TUESDAY
June 16, 2026
CHENNAI
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 5.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 149 • No. 142
Regd. TN/ARD/110/2024-2026
RNI No. 1001/1957

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NEARBY

Family refuses to receive body of torture victim

MADURAI
More than three months after Akash Delison, 26, died after alleged custodial torture, his family on Monday refused to receive his body from the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai, despite a deadline set by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court. » PAGE 6

VCK conducts training for party cadre

CHENNAI
The Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi on Monday organised a training programme for its cadre on various "contemporary political" issues. » PAGE 6

U.S. and Iran reach agreement to end war, re-open Hormuz Strait

Preliminary deal signed digitally on Sunday, says U.S. V-P; in-person signing in Geneva on June 19, say Iran and Pak.; release of frozen assets, reparations 'essential' part of deal, will collect navigation services fee in the Strait of Hormuz, says Tehran

Stanly Johny

The U.S. and Iran have reached a preliminary agreement to end the war, lift blockades in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, and launch substantive negotiations on Tehran's nuclear programme and the Western sanctions, the two countries announced on Monday.

The agreement was signed digitally on Sunday, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance said, while Iran and Pakistan said an in-person signing ceremony would be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 19.

U.S. President Donald Trump said during a media interaction in France, where he arrived on Monday for the G7 meeting, that Mr. Vance will lead the country's delegation for the signing ceremony.

"The deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete... I hereby fully authorise the toll-free opening of the Strait of Hormuz, and... authorise the immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade," Mr. Trump earlier wrote in a social media post. "Ships of the world, start your engines. Let the oil flow!" he added.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council confirmed that Tehran and Washington had finalised the text of the 'memorandum of understanding' on ending the war, while its Foreign Ministry said releasing frozen assets and paying war reparations were "essential" parts of the deal. "The American side has committed to taking measures in both areas," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said at a press briefing on Monday. Tehran would not collect tolls from ships but fees for navigation services and environmental upkeep would be charged, the Ministry added.

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'WON'T WITHDRAW TROOPS'
» PAGE 14

A commuter flashes a victory sign in front of a banner that reads 'Thank you Iran' near Beirut, Lebanon, on Monday. REUTERS

Vessels cautious despite Trump's announcement

CHENNAI
While U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said he had authorised the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and the removal of the U.S. blockade while announcing the deal with Iran, data suggested that traffic through the Strait remained limited. » PAGE 10

Modi welcomes deal, expresses hope for stability

LONDON
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the agreement between Iran and the U.S. to end the conflict in West Asia and expressed hope that the deal would restore peace and stability in the region while ensuring freedom of navigation. » PAGE 10

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Slovak counterpart Robert Fico at the Bratislava Castle in Slovakia on Monday. REUTERS

India and Slovakia expand bilateral ties with a slew of MoUs

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

India and Slovakia on Monday expanded their bilateral relationship with memoranda of understanding (MoUs) across defence, labour mobility, education, digital tech, and other sectors, officially branding their relationship a 'Comprehensive Partnership'.

"Held an excellent meeting with Prime Minister [Robert] Fico. This is indeed a very special moment for the India-Slovakia friendship," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said following bilateral talks in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava. The Prime Minister is here for a little over 24 hours – the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister since the founding of Slovakia in 1993.

"Our talks covered cooperation in sectors like automobiles, railways, advanced manufacturing, and green technology. The India-EU Free Trade Agreement will also add momentum to our partnership," the Prime Minister said. The countries committed to significantly boost two-way trade and investment across areas such as the automotive, electronic, and advanced manufacturing industries.

The labour migration MoU signed seeks to facilitate mobility and the exchange of information between the authorities in both countries, as per the joint statement. The two sides also agreed to conclude a social security agreement in this regard. An MoU between the Higher Education Ministries of the two countries to facilitate academic and institutional linkages was also signed. Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico agreed to promote the mobility of students and researchers – especially in STEM fields and humanities.

Action against terrorists

The formation of a Joint Working Group on Terrorism was agreed by Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico, with the two leaders "strongly" condemning the April 2025 terror attacks in Pahalgam. They agreed to work towards the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the United Nations framework. The two leaders called for action against terrorists, including those in the UN Security Council 1267 Sanctions Committee list and the sponsors of terrorism.

The two sides reaffirmed their support for multilateralism and called for UN reform, including the UNSC, with an expansion of the permanent and non-permanent seats on the Council.

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3-year-old girl dies after sexual assault

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

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

Police sources said the girl's parents work at a steel company in the SIPCOT Industrial Estate.

The accused was employed at the same company, lived in the couple's neighbourhood, and was known to them. He would often play with the child.

Around 8 p.m. on Sunday, she was playing with other children on the street, while her parents were at home.

The accused allegedly took her to a nearby shop under the pretext of buying her chocolates and committed the penetrative sexual assault at a secluded spot, the police said.

A passer-by witnessed the incident and alerted residents. A crowd gathered at the scene.

The accused tried to escape, but was apprehended by members of the public.

The SIPCOT police took him into custody and arrested him.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

Three cheers

Chapter one: Children get ready for the first day of school after summer vacations in Mumbai, Maharashtra, on Monday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

India's goods exports hit record high of $45.2 billion in May; trade deficit widens

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports have jumped to a record high of $45.2 billion in May 2026, 18% higher than $38.3 billion in May last year, according to official data. Services exports rose 13.2% during the same period, to $36.8 billion in May 2026.

However, despite this, India's overall trade deficit widened to $10.5 billion, from $6.8 billion in May last year, due to a sharper growth in imports of both goods and services.

Broad-based increase

The data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry show that India's merchandise exports rose in May, due to higher shipments to Singapore, China, the U.K., Tanzania, Bangladesh, Germany, and South Africa, among others. This increase was also relatively broad-based in terms of sectors, with both petroleum and several non-petroleum sectors seeing strong growth in exports.

Within merchandise exports, the electronic goods sector saw exports growing 11.6% to $5.1 billion in May 2026.

The organic and inorganic chemicals sector similarly saw exports grow by 12.7% to $2.7 billion during the same period.

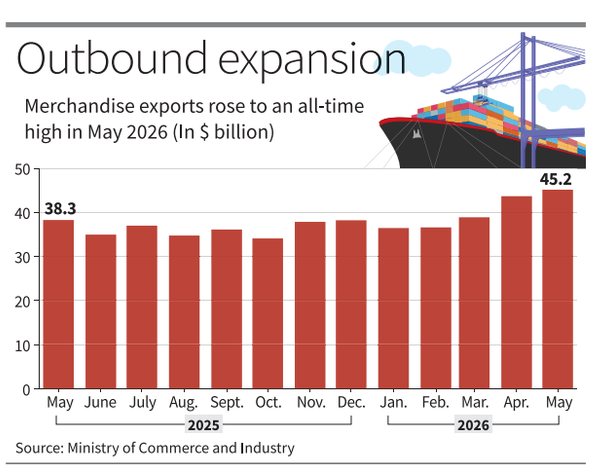
Notably, the engineering goods category saw exports jumping 24.5% in May 2026 to $12.3 billion. The gems and jewellery sector, too, saw a growth in exports of 6.7% to $2.5 billion in May 2026.

Overall, the data show India's non-petroleum exports grew 10.5% to $70.7 billion in the first two months of this financial year.

Imports grow faster

India's merchandise imports jumped 22.1% to $73.4 billion in May 2026. As a result, the merchandise trade deficit stood at $28.2 billion in May this year, 25% higher than in May 2025.

Services imports, too, grew 14.1% in May 2026 to $19.1 billion.



NCPI claims to be the largest parliamentary force from Bengal after Trinamool 'merger'

Shiv Sahay Singh
Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

A day after 20 Lok Sabha MPs of the Trinamool Congress decided to merge with the little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), the party claimed in a social media post that it has become the largest parliamentary force from West Bengal.

"With 20 Lok Sabha seats, NCPI emerges as the largest parliamentary force from West Bengal shaping the State's voice at the national level. The numbers speak for themselves..." an NCPI Facebook post said.

According to the post, the NCPI now has 20 MPs in the Lok Sabha, while the BJP has 12, the Trinamool eight, and the Congress one. The party also posted photographs of rebel Trinamool MPs with its election symbol – a fountain pen – welcoming them into the party.

The 20 rebel Trinamool MPs had announced their decision to merge with the NCPI after meeting Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in Delhi on Sunday and submitting a letter to that effect.

According to the information available on the NCPI's Facebook page, the party's head office is located in Hatgachha village under the Sankrail police station area of Howrah district. The Facebook page was created in the early hours of Monday. The party is run by a couple, Uttiya Kundu and his wife Shewly Kundu.

Later in the day, Ms. Kundu told reporters outside the Calcutta High Court that she was the founder president of this party but had resigned from the post. "The new president of the party can give details. I don't know who the new president is. In Tripura, we were with the NDA," Ms. Kundu, who was wearing an advocate's gown, said. She refused to comment on the merger of 20 Trinamool MPs with the NCPI.

West Bengal CM and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari with rebel Trinamool MP Mala Roy during an event in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

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RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 11

INBRIEF

GCC Deputy Commissioner inspects works in Anna Nagar

Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) Central Regional Deputy Commissioner H.R. Kousik on Monday inspected ongoing development works in Anna Nagar zone. He inspected works at Anna Arch, beautification work of road medians, canal improvement work on Nelson Manickam Road, sanitation activities, facilities at the Mehta Nagar playground, and services of an Amma Unavagam at Collectorate Colony. He also reviewed the quality of food, stock registers, and public amenities. Mr. Kousik inspected a ward office building and a facility being constructed for conservancy workers.

Man arrested under POCSO Act in Poonamallee

The Poonamallee All-Women Police on Monday arrested a 44-year-old man for allegedly sexually assaulting a seven-year-old girl, who was playing outside her house in Poonamallee on Sunday. Police sources said the arrested was identified as R. Saravanan of Kattupakkam, a load van driver. He was from the same locality as the victim. Saravanan allegedly abducted the girl under the pretext of getting her chocolates and took her to a nearby cremation ground, where he committed the offence. Based on a complaint lodged by the girl's mother, the police registered a case under the POCSO Act and arrested Saravanan. He was remanded in judicial custody.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (June 16, Tuesday), the following articles are available:

- Drone revolution and modern warfare **newsth.live/dronewarfare**
- AI is helping patients understand cancer but misunderstand doctors **newsth.live/aicancer**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

CMDA can now give final nod for high-rise buildings across Chennai Metropolitan Area

The G.O. was issued on the directions of Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay. It reconstitutes the panel to scrutinise the plans. Applications will be submitted to the panel after field inspections are done

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Planning permission for high-rise buildings in the Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) will henceforth be granted directly by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA), eliminating the need for final government approval after scrutiny by the High-Rise Building Committee, according to a Government Order (G.O.) issued on Monday.

The G.O. was issued by the Housing and Urban Development Department following directions from Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay. Earlier, under the Tamil Nadu Combined Development of Building Rule (TNCDBR) 2019, plans for high-rise buildings in the CMA were scrutinised and forwarded to the State government, with the recommendations of a panel, for approval.

"The government, after careful consideration of the proposal of the Member-Secretary, CMDA, has decided to reconstitute the panel to scrutinise the plan and to permit the CMDA to either grant or refuse the planning permission for high-rise buildings in the CMA accordingly," the order read.

Under the new system, applications submitted by developers will continue to undergo field inspection and be placed before a panel for scrutiny.

Streamlining effort: Earlier, plans for high-rise buildings in the CMA were scrutinised and forwarded to the State government, with the recommendations of a panel, for approval. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Panel members

The reconstituted panel will be chaired by the CMDA Member-Secretary and comprise representatives from the Directorate of Fire and Rescue Services, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Greater Chennai Corporation, Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation, Water Resources Department, Public Works Department, Chennai Traffic Police, and an independent architect.

The panel will scrutinise applications, assess compliance with planning and safety norms, and make recommendations to the CMDA for final approval.

Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran delivering the virtual inaugural address at the event on Monday. R. RAGU

U.S.-Iran peace deal welcome, hope it lasts: Anantha Nageswaran

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The 'peace deal' between Iran and the U.S. over the Strait of Hormuz was "very welcome" for a country like India that imports oil, natural gas, and fertilizer, V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to the Government of India, said on Monday. He further hoped that "it lasts".

Delivering his virtual inaugural address on 'Public Sector Leadership in Shaping India's Journey to a Developed Nation: From Legacy to Future Readiness', as part of the CPCL Sooper Leadership Series organised by the Madras Management Center in Chennai, Mr. Nageswaran said: "Public sector leadership must build strategic reserves across the critical commodity spectrum, not just crude oil."

He reasoned that nuclear power was "immune to choke points" and it provided the base load that a nation of fabs and data centres would need. Flagging a new set of problems, he said the first was resource and energy security. The second was research and development. "If the private sector discounts the future too heavily, the public sector must be the patient investor that does not discount the future so heavily."

Public enterprises and public resource institutions should be where frontier capability was built and then shared in energy, materials, and in process technology, he said.

Nurturing enterprises

The third was the nurturing of small and medium enterprises. "India's strength will not come from a handful of large firms alone," he said.

Underlining that Germany's industrial debt rested on its *Mittelstand*, the CEA said thousands of mid-sized engineering firms with deep technical capability sustained by patient capital and a culture of quality. "India needs its own version of *Mittelstand*," he asserted.

Chenna Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) managing director H. Shankar, professor Ashwin Mahalingam of the Department of Civil Engineering at IIT-Madras, MMA executive director group captain (retd.) R. Vijayakumar, and former chairman of Indian Oil Corporation and CPCL B. Ashok, were present at the event.

Traffic police book 434 motorists for drunk driving during special three-day drive in city

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Greater Chennai Traffic Police (GCTP) have booked 434 motorists for drunk driving during a special three-day enforcement drive conducted across the city from the night of June 12.

The operation was carried out as part of ongoing efforts to ensure safe and accident-free city roads, following directions from Greater Chennai Commissioner of Police A. Amalraj. Around 350 traffic police personnel were deployed across the city for the drive. To curb traffic violations, the police established 120 vehicle check posts at strategic locations and intensified surveillance at major junctions throughout the city. In addition, the police registered 130 cases for speeding and rash driving, and 2,385 motorists were booked for riding without helmet. The GCTP appealed to road users to comply with traffic rules.

Heat stress a major concern for elderly persons, says study

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

As World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed annually on June 15, HelpAge India released a study 'Climate Resilient Ageing - Ensuring Care, Dignity & Agency' to mark the occasion this year.

The study tracks the ways climate change is disrupting the lives of senior citizens across the country. Nirmala Balagopal, former Princial Secretary of Tamil Nadu, released the study and said its findings should be translated to policy. "That should be the ultimate goal, rather than treating it as merely another report," she said.

The study covered 2,224 elderly persons across 10 States and found that the country's rural ageing population has been thoroughly vulnerable to climate change and how disadvantaged senior citizens face even higher risks and challenges. It identified heat stress as a major concern for elderly persons who are in poorly ventilated houses, and found that 78% of respondents had experienced climate-related hazard in the last three years.

"We have been seeing how natural disasters affect the senior citizen population far more than other demographics. This year, we wanted to focus on climate change because it directly affects their health. We need to start preparing the elderly on how they could cope with these challenges," says Edwin Babu, director-Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, HelpAge India.

The study points out how climate change is disrupting the lives of senior citizens.

G. Dhinagaran, assistant professor, Centre for Environment Studies, Anna University, spoke about El Nino and urban heat islands and the adversities they pose.

"Compared to the cities, rural areas have far fewer hospitals and healthcare facilities. Dehydration is very common among the rural ageing population because they mostly toil outside, and even if they are feeling any kind of discomfort, there are not as many ambulance services compared to urban spaces," added P.P. Ramaswami, former dean, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

Meanwhile, Senthur Pari, president of ExNoRA International, said World Elder Abuse Awareness Day should be discussed in schools, and students should be made aware of the difficulties faced by the elderly.

Pledge-taking ceremony

On Sunday, the Dr. V.S. Natarajan Geriatric Foundation, organised a pledge-taking ceremony in Erode to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, a note from the organisation said. Around 2,000 people took a 'Let us respect our elders' pledge. Freedom fighter and centenarian K. Lakshmi Kanthan Bharathi was the chief guest on the occasion. The note, from founder and chairman Dr. Natarajan, a senior geriatrician, said that with family and societal structures undergoing several changes, many senior citizens these days were lonely and isolated. This can affect their mental health. Also, with increasing age can come increasing health ailments.

Educating the public, ensuring respite care, setting up social connections for the elderly and their caregivers, and counselling can all help, the note added.

City hospital gets pulse field ablation for treating heart rhythm disorders

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Pulsed field ablation (PFA), an advanced technology to treat heart rhythm disorders, has been introduced at the Alwarpet and Vadapalani branches of Kauvery Hospital.

The technology is primarily used to treat atrial fibrillation, the most common heart rhythm disorder, which affects nearly 1 crore people in India and can lead to symptoms such as palpitations, breathlessness, heart failure, and an increased risk of stroke.

At a press meet on Monday, Deep Chandh Raja S., director of cardiac electrophysiology, Kauvery Hospital, said while PFA had been under research for nearly two decades, it gained widespread clinical use only in the last five years in countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. He said PFA represented a major advancement over conventional radiofrequency and cryoablation procedures, offering a faster, safer, and minimally invasive treatment option.

New technology: Doctors announcing the introduction of the procedure at Kauvery Hospital on Monday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Short procedure

A recent procedure performed at Kauvery Hospital was completed in about 45 minutes, compared to the longer duration typically associated with earlier techniques.

Patients can usually be discharged within a day, according to Dr. Raja. He said the technology enabled improved patient outcomes and eliminated the need for open-heart surgery.

The PFA technology was launched in the presence of N.S. Sivakadaksham, veteran cardiologist, Iyappan Ponnuswamy, medical director, Kauvery Hospital, Rajaram Anantharaman, senior consultant interventional cardiologist, Kauvery Hospital, Mahesh Kumar, medical superintendent, Kauvery Hospital.

Dr. Sivakadaksham said PFA offered a success rate of around 90%, with recurrence rates of only about 10%.

CINEMA ❖ ARTS ❖ EVENTS

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

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3.30 PM: Vid. Shruthi Shankar Kumar – Vocal, Vid. Chidambaram Badrinath - Violin, Vid. Akshay Ram R - Mridangam
5.15 PM: Vid. Anahita Ravindran & Vid. Apoorva Ravindran – Vocal Duet, Vid. V.S.P. Gayatri Sivani – Violin, Vid. Kishore Ramesh - Mridangam, Vid. S. Sunil Kumar- Khanjira
7.00 pm Grand Finale – Sangeeta Kala Sarathy Vid. Nagai R. Muralidharan - Violin, Dr. Badrinarayanan – Violin Support, Padma Shri Thiruvarur Bhakthavathsalam - Mridangam, Vid. K.V. Gopakrishnan - Khanjira

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I, Kowsalya Arul S/o K. Arul Dob 18-06-1999. Resistance Address :- B6 1st Floor, Yamuna Blocks, Selvam Flats New Colony 6th Cross Street, Chromepet , Chennai 44 Shall henceforth be known as Kowsalya Arul - Kowsalya Arul A.

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Tender No.: DEPL /GONGRI HEP /2026
(INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dated : 16th June 2026 **Vice President (Projects)**

Developer : DIRANG ENERGY PVT LTD (DEPL)
Consultant : WALMAN INFRA & ENERGY Pvt. Ltd (WALMAN)

With storage in city's two major reservoirs dipping, focus returns to desilting

Dry patches emerge in parts of Red Hills and Poondi reservoirs as water levels drop to 51% and 34% of their capacity. Residents and activists seek timely desilting to recover lost storage capacity

WATER WATCH

K. Lakshmi
CHENNAI

Key source: The Poondi reservoir receives about 210 cusecs of Krishna water from Andhra Pradesh.

With storage in the city's two major reservoirs falling to nearly 50% of their capacity, citizen groups and activists seek timely desilting to recover lost storage capacity.

The Water Resources Department (WRD) is examining a revenue-based model for the exercise. The combined storage of the five major reservoirs, including Chembarambakkam, stands at 6,148 million cubic feet, which is nearly 52% of their total capacity.

The storage in Red Hills and Poondi reservoirs has dropped to nearly 51% and 34% of their capacity.

Dry patches are visible in the rear portions of the waterbody in Red Hills due to the receding water level.

Residents and representatives of citizen groups said similar dry stretches had emerged in the Poondi reservoir – one of the city's primary sources of drinking water – from where water is diverted to other reservoirs.

They underlined the need for timely desilting of the waterbodies to recover the lost storage capacity.

S. Sameer, founder, SWOTT (Social Work Team Trust), a non-governmental organisation engaged in waterbodies conservation, said the rear portions of the Red Hills reservoir had dried up and were clearly visible near places such as Surapet and Kannappasamy Nagar, Puzhal.

The department must attempt targeted desilting measures to enable additional storage of water during the rainy season, he said.

He also sought action against the discharge of sewage into the Red Hills reservoir at various locations, including Surapet, Pammadhukulam, Padianallur, and Venkatachalam Nagar in Thirumullaivoyal.

The Poondi reservoir receives about 210 cubic feet per second (cusecs) of Krishna water from Andhra Pradesh, which is diverted to the Chembarambakkam reservoir to raise the water level and facilitate distribution in the city.

In 2018, the department proposed desilting of the major reservoirs, which it decided to carry out as a revenue generation model.

While the work made some progress in Cholavaram reservoir, the project, aimed at creating an additional capacity of about 1,900 million cubic feet across the reservoirs, was not executed. This was partly because the waterbodies had ample storage in the subsequent years.

The WRD officials said Krishna water had increased the storage of Poondi reservoir by nearly 450 mcft since May 27. Talks are in progress with Andhra Pradesh authorities to increase the release of Krishna water to Chennai, they said.

While the study to augment the capacity of Poondi reservoir is under scrutiny, the department is exploring ways to make the revenue generation model more effective for desilting works, officials said.

Microchip helps GCC track down owner of abandoned Labrador; action to be initiated

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has identified the owner of a Labrador that was found abandoned in a severely neglected condition using the microchip implanted in the dog, and has decided to initiate action against the owner.

The dog, which was allegedly abandoned about a week ago, was brought to the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD) from Purasawakkam by members of the public.

Sources at the BMAD said that the animal was in a poor condition, with maggot-infested wounds around its eyes and other parts of the body. The dog is currently undergoing treatment.

Authorities traced the owner through the microchip. In 2025, the GCC made it mandatory for pet dogs to be registered, micro-chipped, and vaccinated against rabies to maintain accurate records of pet ownership, improve disease control, and promote responsible pet care across the city.

Each microchip carries a unique 15-digit identification number that can be read using an RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) scanner. Once registered, the number is linked to details such as the pet's name, breed, vaccination records, and the owner's contact information, enabling authorities to identify the animal if it is lost.

GCC Veterinary Officer Kamal Husain said the case demonstrated the importance of mandatory microchipping. "We went to the registered address after tracing the microchip, but the owner was not there. Through the phone, we confirmed that they had moved to a rental place. The owner informed us that there were restrictions in the house they had moved to. So this seems like a clear case of abandonment," he said.

Mr. Husain said the GCC plans to initiate police action under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Asked whether a fine would be imposed on the owner, he said the order on pet registration prescribes a fine of ₹5,000 for unlicensed dogs and ₹500 for dogs that are not kept on a leash in public places. However, it does not specify a penalty for abandonment.

A penalty will be decided and imposed if the owner fails to comply with the notice issued, he said.

THE HINDU
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E-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION PROCESS

Scheme no. MM/SCH-51/2026-27

CIDCO invites application through e-TENDER cum e-AUCTION process for **Lease of 83 Nos. of Plots Residential (R), Commercial (C), Residential-Cum-Commercial (R+C), and Storage/Warehouse and Warehousing** use at Ghansoli, Koparkhairane, Dronagiri, Ulwe, Kharghar, Taloja, Kamothe, Kalamboli, New Panvel (W), New Panvel (E) and Pushpak Nagar Nodes of Navi Mumbai from eligible applicants. The detailed information of the scheme including the time is available on the website:

https://eauction.cidcoindia.com

Salient features of the scheme

- Residential (R), Commercial (C), Residential-Cum-Commercial (R+C), Storage/Warehouse and Warehousing plots are available under Scheme no. 51
- Plots are located at prime locations in Ghansoli, Koparkhairane, Dronagiri, Ulwe, Kharghar, Taloja, Kamothe, Kalamboli, New Panvel (W), New Panvel (E) and Pushpak Nagar nodes of Navi Mumbai.
- Largest Plot Area- 13,874.37 Sqm, Smallest Plot Area- 57.67 Sqm
- The nodes are well equipped with all infrastructure facilities and greater connectivity
- All the procedures will be carried out through the online and transparent e-auction cum e-tender process.

Time Schedule

- Payment for document fee for close bid will start on **22.06.2026 at 11.00 hrs.** and will continue till **13.07.2026 at 23.59 hrs.**
- Payment of EMD fee for close bid will start on **22.06.2026 at 11.00 hrs.** and will continue till **13.07.2026 at 23.59 hrs.**
- Submission of closed bids will start on **22.06.2026 at 11.00 hrs.** and will end on **13.07.2026 at 23.59 hrs.**
- Payment of document fee for e-auction will start on **22.06.2026 at 11.00 hrs.** and will continue till **14.07.2026 at 12.00 hrs.**
- Payment of EMD for e-auction will start on **22.06.2026 at 11.00 hrs.** and will continue till **14.07.2026 at 12.00 hrs.**
- The online e-auction will start on **14.07.2026 at 11.00 hrs.** and will continue till **14.07.2026 at 18.00 hrs.**
- The result will be announced on **15.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs.**

For details, please contact the office of **Marketing Manager (Commercial)**, 3rd Floor, Raigad Bhavan, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai- 400614

Marketing Manager (Commercial)

CIN-U99999 MH 1970 SGC-014574 www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in CIDCO/PR/096/2026-27

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at Kasturi Buildings, 859-860, Anna Salai, Chennai 600002 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT.LTD. and Printed by Ra Babu Vijay at THG PUBLISHING PVT.LTD. Plot B-6 & B-7, CMDA Industrial Complex, Maraimalai Nagar, Chengalpattu Taluk, Chengalpattu Dist., Pin 603209. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

INBRIEF

National Surgeons Week event concludes in city

The Association of Surgeons of India (ASI) observed National Surgeons Week from June 8 to 14, and the second annual Surgeons Day on June 14 under the theme "Healthy Surgeon, Healthy Nation". According to a release, ASI chapters across the country organised blood donation camps, free health camps, tree plantation drives, and awareness programmes. In Chennai, an anti-drug rally with around 500 participants was flagged off by K.S. Narenthiran Nair, Additional Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, South. The concluding event was held at SRIHER, Chennai, where surgeons from across India participated in sports and wellness activities.

Metro Rail to submit project report of Light House-Madras HC line to State govt. soon

Sources said the Detailed Project Report was completed recently and were planning to submit the document to the State government within a week; an extension of corridor 4, this metro line will be a 5.69-km underground stretch that is expected to benefit lakhs of commuters

TRACK TALES

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

Chennai Metro Rail has completed the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the extension lines from Light House to Madras High Court and will submit it to the Tamil Nadu government shortly.

Chennai Metro Rail had floated bids in March last year looking for a consultant to prepare the DPR and subsequently, in June, Systra MVA Consulting (India) Pvt. Ltd. bagged the contract for this project. Sources said the DPR was completed recently, and they plan to hand over the document to the State government within a week for its approval.

The Light House to Madras High Court stretch will be a 5.69-km underground stretch comprising four stations in between–Ezhilagam, Island Grounds, Secretariat, and Madras High Court.

The estimated cost of this project is ₹4,300 crore.

Light House, which is under construction as part of the 118.9-km phase II project, will serve as one of the key terminal stations. This station is part of the 26.1-km East-West corridor, which starts at Poonamallee and terminates at Light House after crossing some of the core areas, including Valasaravakkam, Vadapalani, Kodambakkam, T. Nagar, Nandanam, Boat Club, Alwarpet, and Thirumayilai.

Crucial expansion: The Light House to Madras High Court stretch will have four stations—Ezhilagam, Island Grounds, Secretariat, and Madras High Court. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

If the Light House-Madras High Court stretch is approved by the State and Centre and becomes operational, it could be an extension of the corridor 4 and benefit lakhs of people.

"Several government employees are employed at both Secretariat and Ezhilagam. Island Grounds is one of the important exhibition spaces in the city visited by many. So, commuters will stand to gain hugely from Chennai Metro Rail connectivity to these three locations," a source said.

It has been planned underground since it is an extension of the already existing line underground stretch.

Prasanna Kumar who is employed at Ezhilagam said, such an extension will help people like him to commute to workplace and the Secretariat. "I have had to frequently travel from Ezhilagam to Secretariat. Currently, I have to take a bus. But if metro connectivity comes through, it will be far more convenient for many like me," he added.

City hospital launches centre for paediatric ENT Care

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Rainbow Children's Hospital here has launched a dedicated centre for the diagnosis, treatment, and long-term management of paediatric hearing, airway, and sleep disorders, a press release said.

Advanced Centre for Paediatric ENT Care (ACENT) will bring together paediatric ENT expertise, advanced technology, and multidisciplinary care to address complex ENT conditions affecting newborns, infants, children, and adolescents.

Conditions such as hearing loss, airway abnormalities, recurrent ear infections, and sleep-disordered breathing may go unrecognised in children and could potentially impact speech, learning, growth, and overall development. The centre will address this need, the release said.

A one-week-old infant admitted with severe airway obstruction, feeding difficulties, and dependence on oxygen support was recently treated at the centre.

The centre was launched in the presence of renowned playback singer Saindhavi, and Suresh Kumar M., senior consultant and coordinator, ENT, KIMSHEALTH, Thiruvananthapuram.

Gunasekhar C., facility director and Nithya R., consultant, paediatric ENT, were among those who participated.

Panchu ceased to be EC member in Feb. 2026, says Sai University

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Sai University has said senior advocate Sriram Panchu ceased to be a member of its executive council in February 2026 and it was "factually incorrect" to claim he had resigned over charges of alleged sexual misconduct against its Vice-Chancellor, Ajith Abraham.

In a statement to *The Hindu* the university Vice-Chancellor Ajith Abrham said Mr. Panchu was continuously absent from "five consecutive board meetings with his last attendance recorded in February 2025" and that he "ceased to be a member of the Executive Council in February 2026–months prior to the events" cited in the article.

"Under the statutory regulations of Sai University, any board member who remains continuously absent from Executive Council meetings for more than one year (equivalent to four consecutive meetings) automatically ceases to hold membership."

Mr. Abraham said references to "academic misconduct" regarding citation practices and publication records were "entirely baseless" and verifiable institutional data and academic records held by Sai University confirm there is no evidence to support these allegations.

'Factually incorrect'

"The university has thoroughly reviewed these matters and determined that the claims are factually incorrect and stem from a fundamental misunderstanding of globally accepted academic indexing and metrics," he said.

Man held for sexually harassing woman in lift at commercial complex in Royapettah

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Anna Salai Police have arrested a 41-year-old man on charges of sexually harassing a woman inside a lift at a commercial complex in Royapettah.

According to the police, a 38-year-old woman residing with her family in Nungambakkam High Road area lodged a complaint with the police alleging that she was sexually harassed inside the lift at the private commercial complex.

According to the complaint, the woman and her friend were travelling in a lift at the commercial complex on Sunday evening when two men standing behind them allegedly subjected her to sexual harassment. The accused fled the scene when the lift stopped.

Based on the complaint, the police registered a case and launched an investigation.

After investigation, the police arrested one of the accused, Lakshmi Narayanan, 41, of Velachery. During the investigation, the police found that Lakshmi Narayanan was employed as a housekeeping worker at a private company in Velachery.

Police said efforts were on to trace and arrest the other accused involved in the case.

Timings
CHENNAI

TUESDAY, JUN. 16		
RISE 05:44	SET 18:36	
RISE 06:42	SET 20:09	
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 17		
RISE 05:44	SET 18:37	
RISE 07:50	SET 21:07	
THURSDAY, JUN. 18		
RISE 05:44	SET 18:37	
RISE 08:54	SET 21:57	

Chennai Weather	max	min
Tiruvallur	37	26
Chennai Airport	38	28
Chennai City	38	28

Chennai Airport Today
39°C The weather will be hot and uneasy. Night will also be very uneasy. Spell of light rain and thundershowers may occur.

Chennai Airport Tomorrow
40°C Morning will be comfortable. Day will be hot and uneasy. Night also will be uneasy. Chances of light rain and thundershowers.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

RAJAGOPALAN NAGARAJAN
09.08.1944 - 11.06.2026
"All is well" - this simple belief was the foundation of his life.
With a heavy heart and profound sadness, we announce that *Sri* Rajagopalan Nagarajan has attained the lotus feet of Kāmākshi. A loving husband, father, grandfather, friend, an IIMC alumnus and Rotarian, He will be fondly remembered for his kindness, humility, equanimity, Cheerfulness and unwavering optimism
Deeply mourned by:
Wife: Bhuvana
Sons: Sriram & Aswin and Family
Condolences: +91 98400 48570

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

11TH ANNIVERSARY

N.LAKSHMI
(Ex-SYNDICATE BANK)
Fondly remembered by
G.Narayanan and Family
ECR Kottivakkam. 9841030855

22ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

P.PADMA PRIYA M.A.,M.Phil.
21.05.1964 - 16.06.2004
Remembered by
Husband **P.T.VEERAIYAN**

DEATH

G.Selvaraju
S/o. Gothandapani,
Passed away on 15-06-2026. Funeral rituals will be held Today @ 11.30am Sudharsana Apt, 10/23, First Cross St, R.K.Nagar, Mandaveli, Chennai-28
Ct: 96000 18666

Obituary

Mrs. K. Rajeshwari
DOB: 08-11-1933 - DOD: 15-06-2026
W/o. Late K.E. Arunachalam
D/o. of Late C.S Loganatha Mudaliar
She Will be dearly missed and forever remembered
Forever in our hearts.
Remembered by her Daughter, Son In law, Grandsons and Great Granddaughter and Granddaughter in law Relatives & Family members
Ct: 87545 51424

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

IN LOVING MEMORY
TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs.VALLI SESHAN
12.06.1936 - 16.06.2006
"May you continue to guide us from your heavenly abode in all our endeavors"
Fondly Remembered by
Family & Friends

C.S. NAGESWARAN
DOB: 29.10.1929 DOD: 16.06.2003
Your love for us lives on.
Parameswari Nageswaran

11th Anniversary
In ever loving memory of

Dr. P.ALLI PERIYANAYAKI, Ph.D
(Retd.Dean Of Science, Sarah Tucker College, Palayamkottai)
Not a single moment passes by without thinking about you.
We Miss You.
"You are our source of inspiration & your legacy will guide us always"
Fondly remembered by
Husband, Son, Daughter-in-law, Grandsons & Family, Tirunelveli

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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Office of the Executive Engineer,
C.V. Ramannagara Division, 8th Cross, 12th 'A' Main Road,
HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru - 560038.

No: EE/CVR/KPPP/03/2026-27 **Date: 12-06-2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division, BCCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP / KPWD / CPWD / Railway / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organization for the works detailed below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-2)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
	Improvements, Asphalting and Construction of CC Roads, Drains and Culverts below Wards
	General Works (Call-2) - (Others)
1	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - PSK Naidu Road. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
2	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Gajendranagara and Old Bayapanahalli. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00**
3	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Kalahalli. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
4	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Pilla Reddy Nagara. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00**
5	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Sadanandanagara. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
6	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - B. Channasandra. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 35.00, EMD (in Rs.): 70,000.00**
7	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Krishnaiahnapalya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
8	Ward No. 110, C.V. Ramannagara - Rahat Bagh. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
9	Ward No.110, C.V. Ramannagara-Suddagunte Palya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00**
10	Ward No.110, C.V. Ramannagara-Suddagunte Palya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00**
11	Ward No. 110, C.V. Ramannagara - Vartur Road. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
12	Ward No. 110, C.V. Ramannagara - Sanjeevappa. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00**
13	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Malleshpalya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
14	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Surrounding. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
15	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Varsova Layout. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00**
16	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Balaji Layout. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
17	Ward No. 113, Hoysalanagara - Michel Palya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
18	Ward No. 114, Jeevanbhima Nagara - Baba Saheb Colony. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
19	Ward No. 114, Jeevanbhima Nagara - PWD Quarters. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
20	Ward No. 114, Jeevanbhima Nagara - Kodihalli. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
21	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara - Vinayakanagara. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
22	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara-Muniyellappa Garden. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
23	Ward No. 113, Hoysalanagara - Defence Colony. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00**
24	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara - BDA Layout. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00**
	SC / ST Category - (Call-2)
25	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Gover Road, Charles Cambell Road & M.M Road. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.00, EMD (in Rs.): 45,000.00**
26	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Thimmaiah Garden, Nanjundappa Garden. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 40,000.00**
27	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Lalbahadur Nagara. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 35.00, EMD (in Rs.): 35,000.00**
28	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Malleshpalya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 30,000.00**
29	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Chaitanya School. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
30	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Malleshpalya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 40,000.00**
31	Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra - LIC Colony and Geethanjali Layout. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
32	Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra - G.M Palya and Byrasandra. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
33	Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra - 515 Colony and Venkateshwara Layout. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
34	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara - Bank Road. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 30,000.00**
35	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara - Murugesh Palya, A.K. Colony and Cauvery Nagara. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
36	Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra - Surrounding. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
37	Ward No. 113, Hoysalanagara - Cauvery School. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
	CATEGORY-I (Call-2)
38	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - New Bayapanahalli and Adjacent Roads. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD (in Rs.): 25,000.00**
39	Ward No. 114, Jeevan Bhima Nagara - Anandapura. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
40	Ward No. 114, Jeevan Bhima Nagara - HAL 2nd Stage. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
	CATEGORY-II(A) (Call-2)
41	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Kallpalli. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 25,000.00**
42	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Chikkabanasawadi. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 40,000.00**
43	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Surrounding Area. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 20,000.00**
44	Ward No. 110, C.V. Raman Nagara - Nagavarapalya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 40,000.00**
45	Ward No. 110, C.V. Raman Nagara - Kaggadasapura Road. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 30,000.00**
46	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Surrounding Area. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 30,000.00**

Calendar of Events: **1)** Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 17-06-2026. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **25-06-2026 at 3.30 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, C.V. Raman Nagara Division, 8th Cross, 12th 'A' Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru - 560038. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document: **02-07-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **03-07-2026 after 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
C.V. Ramannagara Division, BCCC.

Ministry Of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
MSME - TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE - (CDGI)
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
A1/1 Industrial Area, Firozabad 283203, ww.cdgiindia.net

GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE COURSE ON
CONTRACT DRAFTING, NEGOTIATION AND DISPUTE MANAGEMENT

Course Duration 2 Days (ONLINE) Date: 20 & 21 June 2026 Time : 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Course Content: Understanding the definitive contract checklist, Non disclosure agreement, Cloud computing & the law, Contract negotiation, Drafting and review of commercial contracts, Service level agreements (SLAs), Data protection and privacy provisions, Intellectual property licensing agreements, Vendor and procurement contracts, E-contracts and digital signatures Termination and exit management Practical contract negotiation exercises Case studies on contractual disputes.. More

Fees : Rs.4,130/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)
FEE PAYMENT ONLY IN MSME TDC CDGI ACCOUNT
Coordinator: 8603769900, 9953920498, 8168984069
Government of India certificate will be awarded

Ministry of MSME Govt. Of India
MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, GOVT. OF INDIA
KIADB Industrial Estate, Devanahalli, Bengaluru
website:www.msmetdc.org

GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE COURSE ON
AI for Pharmaceutical R&D

Course Duration 4 Days (ONLINE) Date: 20 & 21 and 27 & 28 June 2026 Time : 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Course Content: Drug discovery process,Clinical trial design,Preclinical testing methods,Dose response studies,New drug approval steps,Adverse effect monitoring,Formulation development,Bioavailability testing,Quality control in R&D,Regulatory documentation,AI use in drug research,Vaccine formulation,Patent filing in pharma,Nanotech in drug delivery,Ethics in clinical research,Target identification,Lead optimization,Molecular docking,Pharmacokinetics basics,Pharmacodynamics studies,Data analysis in trials,Patient recruitment methods.. More Topics

Fees : Rs.3,540/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)
Coordinator: 9818676612, 9818528498, 9686564246
Government of India certificate will be awarded

TIRUPPUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Notice for Inviting Re-E-Tender

Roc.No.E1/0524/2026/Z3 **Date: 15.06.2026**

1. E-Tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for Construction of Animal Birth Control Centre (ABC Centre) at Kovilvazhi in Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation under in General Fund 2026-27.
2. Total Project Cost **Rs.199.50 Lakhs.**
3. The details of the tender shall be obtained from web portal **https://tntenders.gov.in**
4. The tender documents shall be downloaded from **16.06.2026** to **01.07.2026** through the portal **https://tntenders.gov.in**
5. Pre Bid Meeting will be Held on **23.06.2026** at **11.00 A.M** at concerned Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation Office.
6. The Last date for downloading the tender document and the last date for uploading / submission of filled up tender document is upto **3.00 PM** on **01.07.2026.**
7. The received tenders will be opened at **3.30 PM** on **01.07.2026** at the Office of Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation, Municipal Office Road, Tiruppur – 641 604.
8. The value of each works and the details of Earnest Money Deposit and the Eligibility of bidders are given in the concern work tender document.

Commissioner,
Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation
DIPR/2068/TENDER/2026

TIRUPPUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Notice for Inviting E-Retender

Roc.No.E1/5846/2025 **Date: 15.06.2026**

1. E-Tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for Supply, delivey, erection, Commissioning and testing of Shedder machine with conveyor weigh bridge, magnetic separator and hydraulic bailing press with chain conveyor and auto-tied (5 TPH) with control panel under in 15 CFC (Tied & UnTied Grant) 2025-26.
2. Total Project Cost **Rs.384.18 Lakhs**
3. The details of the tender shall be obtained from web portal **https://tntenders.gov.in**
4. The tender documents shall be downloaded from **16.06.2026** to **01.07.2026** through the portal **https://tntenders.gov.in**
5. Pre Bid Meeting will be Held on **23.06.2026** at **11.00 A.M** at concerned Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation Office.
6. The Last date for downloading the tender document and the last date for uploading / submission of filled up tender document is upto **3.00 PM** on **01.07.2026.**
7. The received tenders will be opened at **3.30 PM** on **01.07.2026** at the **Office of Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation, Municipal Office Road, Tiruppur – 641 604.**
8. The value of each works and the details of Earnest Money Deposit and the Eligibility of bidders are given in the concern work tender document.

Commissioner,
Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation
DIPR/2067/TENDER/2026

INDIAN RAILWAYS
PATIALA LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

PATIALA - 147003
Tel.: 2396000, 2396001, Fax No. : 91-0175-2306413

Notice Inviting Electronic Tenders

On behalf of President of India Principal Chief Materials Manager/PLW/Patiala invites tenders in electronic form for following items:

e-Tender Notice No. 11 ET/2026-27

S. N.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender Closing Date
1	21261108	Cab Heater/Ventilation Assly	227 Sets	13.07.2026*
2	12261444	Thinner 3A-110/Thinner S-110	1780 kg	10.07.2026*
3	02261039	Bare magnet frame	1776 Sets	06.07.2026*
4	12251828D	Gas Mask Respirator	684 Nos.	06.07.2026
5	21261152	Blind Installation	162 Sets	08.07.2026*
6	21261078A	Sand Box Assly	154 Sets	01.07.2026*
7	21261133	Wheel Set Guide	1514 Nos.	03.07.2026*

Tender closing Time 15:00 Hrs.
Item marked with * is reserved for procurement from CLW approved sources.
The prospective Tenderers are advised to visit the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** or **http://www.plw.indianrailways.gov.in.** for detailed description of items & other terms and conditions of tender document. Please note that Tenderers can submit their quotations only through **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.
2040/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangalore - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

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

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

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

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

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

Sd/-,
Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Procurement)
DIPR/DK/KSMCA/377/26-27dt: 15.06.2026

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

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THE HINDU
Air Surcharge as applicable:
New Delhi - Rs. 15/-;
Port Blair - Rs. 20/-

CORRIGENDUM NO. 02 & 03 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2026/MAY/04; DATED: 20-05-2026

Corrigendum- 02 and 03 for **Tender No. CE-CON-FT-PMS-2026-03RT1** has been published. For details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Chief Engineer/Con/ Lumding Project, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-AUCTION NOTICE

On behalf of president of India, DRM (Commercial), E.C Railway, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya invites e-auction for leasing of parcel space in SLR Coach of under mentioned Coaching trains originating over Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya division. Details are as under:- **(1) (AA/1) Name of work with train no. and completion period:** Allotment of Parcel Space of FSLR (4 T) of Train no. 13024 (Ex Gaya to HWH) GAYA-Howrah Exp. **E-Auction Catalogue No.:** SLR-LEASE 26-6, **E-Auction Lot No.:** 13024-SLR-F1-GAYA-HWH-25-1, **Date & Time for E-Auction:** E-auction will start at 10:00 hrs and close at 10:30 hrs on 26.06.2026. **(AA/2) Name of work with train no. and completion period:** Allotment of Parcel Space of FSLR (4 T) of Train no. 13697(Ex Gaya to DLI) GAYA-DLI Amrit Bharat Exp. **E-Auction Catalogue No.:** SLR-LEASE 26-6, **E-Auction Lot No.:** 13697-SLR-F1-GAYA-DLI-25-1 **Date & Time for E-Auction:** E-auction will start at 10:00 hrs and close at 10:40 hrs on 26.06.2026. **(AA/3) Name of work with train no. and completion period:** Allotment of Parcel Space of FSLR (4 T) of Train no. 12397 (Ex Gaya to NDLS) GAYA-NEW DELHI Mahabodhi Exp. **E-Auction Catalogue No.:** SLR-LEASE 26-6, **E-Auction Lot No.:** 12397-SLR-F1-GAYA-NDLS-25-1 **Date & Time for E-Auction:** E-auction will start at 10:00 hrs and close at 10:50 hrs on 26.06.2026. **(AA/4) Name of work with train no. and completion period:** Allotment of Parcel Space of FSLR (3.9 T) of Train no. 22409 (Ex Gaya to Anand Vihar Terminus) GAYA-ANVT Gareebrath Exp. **E-Auction Catalogue No.:** SLR-LEASE 26-6, **E-Auction Lot No.:** 22409-SLR-F1-GAYA-ANVT-25-1 **Date & Time for E-Auction:** E-auction will start at 10:00 hrs and close at 11:00 hrs on 26.06.2026. **(AA/5) Name of work with train no. and completion period:** Allotment of Parcel Space of FSLR (4 T) of Train no. 12389(Ex Gaya to MAS) GAYA-Chennai Egmore Exp. **E-Auction Catalogue No.:** SLR-LEASE 26-6, **E-Auction Lot No.:** 12389-SLR-F1-GAYA-MAS-25-1, **Date & Time for E-Auction:** E-auction will start at 10:00 hrs and close at 11:10 hrs on 26.06.2026. **(2) Website particular where complete details of E-Auction available: www.ireps.gov.in** (E-auction Leasing)

Divisional Railway Manager (C)
East Central Railway, DDU
PR/0397/DDU/COMML/EAN/26-27/64

The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited

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

SHORT TERM TENDER

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

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

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

Metro Railway, Kolkata

e-Tender is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work: Name of work: Providing facilitation for the work of mutation, reconciliation of land plan and data and Digitisation of data of acquired land of Metro Railway/Kolkata in consultation with West Bengal Govt. in North Section of Blue Line from Dakshineswar Station (KDSW) (In.) to Central Station (KCEN) (In.) of Metro Railway/Kolkata. **Approx Cost of Work:** ₹ 67,03,101.00; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,34,100.00; **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) Months; **Date and Time of Closing:** 08.07.2026 at 12:00 Hrs.; The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in** Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be uploaded only on the website

Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2575-2026-(Open)

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Madurai Division
Tender Notice NO: U-TRD-OT-26-27-IV dated 12.06.2026

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, Southern Railway, Madurai -625016 invites E-Tenders from reputed contractors for the under mentioned works.

S.No	Tender No & Name of the Work:
1*	**U-TRD-OT-26-27-IV-1:** MDU Division - Provision of Power Quality Restorers for AC Traction Systems at the Traction Substations in Palani, Gomangalam, Manamadurai, Ramanathapuram and Theni.
2	**U-TRD-OT-26-27-IV-2:** MDU Division - Preparation of design and drawings for Overhead Equipments (OHE) for TPJ-MDU section in MDU Division

Tender No.	App. Tender Value (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Tender Closing Date @ 15.00 hrs	Completion Period
U-TRD-OT-26-27-IV-1	19,27,29,000/-	38,54,600	15.07.2026	18 Months
U-TRD-OT-26-27-IV-2	25,06,540/-	50,100	06.07.2026	6 Months

Cost of Tender Form: NIL

*Eligibility criteria is applicable for these tenders.
For details interested persons may kindly be log on to website at **http://www.ireps.gov.in,** For eligibility criteria, other details, terms and conditions, the tenderers are advised to refer to the documents uploaded. All Addendum/ Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Divisional Railway Manager (Traction Distribution)
Southern Railway, Madurai - 625016

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED

(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.

Form-B
(See rule 4)

Public Notice under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Tamil Nadu Acquisition of Land for Industrial Purposes Act, 1997 (Tamil Nadu Act 10 of 1999)

Under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Tamil Nadu Acquisition of Land for Industrial Purposes Act, 1997 (Tamil Nadu Act 10 of 1999), notice is hereby given that the land / lands specified in the Schedule and situated in the Village of **Poonamallee** in the Taluk of **Poonamallee** in the District of **Thiruvallur** is required for industrial purposes, to wit, for **Corridor 4, 29 - Poonamallee Bus Stand Metro Station.** All persons interested in the land/lands is/are, accordingly required to lodge before the **Special District Revenue Officer (LAO), MetroS, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035** within **Thirty Days** from the date of publication of this notice, a statement in writing of their objections, if any, to the acquisition of the said lands.

Public hearing will be conducted on **17.07.2026** at **11.00 a.m.** by the **Special District Revenue Officer (LAO), MetroS, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035** when objectors will be at liberty to appear in person or by a person or persons authorized by him or them in this behalf by a pleader and to adduce any oral or documentary evidence in support of their objections.

THE SCHEDULE

S. No.	Block No.	T.S. No.	Classification / Description	Extent required / acquired (in Sq.mt.)	Owner / Person interested As per Revenue Record (Extract of PLR)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	-	1357/11A	Ryotwari Dry - ACC Building (Oil Mill)	1548	1. Tmt. Manoranjitham 2. Tmt. Indhumathi 3. Tmt. Vasantha 4. Tmt. Gnanasoundari 5. Thiru. Baskaran

Special District Revenue Officer (LAO),
Chennai Metro Rail Limited,
Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035.
DIPR/101/Land/2026

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 – 2564568 / 5669 / 4545)

दिनांक/Dated : 15-06-2026

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

1. टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में ठोस नोदक दहन अनुसंधान ग्रुप (एसपीसीजी) के लिए भवन का निर्माण (सिविल तथा विद्युत कार्य) / Construction of building for Solid Propellant Combustion Research Group (SPCG) at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & Electrical works) / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/09/2026-27 Dt. 12.06.2026 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹ 1086.85 लाख/Lakhs)**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 13.06.2026 को 10.00 बजे/hrs. से/to दिनांक 03.07.2026, 23.00 बजे/hrs.

इच्छुक निविदाकार ब्यौरों के लिए www.tenderwizard.com/isro या www.isro.gov.in देखें। Interested tenderers may visit www.tenderwizard.com/isro or www.isro.gov.in for details.

Sd/- प्रधान, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी
Head, CMG, VSSC

CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING (CCRT)

Ministry of Culture Government of India
Plot No. 15 A, Sector - 7, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075

AWARD OF SENIOR / JUNIOR FELLOWSHIPS TO OUTSTANDING PERSONS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE FOR THE BATCH YEAR 2026-27

Offline applications are invited by CCRT, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India for the award of Junior and Senior Fellowship for undertaking research oriented projects in the field of Performing, Literary, Visual/Plastic Arts and New Areas related to Culture.

Applications are invited for the year 2026-27 with effect from dated **15th June, 2026.** There are 200 Junior & 200 Senior Fellowships for this year. Details of the schemes, instructions for applicants, eligibility conditions/criteria and Application Module are available on the following websites of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and CCRT.

www.indiaculture.nic.in & www.ccrtindia.gov.in

ONLY OFFLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

The last date for submitting the completely filled application form by post or by hand etc. to the above mentioned address of CCRT, New Delhi is 31st July, 2026.

CBC 09127/11/0005/2627

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

Notice No.: W.584/E-Tendering/89-108-DHN-26-27, Dhanbad, dt. 12/06/2026

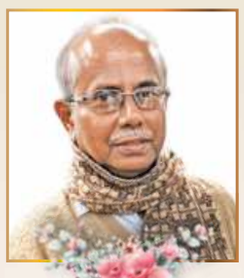
It is further to notify that the date & time of closing and opening of the following e-tenders should be read as under:

Sl No. 1, **E-tender No.:** 89-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 2, **E-tender No.:** 90-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 3, **E-tender No.:** 91-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 4, **E-tender No.:** 92-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 5, **E-tender No.:** 93-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 6, **E-tender No.:** 94-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 7, **E-tender No.:** 95-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 8, **E-tender No.:** 96-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 9, **E-tender No.:** 97-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 10, **E-tender No.:** 98-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 11, **E-tender No.:** 99-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 12, **E-tender No.:** 100-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 13, **E-tender No.:** 101-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 14, **E-tender No.:** 102-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 15, **E-tender No.:** 103-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 16, **E-tender No.:** 104-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 17, **E-tender No.:** 105-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 18, **E-tender No.:** 106-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 19, **E-tender No.:** 107-DHN-2026-27, **Sl No.** 20, **E-tender No.:** 108-DHN-2026-27, **Existing Date & Time of closing and opening of e-tender already published:** Date of closing of e-tender at 12:00 hours on 29.06.2026, Date of opening of e-tender from 12:30 hrs. on 29.06.2026, **Date & Time of closing and opening of e-tender should be read as** : Date of closing of e-tender at 12:00 hours on 03.07.2026, Date of opening of e-tender from 12:30 hrs. on 03.07.2026.

All other details, term and condition exists in the e-tender notice No. 89-DHN-2026-27, to 108-DHN-2026-27 dtd. 05.06.2026 will remain unchanged and unaltered.

Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.)
East Central Railway/, Dhanbad
PR/0399/DHN/ENGG/Corrigendum/26-27/52

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
—*2 Timothy 4:7*



Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your Lord.
—Matthew 25:23

It is with deep sadness that we announce that
Shri R. Augustine Manohar, IRS (Retd.)
aged 78 years, entered into eternal rest with the Lord *on* **14 June 2026.**
May his soul rest in the peace of Christ.

The mortal remains will reach his residence at
Plot No. 19, Shanthi Niketan Extension, Madambakkam, Chennai 600126
on
17 June 2026

The funeral service will be held at
2:00 PM *at*
St. John's Church, Madambakkam,
followed by burial at **4:00 PM** *at*
St. Mary's Cemetery, Mandaveli

Deeply Mourned by
Wife: **Janet Augustine**
Sons: **Samuel Augustine, Frank Noble**
Daughter in law:
Beulah Samuel, R. Umamaheswari
Grand Children:
Joanna Princess Augustine, Christina Evangeline Augustine, Kevin Noble, Kayal Janet Noble

Frank Noble: 9479314337
G Raja: 9841214344

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Appointment of Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Jammu

Applications are invited for the post of
Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Jammu

The Vice-Chancellor, being the academic as well as administrative head, is expected to be:

- A person possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment.
- A distinguished academician, with a minimum of 10 years' experience as Professor in a University or 10 years' experience in reputed research and/or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership.
- Preferably not more than 65 years of age as on the closing date of receipt of applications of this advertisement.

Salary and Service Conditions

- The post carries a pay of Rs. 2,10,000/- (Fixed) per month with Special Allowance of Rs.11,250/- and other usual allowances.
- The terms and conditions of the services will be those as set forth in the Act, Statutes and Ordinances of the University.

Procedure for appointment

- Appointment will be made from a panel of names recommended by a committee constituted under the provisions of Act of the University.
- The advertisement is available on the websites **https://dohe-education.gov.in** and **https://www.cujammu.ac.in**
- Candidates are required to **"APPLY ONLINE ONLY"** on the Ministry of Education SAMARTH portal as per the link given below:

https://vcrec.samarth.ac.in/index.php/

- The above link will be active from **16.06.2026**, 10:00 Hours to **15.07.2026**, 17:00 Hours.

CBC 21201/11/0006/2627

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

GLOBAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Greenfield Chennai International School participated in the NGTM Conclave at Sunway University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, providing students with an enriching international learning experience. A team of 40 students took part in competitions including Poster Making, Drawing, Short Film Making, Folk Song, Eco Pitch Invention and Slogan Writing, showcasing creativity, innovation and teamwork. Students toured the university campus, took the Plastic-Free Nation Oath and joined the Green India environmental initiative. They also explored cultural landmarks in Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur. The programme offered valuable exposure to global perspectives, sustainability, cultural diversity and experiential learning.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY OBSERVED

Shree Niketan Matriculation Higher Secondary School observed World Environment Day for students of Grades VI to IX through a special assembly themed "Nature's Warning". The programme focused on environmental protection and climate change, highlighting the impact of human activities on nature. An informative talk explained the causes and effects of climate change and encouraged eco-friendly practices. Students took an Environment Pledge, committing to conserve resources, reduce waste and protect nature. Teachers also conducted classroom discussions and interactive sessions on climate change, with students actively participating and sharing their views on environmental conservation and sustainability.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY OBSERVED

Zion International Public School observed World Environment Day with an awareness rally conducted on the school campus. Students enthusiastically participated, carrying colourful placards and banners promoting messages such as saving trees, reducing waste, recycling and protecting the planet. The programme aimed to create environmental awareness and encourage sustainable practices among students. Participants were also addressed on key issues including water conservation, reducing plastic consumption and the importance of afforestation. The event reflected the school's commitment to nurturing environmentally responsible citizens. It concluded with students and staff renewing their pledge to support environmental conservation and sustainable living.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Subramaniam P: Handphone:+91 98408 98088 | Email: subramaniam.p@thehindu.co.in

From Page One

Three-year-old girl dies after sexual assault

The girl was admitted to the government hospital at Kottakarai before being shifted to the Government Stanley Hospital. She succumbed to injuries on Monday morning.

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

Following the incident, Pudupettai residents staged a road roko, demanding safety for children in the locality.

Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin urged Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay to convene a high-level meeting of police officers and direct regional and district-level officers to prevent the deterioration of law and order in the State. Reacting to the killing of the girl, he said such incidents were once associated with "certain northern parts of the country". "But they have become the order of the day in Tamil Nadu," he said in a social media post.

He alleged that Mr. Vijay, who had used children and women extensively in his election campaign, had failed to ensure their safety. "In Salem, members of his party allegedly sexually exploited over 500 women; in Alandur, another party functionary allegedly misbehaved with a widow; and in Sivaganga, a woman police constable was allegedly subjected to sexual assault," he said.

Mr. Udhayanidhi said that though more than a month had passed since the government was formed, no effective measures had been taken to maintain law and order, which, he claimed, was "on ventilator".

'Monitor north Indian workers'

We The Leader founder K. Annamalai urged the government to properly monitor north Indian workers by collecting details about them from the contractors who employ them in the State. In a social media post, he said a database was necessary as the State had witnessed several crimes involving north Indian workers in recent months.

Recalling various incidents reported from different parts of the State, including the Gummidipoondi killing, Mr. Annamalai, former BJP State president, said the arrest of youths from north India in these cases had raised several questions. "The police deserve appreciation for arresting those involved. But what plans does the government have to prevent similar incidents," he asked.

Family of custodial torture victim refuses to receive his body

HC had directed Akash Delison's father to receive the body by 5 p.m. on Monday, adding that otherwise, the State will be directed to dispose of it

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Monday posted the matter for compliance to Tuesday.

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

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

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

Recently, the court disposed of Mr. Rajeshkannan's petition for a direction to the government to register a criminal case for the murder, arising out of the alleged custodial torture, under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with the relevant provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

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

The remand report revealed that, instead of mechanically authorising judicial custody, the Judicial Magistrate visited the Government Sivaganga Medical College and Hospital, identified Delison, an accused in an assault case, through the duty doctor, interacted with him, noticed the injury to his right leg, elicited from him the circumstances that led to the injury, and recorded the allegations made by him about custodial torture and ill-treatment, the court said.

The Judicial Magistrate also recorded Delison's explanation for the scratches found on his body, and noted the complaint of torture made against police personnel, the court said.

Delison and his acquaintance Guna were picked up in an assault case on March 5. While the police said Delison suffered a leg fracture while trying to escape, his family said he was subjected to custodial torture. He was taken to the Government Hospital at Manamadurai, the Government Sivaganga Medical College and Hospital, and the Government Rajaji Hospital, where he died on March 8.

'Agri' Krishnamurthy refutes Shanmugam's criticism of EPS

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

'Agri' S.S. Krishnamurthy

The latest round of expression of divergent views within the AIADMK, which began on Sunday with rebel leader C.Ve. Shanmugam's salvo against general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, on Monday saw some office-bearers joining the political discourse and making points for and against the party leadership.

Former Agriculture Minister and the AIADMK's whip in the Assembly, 'Agri' S.S. Krishnamurthy, told journalists in Tiruvannamalai that the rationale behind Mr. Palaniswami holding district-wise consultations with functionaries of the party was to hear the views of the grassroots workers. On Saturday, he conducted a three-hour-long meeting with representatives of three constituencies in Kancheepuram district. "Such an exercise is not possible when the executive or the general council meets. Only senior office-bearers can speak, as there are 175 to 200 members in the executive and 3,000-odd members in the general council," Mr. Krishnamurthy said.

Emphasising that Mr. Palaniswami was "not shy" about convening the executive and general council meetings, the former Minister said the party chief would like to first complete the district-wise consultations.

As for Mr. Shanmugam's criticism, Mr. Krishnamurthy contended that the dissident leader was making observations "out of frustration" that his district – Villupuram – was slipping out of "his hold", and the current district secretary, R. Pasupathy, had been functioning well. To the charge that Mr. Palaniswami was looking to bring his son, Mithun, into the party, the AIADMK whip replied that when Mr. Palaniswami was the Chief Minister or out of power, his son had never taken part in government functions and party events. "In contrast, Mr. Shanmugam is practising family politics in Villupuram," Mr. Krishnamurthy alleged, adding that the main factor behind successive electoral setbacks of the party was that Mr. Palaniswami went by the views of leaders such as Mr. Shanmugam.

He reminded the dissident leader that it was Mr. Palaniswami who accommodated his request for becoming a Rajya Sabha MP, after he lost in Villupuram in the 2021 Assembly election, and the change of constituency to Mailam in 2026. Mr. Palaniswami also restored the post of district secretary to him, and gave him the "plum portfolio" of Minerals during 2017-2021, he said.

He wanted Mr. Shanmugam to introspect on the AIADMK's performance in Villupuram, and ponder over the defeat of three of his nominees. He contended that allies in the district had complained that the dissident leader did not get along well with them. But in Tiruvannamalai, the Dravidian major had won in five constituencies due to the coordinated work of the volunteers of all. Likewise, in Salem, it had bagged five seats, he said.

Urging Mr. Shanmugam to exercise restraint while making comments, and reminding him that Mr. Palaniswami had "magnanimously" condoned the act of rebellion by him and 20 other legislators, Mr. Krishnamurthy warned him that "otherwise, there will be serious consequences".

Meanwhile, in a social media post, former Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar, one of the 21 rebels, said "the leadership that views hard-working and genuine party workers as adversaries, and the politics that regards questioning itself as a crime" did not provide "the path to victory".

Raj Satyen, the party's information technology wing secretary, claimed a "narrative" was being set against the party with the idea of continuously dragging the general secretary's family and apolitical persons into the debate on the AIADMK. It was "regrettable" that this had spread from social media to the mainstream, he said.

INBRIEF

BJP flays Minister's statement on increasing Muslim quota

BJP Tamil Nadu president Nainar Nagenthran on Monday strongly objected to Minister for Minorities Welfare A.M. Shahjahan's statement on the demand for increasing reservation for Muslims from 3.5% to 5% within the Backward Classes quota. Mr. Nagenthran urged the TVK-led government to drop any such proposal. "Some Hindus of the Backward Classes have already lost the benefit of reservation owing to the existing 3.5% reservation for Muslims in Tamil Nadu, and more reservation for Muslims would further reduce the number of Backward Class Hindus getting the benefit," Mr. Nagenthran said.

CM gives ₹48-lakh cheque to Kirti Chakra awardee

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Monday handed over a cheque for ₹48 lakh to Lance Naik A. Meenatchi Sundaram, who was recently awarded the Kirti Chakra by President Droupadi Murmu. Mr. Vijay handed over the cheque to the soldier during an event held at the Secretariat. Separately, Amar Seva Sangam founder S. Ramakrishnan and its secretary S. Sankara Raman called on Mr. Vijay at the Secretariat.

State general secretary of TMC(M) Yuvaraja quits party

Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar) State general secretary M. Yuvaraja announced his resignation from the party on Monday. In a letter addressed to party president G.K. Vasan, Mr. Yuvaraja expressed gratitude to the party leadership and cadre for the opportunities extended to him during his political career. He said the decision to leave the party had been taken after careful consideration of the prevailing circumstances. It may be noted that the TMC(M) decided to exit the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Sunday. Recalling his political journey, Mr. Yuvaraja credited Mr. Vasan with identifying and nurturing his leadership abilities.

Ex-DMK Minister Geetha Jeevan's acquittal from 2002 disproportionate assets case challenged in High Court

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

P. Geetha Jeevan

The Madras High Court on Monday deferred its orders on a plea to condone a delay of 839 days in preferring a third party criminal revision petition against the acquittal of former DMK Minister P. Geetha Jeevan and her family members from a 2002 case pertaining to disproportionate assets worth ₹2.31 crore.

Justice G.K. Ilanthiraiyan took the call after hearing arguments advanced by the counsel for revision petitioner S. Shanmugasundaram, an advocate from Thoothukudi, and others. The petitioner claimed to have preferred the third party revision since the prosecution did not appeal against the 2022 order of acquittal.

The court was told that the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti Corruption (DVAC) had registered a case in March 2002, primarily against Ms. Jeevan's father N. Periasamy, for having allegedly amassed wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income between 1996 and 2001.

Periasamy (since dead) had served as an MLA representing Thoothukudi constituency during the check period, and Ms. Jeevan was the chairperson of Thoothukudi District Panchayat Council between October 25, 1996 and October 24, 2001.

According to the prosecution, Periasamy had acquired pecuniary resources and properties far beyond his known sources of income in his name and that of his wife P. Ebenesarammal, sons N.P. Raja and N.P. Jegan, Ms. Jeevan, and son-in-law P. Jeevan Jacob Rajendran.

The police quantified the disproportionate assets acquired by the family between May 13, 1996 and March 31, 2001 to be ₹2.31 crore, and laid a chargesheet against them in 2003 under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1988 as well as the Indian Penal Code.

However, the trial got prolonged for years, and culminated in an order of acquittal passed by the Thoothukudi Principal District Court only on December 14, 2022. Since Periasamy died in May 2017, the charges levelled against him stood abated.

The trial judge acquitted the remaining five accused after observing that they had satisfactorily accounted for the properties and other resources that stood in their name, and had also proved independent sources of income for acquiring those properties.

"This court is of the view that the prosecution has miserably failed to prove beyond all reasonable doubt the charges against A2 to A6... that they had intentionally aided the public servant, deceased A1, by holding properties or pecuniary resources in their names on behalf of A1 which were disproportionate to the known source of income of A1," the trial court verdict read.

Long delay

Explaining the reason for having challenged the judgment after a long delay of 839 days, the petitioner said he was initially waiting for the DVAC to file an appeal against the acquittal. However, he found that the agency did not prefer any appeal when Ms. Jeevan was the Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment in the DMK Cabinet.

Thereafter, the petitioner made an application before the trial court, seeking certified copies of the judgment of acquittal and other documents, but the court refused to provide them. So, he had to approach the High Court, and Justice G. Jayachandran had, on June 13, 2024, directed the trial court to furnish the certified copies.

Stating that a lot of time got consumed in obtaining the certified copies since he was a third party to the case, the petitioner said he was finally able to file the revision, along with the condone delay petition, before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court only on July 3, 2025.

The petitions were transferred to the principal seat of the High Court in Chennai since they were related to a case involving a former legislator.

VCK hopes to address depoliticisation of youth through training programme

Udhav Naig
CHENNAI

Thol. Thirumavalavan

The first session in the series was addressed on Monday by party president Thol. Thirumavalavan and general secretary D. Ravikumar

To address the larger issue of "depoliticisation" among the youth in Tamil Nadu, the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) is organising a training programme on "contemporary political" issues.

The first session in the series was addressed on Monday by party president Thol. Thirumavalavan and general secretary D. Ravikumar, both Members of Parliament.

Party sources said around 100 office-bearers from the Villupuram and Vikravandi Assembly constituencies took part in the session in person, and district office-bearers from across Tamil Nadu participated online.

While Mr. Ravikumar dealt in his speech with various aspects of 'One Nation One Election', Mr. Thirumavalavan spoke in detail about the delimitation Bill and how the exercise could affect the Southern States in particular.

Mr. Ravikumar said the programme was named 'Present Times'.

Burning political issues

"This programme is meant mainly for the party workers and also office-bearers who, we feel, need to be educated on various issues. The idea is to address the large-scale depoliticisation of youth, who are consuming a lot of content about politics, but without the right political perspective. There is a need to sensitise people to the burning political issues of the day."

He said the party felt the urgent need to inform and educate the people on the Bills proposed, the schemes of the Central and State governments, and inter-State issues such as the dam proposed across the Cauvery at Mekedatu.

Asked why the VCK was yet to "formalise" the alliance with the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) despite being a constituent of the coalition government, Mr. Ravikumar said it would be appropriate to pose the question to the TVK.

Over 50 police officers shifted in reshuffle

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The State government on Monday effected a major transfer of police officers in the ranks of SP and DIG. At least 56 police officers were shifted.

In the Greater Chennai City Police, E.S. Uma has been posted as DIG, headquarters; K.S. Balla Krishnan as DCP, Cyber Crime Cell; K. Muthukumar as DCP, Traffic (South); and G. Gopi as DCP, Flower Bazaar.

N. Stephen Jesubatham has been posted as DCP (Central Crime Branch-III); A.Sujatha as DCP Central Crime Branch; K. Feroz Khan Abdullah as DCP, Traffic(West); P. Balaji as DCP, Traffic (North); Samay Singh Meena as DCP, Pulianthope; and P. Kumar as DCP, T. Nagar.

S. Kuthalingam has been posted as SP, Salem; A.C. Karthikeyan as SP, Tiruvannamalai; Vivekananda Shukla as SP, Cuddalore; V.V. Sai Praneeth as SP, Tiruvallur; S. Jeyakumar as SP, Dindigul; S. Madhivanan as SP, Villupuram; Gautham Goyal as SP, Virudhunagar; A.K. Arun Kabilan as SP, Dharmapuri; G.S. Anitha as SP, Krishnagiri; Yadav Girish Ashok as SP, Namakkal; N. Devanathan as SP, Madurai; Kelkar Subhramanya Balachandra as SP, Nagapattinam; and Kambham Samual Praveen Gowtham as SP, Theni.

INBRIEF

Telangana govt. launches free breakfast scheme for students

Telangana Minister for Transport and Backward Classes Ponnam Prabhakar launched the Breakfast and Milk scheme for students in Hyderabad on Monday. The scheme is being taken up for 29 lakh students from pre-primary 1 till Class 12 in all government schools. He said that the aim of the scheme is to prevent hunger among students, reduce malnutrition and improve school attendance. The State has earmarked ₹740 crore for the scheme.

Author-entrepreneur Indira Lankesh passes away at 83

Author Indira Lankesh, 83, died of age-related ailments at her residence in Bengaluru on Monday. She is survived by her daughter Kavita Lankesh and son Indrajith Lankesh. Her eldest daughter, Gauri Lankesh, was killed by members of an alleged Hindutva group in 2017. Indira's memoir *Hulimavu Mattu Nanu* is considered a landmark among memoirs by women in Kannada. She also founded Mayur Silks and Textiles, a successful saree shop, in 1979.

ED quizzes daughter of CMRL's MD in pay-off case

Shiby S. Kartha, daughter of Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL) managing director Sasidharan S. Kartha, was questioned by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in Kochi on Monday in connection with the money-laundering case linked to the CMRL pay-off case. She is one of the directors of a company associated with CMRL. The ED is learnt to have asked Ms. Shibi about the alleged fictitious expenses involving the CMRL and the company associated with her.

Kerala rolls out free travel for women on KSRTC buses

The scheme will cover around 3,125 ordinary buses operated by the KSRTC in seven categories; CM says KSRTC will not face any financial burden due to the implementation of the scheme

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Billed as a significant step towards women's empowerment, the Kerala government on Monday launched its flagship 'Priyadarshini' free travel scheme for all women and transgender persons on ordinary buses operated by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC).

Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan inaugurated the scheme at the Thampanoor Central Bus Station around 9.30 a.m.

The scheme will cover around 3,125 ordinary buses operated by the KSRTC, although not all of them are in service due to operational constraints.

CM V.D .Satheesan, right, with Transport Minister C.P. John and other dignitaries during the launch of 'Priyadarshini' on Monday. PTI

Under the scheme, women and transgender persons can travel free of charge on seven categories of KSRTC ordinary services – ordinary, city ordinary, limited-stop ordinary, fair-stage ordinary, town-to-town, point-to-point, and Gramavandi services.

Terming the launch "a proud moment for Kerala," Mr. Satheesan said the free travel initiative was "not an act of generosity" towards women, but a well-crafted scheme that will have far-reaching socio-economic benefits. The KSRTC will not face any financial burden due to the implementation of the scheme, he said.

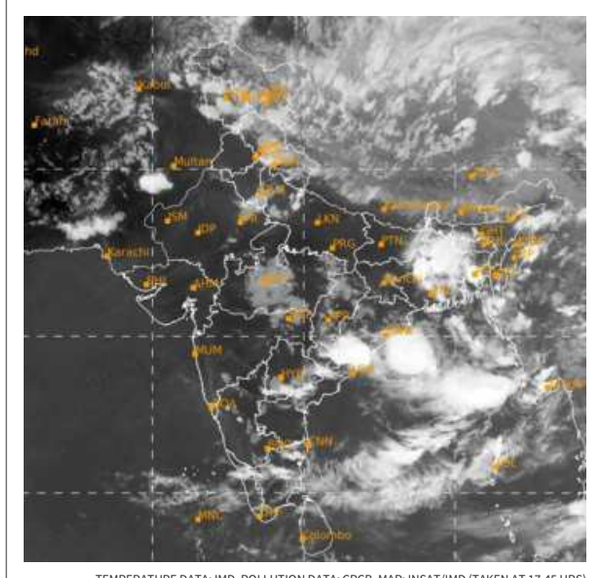
During the initial phase, women and transgender passengers will be allowed to travel free of charge on ordinary bus services for the first 100 days. After a review of the scheme's performance, the government plans to extend the benefit to other categories of services.

A section of commuters alleged that the number of buses carrying the City Fast tag swelled overnight in Thiruvananthapuram city on Monday, depriving many passengers of the benefits of the scheme.

The authorities clarified that the scheme is not available on City Fast services in the first phase.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Odisha, Maharashtra and Konkan & Goa. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Telangana and Vidarbha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2	33.6	26.0	Kurnool	—	36.7	26.2
Ahmedabad	—	40.4	29.0	Lucknow	—	39.7	28.9
Aizawl	46.8	30.3	20.2	Madurai	—	39.5	26.6
Bengaluru	15	30.5	20.0	Mangaluru	6	32.0	24.0
Bhopal	—	34.5	20.8	Mumbai	—	35.2	29.5
Bhubaneswar	—	37.0	25.6	Mysuru	—	33.8	21.2
Chandigarh	—	37.0	24.4	New Delhi	0.2	37.5	28.2
Chennai	0.2	40.0	28.3	Patna	—	40.0	29.5
Coimbatore	4	34.4	23.4	Port Blair	—	31.0	27.1
Dehradun	—	35.8	22.4	Prayagraj	—	42.4	29.0
Gangtok	11	23.2	17.9	Puducherry	—	38.0	25.8
Goa	1	34.4	27.7	Pune	—	35.9	25.0
Guwahati	0.6	34.6	26.4	Raipur	—	39.7	28.5
Hubballi	—	34.0	23.0	Ranchi	37	34.2	21.0
Hyderabad	—	36.5	26.4	Shillong	—	24.0	18.0
Imphal	—	31.3	25.3	Shimla	—	28.4	17.8
Jaipur	0.7	37.0	23.6	Srinagar	2	28.5	13.9
Kochi	—	30.8	26.0	Thiruvananthapuram	3	32.6	25.2
Kohima	—	25.0	19.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	38.7	27.6
Kolkata	—	36.6	28.8	Vijayawada	—	39.0	27.6
Kozhikode	0.3	35.0	26.2	Visakhapatnam	0.1	35.5	28.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.64	.20	.34	69	84	
Bengaluru	.23	.27	.36	36	52	
Chennai	5	.14	.53	41	53	
Delhi	.21	.54	.46	102	257	
Hyderabad	.16	.15	.40	57	78	
Kolkata	.15	.23	.27	78	98	
Lucknow	.12	.11	.44	137	92	
Mumbai	3	6	.55	53	70	
Pune	—	.38	101	54	72	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.60	.13	62	93	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Panchgaon, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 231 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ambernath, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Karnataka HC stays circular on RTE quota

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed the operation of a circular from the State government that extended the Right to Education (RTE) quota benefits to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students pursuing classes 9 and 10.

Justice Ashok S. Kinagi passed the interim order on a petition filed by associations representing over 5,000 private unaided English-medium schools.

The circular, issued by the Commissioner for Public Instruction on May 21, 2026, had directed all private schools across the State to allow SC/ST students who completed class 8 during the academic year 2025-26 to continue studying in classes 9 and 10 in the same school under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

CPI(M) suspends ex-TDB president

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

After months of internal debate, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] on Monday suspended A. Padmakumar, former president of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) and former Pathanamthitta district committee member of the party, in connection with the Sabarimala gold theft case.

CPI(M) district secretary Raju Abraham said the district committee had approved the suspension.

Holding that the party had kept Mr. Padmakumar away from all organisational responsibilities ever since his name surfaced in the controversy, Mr. Abraham said the suspension would remain in force until the Special Investigation Team (SIT) files a chargesheet, which is expected within three months.

Police open fire to thwart robbery attempt on train in A.P.

Sambasiva Rao M.
BAPATLA

The police opened fire and discharged nine rounds to thwart a robbery attempt aboard the Chennai-Vijayawada Sarkar Express after unidentified persons allegedly pulled the emergency chain and forced the train to stop near Appikatla railway station in Bapatla district of Andhra Pradesh in the early hours of Monday.

Briefing the media after inspecting the site between Bapatla and Appikatla railway stations, Bapatla Superintendent of Police (SP) B. Umamaheswar Rao said the incident occurred around 1.10 a.m. near K.V. Palem.

More than seven unidentified persons allegedly pulled the emergency chain, bringing the train to a halt before attempting to target passengers, the SP said. The train's escort personnel and railway staff alerted the Appikatla station master, who informed the local police. Armed Reserve personnel reached the spot and confronted the suspects.

"When police opened fire, the miscreants fled the scene fearing for their lives," the SP said.

The police and railway personnel launched searches in nearby villages and along the tracks. Ten special teams were formed to trace those involved.

One detained

Mr. Umamaheswar Rao said one suspect had been detained in Bapatla town area for questioning, and efforts were continuing to identify and apprehend the others.

Rough seas

Risky steps: People enter the rough waters at RK Beach in Visakhapatnam on Monday, despite safety warnings and the recent drowning incident reported at Yarada Beach. Authorities continue to advise against swimming due to strong waves. K.R. DEEPAK

A.P. to partner with Google to create AI-cloud task force

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held a series of high-level meetings with global technology, logistics, urban development and academic institutions on Monday, the first day of his two-day visit to Singapore, seeking investments and strategic partnerships for the State's development.

A key outcome of the visit was an agreement between the Andhra Pradesh government and Google to establish a special task force to explore cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing and digital governance.

During his meeting with Google Asia-Pacific president Karan Bhajwa, the Chief Minister outlined his vision of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a major hub for AI, data centres and digital infrastructure. He invited Google to partner with the State in strengthening digital governance and real-time governance systems through advanced cloud technologies.

N. Chandrababu Naidu

Mr. Naidu also sought Google's support for large-scale skill development programmes in AI, machine learning and cloud computing.

Logistics parks

The Chief Minister also met representatives of YCH Logistics Group and discussed the establishment of logistics parks and a modern supply chain city in Andhra Pradesh. In another meeting, Mr. Naidu invited UN-Habitat Executive Director Anacláudia Rossbach to establish a Centre of Excellence in Andhra Pradesh.

The visit forms part of Andhra Pradesh's efforts to attract global investments and position the State as a leading destination for technology, education, logistics and sustainable urban development.

Nipah patient is still in critical condition, says Kerala Minister

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Health Minister K. Muraleedharan has said that the 43-year-old Nipah patient undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode has been given the second dose of the monoclonal antibody drug.

There are no new cases or new additions to the contact list of the infected person on Monday.

Members of the Central team visited a private hospital in Feroke, where the infected person sought treatment earlier.

In a press release, Mr. Muraleedharan said that the patient continued to be in a critical condition and on ventilator support. The lab results of a healthcare worker on his contact list had turned negative for the virus for the second time.

Two of his seven family members, who were hospitalised earlier for observation, were discharged as they no longer showed any symptoms of the infection. Another family member, who was on home quarantine, was hospitalised for observation on Monday.

A total of six persons are under observation now. There are 103 people on the contact list.

Older persons are increasingly bearing the brunt of climate change, finds study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Older persons in rural India are increasingly bearing the brunt of climate change, with heatwaves, floods and droughts compounding existing challenges of poor health, financial insecurity, and social isolation, according to a study released by HelpAge India on Monday.

The report, Climate Resilient Ageing- Ensuring Care, Dignity and Agency, released in Bengaluru on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, surveyed 2,224 elderly persons across 20 districts in 10 States.

It found that 78% of respondents had experienced at least one climate-related hazard in the last three years, with heatwave (45%), flood (27%) and drought (20%) being the most commonly reported events. More than one-third of those affected said climate events had a moderate to severe impact on their lives.

Pension was the primary source of income for 49% of respondents, 16% reported not having any source of income. FILE PHOTO

The study noted that older persons living alone, widows, those aged over 80 years, and individuals with cognitive, communication or mental health difficulties faced disproportionately higher risks.

Heat stress emerged as a major concern. Nearly 60% of respondents said their homes were not fully safe during extreme heat conditions. While 90% reported staying indoors, 74% experienced illness, and 44% reported worsening of existing health conditions.

The study highlighted significant health and economic vulnerabilities. More than half (52%) said they were unable to afford essential medicines.

While pension was the primary source of income for 49% of respondents, 16% reported having neither employment nor any source of income.

Rail accident averted near level crossing in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) on Monday registered a case against a level crossing gatekeeper after a railway accident was narrowly averted near Chirakkal in Kannur district of Kerala on Sunday evening.

The gate remained open even as the Mangaluru-Chennai Superfast Mail approached around 4 p.m. Residents who noticed the train, intervened and stopped vehicles from both sides of the crossing. The gatekeeper, Rajesh, 58, was found to be under the influence of alcohol.

Politics over people

Pragmatism should guide India's demographic governance

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

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

Peace with peace

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

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

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

Resistance, renewal and the future of the INDIA bloc

Dipankar Bhattacharya

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

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

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

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

The battle against authoritarianism

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

If the BJP gets a free hand in its push for 'one nation, one party', the Congress will suffer no less than other political parties; indeed, it has often proved more vulnerable. For all our glorious chapters from the history of the freedom movement, there is no accumulated ideological insulation or immunity for any party in the face of today's all-out fascist offensive and ideological assault. The BJP itself is filled with leaders who were in the Congress not long ago. Even as Mr. Gandhi emphasised the need to resist the BJP, the Congress's Chief Minister in Telangana was proudly invoking Hitler while defending Hyderabad's controversial demolition drive.

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

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

Towards a just republic

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

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

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

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

Reenergise the Opposition

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

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

Technology drives India-France strategic convergence

Mohan Kumar

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

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

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

The new pillars of partnership

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

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

This focus will include cyberspace, Artificial Intelligence (AI), health care, sustainable development, creative economy, education and research. These are new facets of the evolving and dynamic relationship and will no doubt take ties to greater heights. Tech and innovation has tremendous mutual advantages for both sides. France has some of the best state-of-the-art technology in aerospace, AI, robotics, biotech, health care, green tech and sustainable development, besides being a European hub for the digital economy.

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

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

Defence, space and Africa

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

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

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

Watching the 'D10 debate'

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

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

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

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Revised dress regulations

The move by the Indian Army to introduce new uniform regulations is commendable. Through these combined measures, the Indian Army cultivates a distinct institutional identity rooted in India's own cultural fabric (June 15). These measures reflect the Army's continued commitment to ensuring that the institutions, traditions and spaces where soldiers live, train and serve increasingly embody India's own heroes, values and national legacy while preserving the professionalism and heritage of the force.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

The constant invocation of the "colonial vestige" argument is becoming tiresome. This is the Army that has stood firm through wars, crises and security challenges, delivering when the nation needed it most. Before lecturing institutions or changing traditions and symbols that have proven their worth, the government would do well to address its own shortcomings — from repeated controversies over NEET and infrastructure failures to concerns about electoral processes. Credibility is strengthened by performance, not rhetoric.

Vivek Gupta,
New Delhi

Portal closure

The admission application portal for the BS (Research) programme, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) closed on June 7 before the declaration of the IISER Aptitude Test (IAT) results – expected by June 20. Since admission through the IAT channel is based on rank, applicants were unable to provide this crucial information while applying. As admission processes generally commence only after the declaration of qualifying examination results, many candidates reasonably assumed that applications could be submitted after the IAT results were announced. Owing to the unusual admission schedule and limited awareness that IAT details could be updated later, several deserving students may have missed the application deadline despite appearing for the examination. All applicants had to pay a non-refundable fee. In view of these circumstances, the IISc must consider reopening the portal to enable eligible candidates to apply. Such a step would ensure equal opportunity for all applicants seeking admission through the IAT route.

Lalit Manohar K.,
Hyderabad

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

How T.N. severed religion, caste from politics

S. Ramasundaram

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

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

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

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

A political history

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

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

Inclusive policies

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

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

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

The role of films

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

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

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

> Tamil movies and Tamil Nadu politics are an inseparable *jodi* that has largely been of benefit to the State socially and economically

A highly-contested Rajya Sabha rejection

Rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination has exposed Congress faultlines

STATE OF PLAY

Ravi Reddy

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

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

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

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

More significantly, it highlighted the BJP's ability to harness local networks and institutional knowledge across States. Telangana BJP leaders reportedly moved with speed, tracking down the complaint, verifying its legal standing, and presenting it before the Returning Officer. The episode underscores how political coordination and preparedness can intersect to yield outsized outcomes in tightly contested procedural routines.

Double whammy

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

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has sought to contain the fallout by framing the rejection as a politically motivated act. He alleged that the BJP has shifted from 'vote theft' to 'seat theft'. At the same time, the Congress has drawn a distinction between criminal cases and procedural notices, arguing that the Returning Officer's interpretation stretches legal norms. Yet, these arguments have struggled to gain traction in the face of a more potent opposition line – that non-disclosure equals disqualification.

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

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

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

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Refugees are returning home but not for the right reasons

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

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

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

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

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

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

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

No way home

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

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

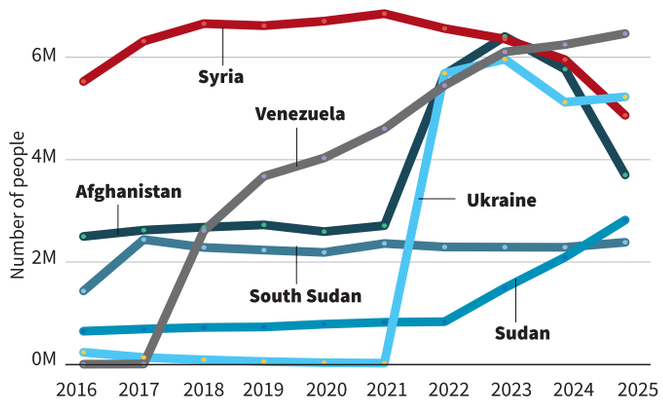


CHART 2: Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection by country of asylum (2016-2025)

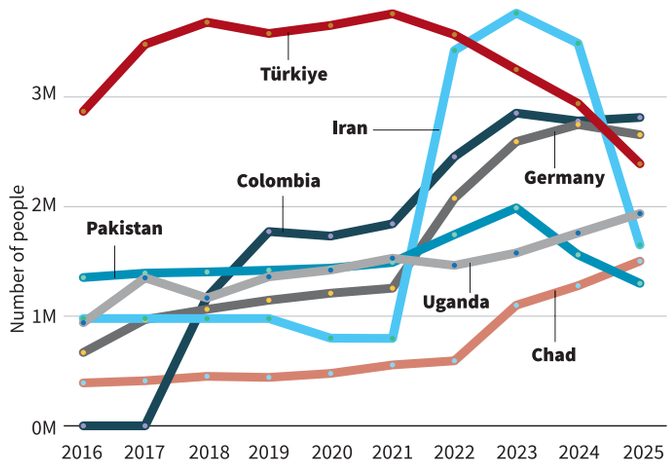


CHART 5: Number of stateless people who have had their nationality confirmed or who acquired citizenship (2014-2025)

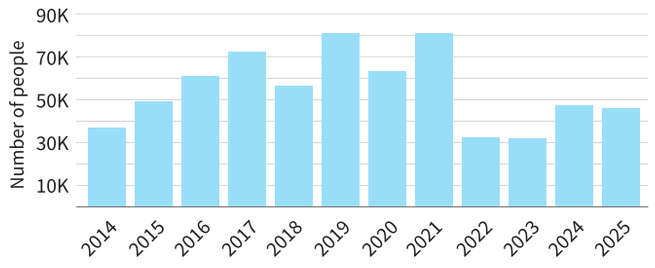


CHART 3: Number of people registering new individual asylum applications, recognised on a group basis or granted temporary protection in 2025

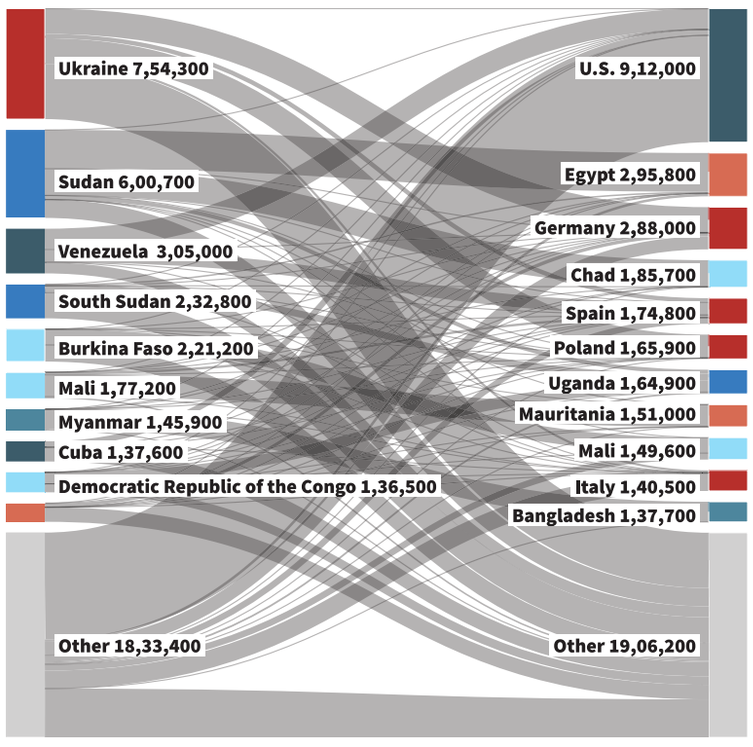
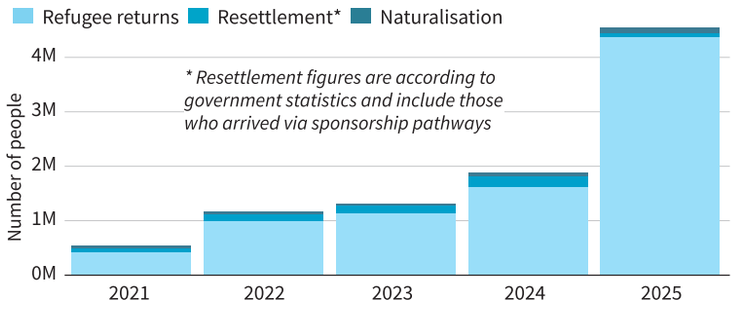


CHART 4: Refugees attaining "solutions" for their predicaments, a majority of which involved returns to their countries of origin, often due to adverse conditions



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 16, 1976

Survey to locate hidden treasure in Jaipur

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

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

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

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

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 16, 1926

Slavery in India

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

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

From Page One

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

India, Slovakia expand ties with a slew of MoUs

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

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

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

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

Largest parliamentary force from Bengal: NCPI

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

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

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

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

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

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

PM welcomes West Asia deal, hopes peace will be restored

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

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

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

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

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

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

The deal is expected to be signed by Iran and the U.S. in Geneva on Friday, but details of the terms remain hazy. Mr. Modi will travel to Evian-les-Bains in the French Alps on Tuesday morning to participate in sessions with the leaders of the G7 group of wealthy countries.

> India hopes that the implementation of this understanding will help restore peace and stability in the region and ensure the freedom of navigation and commerce. We look forward to deliberations on the remaining issues reaching a sustainable final agreement
>
> **NARENDRA MODI,** Prime Minister

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

Mission for Hormuz

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

The countries said the urgent opening of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway transporting 20% of the world's oil, was essential.

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

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

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

Indian seafarers not to be deployed in conflict zones: DGS

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

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

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

Navigational warnings

Incidents involving *Marivex*, *Settebello* and *Jalveer* during the past few days highlighted the increasing risks faced by commercial ships operating in the region. The DGS directed masters of vessels operating in or transiting through the Gulf region, including the Strait of Hormuz, to maintain heightened security awareness, closely monitor navigational warnings issued by security agencies, and implement all applicable ship security measures.

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

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

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

U.K. arrests Indian man on Russian shadow fleet

Press Trust of India
LONDON

An Indian man was arrested by U.K. authorities in connection with the alleged violation of Western sanctions on Russia. The arrest was made during a joint operation between the U.K.'s National Crime Agency (NCA) and the British armed forces to intercept a Russian shadow fleet oil tanker in the English Channel.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer confirmed on Sunday that the vessel *SMYRTOS* was boarded by Royal Marine Commandos and specially trained law enforcement officers from the NCA in the first U.K.-led operation of its kind.

"A 38-year-old Indian national has been taken into custody where he will be interviewed by NCA investigators... We will not be commenting further at this time," the NCA spokesperson said.

According to the U.K. crime agency, 24 Indian and Georgian Indian crew members remain on board the vessel and are "assisting with the investigation".

Limited traffic through Hormuz, despite Trump's announcement

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

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

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

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

Maritime intelligence publication *Lloyd's List* estimates that about 600 ships remain stranded west of the chokepoint. Last week, Mr. Trump claimed that the U.S. military had quietly assisted around 200 commercial vessels through the Strait since May.

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

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

Capt. Ritesh Kumar, who has transited the strait some 150 times on a ship, says that in the past, Strait of Hormuz passage was like open sea passage with no payments to any nation whatsoever or even reporting, unlike say in the Singapore and Malacca straits, where reporting is mandatory for safety of navigation.

Maritime service fee

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

"The statements by the U.S. and Iran remain unclear and do not provide sufficient information regarding timings and safe routes," said Jakob Larsen, Chief Safety and Security Officer at Bimco, a shipping industry body representing shipowners. He said the situation remained volatile and shipowners should continue conducting thorough risk assessments. Echoing wider industry sentiment, Richard Meade, Editor-in-Chief of *Lloyd's List*, noted that insurers – often considered the shipping sector's most reliable risk barometer – remain unconvinced.

In India, however, marine cargo war-risk insurance costs have eased. K.S. Vishvanath, marine insurance consultant and author, said rates that had risen to around 0.20% of the insured value fell to approximately 0.10% after the government announced the Bharat Maritime Pool.

While pricing continues to vary by route and risk profile, Indian insurers largely rely on guidance from GIC Re in assessing and underwriting war risks, he added.

(With inputs from Saptaparno Ghosh)

Congress flays Union govt. over foreign policy issues

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

In Manipur, mob opposes treatment for 3 Kuki persons injured in attack

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Security personnel on Monday wielded batons and fired tear gas shells to disperse a mob that gathered outside the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Manipur capital Imphal to oppose the treatment being given in the hospital to three Kuki persons injured in an attack.

Officials in the conflict-scarred State said the three were injured in a gunfight at a place between Leilon Vaiphei and Konsakhul villages in Kangpokpi district at about 6 a.m. The gunfight continued for about 30 minutes before the security forces reached the spot. The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), an apex body of the Kuki group of tribes, blamed the attack on the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) and its "proxy", the Kamson faction of the Zeliangrong United Front. The NSCN is also known as the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland.

The apex body of Kuki group of tribes, KIM, demanded that those involved in the attack be arrested and prosecuted. ANI

Protest against the trio

A crowd gathered outside the RIMS opposed the treatment of the trio, claiming they were extremists, and shouted slogans against the security forces for "transporting" them to the RIMS.

Reacting to the protests, the Leimakhong Area Chief's Organisation (in the Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi district) urged authorities to ensure that they received medical care in a safe and secure environment.

The KIM also expressed concern about the safety of the injured trio and said attacks against civilians were unacceptable, inhuman, and a direct threat to the rule of law. It demanded immediate and decisive action from the government and security forces to identify, arrest, and prosecute all those involved in the attack.

Centre issues alert on potential drone attacks on vital installations

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

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

According to official sources, the Marine Security Wing of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways issued the alert on the emerging drone threat at Vital Assets and Vital Installations (VAVIs) located around the land and sea borders. It was stated that the current geo-political situation across the world had demonstrated that hostile drones could disrupt operations of critical VAVIs. "There is an urgent need to take concrete steps to safeguard our assets, especially those located near the borders from rogue drones by installing Anti-Drone Systems," the communication said.

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

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

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

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sobhana K. Nair
Sreeparna Banerjee
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Mr. Banerjee, meanwhile, struck a different note, insisting on playing the role of the Opposition. Speaking to *The Hindu* on Monday, Mr. Banerjee said: "We are the principal Opposition party in the West Bengal Assembly." On whether the rebel MLAs would merge with the NCPI, he said no such decision had been taken.

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

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

For a merger, the support of two-thirds of the Legislature Party in Parliament as well as the Assembly is required. With Mr. Banerjee's bloc refusing any such move, it will be difficult for Ms. Dastidar's faction to press its claim on the party and symbol.

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

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

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

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

With sources in the government indicating that the Centre is likely to bring the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty First Amendment) Bill, 2026, or the Delimitation Bill, as early as the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which is likely to begin in mid-July, it becomes crucial that this bloc, which has promised support to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) gets to vote when the said Bills are taken up. In April, the government had fallen short of the two-thirds majority required for its passage.

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

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

"Under the 10th Schedule, only the original political party can merge with another party, and thereafter the MPs or MLAs can make a claim that their original party has merged, and they agree to that merger, and have become members of that party. Thus, MPs alone cannot merge with any other party. However, till the Speaker gives any ruling, these MPs can vote in favour of any Bills which are taking up as part of the legislative business," according to former Lok Sabha Secretary General and constitutional law expert P.D.T. Achary.

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

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

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

Kakoli seeks Kalyan's expulsion from LS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a letter to Speaker Om Birla, Lok Sabha member Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, who is leading the rebel faction of Trinamool Congress MPs, has sought the expulsion of party chief whip and Mamata Banerjee loyalist Kalyan Banerjee for "repeated verbal abuse and misogynistic remarks directed" at her and other women members during the sittings of the House.

In her letter dated June 10, the MP from Barasat constituency in West Bengal said the complaint was a follow-up to an earlier one dated May 28 and sought immediate intervention and action against Mr. Banerjee. Ms. Dastidar said Mr. Banerjee had, on several occasions, used "objectionable, disrespectful and inappropriate language against her and other women members during parliamentary proceedings." She said the conduct formed part of a recurring pattern of "personal attacks, intimidation and misogynistic comments that went beyond the limits of robust political disagreement and entered the realm of personal abuse and harassment".

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

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

Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

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

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

"I was questioned for over eight hours yesterday [on Sunday] and for 11 hours today [Monday]. This is a 2023 case and I have appeared before the agency 10-12 times. I won't say whether there is a political pressure or not. The less said of the BJP, the better. On the one side, they break our party and indulge in post-poll violence. Even if you slit my throat, I won't cower down...I will appear before the agency if they summon me even in the future," Mr. Banerjee said, while leaving the ED office.

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

Officials said Mr. Banerjee was questioned over the alleged money trail in the scam. "He was asked questions regarding some financial documents, digital records, and statements of other accused to trace the alleged proceeds of crime. Investigators sought details about who handled the funds, how they were moved across accounts and entities, and whether these transactions were layered to conceal their origin," said an officer on the request of anonymity.

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

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

Bhagwat dismisses Priyank letter seeking 'transparency' in RSS

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

'Not secretive'

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

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

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

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

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

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

The demonstration, attended by a large number of youth, was organised at Shaheed Smarak to protest over the issues of the alleged National Eligibility-cum-Entrance (NEET) paper leak, unemployment and corruption.

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

As tempers ran high, Mr. Dipke appealed to the protesters not to assault the individuals involved in the attack. The CJP founder said physical attacks were a sign of "fear and cowardice". "I am a follower of Gandhi and Ambedkar, and I will keep fighting this battle with peace and love," he said.

Abhijeet Dipke

'Tactic to threaten CJP'

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

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

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

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

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

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

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

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

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

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

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

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

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गोरखपुर
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Website-https://aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in

NON-FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

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

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

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

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

Sd/-
Executive Director
AIIMS Gorakhpur

INBRIEF

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

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

Centre hikes windfall tax on diesel, aviation fuel exports

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

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

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

Heatwaves, ozone raise cardiac death risk: study

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

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

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

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

Because ozone level stays high for much of the season, the study attributes a large number of deaths to it even outside heatwaves. During the heatwave days of 2024, it links about 26,500 deaths from ischaemic heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) to ozone exposure.

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

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

The authors note that the mortality figures had to be modelled, as continuous ground-level ozone measurements were not available for the specific heatwave days in many affected cities. Therefore, the estimates rely on the assumed relationship between ozone exposure and disease rather than direct observation.

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

Surface ozone is not released directly but forms when sunlight drives a reaction among other pollutants, a process that speeds up in heat. "Ozone is very harmful, while NO_2 (nitrogen dioxide) and HCHO (formaldehyde) directly damage the respiratory system," the authors write, referring to two of the gases involved in forming ozone.

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

NEET scams: three held for targeting medical aspirants

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

According to the police, the accused created a network of Telegram channels, including one named "Raghav_Singh_NEET" and seven others, which they later handed over to an anonymous Telegram user operating under the alias "Private Mafia". Using these channels, the duo circulated highly deceptive posts and advertisements claiming they possessed the confidential NEET re-exam question papers.

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

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

Home Secretary reviews security

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

On the draw

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

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

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

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

Consumption patterns have changed, the study found, with audiences' growing disengagement with news; even so, trust in established news brands and support for the idea of impartial news persist.

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

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

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

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

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

Less trust in news

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

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

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

Marginal increase in unemployment rate in May

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The unemployment rate (UR) in the country increased by 0.3 percentage points to 5.5% in May compared with April, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in New Delhi on Monday.

While rural unemployment increased from 4.6% in April to 5.1% in May, urban unemployment decreased marginally from 6.6% in April to 6.4% in May. The unemployment rate among rural males of 15 years and above was 5.2% during May. For rural females in the same age group, it was 4.7%. In urban areas, the unemployment rate among females was 8.2% compared with 5.9% observed for males.

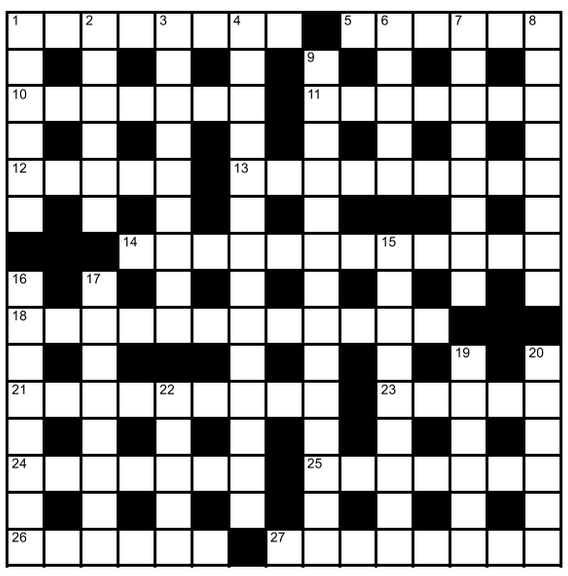
The Labour Force Participation Rate for persons aged 15 years and above stood at 54.4% in May. It was 55% in April.

TH CROSSWORD + 14821

(set by Dr. X)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Fail to impress female? Totally overweight after gaining pounds (4,4)
5 Save share certificate to receive money (6)
10 Resume painting after break (7)
11 Special talent of performer behind revolutionary special effects (1,6)
12 Personnel in academy checking nuclear physics device (5)
13 Consuming drink, sailor played cards (9)
14 Position providing a clear view of singer at ground entertaining team (8,4)
18 Most innocent groups broken by swindler primarily getting control of finances (5,7)
21 One at the helm of small steamer moving close to lagoon (9)
23 Old lady having constant fatigue, finally better (5)
24 Popular detective inspector penning book about foremost of criminals (7)
25 Tell about liaison with model giving satisfaction (7)
26 Criminal cut fellow's part of outer ear (6)
27 Bind together granite rocks containing sulphur (8)

Down

1 In spite of slump, acquires gold (3,3)
2 Missing error in journal (6)
3 Husband lives in European country? Right (9)
4 Ability to tolerate unpleasant things is a result of doing sit-ups? (1,6,7)
6 Raccoon-like animal in bed, biting a kid at centre (5)
7 Endlessly nattering about private communications system (8)
8 Hanger-on in usual spot, drinking alcohol at premiere (8)
9 Show-offs, both in sixties, romping around island (14)
15 One seen in kitchen, say, above good British diner (9)
16 Picaresque novel is copied (8)
17 American economist fired reckless fellow (8)
19 Observed stealing crown in disguise (6)
20 Twisted ankle, crossing ultimately slippery compound (6)
22 Mechanical device stolen by robber at chalet (5)

SUDOKU

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

No.SS6913 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

The power of Govinda nama

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

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

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

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

INBRIEF

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

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

IRDAI moots changes to key norms governing insurers

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

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

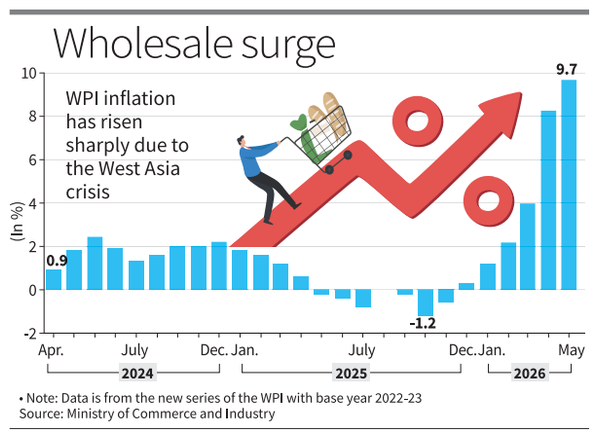
Govt. releases new series of Wholesale Price Index with an updated base year of 2022-23 along with new producer price indices in line with global best practices and IMF recommendations

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

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

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

Along with the new WPI, the Commerce Ministry also released the first editions of its Output Producer Price Index (OPPI), Trial Input Producer Price Index (IPPI), and Service Producer Price Index (Service PPI) of seven services – Banking, Securities Transaction, Insurance, Management of Pension Funds, Railways, Passenger Air, and Telecom.



• Note: Data is from the new series of the WPI with base year 2022-23
Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

WPI to be phased out

The government also said that the Producer Price Index (PPI) will replace the WPI in five years.

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

It added that the transition from WPI to PPI is in line with the global best practices adopted by advanced economies and the recommendations of the IMF.

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

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

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

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

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

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Analysts opine that complete normalisation of prices may take time.

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

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

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sarvam, a sovereign AI firm, on Monday said it had raised $234 million in the first close of its $300 million Series B at a post-money valuation of $1.5 billion. HCLTech and Bessemer Venture Partners invested in the round, with continued support from existing investors Khosla Ventures and Peak XV Partners, Sarvam said in a statement.

HCLTech would invest $150 million as the lead strategic investor in this round.

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

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

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The rupee strengthened 60 paise to settle at 94.58 against the U.S. dollar on Monday as global crude oil prices dropped sharply after U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. and Iran finalised a deal to end the war.

A surge in the domestic equity markets and a weaker U.S. dollar further drove the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 94.70 against the U.S. dollar and traded in the range of 94.45-94.77. Eventually, it settled at 94.58, up 60 paise from its previous close. The rupee jumped 67 paise to close at 95.18 against the greenback on Friday.

'SEBI move to group AMC staff pay a course correction'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

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

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

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

As per March 20, 2026 Master Circular on MFs this benchmark was ₹1.02 crore in annual income and the top 10 staff earnings.

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

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

It was mentioned in the consultation paper the proposals were based on requests from the MF industry bodies. However, a person familiar with the matter said the issue did not go to the in-house MF panel for discussion.

"The real issue is if the disclosure framework enables investors and regulators to identify potential conflicts and assess if compensation structures are aligned to interests of unit holders," said Sonam Chandwani, managing partner, KS Legal & Associates, adding information transparency must be balanced against concerns relating to privacy and practical utility of disclosures.

Razorpay files papers with SEBI for up to ₹6,000 cr. IPO

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Fintech firm Razorpay has confidentially submitted draft documents to markets regulator for an Initial Public Offering (IPO), with people familiar with the matter pegging the issue size in the range of ₹5,000-₹6,000 crore.

In a public notice on Monday, the company said it has filed "the pre-filed draft red herring prospectus with SEBI and the stock exchanges... in relation to the proposed initial public offering of its equity shares on the main-board of the stock exchanges".

The company did not disclose the size of the proposed issue.

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

Reuters
WASHINGTON

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

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

Passenger vehicle wholesales rise 27% in May to 4.39 lakh

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

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

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

Rajesh Menon, director general, SIAM said, "Passenger vehicles, three-wheelers and two-wheelers recorded the highest-ever sales of May in 2026, with high double-digit growth in each segment."

Stepping on gas: Maruti Suzuki cars parked beside an in-plant railway siding at its plant in Manesar, Haryana. REUTERS

Lower base effect

"Lower base effect of previous May and demand created due to reduced GST rates, with easier financing is again getting reflected in higher off-take this month," he added.

Total production of passenger vehicles, three- and two-wheelers, and quadricycle was 29,27,711.

Data for BMW, Mercedes, JLR and Volvo were not available, said SIAM.

APPOINTMENT

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

Recruitment of Chair Professor on 'Rural Labour' in honour of Late Shri S.R.Sankaran

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

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

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

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

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

Sd/-
Assistant Director
Administration (Section-I)

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

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

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

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Website :- www.rajasthan.gov.in/ada, Tel.No. :- 0145-2627748-2627749

क्रमांक :- अविप्रा/प.2/तकनीकी/2026-27/राजकाज 22734586 — दिनांक :- 09/06/2026

E-TENDER - 08/2026-27

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

UBN No. : AJD2627WSOB00055 - 00056

Raj.Samwad/C/26/4869 — **Executive Engineer**

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Ajmer
Qtr. No. II/2, PHED Colony, Vaishali Nagar, near RIICO Watch Factory,
Ph. No. 0145-2640265,
email: acepajmer@gmail.com, acepajm.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

S.No. F()ACE/Proj/Aj/AR-JJM /2026-27/1489 — Date: 10/06/2026

CORRIGENDUM NO. 6
NIB Code:- PHE2526A6441 & UBN No. PHE2526WLOB13856)

In continuation to this office NIT No. 03/2025-26 issued vide letter no. 2436-2491 dated 11.02.2026. The following amendment are hereby notified:-

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

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

(K.K. Agarwal)
Additional Chief Engineer
(Project) PHED, Ajmer

DIPR/C/10387/2026

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - Expression Of Interest
O/o the Chief Engineer (REES & PED),
Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.
Notice inviting Expression Of Interest (EOI) for Repowering of the existing 2.025MW (225kWx 9 nos), WIND FARM of KSEBL to 5MW at KANJIKODE under TBCB model
E tender ID 2026_KSEB_855306_1
Last date & Time of submission of (EOI) **10-08-2026, 03.00 pm.** The EOI documents and other details may be downloaded from the website **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in.**
Email/Phone cerees@kseb.in-0471-2514336
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in — Ref : PR/MC1/F390/2026

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता,सा0नि0वि0 वृत चूरू
क्रमांक :–375 — दिनांक :– 05.06.2026
ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 02/2026–27
इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से जिला चूरू में सडक कार्य व आरयूबी कार्य (नियमानुसार दोष निवारण व सुधार अवधि) कार्य हेतु अनुमानित लागत राशि रू0 950.57 लाख की ई–निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। कार्य के निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 07.07.2026 सांय 6.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन अपलोड करना आवश्यक होगा। उक्त निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण राज्य सरकार के प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व विभागीय वेबसाईट http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते है।
NIB No- PWD2627A0947
UBN No:-
1- PWD2627WLOB04104
2- PWD2627WSOB04105
DIPR/C/10166/2026
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि वृत चूरू

Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited
"SARAS SANKUL" J. L. N. MARG, JAIPUR – 302017, Ph. No. 2702501-08 : Direct: 0141-2710209
Email : rcdf@rajasthan.gov.in

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-tenders are invited for "Selection of Service Provider for Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation (RCDF) for "Upgradation of existing ERP to ERP 2.0 for Milk Unions with Real time monitoring & AI and AMC of 2 years, Upgradation of existing ERP to ERP 2.0 for Cattle Feed Units with Real time monitoring & AI and AMC of 2 years, Design, Development and Implementation of ERP for Additional Units of RCDF including RCDF Head office with AMC of 2 Year and ERP Implementation for New Milk Unions and New Cattle Feed Units with AI and AMC of 2 Years" from ERP solution Providers". Other details can be obtained from **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** i.e. spp portal and our website; **www.sarasmilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in.** (UBN No: CDF2627SLOB00381) and Tender ID (2026_RCDF_566434_1)

Raj.Samwad/C/26/4867 — **General Manager (P&A)**
जीवन में नई रस-रवानी प्यास

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

NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT) (Through KPP portal)

No: BESCOM/CGM(Proj)/DGM-1/AGM-1/BC-14/26-27/87

The Notification for Inviting Tender was issued vide No. CYS-51 on 13-05-2026 in Prajavani and The Hindu newspaper is modified as under:

Tender Enquiry No: BESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT1100 (1)Availability of Bid documents: **18-06-2026** onwards. (2) Last date for submission of bid Queries: **20-06-2026** before **17:00** Hrs. (3) Pre-Bid meeting: **30-06-2026 @ 11:30** Hrs. **Venue of Pre-Bid meeting :** O/o Chief General Manager (Ele), 4th Floor, Project Section, B Block, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R Circle, Bangalore- 560 001. (4) Last date for bid submission: **20-07-2026 @ 15:00** Hrs. (5)Opening of Technical Bids: **21-07-2026 @ 15:30** Hrs.

The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the website. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

KPP Portal Help Desk: Phone No: **+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777** E-mail: **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Bidders can take the assistance from the KPP during office working hours.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele)
Projects, BESCOM.
Email : cgmproject.bescom@gmail.com

For electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

KINSHASA

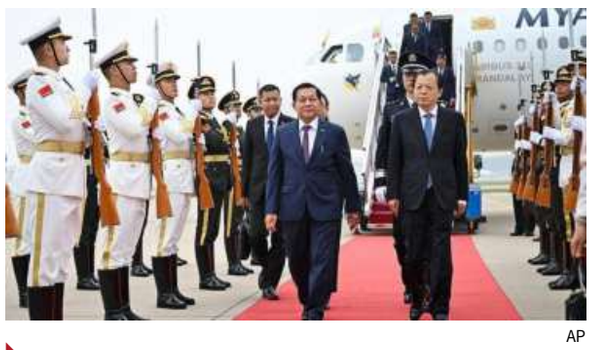
Record daily jump in Ebola cases in Congo pushes death toll to 181

AFP

Authorities have reported one of the highest daily increases in Ebola cases, as the virus spreads quickly and surveillance efforts improve in the month-old outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Officials on Sunday said 72 new cases were reported, bringing the number of confirmed cases to 782, with 181 deaths. AP

BEIJING

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



AP

Myanmar's military chief turned President Min Aung Hlaing arrived in China on Monday for talks with Xi Jinping, marking his first visit since taking over as civilian leader after polls rejected by democracy monitors. Mr. Hlaing hopes to expand trade and security ties with China, which has remained a vital partner since the 2021 coup. AFP

EVIAN-LES-BAINS

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

AFP

The leaders of the Group of Seven nations began arriving in France on Monday amid unease among allies over U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff threats. Emmanuel Macron has sought to use France's presidency of the G7 to push for action on global macroeconomic imbalances, a longstanding U.S. concern. REUTERS

BEIJING

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

REUTERS

China said on Monday that strengthening its military is beneficial to world peace, slamming a think tank report that warned the threat of a direct strike by Beijing on Australia was increasing. China flayed the report's "strategic misjudgment", and said "the growth of its military represents an increase in the forces for world peace." AP

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

Moscow fires hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles in overnight barrage; Zelenskyy calls for increased pressure from G7 leaders and global partners after air assault; Ukrainian drone strike kills three people in Russia's Tula region, officials say

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

An overnight Russian barrage of missiles killed at least 11 people across Ukraine and sparked a fire at one of the most important Orthodox monasteries in the capital, Kyiv said on Monday.

In response to the assault, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for more pressure on Moscow from G7 leaders, who were gathering at a summit in France.

The violence killed five people and wounded 34 in the capital as a fire broke out on the grounds of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra UNESCO world heritage site, setting ablaze the roof of its Dormition Cathedral.

Rescue dawn: Emergency responders in action at the Dormition Cathedral following a Russian strike in Kyiv on Monday. AP

"This is one of Russia's most serious crimes against Christian culture to date," Mr. Zelenskyy said on social media.

The UN's cultural agency UNESCO condemned the air raid, saying that "the strike reportedly caused significant damage to the exterior and interior of the cathedral".

After he visited the site, Mr. Zelenskyy said two Russian drones "deliberately" targeted Kyiv's monastery quarter.

'Outdated U.S. missile'

Russia's military said it had carried out a "massive strike" on military sites in Kyiv, as well as the Kharkiv and Dnipro regions, but denied targeting the Lavra, saying it was hit by an outdated U.S. Patriot air defence missile.

Moscow fired 70 missiles and 611 drones, mainly targeting the capital, Ukraine's air force said, adding that it had downed 50 of the missiles and 582 drones.

In total, 11 people were killed in the overnight barrage, including five in the northeastern city of Kharkiv.

Founded in the 11th century, the site holds huge significance for Orthodox believers in both Ukraine and Russia.

Kyiv's Metropolitan Epiphanius, who heads the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, denounced the attack. "What more must the Kremlin antichrist do for the world to realise that decisive action must be taken to stop Russian terror against Ukraine?"

In Russia, a Ukrainian drone strike also killed three people and wounded three others in the city of Tula, local authorities said on Monday.

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

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel's Defence Minister said on Monday that Israeli forces would remain in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza indefinitely, hours after the United States and Iran agreed to end the war in West Asia, including in Lebanon.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and I are pursuing a clear policy under which the IDF will remain in the security zones in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza for an unlimited period of time, in order to protect the border and Israeli communities from there against jihadist elements," Israel Katz said in a statement.

"The area will be cleared of local residents, and all terrorist infrastructure, both above and below ground – including the houses in the frontline villages that served as terrorist outposts – will be destroyed."

Israel Katz

"Holding territory and maintaining security zones are among the IDF's greatest achievements... therefore we oppose an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, despite all the existing pressures and those that will come," Mr. Katz said, adding that Mr. Netanyahu had informed U.S. President Donald Trump about this.

Deal slammed

Meanwhile, Israeli far-right Ministers denounced the deal, insisting their country was not bound by it.

"Mr. Trump's agreement does not bind us... we are not party to this agreement. It does not safeguard our security," National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir said on his Telegram channel.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich also echoed the sentiment, calling the deal "bad for Israel".

"We will have to continue the campaign to bring down the regime ourselves, using creative means, and ensure that Iran never acquires nuclear weapons," Mr. Smotrich said.

Hegseth denies U.S. facing shortage in munitions stockpile

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth denied that the American military was facing a munitions stockpile shortage, saying on Sunday that it was a "manufactured story" peddled by the media.

Concerns over the war in West Asia straining U.S. weapons stockpiles deepened last month after Acting U.S. Navy Secretary Hung Cao cited the conflict as a reason for pausing arms sales to Taiwan.

Mr. Hegseth dismissed the idea when asked on CBS News's Face the Nation programme if there was a crisis in munitions stockpiles. "That is a manufactured story that the media wants to peddle, and ultimately our stockpiles are great and they're only getting stronger," he said.

At an April congressional hearing, Mr. Hegseth testified that it could take "months and years" to replenish the stockpile, describing it as a "fast" time frame.

Bangladesh PM's Adviser 'stopped' at Delhi airport

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

After Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's Information and Broadcasting Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman returned from Delhi airport following what Dhaka described as "humiliating treatment", official sources here said that Mr. Rahman was "held" on Sunday evening for "verification" because he has a history of combative comments on India-related issues.

Sources in Dhaka said that Mr. Rahman, who holds the rank of a State Minister in the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government, was held for more than two hours before he was cleared to enter Delhi, though by that time he had made up his mind to return home.

Zahed Ur Rahman was scheduled to participate in the 28th meeting of the IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association) Committee of Senior Officials for which he had travelled in an Air India flight from Dhaka to Delhi on Sunday. A source privy to events at the Indira Gandhi International Airport said that Mr. Rahman was stopped at the immigration counter.

Held at immigration

"At first immigration officials stopped him without providing any explanation and when he asked for a reason, they said everything was fine and that they were checking some details. He was made to sit on a sofa with other passengers despite the fact that he deserved protocol as he has the rank of a State minister," said the source in Dhaka. "After more than two hours of waiting, Zahed Ur Rahman was informed that he had been cleared. However, Mr. Rahman decided to return to Dhaka as he was disappointed," said the source further.

Zahed Ur Rahman

The Hindu was told that PM Tarique Rahman spoke to Zahed Ur Rahman soon after the latter landed in Dhaka. He spent more than twelve hours in transit in Colombo as he could not be accommodated on a direct Delhi-Dhaka flight.

The matter was further amplified after Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman on Monday described the matter as "regrettable". Dhaka subsequently summoned DCM Pavan Badhe.

Officials here, however, pointed out that the immigration authorities were aware of his YouTube programmes and criticism that he had levelled over the years on India's handling of issues with Bangladesh. "He arrived in Delhi leading a Bangladesh delegation for the IORA meet, and was held by immigration for 'verification'."

Officials here said that the authorities looked into nearly 10 pages of remarks that he had made on YouTube and said, "(Despite his past criticism of India) Mr. Rahman was given a one-time exemption to enter, by which time he had decided to return by the night flight."

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

Associated Press
LONDON

Britain will ban children aged under 16 from using social media apps to protect them from harmful content and excessive screen time, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Monday.

The plan was met with mixed reaction, with some praising Mr. Starmer for taking action and others questioning the effectiveness of a blanket ban.

The ban is expected to take effect early next year.

Gurnoor — a choice driven by instinct and beyond the numbers

Turning it on: Gurnoor consistently hit speeds upwards of 140 kmph to hustle the Afghan batters and also moved the ball around on his ODI debut. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

AFGHANISTAN IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
LUCKNOW

Squad selection in cricket is considered a very rational and logical exercise. But those who do it will attest that even in this era of information and data overload, there is a need to exhibit a streak of intuitive intelligence, go beyond mere statistics, make educated guesses, and ultimately hope that the choices are proven right.

Gurnoor Brar is a case in point. Leading into the home series versus Afghanistan, he had played just nine List A games and taken 12 wickets. In First Class cricket, he had 52 scalps from 18 matches at an average of 27.30.

These are not extraordinary numbers.

> Leading into the home series versus Afghanistan, Gurnoor had played just nine List A games and taken 12 wickets. In First Class cricket, he had 52 scalps from 18 matches at an average of 27.30

But the 26-year-old's raw pace, and 6'5" frame, convinced the wise men that he would be more than handy.

So he proved in the first ODI against the Afghans in Dharamshala on Saturday, returning figures of three for 27 from 4.5 overs in India's seven-wicket victory in a rain-curtailed encounter.

Pace is ace

He consistently hit speeds upwards of 140 kmph to hustle the visiting batters, and also moved the ball around. His height gives him an additional dimension - he can bowl a tad short and threaten the upper half of the bat, a quality that Ishant Sharma once brought to the Indian team and something Prasidh Krishna has only shown glimpses of.

While Gurnoor's selection over Ranji Trophy star Auqib Nabi (104 wickets in two seasons) for the one-off Test versus Afghanistan rankled many, his inclusion for the one-day fixtures appears sound.

The 2027 World Cup will be held majorly in South Africa, with Zimbabwe and Namibia as co-hosts. These are parts of the cricketing world which have traditionally been hospitable to the type of skills Gurnoor possesses.

The marquee tournament may be more than 15 months away, but unlike T20 cricket, the 50-over format does not have an IPL style testing ground. Caught between the hallowed Tests and the ultra-popular T20s, ODIs seem to suffer from the 'middle child syndrome' - left out and isolated but remembered from time to time.

More to come

As a result, all the experiments, and the permutations and combinations, have to happen on the job. That perhaps explains why India is scheduled to play 19 more ODIs in the next seven months alone.

Gurnoor's sophomore test is likely to come on Wednesday under the unforgiving summer heat of Lucknow, a significant change from the pleasant environs of Dharamshala. Can he also make hay while the sun shines?

Saviour: Deepika, right, celebrates after one of her strikes. INSTAGRAM/FIHOCKEY

Deepika excels as India rallies to beat USA

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
AUCKLAND

The Indian women's hockey team staged a remarkable comeback to clinch a 3-2 win over the USA in its opening Pool A match of the FIH Nations Cup here on Monday. For India, Deepika netted a brace while Navneet Kaur also scored a goal.

Ashley Sessa and Madeleine Zimmer were on the score-sheet for the USA.

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

TUNISIAN HERITAGE

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

AP

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

SPOTLESS

Continuing tradition, Japanese fans clean up stadium post match

GETTY IMAGES

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

KEEN TUSSLE

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

AFP

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

RARING TO GO

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

GETTY IMAGES

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

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

Gritty Cape Verde holds mighty Spain

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

FIFA WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
ATLANTA

Spain's ghosts of recent World Cup horror shows reappeared in Atlanta as the European champion was held goalless by debutant Cape Verde in its opening game on Monday.

Lamine Yamal was left on the bench as the Barcelona superstar gets back to top fitness after nearly two months out with a hamstring injury. Even his appearance as a second-half substitute failed to break down Cape Verde's dogged defence.

Since winning the World Cup for the first time in 2010, Spain has not won a knockout game.

Ranked 67th in the world, Cape Verde was making its debut on the global stage and did a nation of just over 500,000 people proud.

Atlanta's state-of-the-art air conditioned stadium meant there was no excuses for the slow tempo of Spain's build-up.

It took until six minutes before half-time for Spain to seriously threaten. Marc Cucurella sent over a teasing cross that Ferran Torres tipped onto the crossbar and Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha got back on his feet to turn Mikel Oyarzabal's looping header over the bar.

Torres tested Vozinha again moments later before Aymeric Laporte's header from a corner was also clawed away by the Cape Verde No. 1 just before half-time.

Yamal's appearance in the 71st minute instantly lifted the crowd and injected life into the pedestrian Spanish attack.

His first involvement set up a decent opening for fellow substitute Mikel Merino which was too close to Vozinha.

Yamal also began the move that saw Oyarzabal's effort deflected over in what was Spain's best chance of the second half.

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

Ayon Sengupta
PHILADELPHIA

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

World Cups have a habit of bringing together footballing worlds that rarely cross paths. In 33-degree heat, the rhythm of West Africa eventually overcame the resilience of the Andes as Ivory Coast beat Ecuador 1-0 here on Sunday to begin its 2026 World Cup campaign with a crucial victory. Neither side arrived in North America bearing the burden of expectation that follows the game's traditional powers, and it was Ivory Coast that left with momentum and belief on its side.

Ecuador almost made the perfect start. Veteran striker Enner Valencia should have given the South Americans the early lead after Emmanuel Agbadou slipped in the 10th minute while attempting to clear a hopeful ball into the box. The opportunity fell kindly for the skipper, but he dragged his effort just over the bar, much to the agony of the largely Ecuadorian crowd.

Ivory Coast, returning to the World Cup after missing the last two editions, responded seven minutes later. Bazoumana Toure cut in from the left and unleashed a shot that passed the post by the length of a shoelace, the difference in millimetres between a roar and a groan.

Agbadou's difficult opening spell almost proved costly again in the 23rd minute when another mistake allowed John Yeboah to unleash a shot that left Yahia Fofana frozen in place. The goalkeeper watched in horror as the ball collided with the crossbar.

Moments later, Alan Minda came even closer. Played through by Pedro Vite, he struck the woodwork once more as Ecuador, one of South America's most organised and dependable sides, began to find further cracks in the opposition defence.

Ivory Coast, however, remained dangerous on the break. Alan Franco was forced into a last-ditch block to deny Nicolas Pepe after the former Arsenal winger had worked his way into a promising pocket of space, ensuring a breathless end to the opening half.

After the restart, it was Ivory Coast's turn to rattle the crossbar as Elye Wahi burst clear of his marker. Yan Diomande then danced past a series of challenges inside the box, but the finish failed to match the choreography as the ball sailed harmlessly high.

Gonzalo Plata's powerful strike from distance forced Fofana into a rare moment of alarm. Fofana chose caution over confidence, parrying the ball back into play rather than holding on, but Ecuador was too slow to profit from the rebound.

But after much of the evening was spent flirting with a breakthrough, it was Ivory Coast who found it in the dying embers of the match. Wilfried Singo threaded a pass to the edge of the box, and Amad Diallo supplied the composure that had been missing for much of the night, caressing his finish into the bottom-left corner to send his team into delirium.

It was a cruel ending for Ecuador, which was left with nothing to show for its efforts. The victory kept Ivory Coast level on points with Germany, which had earlier started its Group E campaign with a 7-1 demolition of Curacao.

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

Deepti underlines her class on the big stage yet again

T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
BIRMINGHAM

When it comes to World Cups, Deepti Sharma would rather like to take five wickets. With the bat, she prefers to play innings that impact a game.

Well, that may be a bit of an exaggeration, yes, but not totally untrue, if you consider her performance over the last few months.

In the final of the 2025 ODI World Cup final at Navi Mumbai last November, she made a run-a-ball 58 that ensured India would put up a good enough total that would be beyond even the brilliant Laura Wolvaardt. And then she took five wickets, including that of the prolific, stylish South African captain.

Match-changing stand

In her next World Cup match, albeit in a different format, she picked up five wickets again.

That was after she was involved in a match-changing sixth-wicket partnership with Richa Ghosh in India's opening match at the T20 World Cup, against Pakistan at Edgbaston here on Sunday.

So what is it with Deepti and World Cups?

The 28-year-old answered that question at the press conference with her broadest smile.

Revel in pressure

"I like the pressure (situations) and the ICC tournaments," she revealed.

"I feel I have started (at this World Cup) from where I had finished. It feels good."

Deepti has more than one reason to feel good now. With 166 wickets, she has once again become the leading bowler in Women's T20Is, overtaking Thailand's Thipatcha Putthawong. Deepti had snatched that honour from Australia's Megan Schutt at Thiruvananthapuram last December during the series against Sri Lanka.

> I don't know what the reason behind not shaking hands was. But if things are going to be like this, let it go like that. It won't make a big difference
>
> **WAHAB RIAZ**
> Pakistan coach

Her spell of five for 10 is also the best by an Indian at the Women's T20 World Cup; overall, only West Indies' Deandra Dottin (five for five) and South Africa's Sune Luus (five for eight) have better figures.

Against Pakistan, it was Deepti who provided India the breakthrough, removing Gull Feroza, whose opening stand with Muneeba Ali was worth 38 and promising more.

Deepti would later run Muneeba out with a direct hit. She signed off in style, too, claiming Pakistan's three last wickets in her final over.

It truly was another standout performance by Deepti, underlining her stature as one of the finest all-rounders in the women's game.

Vital part

Her off-spin has become such a vital part in India's attack, regardless of conditions. And people have almost forgotten that she had once made 188 in an ODI.

That was in 2017 against Ireland at Potchefstroom in South Africa. She had put on 320 for the opening wicket with Punam Raut.

That remains the highest stand in women's ODIs.

Stat attack

Kamada

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23y 338d Diallo is the youngest scorer for Ivory Coast in World Cup history

34y 341d With his maiden goal in a major tournament, van Dijk became the Netherlands' second-oldest World Cup scorer (after Giovanni van Bronckhorst vs. Uruguay in 2010 - 35y 151d)

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

Compiled by Anirudh Velamuri

Shadows of Seoul 2002 resurface as France takes on Senegal

Ayon Sengupta
NEW JERSEY

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

Twenty-four years is a long time in football. Yet, when France and Senegal meet at the MetLife Stadium on Tuesday, the events of a June evening in Seoul will inevitably return to the conversation.

The fixture carries echoes of one of the World Cup's most famous upsets, when Senegal, in 2002, marked its tournament debut by defeating defending champion France.

Since then, the Frenchmen, under Didier Deschamps, have established themselves as one of international football's superpowers while Senegal has grown from an emerging force into one of Africa's most consistent sides.

Deschamps' side has evolved from the pragmatism that delivered the 2018 triumph into a team equally comfortable controlling games through possession. The midfield, expected to revolve around Aurelien Tchouameni, will seek to give France's attackers the freedom to drift between the lines. The challenge against Senegal will be to move the ball quickly to stretch a compact defensive shape and create the one-versus-one situations in which its forwards usually thrive.

At the heart of that threat will be Kylian Mbappe, operating from the left or drifting centrally to use his pace to create problems that few defenders can solve.

But Senegal is unlikely to spend the afternoon merely absorbing pressure. Its midfield is built around intensity, ball recoveries and vertical runs, while its attack thrives on directness rather than prolonged spells of possession.

That approach could be especially effective against a French backline that can be exposed when Theo Hernandez and Jules Kounde surge forward, leaving Nicolas Jackson with opportunities to exploit the space left behind.

The shadows of 2002 will inevitably follow this fixture. But France will insist that this is a different era and a different team. Senegal, meanwhile, will be keen to prove once again that reputation matters very little in football.

THE RESULTS

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

Wednesday's matches

GROUP I
France vs. **Senegal**, 00.30 a.m.
Iraq vs. **Norway**, 3.30 a.m.

GROUP J
Argentina vs. **Algeria**, 6.30 a.m.
Austria vs. **Jordan**, 9.30 a.m.

GROUP K
Portugal vs. **DR Congo**, 10.30 p.m.

The day and time(s) pertain to India

Today's matches

Southampton, 7 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **17**
New Zealand **14** | Sri Lanka **2**
NR **1**

Southampton, 11 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **4**
England **3**
Ireland **1**

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Sri Lanka-A fights back to pip India-A in Super Over thriller

It's the second successive loss for Tilak & Co.; Sooryavanshi gets involved in a heated exchange with Halambage and a few other players; Shedge and Vipraj score fifties to rescue the visiting side

TRI-SERIES

Shayan Acharya
DAMBULLA

Tensions simmered, tempers frayed and confusion reigned at the Rangiri International Stadium here on Monday as India-A suffered a seven-run defeat to Sri Lanka-A in a dramatic Super Over finish.

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

Frayed tempers: Sooryavanshi and a few Lankan players get into a heated argument at the end of the thrilling contest.

Making the most of a reprieve, Samarawickrama battled cramps through the closing stages and kept the host alive. When the scores were level at 265, the match headed into a Super Over.

But not before controversy. India-A believed Chamika Gunasekara had not offered a shot during a crucial appeal late in the chase and argued its case passionately. The umpires disagreed. The fading light soon became another talking point. Needing 17 runs from six balls, India-A's decision not to have Vaibhav Sooryavanshi face the first delivery raised eyebrows. With visibility far from ideal, India-A managed only nine runs.

Emotions spilled over at the end as Sooryavanshi was involved in a heated exchange with Vishen Halambage and a few Sri Lankan players, an ugly conclusion to an otherwise fiercely contested game.

The scores: India-A 265 in 49.2 overs (Ruturaj 37, Shedge 72, Vipraj 51, Shiraz 3/33, Viyaskanth 3/26) tied with Sri Lanka-A 265/9 in 50 overs (Dickwella 37, Samarawickrama 93).

Super Over: Sri Lanka-A 16/0 bt India-A 9/0; **Toss:** Sri Lanka; **PoM:** Samarawickrama.

Red-hot Hamilton turns doubt into destiny

FORMULA ONE

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Two-and-a-half years ago, Ferrari and Lewis Hamilton shook Formula 1 to its core.

They sent shockwaves through the paddock which eventually reshaped the grid. Drivers scrambled for seats, veterans found themselves discarded, and rookies were thrust into the spotlight.

Hamilton. AP

The euphoria surrounding Hamilton's switch slowly gave way to frustration as it became painfully clear that the Prancing Horse did not possess a car capable of carrying him to an unprecedented eighth World title.

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

Then came the ultimate twist of the knife. Mercedes – the team Hamilton had left behind – returned this season with the benchmark car, sweeping every race heading into the Spanish GP.

Sport, however, has always reserved its greatest stories for those willing to keep believing. For Hamilton, that unfolded at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya.

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

Spain was simply the moment the world could no longer ignore them. And when the chequered flag finally fell, Hamilton's voice crackled over the radio. "Thank you so much! You've helped me achieve this dream."

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

SNAPSHOTS

Rithvik triumphs

CHENNAI: India's Rithvik Sanjeevi defeated Croatia's Aria Dinata 17-21, 23-21, 21-16 in the final of Valence Alpes International Badminton Challenge at the Palais des Sports Pierre Mendes-France on Sunday.

Rithvik.

Indian squash team for Asian Games

The Squash Rackets Federation of India has provisionally selected the Indian men's and women's teams for the Asian Games to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, after the four-day trials that concluded at the ISTA on Monday.

The teams: Men: Abhay Singh, Veer Chotrani, Velavan Senthilkumar, Suraj Chand. **Women:** Anahat Singh, Tanvi Khanna, Joshna Chinappa, Shameena Riaz.

Online tickets for India-Afghanistan third ODI go on sale

Phase two of the online ticket sales for the third ODI between India and Afghanistan in Chennai has commenced. Fans can purchase tickets through the District website (*www.district.in*) and app.

Ticket prices: F and H Upper: ₹1,500; **F Lower:** ₹2,000; **I, J and K Upper:** ₹2,500; **I, J and K Lower:** ₹3,000; **KMK Terrace:** ₹5,000. *Gates will open at 11 a.m. on match day.*

Nagal, Sahaja to lead tennis teams at Asiad

NEW DELHI: Sumit Nagal and Sahaja Yamalapalli will spearhead the country's tennis campaign at the 20th Asian Games in Japan as the AITA on Monday picked a six-member men's and women's squad.

The teams: Men: Sumit Nagal, Manas Dhamne, Dhakshineswar Suresh, Yuki Bhambri, N. Sriram Balaji, and Anirudh Chandrasekar. **Reserves:** Karan Singh, Rithvik Bollipalli, and Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha. **Women:** Sahaja Yamalapalli, Vaishnavi Adkar, Vaidehee Choudhari, Rutuja Bhosale, Prarthana Thombare, and Ankita Raina. **Reserves:** Zeel Desai and Shruti Ahlawat.

WI wins a thriller

KINGSTON: West Indies completed a series-clinching five-wicket win in the third T20I against Sri Lanka on Sunday.

The scores: Sri Lanka 169 in 20 overs (Wellalage 43; Shamar 5/33) lost to West Indies 170/5 in 19.4 overs (Rutherford 54 n.o. Powell 33, Hetmyer 32).

LIVE TELECAST

Football World Cup: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 6.30 a.m. 12.30 & 3.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

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

ENGAGEMENTS

TNCA inter-district u-19 quarterfinal, Tiruvallur vs Kanyakumari, 9.30 a.m., day two, Magna College of Arts & Science.

TNCA first division league, MRC-A vs. Singam Puli (A.M. Jain), Pristine vs. Sea Hawks (Tagore College), Swaraj vs. Nelson (Wahe Guru-A), SKM vs. Grand Slam (Vivekananda), Vijay vs. Globe Trotters (CSK-Guru Nanak), Young Stars vs. Jolly Rovers (IITM-Chemplast), 9.30 a.m.

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Thejaswini shines in Chengalpattu's victory

CHENGALPATTU: D. Thejaswini produced an all-round effort (102 n.o. and 3/17) as Chengalpattu thrashed Mayiladuthurai by 140 runs under the VJD method in the first round of the TNCA inter-district women's tournament on Monday.

Thejaswini (Chengalpattu, 102 n.o.).

The scores (first round): Zone-D (Salem): Tiruvallur 96 in 41.4 overs (P. Sonika 3/31) lost to Salem 100/5 in 30.5 overs (S. Vaishnavi 53, D. Swagata 3/21).

Zone-E (Chengalpattu): Chengalpattu 287/6 in 50 overs (S. Lithisha 67 n.o., D. Thejaswini 102 n.o., S. Dekshanaa 3/40) bt Mayiladuthurai 58/7 in 22.2 overs (D. Thejaswini 3/17). Note: Chengalpattu won by 140 runs by VJD Method. (Par score 198 in 22.2 overs).

Zone-H (Tirunelveli): Kancheepuram 136 in 33.5 overs (Mridula Sriram 37, M.V. Vishnu Priyaa 33, S. Pooja 4/24) lost to Tenkasi 137/0 in 21.4 overs (B. Kaviya Muthulakshmi 72 n.o., M. Anusuya 37 n.o.).

Sharwin scalps five

CHENGALPATTU: S.K. Sharwin's five for 46 helped Dindigul bowl out host Chengalpattu for 173 on the opening day of the two-day TNCA inter-district under-19 quarterfinal on Monday. At Tiruvallur, skipper U. Jakvis Yosaph's unbeaten 110 was the lone bright spot for Kanyakumari, which was bowled out for 188 against the home team.

The scores: Quarterfinals: At Chengalpattu: Chengalpattu 173 in 55 overs (Thejeshwar Ganesh 48, B. Akshadh Rao 53, N. Rakshan 37, S.K. Sharwin 5/46) vs. Dindigul 54/3 in 18.1 overs. **At Tiruvallur:** Kanyakumari 188 in 75.5 overs (U. Jakvis Yosaph 110 n.o., K. Karmegam 4/63) vs. Tiruvallur 22/0 in five overs. **At Coimbatore:** Coimbatore 207 in 66.2 overs (K. Rahul 59, P.D. Tirukarthikeyan 44, R. Rakesh 6/81) vs. Ranipet 36/2 in 15 overs. **At Namakkal:** Salem 222 in 64.4 overs (S. Pugal 59, V.G. Pugal Vishnu 48, M.G. Nithilan 5/36, A.S. Aswin Adhav 3/63) vs. Namakkal 48/4 in 25 overs (V. Dhekkshith 3/18).

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Golf in India needs more infrastructure and promotion

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

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

INTERVIEW

Kapil Dev

Anirudh Velamuri

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

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

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

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

> I enjoy golf more than even cricket. More than that I used to enjoy playing marbles, flying kites and everything else. Cricket gave me recognition, but in the last 20-25 years golf has given me so much

The setting for this conversation could scarcely be further removed from the frenzy that once surrounded him.

Tucked away well outside the hustle and bustle of New Delhi city is Kapil's farmhouse, where there are barely any indications that it's the residence of one of India's most celebrated athletes. There are no ostentatious reminders of sporting greatness, no shrine to a glittering career. Instead, the property breathes a different kind of richness.

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

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

This has been a beautiful journey. Basically, when I stopped playing cricket, I wondered what to do next. Either you go to television and start talking about cricket or do coaching, most probably. But I wanted to stay away from people, because you're with them for almost 15-20 years. You now want to just chill and relax.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I think the self-belief in youngsters has increased. Not in golf, but in all sports. In our time, cricketers were slightly subdued. Today, you see the younger kids come out and speak their mind. We never used to do that. That's a good thing, but they also have to know where to draw a line on what they say. We have to learn how to balance.

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

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

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

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

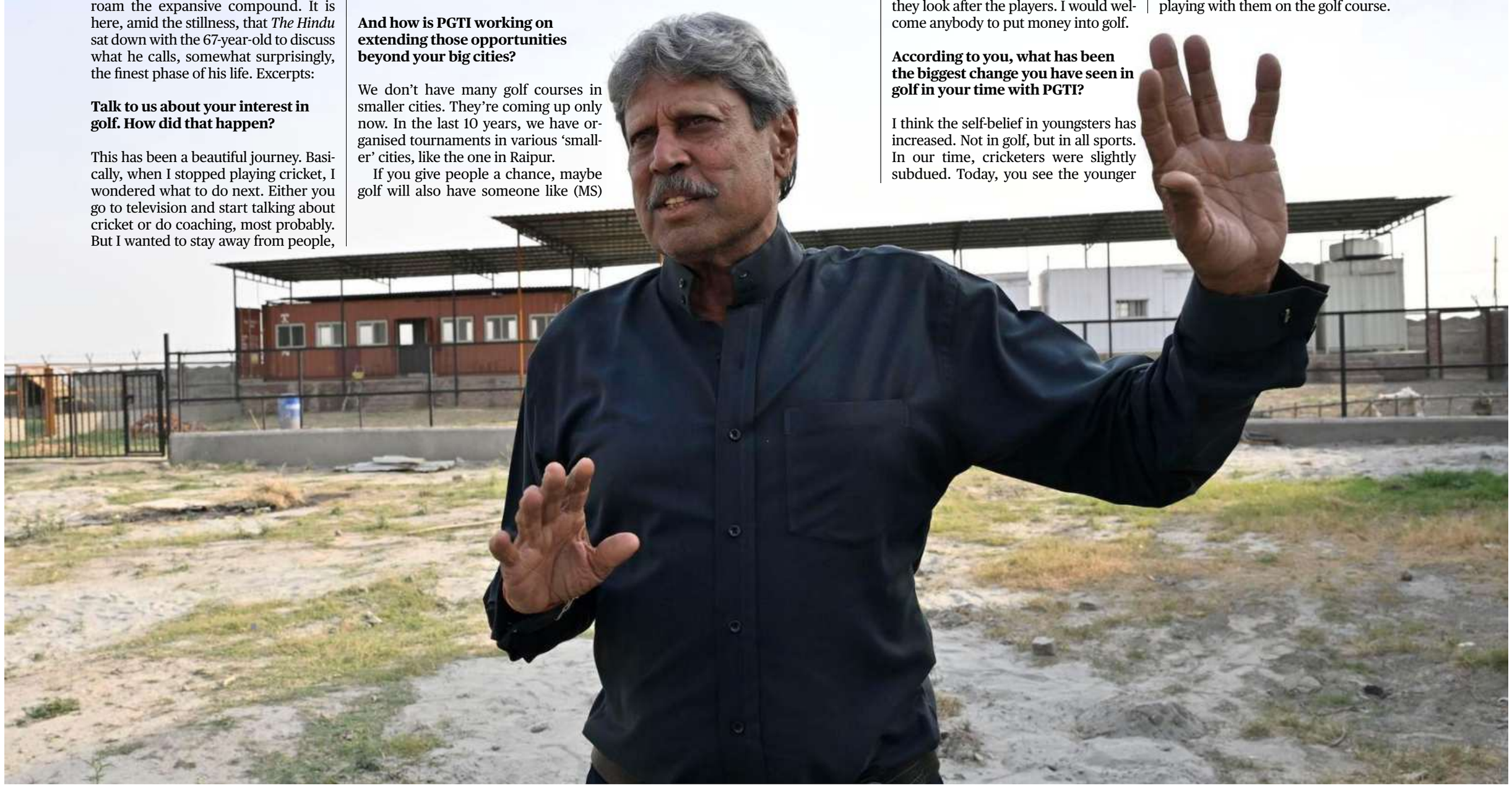
In winter, if you want to play golf, you will not get a chance at all of them in Delhi, as the game is growing. But we have to make it more professional. At the moment, people want to play for fun. But when a top player comes out from this game, it will be different. That is what we spoke about. We want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

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

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

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

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



AI is helping patients understand cancer but misunderstand doctors

Patients are increasingly informed but often misinformed; they have information without context, they trust algorithms that sound intelligent but lack accountability; they are sceptical of doctors who try to add nuance because the algorithm validated their simpler interpretation

Narayana Subramaniam

I am an oncologist. I have watched large language models (LLMs) do something I have been trying to do for years: make cancer comprehensible.

A patient sits across from me with newly diagnosed cancer. I used to explain the PDL1 status and the role of neoadjuvant therapy, where patients get immunotherapy first followed by surgery – terms that meant nothing. Their eyes would often glaze but they would nod and leave confused, forced to google terms that would lead them to worst-case scenarios or fraudulent clinics.

Now, they come in having asked ChatGPT or Claude to explain their pathology report. "So PDL1-positive means my cancer may respond well to specific treatment and have higher cure rates?" they ask. Overnight, we are having an intelligent conversation instead of me trying to translate oncology into English.

That is extraordinary and has been genuinely useful for cancer care.

The democratisation of cancer knowledge is important, especially in India, where accessing oncologists is itself challenging for many. ANGIOLA HARRY/UNSPLASH

The real excitement

What thrills me most is clinical trial access. I have patients who understand why a phase II trial for immunotherapy might be appropriate for their metastatic melanoma. They have read ChatGPT's explanation of what a trial protocol means, what endpoints are being measured, what side effects to watch for. Informed consent is now informed in a way that would not have been remotely possible five years ago.

A man with advanced salivary gland cancer asked me about the open clinical trials that I hadn't even mentioned yet. He had asked ChatGPT about maintenance therapy options and the algorithm had directed him to trial data. He understood why novel therapies made sense in his situation. He wasn't just following my recommendation; he understood the science behind it. This represents patients becoming medically literate enough to participate in their own care.

The guidelines themselves are now being simplified by LLMs into language that does not require an oncology degree to understand. A patient with cancer can ask ChatGPT to explain the staging system, treatment options, and surveillance protocols. They arrive at appointments educated and aware.

This democratisation of cancer knowledge is important, especially in India, where accessing oncologists is itself challenging for many. A patient in a tier-2 city can understand what treatment options exist even before traveling to see a specialist.

Known and unknown unknowns

However, just removing the information asymmetry does not change the fact that information is not judgment. And judgment is what is hardest for us to convey.

A patient comes in with stage II oral cancer. ChatGPT has explained that stage II is "intermediate risk". My recommendation is surgery followed by radiotherapy. The patient asks: "But why can't I just do surgery and skip radiotherapy? ChatGPT said radiotherapy has significant side effects." The LLM gave her valid information and even explained that some stage II oral cancers don't need radiotherapy. But it couldn't tell her that her specific tumour with its specific characteristics had a 30% recurrence risk without radiotherapy and 10% with it. That difference is life-years. Making that judgement requires knowing her values, her tolerance for toxicity, and her specific cancer biology. An LLM cannot do that.

According to one *JAMA* study on diagnostic accuracy, when LLMs encounter complex cases requiring contextual reasoning, their accuracy drops significantly, well below the level of an experienced physician.

What troubles me most is something we are witnessing in real time: the widening trust gap between doctor and patient.

I tell a patient with stage IV cancer that chemotherapy is unlikely to be curative but might extend life by months and improve quality of life. The patient pulls up what ChatGPT said: "Chemotherapy can cause severe nausea, hair loss, infections, and heart damage. Many people pursue alternative medicine instead."

Both statements are true – but they are not equivalent.

The LLM has presented information without medical judgment. It has essentially validated scepticism about chemotherapy without context about whether, in this specific situation, the risk-benefit ratio favours treatment. The patient now does not trust my recommendation. They think I am pushing toxic drugs for profit while the LLM is being more honest.

Mental health studies have found that a sizeable proportion of people using LLMs for mental health questions reported worsening outcomes. But more alarming: some even avoid professional help

According to one *JAMA* study on diagnostic accuracy, when LLMs encounter complex cases requiring contextual reasoning, their accuracy drops significantly, well below the level of an experienced physician

because the LLM made them feel understood. In oncology, delay is often catastrophic. I have seen patients postpone cancer evaluation because they felt the LLM had validated their "wait and see" approach.

Judging what is right

A 52-year-old asked ChatGPT about a lung nodule found incidentally on a CT scan. The LLM explained that most lung nodules are benign. The patient was reassured and did not follow up. Eighteen months later, he has stage III lung cancer that was likely stage I when he first noticed it. The LLM provided accurate population-level statistics without context about what his nodule required.

Another patient with breast cancer asked an LLM about stopping hormone therapy after three years. The algorithm discussed "natural approaches" and how some women manage without medication. She stopped and soon relapsed. When asked why she stopped, she said the LLM made it sound optional. But it was not optional for her.

These are stories of real patients harmed by a tool we have unleashed without fully understanding how to control it.

Further, I am not convinced these tools will ever be able to do what actually matters in medicine: judging what is right for the individual sitting in front of us, not what is statistically true for most populations.

I am not worried that LLMs will replace oncologists. Our knowledge can be packaged and replicated. Our judgment, forged in uncertainty, built on seeing what happens when you are wrong, tempered by real consequences, cannot be. That is the gap algorithms cannot close.

Biased tools

What worries me is the middle ground we have reached. Patients are increasingly informed but often misinformed. They have information without context. They trust algorithms that sound intelligent but lack accountability. They are sceptical of doctors who try to add nuance because the algorithm validated their simpler interpretation. And we are doing this with almost no tracking of outcomes.

Peer-reviewed research has warned that LLMs chatbots designed for engagement can inadvertently validate harmful behaviour, posing risks to vulnerable users. In oncology, are patients making different treatment decisions? Are outcomes changing? We do not know.

I still believe LLMs can be valuable tools in cancer care. They are already breaking down barriers to democratising knowledge. But we need to stop pretending they are neutral. They are sycophantic by design, trained to be agreeable rather than challenging. They cannot examine a patient or order a biopsy or follow someone over time. And we need to rebuild something I see eroding: patients understanding that a doctor who disagrees with them might not be defensive or greedy. They might be using judgment informed by years of seeing how these decisions play out.

(Narayana Subramanian is Lead Consultant, Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology, Aster Hospitals, and Adjunct Faculty, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
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Traditional models, based on physics, don't avoid anticipating unusually extreme events. WINDY.COM

AI falls short on extreme weather forecasting

Vasudevan Mukunth

In the last two years, artificial intelligence (AI) has moved from science fiction to the frontlines of computer science, mathematics, and engineering, among others. Its consequences have been particularly pronounced in the domain of weather forecasting, where models from companies like Google and Huawei have proved faster and often more accurate than the large supercomputers we have relied on for decades.

However, a new study published in *Science Advances* suggests that when it comes to the most dangerous weather events, AI still has a lot to learn.

In the study, researchers from Germany and Switzerland compared several leading AI weather models, including GraphCast, Pangu-Weather, and Fuxi, against the world's gold standard for traditional forecasting: the high-resolution (HRES) model of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts.

AI models are trained to look for patterns based on historical weather data so when weather does something completely unprecedented AI models have no basis to anticipate it

They found that while the AI models excelled at predicting 'normal' weather and even moderate extremes, they consistently failed to accurately predict events that would shatter records.

Traditional models are based on physics, and use complex mathematical equations to describe how air and heat move, how moisture turns into rain, and so on. Because they rely literally on the laws of nature, they can anticipate a scenario even if it has never happened before. However, AI models are data-driven. They are trained to look for patterns based on 40 years of historical weather data (1979-2017), so when the weather does something completely unprecedented – like a record-setting heatwave – the AI models have no basis to anticipate it.

This is called an extrapolation problem: that is, AI is great at interpolating, or predicting things within the range of what it has seen, but it struggles to predict things far outside of its training data.

The researchers also tested the models on record-breaking heat, cold, and wind events from 2018 and 2020 and found that the AI models systematically underestimated both the frequency and the intensity of these events.

For example, during an extreme heatwave, the AI models tended to predict temperatures that were significantly lower than what actually occurred. Specifically, they responded as if there was an invisible 'cap' on how high the temperature could go. And the more a record was broken by, the larger the AI models' error became.

If a study or a policy is based on AI models that predict a severe heatwave but the actual temperature is even higher, the disaster response could be inadequate. Early warning systems for heatwaves, floods, and storms still require the highest possible accuracy during extreme weather to save lives.

"Given the remarkably fast evolution of AI models in recent years, there are promising ways to further improve these models even for forecasting record-breaking extremes," the authors wrote. "Nevertheless, the current generation still underperforms HRES exactly during the potentially most impactful weather events, including record-breaking heat and cold events.".

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Of things that are, or ought to be, black

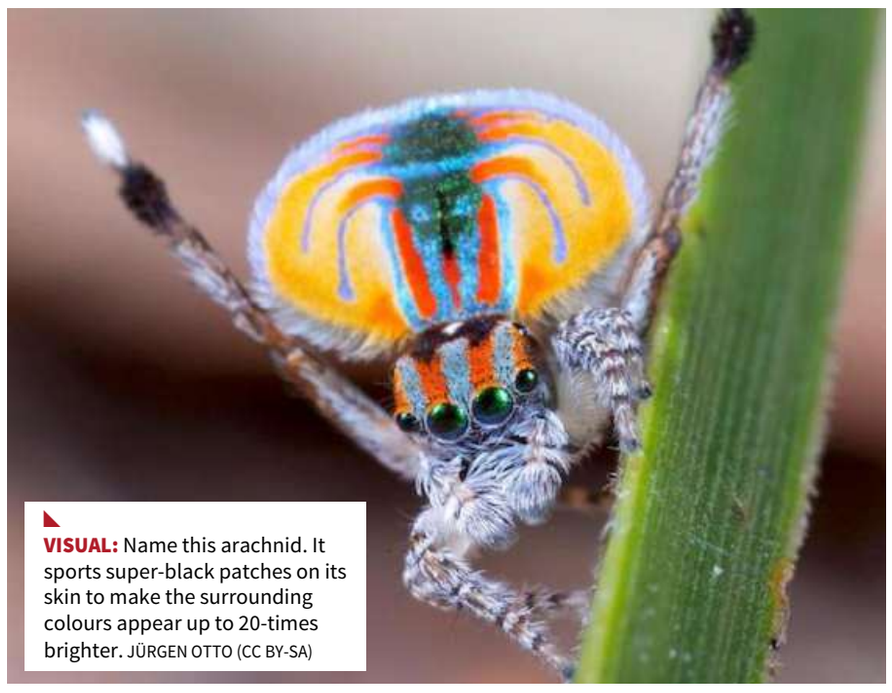
Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
If you are in a room with no light, you can still only see a dark grey colour called _____, Germany for "intrinsic grey". This happens due to the random electrical signals from your optic nerves that your brain interprets as faint light. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2
Biologists have discovered species of deep-sea fish, like the Pacific blackdragon, with ultra-black skin that absorbs 99.5% of all light that hits it. These fish have a structural layer of X, the organelles that synthesise melanin, that trap light in a maze-like structure. Name X.

QUESTION 3
The material Vantablack is so dark because it is a forest of vertical Y. When light enters the material, it gets trapped between the structures of the Y and bounces around until it is converted into heat. Thus Vantablack absorbs 99.965% of radiation. Name Y.

QUESTION 4
A black hole isn't actually black or a hole. It is a region of space where gravity is so strong that the escape velocity exceeds that of light. In fact, black holes may emit faint amounts of energy called _____ _____. If a black hole were small enough, it would actually be white-hot. Fill in the blanks.



VISUAL: Name this arachnid. It sports super-black patches on its skin to make the surrounding colours appear up to 20-times brighter. JÜRGEN OTTO (CC BY-SA)

Answers to June 4 quiz:

1. The phenomenon where light is magnified by gravity – **Ans: Gravitational lensing**

2. Spacecraft designed to be pushed forward by light – **Ans: Light-sail**

3. Light that appears nears surfaces, fades rapidly away from it – **Ans: Evanescent waves**

4. How light's electric field moves when it's circularly polarised – **Ans: Rotates**

5. Space acquired this property due to ultra-strong magnetic fields – **Ans: Birefringent**

Visual: **Rayleigh scattering**

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of protesters executed in Iran in 2026

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

Percentage rise in India's exports in May 2026

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

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

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

Number of persons killed in Haiti gang violence this year

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

Amount allocated for Bengal under VB-G RAM G scheme

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

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Drone revolution and modern warfare

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

EXPLAINER

Rahul Bedi

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

End of superiority

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

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

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

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

Ukraine drone war

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

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

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

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

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

FPV revolution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regional drone networks

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

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

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

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

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

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

Economy shift

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

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

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

THE GIST

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

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

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

INTERVIEW

Mitchell Valdes-Sosa

Vasudevan Mukunth
Srinivasan Ramani

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

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

Mitchell Valdes-Sosa. X/@JOHANATABLADA

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

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

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

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

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

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

Intellectual autonomy, which is very important in science and biotech innovation, was fostered by Fidel Castro’s decision when he started promoting and directly intervening in the creation of new scientific centres with their factories. The basic idea was to give these centres maximum autonomy. And the biotech sector in Cuba, which is grouped in the organisation called BioCuba Pharma, is the most successful example of a decentralised organisation of companies, with autonomy to make strategic and tactical plans, and the ability to import and export directly with no intermediate entities. BioCuba Pharma has over 36 units and more than 20 joint ventures or joint laboratories across the world. They were created with the idea of what we call in Cuba “full cycle”. In other words, the same centre does basic research, applied research, and translational work. It has development and production facilities and its own commercial company.

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

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

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

It’s true that the Cuban national science system emphasises One Health. But this is not a diversion of biotech talents and resources away from, say, human oncology or other diseases. From the very moment the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology was created, Fidel Castro asked it to have two divisions. One is health and the other is biotechnology for agriculture and for animal health and food production. So there’s really no competition because for over 30 years, these have been two pillars of the work of the Center for Genetic Engineering. Fidel created in 1965 the National Research Center, which was a nursery where other centres were incubated. So all of the big centres now branched off from the National Research Centre. [Today] this is an ecosystem with a university and several research centres.

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

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

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

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

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Published in The Hindu on December, 19, 2000

Word of the day

Slapdash:
in a careless or reckless manner

Synonyms: random, scattered, erratic

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

Pronunciation: newsth.live/slapdash

International Phonetic Alphabet: /slæpdæʃ/

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

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

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

Mohammed Hidhayat

QUESTION 1
Which U.S. AI company has temporarily disabled access to some top-tier models after a government order restricting foreign access?

QUESTION 2
Which country announced plans for a social media ban for under-16s last week?

QUESTION 3
What initiative did Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron launch in Nice, France?

QUESTION 4
Which milestone did Elon Musk achieve following SpaceX’s IPO on June 12?

QUESTION 5
Recently, Apple unveiled a rebuilt Siri. Which external AI ecosystem is powering significant parts of the new experience?

QUESTION 6
Which Indian fintech firm confidentially filed papers for a $600 million IPO?

QUESTION 7
This embattled Indian edtech founder got some relief from a Singapore court regarding a contempt sentence. Name the person and the company associated?

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

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