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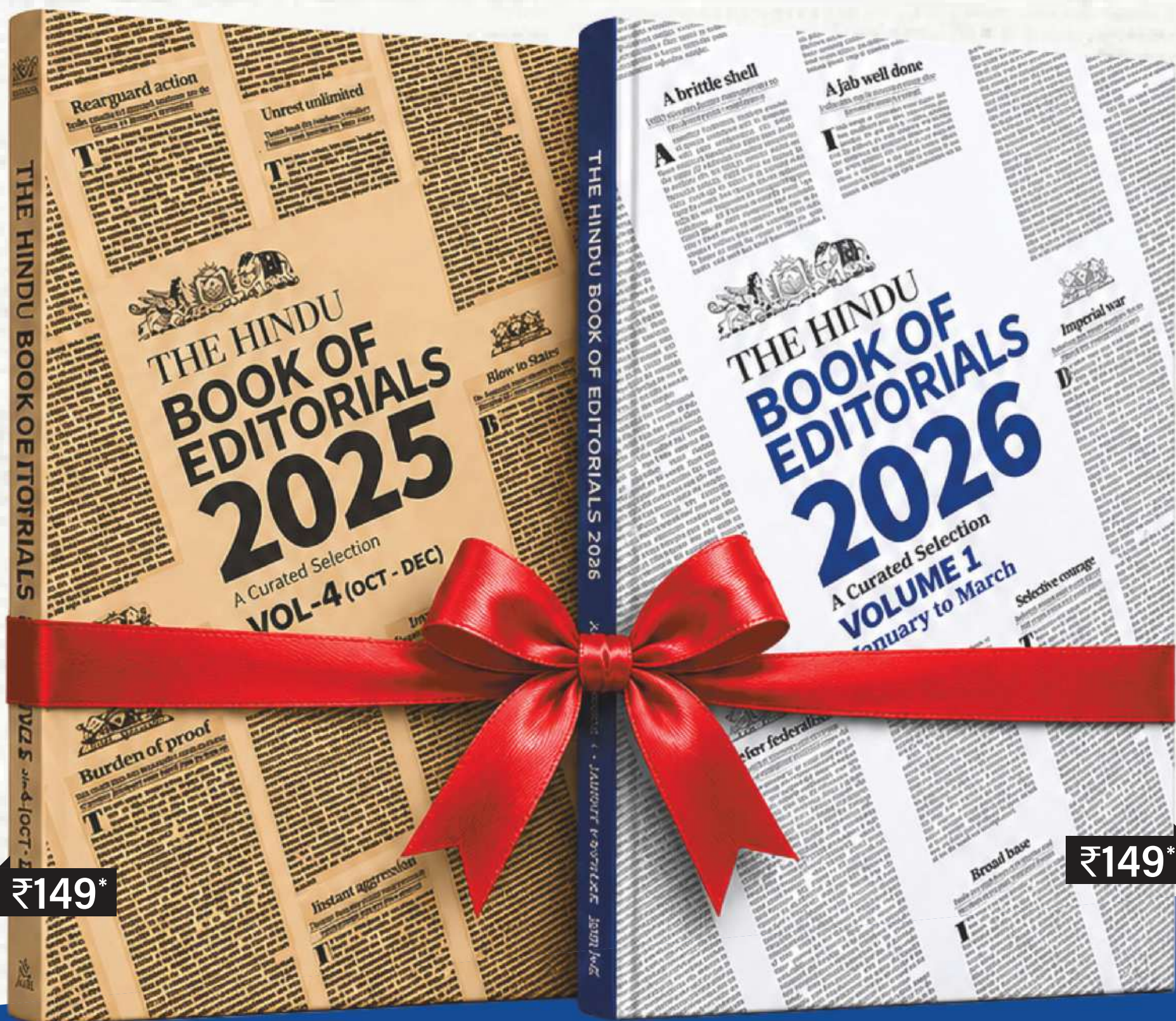
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LEGAL NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
STREET ADDRESS: 201 North First Street, San José, CA 95113
MAILING ADDRESS: 191 North First Street CITY AND ZIP CODE: San Jose, California 95113
BRANCH NAME: Family Justice Center
PETITIONER: Anurag Bhardwaj
RESPONDENT: Kiran Kumari
FAMILY LAW NOTICE
Dissolution /Legal Separation/Nullity/Parentage

Electronically filed by Superior Court of CA, County of Santa Clara, on 11/8/2024 4:22 PM
Reviewed By: J. Gamez
Case #24FL003799
Env. #17253632

[CASE NUMBER 24FL003799]
PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE FORM
Your case has been assigned to Judge Delgado, Jessica M. in Department. for all purposes at the Family Courtroom Located at: 201 North First Street, San José, CA 95113.

TO THE PETITIONER (the person who started the case): If you want to protect your rights and participate in this case, you must file a Response with the Court within 30 days of being served.

TO THE RESPONDENT (the person who did not start the case): If you want to protect your rights and participate in this case, you must file a Response with the Court within 30 days of being served.

RULES FOR THE STATUS CONFERENCE:
You must follow the California Rules of Court, the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara Local Family Law Rules and you must use the correct forms. You can access the California Rules of Court and Judicial Council forms at www.courts.ca.gov/rules.htm and the Local Family Law Rules and Local forms at www.sccourt.org.

A final Judgment will NOT be entered in your case automatically. You must take further action to finish your case!

- IF YOU NEED HELP:**
- Please visit the Self Help section on the Court's website at www.sccourt.org.
 - For a low cost consultation with a private attorney contact the Santa Clara County Bar Association at (408) 971-6822 (or www.sccba.com).
 - You can also email, call or Live Chat the Court's Self Help Center by going to www.sccourt.org, then click "Contact the Self Help Center".

If, after reviewing the Court's website or other information, you would like to schedule a Status Conference to review the status of your case and next steps to finish it, you may contact the Family Court Clerk's office at (408) 534-5600 or visit them in person at one of the three courthouses listed above during regular Court business hours. The purpose of the Status Conference is to review your case's progress; it is not the date when your case is actually finished.

SUMMONS (Family Law) NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Name):
Kiran Kumari
You have been sued. Read the information below and on the next page.
Petitioner's name is: Anurag Bhardwaj
[CASE NUMBER 24FL003799]

Electronically filed by Superior Court of CA, County of Santa Clara, on 11/8/2024 4:22 PM
Reviewed By: J. Gamez
Case #24FL003799
Env. #17253632

You have 30 calendar days after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter, phone call, or court appearance will not protect you.

If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs. For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the California Legal Services website (www.lawhelp.org), or by contacting your local county bar association.

NOTICE-RESTRaining ORDERS ARE ON PAGE 2: These restraining orders are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. They are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.

FEE WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party.

1. The name and address of the court are: Superior Court of California, Santa Clara County Santa Clara Family Court 201 N. 1st St. San Jose, CA 95113
2. The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are: DAVID WORSHAM, SBN 278629, (510) 922-1031, BROOK MEAKINS, SBN 264577 MEAKINS LAW 715 HEARST AVE, STE 203 BERKELEY, CA 94710
Date: 11/8/2024 4:22 PM
Clerk : by /s/ J. Gamez, Deputy
STANDARD FAMILY LAW RESTRaining ORDERS
Starting immediately, you and your spouse or domestic partner are restrained from:
1. removing the minor children of the parties from the state or applying for a new or replacement passport for those minor children without the prior written consent of the other party or an order of the court;
2. cashing, borrowing against, canceling, transferring, disposing of, or changing the beneficiaries of any insurance or other coverage, including life, health, automobile, and disability, held for the benefit of the parties and their minor children;
3. transferring, encumbering, hypothecating, conveying, or in any way disposing of any property, real or personal, whether community, quasi-community, or separate, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court, except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life; and
4. creating a nonprobate transfer or modifying a nonprobate transfer in a manner that affects the disposition of property subject to the transfer, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court. Before revocation of a nonprobate transfer can take effect or a right of survivorship to property can be eliminated, notice of the change must be filed and served on the other party.

You must notify each other of any proposed extraordinary expenditures at least five business days prior to incurring these extraordinary expenditures and account to the court for all extraordinary expenditures made after these restraining orders are effective. However, you may use community property, quasi-community property, or your own separate property to pay an attorney to help you or to pay court costs.

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

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

(Continued...)

LEGAL NOTICE

community property is divided, the language in the deed that characterizes how title is held (i.e., joint tenancy, tenants in common, or community property) will be controlling, and not the community property presumption. You should consult your attorney if you want the community property presumption to be written into the recorded title to the property.
FL-100
NAME: DAVID WORSHAM, BROOK MEAKINS, SBN 264577
FIRM NAME MEAKINS LAW
STREET ADDRESS: 715 HEARST AVENUE SUITE 203
CITY: BERKELEY STATE: CA ZIP CODE: 94710
TELEPHONE NO. (510) 922-1031
FAX NO. (510) 621-7978
E-MAIL ADDRESS: brook@meakinslaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR (name) Anurag Bhardwaj

Electronically filed by Superior Court of CA, County of Santa Clara, on 11/8/2024 4:22 PM
Reviewed By: J. Gamez
Case #24FL003799
Env. #17253632
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Santa Clara
STREET ADDRESS: 201 N. 1st St. MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: San Jose, 95113
BRANCH NAME: Santa Clara Family Court
PETITIONER: Anurag Bhardwaj
RESPONDENT: Kiran Kumari
PETITION FOR AMENDED [X] Dissolution (Divorce) of:
[X] Marriage
[] Domestic Partnership
Legal Separation of:
[] Marriage
[] Domestic Partnership
Nullity of:
[] Marriage
[] Domestic Partnership

CASE NUMBER: 24FL003799
1. **LEGAL RELATIONSHIP** (check all that apply):
a. [X] We are married.
b. [] We are domestic partners and our domestic partnership was established in California.
c. [] We are domestic partners and our domestic partnership was NOT established in California.
2. **RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS** (check all that apply):
a. [X] Petitioner [] Respondent has been a resident of this county for at least six months and of this county for at least three months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition. (For a divorce, unless you are in the legal relationship described in 1b, at least one of you must comply with this requirement.)
b. [] Our domestic partnership was established in California. Neither of us has to be a resident or have a domicile in California to dissolve our partnership here.
c. [] We are the same sex, were married in California, but currently live in a jurisdiction that does not recognize, and will not dissolve, our marriage. This Petition is filed in the county where we married.

Petitioner lives in (specify):
Respondent lives in (specify):

3. **STATISTICAL FACTS**
a. [X] (1) Date of marriage (specify): 2/1/2013
(2) Date of separation (specify): 1/31/2016
(3) Time from date of marriage to date of separation (specify): 3 Years 0 Months
b. [] (1) Registration date of domestic partnership with the California Secretary of State or other state equivalent (specify below):
(2) Date of separation (specify):
(3) Time from date of registration of domestic partnership to date of separation (specify): Years Months

4. **MINOR CHILDREN**
a. [X] There are no minor children.
b. [] The minor children are:
Child's name Birth date Age
(1) [] continued on Attachment 4b.
(2) [] a child who is not yet born.
c. If any children listed above were born before the marriage or domestic partnership, the court has the authority to determine those children to be children of the marriage or domestic partnership.
d. If there are minor children of Petitioner and Respondent, a completed Declaration Under Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) (form FL-105) must be attached.
e. [] Petitioner and Respondent signed a voluntary declaration of parentage or paternity. (Attach a copy if available.)
Petitioner requests that the court make the following orders:

5. **LEGAL GROUNDS** (Family Code sections 2200-2210, 2310-2312)
a. [X] Divorce or [] Legal separation of the marriage or domestic partnership based on (check one):
(1) [X] Irreconcilable differences.
(2) [] permanent legal incapacity to make decisions.
b. [] Nullity of void marriage or domestic partnership based on:
(1) [] incest.
(2) [] bigamy.
c. [] Nullity of voidable marriage or domestic partnership based on:
(1) [] petitioner's age at time of registration of domestic partnership or marriage.
(2) [] prior existing marriage or domestic partnership.
(3) [] unsound mind.
(4) [] fraud.
(5) [] force.
(6) [] physical incapacity.

6. **CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION (PARENTING TIME)**
a. Legal custody of children to:
[] Petitioner [] Respondent [] Joint [] Other
b. Physical custody of children to:
[] Petitioner [] Respondent [] Joint [] Other
c. Child visitation (parenting time) to be granted to:
[] Petitioner [] Respondent [] Joint [] Other
As requested in [] form FL-311
[] form FL-312 [] form FL-341(C)
[] form FL-341(D) [] form FL-341(E)
[] Attachment 6d(1)

7. **CHILD SUPPORT**
a. If there are minor children born to or adopted by Petitioner and Respondent before or during this marriage or domestic partnership, the court will make orders for the support of the children upon request and submission of financial forms by the requesting party.
b. An earnings assignment may be issued without further notice.
c. Any party required to pay support must pay interest on overdue amounts at the "legal" rate, which is currently 10 percent.
[] Other (specify):

8. **SPOUSAL OR DOMESTIC PARTNER SUPPORT**
a. [] Spousal or domestic partner support payable to [] Petitioner [] Respondent
b. [X] Terminate (end) the court's ability to award support to [X] Petitioner [X] Respondent
c. [] Reserve for future determination the issue of support payable to [] Petitioner [] Respondent
d. [] Other (specify):

9. **SEPARATE PROPERTY**
a. [] There are no such assets or debts that I know of to be confirmed by the court.
b. [X] Confirm as separate property the assets and debts in [X] Property Declaration (form FL-160). [] Attachment 9b.
[] the following list. Item Confirm to []

10. **COMMUNITY AND QUASI-COMMUNITY PROPERTY**
a. [] There are no such assets or debts that I know of to be divided by the court.
b. [X] Determine rights to community and quasi-community assets and debts. All such assets and debts are listed [X] in Property Declaration (form FL-160). [] Attachment 9b.
(Continued...)

LEGAL NOTICE

FL-160 [] in Attachment 10b
[] as follows (specify):

11. **OTHER REQUESTS**
a. [] Attorney's fees and costs payable by [] Petitioner [] Respondent
b. [] Petitioner's former name to be restored to (specify):
c. [X] Other (specify): Each Party To Bear Their Own Attorney's Fees and Costs.
[] Continued on Attachment 11c.

12. I HAVE READ THE RESTRaining ORDERS ON THE BACK OF THE SUMMONS, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY APPLY TO ME WHEN THIS PETITION IS FILED.
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 10/30/2024
Anurag Bhardwaj
(ID 6TH4ZNRbHX3SWHP41y6KeCN)
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)
(PETITIONER)

Date: 10/30/2024
Brook Meakins/David Worsham
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)
(ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Read Legal Steps for a Divorce or Legal Separation (form FL-107-INFO) and visit "Families Change" at www.familieschange.ca.gov - an online guide for parents and children going through divorce or separation.

NOTICE: You may redact (black out) social security numbers from any written material filed with the court in this case other than a form used to collect child, spousal or partner support.

NOTICE-CANCELLATION OF RIGHTS:
Dissolution or legal separation may automatically cancel the rights of a domestic partner or spouse under the other domestic partner's or spouse's will, trust, retirement plan, power of attorney, pay-on-death bank account, survivorship rights to any property owned in joint tenancy, and any other similar thing. It does not automatically cancel the right of a domestic partner or spouse as beneficiary of the other partner's or spouse's life insurance policy. You should review these matters, as well as any credit cards, other credit accounts, insurance policies, retirement plans, and credit reports, to determine whether they should be changed or whether you should take any other actions. Some changes may require the agreement of your partner or spouse or a court order.
FL-100 (Rev. January 1, 2020)
PETITION-MARRIAGE/DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP (Family Law)

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CORRIGENDUM

HE-MC-MISC-0037-2025/33952/, Dt.:22.06.26

In continuation to Tender Call Notice No. HE-MC-MISC-0037-2025/28348 dated 30.05.2026 for "AI-enabled Exam Security Surveillance and Ancillary Support Services during conduct of multiple examinations", it is hereby informed that :

- Last date for submission of bids : 05.07.2026 up to 5:00 PM
- Opening of Technical Bids : 06.07.2026 at 11:30 AM

Clarification:

For Section 9 (Sl. No. 5) and Section 10 (Sl. No. 5, 6 & 7), the candidate-count requirement shall be evaluated based on the number of candidates handled by the bidder in a single shift/session of an examination project.

Sd/-

Director, Higher Education,
Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

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BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052
No: DGM-1/BSWML/PR/482/2026-27 Date: 22.06.2026

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION

(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

This is to inform the general public and all concerned that above referred Tender Notification No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/10/2026- 27, issued by Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML on 05.06.2026 has been cancelled due to technical reasons.

Sd/-

Deputy General Manager-1,
BSWML.

DIPR/CP/1299/Shirdi Sai/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH COMMISSIONERATE OF HANDLOOMS & TEXTILES : MANGALAGIRI

4th floor, IHC Corporate Building, Auto Nagar, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, A.P.

TENDER NOTICE

Re. No.3323/2025-I/English. Dt: 18.06.2026

Tender Notice: Designing and construction of AP Pavilion at Bharat Madampan, New Delhi for participation of AP in Bharat Tex-2026 to be held from 14th to 17th July, 2026. The Last Date & time of receipt of tender: 30.06.2026 up to 12:00 Noon, Date & time of opening of Technical Bid: 30.06.2026 at 01:00 PM, Presentation of Design: 30.06.2026 at 02:30 PM and Date & Time of Opening Financial Bid: 30.06.2026 at 04:00 PM. Bidders are requested to go through the departmental website <https://handlooms.ap.gov.in> for notice and for scope of the work. For Further details please contact: 8008705792 & 9866377162.
Sd/- G. Rekha Rani IAS, Commissioner of H&T

DIPR 5192PP/CL, Dt: 22-06-2026

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India, Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064, Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in, CIN : U24232RJ2011SGC035067, E-mail : edpsrmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref No.: F:02 (447)/RMSCL/PROCUREMENT/DRUG/NIB-09/2026-27/4456 Dated: 16/06/2026

Notice Inviting E-Bids

S. No.	Item Name/Description	Ref. No.	UBN	Estimated Value Rs. in Crore	Last Time & Last date for bid submission
1	Drugs	Ref.No.: F:02 (447)/RMSCL/Procurement/Drug/NIB-08/2026-27/4455 Dated: 16.06.2026	MSC2627GLRC00027	25.43 Crore	16.07.2026 upto 06.00 pm
Raj.Samwad/C/26/5343 Executive Director (Procurement)					

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22655383 website: www.kiadb.in

No.IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-18/1733/2026-27 Date:22-06-2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work: Formation of Industrial Layout including construction of Roads, RCC Side drain, Cross Drainages, Retaining wall & HDPE Dual Water Supply pipe line at Sector-1 in Dobaspet Industrial Area, 7th Phase, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

- Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: 09-07-2026 upto 4:00 pm.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-

Engineer-In-Chief, KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1300/CCL/2026-27

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/11/2026-27 Date: 22.06.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the works mention in the below table.

Sl. No.	Package Name	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs Including GST)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Contract Completion Period (Including Monsoon Period)
1	Construction of MRF sheds at Doddabidarakallu (Package –P1).	2090.00	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs. 19,90,000/- by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank.	09 Months
2	Construction of MRF shed at Subbarayanapalya. (Package –P2).	1369.00	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs. 14,00,000/- by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank.	09 Months
3	Construction of MRF sheds at Tarahunase (Package –P3)	4800.00	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs. 47,00,000/- by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank.	09 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries : 28.06.2026 before 16.00 hrs. 2) Tender Pre-Bid meeting : 29.06.2026 at 15:00hrs. at above mentioned office. 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender: 05.07.2026 upto 16:00 hrs. 4) Opening of Technical Bid: 06.07.2026 at 16:30 hrs. More details can be downloaded from website - <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-

Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

DIPR/CP/IAJ/1298/2026-27

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR DIFFERENT ELECTRICAL WORKS

DRM (Electrical)/TRD/ECR/Dhanbad and for behalf of the President of India invites e-tender for execution of the work indicated as under. E-Tender No. : TRD-OT-05-TR-GCCIC



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Time-bound service delivery net expanded

NEW DELHI
The Delhi government has brought 23 additional services under the Delhi (Right Of Citizen To Time Bound Delivery Of Services) Act, 2011 to ensure quicker delivery of services within fixed deadlines, the Chief Minister's Office said on Monday. » [Page 2](#)

T.N. ammonia leak: toll rises to 7, all from Odisha

The death toll in the ammonia gas leak accident at a seafood processing unit in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur district went up to seven after five more affected workers died on Monday. All the victims were women from Odisha, officials said. » [Page 4](#)

Panel visit not to assess Kashmir situation: Tharoor

SRINAGAR
Facing flak from his own party, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Monday said his visit to J&K was to study Indo-Pakistan relations, Sino-Indian relations, and "not assessing the conditions in Kashmir". » [Page 4](#)

Child-lifting rumours: man beaten in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR
Days after villagers in Odisha's Rayagada district attacked two NGO workers on suspicion of being child-lifters, a mob assaulted a daily wage labourer from Kerala in Sambalpur under similar circumstances. » [Page 3](#)

15 die in U.P. building fire, victims mostly students

Videos show youth falling from the building in Lucknow next to roadside railing; three held. State govt. forms SIT to probe incident; PM expresses grief, announces ₹2 lakh for kin of the deceased



Rescue efforts: Firefighters try to douse the fire that broke out at the commercial building in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on Monday. AFP

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

At least 15 people, mostly students, were killed and five injured in a fire that engulfed a three-storey commercial building housing a graphics animation coaching centre, a library, and a pet shop, in the Aliganj area of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh on Monday.

Three individuals – Ram Krishna Upadhyay, Virendra Prasad Shukla, and Tushar Krishna Jaiswal – have been arrested in connection with the incident, the police said. The accused are joint owners of the building, officials said.

Four officials – Gaurav Kumar, Executive Engineer (Collection), Jankipuram; Kamalendra Kumar Singh, Food Safety and Standards Officer, Indira Nagar; Anil Kumar, Assistant Engineer; and Pramod Pandey, Junior Engineer – have been

suspended over the incident. Witnesses said eight students jumped from the building to escape the blaze. Videos showed youth falling from the first floor next to a roadside railing and local people carrying them away.

More than four animals were charred to death at the pet shop-cum-veterinary clinic on the ground floor of the building.

Twelve fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the blaze, which began around 2.30 p.m., was brought under control after three hours, an official from the fire department said.

'Started in AC duct'

The State's Urban Development and Energy Minister, A. K. Sharma, said preliminary information indicated that the fire may have started in the building's AC duct and the smoke led to suffocation of those present in the build-

ing due to the absence of a proper exit route. The Minister said lapses in building standards would be probed.

Probe ordered

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who cut short his visit to Aligarh and returned to Lucknow on learning about the fire, rushed to the spot.

"The matter will be thoroughly investigated and those found responsible will be brought to justice," he said.

The State government formed a two-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the incident. The SIT, comprising Amrit Abhijat, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Religious, and Culture Department, and Praveen Kumar, Additional Director-General of Police, Lucknow Zone, has been instructed to submit its report within seven days.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident and announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 each for those injured.

"Anguished by the loss of lives in a fire mishap in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. My condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover at the earliest. Rescue operations are underway and authorities are providing all possible assistance," he wrote in a post on X.

Eyewitnesses recounted the horror with one person saying, "When I arrived at the spot, I saw smoke billowing from the building. Some students had already been rescued, and four to five students managed to come out."

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SCREAMS, CALLS, AND A WAIT
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Talks with Iran laid a 'good foundation' for deal: U.S.

Agence France-Presse
BURGENSTOCK

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance declared on Monday that a "very good foundation" had been laid for negotiations towards a final deal with Iran, after a marathon session of direct talks in Switzerland.

Tehran has agreed for inspectors from the UN's nuclear watchdog to return to the country, Mr. Vance said, a year after Iran suspended some cooperation and blocked inspectors from key nuclear sites bombed by the U.S. and Israel in the 12-day war of 2025.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Bagaei said on Monday that "a very brief discussion took place regarding the nuclear issue, but there was no discussion of details" and that nuclear talks had not begun.

Mr. Vance, meanwhile, said Tehran had agreed to invite International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors "back to their country", calling it "a major milestone... and the first step in permanently denuclearising" Iran.

The U.S. Treasury Department later on Monday issued a general licence for Iran that authorised the production, delivery, and sale of crude oil and petrochemical and petroleum products of Iranian-origin through August 21. The transactions authorised include imports into the U.S.

Mediators Pakistan and Qatar said the negotiators in Switzerland have reached agreement on a "roadmap towards reaching a final deal within 60 days", with technical talks to continue for the rest of the week.

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SANCTION WAIVER
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Exit call: Labour leader Keir Starmer makes a statement after announcing his resignation as British PM on Monday. AFP

Keir Starmer says he is resigning as U.K. Prime Minister

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced that he will step down, acknowledging that the Labour's Parliamentary Party does not see him as the best candidate to lead them into the next general election.

The party will set out a timetable for the transition, possibly through a contest, so that a new Premier is in place before September.

Former Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, who was recently sworn in as an MP, said he will put his name forward for the role of Prime Minister.

Speaking outside No. 10 Downing Street on Monday, Mr. Starmer said he had inherited a Labour Party that was "politically, financially, and morally bankrupt". He spoke of leading the party in a landslide victory in 2024 and highlighted his record, citing growth in real wages, the fastest economic growth in the G7, reduced wait-times for medical appointments, a ban on social media for under-16s, trade deals, and mending fences with the European Union.

"I know the question being asked now is not who was best placed to change the Labour Party to take us

into power and to begin the vital work of improving lives for millions of people. Those questions have been answered," Mr. Starmer said, adding, "The question my party is asking now is whether I am best placed to lead us into the next general election."

'Graceful acceptance'

"I have heard the answer of my parliamentary party to that question, and I accept that answer with good grace," Mr. Starmer said. The Prime Minister had informed King Charles III of his decision on Monday morning, following a weekend of deliberation at his official country home, Chequers.

The Labour's decision-making body, the National Executive Committee, would set out a timetable, Mr. Starmer said, with nominations for a new leader opening on July 9. In the case of a contest, the new leader would be in post before the U.K. Parliament reconvenes in September, as per Mr. Starmer.

Reacting to the news of Mr. Starmer's resignation, Mr. Burnham thanked the Prime Minister and announced he would run for No. 10 Downing Street and for Labour Party leader.

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LANDSLIDE TO SETBACKS
» [PAGE 14](#)

In its first budget, Bengal BJP govt. pushes for jobs, revival of industries

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Bharatiya Janata Party government in West Bengal on Monday tabled its first budget in the Assembly with a push for the industrial revival and creation of jobs. It also continued the State's tradition of welfare of farmers and the backward classes.

Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta tabled a ₹4.38-lakh-crore budget with the promise that the aim of the newly elected government was to "build *Viksit Bangla* as a part of *Viksit Bharat*".

Mr. Dasgupta announced that the State government was going to provide employment to one lakh people in the financial year 2026-27 with 33% of the vacant posts reserved



Swapan Dasgupta

for women candidates. Another highlight of the budget was the announcement of a 20% hike of Dearness Allowance (DA) for State government employees.

Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari assured that the State government employees in the due course would receive DA on a par with Central government employees, a demand of the employees and a poll promise of the BJP. The

budget set aside ₹36,000 crore for Annapurna Yojana, the financial assistance scheme for women in which eligible candidates would receive ₹3,000 a month. For unemployed youth, the Finance Minister announced ₹3,000 a month under the *Bhorsa Karmasathi* scheme.

For rural employment, the West Bengal government allocated ₹14,000 crore under the *Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G)* scheme, which was likely to begin in the State from July 2026. Funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) had been suspended in the State since 2022 due to Centre-State tussle.

"We have ended the

needless conflict with the Centre and tried to take advantage of everything the double engine has to offer," Mr. Dasgupta said.

The budget reintroduced a scheme of providing incentives to industry and allocated ₹5,000 crore for the purpose. The State also promised a West Bengal Industrial Promotion Framework.

Agriculture package

For the welfare of farmers, the budget unveiled a wide-ranging agriculture package, including ₹3,000 annual State assistance for farmers in addition to PM-KISAN benefits and a ₹200 per quintal bonus over minimum support price for paddy procurement.

FUND FOR SUNDARBANS
» [PAGE 11](#)

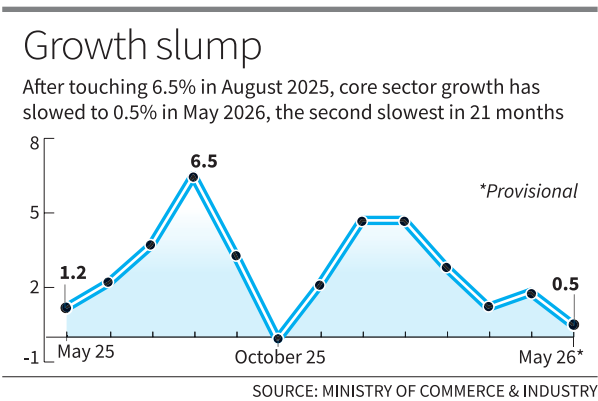
Core sector growth slows to 0.5% in May; coal, refinery products down amid crisis

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The growth in India's eight core industrial sectors slowed to 0.5% in May 2026, the second lowest in 21 months, official data showed. The data on the Index of Eight Core Industries released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday showed that five out of eight sectors contracted in May.

The only month in the past 21 months that saw a slower core sector growth was October 2025, when the index contracted 0.1%.

"Core sector growth in May was disappointing at 0.5% compared with 1.2% last year," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, said. "The lower growth number on a low base can be attributed



more to the decline in production from the petroleum-based sector."

The crude oil sector contracted 4.6% in May, a worse performance than the contraction of 3.9% in April and of 1.8% in May last year. Similarly, the natural gas sector contracted 4.9% in May, its worst performance in three months. The refinery products

sector contracted by 8.7% in May, its worst performance in three-and-half years. According to Rahul Agrawal, principal economist at ICRA, this "partly reflects the fallout of the West Asia crisis". The coal sector, too, contracted by 9.3% – the worst in 10 months. "Crude oil, natural gas, and refinery products – all registered a de-

cline in production," Mr. Sabnavis said. "This can be attributed more to the higher import of crude and softening of prices in the international market."

The fertilizer sector contracted for the third consecutive month in May, by 0.9%. This was, however, a stronger performance than the contraction of 8.6% in April and of 24.6% in March.

The steel, cement, and electricity sectors were the only ones that registered growth in May. Of these, the electricity sector saw growth accelerate to 8.7%, albeit on a low base since the sector contracted by 4.7% in May last year. The steel sector saw growth slowing to a 13-month low of 5%, while the cement sector quickened marginally to a growth of 8.4%.

Punjab caps fee hike for private schools

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab government on Monday approved an ordinance for putting a cap of 5% on annual fee hike by private unaided schools across the State.

According to a statement released by the CM's Office, "In order to regularise unnecessary and unreasonable increase in fee by private non-aided schools, the Cabinet gave nod to bring Punjab Regulation of Fee of Un-aided Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026."

☀ Timings		
DELHI		
TUESDAY, JUN. 23		
☀ RISE	05:25	SET 19:23
🌙 RISE	13:42	SET 00:38
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 24		
☀ RISE	05:25	SET 19:23
🌙 RISE	14:37	SET 01:07
THURSDAY, JUN. 25		
☀ RISE	05:25	SET 19:23
🌙 RISE	15:34	SET 01:39

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	39	29
Safdarjang	39	29
Palam	39	26

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

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

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THE HINDU
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Now, Odisha mob assaults Kerala man in Sambalpur over child-lifting rumours

Police rescue victim and put him on a train to Bokaro; second such incident in a week after Rayagada villagers attacked 2 NGO workers; incident comes amid a series of mob attacks in State in recent times

Satvasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

D ays after villagers in Odisha's Rayagada district attacked two NGO workers on suspicion of being child-lifters, a mob assaulted a daily wage labourer from Kerala in Sambalpur under similar circumstances, officials said on Monday.

Police officials said Vishnu S., a resident of Alappuzha in Kerala, was wandering near Dhobapada Park in Sambalpur, a town in western Odisha, when locals confronted him. Unable to communicate in Odia, he was taken for a child-lifter and assaulted.

Police rescued him from the mob and took him to a hospital. Mr. Vishnu was later connected with a friend and after consultation with his family, put on a train to Bokaro, the police said.



Vigilante attack: Vishnu S. (left) boarding a train to Bokaro from Odisha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The attack comes amid a series of mob violence in Odisha in recent times.

On June 16, two students - a girl from Delhi and a boy from Gujarat, interning with an Odisha-based NGO - were abducted by villagers under Kalyansinghpur police station limits and assaulted by over 100 people, leaving them grievously injured. So far, 25 people

have been arrested in the case assigned to an Additional DGP-level officer to expedite the investigation.

In February, an intellectually challenged man was beaten to death in Mayurbhanj's Morada block following which 15 people were arrested. In a similar case in Samakhunta block, a couple was attacked by villagers, leading to 16 arrests.

In both cases, suspicion of child abduction triggered the violence.

In May, a railway constable was lynched in the Baliaanta area on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar after he was accused of harassing a woman.

Three months ago, two Booth Level Officers from West Bengal were attacked in Jaleswar block after being mistaken for child abductors; a similar incident was reported from Baliapal in Balasore district.

Growing list

Earlier this year, a man was beaten to death after being accused by local youth of involvement in cow slaughter. The growing list of such incidents underscores a disturbing trend of vigilante justice, with mobs breaking the law with little fear of consequences, officials said.

Eight women in Jodhpur develop post-caesarean complications; two in ICU

Press Trust of India
JODHPUR

Eight women developed severe health complications, including kidney failure, following caesarean sections at the district hospital here, the latest in a series of such cases reported in Rajasthan.

The women complained of excessive bleeding and low blood pressure after surgery. Two of them, who developed severe kidney infections, have been referred to Mathuradas Mathur (MDM) Hospital, where they are undergoing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Surgeries suspended

Following the incident, the hospital administration has temporarily closed the operation theatre. Samples have been collected from the OT for investigation, and all surgical procedures have been suspended until the test reports are received, officials said.

Earlier, similar incidents have come to light where



Jodhpur's District Collector inspecting the pharmacy at Paota Satellite Hospital on Monday. PTI

four women in Kota and two in Bikaner have died after developing complications following a caesarean delivery. An expert team from the AIIMS-Delhi and other Central medical institutions was constituted to probe the deaths in Kota.

B.S. Jodha, Principal of SN Medical College, said one of the women experienced severe bleeding, while another, who is diabetic, suffered from low blood pressure and anaemia. Such conditions, he explained, can adversely affect kidney function.

District Hospital PMO Kulbir Chopra said that the

condition of the six women admitted at the district hospital is currently stable.

It's negligence: Gehlot
Meanwhile, former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot expressed concern over the incident. "Reports of women developing septicemia and kidney-related complications after surgery are extremely worrying and reflected a sharp decline in medical standards and serious negligence," he said.

The Congress leader said he would visit Jodhpur and meet the affected patients and their families.

Annual Kheer Bhawani mela in Valley sees 'record' turnout of Kashmiri Pandits

Peerzada Ashiq
GANDERBAL

Buoyed by an improvement in the security situation, a record number of displaced Kashmiri Pandits assembled at Mata Kheer Bhawani temple in Tulmulla in central Kashmir's

Ganderbal on Monday on the occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami and pledged to return. They were welcomed by Muslim residents and regional party leaders.

Over 214 buses have ferried the Pandits to the temple over the past few days. Many devotees termed the

current security situation in Kashmir as "free of fear" and "conducive to travel even at night".

On Sunday, a day before the festival, the Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra Welfare Society, which facilitates the annual pilgrimage, attended to over

10,000 devotees at the society's langar (community kitchen).

"A record number of devotees participated in this year's pilgrimage," said M.K. Yogi, general secretary of the society.

Many devotees comprised Pandits from the

new generation, several of whom were travelling to the Valley for the first time. "It's my first visit to Kashmir. I got to see many relatives whom I had never seen before. It felt like home. We eagerly want to come to Kashmir and settle here," said 17-year-old Anu-

ja Kaul, who lives in Delhi.

Displaced Pandits also uploaded videos of visits to their abandoned homes in the Valley. One such video of an aged Pandit visiting her home at Danew village in Bogund, Kulgam, after 36 years, has gone viral. She is seen touching the

trees under which she once played with trembling hands.

Meanwhile, local Muslims, keeping with the old tradition, set up stalls of puja paraphernalia, including incense sticks, clay lamps and flowers, outside the temple.

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Cross-voting:
Karnataka BJP
leaders to
meet Nabin

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the embarrassing episode of cross-voting by some BJP MLAs in the recently-held elections to the Legislative Council in Karnataka, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra and Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok are heading to Delhi to attend a meeting convened in this regard by party national president Nitin Nabin on Tuesday.

Assuming an aggressive posture ahead of the meeting, Mr. Ashok said, “We are going to hunt down the thieves.” The fact-finding committee led by party MLC, C.T. Ravi, is set to submit an interim report on the cross-voting episode before the meeting, sources said.

The BJP-JD(S) alliance suffered a setback in the elections to the Legislative Council as 11 MLAs from the combine indulged in cross-voting to support the ruling Congress.

The BJP is of the view that four of its MLAs violated the party whip. Asked if the party had identified the MLAs who cross-voted, Mr. Ashok said, “We have suspicion on a few, but we need confirmation.” He indicated that details may emerge in the fact-finding report.

Brushing aside speculations that some MLAs from the Opposition voted in favour of the ruling Congress candidates to get developmental funds for their constituencies, Mr. Ashok remarked: “It is for their own personal development.”

Kerala MPs protest removal
of dam panel representative

Congress’s Jebi Mather, CPI(M)’s John Brittas write to Centre, flag lack of consultation with State before removing T.K. Sivarajan from the committee formed to assess safety of Mullaperiyar dam

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kerala MPs from both the Congress and the Left have reached out to the Union government, raising concerns over its “unilateral decision” to remove Kerala’s representative T.K. Sivarajan from the five-member Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation Committee (CDSEC) formed to assess the safety of the Mullaperiyar dam, without consulting the State government.

Congress Rajya Sabha member Jebi Mather, who is also a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Re-



Congress MP Jebi Mather submits a petition to BJP MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy protesting T.K. Sivarajan’s removal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sources, met panel chairperson Rajeev Pratap Rudy to submit her petition, while the CPI(M)’s Upper House leader John Brittas wrote to Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, advo-

cating the reinstatement of Mr. Sivarajan.

Ms. Mather, in her letter to Mr. Rudy, said Mr. Sivarajan’s removal raised apprehensions regarding the “fairness, transparency

and inclusiveness” of the ongoing dam safety assessment. “Recent assessments undertaken by the Dam Safety Review Panel across the country have highlighted the growing threat posed by ageing and vulnerable dams across the country and the urgent need for comprehensive safety evaluation and rehabilitation measures. These findings have renewed public concern regarding the safety of the Mullaperiyar Dam, a 129-year-old masonry structure situated in a seismically sensitive region,” Ms. Mather wrote. Any adverse incident involving the dam, she cautioned, could affect 35 lakh people downstream.

HC admits Kerala’s
appeal in actor’s case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday admitted the State government’s appeal to enhance the punishment awarded to the convicted and challenging the acquittal of the other accused in the actor assault case of 2017.

The Ernakulam Sessions Court had convicted six of the accused and awarded each one 20 years’ imprisonment on two counts of

gang rape, 10 years’ imprisonment for assault and use of criminal force on a woman with the intent to disrobe her, and one year’s simple imprisonment for wrongful confinement. It was found that the accused had also committed the offence of destruction of evidence and taking and distributing obscene images.

Four of the six convicted had applied for suspension of their sentences, admitted earlier this month by the High Court.

Transport officer dies
as coal lorry hits him

P. Laxma Reddy
JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY

District Transport Officer (DTO) M. Venkanna was killed after a coal-laden tipper lorry hit him near the Regional Transport Office (RTO) at Chelpur on the Parkal-Bhupalpally highway in Telangana on Monday.

According to Superintendent of Police Sirisetti Sankeerth, the tipper lorry rammed into Mr. Venkanna as he had stepped out of

his official vehicle and was regulating traffic to facilitate the entry of a seized harvester into the RTO premises. The coal-laden lorry was proceeding towards the TGGENCO plant when it hit the officer. Preliminary investigation indicated that the vehicle was being driven at high speed and in a rash manner.

Following the incident, Mr. Venkanna sustained grievous injuries and died on the spot. The driver was taken into custody.

INBRIEF



Two more actors quit Kerala
film body; crisis deepens

The crisis in the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) worsened after actors Mallika Sukumaran and Lakshmi Priya resigned from its primary membership on Monday. Ms. Sukumaran said in a social media post that she stood with Shweta Menon, the association’s first woman president, who resigned on Sunday after a stormy general body meeting held in Kochi. The executive committee led by Ms. Menon decided to step down after a section of the association moved a no-confidence motion against it at the general body meeting.

ED questions CMRL’s chief
financial officer in pay-off case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned CMRL Chief Financial Officer K.S. Suresh Kumar in the alleged pay-off case involving Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd. (CMRL) and former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan’s daughter T. Veena. The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs had allegedly uncovered fictitious cash expenses of ₹182 crore generated by the CMRL over a span of 15 years, to bribe various persons. Ms. Veena has been summoned for another round of questioning on June 29.

Allu Arjun fails to appear
before court in stampede case

Actor Allu Arjun did not appear before the Nampally Criminal Court on Monday during proceedings in the Sandhya Theatre stampede case, and two representatives of the theatre management were also absent from the hearing. Allu Arjun, who has been named as Accused No. 11, neither attended the proceedings in person nor joined through video conference. The court directed the defence to submit a memo with the reasons for the actor’s absence. The court adjourned the matter to July 6 for next hearing.

Kerala plan to cut tax on
low-alcohol drinks draws ire

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

The Kerala government’s proposal to lower the tax on low-alcohol beverages appears to be emerging as a political flash-point, drawing opposition not only from sections within and outside the ruling coalition and the Opposition but also

from influential church bodies. The State Committee of the Temperance Commission under the Kerala Catholic Bishops’ Council on Monday opposed the proposal and described it as an ‘anti-Gen Z’ move. The commission warned that it would resist the decision if the objective was to boost revenue collection.



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IMPORTANT NOTE

The post was previously advertised on 16.12.2025, 03.01.2026 and 03.03.2026. Based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee constituted by the Government, the eligibility criteria have been revised and the post is hereby re-advertised to attract a larger pool of qualified candidates. Candidates who have already applied and appeared for the interview conducted on 15.04.2026 need not apply again. Their applications will be considered along with the applications received pursuant to this notification.

Eligibility (Essential):

1. Post-Graduation in Earth Sciences / Atmospheric Sciences/ Climate Sciences/Hydrology/Meteorology / Geological Sciences / Geo-Informatics / Water Resources Engineering/ Agriculture Sciences / Geotechnical Engineering / Disaster Management / Environmental Sciences / Remote Sensing & GIS or related disciplines.
2. Minimum 15 years of relevant professional experience.
3. Ph.D. is desirable but not mandatory.

Remuneration:

Consolidated monthly remuneration will be decided at the time of interview based on the performance, experience and suitability for external candidates. Pay protection will be considered for deputation candidates as per Government rules for the eligible candidates.

Tenure:

Initially for Two (02) Years, extendable up to Three (03) additional years on a yearly basis subject to satisfactory performance.

For detailed Terms of Reference (ToR), application format and eligibility conditions, visit the KSNDMC website: **www.ksndmc.org**

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People staging a protest outside the Deputy Commissioner’s office in Faridabad on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Faridabad residents
stage protest against
demolition drive

The Hindu Bureau
FARIDABAD

Hundreds of people protested outside the Deputy Commissioner’s office here on Monday against the use of bulldozers and “illegal demolitions” in Nehru Colony and other localities, demanding action against those responsible, compensation for demolished homes, and rehabilitation for displaced residents.

According to the protesters, the Municipal Corporation of Faridabad (MCF) and the district administration demolished hundreds of homes and places of worship in Nehru Colony, a 70-year-old settlement, on the intervening night of May 29 and 30 while residents were asleep.

Led by Centre of Indian Trade Unions leaders, the demonstration was part of an ongoing sit-in by the ‘Nehru Colony Bachao Sangharsh Samiti’ outside the Municipal Commissioner’s office since June 15.

Residents said no prior notice to vacate was issued and thousands of homeowners received verbal threats to move out. Multiple families said they pos-

sessed ration cards, Aadhaar cards, electricity meters, voter IDs and family IDs, and that several generations had lived in the colony for decades.

The MCF issued a formal notice on June 2, three days after the demolitions began.

The notice cited metro railway infrastructure work as the reason for demolition drive and stated that land from “120 feet on the culvert side to 160 feet on the mosque side” must be cleared within a week for a metro station.

Protesters questioned why the notice was issued after the demolitions and why it mentioned only a specific section while verbal orders allegedly forced the entire colony to vacate.

Letter to CM
After the march, protesters submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini demanding an immediate halt of demolitions, compensation and rehabilitation for families whose homes and shops were demolished. Municipal Commissioner Dhirendra Khadgata refused to comment, saying it was “sub judice”.

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Deadly fumes

Strict enforcement of safety norms is absent in many industrial units

Tamil Nadu has witnessed its deadliest industrial ammonia leak tragedy, which has so far claimed the lives of eight migrant women workers at a private seafood processing unit in Tiruvallur district. Some of the 68 hospitalised workers are in intensive care on oxygen support. Since the 1980s, the State has battled ammonia leaks in factories every few years, mostly in and around Chennai. Other than in Thoothukudi in 2024, where one worker died, such accidents have at worst led to the hospitalisation of large numbers of people with eye irritation and breathing difficulties. There were no casualties even when an estimated 67,638 tonnes of ammonia leaked from the undersea pipeline of a private company in Ennore during Cyclone Michaung in 2023. The scale of the tragedy at St. Peter & Paul Seafood Exports Pvt. Ltd., Tiruvallur, indicates that the colourless pungent gas may have accumulated in the atmosphere at fatal concentrations. The leak occurred when workers were resting in factory accommodation, on Sunday. Had the incident occurred on a working day, the number of people exposed to the leak from the ammonia pipeline to the ice-flake machinery could have been significantly higher.

While a committee comprising the Director of Industrial Safety and Health (DISH), the Member Secretary of the TN Pollution Control Board, and the Additional Director of Public Health is conducting an inquiry, disturbing facts have emerged. The factory reportedly failed to rectify serious deficiencies, pointed out during an earlier DISH inspection, including the absence of a suitable alarm system and fire hydrant. It had also not obtained a revised plan approval for installing an ice-flaking machine. That matter is sub judice. Investigations will reveal whether these shortcomings had any bearing in this tragedy. What is clear, however, is that had the recommendations made by DISH in the Ennore case been universally enforced in factories using ammonia, the scale of the current tragedy could have been contained. DISH had recommended the provision of adequate ammonia sensors in the plant and surrounding areas for early warning, along with water-curtain systems linked to ammonia alarms and fire-water nozzles for ammonia feed pumps to reduce the impact of leaks. The government has now decided to form a committee to inspect all 6,669 hazardous industries. However, numerous checks and balances exist under the Tamil Nadu Control of Industrial Major Accident Hazards Rules, 1994. What is required is strict enforcement through a coordinated approach, stronger penalties for violators, and the political will to act decisively against them.

Stay with the evidence

Better monitoring of sale of banned drugs is essential

The character of science leans to openness: to new evidence and emerging facts. Its ability to be agile to pivot and shift to newer guidelines is therefore absolutely crucial. The Health Ministry’s recent ban on 16 Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs comes on the evidence that these drug combinations lack therapeutic justification, are ‘deemed irrational or unsafe’ and might pose risks to patients. The drugs include dermatological drugs, analgesics and antispasmodics, and antibiotic-based formulations. An FDC is a drug containing two or more active pharmacological ingredients, combined in a fixed ratio in a single dosage. These were meant to improve treatment compliance in chronic conditions (such as Tuberculosis) by reducing the pill burden and, sometimes, by improved therapeutic effectiveness. However, irrational combinations, besides being ineffective, can also be counter-productive and harmful. As per the latest order, all State Drug Controllers, regulatory authorities, and enforcement agencies are to ensure strict implementation and compliance with the recent notification. Instructions must also be sent to manufacturers, importers, distributors, and even individual pharmacies, to stop stocking and selling the banned FDCs.

This is not the first time that the Health Ministry is cracking down on FDCs. A detailed scientific review is undertaken before these decisions to ban FDCs are taken. In March 2016, the government banned a whopping number of over 330 FDC drugs, on the ground that they were irrational, with immediate effect. While FDCs offer the advantage of a reduction in the number of pills, of certain benefit to certain categories of patients, there are some innate issues as well: patients might need different titrations of doses, impossible with FDCs; patients might develop allergies, but it will not be clear what particular pharmaceutical ingredient they are reacting to. It is also clear that all patients may not actually need all the drugs in the combination, exposing them to unnecessary side effects. A further potential harm exists with FDCs of antibiotics: In 2016, 19% of the 330 FDCs banned were antibiotics; There is enough evidence to show that irrational antibiotic FDC drug usage leads to or exacerbates the growing antimicrobial resistance problem in the country. While the government has taken a positive step with banning these FDCs, its work has just begun. In many instances in the past, stocks of banned drugs were still being sold in pharmacies, because the message had not percolated down. While staying solidly on the side of evidence-based medicine, the government must also activate its monitoring and supervision arm in order to ensure that the benefits from the ban reach the last mile.

In the modern world, digital infrastructure is the track on which commerce, government, and national security run. Seen in this context, recent reports of Indian closed-circuit television (CCTV) networks being compromised by hostile entities to gain access to information on India’s strategic defence assets (April 2026), along with an incident in July 2025, in which Nayara Energy was abruptly denied access to its corporate email, collaboration tools, and cloud-stored data, raise serious concerns about the future of India’s digital and technological sovereignty. While the CCTV security breach was attributed to the use of the Chinese software platform EsecCloud in the CCTV equipment, the Nayara episode was a result of Microsoft Corporation’s unilateral enforcement of European Union (EU) sanctions against Nayara Energy due to the stake held in it by the Russian energy giant Rosneft.

These incidents have exposed an uncomfortable reality: critical Indian digital infrastructures such as authentication systems, productivity suites, and cloud platforms operate on technology platforms owned and operated by foreign technology giants. Even when data is physically stored in India, under certain existing global data governance regimes, foreign cloud technology companies can be compelled to provide data within their possession to their home governments. As a result, effective control over digital infrastructure shifts away from Indian entities to overseas corporations and foreign governments.

Foreign control, national risk

The major implication is that the functioning of Indian businesses and critical government services built on foreign technology platforms becomes vulnerable to decisions made by external sovereigns. Directives issued by external sovereigns to deny access to critical digital technology to Indian entities could suspend government operations, collapse trade and commerce, halt manufacturing, and weaken defence capabilities.

For instance, since contemporary warfare is software-defined, the intelligence embedded in fighter aircraft, missile systems, and advanced radar installations resides not in hardware but in code that remains under the control of manufacturers answerable to foreign governments. In conflict scenarios, these manufacturers could possibly degrade targeting accuracy, reduce operational range, or worse, redirect battlefield intelligence to adversaries due to instructions from external sovereigns, all through software configuration changes. A case in point is the 1999 Kargil conflict, during which



Manish Verma

Technology Strategist, Distinguished Fellow at Avinyum Foundation, a not-for-profit technology think tank, and a PhD (Practice Track) Scholar at the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode



Sthanu R. Nair

Teaches Economics and Public Policy at the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode

Digital sovereignty is essential for India’s technological security and strategic autonomy

India faced limitations on access to precise GPS support at a moment when navigation and targeting in mountainous terrain were operationally decisive.

India’s unique situation

The vulnerability and the risks of dependence on foreign digital infrastructure are being recognised globally. France plans to shift government departments from Microsoft Teams and Zoom to a sovereign video-conferencing platform by 2027. The Netherlands, Denmark, and several German states are exploring domestic alternatives to critical United States software and cloud services such as Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, and Teams. The EU is seeking to reduce its dependence on American technology through independent European cloud and IT infrastructure, while Türkiye is lessening its reliance on foreign technologies.

However, unlike other nations, India’s situation is uniquely precarious when contextualised within the framework of Power Transition Theory, which posits that when a rising power, desirous of maintaining strategic autonomy, approaches parity with an established hegemon, the latter invariably acts to constrain the former. History demonstrates that rising competitors are contained or co-opted. We already see it being played out on a much larger scale between the U.S. and China. With an accelerating growth trajectory, India has been inching towards this critical zone while facing a daunting task: building its economic fortune on a technology infrastructure independent of foreign influence.

The strategy to address this challenge must be multipronged. The denial of GPS access during the Kargil conflict spurred India to develop its own satellite navigation system. More recently, efforts to strengthen the domestic semiconductor ecosystem and migrate the email systems of some central government ministries to the homegrown Zoho platform reflect a growing commitment to digital and technological sovereignty. India’s success in building indigenous payments infrastructure through UPI and RuPay has shown that vulnerabilities arising from foreign-controlled systems can be overcome. This model can be extended to cloud infrastructure, e-commerce platforms, authentication systems, and defence technologies.

To de-risk dependence on foreign defence technologies, India could emulate aspects of the U.S.’s defence production and procurement model. While India has long recognised the importance of self-reliance in defence manufacturing, its heavy reliance on the public sector has not delivered the desired results. The absence of an indigenous modern fighter aircraft

despite the programme having begun in the 1980s is a stark reminder of this shortcoming. In contrast, American defence platforms are largely developed by private corporations, with the government providing research funding and assured procurement. This creates a virtuous cycle in which companies develop cutting-edge capabilities while remaining aligned with national strategic interests. India has recently begun moving in this direction by inviting private-sector participation in the development of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft under a competitive framework.

Another way to safeguard digital sovereignty is to develop critical technologies and digital infrastructure in partnership with other countries. This ensures mutual dependence, reducing the risk of unilateral actions that could undermine India’s strategic interests. The BrahMos missile programme, jointly developed by India and Russia, is a notable example. A key advantage of this approach is that it enables India to build technological capabilities without risking international isolation, unlike China which allowed only indigenous companies to develop critical technologies. Seen in this context, two recent developments are encouraging. The first is the commencement of commercial production at Micron Technology’s semiconductor Assembly, Test, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) facility in Sanand, Gujarat, established through India-U.S. technology cooperation. The second is India’s decision to join Pax Silica, the U.S.-led initiative on AI and supply-chain security aimed at reducing dependence on Chinese technology and strengthening trusted technology partnerships.

Close the R&D gap

Above all, India must urgently raise its research and development (R&D) spending to levels comparable with global leaders. India’s gross expenditure on R&D averaged just 0.74% of GDP between 2000 and 2020 against a global average of 2.07%. This persistent R&D spending deficit raises serious concerns about India’s future technological and digital sovereignty. For a country of India’s demographic scale and economic ambitions, seeking to approach parity with established powers, the question is not whether it can afford comprehensive technological sovereignty, but whether it can afford to forgo it. The extent to which India succeeds in mitigating the risks to its technological sovereignty will determine its economic competitiveness and strategic autonomy in an increasingly fragmented international order.

The views expressed are personal

The world that China desires and is shaping

The sheer destructiveness of American foreign policy under United States President Donald Trump is obscuring a quiet but consequential shift in global politics. Mr. Trump’s Liberation Day tariffs, the disastrous war against Iran, and systematic alienation of allies and partners have dominated headlines and consumed diplomatic bandwidth. And rightly so. The U.S., architect of the post-war international order, is now taking a machete to the very frameworks it built. But the chaos emanating from Washington is drawing attention away from what China is doing with the space this creates.

The Chinese alternative

Last week, Beijing released a white paper on global governance, which offers a systematic articulation of how it is reshaping the world order. As expected, the paper presents China as a defender of the international system, warning that humanity must not be allowed to return to “the law of the jungle”. Beijing argues that it has paid its United Nations dues ahead of schedule in 2025; it has backed the restoration of the WTO’s Appellate Body; and its four global initiatives are a demonstration of its responsibility as a great power. This is not, however, the full picture. A close reading of China’s diplomacy shows that it is not simply defending the post-war order. Rather, it is selectively revising it, largely preserving the institutional scaffolding while quietly rewriting the normative substance that gives it meaning.

Understanding this requires disaggregating the international order into two dimensions: the institutional and the normative. The institutional order comprises the UN system, the Bretton Woods institutions, and the multilateral architecture built in the years following the Second World War. The normative order encompasses the principles that animate these institutions, from Westphalian norms of sovereignty and non-interference to liberal norms



Manoj Kewalramani

Chairperson of the Geostrategy Programme at the Takshashila Institution

China’s recent white paper outlines a transformation of the norms beneath the international order

of human rights, democratic governance, free markets, and the rule of law. On the institutional front, Beijing is deeply invested. It is the second-largest contributor to the UN budget, having raised its share of the UN regular budget from under 1% in 2000 to over 20% in 2025, a proactive participant in WTO reform, and a builder of complementary institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the New Development Bank, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. These are not designed to replace the existing system but to expand China’s authority within it while creating parallel platforms that advance its agenda. This is institutional revisionism, not revolution.

Normative ambitions

The real action, however, is in the normative domain, where China’s ambitions are far more transformative. Beijing’s four global initiatives – on development, security, civilisation, and governance – collectively represent a sustained campaign of norm entrepreneurship. Individually, each sounds benign. The Global Development Initiative links itself to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) calls for respecting civilisational diversity. The Global Security Initiative (GSI) emphasises sovereignty and non-interference. And the Global Governance Initiative explicitly says that reform “does not mean to overturn the existing international order”.

But look closer. The GSI’s emphasis on taking “legitimate security concerns of all countries seriously” has been operationalised to dilute Ukraine’s sovereign right to choose its own alliances, a position that conveniently serves Beijing’s broader interest in weakening the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The GCI’s call for diverse interpretations of universal values is, in practice, an effort to recast human rights as culturally contingent rather than universal,

shielding authoritarian governance from scrutiny. And China’s redefinition of democracy in explicitly outcome-based terms, where legitimacy derives from material delivery rather than political participation, institutional independence, or accountability, represents a fundamental departure from liberal norms.

Meanwhile, China’s own behaviour reveals the limits of its professed commitment even to the Westphalian norms it champions. In the South China Sea, it rejected the 2016 Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling as “null and void”. Along its borders with India and Bhutan, periodic standoffs persist. The Belt and Road Initiative, while framed as development cooperation, has often blurred the line between external partnership and internal influence in recipient states.

A different world

Seen in this light, what emerges is a picture not of a revolutionary power seeking to torch the existing system, but of a sophisticated selective revisionist – one that preserves the institutional architecture it finds useful while systematically hollowing out the normative foundations to align with its objectives. Beijing supports sovereignty when it suits its interests and dilutes it when it does not. It endorses multilateralism in trade while practising selective openness and securitisation at home.

This matters enormously at a moment when reckless American policies appear to be making Beijing’s revisionism seem palatable to many. The risk is not that the institutional order collapses. Both Washington and Beijing, for different reasons, remain invested in its survival. The risk is that the principles animating that order are gradually redefined in a way that undermines the sovereign equality of states, weakens civil society and individual rights, and erodes the rule of law. This is a future that does not align with India’s strategic interests.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Invoking history

The Prime Minister’s recent remarks in West Bengal, suggesting that the State is now “free of shackles” and invoking a selective interpretation of Bengal’s history, deserve closer scrutiny. Political leaders are entitled to celebrate electoral victories, but they must exercise greater responsibility when referring to historical events that shaped the nation. Historical records show that

the proposal for an independent and undivided Bengal was advanced by leaders such as Sarat Chandra Bose and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy. The Congress leadership, however, did not endorse the idea of a sovereign United Bengal and ultimately supported the partition of Bengal in view of the prevailing political circumstances and communal realities of the time. To portray the

Congress as having actively sought to merge the entirety of Bengal into Pakistan is therefore historically inaccurate. More importantly, one may disagree with the Congress on numerous issues, but it cannot be denied that the party played a central role in India’s freedom struggle. What is particularly disappointing is the continued reliance on divisive historical rhetoric by those occupying the

highest constitutional offices. After more than a decade in power, citizens reasonably expect discussions on employment, industrial growth, public health, education, environmental challenges, energy security, and inflation. **Aditya Das,** Bhowali, Uttarakhand

Deflect, repeat
Pursuing the buck seems to be the mantra of the

present age. If employment cannot be generated, brand the unemployed as “cockroaches”. If people within the system, driven by greed, leak National Eligibility cum Entrance Test papers, ban the messaging app Telegram. If the nation’s foreign relations deteriorate, blame Jawaharlal Nehru. The government of the day appears to have an excuse for every political

manoeuvre undertaken to capture power in States that were once governed by Opposition parties, be it Delhi, West Bengal, Maharashtra or Goa. The moot question, however, remains: can all the people be fooled all the time?

P.R. Ravinder, Hyderabad

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Citizens interests and conservation

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of Japan-related vessels stranded in the Gulf

37 The number of Japan-related vessels remaining in the Persian Gulf has fallen to 37 from 45, with seven ships having transited the Strait of Hormuz and one transferred to a non-Japanese operator, as per the Japanese Shipowners' Association. Once safe passage has been confirmed, individual shipping firms will decide when to resume transit through the Strait. REUTERS

Number of confirmed Ebola cases in eastern Congo

1,003 Confirmed cases in the Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo have reached 1,003, including 254 deaths, officials said, as tracing those who had been in contact with patients remains a major challenge. A total of 100 people have recovered in the outbreak since it was declared on May 15, Congo's Ministry of Health said Sunday. PTI

Number of aircraft added by Akasa Air to its fleet in 2026

8 Akasa Air, which has been flying for nearly four years, on Monday received its 39th Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. So far in 2026, the airline has added eight aircraft to its fleet. About the 39th plane, Akasa Air said the first leg of the aircraft's delivery flight commenced from Seattle, U.S., to Reykjavik, Iceland, and concluded with the final leg from Cairo, Egypt, to Bengaluru. PTI

Persons injured in Qatar gas plant blast on Sunday

54 A huge blast at a Qatar gas hub that sent flames shooting into the night sky has injured 54 people, authorities said on Monday as they searched for 18 others missing. A "technical incident" caused the explosion late on Sunday in the Gulf Emirate's Ras Laffan industrial zone, the state's Interior Ministry said. The blast took place at a unit supplying gas to local firms. AFP

Number of PMs to hold power in Britain in last 10 years so far

6 Britain will have its seventh Prime Minister in a decade this year after Labour leader Keir Starmer was ousted on Monday by his own party. The party's self-inflicted wound was a trend set by the Conservatives when they were in office. Mr. Starmer announced his resignation on Monday following months of nose-diving poll ratings. AFP

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Reclaiming T.N.'s fiscal autonomy

Tamil Nadu's problem today is not fiscal profligacy or corruption; the pressing problem is its model of inclusive growth itself; the real challenge is getting investment, generating decent jobs, improving wages, while actively renegotiating fiscal space with the Centre

ECONOMIC NOTES

Kalaiyarasan A.

The Government of Tamil Nadu's white paper is a comprehensive analysis of the State's financial status and economic conditions. Detailed like the white paper prepared by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in 2021, the Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam's (TVK's) 120-page document begins with an important line: 'it is neither an exercise in retrospective blame nor a political statement'. In that spirit, this is a genuine exercise.

It indeed offers an honest account of what went wrong with tax collection: a shrinking base and leakages embedded in both revenue collection and expenditure patterns. While its diagnosis is rigorous, what is not clear, however, is how the government is going to fix the leakages and manoeuvre the welfare that it has promised during its election campaign.

Unsustainable fiscal deficit

The white paper lays bare the structural weaknesses facing Tamil Nadu's economy and outlines a possible course correction which, in that sense, has a lot more continuity than the earlier one submitted by the DMK.

Both literally state that "the current levels of fiscal deficit are unsustainable primarily because a substantial portion of the fiscal deficit is simply to fund the revenue deficit". It means the State is simply borrowing to fund current consumption rather than to create assets. To be sure, for every rupee borrowed about 60 paise goes to current consumption. But one has to be cautious in reading too much into this as substantial expenditure for health and education are under the revenue account.

In an economy, the government needs to raise resources to pay for the provision of public goods and services, build social and physical infrastructures needed for growth and protect the vulnerable from the market forces. In that sense, every policy is a political choice with losers and gainers not just within the present generation but also across generations since public debt shifts the burden of payment to future governments.

The white paper says that the State is deep in debt and its fiscal deficit is beyond the prescribed limit. On average, an individual pays about ₹38,000 in taxes to the State and the Union governments and receives about ₹54,500 worth of subsidies and services. The gap is typically funded by borrowing. The consolidated debt of each individual is then around ₹1.29 lakh, and the cumulative debt is about 28% of the State income, which is the cause for concern today.

Collapse of revenue generation

The serious concern that the report flags is not just debt but of the collapse of the revenue generation itself. While the white paper shows the account of revenue generation of the past five years, the collapse precedes this by at least a decade.

Make no mistake, Tamil Nadu was one of the few States that predominantly sustained itself on its own revenue for its expenditure – about 70% of its expenditure from its own tax in sharp contrast to States such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh which largely rely on the Centre's transfer.

With the introduction of the GST in



A delicate equation: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Mr. Vijay has the enormous responsibility to not only put the State's inclusive growth model back on track, but also to reclaim fiscal autonomy from the Centre. @PMOINDIA X

2017, States have lost their autonomy on taxation. Tamil Nadu suffered the most. The State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio, which was 7.92% in 2011-12, has been steadily declining, and was down to 5.93% in 2021-22 and further down to 5.45% in 2025-26. The ratio reflects the State's capacity to mobilise its own tax resources relative to the size of its economy. While the white paper clearly shows that the decline is spread across all major tax heads – GST, petroleum VAT, State excise, stamp duty and motor vehicle tax, the GST alone accounts for about 53% total tax revenue. Despite having the second largest economy with the size of ₹35.29 lakh crore of GSDP, its GST collection was ₹72,008 crore lower than that of Karnataka (₹87,256 crore), and Gujarat (₹80,823 crore).

Beside the systemic corruption and inefficiencies in tax collection, the predominance of the service sector also contributed to the decline in GST collection. It appears many units within the sector are beyond the tax net.

Revenue leakages, sectoral debt

Similarly, motor vehicle tax collection has lagged since the number of vehicles registered in the State has not kept pace. Not to mention stamp duties in rent-seeking sectors such as real estate which is known for undervaluation of the property at registration and excessive leakages and corruption.

Even mining revenue is among the most striking examples of stagnation in non-tax income. Besides corruption in valuation, leakage in the assessment of minor mineral extraction also contributed to the decline.

The key sectors that drive the State in this debt trap are the power sector and transport. The power sector alone carries ₹2.47 lakh crore of debt.

The State has historically built progressive power subsidy model - taxing industries and paying for poor and farmers which have become sites of political rent-seeking tied to electoral cycles.

Beside the steady decline in its own tax collection, the State has also been increasingly losing its share in the Union transfer. For instance, Union tax devolution and grants-in-aid together constituted about 34.95% of Total Revenue Receipts in 2021-22 and it declined to 25.5% in 2025-26. Again, this decline precedes a decade. The State's share in total transfer was 5.305% in the 12th Finance Commission period, but it came down to 4.969% in the 13th Finance Commission period and fell down to 4.023% for the 16th Commission.

This declining share is due to the formula adopted by the successive Finance Commissions. The high weightage given to the per capita income distance, combined with population works to the State's disadvantage. In this sense, the State has become a victim of its own success; since per capita income distance favours poorer States by allocating them a larger share of resources, relatively developed States like Tamil Nadu receive less, effectively penalising their higher levels of economic progress. Even the weight assigned to GDP contribution by the 16th Finance Commission did not help as the formula remains unfavourable. Nor have criteria such as area and forest cover worked in the State's favour.

On the other hand, the shareable divisible pool has been shrinking thanks to the arbitrary cess and surcharges imposed by the Centre that takes away the legitimate resources of the States. In that sense, the State is a victim of both vertical and horizontal distribution.

With declining Union transfers and the erosion of its own revenue base, Tamil Nadu's government size – measured by total expenditure as a share of GSDP – has shrunk, weakening the State's fiscal capacity. Together, these factors, limit the State's ability to intervene in the economy.

As the white paper shows, about 64% of every rupee of revenue receipts in 2025-26 is pre-committed on the account of salaries, pensions and interest. With the inflexible non-discretionary

obligations of 23%, the pre-committed expenditure goes up to 87% leaving little room for any additional expenditure or any new schemes. Global uncertainty or any exogenous shock could make the economy paralysed.

Debt, demography and scissors effect

This potential debt trap also comes at a time when the State is witnessing faster demographic change. It's aging faster than any other large State in India. Tamil Nadu's median age is 34.25 years – nearly 9.5 years older than Uttar Pradesh and its old-age dependency ratio is projected to increase from 20.6 in 2021 to 32.7 by 2036. This has two implications. The ability to repay the debt is limited, the paper argues, because a shrinking working-age population means a shrinking tax base. It also means the need for higher social expenditure as the share of elderly population goes up. The interaction between a rising debt stock and a shrinking working-age population can create condition for a debt trap which demographers call 'scissors effect' – the widening gap between revenue capacity and expenditure obligations.

The pressing problem

However, Tamil Nadu's problem today is not fiscal profligacy or corruption. The pressing problem is its model of inclusive growth itself. The real challenge thus is getting investment, generating decent jobs, improving wages, while actively renegotiation fiscal space with the Centre. The welfare architecture that the State has built is not enough.

Educated youth who rallied behind the TVK are not seeking more welfare, but decent jobs and wages. Welfare can't be a substitute for jobs and wages. It is time to get the growth fundamentals right, which require investment in education, health, and public infrastructure. Chief Minister Joseph Vijay thus has the enormous responsibility not only to put the inclusive growth model back on track, but also to reclaim fiscal autonomy from the Centre.

Kalaiyarasan A. is Associate Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies

THE GIST

The white paper lays bare the structural weaknesses facing Tamil Nadu's economy and outlines a possible course correction which, in that sense, has a lot more continuity than the earlier one submitted by the DMK.

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CACHE



Transparency push: Parliament recently passed the Jan Vishwas law, a move to ‘liberate governance from the steel cage’. FILE PHOTO

No one should own the law: why government standards should be public

As part of the implementation of the Jan Vishwas framework, it has been proposed that all edicts of government be centrally published and that any such edict not publicly accessible be treated as null and void — a principle that should extend to public safety standards as well

Carl Malamud

The principle that rules governing public life must be widely accessible is not new to India. The first Indian road safety standard dates back to Emperor Ashoka, who commanded that his edicts of government be broadly disseminated throughout the land. The 7th Pillar Edict, now located in Delhi, had an extensive section on road safety.

Today, this work continues under the auspices of the Indian Roads Congress. While ostensibly a non-profit association, it is actually an arm of the government; it is subject to Right to Information Act; its website is maintained by the Network Information Centre, and its governing council is predominantly composed of government officials. It is a law-making enterprise with the force of the state.

The Indian Roads Congress publishes hundreds of standards, guidelines, and specifications relating to road safety and construction. These documents cover a wide range of technical matters, including route signage for national highways, vehicle design dimensions and weights, and the design of prestressed concrete road bridges.

These standards are widely incorporated into government practice, appearing in subordinate legislation as well as in regulations issued by bodies such as the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The standards are also an integral part of the road construction efforts by the States and are frequently referred to in judicial opinions.

For over a decade, I’ve been systematically purchasing, scanning, and posting these road edicts on my website and on the Internet Archive, a non-profit public library based in the U.S. Many of these standards have been accessed tens of thousands of times, with even government agencies themselves reproducing and hosting copies. This work is entirely non-commercial: no fees are charged for access, no intellectual

property rights are asserted, and the source of every document is clearly identified. The underlying principle is straightforward – edicts of government constitute the raw materials of democracy, and a truly informed citizenry is indispensable to ensuring a government not merely for the people, but by the people.

Recently, a “takedown” notice was issued by the Indian Roads Congress – a demand for the immediate removal of its purportedly proprietary works – accompanied by threats of legal consequences for non-compliance. That demand has not been complied with, and it is necessary to explain why.

My nonprofit makes edicts of government available; it is the essence of our mission. In India, this included posting of over 14,000 Indian Standards issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Like the standards of the Indian Roads Congress, BIS standards are an integral part of public safety. It is impossible to meaningfully advance initiatives such as “Make in India” without ensuring “safe in India.” These standards cover critical areas including the National Building Code, safety requirements for motorcycle helmets and drinking water, procedures for entering sewer systems, the operation of agricultural and textile machinery, and construction practices in areas prone to typhoons. Like the Indian Roads Congress, an elaborate law-making process is used before an Indian Standard is issued.

When BIS objected to my actions, myself and two Indian co-petitioners raised a Public Interest Litigation in the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi. Our suit went on for seven years, and then something interesting happened. During those seven years, we continued to post all the BIS standards for open access, yet during that time more and more people became aware of the standards and the sales of standards by BIS went up! But, here’s the thing. Government doesn’t make money selling these publications, but they are hard to procure.

It turns out BIS was loosing more and

more money as their sales went up. Recognising the inefficiency of this model, a senior official in the Ministry directed that the standards be made freely available on the BIS website. This outcome aligned with the very relief that had been sought; accordingly, the matter was brought before the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, and a request was made to withdraw the petition. The court acceded to this request and disposed of the matter.

Parliament has recently passed the Jan Vishwas law, a move to “liberate governance from the steel cage”. A recent post by business leaders Manish Sabharwal (co-founder of TeamLease) and Rahul Matthan (co-founder of Trilegal) called for the removal of “shadow instruments” – edicts that are not readily available to read. In addition to judicial decisions and primary legislation, they identify a wide array of non-statutory instruments that nonetheless carry the force of law, including regulations, circulars, master circulars, departmental and ministerial directions, office memoranda, public notices, general orders, guidance notes, advisories, press releases, schemes, consultation papers, standard operating procedures, policies, notifications, guidelines, government orders, departmental orders, and gazettes.

These instruments constitute what may properly be described as “edicts of government.” Courts in other jurisdictions have affirmed that such edicts belong to the people. In the United States, the Supreme Court has held that “no man shall own the law,” underscoring the principle that legal materials must remain in the public domain. Similarly, in the European Union, a constitutional bench has ruled that mandatory safety standards form an integral part of the law and that ensuring public access to them is of “overriding public importance.”

As part of the implementation of Jan Vishwas, Mr. Sabharwal and Mr. Matthan have suggested that all edicts of government in India be posted on a central website, such as India Code, and

that any such edict not publicly accessible should be treated as null and void. This proposal is both sound and necessary, and it ought to extend expressly to public safety standards as well.

It is important, however, to distinguish such edicts from other categories of government publications. Not all documents issued by the state carry normative or binding force; many are informational or cultural in nature, including the numerous publications produced by bodies such as the Publications Division, the National Book Trust, and the Archaeological Survey of India.

Edicts of government have a special protected place in constitutional law, but works of government are any documents issued by the state, and these public works have a special importance. I have also purchased and posted thousands of such documents from the Union and State governments, and as with edicts, have over the years received a number of takedown notices. As with the Roads Congress, I have stated my position and respectfully declined to remove the documents.

In the U.S., the “works of government” clause in the copyright act states that documents issued by the federal government are not eligible for copyright. In England, the government maintains “crown copyright” but has an open government data license permitting reuse. It would be a simple matter for India to adopt a works of government policy.

Edicts of government are the law, and must be available for democracy to function. Works of government are also vital, public knowledge paid for by the people. Making both edicts and works more readily available will enrich our society and make government ever more relevant to the citizenry. These are small steps we can all take as we walk together up that long twisted path towards a better democracy, towards that shining city on the hill.

Carl Malamud is the president and founder of Public Resource, a U.S.-based NGO and author of 9 books.

THE DAILY QUIZ

The Antarctic Treaty System came into force on June 23, 1961. How well do you know the history of treaties, Antarctica?

Prathmesh Kher

- QUESTION 1
Which country established the first permanent research station in Antarctica, Orcadas Base, which has operated continuously since 1904?
- QUESTION 2
The Antarctic Treaty applies to all territory south of which latitude?
- QUESTION 3
Which major scientific event of 1957-58 provided the immediate impetus for negotiating the Antarctic Treaty?
- QUESTION 4
Which seven countries had overlapping territorial claims in Antarctica when the Treaty was signed?
- QUESTION 5
How many countries currently have Consultative Party status, giving them voting rights in Antarctic Treaty decision-making?



Visual question: Name this active volcano, located on Ross Island, which is the southernmost active volcano on Earth? UNITED STATES ANTARCTIC PROGRAM - ANTARCTIC PHOTO LIBRARY

- Questions and Answers to the previous day’s daily quiz:
1. Why did PM Modi, in his speech at the UN in 2014, suggest June 21 be observed as International Day of Yoga? **Ans: It is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere**
2. What was the theme for IDY this year? **Ans: Yoga for Healthy Ageing**
3. Of the five broad classifications of Yoga, two are Bhakti and Karma Yoga. Name the other 3. **Ans: Jnana, Dhyana and Kriya**
4. Which sadhana: i) advocates appropriate food and food habits for healthy living; ii). dissociating one's consciousness from the sense organs that connect with the external objects. **Ans: 'Yuktahara' and 'Pratyahara'**
5. From which animals are these asanas inspired: Catur Svanasana, Sasakasana, Ustrasana? **Ans: Dolphin, hare/rabbit and camel**
6. From where does the shloka 'saṃ gacchadhvaṃ saṃ vadadhvaṃ saṃ vo manāṃsi jānatām |devā bhāgaṃ yathā pūrve saṃjānānā upāstate' that traditionally starts a yoga session come from? **Ans: Rig Veda.**
7. Visual: Name this eminent yoga exponent. **Ans: B.K.S. Iyengar**

Early Birds
Nobody answered all the questions correct.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

Here comes the future chemist. How was the test? How did you do?”

“Pretty bad, actually. The only person who said that he had done a good job was Rahul.”

“Rahul? You mean Vijay Kumar’s son?”

“The very same, the....the.... ‘hair’ to How do you pronounce ‘heir’? I always get confused.”

“H..e..i..r is pronounced like the word ‘air’.”

“But I have heard many people pronounce it like h..a..i..r.”

“That’s true. But it’s pronounced like ‘air’. You were saying something about Rahul?”

“He is really smart. You know he works really hard. I don’t understand why the heir to millions should work so hard.”

“You have to work hard in order to make more money.”

“I wish I were heir to....”

“...why don’t you get somebody rich to adopt you?”

“Not a bad idea, actually. May be I can get Rahul’s father to adopt me! I think I shall inform him your idea.”

“Inform him of.”

“What?”

“I think I shall inform him of your idea. You don’t inform someone something, you inform someone ‘of something’, or ‘about’ something.”

“I see. How does this sentence sound? The Cabinet Secretary informed the Minister of the mine disaster.”

“Sounds good. The students informed the Principal of the drug problem on campus.”

“We informed the Bank Manager of our new address.”

“Tell me, have you ever been to Rahul’s house?”

“....I have been there only once. It’s huge. We went to downstairs and the rooms....”

“....to downstairs? You never say ‘to downstairs’ or ‘to upstairs’.”

“I know. It was a mistake”

“The words ‘downstairs’ and”

“....upstairs are like the words ‘here’ and ‘there’. One doesn’t say, ‘Come to here’. Similarly, it is wrong to say, ‘Come to downstairs’.”

“Very good. Instead, you simply say, ‘Come upstairs’, or ‘Go downstairs’.”

“Just like ‘Come here’, or ‘Go there’.”

“That’s right. Any way, what did you do in Rahul’s house?”

“We played a lot of table tennis. He has a lot of computer games. So....”

“...you spent a lot of time playing computer games!”

“Unfortunately, no. Rahul’s mother prevented us to play on the computer.”

“You don’t ‘prevent someone to do something’. You usually ‘prevent someone from doing something’.”

“Prevent from, eh? That’s interesting. How about this example? The students were prevented from entering the college by the police.”

“I was prevented from taking part in the contest.”

“Was it a beauty contest? If that was the case, I can understand why the people prevented you from taking part!”

“Not very funny.”

Published in *The Hindu* on January 16, 2001.

Word of the day

Cavalcade: meaning a procession of people traveling on horseback

Synonyms: parade, march

Usage: The royal cavalcade moved slowly down the avenue, waving to the cheering crowds.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/cavalcade

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌkæv.əlˈkeɪd/

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

From Page One

15 die in building fire, victims mostly students

Abhishek Mishra, a resident of the locality, said the fire broke out at the animation centre on the second floor and “quickly spread inside the building, trapping people”.

“Fire department personnel had to break the wall on the rear side of the building to gain entry and rescue those trapped. Many people jumped from the building, and we immediately took them to hospital,” Mr. Mishra said.

Uttar Pradesh Congress unit president Ajay Rai said the incident exposed the “failure of the BJP government” and called for a high-level investigation into the incident.

“This is a big example of gross negligence. The State capital, where the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister, Cabinet Ministers and many MLAs live, such a big incident happening there shows the failure of the BJP government. The government must answer. A high-level investigation should be conducted into this matter. My deepest condolences go out to the families of the victims,” the Congress leader said.

“This is a very sad incident. Around a dozen youth died, a high-level inquiry has been ordered. The government stands with the victim’s families. Thirteen children have been rescued,” said Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav also demanded an investigation and said, “Our deepest condolences go out to the bereaved families who lost their loved ones. The government should ensure best medical treatment for the injured... The reasons behind this should be probed honestly. We should all strive to prevent such tragic incidents in the future.”

Starmer announces his resignation as U.K. PM

“Keir has given huge service to our country, and I want to thank him for his leadership and dedication during such a challenging period,” Mr. Burnham said, adding, “His decision marks the beginning of a transition, and it is important that this process is conducted in an orderly and responsible way. I will put myself forward as part of this process,” Former Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham said.

For a man who has been criticised for lacking an emotional connection with voters, Mr. Starmer spoke through tears towards the end of his remarks outside Downing Street when he mentioned his children and his wife, Victoria, who was standing a few feet away. His family would be his focus once he stepped down, Mr. Starmer said, before standing in front of the black door to No. 10 with his wife, not waving this time, but looking crestfallen.

With former Health Secretary Wes Streeting confirming that he would support Mr. Burnham’s candidacy, the former Mayor is expected to run unchallenged, unless another MP decides to join the race. If he runs unchallenged, Mr. Burnham could be sworn in as Prime Minister before the U.K. Parliament goes into recess on July 17.

Swiss talks laid a ‘good foundation’ for deal: U.S.

Under the memorandum of understanding signed last week between Washington and Tehran, the United States agreed to issue waivers for the export of Iranian crude oil, petroleum products, and derivatives, and all associated services, including banking transactions, insurances, and transportation.

“We laid a very good foundation for a successful final deal,” Mr. Vance told presspersons at Switzerland’s luxury Burgenstock resort, adding that “the final deal is the house... We have not built the house, but we have laid a successful foundation to get to a good place for the American people”.

“Encouraging progress has been made including the creation of a mechanism for further technical talks,” the mediators said, detailing a contact channel set up to “avoid incidents and miscommunication” in the Strait of Hormuz.

Switzerland said conditions had been set for technical talks to immediately follow, with the two sides at the beginning of a 60-day period to secure a long-term settlement.

“The Swiss facilitator welcomes the constructive progress made during the intensive diplomatic talks,” the Swiss Foreign Ministry said in a statement, adding that the road map agreed during the first round of talks “creates the conditions for the immediate resumption of new technical discussions”.

Last week, Tehran and Washington signed a memorandum of understanding laying the groundwork for the negotiations.

The negotiators aim at tackling some of the most intractable issues that have dogged U.S.-Iranian relations for decades, including Tehran’s nuclear programme, including its stockpile of enriched uranium and its right to enrich more.

Tehran and Washington have set up communication lines to end the fighting in Lebanon and to keep the vital Strait of Hormuz open, mediators said. Iran is also set to get some form of sanctions relief from Washington, with some assets unfrozen.

A “de-confliction cell”, between the parties and the Lebanese authorities has also been agreed to prevent fighting from erupting again, they said.

(With inputs from Reuters)

Press Trust of India
LUCKNOW

“Mujhe jaane do apne bete ke paas (Let me go to my son);” screamed a grief-stricken mother, struggling to break free as relatives of those trapped rushed to the three-storey building in Aliganj here after receiving frantic phone calls from inside the building engulfed in flames.

Outside, anguished families watched helplessly as thick black smoke and flames swallowed the animation centre where 15 people, most of them students, lost their lives on Monday afternoon.

Even before fire tenders reached the spot, local residents became the first responders. They smashed the building’s glass panes, hoping to let the choking smoke escape and save those stuck inside.

One of the most harrowing moments was captured in visuals showing a student jumping from an upper floor to escape the flames. People below quickly spread a mattress-like object to cushion the fall, following which locals immediately rushed him for medical assistance.

Scenes of anguish and helplessness unfolded outside the building as parents



A woman breaks down at the site of the fire at Aliganj in Lucknow on Monday. ANI

and relatives rushed to the spot after receiving distress calls from their loved ones trapped inside. Some women were seen pleading

with police personnel to let them enter the building. Dhiraj Mehra reached the site after receiving a frantic call from his col-

Doval hosts NSAs of BRICS nations amid West Asia tensions

Doval holds talks with Iran official Ghadir Nezamipour and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at meeting to survey global security issues

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Developments in West Asia formed the dominant backdrop as National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval hosted his counterparts from BRICS grouping in New Delhi for the BRICS NSAs meeting.

Mr. Doval met Ghadir Nezamipour, Deputy Secretary for Defence Affairs of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and Secretary of Multilateral and Political Affairs of Brazil Carlos Cozendey among others who are here to attend the two-day event that will survey the security architecture of the world.

“Both sides reviewed the ongoing situation in West Asia. They also discussed cooperation under the BRICS platform and India-Iran bilateral ties,” said the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) after Mr. Doval met Mr. Nezamipour.

The MEA said the meeting between Mr. Doval and Mr. Wang was “forward looking” and added, “The two sides reviewed recent developments in bilateral relations and noted pro-



National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Deputy Secretary for Defence Affairs of Iran’s SNSC, Ghadir Nezamipour in New Delhi. PTI

gress towards gradual normalisation. The NSA underlined that stable, predictable and constructive bilateral relations contribute to building of trust and better understanding between the two sides.”

Tehran and Beijing

The Iranian delegation held a detailed meeting with the Chinese side on the sidelines of the BRICS meeting, informed the Embassy of Iran. Mr. Nezami “expressed appreciation” for “China’s political support and emphasised the importance of strengthening the strategic partnership between Tehran and Beijing, as well as Iran’s readiness to respond to any potential threats.”

“China’s Foreign Minister reaffirmed support for Iran’s security and territorial integrity, welcomed the improvement of Iran’s relations with regional countries and expressed Beijing’s willingness to contribute to diplomatic efforts aimed at promoting regional stability,” said the Iranian Embassy, informing that the two sides will continue to “maintain close consultations”.

The June 22-23 meeting of the NSAs of the BRICS countries will focus on ‘non-traditional security challenges confronting the world today’. The meeting will include a review of the outcomes of BRICS Joint Working Groups on Counter-Terrorism.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meeting Major-General Amir Baram (ret'd), Director-General, Israel Defence Ministry, on Monday. ANI

India, Israel discuss expanding defence, industrial relations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and Israel have discussed ways to further strengthen defence cooperation during the visit of the Major-General Amir Baram (ret'd), the Director-General of Israel’s Ministry of Defence, to India on Monday.

Major-General Baram called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and briefed him on Israel’s commitment to expanding the scope of bilateral defence cooperation under the framework of the India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership.

The discussions focused on enhancing collaboration in defence manufacturing, technology, and joint projects.

In a post on X, the Defence Ministry said the meeting underscored the shared commitment of both countries to deepen

defence ties and explore new avenues of cooperation.

Key pillar

India and Israel have witnessed significant growth in defence cooperation over the years, both in scope and scale.

Defence remains a key pillar of the bilateral relationship, with both countries collaborating closely in areas such as military technology, defence equipment, and research and development.

Major-General Baram said, “India is a key strategic partner of the State of Israel. This important visit, the result of a lengthy bilateral preparation process, reflects the great importance that India and Israel attach to expanding their growing defence and industrial alliance – but no less so, the depth of the bond between our two nations.”

neighbouring buildings also stepped forward to help. People living behind the affected structure supplied water bottles to firefighters engaged in the rescue operation.

As the rescue operation ended, the tragedy moved from the fire site to the hospitals and mortuary, where families faced the grim reality of the incident. The bodies of the victims were shifted from the trauma centre at King George’s Medical University to the post-mortem house for identification and autopsy. Most of those who lost their lives were young adults.

Cameras at airports to be linked to data fusion centre

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Facial recognition cameras installed at all major airports will be linked to a data fusion centre that is proposed to come up in Delhi, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Director-General Praveer Ranjan said on Monday.

Other than the airports, the feed from around 1.5 lakh surveillance cameras installed at vital installations across the country will also be linked to the data fusion centre, Mr. Ranjan said on the occasion of foundation laying ceremony of the new CISF headquarters at CGO complex in Delhi.

The facial recognition cameras installed at six major airports in the country are further proposed to be integrated with the National Intelligence Grid to enhance real-time monitoring, suspect identification and support to law enforcement agencies, a senior CISF official said.

The Union Home Ministry has asked the States to liberally use the platform to access datasets, which include details of driving licence, vehicle registration, Aadhaar, airline data, bank records, and travel details of foreigners and Indians, suspicious transaction reports from Financial Intelligence Unit, and also extract and analyse data from social media posts.

UAE in talks to buy Indian air-defence units, missiles

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The Indian government is in talks with the United Arab Emirates to sell some of its flagship defence systems, including the super-sonic cruise missile BrahMos, four Indian sources said, as the Gulf nation steps up arms procurement following the war in West Asia.

The discussions include the potential sale of India’s air defence system Akashteer, sources told Reuters. “The UAE has shown interest for a number of our weapon systems, including BrahMos and Akashteer. The talks between India and UAE are at initial stages and are progressing fast,” said another source.

BrahMos, jointly developed by India and Russia, is among the world’s fastest cruise missiles while Akashteer is a fully automated air-defence system developed by the state-run Bharat Electronics Ltd. and the Indian Army.

Bank fraud cases: CBI arrests ex-CEOs of Reliance ADA Group

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Devang Mody, former Director and Chief Executive officer (CEO) of Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL), and Ravindra Sudhalkar, former executive director and CEO of Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL), in connection with alleged bank fraud cases, said the agency on Monday.

In the RCFL case, the accused caused a loss of ₹4,097 crore to 13 public sector banks (PSBs) and 10 PSBs lost about ₹3,526 crore in the RHFL matter.

Mr. Mody was CEO of RCFL from April 2017 to December 2018 and Mr. Sudhalkar served as the ED and CEO of RHFL from October 1, 2016, to March, 31, 2022. The CBI alleged Mr. Mody and Mr. Sudhalkar approved loans to intermediary and conduit companies despite such lending being contrary to the com-



In the RCFL case, the accused caused a loss of ₹4,097 crore to 13 public sector banks. PTI

pany’s lending policies, borrowing conditions, and regulatory guidelines.

“The accused persons diverted funds borrowed by RCFL and RHFL to Reliance ADA Group companies, including Reliance Capital Ltd., Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. and Reliance Power Ltd., thereby causing a combined wrongful loss of ₹7,623 crore to the lending banks and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves and related entities,” said the agency.

U.S. notifies sale of support services for helicopters

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

The U.S. has formally notified the proposed sale of sustainment support services and related equipment for India’s Apache helicopters and M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzers at an estimated cost of \$482.2 million. The Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), which administers the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme of the U.S., issued the arms sales notification in the *Federal Register* on June 17.

“Just today, we announced a \$230 million sale for a sustainment package for India’s M777A2 ultra-light howitzers is ready to be concluded,” U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gora said in a post on X.

In another notification, the Department of Defence said India had sought AH-64E Apache sustainment support services, U.S. government and contractor engineering and programme support.

3 injured as protesters clash with security personnel in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

At least three persons were injured in a clash between Kuki protesters enforcing a highway shutdown and security personnel in Kangpokpi district of Manipur on Monday.

Kuki civil society organisations called the shutdown on National Highway no. 37 on Sunday in protest against “selective security operations” allegedly targeting villages inhabited by the Kuki-Zo people.

Groups of protesters converged on the New Keithelmanbi stretch of the highway in the morning to restrict vehicular movement and demand the withdrawal of security operations. The highway connects Manipur’s capital, Imphal, with Jiribam on the State’s boundary with Assam.

The situation escalated after the security personnel used crowd-control measures such as smoke bombs and baton charges.



A Kuki body condemned the ‘aggressive dispersal’ of protesters”. FILE PHOTO

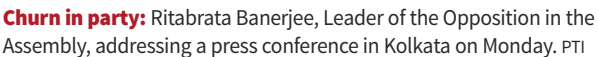
At least three protesters were injured in the melee. The local unit of the Kuki Inpi, an apex community organisation, condemned the “aggressive and forceful dispersal of peaceful protesters”.

Criticising the authorities for failing to address public concerns, the Kuki Inpi unit blamed the ethnic tensions on the National Socialist Council of Nagalim and the Kamson faction of the Zeliangrong United Front, both Naga armed groups.

His remarks came a day after senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi met five Punjab leaders in Delhi, including former Chief Minister and Jalandhar MP Charanjit Singh Channi and Congress Legislature Party leader Partap Singh Bajwa.

Arup Roy was unanimously picked as the new chairperson, says Leader of the Opposition; developments were comical, there cannot be a Trinamool without Mamata, says Kunal Ghosh

“We have followed all the rules of the Election Commission. We will also



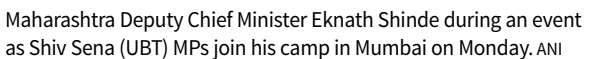
“We do not know what has been announced from

Responding to the move, Belegghata MLA Kunal Ghosh, a loyalist of Ms. Mamata Banerjee, said the developments were comical and "there cannot be a Trinamool without Mama-

Of the 80 Trinamool MLAs in the Assembly, 14 have thrown their weight behind Ms. Mamata Banerjee while one legislator is behind bars.

‘Constitution change’

The Shiv Sena (UBT) hit out at the Shiv Sena and the BJP, claiming that it was a part of the larger plan to increase their majority so that they could change the Constitution. “The people of India stopped them in



With this induction, the Shiv Sena has strengthened its position as the

Shiv Sena leader Ramdas Kadam claimed that another MP was on his way to join Mr. Shinde.

located in the Park Circus area, has often been criticised by right-wing groups because they believe it is named after Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, a Bengali politician who served as the last Prime Minister of undivided Bengal and later as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He has been criticised for his role in the 1946 communal violence.

Sl No.	Description
1.	Collection of Parking Fees for 1st A, 13th A Main roads and 3rd A, 3rd B, 16th B, 15th A cross roads and Sandeep Unnikrishnan road in Yalahanka New Town Ward No. 05. Minimum Reserve Annual License Fee: ₹ 1,10,00,000/- EMD: ₹ 2,20,000/-.
Calendar of Events: (1)Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal from 23-06-2026 (2) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before 07-07-2026 upto 4:00 pm.(3) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 29-06-2026 at 3:00 pm in the office of the Chief Engineer – Zone 2, Bengaluru North City Corporation, 3rd Floor Minividhana soudha NES circle Yalahanka new town Bengaluru-64. (4)Technical Bid will be Opened on 08-07-2026 at 4:30 pm. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Yalahanka Division, BNCC	

'Huge risks'
 "I take it that these competing well-established ports are Colombo, Singapore and Port Klang. It is extraordinary that even while recognising these huge risks – quite apart from the certainty of ecological devastation that will

Former Union Minister Dilip Ray was backed by the BJP and independent candidates. Based on party positions, Mr. Ray did not have enough support to secure a victory. However, he won the election due to support from the BJP and Congress camps.

INBRIEF



Tushar Mehta reappointed Solicitor-General for 3 years

The Centre has reappointed Tushar Mehta the Solicitor-General of India for a further term of three years from July 1. An order in this regard was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on June 20, an official source said. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the reappointment, ensuring continuity in the government’s legal representation before the Supreme Court and other constitutional courts. The Centre also reappointed five Additional Solicitors-General – Vikramjit Banerjee, K.M. Nataraj Suryaprakash V. Raju, N. Venkataraman, and Aishwarya Bhati – for the Supreme Court for a three-year term.

Around 110 students fall ill after lunch at Indore school

Around 110 children fell ill after consuming food at a private school in Indore, prompting the administration to launch a probe into the matter and seal the kitchen on Monday, said officials. The district administration sealed the kitchen of the school after finding expired food items and other irregularities during an investigation into the suspected food poisoning incident, they said. Sub-Divisional Magistrate Deepak Chauhan said children from Classes 1 to 5 had consumed lunch on Saturday, and over 100 of them complained of stomach ache and vomiting. “Currently, no child is hospitalised,” the officer said.

Unions write to PM against free trade pact with U.S.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Several organisations of farmers, fish workers, poultry traders, winemakers, and trade unions have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding that the negotiations with the U.S. for a free trade agreement be immediately stopped as the proposals are against the interests of farmers and workers.

They have demanded the suspension of all ongoing FTA negotiations and a comprehensive parliamentary and public review of all FTAs. The unions have also sought full transparency in trade negotiations and protection of India’s agriculture, retail trade, workers, and rural economy from “corporate-driven” trade deals.

Citing reports that India is close to concluding an interim trade deal that may evolve into a FTA covering all sectors, the organisations urged the Centre to immediately suspend the negotiations to protect livelihoods, food sovereignty, and the national economy.

The letter said allowing imports of heavily subsidised U.S. produce would destroy domestic production in affected sectors.

CBSE Class 12 marks rise sharply after re-evaluation

The Board had faced criticism over evaluation discrepancies after implementing the on-screen marking for the exam; students reported issues such as blurred answer sheets, missing pages

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Several students who had applied for re-evaluation of their CBSE Class 12 answer scripts have reported a substantial increase in their scores which were released on Sunday.

The Board has faced criticism over evaluation discrepancies after implementing the on-screen marking (OSM) system in the academic year 2026-27. Students had reported issues such as blurred answer sheets, missing pages, missing maps or graphs, and answer scripts for a particular set of questions being assessed against the marking scheme of a different question set.

While more than 1.6 lakh candidates had applied for re-evaluation, at least 1.39 lakh of them got their results on Sunday.

A student from Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh had previously received 71 marks in physics. “After re-evaluation, his score increased to 90. This was due to an increase in the marks in the theory paper from 41 to 60. The marks



While more than 1.6 lakh candidates had applied for re-evaluation, at least 1.39 lakh of them got their results on Sunday. ANI

for the practical component remained the same,” a family member of the student, who did not wish to be named, said. The Hindu accessed both the new and old scores of the student.

Change in school topper Similarly, at least six students of a private school in West Bengal saw a significant revision in their scores in the history paper.

“One of the students had scored 74 out of 100 in history and after the re-evaluation, it increased to 97. Another student had scored 72 marks, and after re-evaluation, it became 87,” said a teacher from the

school. “Most students in West Bengal have already completed college admission processes, mostly on basis of old marks. After the CBSE re-evaluation results came in, our school topper has changed. We are still assessing the situation and also expecting students to get substantially higher marks in sociology,” the teacher said.

A CBSE evaluator who examined the answer sheets using the OSM system told The Hindu that the Board had declared that the evaluation had to be done using the system just two weeks before the evaluation was to start. “It was

a complete mess. Some answer scripts were not completely scanned and were rejected by evaluators. Teachers in far-flung areas have scanty knowledge of operating computers and they could have found it difficult to evaluate the answer scripts,” the evaluator said, requesting anonymity.

A student in Odisha saw an increase of 12 marks in chemistry and five marks in English in the re-evaluation results, while another student in Delhi received an increase of five marks in the history paper.

The CBSE has not released official data on how many students who applied for re-evaluation have seen an increase in their scores.

Phased release

“The results of around 87% of candidates who have applied for Re-evaluation and/or Verification of Issues observed have been declared. The outcomes for the remaining candidates will also be released in phases and the entire process is expected to be completed soon,” the CBSE stated in an official release.

CBSE frames new policy for students in West Asia

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Union government informed the Supreme Court on Monday that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has framed a fresh policy for evaluating private candidates in West Asia whose results could not be declared due to the ongoing conflict in the region.

A Bench comprising Justices S.V.N. Bhatti and Vipul M. Pancholi was informed by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the CBSE, that a new policy had been formulated to address the concerns of students affected by the cancellation of examinations.

Mr. Mehta submitted that the policy, notified on Sunday, includes a separate assessment formula for private candidates appearing for the Board examinations. Under the scheme, marks in subjects for which examinations could not be conducted would be computed by assigning a 40% weightage to theory marks obtained in the Class 10 Board exam and a 60% weightage to those secured in the Class 12 Board exam.

Mahayuti bags 16 of 17 MLC seats in Maharashtra; Opposition routed

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Amid cross-voting from both ruling and Opposition ranks, the BJP-led Mahayuti on Monday swept 16 of the 17 Maharashtra Legislative Council seats from local authorities’ constituencies even as Nashik delivered a surprise defeat to the governing bloc.

The BJP won 11 seats and its allies Shiv Sena three and the NCP two. Independent candidate Gokul Gite, a relative of a local party leader, clinched the Nashik seat by defeating the Shiv Sena nominee, but hours later joined the Eknath Shinde-led party as an associate member.

The biennial elections were originally notified for 17 seats, including one by-poll, but voting was necessitated in only 11 constituencies as candidates of the Mahayuti alliance, comprising the BJP, Shiv

Nashik result stood out as the only setback for the ruling alliance, where Shiv Sena candidate lost to an Independent

Sena and NCP, secured opposed victories in six seats.

Voting in the 11 constituencies, where elected members of local self-governing bodies formed the electoral college, was held on June 18 and counting took place on June 22.

The Opposition MahaVikas Aghadi, comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP), failed to win a single seat.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis termed the poll outcome a “resounding victory” and decisive mandate in favour of the Mahayuti.

Mr. Fadnavis, who be-

longs to the BJP, asserted the victory came under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guidance of senior party leaders. “The BJP-Mahayuti has won the Legislative Council elections in Maharashtra. I congratulate all the winning candidates,” he said.

The results were marked by cross-voting across constituencies, including from Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) ranks in favour of BJP and Shiv Sena candidates.

Cross-voting

In Nagpur, BJP nominee Rajiv Potdar registered a record win as Congress candidate Atul Londhe failed to retain even his party’s votes, with around 40 Congress votes reportedly defecting.

In Sangli-Satara, BJP nominee Dhairyashil Kadam defeated NCP (SP) candidate Abhaysinh Jagtap by

593 votes to 292, though over 100 votes were said to have cross-voted, indicating discontent within both alliances. The contest saw intense mobilisation by senior BJP leaders, including Udaynaraje Bhosale and Shivendraraje Bhosale.

The Nashik result stood out as the only setback for the ruling alliance, where Shiv Sena candidate Narendra Darade (248 votes) lost to Independent Gite (357) by a margin of 109 votes.

Deputy CM Eknath Shinde, who heads the Shiv Sena, had campaigned in the constituency along with several elected representatives.

Hours after his victory, Mr. Gite joined the Shiv Sena as an associate member.

Addressing a news conference, Mr. Gite said he had expressed interest to work under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who heads the Shiv Sena.

ASI transfers Rakhigarhi skeletons to AnSI for a scientific investigation

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Human skeletal remains excavated from the archaeological site of Rakhigarhi in Haryana have been formally handed over by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI), a national research institute under the Union Culture Ministry, for a detailed scientific investigation.

The transfer, carried out under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two institutions, is expected to significantly advance multidisciplinary research into one of the most important urban centres of the Indus-Saraswati Civilisation, B.V. Sharma, Director of AnSI, said.

Rakhigarhi, spread across approximately 550 hectares in Haryana, is widely recognised as the largest known settlement



Ancient remains: The skeleton of a woman, excavated in a trench on Mound 7 at Rakhigarhi in Haryana, in April 2022. FILE PHOTO

of the Harappan Civilisation. Archaeological excavations have revealed evidence of continuous habitation, from the Early Harappan to the Mature Harappan periods.

Mound 7 at the excavation site has been identified as a burial plot where 56 skeletons were recovered, including that of a woman, roughly 4,600 years old, which created a buzz in the fields of history, anthropology, genomics, and even linguistics.

DNA analysis of the skeleton revealed that the Rakhigarhi woman did not possess the steppe pastoral gene, fanning the debate on Aryan migration to India. The word “Aryan” has been interchangeably used for the steppe pastoralists, though to avoid racial connotations, many scholars now prefer to use the term Indo-Aryan.

Three complete human skeletons among those recovered from Mound 7, along with skeletal frag-

ments recovered from other burials, have now been transferred to the AnSI’s ancient human skeletal repository and laboratory in Kolkata for a detailed examination. The remaining skeletal materials obtained at these sites are also expected to be transferred in a few days, the Culture Ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Researchers believe the remains present a rare opportunity to apply modern scientific techniques, including ancient DNA (aDNA) analysis, stable isotope studies, osteological assessments, palaeopathological investigations, and environmental reconstruction, the statement added.

The research will be conducted in collaboration with leading scientific institutions, including the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, University College London, and the Banaras Hindu University.

THE CROSSWORD+ 14827

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

SCAN TO PLAY

13. Pedal furiously to reach a gallery finally - it doesn't come around often (4,3)

14. After party, bulk ice melted around front half of quad very fast (6-5)

19. Hot sauce is revolting and bland (7)

21. Beneficiary's story buried in gets a cable carrying energy close to home (7)

23. Swimming waterhole - a lake draining towards which place (7)

25. Setter's facing same-old deadlock (7)

26. King hiding in some old, rundown hut sheltering with gratitude (5,3)

27. Genetically modified organism fitted with independent unknown device (5)

DOWN

1. Radical infiltrating worker association along with journalist's not smooth (8)

2. Graduate gets little of meal, majority of liquor and grass (6)

3. New dune buggy to carry old, fat, & short (10)

4. Urge support when Portugal's run over by Dutch (4)

5. Federal organization banned English trouser style (6)

6. Terrible fellow chasing hot one with force (6)

8. Media, finally following American soldier who captured Chinese and another Asian (7)

9. Without hint of fuss, FDA banned transporting deathly chemical group (5)

13. Brief noise from duck in oil soup at sea, initially plaintive, disappearing, becoming chattering (10)

15. Youngster chasing referee's relatively large (7)

16. Big kitchen - cook sizing one end for rotisserie (4-4)

17. Opinions compete with science, basically (5)

18. Different man wrote translation while off work (6)

20. Look at the storm! (6)

22. Attack independent politician with gun sneakily (6)

24. Black animal going around American city (4)

ACROSS

6. Hot girl turning reddish brown (5)

7. In general, no shopping centre accepts rupee, yen (8)

10. Yard in Burj building - clumsy fellow's death sentence could be pronounced there (4,3)

11. Walk gently to right and meet the Creator - get taken aback! (7)

12. Agree and support one being fired for offence (7)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

PLAICE EPISODES
ULH E U I T
BAMBOO PROPOSER
S I W A A G A
FREDDIEMERCURY
A E N B I S C
USHEREDOUT ATTA
N S I L D T
DEBT BAGATELLES
S I N A N T F I T
S I N A G R E S L I N G
I N A G C
ROENTGEN ATTACH
E R R A E G I
DISDAINTS ADVENT

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Kulasekhara shows the way

Like other Azhwars, Kulasekhara Azhwar too had mystic experience of Perumal, said Damal Perundeivi. In his work Perumal Tirumozhi, while singing the glory of the archa deity of Tirumala, he tells the deity Srinivasa that he seeks only one boon from Him. The verse is a pointer to devotees on how to reach Srinivasa, a fount of mercy. Kulasekhara prays that having been born as a human, in the event of a rebirth, he should be born as a river in Tirumala so that he could remain in His hills forever. When Srinivasa agrees, the poet, realising that riverbeds can go dry, asks to be reborn as a fish. Perumal points out that if riverbeds dry up, the fish will not survive.

The Azhwar seeks to be reborn as a champa flower and Srinivasa agrees. The saint devotee, realising that a wandering devotee could pluck the flower and travel away, he changes his mind again (a human trait) and wants to be born a priest. When Srinivasa patiently agrees to that, Kulasekhara backtracks, saying, a temple priest's tenure would end once he attained a certain age, preventing him from being in His service in the temple: therefore, such a birth is not an option for him. He then asks Srinivasa to make him the final step to the sanctum sanctorum of Srinivasa, from where he could gaze upon his idol round the clock, with none hindering his view of Perumal. Then he wonders if someone else would cast the step in gold and hinder his view! What does the saint really want? Kulasekhara only wants to be in the presence of Perumal always, knowing that he would take care of those who surrender to Him. The saint says "I leave the choice to You, but keep me in Tirumala in any form, in any birth."

INBRIEF



Ambuja Cements, U.K.'s Leilac to partner for Kutch project

Adani Group-owned Ambuja Cements on Monday announced it had signed an agreement with U.K.'s Leilac to collaborate on a low-carbon cement project in Gujarat's Kutch district. Ambuja Cements said the demonstration project would evaluate "the integration of Leilac's carbon capture and hybrid electric heating technology to support lower-emission cement production through greater use of renewable electricity and the capture of unavoidable process carbon dioxide". If successful, the company stated, the project would be scaled by seven to eight times to capture "more than one million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually".

Kharola returns to Air India as executive advisor

Pradeep Singh Kharola, who served as Air India's Chairman and Managing Director before the airline's privatisation, has returned to the carrier as executive advisor to the chairman with immediate effect. Mr. Kharola, a former Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and a veteran civil servant, will work closely with Air India Chairman N. Chandrasekaran and the airline's leadership team. Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson said Mr. Kharola's experience would be critical as the airline prepares for a leadership transition. "With my tenure in its final months, his experience will be invaluable in ensuring a smooth leadership transition to a new CEO," Mr. Wilson said.

U.S. waives sanctions on Iranian oil, ships

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

With the peace process moving ahead after an interruption, the U.S. Treasury Department has issued a waiver that waives all sanctions for a period of 60 days ending August 21 related to the production, sale, delivery and offloading of Iranian crude oil as well as petroleum products. The waiver includes



The waiver covers financial transactions on ship operations. FILE

transactions involving vessels that were earlier sanctioned, as per as Treasury Department notification. Following the announcement, Brent price plunged 2% to 3% and was trading at around \$77. The

waiver covers financial transactions related to ship operations such as bunkering, piloting and so on.

The waiver permits the import of Iranian crude, petroleum and petrochemical products to the U.S. and allows payments to be made if they are in U.S. dollar-denominated funds.

Prashant Vashisht, Senior Vice President, and Co-Group Head Corporate Sector Ratings, ICRA Ltd.,

commented on why this could lead to a spurt in trade in Iranian crude including by India.

"Iranian crude was historically available with a credit period of 60-90 days as against 30 days of other crude producers which was beneficial for refiners due to lower working capital requirements besides which geographical proximity to India would benefit Indian refiners."

Cred founder Kunal Shah named WhatsApp chief



Message fwd globally: WhatsApp parent Meta will invest \$900 million (about ₹8,550 crore) in Cred as part of hiring Cred founder Kunal Shah. THE HINDU

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

WhatsApp will be headed by Cred founder Kunal Shah, starting as early as this week, the messaging platform announced, marking elevation of the serial fintech entrepreneur to the leadership of the world's largest messaging platform.

WhatsApp parent Meta, which also owns Instagram and Facebook, will invest \$900 million (about ₹8,550 crore) in Cred as a part of this hire, enabling Cred to move forward with ESOP buybacks. As Cred's CEO, a post to be held on an interim basis by senior executive Miten Sampat, Mr. Shah oversaw the service's growth to a user base that covered over a third of India's credit card bill payments, targeting the most affluent Indians. "Meta's \$900M minority investment is a booster in our plans to build an enduring institution with an eventual public listing," Mr. Sampat said on X.

"Meta will be a passive financial

investor with no-access to customer data." While WhatsApp has more than three billion users globally, a plurality in India, the firm is yet to seriously monetise access. That's where Mr. Shah comes in. In a statement, he indicated his role would be to move the platform to that stage. "While [the app has] come very far, the delta between WhatsApp today and its full potential is massive," he said.

Will Cathcart, who led WhatsApp for seven years and taken vocal positions on app's commitment to end-to-end encryption and held spyware makers who target the application accountable, will stay at Meta in other roles, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said.

Before founding Cred, Mr. Shah founded startups such as Paisa-Back, focused on cashbacks in 2009 and FreeCharge, a mobile wallet acquired by Snapdeal in 2015. He was an angel investor on the back of the ballooning valuations of his past ventures and had taken stakes in firms across the fintech ecosystem like Razorpay.

Global economic landscape remains fragile: RBI Bulletin

'Breakdown of Iran-U.S. peace deal may reignite material risks; Indian economy entered this turbulence with much better fundamentals'

Lalendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The uncertainties concerning the U.S.-Iran peace agreement could have impact on the outlook through international trade, cost pressures, capital flows and commodity prices, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials said in the June edition of the RBI Bulletin which was released on Monday.

"The global economic landscape remains fragile despite some respite gained through the interim U.S.-Iran peace agreement," they said in the State of Economy chapter.

"Any breakdown of the agreement may reignite material risks in terms of inflationary expectations, disrupted critical energy infrastructure, delayed investment spending, food security concerns, adverse financial stability outlook and structurally lower growth," they warned.

According to them, the Indian economy entered this turbulence with much better fundamentals relative to many other countries to sustain the shock.



Shock absorbers: Surge in international crude prices have partially been passed on to retail consumers. G.N. RAO

"India maintained a consistently high growth, anchored inflation expectations, sustained fiscal consolidation, manageable current account balance and foreign exchange buffers over the previous few years, which adds to its strength vis-à-vis similar other events in the past," they emphasised.

An adverse south-west monsoon, if materialised, may weigh on the domestic growth-inflation outlook, they stated.

As an outcome of the West Asia conflict the CPI headline inflation inched up sequentially to 3.9% YoY in May 2026 from 3.5% in the preceding month driven by broad-based in-

creases in all the three categories – food and beverages, fuel and core components.

"Rise in inflation of food and beverages was across classes/sub-classes, barring pulses. CPI fuel inflation also increased significantly over the previous month on account of rise in retail prices of petrol, diesel and CNG, the officials said.

Surge in international prices have partially been passed on to retail consumers through upward revisions in prices of petrol and diesel in four tranches in May with cumulative increases of around ₹7.5 per litre and ₹7.6 per litre, respectively.

Net FDI jumped to \$6.6 bn in April, highest in nearly 5 years

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Net FDI rose to \$6.6 billion in April 2026, its highest level in nearly five years, driven by a 65% surge in gross inflows, an analysis of official data shows.

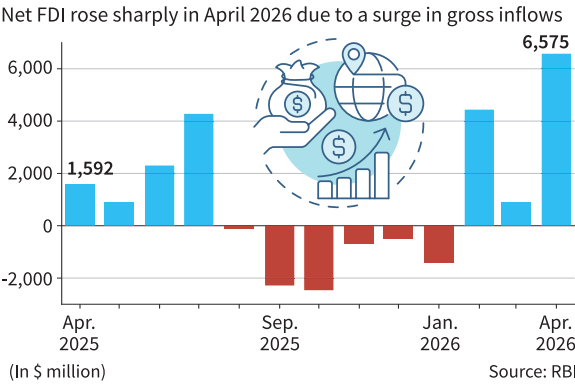
In other words, the data released by the Reserve Bank of India on Monday shows that the total amount of direct investment that entered the country in April 2026 exceeded the amount leaving it by \$6.6 billion. The corresponding figure in March 2026 was \$917 million. April's net FDI figure was the highest since May 2021.

The surge in gross inflows even overshadowed the fact that outward FDI by Indian companies also rose to a historic high in April 2026.

Nevertheless, the data for April marks a significant turnaround from just a few months ago, since net FDI had been negative for six consecutive months up to February 2026.

Gross FDI in April 2026, or the total amount of direct investment that en-

Net positive



tered the country that month, surged to \$15.3 billion – the highest since at least March 2021, the earliest month for which data is easily available.

This figure was 65% higher than in April last year, and 131% higher than in March 2026.

To further put this figure into context, the gross FDI inflows in the single month of April 2026 was more than 16% of the amount that came in the entire financial year 2025-26.

"Source wise, more than 75% of the FDI flows came from Japan, Singa-

pore and Mauritius," the RBI said in its monthly bulletin report.

Slower outflow growth

Gross outflows rose, too, but at a significantly slower pace, to \$8.7 billion in April 2026 from \$7.7 billion in April last year – a growth of 13.7%. Within this, outward FDI by Indian companies rose nearly 42% in April 2026 to \$4.8 billion, the highest level since at least March 2021.

"As regards outward FDI, around 80% of the flows were directed to the U.S. and the Cayman Islands," the RBI said.

Alan Greenspan, U.S. Fed 'maestro', passes away at 100

Reuters

Alan Greenspan, hailed as the greatest Federal Reserve chairman when he retired in 2006 but derided for a severe financial crisis that followed barely 2 years later, died on Monday aged 100, his wife said.

Greenspan, who exerted a powerful influence on the U.S.economy during his tenure at the helm of the Fed from August 1987 to January 2006, died at his home from complications of Parkinson's Disease, Andrea Mitchell said in a statement.

"He was a giant of a man who helped shape the U.S.



Alan Greenspan

economy for decades under presidents of both parties, but was always honest in acknowledging his mistakes," Ms. Mitchell said.

"He will be remembered for his brilliance and his kindness. Being his life

partner was the joy of my life," she added.

Mr. Greenspan oversaw the second-longest economic expansion in U.S. history, an uninterrupted decade of growth from March 1991 to March 2001. His decision to let economy run – despite pressure to raise interest rates against an inflation threat that never materialised – helped foster years of U.S. prosperity and earned him rock star status as an economic "maestro." The era was marked by his prescient judgment that a productivity surge in the mid-1990s would keep inflation contained.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHAIRIBHANDAN & DEO IRRIGATION PROJECT, KARANJIA, AT/PO : KARANJIA, DIST- MAYURBHANJ-757037 Tel : 06796-296144, e-mail - cce,dip.dowr@gmail.com	
"e" Procurement Notice No.09/ CCEKOIP of 2026-27 - Bid Identification No. 09/ CCEKOIP of 2026-27	
1. Nature of the Work	Civil Work
2. Number of Works	02 (Two) Nos of Individual Work
3. Approximate amount put to tender	Rs.470.88 Lakh to Rs.555.31 Lakh
4. Period of Completion	9 (Nine) Calendar Months including rainy season
5. Class of Contractor	'A' Class Contractor
6. Date & time of Availability of Bid document in the portal	On 29.06.2026 at 10 AM to 13.07.2026 up to 5.30 PM
7. Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	On 09.07.2026 up to 1.00 PM
8. Last date & time of receipt of Bids in the Portal	On 13.07.2026 up to 5.30 PM
9. Date, time & place of opening of Technical Bids/ (Cover-I)	On 14.07.2026 at 10.30 AM in O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia
10. Date, time & place of opening of Financial Bids/ (Cover-II)	To be intimated after evaluation of Technical BID
11. Name & address of the officer inviting Bid	Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia, AT/PO-Karanjia, PS-Karanjia, Dist-Mayurbhanj, PIN-757037
*Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site : www.tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia 32001/4321/2627 OIPR-32001/32337/1/26-27/0008	

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फ़ोन / Tele : 044-22411611 ईमेल / Email: director.nis-tn@gov.in
वेब / Website: <https://nischennai.org>

मिसिल संख्या / F.No.NIS/1-30/Recruitment-Regular/2025 तारीख / Date : 22.06.2026

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO: 05/2026

Applications in the prescribed format are invited for filling up the post of Senior Research Officer (Stat) in National Institute of Siddha, **on Deputation or Direct Recruitment basis**

GROUP 'A' POST:				
S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Mode of Recruitment	Category
1.	Senior Research Officer (Stat)	01	Deputation or Direct Recruitment	UR

Scale of Pay: Pay Matrix: Level 11 [Pre-revised Scale of Pay : PB - III (Rs. 15600 - 39100) with GP Rs. 6600/-].
The cost of application is Rs.750/-. Application form can be downloaded from the Institute website: <https://nischennai.org>. The application form should be **neatly typed / Handwritten in single side** in A4 size paper providing all the details. The filled up application along with application fee for Rs.750/- by way of a DD drawn in favour of "Director, National Institute of Siddha" payable at Chennai together with self attested photocopies of certificates / testimonials should be sent to "The Director, National Institute of Siddha, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai-600 047" within 45 days from the date of notification in the Employment News.
Other details regarding educational qualification, experience, age, general conditions, etc., are available in the Institute website : <https://nischennai.org>.
Director

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Other categories include:

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- Financial Transformation
- Social Transformation
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M ND-NDE

10-man Belgium frustrated by Iran, faces group-stage elimination



Cape Verde coach Bubista targeting knockout rounds



Injured Germany defender Schlotterbeck out of World Cup



‘Neymar has a marvellous history with Brazil and can still help us’



Messi sets record, Argentina in knockouts

Root— a slow-burn champion often revealing how Tests are the real deal

LA Olympics remains my ultimate target

The most-capped Indian player talks about his early days, the disappointments and the learnings from them; he looks forward to the tougher assignments ahead



GETTY IMAGES

INTERVIEW

Manpreet Singh

Uthra Ganesan

As a 20-year-old fresh-faced youngster, Manpreet Singh was still earning his national spurs when he travelled for the London Olympics in 2012. It was one of the most forgettable outings for the Indian hockey team, a culmination of decades of middling performances and, in many ways, more humiliating than not qualifying four years earlier.

From that baptism by fire to captaining the national team to its first Olympic medal in 41 years at Tokyo, to becoming the first Indian recipient of the FIH Player of the Year award (2019), to becoming the most-capped Indian hockey player with 413 outings – fifth overall and the only one active – Manpreet’s journey has mirrored Indian hockey’s evolution over the last 15 years.

The 33-year-old, still one of the fittest players in the Indian dressing room and the world, is hungry for more.

Excerpts from an interview:

What does this mark mean to you?

It’s a very proud moment. It’s a huge honour to play for your country for so long. I have always wanted to give my 100 per cent every time I wear the India jersey and I have worked hard for it. Staying fit, be conscious of what to eat or not, lots of sacrifices. Staying away from family for months, missing out on all the major moments in my kids’ lives, missing them – when they started walking, talking, everything I have missed. There have been lots of ups and downs but when you finally achieve something, reach a certain point, then all the sacrifices feel worth it and they make the result that much sweeter.

You are also the senior-most player in the side and a midfielder, both roles bringing added responsibility. Does this milestone change anything and does it matter as a player?

I don’t think so. Anyone who knows me, also knows the kind of person I am and the number of caps or captain’s band or anything else doesn’t matter. It is a big honour, playing 413 matches for the country over 15 years, and I am proud of it but it doesn’t change anything

on field, you still have to go out there and perform. I have always believed in working as a team. As a senior, it’s my responsibility to lift a youngster if he makes a mistake or is not feeling confident, help him come back to form.

My focus has always been on how to improve as a team and I will continue doing that. 413 matches is huge, you have to maintain your fitness and motivation for so long, you need the support of your entire team, the coaching staff, the federation over the years. It doesn’t mean I stop listening to others because I have played for so long.

What have been the highest and lowest points of your career?

Highest point so far would undoubtedly be the Tokyo Olympics bronze medal. Even though we won again in Paris, Tokyo will always be special because it ended the medal drought for Indian hockey, it was a dream come true after 41 years. Every athlete dreams of an Olympic medal but for us, the glory days of Indian hockey was something we had only heard of, it was something the whole country had been waiting for, for so long.

As for the lowest, I think it would be the 2012 London, my first Olympics. Even though I was a youngster, we had gone with a lot of dreams and hopes of doing well but unfortunately we finished 12th and last there, without winning a single match.

Years ago you had said that every player wants recognition. You are now the most-capped Indian hockey player, a double Olympic medallist, one of the most recognisable names in Indian sports. Have you achieved your dream of being a star?

See, recognition always matters, there is nothing wrong in wanting it. I have always wanted to be part of the Indian team, to do well for the country, win medals. I always dreamt that whenever I retire and return to my village, people would recognise me, know me as an Olympian, as a medallist, appreciate me. Everyone wants that. When you put in so much effort and work so hard for so long, you want people to know about it and recognise that.

It is still important for me. I would want the coming generations to be inspired by me, just like I was inspired by Pargat Singh. I want to do enough to leave a legacy, do enough for the next generation to want to be like Manpreet,

play like Manpreet, win like Manpreet, be famous like Manpreet. I want to be a role model for the youngsters, as much for the game as for my fitness. That is very important, for youngsters to understand that Manpreet at 33 is as fit as anyone much younger and be inspired by that. Just like everyone talks about Virat Kohli’s fitness and training and diet at 36, I would want kids to talk about Manpreet’s fitness and training.

But have I achieved my dream of being a star? Maybe, not really. There is a lot more to do still, there is the World Cup, Asian Games, then LA. So, yeah, long way to go still.

What would you say is the secret of your physical longevity and mental strength?

I think the hunger in me. That’s both the biggest motivation and my biggest strength. The drive to play for the country, to keep getting better and most importantly, I do not want to regret anything when I decide to retire. I don’t want to leave with any ‘what ifs’. The hunger which I had as a kid is still there, there are a lot of things I still need to do – an Olympic gold, a World Cup medal are still dreams. Yes there have been a lot of ups and downs, there are more losses than wins but every loss teaches you something.

The biggest motivation off the field, undoubtedly, has been my family. My wife has been a pillar of support in my most difficult times, including when my father passed away in 2016. When my kids watch me on television, when I talk to them on phone and they tell me they are proud of me, nothing can beat that, it pushes me to do more because I always want them to be proud of their father.

They were in Paris also, they travel a lot to cheer me at tournaments. My elder daughter Jasmine is my biggest cheerleader. It pushes me to do better, to be a good role model so that they are proud of their father and understand that all the sacrifices and time away from them was worth it.

Hockey is often considered a poor man’s sport. Have things changed financially from then to now?

A lot. When I first came into the national team in 2011, there was hardly any financial incentive. The only dream was being an India player. But HIL in 2013 changed things. It was a game-changer, it helped improve conditions a lot for me and my family. Like most hockey

players, I also come from a poor background and had to struggle a lot but over the years, life has become better, the journey has become easier. I won’t deny that things are a lot better now for hockey players.

The cash awards by Hockey India, individual rewards all have helped. Players have good jobs, there is financial stability. Earlier, no one wanted their kids to play hockey because there was nothing in it. But now things are different, kids are getting interested in hockey.

Talking about the present, how important is this year, how are the preparations so far?

This year is very important for us. Playing England and Pakistan in the Pro League will be useful because they are in our group at the World Cup, for which we will be back here next month. England have been doing well so those games will be important. Then there will be Asian Games which is the ticket to LA Olympics.

Preparations are going well, the matches against Germany and Netherlands were good in terms of the team’s performance regardless of the results. We are excited about the World Cup and the Asian Games and I personally am very hopeful of a good result at the World Cup. It is important because it’s been a very long time since we won a medal at the World Cup and we will try to do that this time.

Who have been the toughest opponents and teams for you?

When I first started playing, it used to feel that other teams were all very strong, very tough. Teams like Australia, with players like Jamie Dwyer or Mark Knowles, looked unbeatable. But I think things have changed a lot over the years, Indian hockey has improved a lot.

Now when we play Germany or Netherlands, we don’t think whether we can match up to them. Now there is confidence that if we play well and stick to our plan and do the basics right, we can defeat any team. Every team is tough but every team is beatable. That is the mindset now. Belgium and Netherlands are among the toughest opponents in world hockey at the moment but if we give our 100 percent, we can defeat them.

It is far more difficult to think of individual players because hockey is a team game but if I had to, there is Arthur van

Doren or Tom Boon in Belgium, Alexander Hendrickx is very dangerous with his drag-flicks. Holland has Jorrit Croon, Australia too has good players. It is difficult because every top team in the world has several great players.

A lot was said about you recently. Did it affect you in any way?

Yes there was a lot said and written in the last few months but I knew there was no point in thinking about stuff not in my control. What I had in my control was my fitness and I was clear I will not compromise on that. Whatever else happened, I was sure I won’t let fitness be an issue for my exclusion. I can confidently say that I am as fit as anyone else at the moment and I want to play as long as I can maintain that. LA28 remains my ultimate target but I am also clear I will walk off the day I feel I am pulling the team down.

Does age matter?

No it doesn’t, it’s just a number. The world’s most-capped player is Belgium’s John-John Dohmen and he was 36-37 when he played at the Paris Olympics. Tom Boon is 36 right now and he has set his sights on LA28, I am three years younger! What is more important is how I take care of my body.

And there is no alternative. World hockey today is at a level where if you are not at peak fitness all the time, you cannot survive. I know I have to work extra hard to keep up with everyone else and I have worked a lot on my fitness over the years because if I don’t I won’t be able to remain in the team. It’s really that simple – your fitness will decide your place in the side.

You said London 2012 was the lowest point of your career. If you had to look back and say something to the 20-year-old Manpreet, what would you say?

Nothing much, just keep playing the way you are, keep giving your 100 per cent every time you step out on the field. Never give up. That’s the biggest lesson I learnt from London and that is the only advice I will give to my younger self and, in fact, to every youngster. There will be a lot of tough situations in life, on and off the field but come what may, don’t give up, don’t walk away unless you are completely incapable of standing up. That’s my philosophy even now.

Moumita Koley

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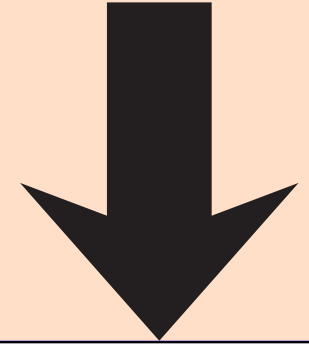
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