing arrive. That is currently slated for 2028.



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6-e tender Invitation for Bids No: 06 / 2026-2027

Dated: 19.06.2026

Name of Work	Approximate Value of Work in Lakhs
1. Construction of New Building for KGBV Boarding School at Senthnanadu in Kallakurichi District. (SE/NC/DB/1265/2026)	Rs.217.61 + GST @ 18%
2. Construction of 85 Individual houses (25 Nos. of Inspector/Sub Inspector and 60 Nos. of PC/HC) under "Own Your House Scheme" at Pappinaickanahalli in Dharmapuri District. (SE/NC/DB/1736/2026)	2366.44 + GST @ 18%

1) For Tender document, visit https://tntenders.gov.in
2) Date and Time for downloading and submission of tender documents:
Sl. No. 1 = 30.06.2026 from 12.00 Noon to 14.07.2026 upto 6.00 P.M
Sl. No. 2 = 30.06.2026 from 12.00 Noon to 29.07.2026 upto 6.00 P.M
3) Date and time of opening of the e-tender : Sl. No. 1 = 16.07.2026 at 11.15 A.M
Sl. No. 2 = 31.07.2026 at 11.15 A.M
4) Detailed Tender Notice is available in the website www.tnphc.com & www.tnpolice.gov.in

Superintending Engineer,
North Circle, TNPHC Ltd

DIPR/2104/NOT/2026-2027



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Office of the Development Commissioner
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Date: 21.06.2026

NOTICE

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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

a) The eligibility criteria, qualifications, experience, tenure of engagement and remuneration for the above post shall be as per the Terms of Reference specified in the detailed advertisement available in website.

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c) The last date for submission of application is 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in Newspaper.

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A ND-NDE

India meets SA in first real challenge

The match could potentially decide one semifinalist from the Group of Death; Wolvaardt & Co. had beaten Harmanpreet's side in a recent series



Smooth start: India has registered emphatic wins over Pakistan and the Netherlands. x@BCCIWOMEN

T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MANCHESTER

This is the city that gave the world Emmeline Pankhurst. She fought hard to give the women of this country the right to vote and impacted other parts of the world, too. Women have come a long way since that suffragette moment. As has women's cricket, from the times of talented, but neglected, unpaid female players. Even at the time of the FIFA World Cup, the Women's T20 World Cup has managed to attract plenty of attention. And on Sunday afternoon here at Old Trafford, India is taking on South Africa in one of the biggest matches yet. It is also a potential quarterfinal. In this Group of Death, India and South Africa are pooled alongside Australia,

which is looking in ominous touch and is on top of Group A with three wins in as many games. The first of those was against South Africa. It was rather a comprehensive one, too. Laura Wolvaardt's women have bounced back since then, beating Pakistan by two wickets. But they know the neighbouring Asian country is a different kettle of fish, though they have the pleasant memories of thrashing India 4-1 in a bilateral T20I series in South Africa just a couple of months ago. India then went on to lose in England (1-2) too, ahead of the World Cup. The Women in Blue, however, have had a great start to their World Cup campaign, but the wins, authoritative though they were, came against Pakistan and the Netherlands. This is India's first real test in the competition. But the batting of Smriti Mandhana, who hit 68 and

74 in those matches, and Shafali Verma, who returned to form with a fifty in the last match, up the order and Richa Ghosh lower down seems to deliver what it has promised. The team management may not, however, mind more runs from Jemimah Rodrigues and captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who will feature in a historic 200th T20I. It will be interesting to see who they bring in place of Shreyanka Patil, the injured off-spinner who is out of the tournament. The Proteas will want to remind India of that recent series. They are a well-balanced side that has had some great results over the last couple of years. Wolvaardt leads a strong batting line-up, while the return of the pacy Shabnim Ismail has made the attack sharper. Then, there are the quality all-rounders like Marizanne Kapp and Annerie Dercksen.

Harmanpreet at 200 — standing the test of time

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MANCHESTER

Another day. Another milestone. But it is unlikely that Harmanpreet Kaur will be thinking too much about becoming the first woman — or man for that matter — to play 200 T20Is when she walks out to toss with Laura Wolvaardt at Old Trafford here on Sunday afternoon. She could only be concerned about the job at hand, the match against South Africa, and the significance of it, when it comes to getting a ticket for the semifinals at the Women's T20 World Cup. Harmanpreet has not just been one of the key batters for India for several years, but an inspirational captain as well. It was only fitting that she was the skipper when India won the ODI World Cup at Navi Mumbai beating South Africa. She deserved that honour. Her fairytale innings against Australia in the semifinals of the 2017 World Cup took the Indians to the final, where they went down to England at Lord's. That knock inspired not just the girls in India but across the world. Among them was Chloe Tryon. "It was incredible to watch that innings and it has been remarkable to watch her journey too," says the South African all-rounder, who has been her teammate at Mumbai Indians in the WPL. "Since the time I was a small girl, I was looking up to big players and she has been a role model for so



One of a kind: Harmanpreet will add another feather to her cap on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES



Harmanpreet is a top-level athlete. She has been a performer, be it in any format. She has a great work ethic and keeps working on the basics

AAVISHKAR SALVI
India bowling coach

many players around the world." Tryon thinks it is amazing that Harmanpreet continues to play. "And she is leading from the front, which is really good to



She shares her experience with the youngsters and passes on a lot of information. This will help them in their career growth

see," she says. "I hope she has 200 games more; I don't know how many more she could push through. It is great to see how much the women's game has grown and the way she has taken it forward. She is a fierce player. You get afraid the longer she bats".

THE SCORES

Australia 219/6 in 20 overs (Beth Mooney 74, Ashleigh Gardner 58, Georgia Wareham 41, Iris Zwilling 3/52) bt Netherlands 121/3 in 20 overs (Babette de Leede 56 n.o., Sterre Kalis 44 n.o.). **Toss:** Netherlands; **PoM:** Mooney. Bangladesh 123/6 in 20 overs (Nigar Sultana 36, Shorna Akter 39 n.o., Fatima Sana 2/18) bt Pakistan 100/8 in 20 overs

(Sanjida Akter 3/21, Nahida Akter 3/18). **Toss:** Bangladesh; **PoM:** Shorna. **On Friday:** New Zealand 140/6 in 20 overs (Amelia Kerr 30, Brooke Halliday 34, Izzy Sharp 36, Orla Prendergast 2/26, Cara Murray 2/26) bt Ireland 136/4 in 20 overs (Gaby Lewis 58, Prendergast 59, Amelia Kerr 2/23). **Toss:** Ireland. **PoM:** Amelia Kerr.

Today's matches

VS

Bristol, 3 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **29**
West Indies **20** | Sri Lanka **7**
NR **2**

VS

Manchester, 7 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **24**
South Africa **10** | India **11**
NR **3**

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JOHOTSTAR

India blows away Chile, enters final

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
AUCKLAND

India produced another dominant performance to outclass Chile 6-0 and storm into the final of the Women's Nations Cup here on Saturday. Navneet Kaur (6th, 13th) and Deepika (14th, 18th) struck a brace apiece, while Neha (32nd) and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (39th) also found the net. Captain Salima Tete, who was named Player-of-the-Match, had a key role with her all-round display. "I am very happy with the performance. We finally scored many goals, converting our chances, and that has been important for us." India will face host New Zealand in the title clash. New Zealand pipped



Deepika scored a brace in India's win. x@THEHOCKEYINDIA

the USA 4-1 in a shootout after a 1-1 stalemate. India took the lead through Navneet, who converted the team's first penalty corner with a crisp strike. While Navneet deflected the ball home for the second goal, dragflicker Deepika delivered successful PCs to make it 4-0. Neha's PC conversion and Rutuja's reverse hit completed the rout. **The result:** India 6 (Navneet Kaur 6, 13, Deepika 14, 18, Neha 32, Rutuja 39) bt Chile 0.

A SWEET TREAT FOR YOUNG MINDS!

World Chocolate Day

Special issue

10th July 2026

Inside This Issue

- Bean to Bar: how the cocoa bean is transformed into chocolate
- What are the different types of chocolate
- Data cruncher: Chocolates in numbers
- Chocolates in books and movies
- Children's contributions: A visit to chocolate land
- Activity sheets and recipes

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NOTICE INVITING BID

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)

In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Tel.: (0674) 2380950; Website: <https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in>; Email: drugs-osmcl@od.gov.in
Bid Ref.No.:OSMCL/2026-27/OTH-DHS-I/03 Date : 20/06/2026

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for Supply of Insecticides and Larvicides as per the particulars mentioned below :

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	20/06/2026, 3 PM
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id - drugs-osmcl@od.gov.in	23/06/2026, up to 5:00 PM
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time: 25/06/2026, 3 PM End Date & Time: 17/07/2026, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee and EMD amount as per section-IV of tender document	Start Date & Time: 18/07/2026, 10 AM End Date & Time: 27/07/2026, 11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	27/07/2026, 11:30 AM
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: <https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in> and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. All notice will be published in the OSMCL website <https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in>. Hence the bidders are requested to visit OSMCL website <https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in> time to time for any published notice against the tender.

Sd/- Managing Director, OSMCL Ltd., Odisha
10001/295/2627 OIPR-10001/10112/1/26-27/0004

BENGALURU CO-OP. MILK UNION LTD., [BENGALURU DAIRY]

Dr. M.H. Mari Gowda Road, Bengaluru-560029
E-mail: bamulpurchase@gmail.com Website: www.bamulnandini.coop Phone : 080-26096214 & 282.
Tender Ref No: BAMUL/PUR/09/1853/T-359/2026-27 Date: 19.06.2026
Tender Ref No: BAMUL/PUR/09/1854/T-360/2026-27 Date: 19.06.2026

TECHNICAL CUM COMMERCIAL TENDER THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL

Bengaluru Co-op Milk Union Ltd., (BAMUL) Bengaluru, invites e-tender through e-Procurement Portal from the interested and eligible Manufacturers/ Contractor/Dealer/Distributors for Supply of the following item.

Sl No	Particulars	Qty	Estd Cost in Lakhs	Tender No
01	Procurement Of Land, Design, Engineering, Procurement, Supply, Transport, Storage Of Supply Items, Erection, Testing, Commissioning, External Transmission Lines And Right Of Way, Bay Extensions, Power Evacuation System For The Development Of 12.0 MWAC (16.80 MWP DC) Captive Solar Power Plant In Karnataka For Bamul With 5 Years Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance (O&M)	01 Lot (Lumpsum)	8800.00	KMF/2026-27/IND2323
02	Design Supply Installation Testing And Commissioning Of Plastic Blown Pouch Film Plant at Bengaluru Dairy.	01 Lot (Lumpsum)	2200.00	KMF/2026-27/IND2324
03	Supply of different types of Electrical Items to Bengaluru Dairy.	Diff. Types (107)	20.00	KMF/2026-27/IND2315
04	Supply of different types of MS and SS Materials to Bangalore Dairy.	Diff. Types (20)	20.00	KMF/2026-27/IND2325
05	Supply of Lubricants to Kanakapura Dairy.	Diff. Types (22)	23.46	KMF/2026-27/IND2326

1	Access to E-tender Documents	20.06.2026 to 20.07.2026 till 02.00 PM
2	Pre-Bid Meeting / Tender clarification date & time	07.07.2026 till 11.00 AM
3	Last date for submission of tender/ quoting	20.07.2026 till 02.00 PM
4	Date & time for opening Technical Tender	21.07.2026 at 02.35 PM
5	Date & time for opening Commercial Tender	24.07.2026 at 11.30 AM
6	Place of opening of Technical and Commercial Tender	BAMUL (Bengaluru Dairy) Board Room

The Tenderers shall submit separate tender for the above. Tenderers are advised to note the qualification criteria specified in Section VII to qualify for award of the contract.
The Earnest money deposit (E.M.D.) valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the tender i.e. total for 135 days. Tender processing Fee, modes of e-payment, tender document details and other details are mentioned in <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> and also contact Help Line No: 8046010000/8068948777

Sd/- Managing Director
Tender Inviting Authority, Bamul

CENTRAL RAILWAY

NAGPUR DIVISION

VARIOUS WORK

OPEN e-TENDER NOTICE NO.: DY-CE-C-NGP-05of2026, Dated 19.06.2026

Dy. Chief Engineer (C), NGP, Central Railway, Chhunanbhatti Road, Ajni, Nagpur-3, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders online through www.reps.gov.in from reputed contractors for the following work: **Name of Work:** Construction of Multi-storied Quarters Type-IV (28 units) & Type-V (21 units) including Electrical and Telecom work at Civil Lines, Nagpur. **Approx. Cost:** ₹31.36,92,895.25/- **Completion Period:** 24 Months. **Validity of Offer:** 3 Months from the Date of opening of the tender. **Bid Security:** ₹60,15,800.00/- **Cost of Tender:** Nil. **Availability of Tender Documents:** Tender document for the above work is available on website www.reps.gov.in **Date & Time of Submission and Opening of Tender:** The e-tender duly completed in all respects should be uploaded electronically up to 15.00 hrs. on 14.07.2026 on the above-mentioned website and will be opened after 15.00 hrs. **Important Notes for Tenderers:** a) Prospective Tenderer/s are advised that before tendering their offer electronically, they should refer to the Tender details regarding terms and conditions, eligibility criteria, etc. b) All intending Tenderers need to first register with the IREPS website www.reps.gov.in For any additional information/clarification, contact the above address on any working day between 10.00 hrs to 18.00 hrs or Shri Nilesh Verma (OS/Rates/ Nagpur) at Contact No. 95030 12242 (M). **D. C. E. (C)**

TRAVELLING WITH DANGEROUS AND EXPLOSIVE GOODS IS A PUNISHABLE OFFENCE.

CENTRAL RAILWAY

NAGPUR DIVISION

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

OPEN e-TENDER NOTICE NO. DY-CE-C-NGP-06of2026 Dated 18.06.2026
Dy. Chief Engineer (C), NGP, Central Railway, Chhunanbhatti Road Ajni / Nagpur-3 for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tenders on line through, from reputed contractors for the following work: **Name of Work:** Earthwork in formation, Minor Bridge work, Building work, Shifting of Utility structures such as platform, COP and Other structures & building infringing 3rd & 4th Line, PWay work, Ballast supply in Pulgaon Yard from Km.725.153 to Km.731.957 (excluding Mega bridge No.727/1) and in Dhamangaon yard from Km.706.881 to Km.710.427 (excluding major Br. 707/1) including cut & connection at both ends in Pulgaon & Dhamangaon yard in connection with Bhusawal - Wardha 3rd & 4th line. **Approx. Cost:** ₹74,22,05,758.30/- **Completion Period:** 24 Months **Validity of offer:** 3 Months from date of opening of the tender. **Bid Security:** ₹1,48,45,000.00/- **Cost of Tender:** Nil **Availability of Tender Documents:** Tender document for the above work is available on website www.reps.gov.in **Date & Time of Submission & Opening of Tender:** The e-tender duly completed in all respect should be uploaded electronically upto 15.00 Hrs. on 13.07.2026 on the above-mentioned website and will be opened after 15.00 Hrs. **Important Note for tenderers** a) Prospective Tenderer/s are advised that before tendering their offer electronically, they should refer to the Tender details regarding terms and conditions, eligibility criteria etc. b) All intending Tenderers need to first register with IREPS website www.reps.gov.in For any additional information/ clarification contact on above address on any working day between 10.00 hrs to 18.00 Hrs. Shri. Nilesh Verma (OS/Rates/ Nagpur) at contact no. 9503012242 (M). **Dy.C.E.(Const.)**

TRAVELLING WITH DANGEROUS AND EXPLOSIVE GOODS IS A PUNISHABLE OFFENCE.

INBRIEF



Bagnaia scorches to sprint victory at Czech MotoGP

Italy’s Francesco Bagnaia claimed victory in the Czech MotoGP sprint at Brno on Saturday ahead of pole sitter Ai Ogura on an Aprilia and Ducati teammate Marc Marquez. Championship leader Marco Bezzecchi crashed out with two laps to go.

India wins two medals at Asian Relay Championships

India won a silver and a bronze on the opening day of the Asian Relay Championships in Shaoxing, China, on Saturday. The Indian mixed 4x100m quartet of Animesh Kujur, Gaurav Pranav, Tamanna and S.S. Sneha clocked 41.47s to finish third. Later, the mixed 4x400m team of T.S. Shetty, Barath Sridhar, M.R. Poovamma and Neeru Pathak won silver in 3:17.06s.

Four Indians make it to the final of World Boxing Cup 2

Jyoti and Minakshi shone as India secured four spots in the finals, while two others claimed bronze at World Boxing Cup 2 at Guiyang on Saturday.

The results: Semifinals: Women: 48kg: Jyoti bt Fatima Herrera (Mex); **51kg:** Minakshi bt Laura Fuertes Fernandez (Esp) 5-0; **57kg:** Prachi bt Amina Zidani (Fra) 4-1; **Men: 70kg:** Deepak bt Makan Traore (Fra) 5-0; **85kg:** Jugnoo lost to Junior Tadah (Fra) 0-5; **55kg:** Nikhil lost to Lorenzo Patricio (USA) 0-5. *Jugnoo and Nikhil claimed bronze.*

Macau Open: Ashmita’s run ends in the semifinals

India’s campaign at the Macau Open Super 300 badminton came to an end after Ashmita Chaliha suffered a 17-21, 9-21 defeat against South Korea’s Park Ga Eun in the semifinals on Saturday.

Indian junior men’s artistic gymnastics team wins bronze

The Indian junior men’s artistic gymnastics team – Harschit Damodaran, Nishad Narvane, S.K. Nabigh Ali, Akshat Bajaj and Mohammed Zaid Ansari (224.493 points) – clinched bronze at the Asian Championships at Zunyi, China, on Friday.

Abhay-Velavan pair storms into Asian doubles final

India’s Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar are on course to defend the title at the third Asian doubles squash after they stormed into the final at Sarawak, Malaysia. The top seeds will meet second-seeded Pakistan pair of Nasir Iqbal and Noor Zaman on Sunday. On Saturday, Abhay and Velavan defeated Japan’s Naoki Hayashi and Ren Makino 11-3, 10-12, 11-5 in the quarterfinals, and Malaysian third seeds Sanjay Jeeva and Duncan Lee 11-7, 11-9 in the semifinals.

Other results: Semifinals: Women: Joshna Chinappa & Rathika Seelan lost to Ainaa Amani & Yee Xin Ying (Mas) 9-11, 7-11; **Mixed doubles:** Joshna & Velavan lost to Ainaa Amani & Md. Kamal (Mas) 8-11, 11-8, 8-11. *Both teams claimed bronze.*

Aryan makes the cut for CWG, Asian Games

AQUATICS

Sports Bureau

Aryan Nehra clocked 7:59.36 to better his own record with a ‘best Indian time’ and secure the men’s 800m freestyle gold medal at the National aquatics championships in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

Aryan sliced two seconds off his three-year-old record to earn qualifying standards for both the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.

B. Benedicton Rohit lowered the National record twice, in heats and final, as he won the men’s 50m butterfly crown with 23.63s. His last year’s record was 24.11, which he erased in

the morning. Rujula S. improved upon her previous year’s 50m freestyle mark by achieving 26.23.

The results (winners only): Men: 800m freestyle: Aryan Nehra (Guj) 7:59.36 (NMR, Old 8:01.81, Aryan Nehra, 2023); **50m butterfly:** B. Benedicton Rohit (TN) 23.63 (NMR, Old 23.79, B. Benedicton Rohit, 2026); **200m breaststroke:** Manikanta L. (Kar) 2:19.45; **4x100m freestyle relay:** Karnataka (Akash Mani, Chintan S. Shetty, Aneesh S. Gowda, Monish PV.) 3:24.15 (NMR, Old 3:26.26, Tamil Nadu, 2025).

Women: 50m freestyle: Rujula S. (Kar) 26.23 (NMR, Old 26.36, Rujula S., 2025); **200m breaststroke:** Saanvi Deshwal (Mah) 2:37.81; **4x200m freestyle relay:** Karnataka (Sri Charanl Tumu, Shirin, Suhasini Ghosh, Dhinidhi Desinghu) 8:42.48 (NMR, Old 8:52.32, Karnataka, 2025).



Demolition job: India proved too good for Afghanistan in the three-match series. R. RAGU

Prasidh, Jaiswal and Rohit star as India sweeps series

The lanky pacer returns career-best figures of five for 23 to shoot out Afghanistan for 218 despite Shahidi’s hundred; the openers put on 170 as the Men in Blue cruise home in less than 29 overs

AFGHANISTAN IN INDIA

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

The Afghan challenge was blown away like a straw roof in a tempest as openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (110 n.o., 86b, 14x4, 3x6) and Rohit Sharma (79, 69b, 9x4, 3x6) added 170 runs to power India to a nine-wicket win in the third and final ODI and complete a 3-0 sweep of Afghanistan at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here on Saturday.

Prasidh Krishna’s maiden five-wicket haul (five for 23) left India with a modest target of 219.

Street-smart

Jaiswal was in his street-smart, kinetic element – the haughty, off-side aristocracy of Sourav Ganguly married to the chilling, wide-eyed butchery of Virender Sehwag. It was typical Jaiswal: the no-sighter assault, the shuffle-and-scoop, the step-out statement, the high-elbowed ease, the flat-batted fury, and the stand-and-deliver.

The cut shot was the hallmark of Jaiswal’s innings. Yet, the shot of the innings was the inside-out

SCOREBOARD

AFGHANISTAN

Rahmanullah Gurbaz c Rohit b Prasidh 5 (7b, 1x4), Ibrahim Zadran c Rohit b Prasidh 11 (18b, 2x4), Rahmat Shah c Rohit b Prasidh 5 (15b, 1x4), Hashmatullah Shahidi c Shreyas b Prasidh 102 (131b, 13x4, 1x6), Darwish Rasooli c Shreyas b Prasidh 1 (5b), Azmatullah Omarzai c Prasidh b Prince 50 (56b, 5x4, 2x6), Mohammad Nabi b Gurnoor 21 (23b, 1x4, 1x6), Rashid Khan c Prince b Harsh 5 (7b), AM Ghazanfar run out 1 (1b), Fareed Ahmad run out 0 (0b), Ziaur Rahman (not out) 1 (7b); Extras (lb-5, nb-4, w-7): 16; Total

six over extra cover off Mohammad Nabi that brought up his second ODI century in just his sixth match.

Rohit offered his typical slouching grandeur, unhurried grace, and lazy violence. Among the standout strokes of Rohit’s innings were a hooked six off Ziaur Rahman and a swept maximum off Rashid Khan.

Earlier, after Afghanistan won the toss and opted to bat, Chepauk offered a glimpse of its older self. On commentary, Sunil Gavaskar recalled a fast Chepauk pitch against the West Indies in 1979, while W.V. Raman spoke of the bounce during his early playing days.

(in 44.2 overs): 218.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-5 (Gurbaz, 1.1 overs), 2-26 (Rahmat, 5.6), 3-28 (Ibrahim, 7.2), 4-36 (Rasooli, 9.2), 5-141 (Omarzai, 28.2), 6-198 (Nabi, 37.1), 7-205 (Rashid, 40.3), 8-206 (Ghazanfar, 40.6), 9-206 (Fareed, 41.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Gurnoor 8-0-49-1, Prasidh 8.2-2-23-5, Prince 7-0-38-1, Nitish 6-0-42-0, Harsh 7-0-38-1, Washington 8-2-23-0.

INDIA

Yashasvi Jaiswal (not out) 110 (86b, 14x4, 3x6), Rohit Sharma c sub (Sediqullah) b Nabi 79 (69b,

9x4, 3x6), Shreyas Iyer (not out) 20 (19b, 2x6); Extras (lb-2, nb-2, w-6, pen-5): 15; Total (for one wkt. in 28.4 overs): 224.

FALL OF WICKET

1-170 (Rohit, 22.5).

AFGHANISTAN BOWLING

Omarzai 2-0-26-0, Ziaur 4-0-21-0, Fareed 5-0-55-0, Ghazanfar 3-0-15-0, Rashid 7-0-53-0, Nabi 7-4-1-47-1.

Toss: Afghanistan.

India won by nine wickets with 128 balls remaining and clinched the series 3-0.

PoM: Prasidh.

PoS: Gill.

That’s because Gurnoor Brar’s opening delivery, a 140 kph short ball, climbed sharply. Later, another at 144 kph struck Ibrahim Zadran (11) on the helmet.

Prasidh, whose ODI success was built on hitting the deck hard, found enough swing with the new ball to force Rahmanullah Gurbaz (5) into driving on the up. Rahmat Shah (5) closed his bat face too early and chipped a leading edge, while Ibrahim, committing outside off stump, drove and nicked. Each dismissal ended in Rohit’s hands at first slip.

Darwish Rasooli’s dismissal (1) broke the pattern. Attempting an expan-

sive swipe against Prasidh, he skied the ball to Shreyas Iyer at mid-off as the towering pacer completed a remarkable opening spell of four for six in five overs.

From 36 for four in the 10th over, Afghanistan rebuilt through a 105-run fifth-wicket stand between skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi (102, 131b, 13x4, 1x6) and Azmatullah Omarzai (50, 56b, 5x4, 2x6).

Afghanistan’s resistance unravelled towards the end as wickets fell regularly. Prasidh returned to remove Shahidi with a short ball, while the visitor also conceded five penalty runs after the skipper ran in the protected area of the pitch for a third time.

A great sign for Indian cricket if we can keep grooming tall fast bowlers, says captain Gill

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

While Shubman Gill led from the front with the bat in India’s 3-0 whitewash of Afghanistan (238 runs), the victory was in no small part set up by the side’s promising pace battery of Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Gurnoor Brar and Prince Yadav over the three ODIs.

In preparation for the 2027 ODI World Cup, the Men in Blue have clearly identified the importance of having tall quicks, and this series has given some positive results, according to Gill, who tasted his maiden ODI series win as skipper.

“It was very encouraging, and it is a great sign for Indian cricket if we can keep grooming fast bowlers who can bowl at that pace consistently,” said Gill

after India’s nine-wicket win at the MAC Stadium here on Saturday.

“We have a good bunch of fast bowlers who can bowl 140kph plus, who are tall and also create opportunities with the old ball when there is nothing much from the pitch or conditions,” he added.

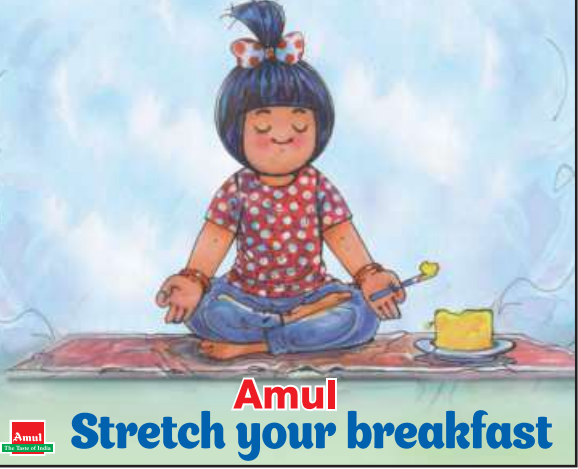
On his Punjab teammate Gurnoor Brar, the skipper added: “Yes, Gurnoor did tick most of the boxes, but

there are some things that he will only learn with experience, and hopefully he is going to keep growing as a bowler. If I am really critical, he did go for a few runs. He was a bit inconsistent at times, but he is young and playing his first series at the top level. He is bowling quick and has all the good signs we want in a young, tall, fast bowler. With experience, he will only get better.”

Coaching and administrative staff at all SAI training centres have been directed to provide a safe environment to every athlete with zero stigma and full validation that seeking psychological help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

“This mandatory policy shifts our focus from simple talent management to comprehensive, athlete-

Mann mein bhakti, tann mein shakti



Sports Ministry forms Task Force for Formula 1, motorsports development

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry has decided to constitute a dedicated Task Force to undertake a detailed assessment of the country’s motorsports ecosystem and examine the challenges associated with its growth as part of its efforts to revive and develop Formula One in India.

The Task Force will evaluate international, economic, tourism and investment benefits of hosting major motorsport events in India. It will also identify key priorities, infrastructure requirements, and operational needs for sustainable development and submit its recommendations to develop a comprehensive policy framework including exploring Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models. The process is expected to be completed in three months.

The decision follows a ministry meeting with all stakeholders including F-1 officials, Buddh International Circuit owners, the Adani Group, representatives of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI) and racers.

Athlete well-being

Meanwhile, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced that the ministry has also mandated an Athlete Well-being Policy to not only ensure support for mental and psychological concerns but also remove the societal stigma around mental health issues.

Coaching and administrative staff at all SAI training centres have been directed to provide a safe environment to every athlete with zero stigma and full validation that seeking psychological help is a sign of strength, not weakness. “This mandatory policy shifts our focus from simple talent management to comprehensive, athlete-

The Task Force will evaluate international, economic, tourism and investment benefits of hosting major motorsport events in India. Coaching and administrative staff at all SAI training centres have been directed to provide a safe environment to every athlete with zero stigma

centric development. It protects our athletes in National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) and Sports Training Centres (STCs). This framework systematically acts before burnout forces a talented athlete to drop out,” Mandaviya said in an interaction with select media on Saturday, adding that a safe environment remains a non-negotiable right.

The Universal Acceptance model aims to facilitate every athlete from the grassroots to elite file concerns regarding anything impacting their peace of mind.

Mandatory psychological screenings immediately upon an athlete’s induction and regular, non-invasive assessments through the year will be done to catch shifting stress levels before it blows up into a crisis.

Sports as CSR

Recognising that promotion of sports, despite being an eligible Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity, was not accorded the status of a dedicated common theme, the Department of Public Enterprises has notified the same in its latest order, marking a significant policy shift.

The inclusion of Development of Sporting Activities as a Common CSR theme for Financial Years 2026-27 and 2027-28 is expected to substantially enhance the visibility and priority of sports and provide an institutional mechanism for directing resources by Central Public Sector Enterprises.

LIVE TELECAST

FIFA World Cup: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 9.30 a.m., 9.30 p.m. 12.30 & 3.30 a.m. (Monday)
Tri-series (final): Sri Lanka vs India, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 10 a.m.
Bangladesh vs Australia: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.
Women’s T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3 p.m.; India vs South Africa, 7 p.m.
England vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 3.30 p.m.



Restored landscape: The red, sandy terrain of Rayadurgam in Anantapur district, where community-led conservation efforts are revitalising a water-scarce region



Living waters: A water body created under the Ananta Neeru Sanrakshanam Project inside Nagara Vanam at Rayadurgam, supporting local biodiversity.



Sign of renewal: A farmer tills his red-soil field in Rayadurgam, where improved water availability is beginning to benefit adjoining agricultural lands.



Blue patches: An aerial view of water bodies created within Nagara Vanam and adjoining forest areas in Rayadurgam.

Bringing life back to a thirsty land

Once known for water scarcity, Rayadurgam in Andhra Pradesh is witnessing an ecological revival through community-led water conservation, afforestation efforts



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Rayadurgam in drought-prone Anantapur district in western Andhra Pradesh, along the Karnataka border, is witnessing a quiet but significant transformation. Long defined by chronic water scarcity, the region's red, sandy terrain and prolonged dry spells had often drawn comparisons with Rajasthan's desert landscapes. Today, under the Ananta Neeru Sanrakshanam Project, the narrative is changing. More than 400 villagers, in collaboration with the Forest Department, have led a community-driven effort to restore water resources, turning once-parched land into a landscape showing signs of recovery, not only in forest areas but also on adjoining agricultural fields.

A scientific approach has guided the initiative. Traditional water bodies were restored through desilting, enhancing storage capacity and enabling groundwater recharge. Simultaneously, thousands of native saplings were planted, improving green cover and stabilising the fragile ecosystem. The impact is visible. Barren stretches are now punctuated by patches of blue and green. The initiative has attracted national attention, earning praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. For local communities, the change is most evident during the harsh summer months. Shepherds now lead their cattle to

replenished tanks after long hours under the sun. Rayadurgam, which receives only 450-550 mm of annual rainfall, depends heavily on such conservation measures for water security. In addition to restoring tanks, small water bodies have been created within forested areas, providing drinking sources for wildlife such as sloth bears, leopards and wild boars, and helping reduce human-animal conflict.

The improved habitat now supports pollinators such as bees and butterflies, a variety of bird species and larger fauna.

A neglected stretch of land once used for dumping garbage and illegal activities has been transformed into a protected green space. Fencing along the western side of Nagara Vanam, an emerging urban forest project, has helped prevent encroachment and safeguard the area, according to forest officials.

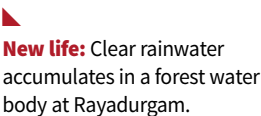
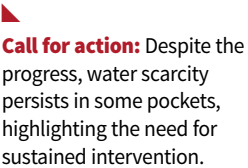
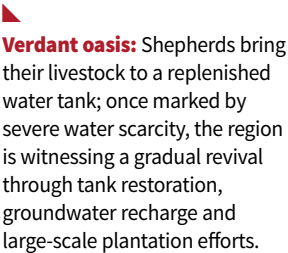
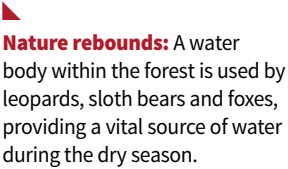
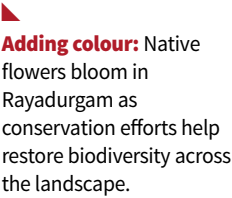
Though not yet formally open to the public, Nagara Vanam is already attracting local residents. Despite the progress, water scarcity persists in some pockets of Rayadurgam, highlighting the need for sustained intervention. Even so, the ongoing transformation stands as a model of resilience—where science, community participation and ecological restoration are steadily rewriting the story of a once water-stressed region.



Hope springs: A variety of colourful butterflies can now be seen around the water bodies.

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