TUESDAY
June 30, 2026
CHENNAI
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 5.00

THE HINDU

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

Vol. 149 • No. 154
Regd. TN/ARD/110/2024-2026
RNI No. 1001/1957

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

REVISED GUIDELINES
CBSE relaxes language policy for Classes 7-9
NEWS » PAGE 12

FIFA WORLD CUP
Resilient Brazil enters the last 16
SPORT » PAGE 15

MAHARASHTRA TET ROW
Inter-State racket may be behind paper leak
NEWS » PAGE 10

DATA POINT
Increase in food poisoning cases points to lapses
Most States scored low on Food Safety Index
OPINION » PAGE 9

BIG TRANSITION
Delhi govt. approves new policy for EVs
BUSINESS » PAGE 13

NEARBY

Tackle crimes effectively, CM tells officials

CHENNAI
Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Monday directed Collectors and Superintendents of Police to effectively tackle crimes by identifying the root cause, maximise public safety and act without political interference. » PAGE 6

Former Minister summoned in job fraud case

CHENNAI
The Central Crime Branch has issued summons to former Minister S.S. Sivasankar, directing him to appear before investigators on Wednesday in connection with an alleged recruitment fraud. » PAGE 6

Industrial output growth hits 5-month high of 5.1%

Strong show by manufacturing, electricity, capital, and consumer goods sectors drives growth; mining and quarrying sector contracts for fifth straight month as govt. further tweaks IIP series

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Growth in industrial activity quickened to a five-month high of 5.1% in May, buoyed by stronger performances by the manufacturing, electricity, capital goods, and consumer goods sectors, the latest government data show.

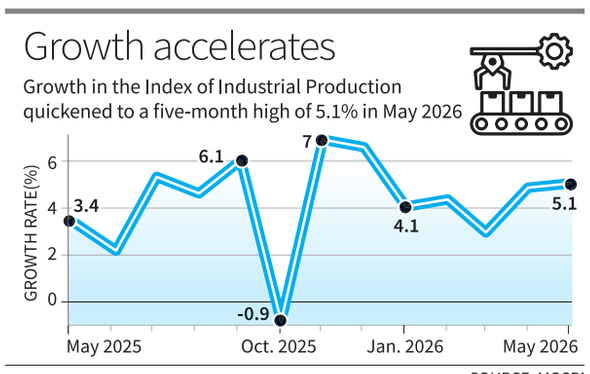
While releasing the data, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation also said that it has further tweaked the new series of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which had first been released on June 1. The new series has an updated base year of 2022-23 and incorporates new data sources.

It explained that it has decided to discontinue the use of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in the measurement of some value-based outputs in the IIP and has instead adopted the Producer Price Index (PPI) for the purpose. "Accordingly, the present release supersedes the earlier WPI-based IIP 2022-23 series released on 1st June 2026," the release said. "Users are advised to use the PPI-based IIP series presented in this release for all analytical, research, and policy purposes."

According to Rahul Agrawal, principal economist at the ICRA, this change has "led to material changes in growth across segments such as manufacturing and is also likely to lead to revisions in the GDP data". The manufacturing sector grew 5.5% in May, down from 6.1% in April but faster than the 4.2% growth registered in May last year.

"Manufacturing has grown by 5.5% which can be attributed to a revival in consumption – both [consumer] durables and non-durables have done well at 7.2% and 3.6%, respectively," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, said. "Within durables, the auto sector was once again the leader followed by computers and other electronic goods."

The electricity and gas supply category saw growth quicken to a two-year high of 9.9%, driven by a delayed monsoon and higher temperatures. The mining and quarrying sector contracted by 1.6%, the fifth consecutive month of contraction.



Dozens killed as Pakistan targets Afghan militants

Agence France-Presse
TSAMKANI (AFGHANISTAN)

Pakistan launched its deadliest attack on Afghanistan in months, with Islamabad saying on Monday it killed dozens of militants as the Afghan government reported civilian casualties.

The night-time strikes are the latest flare-up of violence between the neighbours whose relationship has been fraught since 2021, when the Taliban government took power in Kabul, and follow a weeks-long war that erupted in February.

Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said air and ground operations killed 29 militants and were aimed at a group that it blames for a deadly weekend assault in Karachi, although Afghan authorities have repeatedly denied their territory harbours attackers. The Taliban regime said the air strikes hit three eastern provinces, killing 36 civilians and wounding 163.

The Pakistani operation along the border is the deadliest since March, when an attack on a drug treatment centre in Kabul killed hundreds according to the United Nations.

Mr. Tarar said the latest offensive targeted Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a splinter group of the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). In the countries' capitals, the Foreign Ministries summoned each other's diplomats over the attack in Afghanistan's border area and earlier in Pakistan's megacity Karachi.

In Paktia's Tsamkani district, hundreds of mourners gathered before the funeral beds of some of those killed.

Mediation from several countries, including China, has failed to produce a lasting resolution between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

In ruins: Afghan residents look at a building damaged in a Pakistani air strike at a village in Paktia province on Monday. AFP

M.R. Vijayabhaskar resigns as MLA

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In yet another setback to the AIADMK, its MLA and former Minister, M.R. Vijayabhaskar, resigned as MLA on Monday.

Mr. Vijayabhaskar, who won from Karur in 2026 by 1,821 votes, submitted his resignation to the Speaker. As the request was in order, Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar accepted his resignation, an official release said. He is the sixth AIADMK MLA to resign. Now, seven seats in the 234-member Assembly are vacant.

Five AIADMK MLAs had already resigned. They are Maragatham Kumaravel (Maduranthakam), S. Jayakumar (Perundurai), P. Sathyabama (Dharapuram), Esakki Subaya (Ambasamudram), and C. Vijayabaskar (Viralimalai). Except Mr. Vijayabaskar, the others later joined the ruling TVK. Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay vacated Tiruchi East seat and retained Perambur.

Meanwhile, the Assembly Secretary informed the Madras High Court that the law does not require an Assembly Speaker to sit in judgment on the motive behind an MLA tendering resignation, and such resignations have to be accepted if they are found to be genuine and voluntary.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

Lavender bloom

Purple promise: A worker picks lavender in a field in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday. The aromatic plant, valued for its essential oils used in soap and perfumes, is grown as part of an initiative to boost rural livelihoods and agri-tourism. IMRAN NISSAR

Govt. lifts curbs on sale of petrol, diesel

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday removed all restrictions on the sale of diesel and petrol in the country from July 1.

It removed the cap on the retail sale of diesel of 200 litres per consumer per day and removed the restriction on industrial consumers from purchasing fuel from retail pumps.

'Improving situation'

The latest directive – pointing to an easing supply situation – builds on the Union government's June 25 order that restored the supply of industrial and commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to levels supplied before the West Asia war and withdrew all caps on sector-specific allocations.

The Union Petroleum Ministry had issued the control order for diesel on June 12 to arrest black marketing, diversion, and hoarding of diesel and prevent industrial and commercial consumers from purchasing the fuels from retail outlets.

"The temporary measures helped ensure adequate availability of petrol and diesel across the country while safeguarding the interests of retail consumers," it said. "Their withdrawal reflects the improvement in the supply situation and the restoration of normal supply arrangements," it added.

Radio-tagged white-rumped vulture electrocuted in T.N.

Rohan Premkumar
UDHAGAMANDALAM

A captive-bred, radio-tagged white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) that was released earlier this year at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu was electrocuted on Sunday.

The bird came into contact with a power line and was killed at Ebbanad village overlooking the Sigur plateau, Forest Department officials said.

The bird, initially released in the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra in December 2025, made its way into Karnataka, where it had to be captured and treated after showing signs of illness. In April, the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the Karnataka Forest Department had discussions with their counterparts in Tamil Nadu and received permission to release the bird in the MTR, which is home to the last sizeable population of white-rumped vultures in South India. Foresters hoped the bird would associate with other vultures and acclimatise to the region.

However, officials said the release proved to be more difficult than expected, with the vulture failing to acclimatise and embarking on exploratory forays around the tiger reserve, including to Gudalur, and later towards Kalhatty and Ebbanad.

The death of the vulture has signalled the end of the first attempted reintroduction of a captively-bred bird of the species into the landscape and could have consequences for conservation policies in the future.

The radio-tagged vulture that was electrocuted on Sunday. M. SATHYAMOORTHY.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

U.S., Iran pause strikes but disagree on talks

Associated Press
DUBAI

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that Iran had requested a meeting with U.S. counterparts, though one of Iran's top negotiators said no further talks had been scheduled after attacks across the Persian Gulf over the weekend challenged negotiations to end the war.

The U.S. President has tried to preserve a fragile interim deal, but hostilities mounted in recent days in the Strait of Hormuz.

After four days of trading strikes, both sides appeared to pause their attacks Monday. Mr. Trump said on social media that a meeting with Iran would happen on Tuesday in Doha, Qatar. Mr. Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, the President's son-in-law, are flying to Qatar for the meeting, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said.

But Kazem Gharibabadi, a senior negotiator for Iran, denied any talks had been scheduled.

Iran and Oman held a meeting about the strait on Monday in Oman. The strait has long been considered an international waterway despite its location in Iran and Oman's territorial waters.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
'$6 BILLION FROM QATAR'
» PAGE 14

West Bengal govt. to table Uniform Civil Code Bill soon

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The West Bengal government will introduce a Bill in the Assembly in August to implement the Uniform Civil Code in the State, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said on Monday.

Mr. Adhikari informed the Assembly that the State Cabinet would give its in-principle approval to the UCC on July 2. He said the State government had set up a committee led by a retired judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, to conduct a comprehensive study of family laws in the State.

The committee will submit a report to the State government in four weeks. The committee will have one retired IAS officer, one legal expert, one educationist, one social worker, and one additional secretary of the State government. Apart from family laws relating to marriage and succession, it will also look into live-in relationships.

"The BJP, in its manifesto, had promised the UCC in the State within six months of coming to power. We believe in the ideology of Syama Prasad Mookerjee that in one country there cannot be two set of laws for the people," Mr. Adhikari said.

Suvendu Adhikari

Tribal groups exempt

He added that Adivasis, indigenous people, Kurmis and other recognised ancient tribal communities of the State would be excluded from the proposed law.

With tribal communities out of its ambit, the law may impact Muslims and Christians, who have a different set of family laws. West Bengal has a Muslim population of about 27%, as per the last census.

NEW BILL ON DETENTION
» PAGE 10

INBRIEF

Sensor-based tech installed for oesophageal disorders

SRM Prime Hospital has installed the EndoFLIP system, a sensor-based technology that enables doctors to accurately diagnose and treat esophageal (food pipe) disorders such as gastroesophageal reflux disease, achalasia cardia, and other swallowing disorders, a release said. The technology provides real-time data on the function of the oesophagus and the valve between the food pipe and the stomach. S. Arulprakash, clinical lead and senior gastroenterologist, and P. Siva, hospital's CEO, participated.

Metrowater, Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital organise eye camp

Chennai Metrowater organised an eye camp for about 370 Metrowater personnel, along with Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, in the city on Monday. A release said some of the participants were advised to wear spectacles or undergo further treatment. The team of doctors also raised awareness about the need for early detection of eye ailments and precautions to be taken while using computers.

Beginners' course in Italian language to be held from July 1

The Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry will begin its Italian language beginners' course on July 11. For details, visit their website: www.languagelabchennai.com or call 9080582082

Residents seek revival of FOC centres for quick restoration of power supply

Response to power disruptions was faster under the Fuse-Off Call centres, compared to the centralised set-up of Minnagam, say domestic consumers. The FOCs, each set up for three to four section offices, functioned round-the-clock, with telephone operators, linemen, and wiremen working in shifts

POWER POINT

R. Srikanth
CHENNAI

Domestic consumers in the city want the Electricity Department to revive the Fuse-Off Call (FOC) centres, which used to repair and restore power supply disruptions seamlessly.

The FOCs were closed down five years ago, and replaced with a centralised consumer redress centre called Minnagam, which operates from the headquarters of the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation on Anna Salai.

The domestic consumers point out that response to a power disruption was faster under the FOCs that functioned under a decentralised set-up, as against the current centralised set-up of Minnagam.

The FOC centre – set up for three to four section offices of the Electricity Department – functioned round-the-clock, with telephone operators, linemen, and wiremen working in shifts. The maintenance staff working for the FOCs had a well-defined role – to restore power disruptions only in those localities coming under the section offices, as they had an thorough knowledge of the area.

A retired EB official said there were many vacancies at the FOC centres, burdening the staff with more work. FILE PHOTO

A centralised redress system, along with the Chairman's office numbers, had also been functioning. However, after the DMK came to power, the Minnagam centre was launched, where the complaint redress system was centralised and given a common number.

The South Chennai region, which includes Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu districts, has 236 section offices, while a total of 173 section offices are set up in the North Chennai region, which includes Tiruvallur district.

Consumer activist T. Sadagopan said the FOCs played an efficient role in restoring power supply during disruptions. The FOC staff could easily identify the location by simply being told the street name, unlike the present system where the consumer number has to be given to the telephone operator at Minnagam, who has to identify the section offices and inform the official concerned, who then deputes a staff to address the issue.

A retired official of the Operation and Maintenance section of the Electricity Department said there were many vacancies at the FOC offices and due to this, the local officials, who were already overburdened with providing new power connections and other development works, had to bear the brunt of this workload.

A senior official of the TNPDCL pointed out that the centralised grievance redress system of Minnagam only resulted in delaying restoration of power supply. He said that based on the feedback from officials, they would look into reviving the FOC centres.

58-year-old man who was sentenced to life term under POCSO Act dies in hospital

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A 58-year-old man serving a life sentence in a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act case died while undergoing treatment at the Government Stanley Hospital.

The deceased was identified as Venkatesan, 58, a resident of Chromepet.

He was arrested by the Chitlapakkam police under the POCSO Act and was sentenced to life imprisonment. He had been lodged at the Central Prison in Puzhal since May last year.

The police said that Venkatesan had been suffering from health issues such as anaemia, haemorrhoids, and stomach pain.

When his condition deteriorated, prison authorities rushed him to the prison inmates' ward at the Government Stanley Hospital on June 21 for further treatment.

However, Venkatesan died without responding to treatment.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Timings
CHENNAI

TUESDAY, JUN. 30			
RISE	05:47	SET	18:39
RISE	19:09	SET	05:47
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 01			
RISE	05:47	SET	18:39
RISE	19:55	SET	06:39
THURSDAY, JUL. 02			
RISE	05:47	SET	18:39
RISE	20:37	SET	07:32

Chennai Weather

	max	min
Tiruvallur	40	26
Chennai Airport	39	28
Chennai City	38	28

Chennai Airport Today
36°C The weather will be very warm and uneasy. Night will also be uneasy. Spell of light rain and thundershowers may occur.

Chennai Airport Tomorrow
37°C Morning will be comfortable. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Chances of light rain and thundershowers. Night will also be uneasy.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, गोड्डा

शुद्धि-पत्र

1. इस कार्यालय द्वारा प्रकाशित ई–पुनर्निविदा जिसका PR 383238 (Rural Work Department) (26-27)_D समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित हुआ है ई–पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना la0 03/2026-27/RI/RWD/EE/GODDA दिनांक 25.06.2026 में प्रकाशित प्रखंड– गोड्डा सदर के स्थान पर प्रखंड– सुन्दरपहाड़ी पढ़ा जाय।

अन्य शेष शर्तें पूर्ववत रहेंगे।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग,
कार्य प्रमंडल, गोड्डा

PR 383559 Rural Development (26-27)_D

த.நா.அ.ப.தே
TNPSC

TAMIL NADU PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
No.3, TNPSC Road, Chennai-600 003.

The marks and rank position, in interactive mode for the posts included in Combined Civil Services Examination-II (Group II and IIA Services) (Notification No.11/2025) based on the marks secured in Main Examination conducted by the Commission on **22.02.2026** FN & **15.03.2026** FN & AN and other conditions stipulated in the notification for the said recruitment, is available in the Commission's website at **http://www.tnpsc.gov.in**

Chennai – 600 003
Dated : 29.06.2026 DIPR/575/Display/2026 **Controller of Examinations**

CENTRAL RAILWAY
REPLACEMENT OF CORRODED STEEL STRUCTURES WORK
Open E-tender Notice No.: KYN-LD-585-W-766-ContR1, Dt. 24.06.2026. Name of work: Replacement of corroded steel structures in Kalyan Lonavala (SE) section of Mumbai Division for improving safety and reliability. **Approx. Value**: ₹ 8,73,57,157.84. **EMD**: ₹ 17,47,200/-. **Cost of Tender Form**: 0/-. **Completion period**: 24 months. The time and date for submission of tender will be up to 11:00 Hrs on 23.07.2026. Complete details of E-tender are available at official Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in** the complete documents can be downloaded from the website. The detail of tender is available in the "Notice Board" of the Sr.DEE(TD) KYN's office, Kalyan.
AK-301
Unsafe and unauthorized work near the railway line is a punishable offence

CENTRAL RAILWAY
BODY POH WORK
Open Tender Notice No: BD.WRB.41.Welding-26-27-B, Date: 19.06.2026. Name of Work: BODY POH work of 1050 Wagons (BOXN variant and SS wagons) for a period of one year at Wagon Repair Workshop, Badnera. **Approx Cost**: ₹ 14,40,26,752.89. **Cost of tender form**: NIL. **EMD**: ₹ 8,70,100/-. **Completion Period**: 12 months. The time and date for submission of above e-tenders will be up to 15:00 hrs on 13.07.2026. Complete details of e-tender are available at official Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in**
AK-306
Unsafe and unauthorized work near the railway line is a punishable offence

CINEMA ❖ ARTS ❖ EVENTS

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

Mathangi, Ph: 24992672
Today 6pm Bharadwaj Subramaniam & Party. Ragasudha Hall.

Narada Gana Sabha Trust
Ph: 24993201
Today Mini Hall - (Swami Haridhos Giri Hall) - 6.30 pm - Harikesanallur Muthiah Bhagavathar Day in association with Harikesanjali Trust - Music - E.R.Anirudh (Vocal), Bhargava Vignesh (Violin), Kaushik Sridhar (Mridangam) All are welcome.

Pushpanjali Cultural Trust
Today 5.30 pm at R.K Swamy Auditorium Mylapore Bharathanatyam by Kum K.JAHNAVI, Kum M.SUGHI PRAARTHANA & Kum V AISHWARYA (Dis.of Dr Himaja Athulkumar (Tamil-Isai Kalloori) 7.00 pm Bharathanatyam by Kum SOUMITRI NARUMANCHI, Kum ANITHAA SRINIVASAN & Kum PADMAPRIYA RANGANATHAN (Dis.of Smt Vanishree Ravishankar)

To advertise visit
www.thehinduads.com
☎ 044-28576300
☎ Toll Free: 1800 102 4161

GOVT. OF BIHAR
BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD
I.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.
Website : bceceboard.bihar.gov.in / Helpdesk : helpdesk.bceceboard@bihar.gov.in
Adv. No.- BCECEB-2026/02 Dated 28.06.2026

सूचना

विज्ञापन संख्या–BCECEB(UGMAC)-2026/01 दिनांक 02.04.2026 के क्रम में NEET (UG)-2026 / NEET (PG)-2026 / AIAPGET-2026 के आधार पर UGMAC-2026 / UGMAC (Ayush)-2026 / PGMAC-2026 / PGMAC(Dental)-2026 / PGMAC(Ayush)-2026 में भाग लेने वाले Disable Quota / NRI Quota / Minority Quota के अभ्यर्थियों को एक बार पुनः सूचित किया जाता है कि पर्षद द्वारा आयोजित होने वाले UGMAC-2026 / UGMAC (Ayush)-2026 / PGMAC-2026 / PGMAC(Dental)-2026 / PGMAC(Ayush)-2026 हेतु वर्णित कोटा का लाभ लेने के लिए Online Application submit करने के समय वांछित अभिलेख अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा, तभी उनका आवेदन सम्बन्धित कोटि में स्वीकार्य होगा। Upload किये गये प्रमाण-पत्रों को Concerned Competent Authority से सम्पुष्ट कराया जायेगा। अभ्यर्थी सम्बन्धित अभिलेखों की तैयार रखें । अभिलेखों की विवरणी पर्षद के वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध है।

परीक्षा नियंत्रक

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS)
Regional Office, Chennai.
5th Floor, CMRL Building, Poonamalle High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai - 600 107.
Phone No: 044-22252635; E-mail: rochennai@nhai.org

Engagement of Retired Revenue Officer as Land Acquisition Officer

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) intends to engage one retired Revenue Official as Land Acquisition Officer at Regional Office, Chennai. Eligibility criteria for the position is as under;

Name of Post	Vacancy	Eligibility / Experience
LA Officer	01	1. Should be a Retired SDM/ADM or Higher Level Officer. 2. Should have experience of a minimum 10 Years in the State Revenue Department related with land acquisition. 3. Conversant with local survey Maps, Revenue Records and Land Laws.

Interested applicant/candidate are requested to attend Walk-In Interview on 06.07.2026 at 11:00 AM in the Regional Office, NHAI, Chennai at the address mentioned above.

BUILDING A NATION, *NOT JUST ROADS*

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, BSCC, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bangalore 560011

No. EE/ELE/BSCC/TEND/02/2026-2027 Date: 29.06.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two cover system)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
Executive Engineer (Elect), Bangalore South City Corporation, invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in KPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any other equivalent central/state government organizations work as detailed in the table. The bidders may submit their bids for works given in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Operation and Maintenance of Street lighting system at various Blocks of Banashankari 6th Stage, Anjanapura Town Ship, JP Nagara 8th & 9th Phase and Further extension handed over from BDA to Bengaluru South City Corporation. (Period of 12 months.). **EST Cost : Rs. 140.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 2,10,000.00. Category : Class I & Above**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the kpp portal from : **01.07.2026. (2) Pre-bid meeting will be held on 04.07.2026 at 3.00 PM Hrs.** in the office of the Chief Engineer (Zone-1), BSCC Zonal office Building, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bangalore-560 011 **(3)** Bids must be submitted online through the kpp portal on or before **08.07.2026 by 16:00 hrs. (4)** The technical bids will be opened on **09.07.2026 at 16.30 Hrs. (5)** The financial bids will be opened on **10.07.2026 at 16:00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele)., BSCC

झारखण्ड सरकार
क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल, अग्रिम योजना, पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका

अतिअल्पकालीन ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना
(1st Call)
ई–निविदा प्रसंग सं0:–RCD/FSD/AP/DUM/02/2026-27
दिनांक:–29.06.2026

1.	कार्य का नाम	**Consultancy services for preparation of viability and financial option analysis/Feasibility Study of following Roads in PPP/HAM/BOT Mode.** 1. Muri- Rangamati Road (Tentative Length= 60 Km) 2. Hazaribag-Katkamsandi-Chatra Road (Tentative Length= 70 Km) 3. Chatra-Chauparan Road (Tentative Length= 51 Km) 4. Angara-Muri Road (Tentative Length= 44 Km) 5. Lohardaga-Kisko-Richughuta Road (Tentative Length=33 Km) 6. Lohardaga-Pesrar Road (Tentative Length= 39 Km) 7. Badkagaon-Urimari Road (Tentative Length= 29 Km)
2.	अनुमानित लंबाई	326कि०मी०
3.	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	30दिन
4.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	01.07.2026,12.00 बजे अपराह्न
5.	निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	08.07.2026, 04.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
6.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	09.07.2026, 12.30 बजे अपराह्न
7.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल अग्रिम योजना, पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका।
8.	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का संपर्क नं0	8292901787
9.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन नं0	0651–2401010

अतिरिक्त जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट पर देखें :–http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल, अग्रिम योजना,
पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका

PR 383571 Road(26-27).D

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Anjanapura and Begur Division, BSCC, Amruthnagara-Konankunte Main Road, Soudamini Layout, Bengaluru-560062.

No: EE/ABD/TEND/07/2026-27 Date: 29-06-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover Tender) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Anjanapura and Begur Division, BSCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered with KPWD / CPWD / BWSSB / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of Works detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvements to Roads and Drains at Bengaluru South Assembly Constituency Limits. **(G.O. Order No. UDD 429 MNY 2026, Benglauru, Annexure-5 for the Works listed from the Sl.No. 46 to 80). Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 4690.04, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 46,90,040/-**
2	Improvements to Roads and Drains at Yeshwanthapura Assembly Constituency Limits. **(G.O. Order No. UDD 429 MNY 2026, Benglauru, Annexure-5 for the Works listed from the Sl.No. 40 to 45). Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 1987.48, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 19,87,480/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents can be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 01-07-2026. 2)** Last Date for Submission of Queries: **04-07-2026 within 3.00 PM. 3)** Date and Time of Pre Bid Meeting: **04-07-2026 at 4.00 PM. 4)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **08-07-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 5)** Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid: **09-07-2026 at 4.30 PM. 6)** Date and Time of Opening of Financial Bid: **10-07-2026 after 4.00 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Anjanapura and Begur Division, BSCC.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: 044-28576300 ▪ TOLL FREE: 1800 102 4161
or Contact your nearest Authorised space sellers

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SANJANA Mummaneni (DOB: 14/07/2008), D/o Raghava Rao Mummaneni, residing at Plot No. 314A, 8th Street, Kamakoti Nagar, Pallikaranai, Chennai 600100, hereby declare that my mother's name is mistakenly recorded as "Manjeera Mummaneni" in my passport records. However, her correct name is "Manjeera Mallampati" as reflected in her official documents, including Aadhaar Card and Passport. I hereby propose to change my mother's name in my passport records from "Manjeera Mummaneni" to "Manjeera Mallampati.

I, ARUN GANESH.N, Aadhar No. : 8030 4065 8155 S/o. Narayanamurthy, aged about 31years, residing at No. 11, Bank Colony, Madambakkam, Kancheepuram, Tamilnadu 600126 shall henceforth be known as N. JAIGANESH

I, V Vijayalakshmi (Vijayalakshmi Vijayakumar), wife of Late K Vijayakumar (Vijayakumar Kamalanathan), residing at No 29 VOC Street, MGR Nagar, Chennai-600 078,Chennai, Tamil Nadu do hereby change my name from V Vijayalakshmi to N.P. Vijayalakshmi (Vijayalakshmi Natesan Ponnuswamy) for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 01/04/2026 sworn before Notary S Nanda Kumar, Chennai.

I, J. Vishnu Sangeeta D/O, Jagadeesan R/o No 19/448a, 24th Street, Nsk Nagar, Arumbakkam, Chennai 600106 have changed my name to Vishnu Sangeetha.

OLD AGE HOME

PALLIATIVE CARE at your home Trained Nurses, 24/7, Dr., Physio visits, Lab tests 1800–313–1883 tikotra.com/seniors

PEST CONTROL

NETLON SAINTGOBAIN SS Doortype SV Trading Authorised Dealer:9940386715

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

Dr. MGR INSTITUTE of Special Education and Research
ADMISSION OPEN for B.Ed., Special Education Course
Comprehensive Teacher Training Program focusing on Special Students
100% PLACEMENT ASSURED IN NORMAL / SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Special Training Imparted To Teach Hearing Impaired Children.
EDUCATE. EMPOWER. EXCEL. ENROLL NOW
Dr. MGR HOME AND SCHOOL for the Speech and Hearing Impaired
Mount Poonamallee Rd, MGR Garden, Ramapuram, Chennai - 89.
mgrhomeschool@gmail.com
82208 43793
91762 08626
70102 77808

HOME NEEDS

Parryware always in fashion
BATHROOM RENOVATION
From Professional Bathroom Makers Since 2001
FRIENDLY SERVICES
Call Now:
044 - 2432 3144
98412-95033
98412-78121
T.Nagar, Chennai - 600 017.

Madras High Court stays suspension of DVAC Inspector

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has stayed the operation of a suspension order passed against Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) Inspector of Police G. Vimala after arriving at a *prima facie* view that the suspension order appeared to be "motivated."

Counter affidavit

Justice P.T. Asha stayed till July 9, 2026, the suspension order passed by the Deputy Director of DVAC on June 17, 2026, and granted time till the next date of hearing for the Deputy Director as well as the Director to file their counter affidavits to the Inspector's writ petition.

FIR registered

On perusing the documents produced by the petitioner, the judge found that the suspension order appeared to have been issued for having registered a First Information Report against another Inspector of Police serving in the Anti-Vice squad of Greater Chennai police.

Observing that the FIR appeared to have been registered only with the approval of the superior officials in the DVAC, the judge wrote: "This court is of the *prima facie* view that the impugned (under challenge) suspension order is motivated. Therefore, it shall be stayed till July 9, 2026."

Advanced sewage sludge treatment can increase biogas production: study

Sludge generated in Chennai Metrowater's sewage treatment plants contained heavy metals in low concentrations, making it viable for reuse after treatment, says the Anna University study

WATER WATCH

K. Lakshmi
CHENNAI

While focus has largely remained on wastewater treatment, the reuse of sewage sludge is seldom optimised. In a recent study, Anna University has demonstrated that the adoption of advanced treatment technology in sewage treatment plants could increase biogas production by nearly 28% and be reused in various applications.

The study found that sewage sludge generated in Chennai Metrowater's sewage treatment plants contained low concentrations of heavy metals, within international standards, making it viable for reuse after treatment.

However, researchers from Anna University noted that raw sludge showed significant microbial contamination, including that of salmonella. Pathogens were found to exceed prescribed standards in raw sludge samples, posing a major barrier to sludge reuse and necessitating additional treatment.

Given the constraints, including land scarcity and limited treatment infrastructure, sewage sludge management and safe disposal are emerging as environmental challenges. Once pathogen risks are addressed, treated sludge could be used to support various applications, including land restoration, urban forestry, and soil rehabilitation programmes, according to the study.

Daily load: Twenty STPs in Chennai treat 650 million litres of sewage a day and generate 94 tonnes of dry sludge. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Researchers from Anna University analysed sludge samples from 12 of Chennai Metrowater's STPs over 18 months for the study funded by the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation, Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Chennai currently treats 650 million litres of sewage per day through 20 of its STPs, and generates 94 tonnes of dry sludge per day. Eleven of the STPs generate nearly 24,500 cubic metres of biogas.

S. Kanmani, principal investigator of the study and Head, Department of Civil Engineering and director-in-charge, Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management, said it was imperative for the STPs to evolve beyond their conventional role of pollution control facilities and prioritise reuse of the treated sludge or reuse of biosolids. The study demonstrated the feasibility of adapting sustainable thermal-based sludge stabilisation and resource recovery technology to Chennai's STPs. With suitable modifications, STPs can adopt it to increase biogas production and improve the use of biosolids, she said.

With the application of the technology, an STP could yield up to 31,365 cubic metres of biogas, which is nearly 28% higher than the current generation. Moreover, the treatment process also helped remove faecal coliform and significantly reduced salmonella in the sludge, enabling treated biosolids for better reuse, said the study published in the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment journal.

'Cost-effective'

Saranya Kuppusamy, the study's co-principal investigator and visiting professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Anna University, said the cost-effective technology would also help reduce the volume of sludge requiring disposal by about 60%.

Anna University is also exploring pilot projects with its industry partner - Larsen and Toubro - and scaling up technology for implementation across the State, Ms. Kanmani said.

Jharkhand workers stranded in T.N. after ammonia leak at firm

R. Sivaraman
CHENNAI

Forty-one migrant workers from Jharkhand, who were evacuated from St. Paul and Peter Seafood Export Firm at Periyapalayam in Tiruvallur district, after the ammonia leak that claimed 16 lives, remain stranded in Tamil Nadu without any assistance to return to their home State.

Officials in Tiruvallur district said there had been no response from the Jharkhand government despite repeated requests to facilitate the workers' return.

On June 21, migrant workers from Assam, Jharkhand, and Odisha employed at the seafood processing unit were evacuated after the ammonia leak. More than 80 workers exposed to the toxic gas were admitted to hospitals. Sixteen workers – 13 from Odisha, two from Jharkhand, and one from Assam – died.

The surviving workers were accommodated at a marriage hall in Periyapalayam, where the Tamil Nadu government has been providing food, shelter, and medical assistance.

Officials from the Odisha and Assam governments visited the affected workers and coordinated with the Tiruvallur administration to arrange their transportation back home by train. However, 41 workers from Jharkhand continue to remain at the shelter in Periyapalayam, with no clarity on when they will be able to return.

One of the stranded workers appealed to the Jharkhand government to intervene immediately. "Everyone wants to return home, but we are not being allowed to leave. The Jharkhand government should take note of our situation and provide us with immediate relief," he said.

'Severe mental stress'

Another video message from one of the workers said: "After the ammonia leak, we were shifted to this shelter. We have been here for several days. We are being provided food, but we are not allowed to go outside or leave. No one has informed us whether we will be sent home or what will happen next. Our identity documents are checked repeatedly, and we are under severe mental stress."

A revenue official in Tiruvallur said representatives of the Odisha and Assam governments had personally visited the affected workers from their respective States and coordinated their return. "We extended all necessary assistance to facilitate their journey. However, 41 workers from Jharkhand are yet to be repatriated. We have sent emails and made phone calls to the Jharkhand authorities, but there has been no response so far. Until then, we will be providing them with shelter, food, and medical assistance while continuing efforts to arrange their return," the official added.

State women's commission seeks report on Tiruvallur ammonia leak

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women (TNSCW) has ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the ammonia gas leak at a seafood processing unit in Tiruvallur district that has so far claimed the lives of 16 migrant workers and left several others critically injured.

Taking *suo motu* cognisance of the incident based on media reports, the commission directed the Tiruvallur Collector to submit a detailed report within four weeks. In its communication dated June 25, the commission said the victims were predominantly women migrant workers from Odisha and other States, who were not only employed at the factory but were also residing in the accommodation provided on the factory premises.

The commission asked the district administration to examine whether the factory possessed the required licences and approval to handle ammonia and whether it complied with labour safety, occupational health and statutory regulations.

The district administration was also asked to detail the legal action initiated against those responsible for the accident, the compensation and assistance provided to the victims and the families of the deceased.

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

A month after final nod, CMRL's Phase II stretch yet to be inaugurated

Commuters lament the delay in opening the Poonamallee-Porur stretch. Officials stress the need to maintain the stations despite the undue delay

TRACK TALES

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

Despite receiving the final approval from the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety a month ago, the Chennai Metro Rail's phase II stretch from Poonamallee to Porur and Vadapalani is yet to be opened for public use.

Even as it awaits inauguration, the stretch sees hundreds of staff maintaining the stations, with electricity being consumed for various purposes every day. Pointing out that crores of taxpayers' money are required to maintain a ready asset, commuters ask why the stretch has not been launched till today.

Financial drain: Sources say a few crore rupees would be paid for the maintenance of the stations, which began in April. FILE PHOTO

'Details sent'

Sources said the readiness of the stretch had already been communicated to the Centre and all the details sent, and that they were expecting the inauguration to take place soon.

"Nearly 350-400 workers are employed in maintaining the stations from Poonamallee to Porur and the Vadapalani station. The air-conditioning system is used in rooms housing various systems and lights are switched on every evening. This has been the case for the last three months. This is a necessity. We cannot keep the stations closed and reopen it one fine day before the launch. The systems and stations would be thrown into disarray if maintenance is stopped," a source said.

Since April, the contractor has been maintaining the stations. The firm will soon be paid a few crore rupees for these services, though the resources were not being utilised, another source said.

'Money getting wasted'

R.K. Ravichandran, a resident of Iyyapanthangal, said, "It is taxpayers' money that is getting wasted. There should be some accountability. Initially, the authorities kept pushing the deadline saying the construction was yet to be completed. Now that the stations are ready, they are still not opening it. At the end of the day, it is the commuters who suffer without access to a mass rapid transit system."

G. Subramaniam, a resident of Poonamallee, said he could drastically reduce his travel time to north Chennai if he had access to the Chennai Metro Rail system.

"I often travel to Tiruvottiyur, and it takes nearly an hour and a half by car. I have been looking forward to the launch so that commuting will become easier. It is unfair how, after spending so much of public money, the facility is still not accessible to commuters," he added.

The Hindu In School, BPCL set to roll out cleanliness campaign

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu In School, in association with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), is set to roll out "Swachhata Pakhwada 2026", a 15-day nationwide cleanliness initiative aligned with the Government of India's flagship Swachh Bharat Mission.

Swachhata Pakhwada (Cleanliness Fortnight) aims at transforming cleanliness into a people's movement through innovative ideas and active community participation.

As part of this initiative, 50 select government schools in Chennai will participate in the programme from July 1 to July 15. The campaign is designed to engage students of diverse age groups through creative and thought-provoking competitions such as drawing, slogan, and essay writing.

The top 10 performers in each category will be recognised. There will be one winner, two runners-up and seven consolation winners. *The Hindu In School*-BPCL Swachhata Pakhwada 2026 seeks to go beyond awareness; it aims at inspiring behavioural change among students so they could become ambassadors of cleanliness within their communities.

Mylswamy Annadurai made Chairman of reconstituted curriculum design panel

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientist Mylswamy Annadurai will be the new Chairman of the Curriculum Design Committee, replacing biologist Sultan Ahmed Ismail. In a Government Order, the School Education Department suppressed the previous G.O. and reconstituted the committee.

Apart from the new Chairman, the committee has retained all other experts, including Puducherry University professor K. Rajan, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research professor T.V. Venkateswaran, and University of Madras professor Rita John.

Mylswamy Annadurai

In early June, Mr. Ahmed had said in a social media post that he had been asked to resign from the post of curriculum design committee chairman. Thanking former Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, he said: "I just received an official call from the newly-formed Tamil Nadu government asking me to resign from this assignment as they are forming a new committee. All the best to the new team, and hope they follow the trend set by us."

The G.O. said the tenure of the new committee would be three years, and it would be paid honorarium, travel allowance, and accommodation. So far, the department has brought out textbooks with the new curriculum for Classes I to III.

CCB invites plaints from private schools in alleged ₹100-cr. scam

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Greater Chennai Police has urged school managements to file complaints against P.T. Arasakumar, 59, who was arrested on Saturday for allegedly cheating private schools across Tamil Nadu of about ₹100 crore by promising to obtain government approvals.

Based on a complaint lodged by Elangovan, the Secretary of the Federation of Associations of Private Schools in Tamil Nadu, the CCB registered a case and launched an investigation into the alleged fraud.

According to the complainant, Arasakumar, who allegedly projected himself as the president of an unregistered body called 'Tamil Nadu Private Schools Association', along with a few associates, collected large sums of money from private school managements across Tamil Nadu.

Fake promises

The accused allegedly promised to secure permanent recognition, school upgradation approvals, and other government permissions.

Arasukumar failed to obtain the promised approvals and did not return the money collected from the schools.

The CCB said that during the investigation, police examined documents, bank transaction records, and statements obtained from the school managements.

The investigation has revealed that money was collected from schools across multiple districts in Tamil Nadu.

Investigators continue to compile details of the affected schools and identify the districts involved.

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No.: +91-651-2225878,
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752, e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/BS/CKP/2026 - 710 Date- 25.06.2026
e-Procurement (Tender Notice)

1	Name of Work	Construction of Bus Stand at Chakradharpur, West Singhbhum, Jharkhand
2	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
3	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 14,11,01,136/- (Rupees Fourteen Crore, Eleven Lakhs, One Thousand, One Hundred Thirty-Six) Only
4	Time of Completion	18 Months
5	Tender Fee and Bid Security to be submitted online	Tender document fee: Rs 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand) only. **Non-Refundable.** Bid Security: Rs. 14,12,000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Twelve Thousand) only
6	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	29.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.
7	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	20.07.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
8	Date/Time of opening of Bid	21.07.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
9	Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834001
10	Helpline Number of e-procurement Cell	0651-2225878

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd, Ranchi

PR 383548 Urban Development(26-27)D

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BIDDING (IFB) E-TENDER (RFx) NOTICE

Notice for submission of online bids (RFx) for following

S.N.	RFx/Tender No. & Description
1	**RFx No. 7000040503 (Seventh Call)** Work of installation, Testing and commissioning of new 5 x 50 MV Ar, switchable 400kV Line Reactors against replacement of old 5 x 50 MV Ar, line reactor at 400 kV Girwali Substation under EHV PC O&M Zone Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 15,11,01,623.88/- Only (Including GST & Labour cess). **EMD:** Rs. 15,11,016/- **Tender Fees:** Rs. 25000/- (Including GST) **Contact No:** Executive Engineer (8554995266) **Submission Date:** 13.07.2026. For further details, visit our Website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, EHV PC & O&M Zone
MSETCL, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

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

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Sr. DSTE, South Eastern Railway, Ranchi-834003 invites E-tender for the following work. **e-NIT No.: STRNC-26S04-MAEL, Date: 25.06.2026. Name of the work:** Execution of Signaling and Telecom works in connection with Increase in CSR length of Line no.1 by Shifting of X- Over points and shifting of EIMWB from Line no. 1 to Line no. 3 at Mael (MAEL) station of Ranchi division. **Advertised Value:** ₹ 1,66,08,977.04. **EMD:** ₹ 3,32,200. **Cost of Tender document:** NIL. **Date & Time for closing of e-tender:** 20.07.2026, 11:00 hrs. **Bidding start date:** 06.07.2026. **Website particulars and details: www.ireps.gov.in** for works tender. **(PR-389)**

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RESEARCH DESIGNS AND STANDARDS ORGANISATION (RDSO)
MANAK NAGAR, LUCKNOW

NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Ministry of Railways, Research Designs and Standards Organization (RDSO), Lucknow, India is interested in Development of Functional Requirement Specification (FRS) for Air Generation Treatment Unit(AGTU) as an Integrated Unit of 2000 LPM Compressor along with Air Dryer for Electric Locomotives along with details etc. appearing on RDSO website. Firms interested in developing and supply of said items are requested to see the details on RDSO website www.rdso.indianrailways.gov.in at HOME PAGE under Vendor Interface -> Expression of Interest (EOI).

PEDSE
RDSO, Lucknow-226011

MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
Ministry of MSME Govt. Of India | MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, GOVT. OF INDIA | KIADB Industrial Estate, Devanahalli, Bengaluru | website:www.msmetc8r.org
4 DAYS GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE COURSE ON
AI FOR FINANCE
Course Duration 4 Days (ONLINE) Date: 04, 05, 11 & 12 July 2026 Time : 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Course Content: AI for Personal Finance, Stock Market Investing with AI, Mutual Funds & ETFs, Financial Statement Analysis, Real Estate, **Gold & Alternative Investments, Tax Planning & Compliance, Business Finance**, Corporate Finance & FP&A, AI for Audit, Risk & Fraud Detection.
Course for - Chartered Accountants (CAs), Company Secretaries (CS), Cost & Management, Accountants (CMAs), Finance Managers, Accountants, Tax Consultants, Financial Analysts, Investors & Traders, Entrepreneurs & Business Owners, MBA/B.Com/M.Com Students/Any interested Candidates..
Fees : Rs.4,130/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)
Coordinator: 9818676612, 9818528498, 9686564246
Government of India certificate will be awarded

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, www.cdgiindia.net
2 DAYS GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATION ON
YOUTUBE BUSINESS TRAINING
How to Start YouTube Business
Course Duration 2 Days (ONLINE) Date: 04 & 05 July 2026 Time : 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Course Content: Professional YouTube channel Setup, YouTube videos, Reels & Shorts, Video Shoop, Equipments Handling, **Video Editing, Voice Dubbing**, Title Animation, Content Creation, Audience Targeting, YouTube monetization, Subscribers Increasing tips, YouTube business Type, Analytics, Page Branding, Earning Money, Attracting Viewers, Investment Cost, **Video creation platform**, How to create a video, Thumbnail designing, youtube script Writing, **How to Promote your Business/Yourself in youtube using AI & Chatgpt** more topics
Fees : Rs.3,540/- (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

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC Building, Chennamanakere Achchukattu, Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-85
No.: EE(BG)/KPPP/TEND/03/2026-27 Date: 29.06.2026
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPPP only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Basavangudi Division, BWCC invites tender from eligible Tenderers registered contractors of Bengaluru West City Corporation or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD or any state Governmental Organization for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Package
1	Comprehensive development of Roads & Drains & other Allied Works in Ward No. 95,96 & 98 Kathriguppe Sub Division, Under 2000 Cr Grants (Comprising of 07 Works in G.O. BWCC Sl. No.- 90,91,92,93,94,95 & 96) Package No-01- 2026-27. **Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 1032.55, EMD (in Rs.): 15,00,000/-.**
2	Comprehensive development of Roads & Drains & other Allied Works in Ward No. 95,96,98 & 103 Kathriguppe & Shrinivasanagara Sub Division, Under 2000 Cr Grants (Comprising of 07 Works in G.O. BWCC Sl. No.- 97,98,99,100,101,102 & 103) Package No- 02-2026-27. **Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 1032.56, EMD (in Rs.): 15,00,000/-.**
3	Comprehensive development of Roads & Drains & other Allied Works in Ward No- 97,99,100,101,102 & 104 Hanumanthanagar and Shrinivasanagara Sub Division, Under 2000 Cr Grants (Comprising of 08 Works in G.O. BWCC Sl. No.-104,105,106,107,108,109,110 & 111) Package No- 03-2026-27. **Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 1032.46, EMD (in Rs.): 15,00,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP Portal: from **01.07.2026** at **3:00 p.m.** onwards. **(2)** Last date of submission queries: On **04.07.2026** within **3:00 p.m. (3)** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **04.07.2026** at **4:00 p.m.** in the Office of Chief Engineer, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC, Palike Soudha Building, 1st Floor, 14th Cross, Chandralayout, Bengaluru-560072. **(4)** Last date & time for uploading tender documents: On **08.07.2026** upto **4:00 p.m. (5)** Opening of tender: On **09.07.2026** at **4:30 p.m. (6)** Financial bid opening: On **10.07.2026** after **4:00 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, Bengaluru West City Corporation

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-19/1846/2026-27 Date: 29.06.2026
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Super Grade Electrical License issued from KCEI & Class-1 (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Part-A : Establishment of 2x20 MVA, 66/11kV Substation at Gowribidanur Industrial Area Phase-3, Chikkaballapura District. **Part-B:** (i) Construction of 66kV SC line on DC towers from Kudumalakunte 66/11kV Substation to common tower for distance of 0.958 kms. (ii) Construction of 66kV SC line on DC Towers from Vidhurashwatha 66/11kV Substation to common tower for distance of 3.355 kms. (iii) Construction of 66kV DC Line on DC Towers from Common Point to proposed 66/11kV Gowribidnur Industrial Area 3rd Phase Substation for a distance of 1.971 kms. **Part-C:** (i) Providing 1 No of additional line TB at existing Industrial 66/11kV Substation Kudumalakunte Area in Chikkaballapura District. (ii) Providing 1 No of additional TB at existing 66/11kV Substation Vidurashwatha in Chikkaballapura District. (3rd Call)

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **14.07.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Engineer in Chief,
KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1390/Zen/2026-27

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, मेदिनीनगर

शुद्धि-पत्र

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, मेदिनीनगर अन्तर्गत आमंत्रित ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–DWSD/RPWS/Med-04/2026-27 (1st Call) (पाण्डू ग्रामीण जलापूर्ति योजना) जो PR No. 382286 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 26-27*D द्वारा विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित है। जिसे अपरिहार्य कारणों से निविदा की तिथि निम्न प्रकार संशोधित किया जाता है :–

क्र0 सं0	विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
1	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	**19/06/2026 / 12.30** बजे अपराहन में।	**10.07.2026 / 12.30** बजे अपराहन में।
2	प्री बीड की तिथि एवं समय	**24/06/2026 / 12.30** बजे अपराहन में।	**13/07/2026 / 12.30** बजे अपराहन में।
3	बीड प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	**04/07/2026 / 05.00** बजे अपराहन तक	**23.07.2026 / 05.00** बजे अपराहन तक
4	सरकार के सचिव, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी एवं ई–गवर्नेस, झारखण्ड मंत्रालय, के ज्ञापांक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के आलोक में विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि Online जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	**04/07/2026 / 05.00** बजे अपराहन तक	**23.07.2026 / 05.00** बजे अपराहन तक
5	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	**06/07/2026 / 05.00** बजे अपराहन में।	**24.07.2026 / 05.00** बजे अपराहन में।

यह शुद्धि–पत्र परिमाण विपत्र का भाग होगा एवं शेष पूर्ववत् रहेंगे।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल,
मेदिनीनगर

PR 383477 Drinking Water and Sanitation (26-27)_D

झारखंड सरकार, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, गुमला

ई– पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना।

ई–निविदा संख्या:- 13/R6/2023-24/RWD/W/EE/GUMLA दिनांक:–27.06.2026

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गुमला द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि अंक में (लाख)	प्राक्कलित राशि अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि।	टेंण्डर कॉल सं0
1	RWD/ GUMLA/ STPKG-13/ 2023-24	कपरी बी0पी0डी0पी0 रोड से फरसामा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–3.000 कि0मी0)	1089. 794	दस करोड़ नवासी लाख उनासी हजार चार सौ रू0 मात्र।	15 माह	सप्तम
		ममारला से बंगालोया तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–3.400 कि0मी0)				
		पाकरटोली से जामटोली पार्ट–बी0 तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–6.500 कि0मी0)				
		नावाडीह से गांगरा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–1.800 कि0मी0)				
		नारेकेला से नावाडीह तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–4.600 कि0मी0)				
		नारेकेला से लोहरी तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–1.600 कि0मी0)				
		एस0एच0 लोंगा से सिवाटोली तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं0–3.250 कि0मी0)				

2 वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 02.07.2026
3 ई– निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 09.07.2026 अपराहन 05.00 बजे तक।
4 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 11.07.2026 अपराहन 11.00 बजे।
5 निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गुमला, विकास भवन, गुमला के बगल में, पिन–835207
6 ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0–06524–465040 ।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

ह0/– कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्य प्रमण्डल, गुमला।

PR.NO.383528 Rural Work Department(26-27):D

ADVERTISEMENT

EDUCATING
A TRILLION-DOLLAR FUTURE

Building Human Capital Through Inclusive Learning, Research Excellence and Future-Ready Skills

Over the past nine years, Uttar Pradesh has undertaken one of India's largest education transformations. From strengthening foundational learning and modernising school infrastructure to expanding higher education and future-ready skill ecosystems, the State has focused on building an inclusive, technology-enabled and outcome-driven education framework. These efforts are empowering students, supporting girls' education, enhancing research and innovation, and preparing a skilled workforce aligned with the vision of a **$1 Trillion Economy.**

FOUR PILLARS OF TRANSFORMATION

BASIC EDUCATION

Strong Foundations.
Better Learning. Wider Access.

- Parishadiya Vidyalaya enrolment increased 13.22 lakh (2024-25) to 15.84 lakh (2025-26)
- **96.3%** School saturation achieved under Operation Kayakalp
- **1.30 crore+** Students receiving DBT support annually
- **2.61 lakh** Tablets distributed to teachers
- **4.53 lakh** Teachers trained under FLN (Foundational Literacy and Numeracy) initiatives

Improved infrastructure, teacher capacity and digital readiness are strengthening learning outcomes across Uttar Pradesh's foundational education system.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Expanding Access.
Empowering Aspirations.

- **29,216** operational secondary schools
- **778** ICT (Information and Communication Technology Labs
- **1,236** Smart Classrooms
- **41** New Government Intermediate Colleges Completed
- **215** Government High Schools Completed
- **280** New Schools Operational

Enhanced infrastructure and technology-enabled learning environments are helping students transition confidently into higher education and future careers.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Knowledge, Research, Innovation

- **38** State Universities
- **52** Private Universities
- Government college expansion across districts
- Chief Minister IKS Global Excellence Fund established to promote advanced research and international collaboration in the Indian Knowledge System.
- NAAC and NIRF performance improvements

A growing higher education ecosystem is creating opportunities for research, innovation and global academic engagement.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Skills for a Future Economy.

- AI, Robotics, IoT and Data Science integrated into learning pathways
- Industry partnerships and innovation ecosystems strengthened
- Online learning and digital content platforms expanded
- Advanced laboratories established across technical institutions

Technical education is increasingly aligned with emerging technologies and industry requirements, preparing students for future employment opportunities.

GIRLS' EDUCATION, INCLUSION & EQUITY

Ensuring Quality Learning for Every Child

KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYAS

746 KGBVs upgraded up to Classes 6-12, serving 87,647 enrolled girls.
Facilities: Smart Classrooms, ICT Labs, Self-defence Training, Meena Manch, Sports Promotion.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Support for children with disabilities through assistive devices and specialised interventions

PM SHRI SCHOOLS

1,722 schools strengthened with smart classrooms, ICT facilities and sports infrastructure

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Free admission provided to:
1.65 lakh children (2024-25)
1.85 lakh children (2025-26)

EDUCATION BY NUMBERS

Enhanced Honorarium Support Per Month
Shiksha Mitras ₹18,000
Instructors ₹17,000
Effective from 1 April, 2026

1.52 Cr Students under PM POSHAN (Mid-Day Meal)

1296 Sanskrit Schools Operational

77,000+ E-Content Learning Resources

₹2,000 Per Month For 3.63 Lakh cooks Covered under Ayushman Bharat

From foundational learning and digital classrooms to research ecosystems, innovation and industry-ready skills, Uttar Pradesh is investing in its people to create a future-ready workforce and strengthen the human capital foundation of a trillion-dollar economy.

Building Human Capital for a Trillion-Dollar Uttar Pradesh

From Page One

M.R. Vijayabhaskar resigns as MLA

In a counter-affidavit filed before Chief Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Justice G. Arul Murugan, through Advocate-General Vijay Narayan, Assembly Secretary R. Santhi said a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, too, in *Shrimanth Balasaheb Patil vs Honourable Speaker of Karnataka* (2019) had held that the motive would be "irrelevant".

The counter-affidavit was filed in response to two writ petitions filed by AIADMK whip Agri S.S. Krishnamurthy. The petitioner had challenged the Speaker's decision to accept the resignation of S. Jayakumar, P. Sathyabama, Maragatham Kumaravel, and Esaki Subaya, who had been elected on AIADMK ticket.

'It is voluntary and genuine'

Ms. Santhi said the Speaker had accepted the resignation because all the four MLAs had submitted their handwritten resignation letters in person. "The first respondent [the Speaker], upon receipt of the respective resignation letters and after interacting with the Members... and after such inquiry as he thought fit in the facts and circumstances, satisfied himself that the resignation was voluntary and genuine," she added.

Further, there was no material or circumstance before the Speaker casting any doubt on the voluntariness or genuineness of the resignation letters. Therefore, the Speaker had accepted them in discharge of his constitutional function, the Assembly Secretary said. "It is denied that the acceptance was hasty, mechanical, illusory, *mala fide*, biased, colourable, or actuated by any extraneous or partisan consideration, as is baldly and irresponsibly alleged [by the writ petitioner]. The first respondent occupies a high constitutional office... and a presumption of regularity is attached to his official acts, which the petitioner has not even attempted to displace by any material particulars," the counter-affidavit read.

The officer highlighted that Article 190(3)(b) of the Constitution empowers the Speaker to reject a resignation only if it is not genuine or voluntary. "The scheme of the provision is that acceptance is the norm; refusal is the exception," she said, underlining that the Speaker also enjoys the discretion to determine the nature and extent of inquiry to be conducted before accepting the resignation.

Referring to the use of the words, 'such inquiry as he thinks fit', in the Article, Ms. Santhi said the language makes it clear that the Speaker need not necessarily conduct an elaborate or adversarial inquiry even in instances wherein the members tender their handwritten resignation letters in person.

The Assembly Secretary also argued that the writ petitioner had no enforceable legal right to compel the Speaker to reject the resignation letters just because the four MLAs were facing disqualification proceedings for having allegedly violated the AIADMK whip by voting in favour of a vote of confidence moved by the Chief Minister in the Assembly on May 13.

The officer made it clear that the acceptance of the resignation letters would not absolve the individuals concerned from the pending disqualification proceedings. Nevertheless, she said, the writ petitioner could not seek a direction to the Speaker to adjudicate the disqualification proceedings within a time frame to be fixed by the court.

After taking the counter-affidavit on file, the judges adjourned the hearing to July 13, since advocate S.R. Rajagopal, representing the writ petitioner, sought time to file a rejoinder.

Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin termed the resignation of Mr. M.R. Vijayabhaskar a betrayal of the people. He said the development exposed the extreme levels to which the ruling party's "poaching politics" had escalated. "Continuously purchasing MLAs owing to lack of confidence in the alliance partners that helped to form the government is a massive betrayal of the people," he said.

Vijay directs Collectors, SPs to tackle crimes effectively, act without political interference

CM stresses the need to crack down on drug trafficking and prevent plunder of natural resources. No wrongdoers, regardless of their standing, must escape swift, impartial punishment, he adds

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Monday directed District Collectors and Superintendents of Police to effectively tackle crimes by identifying the root cause and maximise public safety.

Stressing the need to crack down on drug trafficking and protect natural resources from plunder, he said no wrongdoers, regardless of their standing, should escape swift and impartial punishment.

Addressing the first two-day joint conference of Collectors, SPs and other senior police officials since his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led government assumed office in May, Mr. Vijay said the officials "could act without political interference".

"District Collectors and Superintendents of Police should actively monitor and take action against drug trafficking and smuggling of mineral resources," Mr. Vijay said at the conference held at the Secretariat here.

"Collectors and SPs should take steps to prevent criminal incidents by identifying the root cause.

Tough stand: Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay addressing officials at a conference in Chennai on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A change should be brought about in the behaviour of those who disturb law and order," he said in his opening remarks.

Safety of women should be ensured without any compromise and special arrangements should be made for their protection. Special attention should also be given to the safety of students and children, he said.

"Shops near schools should be continuously monitored. Periodic checks should be conducted if necessary. Those involved in drug-related crimes should be immediately arrested and punished," the Chief Minister said.

'For social justice'

Mr. Vijay emphasised that the people elected the TVK-led government for social justice and for an administration that was transparent, honest, and corruption-free. "We must pay special attention to basic needs such as rations, education, drinking water, health, electricity, road facilities, and bus facilities," he said.

"Regarding law and order, you can decide freely. Whoever the wrongdoers are, no matter how powerful they are, they should be punished immediately and impartially according to the law. Innocent persons should not be penalised," the Chief Minister added.

Collectors should hold online meetings with officials ahead of public grievance redress meetings. Mr. Vijay asked them to treat farmers, fishermen and persons with disabilities with courtesy and empathy while handling their grievances. Officials should conduct field visits regularly and take follow-up action on petitions received, he said.

The Chief Minister suggested that Collectors hold a law and order meeting every month and coordinate with the relevant departments.

He emphasised the importance of consulting legal experts on crucial cases so that wrongdoers do not escape the law.

Apart from District Collectors and Superintendents of Police, Deputy Inspectors General of Police, the Director General of Police and heads of various government departments also participated in the conference.

CCB summons former Minister as part of probe into alleged job fraud

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Job Fraud Investigation Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) has issued summons to former Transport Minister S.S. Sivasankar (DMK), directing him to appear before investigators on Wednesday in connection with an alleged recruitment fraud involving a promise of employment in the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC).

According to police, the summons was served at Mr. Sivasankar's residence as part of the investigation into a complaint lodged by S. Srinivasan, 65, a retired Special Sub-Inspector of Police, that he was allegedly cheated of ₹23 lakh on the assurance of securing an Assistant Engineer's post for his son in the MTC. The summons come days after the arrest of L. Ilanchezhiyan, 60, in Erode by a special CCB team.

Investigators said Ilanchezhiyan claimed to have close political connections with Mr. Sivasankar and collected ₹23 lakh from Mr. Srinivasan in several instalments between 2023 and 2025, promising to arrange an MTC job for the complainant's son. However, neither the job was secured nor the money re-

S.S. Sivasankar

turned, the police said. During the arrest, the police recovered two identity cards from Ilanchezhiyan's possession as part of the evidence. Investigators also sealed Ilanchezhiyan's house in Ariyalur district.

Meanwhile, the Job Fraud Investigation Wing has moved the Egmore Magistrate Court seeking seven days' police custody of the accused for further interrogation. Following Ilanchezhiyan's arrest, Mr. Sivasankar said in a social media post that the accused had never worked as his personal assistant and denied any such association.

Police sources confirmed the complainant mentioned the name of the former Minister in the complaint and so summons were issued to Mr. Sivasankar, asking him to appear before the investigation officer concerned on Wednesday for an inquiry.

Resignation of M.R. Vijayabhaskar illustrates fragile nature of truce between the rebels in AIADMK and Palaniswami

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The resignation of the AIADMK's MLA from Karur, M.R. Vijayabhaskar, illustrates the fragile nature of the rebels' truce with party general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

Mr. Vijayabhaskar, who held the portfolio of Transport during 2016-21, when Jayalalithaa, O. Panneerselvam, and Mr. Palaniswami were Chief Ministers, was among the 25 dissidents who sided with the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led government during the motion on vote of confidence moved by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay in the Assembly on May 13, defying their party's whip.

However, two weeks later, he and 20 others returned to the fold of the faction led by Mr. Palaniswami, who had got the disqualification proceedings dropped against them by writing to Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar.

Since then, there has been, by and large, an eerie silence on the part of the dissidents.

'Suppressing dissent'

Two weeks ago, only former Law Minister C.Ve. Shanmugam, the prominent face of the party in the Villupuram district, accused the AIADMK general secretary of "refusing to correct errors and suppressing dissent" within the party.

Edappadi K. Palaniswami

Unlike Mr. Shanmugam, Mr. Vijayabhaskar did not launch a tirade against Mr. Palaniswami, but it was quite obvious that he did not feel comfortable with what had been offered to him organisationally. On Thursday last, when Mr. Palaniswami announced new party positions for many leaders, including a number of rebels, Mr. Vijayabhaskar was appointed one of the joint propaganda secretaries.

Most of the rebels held the post of district secretary, considered the most powerful position in the party in their respective areas.

Contrary to the custom in the party on getting fresh assignments, the former Transport Minister did not meet the general secretary and thank him for the posting.

A few other senior leaders and former Ministers, Natham R. Viswanathan and S.P. Velumani too, who were made deputy general secretaries, have yet to meet Mr. Palaniswami.

Expected to join TVK

Mr. Vijayabhaskar's move follows a similar action on the part of his namesake and fellow legislator (representing Viralimalai) a few weeks ago. The two dissidents are expected to join the TVK.

Asked whether the quality of "obstinacy" on the part of Mr. Palaniswami is coming in the way of achieving an effective compromise between him and the dissidents, the party's MP (Rajya Sabha) and supporter of the general secretary M. Dhanapal replied in the negative and wondered: "Does not the action of Edappadiar [Mr. Palaniswami] giving the dissidents new positions in the party reflect that he is quite flexible and considerate?"

'Ruling party desperate'

The MP contended that as the ruling party was "desperate" to free itself of the hold of the two Communist parties and the Viduthalai Chirtuthaigal Katchi, it is wooing legislators of the AIADMK to its side, so the TVK can acquire "greater strength, if not a majority of its own."

Stalin, Kanimozhi condemn arrest of DMK cadre for protesting against Minister

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

DMK president M.K. Stalin and deputy general secretary Kanimozhi on Monday strongly condemned the denial of permission and the subsequent arrest of DMK student wing cadre who attempted to protest against Human Resources Management Minister D. Sarathkumar. The protests were triggered by a video, which showed the Minister performing actions that looked like preparations for snorting drugs, during an IPL match at the M.A. Chidambaram Cricket Stadium in Chennai.

"The arrest of DMK members protesting against a Minister, the registration of a case against former Minister Sivasankar for criticising the TVK administration, and the recent raid at former Minister E.V. Velu's residence all point to one thing: the Chief Minister [C. Joseph Vijay] is desperately trying to safeguard a fake image by intimidating the Opposition and evading the media. This authoritarian approach will not last long. The people will teach them a fitting lesson," Mr. Stalin wrote in a post on X.

> The Chief Minister is desperately trying to safeguard a fake image by intimidating the Opposition and evading the media. This authoritarian approach will not last long
>
> **M.K. STALIN**
> DMK president

Ms. Kanimozhi questioned the democratic credentials of the ruling dispensation. "The TVK government, which calls itself a democratic force, is denying permission even for the opposition to hold peaceful protests. A proper investigation must be conducted against the accused Minister, and action should be taken," she added.

Application process for MBBS/BDS begins

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Applications for admission to MBBS and BDS courses in Tamil Nadu commenced on Monday noon through the website – tnmedicalselection.org.

Officials of the Selection Committee, Directorate of Medical Education and Research, said the application window would remain open till at least one week after the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) results are released. The NEET undergraduate re-examination was held on June 21.

Dos and don'ts

For candidates looking to apply, Manickavel Arumugam, education counsellor, shared a few dos and don'ts. "Admission happens only through government counselling. Do not fall into the trap of fraudsters. No one can secure an MBBS/BDS seat for you without going through counselling," he said, adding that no one could obtain MBBS/BDS admission anywhere in India without passing NEET. Registration with individual colleges was not necessary (the exception is the management quota seats at Christian Medical College, Vellore), he said. If any candidate is unsure of securing a government quota seat, Mr. Arumugam recommended registering for the management quota too. "If you do not register now, you will not be able to add it at a later stage," he said.

Mr. Arumugam urged candidates to consider their budget, keeping in mind that it is a long-term commitment. "Do not claim nativity if you are not a native of Tamil Nadu. Don't submit fake documents," he added.

Making Rahul Gandhi PM in 2029 should be our objective, says new TNCC president

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Congress MP from Virudhunagar B. Manickam Tagore on Monday assumed charge as the president of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) in the presence of senior leaders, Congress Ministers, MPs, and a few former TNCC chiefs at Sathyamurthy Bhavan in Chennai.

Mr. Tagore said assuming the post was akin to "running a marathon" and praised the contributions of his predecessors in building the party.

"Winning 40 out of 40 Lok Sabha seats (in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry) and ensuring that Rahul Gandhi becomes the Prime Minister in 2029 should be our target. Only Rahul Gandhi can ensure the abolition of NEET, protection of our rights over the Cauvery, ensure the security of fishermen, provide a fair devolution of taxes to Tamil Nadu, and Centre's financial support. We have to build this narrative on the ground," he said.

Outgoing TNCC president K. Selvaperunthagai felicitating his successor B. Manickam Tagore. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

On his run-ins with DMK leaders in the recent past, Mr. Tagore said he would hit back at those who attacked the Congress. "The TNCC is new to me. There may be certain issues with my approach. We are all human beings, but we have to understand that Congress alone is important," he said. He appealed to Congress Ministers to be present at Sathyamurthy Bhavan one day of the week to meet the cadre.

Mr. Selvaperunthagai said: "I am handing over the responsibility in the same way I took over the responsibility in 2024. We started Village Committees across Tamil Nadu for which Peter Alphonse also took on the responsibility. As many as 17,654 ward committees have been formed and around 1,64,000 ID cards with QR codes have been distributed. I thank everyone for the opportunity."

INBRIEF

Attack on ex-Kerala Minister: KSU worker withdraws plea

A petition before the Kerala High Court by Kerala Students Union (KSU) worker Athul M.C., one of the accused in the alleged attack on former Health Minister Veena George, was withdrawn on Monday. The plea sought to dismiss the FIR registered over the alleged attempt to attack Ms. George at Kannur Railway Station in February. The petitioner requested withdrawal since the FIR had been amended to exclude "attempt to murder" in the course of the investigation.

Two bodies retrieved from water tank in Krishna district

In a shocking incident, police on Monday retrieved two bodies allegedly dumped in a tank tied to a bike in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. As per witness accounts, unidentified persons allegedly tied the bodies to the bike and threw them into the tank. The victims had been reported missing since Saturday, said family members. A case under Section 194 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita has been registered, and a probe is under way, the police said.

Lokesh, Singapore Consul General discuss investment

Singapore Consul General in Chennai Edgar Pang Tze Chiang called on Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh at his residence on Monday. During the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen the partnership between the State and Singapore. Mr. Lokesh sought Singapore's support in enhancing bilateral cooperation in technology, trade, investments and the maritime sector. He outlined the State's 'Speed of Doing Business' initiative and investment opportunities.

Sabarimala gold theft: report finds conspiracy by TDB staff

Court permits SIT to register fresh case against officials; as per interim report, while giving permit for gold-plating *dwarapalakas*, the officials deliberately described the coverings as copper plates

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

An interim report submitted before the Kerala High Court by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged misappropriation of gold from the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple during the course of gold-plating works, has mentioned criminal conspiracy by P.S. Prashanth, who was then the president of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), among others.

Following this, the court permitted the SIT to register a fresh case against Mr. Prashanth and the others.

Judicial push: The Kerala High Court has asked the SIT to submit its final report expeditiously. FILE PHOTO

The report states that collected materials clearly establish the role of Murari Babu, Executive Officer, Sabarimala; Unnikrishnan Potti, sponsor for gold-plating the Dwarapalaka idols; Pankaj Bhandari, proprietor of Smart Creations, Chennai, where the idols were taken for gold-plating; among others.

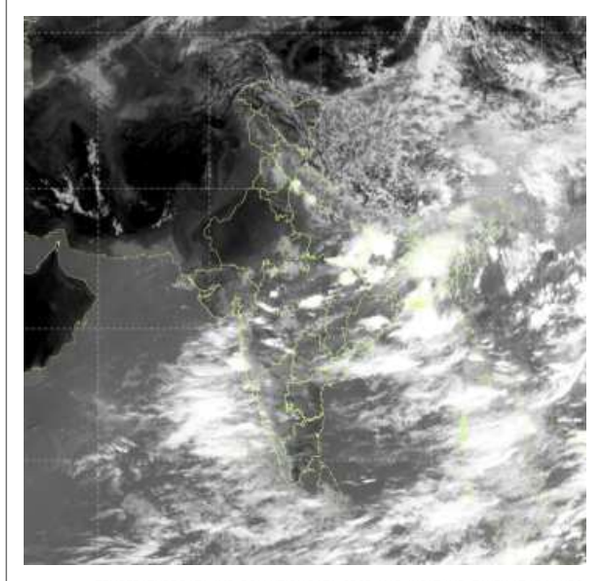
Based on the interim report by S. Sasidharan, the officer leading the SIT, a Division Bench said stringent action ought to be initiated under the BNSS. The team was asked to ensure the final report is submitted as early as possible.

As per the interim report, the *dwarapalakas* (guardian deities), which were originally clad with gold in 1998, were transported to Chennai in 2019 at Mr. Potti's request. While granting permission for the same, the TDB officers, deliberately described the coverings on the idols as copper plates. This was to remove the gold from the idols and instead plate a thin film of gold over them. The original gold cladding was removed at the Chennai firm. The extracted was misappropriated by the accused.

The case has been posted for hearing on July 20.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh. Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal and South Interior Karnataka.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.4	26.9	Kurnool	—	35.1	—
Ahmedabad	—	39.6	29.7	Lucknow	00.0	00.0	00.0
Aizawl	3.6	32.5	23.7	Madurai	—	37.5	26.4
Bengaluru	—	28.0	—	Mangaluru	—	28.4	—
Bhopal	—	34.2	—	Mumbai	—	28.8	—
Bhubaneswar	—	38.2	—	Mysuru	—	32.0	—
Chandigarh	—	39.6	30.3	New Delhi	—	41.8	—
Chennai	—	38.0	27.4	Patna	—	35.4	—
Coimbatore	—	31.2	22.6	Port Blair	5.1	29.2	24.7
Dehradun	1.6	34.2	25.0	Prayagraj	—	41.0	30.8
Gangtok	—	23.4	—	Puducherry	—	38.2	27.5
Goa	—	30.5	—	Pune	—	34.2	—
Guwahati	—	—	—	Raipur	—	36.3	—
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Ranchi	—	33.9	—
Hyderabad	0.3	31.6	25.4	Shillong	—	—	—
Imphal	0.2	32.1	22.3	Shimla	13.8	23.6	16.5
Jaipur	—	40.0	29.8	Srinagar	—	35.3	—
Kochi	—	29.0	—	Thiruvananthapuram	16.0	28.8	23.5
Kohima	—	—	—	Tiruchirappalli	—	37.7	27.0
Kolkata	—	34.8	29.0	Vijayawada	63.7	34.2	25.5
Kozhikode	—	28.1	—	Visakhapatnam	—	32.0	29.8

(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	.22	.23	.21	42	100	
Bengaluru	8	.10	.—	21	67	
Chennai	5	.12	.—	48	67	
Delhi	8	.60	.64	103	222	
Hyderabad	7	.12	.30	39	72	
Kolkata	5	.23	.24	55	60	
Lucknow	.34	.12	.31	44	69	
Mumbai	6	.12	.74	24	44	
Pune	.—	.31	100	32	45	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.55	.12	47	104	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 343 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

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

'No proof required in enumeration stage'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Electors in Karnataka will not have to produce any documents during the house-to-house enumeration for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls beginning on Tuesday, Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbu Kumar said on Monday.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Kumar said Booth Level Officers will only distribute and collect enumeration forms during the month-long exercise. He said that the forms will be in Kannada, but people can fill it up either in Kannada or in English.

The State's house-to-house enumeration will continue till July 29. The draft electoral rolls will be published on August 5, after which electors can file claims and objections until September 4.

Following disposal of claims and objections by October 3, the final electoral rolls will be published on October 7.

Karnataka ex-CM's 'audio clip' stirs row

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An audio clip purportedly of senior BJP leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda asking the party to wait till State president B.Y. Vijayendra completes his term in November before "kicking him out" went viral on Monday, causing a stir in the party.

It drew sharp reactions from Mr. Vijayendra's camp, even as it yet again exposed factionalism within the State BJP.

The audio clip, which Mr. Gowda said was fake, comes amid speculation that the party high command may opt for a revamp of the party's State leadership, unhappy over the state of affairs of the unit, especially after cross-voting in the recently held Legislative Council polls.

Mr. Gowda said he would not comment on the audio since it was not his, adding, he would answer only if the high command asked him about it.

BJP leader arrested in Telangana over ruckus in school

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana police arrested a local BJP leader from Nizamabad district on Monday, two days after he and his supporters entered a school and assaulted the principal, citing unauthorised conduct of Urdu classes.

The incident took place at Bharat Chandra High School, also known as Bhavishya Darshini School, in Perkit village of Armoor mandal in Nizamabad.

Urdu classes

The issue began after a recently appointed Hindi teacher was found teaching Urdu to students of Classes I to V during Hindi classes. An inquiry by education and police officials had confirmed the allegation against the teacher.

BJP Armoor Town president Mandula Balu and his supporters entered the school and confronted the management over the issue. During the altercation, the principal was allegedly assaulted in the presence of police personnel.

The police registered a first information report against Mr. Balu and his associates under provisions relating to trespass, voluntarily causing hurt, grievous hurt and mischief, of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). A second case was registered against the school correspondent Mallaiah, principal Ameer Khan and teacher Huma Hania under Section 196(1)(b) of the BNS for allegedly promoting enmity between different groups and acts prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony.

BJP, Cong. leaders come to blows at corporation meet

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A council meeting of the BJP-led Thiruvananthapuram Corporation in Kerala on Monday witnessed violent scenes as BJP councillor and Education Standing Committee Chairperson Chempazhanthy Udayan allegedly attacked United Democratic Front's (UDF) council leader K.S. Sabarinadhan and two women councillors of the Congress on Monday.

Mr. Udayan was seen charging at Mr. Sabarinadhan and a group of women councillors and forcefully snatching away the council attendance register.

Mr. Sabarinadhan alleged the fight broke out after the UDF councillors obtained possession of the council attendance register and the minutes book which the Mayor had "kept hidden". Mr. Udayan attempted to snatch the files, leading to the scuffle.

At a press conference after the meeting, the Mayor claimed that the UDF councillors had refused to return the attendance register after signing, leading to the scuffle. He added that "unfortunate incidents" which should not have happened occurred during the council meeting.

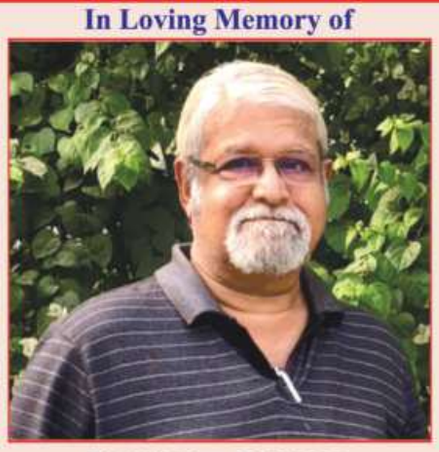
"The Mayor presented 700 agenda items within seven minutes and ran away from the council meeting. The attack on Mr. Sabarinadhan is the latest instance of BJP's use of political violence against the Opposition. Last week, the Mayor himself led an attack on protesting LDF councillors," LDF council party leader S.P. Deepak said.

CPI(M) leader V. Sivankutty demanded that the State government take action against Mr. Udayan for the "unprovoked" attack."

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

In Loving Memory of



09-03-1950 - 29-06-2026
Mr. Rajendran Ramachandran
Fondly known to family and friends as Raghu.
A beloved son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, he was blessed with the kindest of hearts, and his love for his family and courage defined his life.
He will forever live on in our hearts and memories and be deeply missed.
Fondly remembered by
His wife, Mrs. Mallika Rajendran, his children, Vivek and Pooja, daughter-in-law Suchitra, son-in-law Prashanth, and grandchildren Nithika, Navya, and Adhyanth.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section,
Please contact: 044-28576300 from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Toll Free: 1800 102 4161 from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to
www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

DEATH

In loving memory of
Mr. Pookat Sivaramakrishnan
Date of death -29 June 2026
Funeral - 1400 hours
30 June 2026
Ph - 9841400844

DEATH

OBITUARY

16.09.1929 - 28.06.2026
K.N. JAYARAMAN
Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather
His kindness, warmth, hard work and sincerity touched everyone that he met. We are grateful for the love he gave us without condition and for the example he has set for us to walk in his footsteps.
Vasantha Jayaraman
Jay Vasavan and Hemalatha Vasavan, Usha Sriram and K Sriram
Nanditha, Veena, Shyam and their families
Family, friends and loved ones

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

19th ANNIVERSARY

D.VENKATESAN
07 Nov 1945
-
30 Jun 2007
Fondly Remembered by
Wife V.PADMINI & RDM Family Members

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

In Loving Memory
Third Death Anniversary

Vijay Sargunar
26 April 1976 - 30 June 2023
Your voice is silent, smile is gone,
but your love lives forever in our hearts.
We miss you more then words can ever express.
Always loved. Always remembered.
Always missed.
Lovingly remembered by your family.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

4th ANNIVERSARY

D.O.B: 03-08-1950
D.O.D: 30-06-2022
Our beloved Director
Thiru.S.MANI
Sadly missed along life's way
Lovingly remembered every day
No longer in our life to share
But in our hearts you're always there
Fondly Remembered by
Management & staff
Phorotech Surfin (India) Pvt Ltd.,

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, राँची

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना
नेशनल कम्पेटेटीभ बिडिंग

टेन्डर रेफरेंन्स नं0– प0नि0वि0/राँची–03/2026–27 दिनांक :– 29.06.2026

1.	कार्य का नाम	कटहल मोड़ से दलादली चौक (रिंग रोड) पथ के चैनेज कि0मी0 0.00 से कि0मी0 2.070 (कुल लम्बाई– 2.070 कि0मी0) के चौड़ीकरण एवं मजबूतीकरण/ पुनर्निर्माण कार्य वर्ष 2026–27
2.	अनुमानित प्राक्कलित राशि (रू0 लाख में)	रू0 1770.92094 लाख (रूपये सत्रह करोड़ सत्तर लाख बानबे हजार चौरानबे) मात्र।
3.	अग्रधन की राशि (रू0 लाख में)	रू0 17.71 लाख (रूपये सत्रह लाख एकहत्तर हजार) मात्र।
4.	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	06 (छः) माह
5.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	01.07.2026 10.30 बजे पूर्वाह्न
6.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि/ समय	22.07.2026 12.00 बजे दोपहर तक
7.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि/ समय	23.07.2026 12.30 बजे अपराह्न।
8.	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, मोहराबादी, राँची–834008.
9.	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	0651–2361018
10.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या	0651–2401010

- प्राक्कलित राशि एवं अग्रधन की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है, जिसे Tender Online Upload में देखा जा सकता है, एवं किसी भी प्रकार का बदलाव http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
- नियम एवं शर्तों के लिए वेबसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखें।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, राँची

PR 383577 Road Construction Dept Road Division Ranchi (26-27)_D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, राँची

ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना नेशनल कम्पेटेटीभ बिडिंग
टेन्डर रेफरेंन्स नं0–प0नि0वि0/राँची–02/2026–27दिनांक :–29.06.2026

1.	कार्य का नाम	आर्शीवाद बैंक्वेट (करमटोली–ओरमांझी पथ, MDR-016 पर) से फायरिंग रेन्ज (बरियातु) (बूटी पथ पर) पथ (कुल लम्बाई–4.070 कि0मी0) का निर्माण कार्य वर्ष 2026–27
2.	अनुमानित प्राक्कलित राषि (रू0 लाख में)	रू0 2759.86173 लाख (रूपये सत्ताईस करोड़ उनसठ लाख छियासी हजार एक सौ तिहत्तर) मात्र।
3.	अग्रधन की राषि (रू0 लाख में)	रू0 27.60 लाख (रूपये सत्ताईस लाख साठ हजार) मात्र।
4.	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	13 (तेरह) माह
5.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाषन की तिथि	01.07.2026 10.30 बजे पूर्वाह्न
6.	प्री–बीडमिटिंग की तिथि/समय	08.07.2026 3.00 बजे अपराह्न
7.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि/ समय	22.07.2026 12.00 बजे दोपहर तक
8.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि/ समय	23.07.2026 12.30 बजे अपराह्न।
9.	निविदा प्रकाषित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता पथ निर्माण विभाग,पथ प्रमंडल, मोहराबादी, राँची–834008.
10.	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	0651–2361018
11.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या	0651–2401010

- प्राक्कलित राशि एवं अग्रधन की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है, जिसे *Tender Online Upload* में देखा जा सकता है, एवं किसी भी प्रकार का बदलाव *http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in* पर देखा जा सकता है।
- नियम एवं शर्तों के लिए वेबसाईट *http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in* पर देखें।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, राँची

PR 383575 (Road Construction Dept Road Division Ranchi)26-27*D

Delayed honour

Operational secrecy during wars is a must, but there must be accountability

War is secretive and strategy may require deception. But that is no good explanation for the fact that the Narendra Modi government took over a year before formally acknowledging that six soldiers had lost their lives in Operation Sindoor in 2025. India had launched cross-border military strikes in Pakistan in retaliation for the Pahalgam terrorist attack, in April 2025, that killed 26 innocent people. From the beginning, the government has been reluctant to share any meaningful details of Operation Sindoor even as it continuously kept the hyperbolic self-congratulatory posture. Its decision to not publicly acknowledge and honour the supreme sacrifice of the fallen soldiers contemporaneously was hardly a sign of any wise strategy. Casualties can happen in any military operation and that is a key consideration in any military planning, and more importantly, the political decision to go to war or not. Not being transparent about losses, human and material, may serve the political interests of the ruling party, but not national interest. By trying to be clever and selective about facts, the government undermined its own credibility and did a disservice to those who paid with their lives. Soon after the operation concluded in May 2025, the then Director General of Military Operations (DGMO), Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, paid tribute, during a press briefing on May 11, 2025, to Indian military personnel who had made the supreme sacrifice, though their names were not disclosed.

The cremations were done with full military honours. In August 2025, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh visited the family of Sergeant Surendra Kumar, who was killed during the operation, while the Ministry of Defence also announced gallantry awards for the fallen personnel. Tributes were simultaneously carried on the Indian Army's official social media platforms. In the Lok Sabha on July 28, 2025, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that "no Indian soldiers were harmed" during Operation Sindoor. Following accusations that it has misled Parliament, the government is now explaining that the Minister's remarks were made in the context of reports that Indian aircraft were shot down and were meant to clarify that no pilot was killed during the mission. The government has also maintained that details relating to aircraft losses during the conflict remain operationally sensitive and refused to disclose them. There is a distinction to be made between operational secrecy and requirements of public accountability. War is a stark demonstration of the fact that it is the public that always pays for all actions of the government. A public accounting of the gains and the losses is the best way to ensure wise decision making.

Caught in the middle

India must prioritise reduction of harm from drug abuse

India is located between two major drug-producing regions: Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran to the west and Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos to the east. While the West has historically dominated heroin production, the International Narcotics Control Board has said Myanmar has become the world's leading source of illicit opium while East and Southeast Asia remain major sources of methamphetamine. Officials have said drugs are being received at Gujarat, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu via maritime routes. Similarly, some drugs are produced domestically using illegally diverted pharmaceutical ingredients, aided by the fact that individuals possessing small quantities of heroin can attract up to six months' imprisonment, whereas drugmakers that cannot account for lakhs of doses often face only slaps on the wrist. The rise of Myanmar, where the territory under ethnic armed organisations is expanding, as a key source is also troubling since it shares a border with India. The Narcotics Control Bureau has noted a dramatic surge in the use of drones to smuggle drugs across borders, especially over Punjab. Traffickers are organising over the darknet and using cryptocurrencies. The pillars of India's response thus aim to keep the enforcement regime from being out-innovated and improve regulatory certainty.

States are trying to adopt a 'whole of society' approach recognising the public health and social dimensions. However, India needs to do more. Physical abuse and forced detoxification are frequently reported from many private centres. Punjab has an extensive network of de addiction centres providing opioid substitution therapy, and some northeastern States to a secondary extent, but most large States have much less access relative to need. Most Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts are located in urban areas whereas the highest density of addicts in Punjab are in border villages and rural pockets. Likewise, relapse is often treated as a moral failure and many addicts avoid government centres fearing social ostracisation, particularly in rural North India. The persistence of criminal records for small-scale possession prevents youth from getting jobs, reducing their odds of escaping the drug-crime cycle. Although the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan has said it has sensitised over six crore women, facilities dedicated to women are scarce and concentrated in urban areas; stigma, caregiving responsibilities, and lack of gender-responsive treatment keep many women from seeking or completing care. Finally, as evidence shows, disrupted supply can drive many users to cheaper alternatives unless accompanied by effective treatment. India must therefore shift public focus from seizures and arrests to the number of lives restored.

Reforms 3.0 — towards the Bharat rate of growth

Srivatsa Krishna

IAS officer

For 45 years after Independence, India grew at an anaemic 3% – the infamous "Hindu rate of growth". Triggered by a balance-of-payments crisis, India found the gumption to liberalise. Within a decade, GDP growth surged. The lesson: crisis breeds reform, and reform breeds exponential outcomes. Artificial Intelligence (AI) provides the same transformational leverage that liberalisation provided in 1991. The question is not whether India can afford to invest – it is whether India can afford not to. After 12 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has reached another WhatsApp moment in reform – dare I say, to take it from a Hindu rate of growth to the Bharat rate of growth – 8% and beyond for the next decade.

The case for making tokens free

India has since proven that it can leapfrog entire generations of infrastructure. Aadhaar enrolled 1.38 billion people in a biometric identity system, the largest on earth. UPI now processes 250 billion annual transactions worth $3.4 trillion, handling 50% of the world's real-time digital payments. Reliance Jio, launched in 2016, added 100 million subscribers in just five months and made mobile data essentially free. How India can replicate its Aadhaar, data availability deluge and UPI miracles in the age of AI – by embracing open models, diversifying compute hardware, and making tokens as free as data.

India spends just about 0.65% of its GDP on research and development (R&D), well below China (2.4%), the United States (3.5%), South Korea (4.9%), and Israel (5.4%). The excuse of the socialist Congress governments of 1947-1991 was: "we can't afford anything more", which does not and should not apply now. The central question is this: Has the time come to make AI tokens free? If so, how do we do it? Can we begin by making tokens free for the country's top 100 national R&D institutions and 5,000 schools, so that AI becomes a teammate for scientists and students alike?

India spends approximately $49 billion each year subsidising calories, chemicals, and carbon. The question is whether it is now ready to subsidise cognition. The answer is that it already can – at a fraction of what it spends today. The entire AI token subsidy for the country's top 100 universities and national R&D institutions, along with 5,000 high schools, would cost about $2 billion annually – roughly 0.06% of GDP. The AI investment is around one-fourteenth of India's food subsidy, one-tenth of its fertilizer subsidy, and less than the amount paid to compensate oil marketing companies for LPG under-recoveries in a single quarter. This is not a moonshot budget. It is a rounding error in India's existing welfare expenditure – but one with the potential to generate transformative, compounding returns.

India does not need more money; it needs new priorities, new frameworks, and some reallocation. First, AI tokens can be funded without cutting a single rupee from existing beneficiaries by merely freezing subsidy growth for a year. (The fertilizer subsidy alone has been compounding at 11% CAGR over the past decade.) Second, India should forge a public-private partnership with hyperscalers such as AWS, Google, and Microsoft, exchanging data centre land, power subsidies, and data sovereignty assurances for free inference capacity. India's 1.4-billion-user market gives it negotiating leverage that few countries can match, though such techno-commercial negotiations, shaped by geopolitics and uncertainty, will require considerable skill. Third, if necessary, paid enterprise tiers can cross-subsidise free access for schools and research institutions.

Free data worked and free tokens will too. The government did not directly subsidise Jio. Instead, it created the right regulatory environment through spectrum auctions, net neutrality, infrastructure sharing, and a controversial long pilot.

The result: data prices fell from about $3 per GB to $0.10 in under three years. The same playbook can apply to AI tokens. Create the right conditions, and the market will deliver abundance. India's role is not to write the cheque, but to make it unnecessary.

> Reforms 3.0 should focus on building an AI nation, and India cannot afford to miss this opportunity

Hosting models

India must build the competence to host and operate large language models, not merely consume them through APIs from San Francisco or Beijing. With Sarvam, it has already shown that frontier models can be trained on Indian soil. The next step is to host models such as Qwen, DeepSeek, Kimi, Llama, and Sarvam on sovereign infrastructure, even if some open-source models originate from China. The models may be free, but the intelligence to host them at scale is not. AI infrastructure should be treated as a strategic national capability, much like what the government has already done for space and nuclear programmes. India should pursue a hybrid strategy that combines sovereign and open-source models to avoid dependence on any single ecosystem. Open-source models offer four key advantages: sovereignty by reducing reliance on foreign APIs that can be restricted overnight; lower costs by eliminating per-token licensing fees, thereby enabling free education and research uses; customisation for Indic languages and cultural contexts; and transparency through auditable model weights for government and defence applications.

Hosting LLMs at national scale is not "just deploy a container". India must develop deep expertise in availability (multi-region redundancy, 99.99% uptime SLAs for critical government services; latency (<200ms token latency across Tier-2/3 cities); efficiency (like batch scheduling to maximise tokens-per-watt); security (data residency compliance, prompt injection defence, audit trails).

India cannot afford to be locked into a single-vendor monopoly for its AI compute future. NVIDIA's dominance comes at extraordinary cost – both financial and strategic. NVIDIA controls 80%+ of AI training hardware but creates deep vendor lock-in that extends far beyond hardware. For India to build sovereign AI infrastructure for 1.4 billion people, the math simply does not work at NVIDIA pricing.

India spent relatively little to build UPI; it cannot afford to spend $50 billion on NVIDIA GPUs. The alternative hardware ecosystem is not just more economical – it is strategically essential. India should adopt a 40:30:30 hardware mix rather than rely on a single vendor. Around 40% should be built on AWS Trainium and AMD for cost-effective inference workloads available in India. Another 30% should use Google TPUs for research, model training, and academic partnerships. The remaining 30% should rely on NVIDIA for specialised training, legacy compatibility, and a domestic silicon hedge.

AI token policy, implementation timeline

India should announce a National AI Token Policy and implement it over the next 24 months. It should begin by signing public-private partnership agreements with AWS, Google, and Microsoft to establish a multi-vendor sovereign compute framework. The first pilot should provide unlimited research tokens to the top 20 IITs and the IISc. As hyperscaler inference capacity comes online, India should open an API sandbox for 500 startups, expand access to 100 universities, and launch an AI literacy pilot across 500 high schools in 10 States. The programme should culminate in the publication of the country's first sovereign Indic AI model benchmarks.

Thereafter India needs to scale the ecosystem through cross subsidies as mentioned above and deploy fine-tuned models into health care, agriculture, judiciary and education. It must follow this up with full deployment at 5,000 high schools and all 22 languages. With this India's token consumption will enter the global top five. In two years, India-trained models will become competitive on international benchmarks and 10,000+ AI-native startups will bloom, rocketing GDP growth.

In sum, India's AI leapfrog is a *sine qua non* for national transformation. India needs to replicate its DPI (digital public infrastructure) miracles in the age of AI by embracing open models, diversifying compute hardware, and making tokens as free as data. India has all the necessary conditions – favourable policies, stable macroeconomy, prodigious talent and technology institutions – to become a global leader in AI applications. The sufficient condition is India's decisive, visionary leadership. It will take three moves. One decade. And a transformed (AI) nation.

The views expressed are personal

Preparing India for China's missile challenge

Harinder Singh

Retired Lieutenant General and an independent analyst

Missiles are reshaping warfare, making conflicts faster, cheaper, and more political. A limited volley of conventional missiles can paralyse a country, disrupt critical infrastructure, and complicate decision-making. With China having deployed more than 200 conventional missile launchers opposite India, the key question is how this missile superiority could shape a future conflict.

China's arsenal

While India views conventional missiles primarily as deterrents, China sees them as instruments of both political coercion and war-fighting. The threat of missile strikes alone may achieve strategic objectives without triggering a full-scale war. A barrage targeting critical infrastructure deep inside India could force New Delhi to fight on two fronts: a border conflict and a missile campaign against its hinterland.

The two missile bases located at Korla and Kunming can fire a range of conventional missiles (DF-15B, DF-16, DF-21C and DF-26). DF-15B, DF-16 and DF-21C are most suited to hit military targets along the borders; whereas the DF-26 can hit high-value targets in depth. Further, their hypersonic missiles (DF-100 and CJ-1000) can hit deeper, with no launch warning. This becomes a major vulnerability, as India has no reliable defence against it.

Consequently, China's inventory reduces the salience of the Himalayas to provide strategic depth. The DF-26, being dual-role, raises the risk of escalation. While China shoots down from the Tibetan Plateau, India has to shoot over the Himalayas. This impacts missile detection timings. Moreover, India's missile inventory is still evolving, with limitations in both range and diversity. Its long-range systems – including Agni, the Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LR-LACM) – Nirbhay, and BrahMos – and their variants are yet to be fully integrated. India also lacks robust real-time targeting capabilities, has finite missile stockpiles, and is still developing its hypersonic technology. Importantly, its rocket force remains a conceptual construct, with significant policy and organisational issues yet to be resolved.

> India needs to build a rocket force before China's missile advantage grows further

Without a rocket force, India would have little choice but to absorb a Chinese missile strike. On the contrary, if India has one, both get hurt to varying degrees. That is when the missile math kicks in - in terms of mutual vulnerability. If China launches 100 missiles, India must be able to inflict significant damage – not necessarily through equal numbers, but through comparable effects. India should therefore aim to build a credible conventional missile inventory; otherwise, it risks being forced into a stalemate even before the border war begins.

Ideally, India's rocket force should deliver three effects. First, it should be able to hold the PLA's Western Theatre Command (WTC) at risk by having the threat to target deep inside Tibet and Xinjiang. Second, it should be capable of degrading the PLA's road and rail infrastructure, airbases, and logistics installations along the border. Third, it must enable field commanders to strike PLA camps, gun positions, and ammunition dumps in the tactical battle area. In essence, India needs a rocket force capable of engaging strategic, operational, and tactical military and economic targets from a single command authority.

Three aspects are important. First, at the doctrinal level, India must adopt counter-value strikes as part of its conventional missile strategy. This would require rethinking the scope and scale of its counter-force doctrine and developing a unified target list. Service- or agency-specific target lists have little place in time-sensitive missile warfare. The rocket force must also have the authority to execute pre-designated precautionary strikes in the opening hours of a conflict. Without pre-delegated launch authority, India would risk defeat at the outset.

Second, at the structural level, whatever blueprint is adopted for the rocket force, it must be placed under the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). Keeping it service-specific would undermine operational effectiveness. India must also expand its medium- and intermediate-range ballistic missile (MRBM/IRBM) inventory, including Agni variants, to hold targets such as Korla and Kunming at reciprocal risk. This would raise the costs of any Chinese use of the DF-26. Fast-tracking the development of hypersonic missiles is vital, especially since the DF-100 is already part of the PLA Rocket Force's order of battle (ORBAT).

Third, at the technological level, India's missile industry faces significant challenges. Private sector participation must expand to complement the efforts of the DRDO. Major missile programmes have suffered from cost overruns and delays, while critical gaps in advanced air propulsion systems, semiconductors, and high-grade materials continue to hamper self-reliance. Dependence on foreign suppliers for high-end components remains a strategic vulnerability. Greater investment in R&D and end-to-end private-sector manufacturing will be essential.

Interim steps

Since a rocket force will take time to become operational, India must adopt interim measures. First, disperse IAF assets and harden airbases to reduce vulnerability and force an adversary to expend more missiles. Second, optimise air-defence deployment to compel the PLA Rocket Force to target the air-defences rather than critical infrastructure. Third, strengthen long-range conventional strike capabilities to hold targets in Tibet and Xinjiang at risk, creating reciprocal vulnerability. Finally, expand satellite surveillance to detect mobile launchers, particularly DF-26 systems, improving the chances of early neutralisation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ayodhya row

There is a glaring contrast between the government's policies in monitoring foreign funds flow to NGOs and the management of huge funds for the Ram temple in Ayodhya at home. There are hardly any safeguards and accountability for the enormous funds given by the public for the Ram temple. The genuineness of the ruling party's avowed love for Hinduism comes under a cloud when such scams are taking place.

Matthew Adukanil,
Chennai

K. Bhagyaraj

The passing of filmmaker K. Bhagyaraj marks the end of a remarkable chapter in Indian cinema. Yet, even so, he has left behind a legacy that transcends his artistic achievements. His decision to donate his eyes stands as a profound testament to altruism, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of others.

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

Bhagyaraj had the rare ability to transform everyday situations into memorable cinematic experiences. The title "Screenplay King" is a fitting tribute to a man who had the power to create unforgettable moments.

A.P. Thiruvadi,
Chennai

We have lost an extraordinary talent who popularised Tamil cinema through diverse themes. Cinema has lost two stalwarts (Bharathiraja), marking the end of an era.

M. Pradyu,
Thalikkavu, Kannur, Kerala

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

Why artificial wisdom is the biggest AI risk

Saumitra Bhaduri

Professor at the Madras School of Economics

The debate surrounding Artificial Intelligence (AI) often revolves around a deceptively simple question: is AI enhancing humanity or destroying it? Like every major technological revolution before it, AI is generating both optimism and profound anxiety. There is little doubt that, if deployed responsibly, AI can dramatically enhance productivity across every domain of human activity.

Yet these opportunities come with substantial risks. Many commentators have painted doomsday scenarios ranging from mass unemployment to existential threats. However, not all AI risks are equally dangerous. To navigate the AI age effectively, one must distinguish between risks according to both their impact and the difficulty of mitigating them.

Need to reduce risk

Three risks deserve particular attention. The most widely discussed is the large-scale disruption of cognitive labour. For the first time, machines are not merely replacing physical tasks but appear capable of performing intellectual work once thought to be uniquely human. History, however, cautions against predictions of mass unemployment; technological progress has rarely eliminated entire professions. Instead, it has automated specific tasks while creating new forms of employment and productivity. The steam engine did not destroy labour; it created new industries. Technology redistributed labour rather than rendering humanity obsolete. AI will likely follow a similar trajectory. Some occupations will shrink, others will expand, and entirely new professions will emerge. The transition will be painful and require substantial investment in reskilling, but humanity has navigated such transformations before and can do so again.

The second risk lies in the political and economic consequences of an unprecedented concentration of power. The economics of AI are inherently capital-intensive. Developing frontier models requires enormous investments in computing infrastructure, energy, specialised talent and proprietary data. Only a handful of companies – and an even smaller number of countries – possess the necessary resources to compete in this high-risk, high-return race. As a result, ownership and control of AI capabilities are becoming highly concentrated. History teaches that concentration of strategic resources rarely produces stable outcomes. Whether the resource was gold or oil, concentrated ownership has often translated into geopolitical leverage and, at times, coercive behaviour. AI risks becoming another strategic chokepoint. Fortunately, the world has experience managing such challenges through legal institutions, international treaties and negotiated frameworks.

The third risk is unique to AI and potentially the most pervasive because it is the least understood: the curse of "artificial wisdom." AI enthusiasts often position AI as a substitute for human cognition. In doing so, society is gradually internalising a dangerous misconception that AI generates knowledge. It does not. At its core, an AI system is trained on vast amounts of data to learn patterns and statistical relationships. It uses sophisticated algorithms to predict the most probable next step in a sequence. By repeatedly making these predictions, it can generate human-like text, summarise information and perform many language-based tasks. The distinction is fundamental. Knowledge is not the same as information. Knowledge requires context, judgment, experience and an understanding of consequences. Only a human mind with domain expertise can evaluate whether an AI-generated output is useful and appropriate for the problem at hand.

> AI enthusiasts often position AI as a substitute for human cognition. In doing so, society is gradually internalising a dangerous misconception that AI generates knowledge

The issue becomes even more serious when AI generates synthetic information that is more persuasive, accessible or appealing than genuine information. In such circumstances, individuals and institutions may struggle to distinguish fact from fabrication, creating fertile ground for manipulation, misinformation and other unethical uses.

The challenge extends far beyond individual users. Organisations are increasingly conducting research, coding, legal drafting, and financial analysis using AI. This creates an unprecedented form of systemic risk: decisions increasingly influenced by intelligence that nobody is qualified to verify. Ironically, the age of AI might make genuine expertise more valuable than ever; the rarest skill will be the ability to determine whether machine-generated answers are actually correct.

The need for regulation

If a pharmaceutical product causes harm, manufacturers can be held accountable. However, unlike traditional products, AI systems have largely operated without clear liability. The world, therefore, requires a new governance architecture for the responsible deployment of AI. Encouragingly, society is already beginning to redraw the boundaries of accountability for digital platforms. For example, Meta Platforms has faced lawsuits alleging that aspects of its platform design contributed to harm among young users.

The world needs both technical and institutional safeguards, backed by a global non-proliferation agreement on disruptive AI, that allow humans to limit or shut down systems operating outside their intended boundaries. Humanity has avoided nuclear catastrophe for eight decades. The hope is that it should be able to navigate AI too. However, doing so will require governing wisely than ever before.

A mysterious luncheon in Dachigam

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah intends to put to rest party intrigues

STATE OF PLAY

Peerzada Ashiq

The surprise Dachigam alfresco lunch organised by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his legislators on June 3 was dissected more for the venue and the selfies. Rules such as no Internet and self-service for the legislators during the luncheon turned the Dachigam National Park meeting into an enigma. The fact remains that it was a rare bid by the 20-month-old Chief Minister to address the growing anxiety within the party over a slew of brewing issues.

This year, Mr. Abdullah completed more than one-and-a-half-years of ruling J&K as a Union Territory (UT), which now has an enervated power sharing system in a region that once enjoyed the highest degree of autonomy. There are two-fold issues still at hand for Mr. Abdullah: one, establishing the writ of the elected government over bureaucracy and, two, implementing a governance model through above-par performance of Ministers. A fair assessment suggests that Mr. Abdullah has failed to deliver on these two counts.

The Omar Abdullah government has failed to finalise and ensure the 'Transaction of Business' rules, essential to determine the domains of the Chief Minister, the Council of Ministers (CoM) and the Lieutenant Governor (L-G). The seven-year-old UT is yet to determine the powers of the CM, the CoM and the L-G. This fluid situation has further hamstrung the elected Chief Minister. If the UT model takes away the CM's say in security matters, the lack of Transaction of Business rules makes

him unable to control bureaucrats. Currently, J&K has *L-G-walla* bureaucrats, a term used for pro-L-G officials, and *CM-walla* bureaucrats, but no *J&K-walla* officers to address the governance issues of the people, who turned up in record numbers outside the polling booths in the 2024 Assembly elections.

Mr. Abdullah blames the Centre for the delay in approval of the business rules. But there has been no visible protest over the lack of it either. This has allowed a drift in official loyalty in other directions.

'Internal matters'

Mr. Abdullah also faces palace intrigues. There is a growing desire among a large section of National Conference (NC) legislators to see a Cabinet expansion. In a 90-member UT, a Chief Minister can have a Cabinet size of 10% of the total strength of the Assembly. Mr. Abdullah has filled six ministerial berths and reserved three for its ally, the Congress. However, the Congress has taken the position "not to join the government till Statehood is restored". NC legislators from Srinagar, who are around eight in number, are openly talking about the need to have a Minister from the summer capital of J&K. At present, the Omar Abdullah Cabinet gives fair representation to the Jammu division by having a deputy Chief Minister, who is not from the NC, and two Ministers from the region. However, several NC legislators argue that the party won around 36 assembly segments from the Kashmir division and remains poorly represented in the Cabinet. While Cabinet Minister Sakina Itoo represents south Kashmir, Javed Dar is a voice from north Kashmir.

Mr. Abdullah has always brushed aside media questions on Cabinet expansion as an "internal matter of the party". However, the fact remains that it is a question of representation and a matter of concern for his voters, even legislators. In Srinagar, NC voters yearn for interfaces with the government to raise their grievances, and get them addressed. Besides, most posts of the government boards remain unfilled, with the party being indecisive if legislators could be made heads or not. These headless boards have failed to work in sync with the government's vision.

In 2009, when Mr. Abdullah became Chief Minister for the first time, he had 10 Cabinet Ministers and 14 junior Ministers. Currently, there are Ministers with around a dozen portfolios, impacting the functioning of these departments. More Ministers in the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar will bring more bureaucrats under the government to deliver policies in an efficient manner.

It was always a crown of thorns to be a Chief Minister of a UT. In fact, Mr. Abdullah, ahead of the 2024 election, had predicted the functioning of the UT government: "I can't see myself in a position where I have to ask the L-G to pick my peon, sitting and waiting outside for him to sign the file". For Mr. Abdullah, the only option is to put up a fight and ensure that on the governance front he does not draw flak from his voters.

peerzada.ashiq@thehindu.co.in

Rise in food poisoning cases highlights lapses in food safety

Nearly three-fourths of all States and Union Territories tended to have low or moderate scores on the Food Safety Index

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

Two suspected events of food poisoning reported this month, one at a private school in Indore in Madhya Pradesh, and another at a popular eatery in Bhiwandi in Maharashtra, which affected over 200 people have once again highlighted the need for strengthening the implementation of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act.

As per the latest Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India report, a total of 1,122 people died due to food poisoning in India in 2024 **(Chart 1)**.

Such avoidable deaths should be seen in the context of lapses in the implementation of the Act, as revealed by the government's own State Food Safety Index released last for 2023-24. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) measures this index for all States and Union Territories based on five key parameters: human resources and institutional data, compliance, food testing infrastructure and surveillance, training and capacity building, and consumer empowerment.

While a strong correlation could not be established, the index showed that States that saw high numbers of food poisoning cases also tended to have low or moderate scores on the index **(Chart 2)**.

Nearly three-fourths of all States and Union Territories scored less than 50 out of the highest-possible score of 100. Jharkhand, where over 130 persons died of food poisoning in 2024, scored 26.5. Uttar Pradesh, which reported over 200 casualties in 2024, scored 44.25.

The FSS Act mandates periodic inspections and analysis of food samples from all registered Food Business Operators (FBOs). An amendment to the Act notified this month has made the frequency of the inspections to be based on a dynamic risk-based assessment of all FBOs, depending on the type of establishment, their past records and other such factors. While the amended provisions are yet to be implemented, FSSAI data for the year 2024-25 showed that inspections conducted and food samples analysed by various States were much lower when compared with the number of registered FBOs **(Chart 3)**. For instance, only 20,877 samples were lifted in Maharashtra which has over 1.8 lakh registered or active FBO licences, as per the data available with the Food Safety Compliance System.

With the effective implementation of the regulations largely dependent on authorities working at the central and State levels, data showed that while the FSSAI is responsible for ensuring overall coordination, it is the State Food Safety Authorities who are primarily responsible for enforcement at the field level. However, these institutes suffer from vacancies.

The FSSAI, which has a sanctioned strength of 822 officers, saw vacancies increase from about 30% to almost 40% in the last five years. Further, data submitted in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha in March this year showed that only 2,997 of the sanctioned positions of 4,208 Food Safety Officers (FSO) across all States and UTs have been filled as of the third quarter of FY 2025-26.

The World Health Organization's Foodborne Disease Estimates (2026) estimated that unsafe food causes around 866 million illnesses and 1.5 million deaths annually. It also stated that 57.1 million days of Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) were lost in 2021 from foodborne diseases, and 30% of this burden was borne by children under 5 years.

Though the total foodborne disease burden has declined since 2000, a country-wise analysis of the rate of years of life lost due to foodborne diseases showed that India ranked 15th, along with several low-income African nations **(Chart 4)**.

Slipping safety standards

The data for charts were sourced from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India and the World Health Organization

Quality check: Food safety officials conducting inspections in a milk booth in Visakhapatnam in February 2026 in the wake of a milk adulteration incident in Rajahmundry. V. RAJU

CHART 1: More than a thousand cases and deaths due to food poisoning were reported in 2024

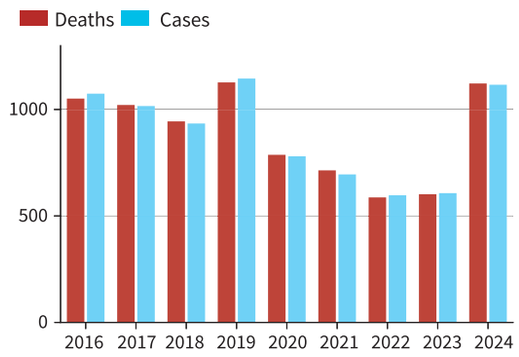


CHART 2: States that saw a high number of food poisoning cases tended to have low or moderate scores on Food Safety Index

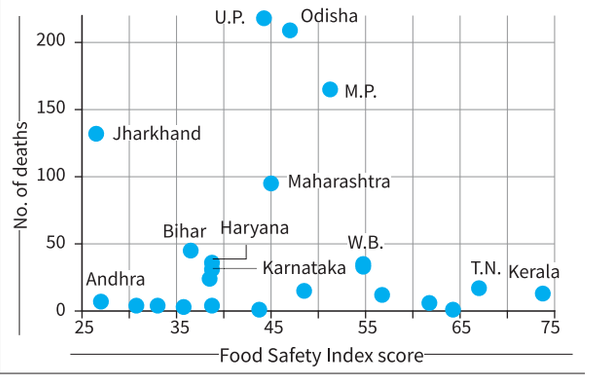


CHART 3: Samples collected for testing in 2024-25 compared with the total registered food business operators in select States

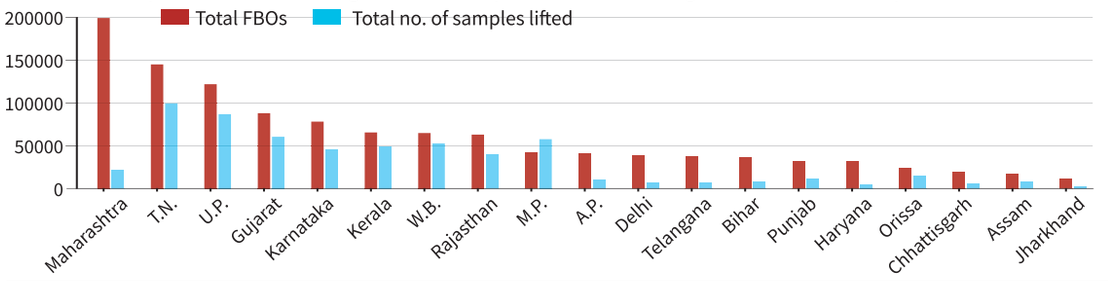
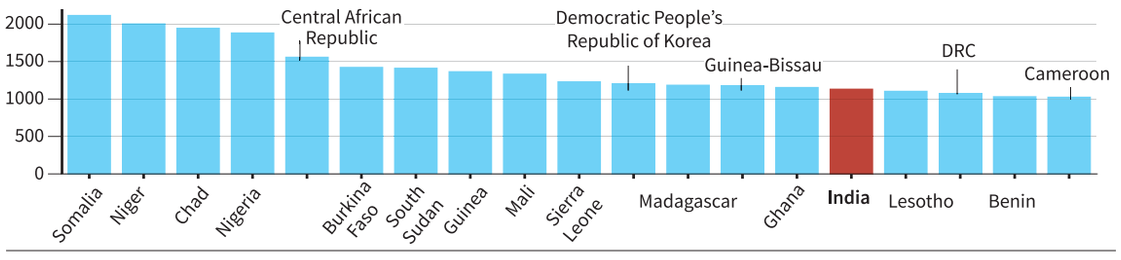


CHART 4: "Foodborne years of lives lost" per 1,00,000 persons. India is ranked 15th, along with many African countries



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 30, 1976

Old bullock cart is still the best

Bangalore, June 29: The rugged bullock-cart evolved by nameless village artisans over the centuries has come out successful and stood the test of modern science and technology.

Studies conducted by scientists connected with the cell for the Application of Science and Technology to Rural Areas (ASTRA) have shown that the traditional bullock-cart with its big iron-rimmed wheels is the best mode of transport for the rural roads of the country.

This was stated here to-day by Dr. M. R. Raghavan at the one-day seminar on "ASTRA projects at the Institute" held at the Indian Institute of Science. Dr. Raghavan who spoke on the topic "bullock-cart a force analysis", said: "The traditional bullock-cart is a very good compromise for the rural roads. For unprepared terrain it is difficult to change the design. This is what our analyses have revealed." However, Dr. Raghavan said the bullock-cart was unsuitable for urban areas. The use of carts with such wheels damaged the urban roads. He was of the opinion that there was need for modifications in the design of bullock-carts used in urban areas.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 30, 1926

Severe criticism of Mlle. Lenglen's conduct

Of all the sensations – there have been several – in connection with the championships at Wimbledon, the failure of Mlle. Lenglen to play on June 23 was perhaps the greatest, says "The Daily Mail" under the splash heading "Is Lenglen above rules?" according to the London correspondent of the "The Statesman".

The newspaper says that the rules should apply equally to every competitor. Players should adhere to the time table or pay the penalty. Mlle. Suzanne Lenglen received preferential treatment, and the man in the street wants to know why.

Mr. Murah, the President of the Australian Lawn Tennis Association, in a letter to the press, says everyone is glad that the American girls defeated Mlle. Lenglen and Mlle. Vlaste.

Mlle. Lenglen's behaviour was utterly inexcusable, but it was no more incomprehensible than that of the Committee controlling the tournament.

From Page One

Dozens killed as Pak. targets Afghan militants

Their war earlier this year killed hundreds of Afghans and displaced tens of thousands, according to the UN.

There have been sporadic attacks since a ceasefire was reached in March, with Pakistani strikes in June killing 13 people, Afghan officials said.

Islamabad is mediating between the United States and Iran to end their war in West Asia, but Pakistan says its battle against militancy at home requires its strikes on Afghanistan.

Explosives were detonated and gunmen opened fire inside a Rangers paramilitary camp in Karachi on Saturday in one of the worst militant attacks in Pakistan's most populous city in years.

Authorities said three paramilitary personnel were killed and that they had detained an Afghan involved in the attack.

Pakistan says its forces use "precise targeting" to aim at militant hideouts and weapons stores, especially those of the TTP that has waged a violent campaign against Pakistan for years.

Afghan authorities have repeatedly denied that the country is used by militants and say Pakistani operations have caused a heavy civilian death toll.

U.S., Iran pause strikes but disagree on talks

The U.S. and Iran agreed to an interim deal earlier this month that calls for Tehran to dilute its stockpile of enriched uranium. It also waives U.S.-backed sanctions on the country while opening the Strait of Hormuz and giving each side 60 days to hammer out broader agreements.

In recent days, Iran has twice attacked vessels in the Strait of Hormuz – including a tanker filled with Qatari crude – following efforts to open Oman's territorial waters to both inbound and outbound traffic from the Persian Gulf.

The attacks drew retaliatory American airstrikes and raised concerns that negotiations to reach a formal end to the war could be disrupted. Iran launched drone and missile attacks targeting Bahrain and Kuwait on Sunday.

Pakistan, a key mediator, has said talks would resume on Tuesday.

Radio-tagged vulture electrocuted in T.N.

"There have long been calls for captive-bred birds to be released into Mudumalai to bolster populations. With this reintroduction having failed, steps must be taken to identify why the bird was unable to adapt," said a conservationist from the Nilgiris.

"We had captured the bird multiple times and released it into the Sigur, hoping it would acclimatise," said R. Kiruba Shankar, Field Director of MTR. However, on Sunday, during one the bird's explorations of Ebbanad in the Nilgiris forest division, it came into contact with a power line and was killed, officials confirmed. "We will have discussions with the BNHS to understand the reasons for why this particular bird was unable to acclimatise and adapt. We will also find out if the other captive-bred birds released in other parts too have faced similar challenges," he said.

S. Bharathidasan, secretary of Arulagam, a conservation NGO, said power lines that cross through vulture habitats need to be reinforced with bunch-cabling and need to be insulated to prevent birds and other wildlife from being accidentally electrocuted.

Bengal passes preventive detention, legal curbs Bill

Govt. can detain a person for a year to prevent anti-social activity; CM Suvendu Adhikari says State 'will not misuse [law]... for political vendetta'; law won't stand legal scrutiny, says Trinamool MLA

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The West Bengal Assembly on Monday passed two controversial laws providing for detention of 'anti-socials' for a year and restricting access to a lawyer for such persons, and payment of compensation by those accused of damaging private or public property.

The West Bengal Public Safety and Control of Anti-Social Activities Bill, 2026 empowers the government to detain a person if it deems necessary to stop future anti-social activity for almost a year. It said the government can detain those "generally reputed to be desperate and dangerous to the community".

The Bill proposes constitution of an advisory board where every detention case will be scrutinised within three weeks. The board, which will comprise a chairperson who is or has been a High Court judge, will decide if a person remains in detention or has to be released.

Section 10 (4) of the Bill states, "A detained person shall not be ordinarily represented by a legal practitioner before an advisory board." The proviso of the same sub-section says that the board may remove this prohibition in appropriate cases which should be recorded in writing.

Another legislation passed, titled 'The West Bengal Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 2026', imposes a payment of compensation by persons committing offences such as damage to public or private property.

'Won't misuse'

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said such a law has become necessary because of the criminalisation of politics and added that similar laws have been implemented in Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand.

Mr. Adhikari referred to incidents of mob violence when the Trinamool Congress was in power, particularly the killings of Haragobinda Das and Chandan Das in April 2025.

"We will not misuse this law. This law will not be used against anyone for the purpose of political vendetta," he said, amidst concern from the Opposition.

Trinamool MLA from Chanchal and former IPS officer Prasun Banerjee described certain provisions of the Bill as "scary" and said the law will not stand judicial scrutiny. He said by empowering the administration, the BJP government is creating a "Frankenstein" with sweeping powers. He said that by allowing District Magistrates to issue warrants, the Bill is trying to create a "State within the State".

'Anarchy is prevailing'

The State's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Sankar Ghosh said that "anarchy" was prevailing in society because of the Trinamool's 15-year rule and those opposing the Bill want the anarchy to stay. "Right to protest can be a fundamental right but right to destroy public property cannot be a right," he said.

Minister Agnimitra Paul said the Trinamool government was run by "goons" and the new law is an attempt at course correction.

Several Opposition MLAs said the Bill will curb peaceful protests and students' movements.

Cracking down

The West Bengal government says the newly introduced Bills aim to curb anti-social activities

- The West Bengal Public Safety and Control of Anti-Social Activities Bill, 2026, allows preventive detention for up to one year if authorities believe a person may engage in future anti-social activities. Cases will be reviewed by an advisory board headed by a current or former High Court judge
- The Bill states that detained persons will ordinarily not be represented by a lawyer before the advisory board, though the board may make exceptions
- The West Bengal Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 2026, empowers authorities to recover compensation from those found responsible for damage to public or private property

Bihar Governor and MoS to attend Khamenei's funeral

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain

Bihar Governor Lt. General Syed Ata Hasnain (retd) and Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita are likely to lead the Indian delegation to Iran for the funeral ceremonies of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, sources familiar with the plans told *The Hindu*.

The final composition of the delegation is yet to be firmed up, officials said.

Khamenei was killed in Israeli strikes on February 28, the first day of the U.S.-Israeli operation.

Last week, President Masoud Pezeshkian had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the burial-related ceremonies in Iran. However, it is understood that Mr. Modi has prior commitments to travel to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand from July 6.

Iran has invited a large group of foreign dignitaries to the burial-related events that will begin on July 3 and continue till July 9.

The choice of Mr. Hasnain and Mr. Margherita has drawn criticism from veteran diplomats here. Talmiz Ahmad, India's former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, has said that he is "deeply disappointed".

"This is not the appropriate representation, given the high stature of the person concerned. Khamenei is held in very high regard in India. He has met all the Prime Ministers of the past four decades, including our present Prime Minister," said Mr. Ahmad, while referring to the changes sweeping the region that require India to make its diplomatic moves carefully.

Commentators here described the funeral as a "big opportunity" for India to restructure its West Asia policy. However, the choice of the delegation indicate that India is not recognising the importance of the event, they said.

In 2024, then Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar represented the government at the funeral of President Ebrahim Raisi, after he died in a helicopter crash.

Maharashtra TET paper leak points to an inter-State racket, finds investigation team

Chinmay Gaikwad
MUMBAI

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Maharashtra Teacher Eligibility Test paper leak has found that the case appears to be part of an inter-State racket. Of the three arrested accused, two are from Bihar, while the third, identified as Dheeraj Kumar, is from Haryana. Police teams have been dispatched to Bihar, Haryana, and Delhi as the investigation expands.

All the three accused are currently in police custody. Authorities are also examining whether provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) can be invoked against those found guilty.

Opposition leaders stage a protest at the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly against the TET paper leak in Mumbai on Monday. PTI

The police had received a tip-off on the morning of June 27 about an attempt to sell the TET question paper in Bhiwandi.

Acting on the information, a trap was laid in the Kongaon area, where Rajiv Shah, Akash Kumar, and Dheeraj Kumar were apprehended. During the operation, police seized mobile phones, debit and credit cards, cash, and four physical copies of the TET question paper intended for the June 28 examination. Officials from the Maharashtra State Council of Examinations (MSCE) later confirmed that the seized papers matched the original examination papers. A case was registered at Kongaon Police Station under the Thane City Police Commissionerate.

The accused have been booked under Sections 318 (4), 316(5), and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with Sections 11(1)(2)(3) and 12(1)(2) of the Maharashtra Competitive Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, and Sections 6 and 8 of the Maharashtra Prevention of Malpractices at Universities, Boards and Other Specified Examinations Act, 1982.

Priya Shinde, Deputy Commissioner of the MSCE, said candidates do not have to register again for the re-test nor will they need to pay any fee when the test is rescheduled.

School Education Minister Dada Bhuse is facing calls for resignation from the Opposition parties over the paper leak.

He said that a committee headed by the Chief Secretary will be formed to work out modalities of conducting the TET and other State-level examinations through the online mode.

(With PTI inputs)

Court extends custody of 10 accused in NEET-UG case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday extended till July 11 the judicial custody of 10 persons arrested in connection with the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case.

Special Judge Vijeta Singh Rawat of Rouse Avenue Court allowed the CBI's application seeking extension of custody.

The accused persons, Yash Yadav, Mangilal Biwal, Dinesh Biwal, Vikas Biwal, Dhananjay Lokhande, Tejas Harshad Shah, Shubham Khairnar, Manisha Waghmare, Manisha Havaldar and Dr. Manoj Shirure, were produced before the court through video conferencing.

Surveillance boost: Army to raise 'Baaz Battalions'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Army is raising dedicated 'Baaz Battalions' to significantly enhance its Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) capability, a move aimed at strengthening battlefield surveillance, intelligence gathering and rapid response through a specialised drone force, defence sources said.

Sources in the Indian Army have confirmed the development and said that the new battalions will be built upon the Army's existing RPA Flights and will comprise a specialist pool of trained personnel responsible for operating and managing Remotely Piloted Aircraft systems.

The Baaz Battalions will centralise the Army's expanding drone capabilities and will be designed to handle the entire lifecycle of RPA operations.

Rijiju cites border infrastructure push after Chinese incursion claims

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Days after a tribal body in Arunachal Pradesh alleged that it was "losing their land, inch by inch, day by day to China" in the Taksing area, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said that although India had started "late", it had begun building roads and other infrastructure in border areas.

Mr. Rijiju, who represents the Arunachal West constituency in the State, told *The Hindu* that Taksing was connected by road only in 2019.

"Though late, we are now building roads and other infrastructure in border areas. We are catching up," said Mr. Rijiju, when asked about the claims of Chinese incursions made by the Nah Welfare Society (NWS) at Taksing in Upper Subansri district of Arunachal Pradesh.

The June 26 letter by Keru Chader, president, NWS, to the Deputy Commissioner of Upper Subansiri district stated that in the past 10 to 15 years, activities of People's Liberation Army (PLA) in the border areas of Taksing circle have increased manifold with an intention to occupy as much land as possible.

Kiren Rijiju

In a statement, the Indian Army said, "We have seen some media reports alleging recent encroachment by Chinese PLA and setting up of camps in Arunachal Pradesh. These reports are incorrect and without any basis."

According to a Foreign Ministry response in Parliament in 2008, China disputes the International Boundary between India and China in the Eastern Sector and claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in Arunachal Pradesh.

Tache Chader, the general secretary of NWS, said that due to the presence of Chinese forces, the locals were unable to take their cattle out for grazing. He told *The Hindu* that the group was yet to get a response from the authorities regarding the letter.

"We can no longer access the land that belonged to our ancestors. The Chinese are expanding and building roads at a fast pace," he said.

The June 26 letter said that the Chinese government is expanding its territory by "occupying new and important places of our land situated at border area."

It said China had constructed roads, bridges and set up military camps in many places.

3,488-km-long border

India shares 3,488 km of border with China that runs along Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.

According to Union Home Ministry, the border is not fully demarcated and the process of clarifying and confirming the Line of Actual Control is in progress.

"The area is characterised by high altitude terrain and thick habitation which have resulted in inadequate development of infrastructure in these regions," the Ministry said.

Death penalty for accused in Pune rape, murder case

Chinmay Gaikwad
MUMBAI

A special court in Maharashtra's Pune district on Monday sentenced to death the 65-year-old man convicted of the rape and murder of a three-and-a-half-year-old girl in Nasrapur village of Bhor taluka.

Special Judge S.R. Salunke pronounced the sentence days after the court convicted Bhimrao Prabhakar Kamble on June 25 under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The verdict comes within 60 days of the crime on May 1 that sparked widespread outrage and protests across the State.

Terming the case "rarest of the rare", the judge rejected the defence's plea for leniency.

Cong. seeks Rajnath's resignation over Army deaths during Sindoor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Stepping up its attack on the Centre over the deaths of six military personnel during Operation Sindoor, the Congress on Monday demanded the resignation of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, accusing him of "lying" in Parliament by stating that no Indian soldier had been killed in the operation.

The party also demanded an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing a press conference, chairperson of the Congress's Ex-servicemen Department Col. Rohit Chaudhry (Retd.) and Wing Commander Anuma Acharya (Retd.) alleged that by concealing the deaths of six personnel – five from the Indian Army and one from the Indian Air Force – during the May 2025 operation, the Narendra Modi government had denied them due public recognition and honour.

Wing Commander Acharya claimed that previous governments had publicly honoured every soldier who made the supreme sacrifice, and accused the present dispensation of "politicising the armed forces".

Col. Chaudhry accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of using "soldiers as props" while seeking votes in the name of the armed forces, and questioned why it had taken 13 months for their names to be made public.

"When Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was lying in Parliament that no soldier had been martyred, BJP MPs were clapping. Rajnath Singh has insulted the country's army and soldiers. We demand his resignation," Col. Chaudhry said.

Amend anti-sacrilege law: Akal Takht to Punjab govt.

The highest Sikh temporal authority says the amendment was passed without consultations; it gives Punjab government a month to re-amend the legislation and remove objectionable clauses

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal authority, has asked the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab to re-amend the recently passed anti-sacrilege amendment law in accordance with Sikh sentiments. The government has been given a month to comply.

At a meeting with invited Sikh Ministers of the State Cabinet and Sikh MLAs in Amritsar on Monday, the Akal Takht asserted that the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026 "was passed by the government without the opinion and consent of the Akal Takht Sahib, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and Guru Khalsa Panth".

The legislation, passed in the Assembly unanimously on April 13, was aimed at giving harsher punishment for acts of sacrilege against Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of Sikhism. However, Sikh clergy objected to certain clauses of the law. Hence, the Akal Takht called for the meeting.

AAP MLAs during proceedings at the Secretariat of Sri Akal Takht Sahib in Amritsar on Monday. PTI

After the discussions on Monday, Jathedar Giani Kuldip Singh Gargajj, who heads the Akal Takht, said the State government should re-amend the legislation in accordance with Sikh sentiments and eliminate the objectionable clauses within a month.

Mr. Gargajj said that all Ministers and MLAs present at the meeting agreed to make further amendments to the law in line with Sikh sentiments. He also said that most of the MLAs admitted that they had not read the draft of the amendment before passing it, which showed that the law had been passed by the government in a hurry. He said that 87 MLAs, including Ministers, were present at the meeting.

The amendment law was passed to amend the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, enacted by the Shiromani Akali Dal-Bharatiya Janata Party government in 2008.

Talking to presspersons, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said, "The Jathedar has proposed certain amendments, which will be forwarded through the Punjab Assembly Speaker. Upon receipt, a decision will be taken within a month after due deliberation."

The Leader of the Opposition, Partap Singh Bajwa of the Congress, said the manner in which Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal handled the legislation reflected their disregard for Sikh principles and institutions.

Kharge reappointed Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition; seeks stronger coordination

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and seven other newly elected members of the Rajya Sabha took oath on Monday. Mr. Kharge was also reappointed the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha with effect from June 26.

After taking oath, Mr. Kharge expressed gratitude to the Congress leadership, including Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, as well as Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan and Deputy Chairman Harivansh.

He also extended greetings to his colleagues in the INDIA bloc and the broader Opposition. Mr. Kharge said he was looking forward to "even stronger coordination" during the coming Monsoon Session of Parliament to make "the government of the day more accountable".

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan greets Mallikarjun Kharge after the oath-taking ceremony on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We will continue to raise the burning concerns, aspirations, and voices of the people with sincerity, conviction and determination. That remains our foremost responsibility, and I shall discharge it with the utmost commitment," he said.

He took oath separately in Mr. Radhakrishnan's chamber. The Vice-President congratulated Mr. Kharge and said the Upper House would benefit from his long experience. Ms. Gandhi and other Congress leaders – Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, K.C. Venugopal, Mukul Wasnik, Jairam Ramesh and Syed Naseer Hussain – were present during the event. Mr. Kharge's wife, daughter, and granddaughter, along with her spouse, were present.

Mr. Radhakrishnan later administered the oath to seven other newly elected members – Mansingh Meraman Parmar, Tarun Chugh, Alka Singh, Jitendra Meghjibhai Kanzariya, Rajendra Hiralal Jain, M. Nagaraja, and Adhikarimayum Sharda Devi.

Rabri likely to vacate official bungalow on July 5

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

With the "final deadline" to vacate her official residence on 10 Circular Road in Patna ending on Monday, and most of her household goods already shifted, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Rabri Devi has sought, in order "to avoid any further controversy", the "charge register" containing the list of household items provided at the residence when it was allotted to her in 2006 by the Bihar government, sources in the party told *The Hindu*.

Ms. Devi is expected to vacate the bungalow on July 5, which is also the RJD's foundation day.

She had been living in the bungalow along with her family for about 20 years. The State government has allotted it to Bihar Dairy and Fisheries Minister Nand Kishor Ram. The government issued several notices to Ms. Devi and the 'final notice' was issued on June 22 to vacate the bungalow by June 29.

Plea seeks securing of digital evidence in Ram Temple case

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The petitioner said he was not seeking a final hearing, but a non-prejudicial preservation order

The Supreme Court, for the second time during its summer vacation, did not commit to urgently hearing petitions seeking its intervention in the Ram Temple embezzlement case even as one of the petitioners, an advocate, highlighted on Monday the possibility that electronic evidence could be "quietly lost", erased, overwritten, or corrupted in the coming days.

"Electronic evidence is unlike a stone inscription. A CCTV system does not wait for court vacations. A DVR (digital video recorder) does not respect a listing schedule. Digital payment logs and access records can be modified, migrated or deleted. Therefore, when the relief sought is preservation of evidence, postponement itself may become denial of justice," petitioner-advocate N.K. Goswami said after he made an unlisted oral mention before a Vacation Bench headed by Justice M.M. Sundresh.

Mr. Goswami said he was not seeking a final hearing, but had only requested a non-prejudicial preservation order.

"My apprehension is that CCTV/DVR data, QR-UPI logs, hundi registers, counting sheets, bank and vault records may perish before the case is listed," he said.

During the oral mentioning, Mr. Goswami told the Bench that the Supreme Court Registry had informed him the petition would be taken up only after the summer vacation, which ends on July 12.

Mr. Goswami went on to urge the court to pass an order to secure the electronic evidence. However, the Bench, without directly addressing the issue raised by the lawyer, asked him to follow the procedure for mentioning and listing of cases.

The petition has also asked the court to call for a status report from the ongoing SIT investigation.

Ayodhya case will have long-term consequences for the Sangh Parivar

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The arrest of eight people in connection with the alleged embezzlement of donation money at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya is an event with repercussions both within the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-led Sangh Parivar and outside it, especially with the Assembly election due in Uttar Pradesh early next year.

The most obvious repercussion for the BJP and the Sangh Parivar is, of course, the loss of a moral high ground.

The Ramjanmabhoomi movement catapulted the BJP to power, and the RSS and its frontal organisations closer to their ideological goal of cultural nationalism around the Hindu religion. The sordidness of the embezzlement issue has led to questions about the integrity of those who spearheaded the movement to build the Ram Temple in place of the Babri Masjid. This is despite the fact that the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, and the working president of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Alok Kumar, were among the first to demand the filing of a first information report in the matter.

Burning issue: The case revolves around alleged embezzlement of donation money at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. PTI

Hindutva and its advocates will have to come up with answers to questions that are becoming inconvenient by the day – on who knew about the wrongdoing and to what extent, even if they were not involved in the actual embezzlement. With Assembly election due early next year, the BJP will have to swiftly investigate, identify, and prosecute the wrongdoers in order to go to the polls with something to say on the issue.

Within the Sangh Parivar, too, there appears to be a subtle reframing of who is to blame more.

The Trust had a large presence of VHP personnel and those associated with the temple movement in the past.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, although active during the Ramjanmabhoomi movement, entered the fray not as part of the management but as someone asked to clear up the mess via governmental probe. This may appear to be a small difference to many but the differentiation will matter within the Sangh Parivar, giving more of a moral high ground to the RSS's political wing, the BJP, which is otherwise required to express filial devotion to its parent organisation.

The third big repercussion of the alleged embezzlement is the harm done to the long-term demand by certain sections of the right-wing that the management of Hindu temples should be given over to private individuals or trusts. This was a demand that was made by many while comparing the management of religious institutions of other faiths in the country. Hindu shrines, especially in South India, have significant government supervision through Devaswom Boards.

In fact, in an interview in the wake of the allegations of embezzlement in Ayodhya, Nripendra Misra, chairperson of the Trust's construction committee, suggested that the running of the Ram Temple be on the lines of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, a statutory body of the Andhra Pradesh government which manages the Sri Venkateshwara Swamy Temple and other shrines attached to the main temple. This, he said, would bring more transparency and professional oversight into the running of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Ayodhya donation row: all 8 accused in judicial custody

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

A court in Ayodhya on Monday sent all eight accused in the alleged theft and embezzlement of donations from the Ram Temple to 14 days in judicial custody. The accused had earlier been produced before a remand magistrate on Friday, who had sent them to three days of judicial custody.

The eight accused – Ram Shankar Yadav alias Tinnu, Anukalp Mishra, Avinash Shukla, Karunesh Pandey, Manish Yadav, Lavkush Mishra, Ram Shankar Mishra and Subhash Srivastava – were produced before Special Judge, Anti-Corruption Court, Rajat Verma, through videoconferencing from the district jail, after the expiry of their three-day judicial custody. The case has been posted for hearing on July 13.

Earlier in the day, the Ayodhya Bar Association passed a resolution that none of its members will represent the eight accused. The association said if any member still wished to represent the accused, they should pay a penalty of ₹5 lakh per accused into the association's account. "... We will write a letter to the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation in the matter. The Bar Association will approach the High Court for a CBI investigation," said Kalika Prasad Mishra, the Bar Association president.

The Association also demanded the registration of a case against Champat Rai, the former general secretary of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, trustee Anil Mishra, and temple construction in-charge Gopal Rao.

The Congress further pushed its demand for a Supreme Court-monitored probe in the matter. A delegation, including State unit chief Ajay Rai and four Lok Sabha MPs, will visit Ayodhya on Tuesday.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEAN TECHNOLOGY
(Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India)
Deep Ocean Mission
Advanced Marine Station for Ocean Biology
Pallikaranai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 100

Readvertisement of MoES-DOM-PDF, Call For vacancy in NIOT

Advertisement No:- NIOT/MoES-DOM-V6/02/2026.
Starting date of submission of online application: **01/07/2026 at 9:30 IST**
Last date for receipt / submission of online application: **21/07/2026 at 17:30 IST**

National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Govt. of India invites applications from highly motivated and eligible Indian citizens for Post-Doctoral Fellowship, funded under Vertical-6 of the Deep Ocean Mission in covering verticals of the mission

DOM Verticals	Vacancy	Institute	Budget	
V1 & V3	4	NIOT	Fellowship	Rs 80,000/Month + HRA**;
			Research grant	Rs 2,50,000/Year;
			Travel (National)	Rs 30,000/Year &;
			& International***	Rs 1,00,000 for 2 Years
Total Vacancy	4			

Place of work: Depending upon the mentor institution. *The number of Fellowship may increase based on vacancy ariser.
**HRA as per Govt. of India norms. ***Based on merit basis & approval from DOM-MoES.
V1 - Development of Technologies for Deep Sea Mining, Underwater Vehicles & Underwater Robotics;
V3 - Technological Innovations for Exploration and Conservation of Deep-Sea Biodiversity

Eligibility other details to apply online please visit:https:\\amsob.in **Director (NIOT)**

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru – 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-04/0394/2026-27 **Date:29.06.2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Electrical License issued from KCEI, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following works:

Name of the work : (1) Providing Electrical Infrastructure Facilities at Dharwad Node Industrial Area, (Phase-II Part), Dharwad Taluk & District **(Package-2). (2)** Providing Electrical Infrastructure Facilities at Dharwad Node Industrial Area, (Phase-II Part), Dharwad Taluk & District **(Package-3). (3)** Providing Electrical Infrastructure Facilities at Dharwad Node Industrial Area, (Phase-II Part), Dharwad Taluk & District **(Package-4). (4)** Providing Electrical Infrastructure Facilities at Dharwad Node Industrial Area, (Phase-II Part), Dharwad Taluk & District **(Package-5). (5)** Providing Power Infrastructure to Nandur Kesartagi Industrial Area, 3rd Phase, Kalaburagi Taluk & District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **30.07.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2

DIPR/CP/JA/1388/2026-27

KMML Spreading Splendour
The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd
Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam,-691583
Phone : +91-476-2651215 to 217, E-mail : md@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE
For more details, please visit E-Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2026_KMML_857414_1	Fabrication & replacement of Pigment Separator
2.	2026_KMML_857925_1	Supply of PFA Lined Plug Valves
3.	2026_KMML_857777_1	Supply of High Purity Liquid Argon
4.	2026_KMML_857988_1	Supply of Brick Acid Resistant
5.	2026_KMML_857963_1	Supply of Double Girder Crab Assembly
6.	2026_KMML_857932_1	Supply of 210L M.S. Open Drums with Lid

Chavara. 29.06.2026 Sd/, Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

सीएमपीडीआई मिनी रत्न cmpdi Mini Ratna
सेन्ट्रल माईन प्लानिंग एण्ड डिजाईन इन्स्टीच्यूट लिमिटेड
Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Ltd.)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008, Jharkhand India

NOTICE
" All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for Procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in/** respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in"**

Invitation for Bids
Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas
17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan (STC Building), Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi – 110001

CAQM invites electronic bids on GeM Portal for:

Request for Proposal for Hiring Consultancy Services for establishment of Project Management Unit (PMU) for effective planning, monitoring, and evaluation of Air Quality & Action Plans

GEM Bid Number : GEM/2026/B/7670767
Bid Start Date: 17-06-2026
Bid End Date/Time: 08-07-2026 2:00 PM

Eligible Bidders may obtain further information on CAQM website https://caqm.nic.in

(For Ref. only)

INBRIEF

Govt. launches platform to track maternal, child health

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah recently launched the PM Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT), a digital platform aimed at strengthening maternal and child health, nutrition, and family welfare through real-time monitoring of beneficiaries. Introduced as a pilot project in Gujarat, the platform seeks to integrate health, nutrition, and welfare services by tracking pregnant women, newborns, infants, children, and adolescents up to 18 years. The platform also features digital Health Passports for families, dashboards to facilitate delivery of government welfare schemes, and alerts for vaccinations and essential health services.

JKLF chief among 5 named in chargesheet in Sarla Bhat case

After 36 years, the Jammu and Kashmir Police's special cell, State Investigation Agency (SIA), on Monday named Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front chief Yasin Malik among five others in the chargesheet filed in the killing of Kashmiri Pandit Sarla Bhat, a nurse at the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, in 1990. As per SIA, the investigation "conclusively established that the killing of Bhat was not an isolated act of violence but part of a larger terrorist conspiracy orchestrated under the command and control of the JKLF". The investigation revealed the involvement of Malik and others "in executing the abduction and brutal killing".

CBSE relaxes 3-language policy for Classes 7, 8, 9

The current 2026-27 batch of Class 10 will not have to follow the new language policy, the Board says; in Class 9, the third language will be evaluated only by an school-based internal assessment

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Students currently in Classes 7, 8, and 9 who have already opted for two foreign languages will continue with them, while also studying an additional Indian language (*Bharatiya Bhasha*), the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said in the revised guidelines issued on Monday.

The Board, in a circular issued in May, had said that students in Class 9 too would have to adopt the three-language policy, where two of three languages they learn should be native to India. Following this, parents of students who were learning foreign languages had protested against the abrupt switch.

Rule relaxed

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan stated last week that students in Classes 7, 8, and 9 who have taken foreign languages could continue their studies in their respective selected options.

The current batch of Class 10 will not have to follow the new language policy and will continue with the old system of two languages, the Board said.

The current batches studying in Classes 7, 8, and 9 would not be required to give Board examination in third language when they progress to Class 10, the statement added.

For Class 9, the third language (R3) will be assessed by the school through an internal school-based assessment.

The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, recommends learning three languages, with at least two of the three languages being native to India.

The CBSE, in its press statement on Monday, said the introduction of the third language (R3) in Secondary Stage (Classes 9 and 10) is an extension of language learning from the Middle Stage (Classes 6 to 8). The CBSE said that no third language is required to be taken by Class 10 students during 2026-27.

Every student in Class 9 would study three languages. Of these three languages, at least two would be *Bhartiya Bhashas*.

Clarification for Class 9

The CBSE also provided examples to offer clarity for students in Class 9. For example, if a student already studies two Indian languages, for instance Hindi and Tamil, they can choose as third language another Indian language or a non-native language such as English or French.

A student studying one Indian language and one non-native language (for example Tamil and English), may choose any Indian language as the third language (R3).

A student studying two non-native languages (for example English and French), as a special one-time relaxation, may continue with those two non-native languages and need to add one Indian language as third language (R3).

The CBSE and NCERT will provide grade-appropriate learning resources to help students learn the third language, the press release states.

The dedicated R3 textbooks for Class 6 in 22 Scheduled *Bhartiya Bhashas* are being made available on *www.ncert.nic.in*.

Some categories exempted from the three-language policy are children with special needs, CBSE schools outside India, and foreign students returning to India. If guardians migrate to another State, the student may continue with the existing combination of languages.

Concessions made: NEP'20 recommends learning 3 languages, with at least 2 of the 3 languages being native to India.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and others during the release of DRDO Delegation of Financial Powers. PTI

Centre unveils plan to speed up DRDO's research projects

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday released the Delegation of Financial Powers to DRDO (DFP-2026), a major reform aimed at improving efficiency, accountability, and the timely execution of strategic research and development projects.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Singh said the revised framework would facilitate faster production and induction of systems, platforms and technologies developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) into the armed forces.

He added that the DFP-2026 would strengthen collaboration with industry and academia, further advancing the government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

'Enhance self-reliance'

Mr. Singh said the new financial powers framework would enhance self-reliance in defence technologies and significantly strengthen the country's defence preparedness.

The revised framework provides dedicated financial provisions for trial campaigns, testing and evaluation activities, authorises the sanctioning of pre-project R&D initiatives, and clearly segregates financial powers for grants-in-aid related to Extra-Mural Research Projects, and Defence Innovation Accelerator-Centres of Excellence under separate schedules.

Passport issues faced by two journalists a concern: PCI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Press Club of India on Monday expressed concern over passport-related issues faced by two senior journalists, including former Editor of *The Telegraph* R. Rajagopal, whose name was deleted from the voters' list of West Bengal.

"If a respected senior editor like Mr. Rajagopal is facing difficulties to prove his citizenship in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, what hardships lakhs of ordinary citizens must be enduring through that process is a significant question that emerges from this instance," it said. The PCI said the passport of another senior journalist, Samrat Choudhury, was impounded earlier this month citing an "adverse" police verification report.

Man held for giving out poison capsules at Muharram rally

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The police have seized 14,900 capsules and 50 kg of the chemical compound

The Mumbai Police have arrested a 39-year-old man for allegedly distributing capsules containing the rodent poison zinc phosphide to participants in a Muharram procession.

The suspect has been identified as Faiyaz Nisar Premji, a resident of Pune. The police have seized 14,900 capsules and 50 kg of the chemical compound from his possession.

According to the police, the arrest was made on Friday night during the Ashura procession in the Byculla area. Officers allegedly spotted Mr. Premji distributing capsules to members of the crowd. When questioned, he claimed that the capsules were painkillers. However, as he could not produce any authorisation for their distribution and reports later emerged of people experiencing nausea and vomiting after consuming them, he was detained.

"During questioning, the accused confessed that he aimed to target specific people and cause them harm. The accused had ordered 30,000 empty capsules online. He also ordered 50 kg of zinc phosphide. He prepared the capsules by filling each one with one gram of zinc phosphide," Jayant Meena, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Zone 3, said.

The officer said Mr. Premji had visited Iran and Iraq in 2025.

Why are States opposing VB-G RAM G

EXPLAINER

Sobhana K. Nair

On July 1, the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) will become operational, replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The Union Rural Development Ministry notified the draft rules for the new employment scheme on May 22, giving a month to stakeholders to submit their feedback.

The difference

The VB-G RAM G marks a shift from a "demand-driven framework" to a "supply-driven scheme". Under the new system, allocations will be capped within a fixed budget determined by the Union government based on "objective parameters".

While the new Act increases the number of guaranteed workdays from 100 to 125, it also significantly raises the financial burden on States from the current 10% share to 40% of total expenditure. Under the MGNREGA, the Union government was responsible for 100% of the labour wages and 75% of the material wages. In practice, this translated to a 90:10 cost share between the Centre and the States.

Section 5(1) empowers the Union government to "notify rural areas in a State" where the scheme will be implemented. This is a departure from the MGNREGA, which was universal. Another departure from the MGNREGA is that the new law allows for a blackout period, pausing the programme during peak agricultural seasons to "facilitate availability of labour".

Objections by the States

At least three States – Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand, two of them with BJP-led governments – questioned the shift in the financial model, which now requires a majority of States to bear 40% of the total expenditure, in contrast to the MGNREGA.

At least three States have raised questions about the shift in the financial model of VB-G RAM G.

Five States have sought a revision of wage rates, and four have aired reservations over the provision of 60 non-working days during the peak agricultural season.

Bihar has sought that wages should increase from the present ₹255 to ₹413. Jammu & Kashmir, meanwhile, wants an increase in wages from ₹272 to ₹311. Both Jharkhand and Punjab argued that wages should be competitive and in line with market conditions. Uttarakhand underlined the tough landscape that workers have to work on and sought a compensatory hike. Nearly all States have highlighted delays in clearing the wage and material bill by the Centre.

Centre to hold power

One of the key concerns raised by academics and activists is that the VB-G RAM G gives disproportionate power to the Centre. As per the draft rules on inter-State distribution of funds, the Union government will adopt objective parameters utilised for horizontal devolution among States as recommended by the 16th Finance Commission. The exact application methodology is determined at the discretion of the Union government, a clause, flagged as concerning.

New rural jobs Act is not fair, CPI(M) leader tells Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The "objective parameters" for the fund allocation under the VB-G RAM G are neither "objective nor fair" and the new rural employment law relies excessively on technology and lays out no parameters for wage fixation, senior CPI (M) leader Brinda Karat wrote in a letter to Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday.

The rules, Ms. Karat said, were notified without any consultation with workers' organisations or unions and strengthened the Centre's control in decision-making.

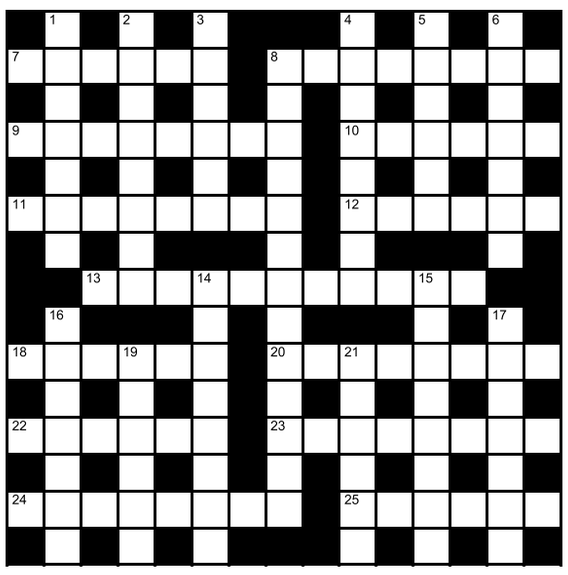
The rule deciding the normative allocation, she said, sets up a framework of "rank discrimination" against workers depending on where they reside.

TH CROSSWORD + 14833

(set by Pixie Dust)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Protagonist nicked addictive substance (6)
8 To begin with wonderful, obviously original display - warm, opulently rich Kashmiri-style carpentry (8)
9 Bill breaking free of compulsive behaviours and expressions (8)
10 Declares: "Pixie Dust dividing shell money!" (6)
11 Fictional miser losing love for a French bum (8)
12 To a certain extent felt sensually repelled in snuggle (6)
13 The 'MACS' repeatedly played tournaments? (4,7)
18 Fictional detective's biographer, as per reports questioned boy (6)
20 Vision I quote in conversation (8)
22 Some misread her enchantment for Bond (6)
23 Can this masquerader redesign a crimson top? (8)
24 Authentic, clear garlic soup without traces of olives and parsley (8)
25 Blue-collar worker from Colombo will binge every now and then (6)

Down

1 Spooner says: "The rest and I talk behind their back entrance!" (7)
2 Open spot? Perhaps take a rain check! (8)
3 Native of Banjarmasin, Borneo (6)
4 Stuck-up Dominic in a clover, exposed and dangerous (8)
5 Hits outside net essentially and panics (6)
6 Member cycling around strange black object (7)
8 Let Maria refuse! (5,8)
14 Drive nurse to Easthampton on vacation with Charlie Yen (8)
15 Release young girl endlessly overwhelmed by mounting racket (8)
16 Honesty from John Grim (7)
17 Deranged gossip about Oscar I see in texting (7)
19 Delivered butcher's toboggan (6)
21 Imagine master having no right adopting canine (6)

SUDOKU

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

No.SS6927 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

E	T	H	N	I	C		P	H
	I		O		L		A	
I	G	N	O	R	A	N	T	
	H		S		N		C	
S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	E
					E		E	
A	N	T	L	E	R	E	D	
	O		I					
F	R	A	M	E	S		O	B
	T		E		Q		F	
T	H	U	S		U	N	F	R
	E		T		I		E	
F	A	V	O	U	R		R	E
	S		N		T		E	
S	T	R	E	S	S	E	D	

A	R	M	A	C	Y			
	L		A		A			
P	A	R	E	N	T			
I		I		D				
G	A	L	E					
O		E						
S	O	L	E	M	N			
D		A						
U	S	E	S	E	S	T		
R								
I	E	N	D	L	Y			
O		E						
L	A	T	I	V	E			
E		E						
D	E	S	I	R	E			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Mooka Panchasati benefits

There are only two things worth aspiring for in life. One is to be born as a human and having born thus, pray to God for liberation (*mukshatvam*) from worldly attachments and rebirth. The advantage a human has over other life forms is the quality of discernment, and this should be channelised in proper manner. Man has the ability to know what is permanent in this universe and should aim to achieve that in his life. Our sastras show the way forward, and reciting verses from works such as Mooka Panchasati will help one, said Damodara Deekshithar.

Scriptures state that there are seven places which are so holy that staying in those places for a short while and focusing on the Divine will help one attain moksha. These are Ayodhya, Mathura, Maya (Haridwar), Kasi, Kanchi, Avantika (Ujjain) and Dwaraka. Kanchi, meaning central part, is one of the holiest places to reside, since it is Ambal's favourite place. One may conduct yagas, perform pujas and be a close adherent to dharma, but nothing comes close to receiving the grace of Kanchi Kamakoti.

Mooka Sankarendra Saraswati, the 20th Pontiff of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, composed Mooka Panchasati, after receiving Her grace. Born deaf mute, he visited Ambal's temple every day, attending the prayer rituals and partaking *prasad*. Such is the power of prayer, that Ambal, moved by the faith, is ready to offer Her blessings to true devotees. Like Kalidasa receiving the blessings of Kali, Mooka in Kanchi received similar benediction. His 500-verse composition, Mooka Panchasati remains relevant, the reading of which is believed to offer relief from various ailments.

INBRIEF

Apple accuses India of 'copy-pasting' rivals in probe

Apple has accused the Competition Commission of India of "copy-pasting" its rivals' claims and failing to properly conduct its own investigation in concluding the U.S. tech giant breached competition laws, calling for the findings to be quashed, regulatory papers reviewed by *Reuters* showed. The June 25 Apple submission, being reported for the first time, marks the sharpest escalation yet in Apple's fight with the CCI, where Tinder-owner Match and Indian start-ups are among its opponents. In 2024, CCI investigators privately issued a report saying Apple engaged in "abusive conduct" on the apps platform of its iOS operating system, and wrongly mandated the use of its payment system.

Centre eases metrology rules for first-time violators

The Department of Consumer Affairs on Monday said it has introduced an "Improvement Notice" mechanism under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, allowing businesses to rectify first-time procedural non-compliances before facing penal action. The change has been effected through the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026, as part of the government's Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) agenda. A Legal Metrology Officer detecting a specified first-time procedural or regulatory lapse may issue an Improvement Notice, identifying the deficiency and providing reasonable time to correct it. PTI

Tech Mahindra to deploy Perplexity AI platform

Tech Mahindra on Monday said it will deploy AI platform Perplexity across its sales and customer-facing teams for better client engagement. The integration of 'Perplexity Enterprise Pro' aims to equip senior sales leaders and customer partners with intelligent tools to research customer priorities efficiently, understand industry-specific challenges and identify emerging business opportunities, the company said. Equipping sales teams with intelligent tools that support faster decision-making and deeper customer understanding will improve sales performance while delivering more personalised and meaningful experiences for customers, it said. PTI

Only electric two-wheelers to ply on Delhi roads from 2028

Territorial government notifies new EV policy that mandates all two-wheelers to shift to EVs from April 1, 2028; only electric three-wheelers and N1 trucks to be registered from January 1, 2027

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Notifying its new EV policy on Monday, the Delhi government said that it would focus entirely on electric vehicles, and that no subsidies would be provided for hybrid vehicles. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced that the Cabinet had approved the policy at a ₹7,000 crore budget with an overall investment of ₹15,000 crore, including for development of charging infrastructure, purchase and scrapping incentives.

The territorial government has also put into place deadlines for various categories of vehicles to be transitioned to EVs. From January 1, 2027, only electric three wheelers and N1 trucks will be registered. The deadline for two-wheelers to shift to EV is April 1, 2028. School buses would also need to convert at least 10% of their fleet to EV within two years of notification of the policy.

Calling the policy 'transformative and revolutionary', the CM said that the transition would be instrumental in combatting air pollution in the city. Ms. Gupta said that the new policy was likely to come into effect on July 1, 2026, and would remain effective till March 31, 2030.

The transport department will be the nodal agency for the implementation of the policy with Delhi Transco Ltd. (DTL) responsible for developing charging infrastructure in the city, including collaborating with the power department and distribution companies to provide power for the EV transition.

No entry: Transport Secretary Niharika Rai claimed 46% of air pollution was caused by by two- and three-wheelers. FILE PHOTO

Transport Secretary Niharika Rai said that 33% of air pollution was caused by commercial goods carrier vehicles and 46% by two- and three-wheelers. "The policy focuses on these vehicles specifically. We are trying to convert the entire fleet of these vehicles into EV," she said.

The government has allocated a budget of ₹7,000 crore for implementation of the policy with an additional ₹3,000 crore as purchase and scrapping incentives. About ₹1,000 crore has been allocated for development of charging infrastructure in the city. Besides, citizens would also be exempted from road tax and registration fee would be waived for all electric vehicles (EVs). The government was expected to lose ₹3,000 crore worth of revenue from these benefits, the officials said.

However, the officials specified that the road tax and registration fee exemption would be applicable for cars costing only up to ₹30 lakh, at ex-showroom price.

The official said that citizens would get purchase incentives of up to ₹30,000 for two-wheelers: ₹30,000 in the first year of notification of the policy, ₹20,000 in the second year and ₹10,000 in the third year. For three wheelers, the incentives will be ₹50,000, ₹40,000 and ₹30,000 respectively, for the first, second and third years. Similarly, a subsidy of up to ₹1 lakh would be provided for N1 commercial trucks in the first year of the EV policy.

Scrapping incentives for vehicles below BS-IV emission norms categories would be around ₹10,000 for two-wheelers, ₹25,000 for three-wheelers and ₹1 lakh for four-wheelers. Scrapping N1 trucks would beget ₹50,000 as incentive and Gramin Seva units completing their lifecycle in the coming years, would also get ₹15,000 subsidy, the officials said.

Moreover, electric N2 trucks, i.e., those carrying loads from 3.5-12 tonnes, would be exempted from 'No Entry' timings for the next 10 years. However, this is applicable only to the first 1,000 N2 trucks purchased within three months of notification of the policy.

The officials also said that no subsidy would be provided for hybrid vehicles. A new dedicated EV portal would keep track of purchased and registered vehicles for which consumers would have to submit their documents to avail subsidies and incentives.

Consumers would be able to apply for the subsidies within 30 days of issuance of registration certificates. The subsidies would be provided within 60 days through DBT.

The government also plans to install 32,000 charging points infrastructure within the next four years, funded by PM e-Drive schemes as well as the Delhi government budget.

Union Cabinet okays ₹30,000 cr. additional investment in NIIF for new fund creation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved an additional investment by the Government of India of ₹30,000 crore in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to be used for its upcoming funds, the government announced on Monday.

The decision itself was taken last week, it said. This would take the government's total commitment in NIIF to ₹60,000 crore. The NIIF is India's sovereign anchored fund, in which the government of India is a 49% shareholder. It currently manages capital commitments of about ₹40,000 crore across its funds and investment strategies, the government said.

"We are grateful for this allocation of ₹30,000 crore, which is a strong reaffirmation of Government support to NIIF and reinforces the catalytic capital model that has defined NIIF since inception," Sanjiv Aggarwal, Managing Director and CEO of NIIF said.

New fund

According to a release by NIIF, this additional allocation from the government will help NIIF raise larger funds, attract investors across geographies, and deepen its presence in key sectors of the economy.

> This additional investment of ₹30,000 crore will be used to set up NIIF's second infrastructure focussed fund, the successor to its first flagship fund with this mandate

The government said that this additional investment of ₹30,000 crore will be used to set up NIIF's second infrastructure focussed fund, the successor to its first flagship fund with this mandate.

"NIIF Infrastructure Fund II is proposed to have a target corpus of close to ₹30,000 crore and is expected to undertake investments across transportation, energy, digital infrastructure, and emerging areas such as urban infrastructure and e-mobility," the government release said.

It added that the allocation will also support NIIF's new fund strategies and upcoming bilateral and strategic funds.

"Over the past decade, GoI's anchor commitment has enabled us to build a very strong institutional investor base, spanning leading sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, multilateral and bilateral institutions, and domestic financial institutions," Mr. Aggarwal added.

FPIs pour in a record ₹53,300 cr. to compensate for debt equity exit

Ashokamithran T
MUMBAI

Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) poured a record ₹53,363 crore in all types of debt securities to compensate for a near equal amount sold in equities in June 2026. This led to a net inflow of about ₹334 crore in all instruments, according to data from NSDL.

Debt security investments are classified into General Limit, Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) and Fully Accessible Route (FAR) – a large section of which could be attributed to government securities.

Inflows in the General Limit and Fully Accessible Route (FAR) came in at ₹28,196 and ₹21,788 crore in June 2026. FAR bond investments were up five times and General Limit investments increased from an outflow of ₹100 crore last month. The increase in inflows comes weeks after the Ministry of Finance exempted government securities from long-term capital gains and increased the tenors of bonds in the FAR category in a bid to deepen bond markets. The move also comes at a time when the overall foreign investor behaviour leans towards aversion to the Indian markets, largely due to sub-par returns in equities owing to higher valuations and a depreciated rupee. Equity outflow, however, continued for the fourth consecutive month to ₹51,456 crore in June 2026. In the past six months put together, equity outflows alone were ₹2.76 lakh crore.

AI must not compromise data integrity: Mishra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Even as India moves towards AI-ready datasets, such data can become an asset to the country "only when backed by robust standards of quality, privacy and transparency", P. K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the PM said on Monday.

Speaking at the 20th Statistics Day, Mr. Mishra said that while Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers "transformative opportunities" for statistical analysis and policymaking, its adoption must be guided by strong governance frameworks to address bias, accountability and explainability.

P. K. Mishra

Datasets updated

Mr. Mishra acknowledged after decades of excellence, the statistical system faced challenges relating to outdated datasets, delays in data dissemination, fragmented statistical architecture and declining professional capacity.

"The concerns prompted a comprehensive reform exercise led by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) through extensive consultations with experts and stakeholders," Mr. Mishra said. "Based on the deliberations, MoSPI accepted 216 recommendations for time-bound implementation under an institutional oversight mechanism."

He highlighted the reforms had already led to the introduction of new and user demand-based surveys, updating of macroeconomic indicators, improved data dissemination and significant procedural and process-oriented reforms.

Since February, the government had released updated series of national accounts, Index of Industrial Production, Consumer Price Index and Wholesale Price Index apart from introducing Producer Price Index and the Index of Services Production.

On India's adoption of AI-ready datasets, he said: "Administrative data can become a powerful national asset only when backed by robust standards of quality, privacy and transparency."

HDFC Bank names part-time chairman

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The board of HDFC Bank approved the appointment of Former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar as additional director (independent director) for a period of four years and also as part time chairman for a period of three years.

Mr. Kumar, 66, is a 1984-batch IAS officer. He retired as Finance Secretary in 2020. Post retirement, he briefly served as Chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).

As Secretary, Department of Financial Services (2017-2020), he assumed charge at a time when public sector banks were grappling with high levels of unrecognised NPAs, capital inadequacy, lenders frozen out of fresh credit, rampant gold plating, diversion of equity and debt and recirculation to leverage fresh credit, governance challenges including large consortia, NBFCs struggling to fill micro credit gaps post demonetisation, Ponzi schemes defrauding citizens, etc.

Mr. Kumar will replace interim part-time chairman Keki Mistry who stepped in on the sudden resignation of part-time chairman Atanu Chakraborty on account of ethical concerns.

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Indian Overseas Bank
आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी Good people to grow with
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL - SELECTION OF COLOCATION DATA CENTRE SERVICE PROVIDER FOR BANK'S DISASTER RECOVERY DATA CENTRE SITE ON CO-HOSTING MODEL

BID NO: GEM/2026/B/7708010 DATED 24.06.2026

The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites www.iob.bank.in & www.gem.gov.in For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website www.gem.gov.in

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online tender for the work:

Tender No. T25P111924: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 33 KV GIS with complete civil works at various 220 kV Substation of DTL on turnkey basis. (IP, Parkstreet, Wazirpur, Naraina & Okhla)

For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :-
https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. 2026_DTL_294402_1) and **www.dtl.gov.in** with Unique No. DTL-0063-250626.

Last date for bid submission: **14.08.2026 at 01.30 P.M.**

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/ Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D., CIRCLE-JHALAWAR
Room No. – 158, Ground Floor (Public Works Department), Mini Secretariat, Jhalawar
E-mail :-piu_jhalawar@rediffmail.com/sejwar.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in Phone No. :- 07432-233336

S. No. :- 357 Date :- 19-06-2026

NIT No. 12/2026-27
Notice Inviting Bid
NIB No. PWD2627A1296

Bids for **12 Nos CD Works in Jhalrapatan Constituency in Distt. Jhalawar & Const. of Road from Lasudiya shah to Gokulpura & 21 Nos. ML Roads in Jhalrapatan Constituency Distt. Jhalawar** are invited from interested bidders **upto 6.00 PM, Dated 20.07.2026** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://erpoc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the Rajasthan and **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in** website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 5568.75 Lacs**.

S. No.	UBN No.	S. No.	UBN No.	S. No.	UBN No.
1	PWD2627WSOB05500	2	PWD2627WSOB05501	3	PWD2627WSOB05504
4	PWD2627WSOB05506	5	PWD2627WSOB05507	6	PWD2627WSOB05508
7	PWD2627WSOB05509	8	PWD2627WSOB05510	9	PWD2627WSOB05511
10	PWD2627WSOB05512	11	PWD2627WSOB05513	12	PWD2627WSOB05514
13	PWD2627WSOB05515	14	PWD2627WSOB05516	15	PWD2627WSOB05517
16	PWD2627WSOB05518	17	PWD2627WSOB05519	18	PWD2627WSOB05520
19	PWD2627WSOB05521	20	PWD2627WSOB05522	21	PWD2627WSOB05523
22	PWD2627WSOB05524	23	PWD2627WSOB05525	24	PWD2627WSOB05526
25	PWD2627WSOB05527	26	PWD2627WSOB05528	27	PWD2627WSOB05530

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

DIPR/C/11246/2026

THE HINDU GROUP

CELEBRATING THE QUIET DREAMERS WHO DRIVE POWERFUL CHANGE.

If you know a young visionary whose leadership is changing the world - or if that visionary is you - nominate them (or yourself) for the Young Changemaker Award.

thehindu businessline. CHANGE MAKER awards RECOGNISING HUMAN CATALYSTS

In a world that often overlooks youth, we are honouring those young changemakers who are making the boldest impact with courage, conviction, and clarity. They challenge the norm, defy expectations, and lead with purpose to create a better future for us all.

Scan the QR code or visit **thbl.news/BLCM2026CFN** to nominate yourself or someone you know.

NOMINATIONS OPEN NOW

Other categories include:
• Digital Transformation • Financial Transformation
• Social Transformation • Changemaker of the Year

DEIR AL-BALAH

Two children among four killed in Israeli strike and shelling in Gaza

AFP

An Israeli drone strike hit a tent sheltering displaced people in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip on Monday, killing at least three Palestinians, including an 8-year-old boy, medical officials said. Separately, a 13-year-old girl was killed by shrapnel from Israeli tank shelling in southern Gaza, according to Nasser hospital. AP, REUTERS

BELGRADE

Europe's heatwave scorches Italy and Balkans as wildfire fears rise

AFP

Italy and the Balkans felt the impact on Monday of the heatwave that has caused hundreds of excess deaths across Europe. A red alert was issued in Croatia. In Serbia, soaring temperatures were predicted for next few days. Albania contained a raging wildfire. In Italy, 22 cities were covered by a red heat warning. REUTERS

WASHINGTON

U.S. Supreme Court rules Trump can fire independent agency heads

REUTERS

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday backed President Donald Trump's firing of a Democratic Federal Trade Commission member, expanding his powers to fire leaders of independent regulators. The court, in another case, blocked Mr. Trump's firing of Federal Reserve Governor as it stood firm on the bank's independence. REUTERS

BERLIN

Six dead in shooting in northern Germany; two suspects arrested

AFP

Six people were killed in a shooting on Monday at a youth welfare facility in the northern German town of Stade, police said. Two people were arrested, including the suspected shooter. Police said they were working to establish the background to the shooting and what exactly happened. AP

Iran to get $6 billion in frozen assets from Qatar: Pezeshkian

President praises interim agreement, calls it 'a great victory for the Iranian people'; no mention of assets release by the U.S. or Qatar; Tehran had struck a tanker with Qatari crude oil this weekend

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran's President said on Monday that $6 billion in frozen Iranian assets would be released by Qatar, as negotiations with the United States were challenged by attacks across the Persian Gulf this weekend.

Masoud Pezeshkian's mention of the funds appear aimed at selling the Iranian public on the interim deal, particularly as its grip on the Strait of Hormuz has been tested by efforts to open Oman's territorial waters to both inbound and outbound traffic from the Persian Gulf.

During the war that began when the U.S. and Israel launched attacks on Iran on February 28, Tehran's attacks and threats stopped cargo ships and tankers from moving through the strait, in which about a fifth of all traded oil and natural gas passed in peacetime, creating a global energy crisis.

A woman walks past a billboard featuring Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Pakistan — a key mediator in the negotiations. AP

The strait has long been considered an international waterway despite its location in Iran and Oman's territorial waters.

In recent days, Iran has twice attacked vessels going through a route near the Omani side, drawing retaliatory American airstrikes and concerns that negotiations to reach a formal end to the war could be disrupted. Iran launched drone and missile attacks targeting Bahrain and Kuwait on Sunday.

On interim deal

Mr. Pezeshkian offered praise for the interim deal, which includes waivers for sanctions on Iran's oil and petrochemical sectors, in comments published on Monday by the state-run IRNA news agency, calling it "a great victory for the Iranian people."

"Based on the plans made, $6 billion out of the total $12 billion of Iranian resources in Qatar will be released and returned to the country, and necessary follow-ups are being carried out," he said.

Mr. Pezeshkian is the highest-ranking official within Iran to reference the release of the funds held by Qatar, a key mediator along with Pakistan in the negotiations. So far, U.S. officials say no frozen Iranian assets have been released. Qatar as well as has not acknowledged any such transfer and Iran attacked a tanker filled with Qatari crude oil this weekend during the crossfire in the Persian Gulf.

Burnham to create 'No. 10 North' as PM, to oversee decentralisation

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Andy Burnham, who is likely to become the next Prime Minister of the U.K. previewed his economic policy on Monday, emphasising devolution of economic powers from London, towards the regions of England as well as to Scotland and Wales.

The former Greater Manchester Mayor, who returned to the U.K. Parliament in Westminster exactly a week ago after winning a byelection, said he would create an extension of the Prime Minister's office in Manchester – a 'No. 10 North' – to oversee and enable the devolution.

Mr. Burnham, whose relative popularity in the Labour Party provided an alternative to current Prime Minister Keir Starmer completing his five-year term, said he would "build the broadest possible coalition of people to lift Britain back up", during his Monday speech in Manchester.

Andy Burnham

Collaborative politics

"I am going to give Britain the circuit breaker it needs by building a more collaborative politics in Westminster, by taking power out of the centre and putting it in the hands of the people and places who can use it best," he said.

Mr. Burnham is, for now, running uncontested to replace Mr. Starmer as Prime Minister and leader of the Labour Party. On Monday, he emphasised his desire for decentralisation, saying Britain was one of the most centralised countries in the world, as he presented a picture of the U.K. Parliament not working smoothly. He promised the "biggest rebalancing" the country had ever seen, with bottom-up regional planning to attract investments.

Mr. Burnham suggested he would adopt a 10-year plan to raise living standards, would focus on skills training as an alternative to university and push for greater public control of utilities. Britain would see the largest public house building programme in the post-war era, Mr. Burnham said.

He has not yet provided details of how he would fund his plans, but reiterated that he would respect the current government's "fiscal rules", i.e., the self-imposed spending rules the government committed to. The former Mayor had, previously, ruffled feather in the markets and caused a rise in borrowing costs when he had indicated that the fiscal rules could be relaxed.

"Whilst not taking risks with the public finances, will seek to give Britain some breathing space as soon as I can," he said, on Monday.

Mr. Burnham could replace Mr. Starmer by July 17, if no other candidate enters the fray.

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU | thehindu businessline. | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | THE HINDU Young World | THE HINDU

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. CW/WP/8150-WC/BVCM/SOLAR & EPOXY/100/OT, Dated: 26.06.2026

Name of the work & Quantity: Supply and application / Installation of polyamine epoxy resin flooring and solar electrical arrangement in BVCM wagons

Approximate Value of Work	Bid Security Amount	Period of Contract	Tender Closing Date & Time
₹ 2,94,27,531.00 inclusive of GST @ 18% (Rupees Two crore ninety four lakh twenty seven thousand five hundred and thirty one only)	₹ 5,88,600/- (Rupees five lakh eighty eight thousand and six hundred only)	12 Months	22.07.2026 @ 12:00 hours

Complete details and tender documents are available at **www.ireps.gov.in**

Asst. Works Manager / Wagon Production, Central Workshop / Golden Rock / Trichy - 620004

Russian drone and missile strikes kill 11, injure 40 in Ukraine

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian missiles and drones killed at least 11 civilians and injured 40 others in Ukraine on Monday in what President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described as "horrific attacks."

A Russian missile targeting infrastructure struck the central city of Dnipro, killing five people and wounding 29. Russian drones hit a passenger minibus in the southern city of Zaporizhzhia, killing three and wounding six, including a child, he said.

Russia drones also killed two people in the northeastern Sumy region. Russian strike killed one person and wounded five others in the northeastern city of Kharkiv.

Mr. Zelenskyy renewed his plea for Europe to step up its development of air defences to block Russia's ballistic missiles.

"People need greater protection from such horrific attacks," Mr. Zelenskyy said. "Above all, we need anti-ballistic capabilities. It is essential that Europe is as active as possible in developing its own anti-ballistic defense - its own systems and missiles."

China imposes new export controls on 20 Japanese entities

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China put 20 more Japanese organisations on a blacklist on Monday over the export of items with both military and civilian possible uses, deepening tensions with Tokyo.

The new additions, including major companies, "have participated in enhancing Japan's military capabilities", the Chinese Commerce Ministry said in a statement.

A Japanese government spokesperson called the measures "unacceptable and deeply regrettable".

The two countries have had strained relations since Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi suggested in November that Tokyo may react militarily to an attack on Taiwan.

The 20 additions to the export blacklist include specialised subsidiaries and technology firms involved in supplying components and engineering support for Japan's defence sector. China has said exporters must submit risk assessments and guarantees that dual-use items will not enhance Japanese military strength prior to making shipments.

Deal with Israel foments divisions, will not be implemented: Lebanese Speaker

Reuters
BEIRUT

Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a key ally of Hezbollah, on Monday slammed a U.S.-brokered agreement between Lebanon and Israel, warning it could lead to attempts to divide Lebanese and said it would not be implemented.

Israeli officials suggested the agreement would move forward in the coming days, but there were no reports of any aspects of the deal being implemented on the ground.

Vehicles drive past billboards that read in Arabic, 'Lebanon first', one of which has been set on fire along Beirut's airport road. AFP

In comments to Lebanon's *al-Akhbar* newspaper, Mr. Berri described Iran-U.S. talks as the only realistic opportunity to secure Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and that any attempt to separate Lebanon from the U.S.-Iran track would prolong Israeli occupation.

The agreement foresees Lebanon's Army taking over territory pending verified disarmament of non-state groups – a reference to Hezbollah – saying this would enable Israel's military "to progressively redeploy out of" Lebanon.

Mr. Berri described the agreement as "diktats". *Al-Akhbar* quoted Mr. Berri as saying the most dangerous aspect of the agreement was not only its political content, but "the potential for it to incite internal divisions and draw the Lebanese into a confrontation among themselves".

The agreement "won't be implemented", *al-Akhbar* cited him as saying.

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

SIMATS signs Healthcare MoU

Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Healthcare Sector Skill Council, Government of India, in the presence of Chancellor Dr. N.M. Veeraiyan and HSSC CEO Ashish Jain. The collaboration aims to strengthen healthcare education through industry-integrated, skill-based learning that enhances employability and workforce readiness. Students will benefit from specialised training programmes, practical exposure and career-focused learning aligned with evolving industry standards. Dr. Veeraiyan said, "Healthcare is one of the fastest-growing sectors in India. Our vision is to develop a skilled and industry-ready workforce by integrating academic excellence with practical training and real-world exposure."

SRM concludes PANACEA 2026

SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre concluded PANACEA 2026, its annual inter-medical cultural festival at the Kattankulathur campus. Organised by the Zephyrians Student Council, the event drew over 3,000 students from more than 20 medical colleges. Additional Registrar Dr. T. Mythili said, "What you learn inside the classroom shapes your career. What you do outside the classroom shapes you as an individual for life." Dean (Medical) Prof. (Dr.) Jayanthi R. added, " "While medicine trains us to heal the body and think critically, cultural events remind us of why we practice medicine: to connect, to comfort, and to celebrate our shared humanity."

Crescent in Sustainability Rankings

B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology secured top global and national positions in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings 2026, announced at the Global Sustainable Development Congress in Jakarta. The institute ranked 12th globally and first in India for SDG 4 (Quality Education), 11th globally for SDG 6, 14th for SDG 7, and was placed in the 101–200 global band overall. Director (IQAC) Prof. Dr. A. Abudhahir said, "Our commitment to quality assurance is paramount in driving our sustainable development initiatives." Vice Chancellor Dr. A. Peer Mohamed called the recognition "a validation of our unwavering commitment to building a sustainable future."

HGI hosts Excellence Awards

Hindustan Group of Institutions (HGI) hosted the Dr. K.C.G. Verghese Excellence Awards 2026 in Chennai as part of its 60-year legacy of education, innovation and nation-building. Instituted in memory of founder Dr. K.C.G. Verghese, the awards honoured 13 achievers across six categories, including Lifetime Achievement, Academic & Research Excellence, Corporate Excellence, Alumni Excellence, Corporate Social Responsibility and Child Prodigy. Among the recipients were Biju Balendran, Satish Chandra Gupta, Dr. G.S.K. Velu, Dr. Rajnish Kumar, Lt. Col. V. Shanmuga Velan and Dr. Saundarya Rajesh. The ceremony, attended by Justice A.D. Jagadish Chandira and Hugues Boiteau, also marked the unveiling of HGI's 60th-year logo. Chairman Dr. Anand Jacob Verghese said, "The Dr. K.C.G. Verghese Excellence Awards serve as a tribute to the values that have guided us throughout this journey—excellence, innovation, integrity and service to society." He added that HGI remains committed to "building future-ready talent" through education, innovation and industry collaboration.

R.M.K. celebrates Graduation Day

R.M.K. Engineering College celebrated its 27th Graduation Day, honouring 768 graduates, including 46 rank holders. Presiding over the ceremony, Founder-Chairman R. S. Munirathinam urged students to build successful careers, adding that their achievements reflected the "tireless efforts of their parents and faculty members." Vice Chairman R. M. Kishore highlighted 1,605 placement offers for the 2026 batch, with the highest package at Rs. 66 LPA, alongside 69 start-ups, 133 patents and Rs. 28.12 crore in research funding. Chief Guest Joydeep Dutta Roy urged graduates to "believe in their potential," while TCS HR Head Sriram Joshi stressed continuous upskilling and lifelong learning.

SNEAKING THROUGH

Eustaquio's late strike earns Canada a spot in the last 16

REUTERS

Stephen Eustaquio's stoppage-time winner fired Canada to a 1-0 win over South Africa in Los Angeles on Sunday in the first match of the World Cup knockout rounds, as the co-host entered the last 16 for the first time. The game appeared to be heading for extra time before Eustaquio broke South African hearts with a clinical hit.

WAIT AND WATCH

Broos may reverse decision to quit as South Africa coach

GETTY IMAGES

Hugo Broos could reverse his decision to quit as South Africa coach after his side's loss to Canada in the World Cup round of 32. "It is not clever to make decisions when you are disappointed," Broos said after the match. The Belgian had announced earlier that he would leave once South Africa's campaign at the showpiece ended.

BEING ACCOUNTABLE

Saudi football federation chief stands down after team's exit

GETTY IMAGES

Saudi Arabia Football Federation president Yasser al-Misehal announced his resignation after the Green Falcons were knocked out of the World Cup in the first round. "The failure of the national team to qualify for the next round is a result that falls short of all our ambitions, and I bear full responsibility for it," al-Misehal wrote on *X*.

CREATING HISTORY

India wins maiden gold at the World Rowing Cup in Switzerland

WORLD ROWING

India scripted history at the World Rowing Cup III in Lucerne, with Army-men Lakshay and Ujiwal Kumar Singh clinching the country's maiden-ever gold medal. The duo won the Lightweight men's double sculls final, crossing the finish line in 6:26.09 ahead of Hong Kong (6:27.14) and the Netherlands (6:27.36) on Saturday.

Martinelli's last-gasp goal takes Brazil past Japan into the pre-quarterfinals

The *Selecao* come alive in the second half after falling behind; Casemiro draws level before the substitute dashes *Samurai Blue*'s hopes

FIFA WORLD CUP

Ayon Sengupta
HOUSTON

Big moments: Casemiro heads home the equaliser before Martinelli wins it for Brazil. REUTERS & GETTY IMAGES

For nearly an hour here, Brazil stood on the brink of yet another World Cup heartbreak.

Japan had silenced the yellow wall, bent the rhythm of the match to its own courage and left the five-time champion searching for answers. Then Brazil summoned the quality that has defined it for generations.

At the NRG Stadium on Monday, Carlo Ancelotti's side survived a major scare to beat Japan 2-1 and book its place in the World Cup round of 16, with Gabriel Martinelli striking late after Casemiro had cancelled out Kaishu Sano's stunning first-half opener.

For 28 minutes, Japan's supporters had been drowned out by a sea of yellow. In the 29th, they found their voice.

Sano seized possession in midfield and embarked on a dazzling run through the centre. He skipped past Casemiro and surged between two more Brazilian defenders before calmly guiding his finish beyond the outstretched Alisson Becker. The few thousand clad in blue erupted, while the rest of the stadium had suddenly lost its voice.

Until then, Brazil had carried the greater threat. Inside the home of the Houston Texans, chants of "Brasil, Brasil" rolled around the stadium, easily overwhelming the small pocket of Samurai Blue supporters. Brazil repeatedly looked to exploit Japan's defensive line, with Danilo finding space behind it from searching balls over the top. Zion Suzuki was called into action in the 11th minute, diving low to his right to keep out Matheus Cunha's curling effort.

Japan, however, stayed compact and disciplined.

Vinicius Junior, already with four goals in the tournament, was kept bottled up on the left, with Hajime Moriyasu's tactical reshuffle gradually giving a foothold to his side.

After the goal, Brazil laid siege, while Japan defended deep, throwing bodies in the way of every shot and cross as wave after wave of Brazilian attacks crashed against an unyielding wall.

Brazil emerged after the interval with renewed intent. Endrick, who had spent much of the break going through his paces on the touchline, was introduced to inject pace and directness into the attack.

The change had an immediate impact as Brazil stretched Japan from flank to flank. Bruno Guimaraes was the first to threaten in the 51st minute, but his header flew straight at Suzuki. Moments later, panic engulfed the Japanese six-yard box as the ball ricocheted through a crowd before finally being hacked clear.

The reprieve, however, didn't last long.

Casemiro, finally, restored parity in the 56th minute, climbing above the Japanese defence to power home a header from another inviting cross.

Yet the equaliser did little to alter the pattern. Brazil refused to relent, forcing Japan ever deeper into its own half.

The breakthrough, when it finally arrived in the fifth minute of stoppage time, felt less like a bolt from the blue and more a culmination of the relentless pressure. Substitute Martinelli carved open the Japanese defence before steering the winner beyond Suzuki, completing Brazil's comeback and ending one of the most courageous defensive performances of the tournament.

The final whistle brought contrasting emotions. Japan left Houston, despite the defeat, with its footballing stature further enhanced, while for Brazil the journey for the sixth star goes on.

THE RESULTS

Round of 32: South Africa 0 lost to Canada 1 (Eustaquio 90+2); Brazil 2 (Casemiro 56, Martinelli 90+5) bt Japan 1 (Sano 29).

Wednesday's matches

ROUND OF 32

France vs. **Sweden,** 2.30 a.m.

Mexico vs. **Ecuador,** 6.30 a.m.

England vs. **DR Congo,** 9.30 p.m.

The day and time(s) pertain to India

Refreshed Norway faces Ivory Coast

All eyes on them: Winger Diomande and striker Haaland will be the centrepieces of Ivory Coast and Norway. REUTERS & AFP

Ayon Sengupta

Sport always rewards those willing to wait. For some nations, reaching the World Cup knockout rounds is an expectation. For others, it is the culmination of decades of longing, setbacks and near misses. On Tuesday in Dallas, two such countries will lock horns to advance to the round of 16.

Norway has justified the expectation surrounding one of its most gifted generations. Ivory Coast, meanwhile, has reached the knockout stage for the first time in its history.

Norway rested several key players during a 1-4 defeat to France, ensuring Erling Haaland, Martin Odegaard, Antonio Nusa and Julian Ryerson are fresh for the round-of-32 clash.

Coach Stale Solbakken believes that decision could prove decisive. "We've cancelled out their one extra day of rest by making changes for the France match... we should be on equal terms physically." Ivory Coast, too, has its own attacking stars. Nicolas Pepe's brace against Curacao made him only the second Ivorian to score twice in a World Cup match. Alongside him, 19-year-old Yan Diomande has emerged as one of the tournament's revelations.

For Norway, this generation is expected to earn the nation a place among football's elite, while for the Ivory Coast, every step has already become the greatest chapter in its World Cup history.

Sinner survives early stutter to overcome Kecmanovic

WIMBLEDON

Reuters
LONDON

Down, but not out! Sinner overcame an awkward fall and a determined opponent to avoid crashing out early. AP

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner survived an early scare in his Wimbledon title defence but the Italian shook off the rust and fought past Serb Miomir Kecmanovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-2, 6-3 on Monday to reach the second round.

Victory in Sinner's first competitive grass court match of the season was his 94th win at the Grand Slams, drawing him level with Nicola Pietrangeli for the most by an Italian.

It was far from comfortable as Sinner lost the opening set to spark concerns among fans recalling his second-round shock at Roland Garros, but normal service soon resumed in the second set which the 24-year-old secured with a fiery ace.

More tense moments followed as Sinner grimaced after a fall in the next set and later appeared to have bloodstains on his shoe for a separate issue, and though he soldiered on, he crumbled in the tie-break.

The four-time Grand Slam champion cruised through the fourth set to force a decider, where he took full control and prevailed to book a second-round meeting with Portugal's Nuno Borges.

In the women's section, top seed Aryna Sabalenka began her latest attempt to claim her first Wimbledon crown with a routine 6-2, 6-3 defeat of Serbian qualifier Teodora Kostovic.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

First round: Men: 23-Jodar (Esp) bt Gill (GBr) 6-3, 6-3, 7-5; 21-Paul (USA) bt Muller (Fra) 6-1, 6-2, 6-1; 31-Buse (Per) bt Nava (USA) 7-6(3), 3-6, 7-5, 6-0; 16-Tien (USA) bt Svrcina (Cze) 6-1, 6-4, 6-7(4), 6-3; Safiullin bt 12-Rublev 6-4, 6-7(6), 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(12).

Hurkacz (Pol) bt 11-Ruud (Nor) 6-4, 6-2, 7-6(7); 24-Fonseca (Bra) bt Bautista Agut (Esp) 7-6(4), 6-4, 6-3; Zheng (USA) bt 26-Norrie (GBr) 6-7(7), 6-2, 6-7(2), 6-3, 7-6(4); 1-Sinner (Ita) bt Kecmanovic (Srb) 4-6, 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-2, 6-3; Quinn (USA) bt 14-Darderi (Ita) 7-6(7), 7-5, 6-2; 8-Medvedev bt Cilic (Cro) 6-1, 6-2, 6-4; 25-Rinderknech (Fra) bt Tarvet (GBr) 7-6(4), 7-6(4), 4-6, 7-5; 3-Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt Shevchenko 6-3, 6-1, 6-4; 22-Fokina (Esp) bt Cerundolo (Arg) 6-4, 6-4, 7-6(2).

Women: 11-Bencic (Sui) bt Stojsavljevic (GBr) 6-2, 6-1; 4-Pegula (USA) bt Vidmanova (Cze) 7-5, 6-3; 16-Jovic (USA) bt Cristian (Rou) 7-6(1), 6-0; Sawangkaew (Tha) bt 20-Chwalinska (Pol) 2-6, 7-5, 6-2; Sonmez (Tur) bt 21-Li (USA) 7-5, 1-6, 6-4; 14-Osaka (Jpn) bt Jacquemot (Fra) 6-1, 7-5; Tjen (Ina) bt 22-Fernandez (Can) 6-1, 7-6 (3); Sabalenka (Blr) bt Kostovic (Srb) 6-2, 6-3; 19-Kalinskaya bt Frech (Pol) 7-6(5), 6-4.

Fallen seeds: Men: 11-Ruud, 12-Rublev, 14-Darderi, 26-Norrie. **Women:** 20-Chwalinska, 21-Li, 22-Fernandez.

New Zealand wraps up series with emphatic win

Agence France-Presse
NOTTINGHAM

New Zealand overwhelmed England by 160 runs in the third Test at Trent Bridge on Monday as Ben Stokes' last international match ended with a thumping defeat.

Victory meant the Kiwis won a three-match campaign 2-1 – just their fourth series success in England in 20 attempts and only the second time they had triumphed after being 1-0 down after their 1999 success in England.

This was also England's first series defeat at home in three or more Tests since 2012.

Chasing a stiff 373, England was in dire straits at 103 for four at the end of day four. And it became even worse at 116 for six after losing two wickets early on the final day.

Jamie Smith (60, 91b, 8x4, 1x6) fought valiantly as the England run chase ended at 212. Pacer Zak Foulkes, Kiwis' first concussion substitute, took six wickets in the match.

The scores: New Zealand 438 & 288/9 decl. bt England 354 & 212 in 51.2 overs (Jamie Smith 60, Zak Foulkes 3/52).
PoM: Daryl Mitchell; **PoS:** Jofra Archer & Nathan Smith.

Stokes leaves the international arena with the aura of a miracle-worker

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

Storied career: Stokes will be remembered as one of England's most celebrated all-rounders, the 2019 Headingley innings being the high point of his career. FILE PHOTO & GETTY IMAGES

The guarded player and the maverick talisman. English cricket has often thrown up players in these two categories. In the segment of the magician star, lit up by Ian Botham, and briefly embellished by Andrew Flintoff, Ben Stokes walked in with the swagger of a pirate courting both thrills and self-destruction.

Born in New Zealand, but with talent burnished in England, Stokes always hinted that a sporting miracle was possible. Often, he delivered on that count, as player and captain, even if towards the end, an Ashes defeat Down Under and the latest trauma against the visiting Black Caps left him ragged.

As the 35-year-old called time on his international career, he leaves with fine statistics – 7273 Test runs and 252 wickets, besides critical numbers in limited-overs cricket too.

It was never easy for Stokes. He sat on his haunches after watching Carlos Brathwaite hammer him for four sixes in the 2016 ICC World T20 final at Eden Gardens. A lesser man would have dissipated, but Stokes emerged stronger.

As he departs, there will be talk about his mental health issues, which he candidly admitted. And there will be scrutiny over his wretched run-ins at watering holes. The latest episode during the current series against New Zealand left him on the bench for the second Test. Whether that forced him to walk away will remain a matter of speculation.

But in the larger picture, Stokes lent belief within the England ranks. He helped Old Blighty win its first 50-over World Cup, thanks to his heroics at Lord's in 2019. In the same year, his unbeaten 135 humbled Australia in an Ashes joust at Headingley.

Stokes the batter may have outshone the bowler but he always ran in hard, was willing to be both the stock and shock bowler, while James Anderson and Stuart Broad gained the accolades. And as a left-handed exponent with the willow, he could scythe through the best attacks, and if needed down the shutters.

Obviously the synergy he shared with coach Brendon McCullum will be analysed as the duo believed that every move on the ground was an act of pressing forward towards victory. It was spectacular to watch when it worked and frustrating to endure when it backfired.

Stokes leaves with an aura even if his sporting twilight was dull.

When nostalgia draws Botham into conversations, Stokes would not be far and that is a splendid achievement.

Stokes' Test numbers

	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
BATTING	122	220	7273	258	34.46	14/37

	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	SR	5WI/10WM
BOWLING	122	182	252	6/22	55.8	6/0

INBRIEF

Roach reaches milestone as WI completes SL rout

Kemar Roach reached 300 Test wickets in leading West Indies to an innings and 217-run demolition of Sri Lanka on the fourth day of the first Test in Antigua on Sunday.

The scores: Sri Lanka 308 & 101 in 31.2 overs (Chandimal 43; Roach 4/51, Seales 3/14) lost to West Indies 626/9 decl. in 160.5 overs (Jangoo 233, Chase 194; Ratnayaka 5/124). **PoM**: Amir Jangoo.

Srikanth goes down to Su in US Open final

K. Srikanth's wait for a BWF World Tour title was extended further after he lost 21-15, 16-21, 21-9 to Taiwan's Su Li Yang in the men's summit clash of the US Open badminton in Fullerton on Sunday.

India loses in the Badminton Asia junior quarterfinals

India's campaign in Badminton Asia junior mixed team championship came to an end on Monday following a 1-2 loss against Hong Kong in the quarterfinals at Yatsushiro on Monday. After India won the first set 55-44, Hong Kong drew level with 55-45 win before claiming the decider 55-43.

Maresca unveiled as Man City manager

Manchester City on Monday unveiled Italian Enzo Maresca as its new manager, taking over from Pep Guardiola. Maresca, 46, signed a three-year deal that will keep him at the Etihad Stadium until the summer of 2029.

Mandaviya felicitates the Indian volleyball team

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday felicitated the contingent that won India's first medal at AVC Men's Volleyball Cup.

Salem takes home TNCA women's inter-district title

Salem clinched the TNCA women's inter-district title defeating Thiruvallur by five wickets in a low-scoring final, in Coimbatore on Monday.

The scores: Final: Thiruvallur 94 in 40.1 overs lost to Salem 95/5 in 30.4 overs (S. Vaishnavi 37 n.o., S.K. Anritha 3/29).

Rivaan Dev reigns supreme in Junior Max category

Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSPORT) reigned supreme in the Junior Max category in the opening round of the Meco FMSCI Indian National karting championship in Coimbatore on Sunday. The 13-year-old finished on top in qualifying, both heats, the pre-final and the final. In the Micro Max category, Rudrapratap Singh Shekhawat (Leap Frog Racing) claimed top honours, winning the pre-finals and final races.

LIVE TELECAST

FIFA World Cup: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 6.30 a.m. 10.30 p.m. & 2.30 a.m, (Wednesday)

Zimbabwe vs Bangladesh: One-off Test, Day 3, FanCode, 1 p.m.

Wimbledon: Star Sports 2, SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m. onwards

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

Can West Indies stop the Australian juggernaut for a place in the final?

Matthews' side has lost its last two matches while Molineux & Co. have been easily the most dominant outfit in the tournament

T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LONDON

London is cooling down.

You don't find, at the moment, people travelling with their small, portable fans, or even one of those hand fans that Jane Austen's heroines from the Regency England would carry to the balls.

The form of the Australian team is only getting hotter at the T20 Women's World Cup, though. After scoring a comfortable six-wicket win in their last league match against India, the Aussies are all ready for their next opponent.

The West Indies' route to the knockouts hardly resembles Australia's. While Australia beat South Africa (by 65 runs), Bangladesh (nine wickets), the Netherlands (98 runs) and Pakistan (113 runs) before facing its strongest rival India, the Caribbeans just scraped through to the semifinal, to be played at the Oval on Tuesday.

Hayley Matthews' women, in fact, suffered a shock loss in their last match, to Ireland. And that was right after going down to host England. And they haven't done that well against Australia in the recent bilateral meetings as well. They lost all the three ODIs and as many T20Is when they hosted the mighty Aussies just three months away.

So, the West Indies has nothing to lose. A point Matthews tried to drive home at the press conference on the eve of the semifinal.

She also spoke of how the big guns in the team, like Deandra Dottin, Stafanie Taylor and herself, haven't fired yet. There hasn't been even a fifty from them. There cannot be a better platform than this to help their team.

For the Australians, stars big and not so big, have all been delivering. With the kind of talent at their disposal, they are easily the most intimidating side in women's cricket.

That they haven't won an ICC World Cup, in any format, for three years should motivate them further.

Today's match

SEMIFINAL

Australia vs. West Indies

The Oval, 7 p.m. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: **19**

Australia	West Indies
17	2

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Red-hot: Australia has been on a roll. GETTY IMAGES

Shreyas needs to be given time in his new role: Gavaskar

Vivek Krishnan

Shreyas Iyer's stint as T20I captain has begun on the wrong foot with India stung by the series defeat to Ireland on Sunday.

Having taken charge of a team that has won the last two T20 World Cups under Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav, the 31-year-old would have been aiming to make an instant mark on his comeback to the T20I fold after nearly three years.

Instead, his low returns of three and 10 were accompanied by successive losses to Lorcan Tucker's Irish outfit. With a T20I series against England beginning at Chester-le-Street in Durham on Wednesday, the pressure will mount on the Mumbai batter if the Men in Blue don't quickly put up a display befitting their status as World champions.

In former India captain Sunil Gavaskar's view, however, Shreyas needs to be given some leeway before he settles into his new role. The legendary opener pointed to his fellow Mumbaikar's exemplary captaincy record in the IPL, whilst also noting that the step up to leading the national side isn't always seamless.

Shreyas has lost his first series as India T20I captain. GETTY IMAGES

"With any new relationship, there will always be just a little time taken for the support staff and the players to understand what is expected of them. Because of the change of leadership, Shreyas will probably take a little time. We just have to be a little patient," Gavaskar said during an online interaction on Monday.

"His leadership is proven (in the IPL). But again, when it comes to international cricket, it's a whole different ball-game."

If it was up to the 76-year-old, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi would be making his debut in India's opening T20I against England.

"I am hoping he plays the first game. Because it will be the start of a new series. If he gets the team off to a flying start, it is the best way to recover from the series loss in Ireland," Gavaskar opined.

(Watch India vs. England T20I series live on Sony Sports Ten 1 SD & HD, Sony Sports Ten 5 SD & HD and Sony MAX).

Pradosh puts Vijay CC in a strong position

FIRST DIVISION

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Pradosh Ranjan Paul struck an unbeaten century (117 batting, 226b, 12x4) and skipper B. Aparajith remained unconquered on 72 as Vijay CC reached 284 for three against Grand Slam CC at stumps on the opening day of the TNCA first division league fourth round at the CSK-Guru Nanak College ground on Monday. The duo was involved in an 133-run stand for the unbroken fourth wicket after Pradosh had added 119 for third wicket with Manav Parakh (56).

At Nelson-Wah-e-Guru-A, skipper Maan K. Bafna top-scored with 93 as Pristine CC reached 316 for nine against Nelson SC. Nelson's left-arm spinner R. Sanjay Yadav claimed five for 71.

Pradosh (Vijay, 117 batting).; Sanjay (Nelson, 5/71).

The scores: At Tagore College: Young Stars 232/4 in 93 overs (S. Shrenik 49, Adittya Varadharajan 87 batting, A. Badrinath 34) vs. Sea Hawks.

At RKM-Vivekananda: SKM 250/7 in 88 overs (S. Abishiek 49, C. Hari Nishaanth 42, J. Kousik 56 batting, V. Maaruthi Raghav 45, S. Ajith Ram 3/70) vs. Globe Trotters.

At IITM-Chemplast: Jolly Rovers 186 in 71.4 overs (P. Khush Bardia 50, S. Ganesh 43, K. Aashiq 4/40, M. Mathivanan 4/31) vs. Singam Puli 64/2 in 16 overs (Ch. Jitendra Kumar 37 batting).

At CSK-Guru Nanak: Vijay 284/3 in 90 overs (Manav Parakh 56, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 117 batting, B. Aparajith 72 batting) vs. Grand Slam.

At Nelson-Wah-e-Guru-A: Pristine 316/9 in 90 overs (Siddharth Mahadevan 45, Mann K. Bafna 93, Monish Satish 40 batting, R. Sanjay Yadav 5/71, Sachin Rathi 3/89) vs. Nelson.

At A.M. Jain: Swaraj 187 in 74.5 overs (Himalaya 34, Ashwanth Valthapa 45, P. Saravana Kumar 3/42) vs. MRC-A 28/0 in 10 overs.

Ireland coach Malan steps down, Wilson the replacement

Press Trust of India
BELFAST

Ireland men's cricket team head coach Heinrich Malan stepped down from his role on Monday, bringing an end to a four-year stint just a day after guiding the side to a 2-0 T20I series sweep over India.

Gary Wilson has been named the team's first Irish-born chief coach in more than 30 years. Wilson played 292 games in a 15-year international career before retiring in 2020.

ENGAGEMENTS

Cricket: TNCA I div. league, fourth round: Sea Hawks vs. Young Stars (Tagore); Globe Trotters vs. SKM (Vivekananda); Grand Slam vs. Vijay (CSK-Guru Nanak); Jolly Rovers vs. Singam Puli (IITM-Chemplast); Nelson vs. Pristine (Wahe Guru-A); Swaraj vs. MRC-A (A.M. Jain), day two, 9.30 a.m.

GCL draft: Nihal is the star attraction

CHESS

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Newly crowned Bullet champion Nihal Sarin emerged as the biggest attraction at the Global Chess League (GCL) player draft on Monday, while five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand switched franchises for the first time in the league ahead of the fourth edition to be played in Bengaluru from September 3 to 13.

Nihal was among the most sought-after names in the draft before FYERS American Gambits secured his services. The franchise had earlier won the race for 2026 Candidates tournament winner Javokhir Sindarov.

The other headline move of the day saw Anand leave his long-time home at Ganges Grandmasters to join PBG Alaskan Knights, where he will partner India's highest-rated player Arjun Erigaisi.

Defending champion Alpine APL Pipers picked Magnus Carlsen and Season-3 Finals MVP Anish Giri. The title-holder added Women's World Cup champion Divya Deshmukh, Koneru Humpy, Vidit Gujrathi and reigning World Rapid champion Volodar Murzin.

Nihal. FIDE

The squads:

FYERS American Gambits: Javokhir Sindarov, Nihal Sarin, Daniil Dubov, Bibisara Assaubayeva, Sara Khadem, Marc'Andria Maurizzi.

Alpine APL Pipers: Magnus Carlsen, Anish Giri, Vidit Gujrathi, Divya Deshmukh, Koneru Humpy, Volodar Murzin.

Ganges Grandmasters: Ian Nepomniachtchi, Levon Aronian, Leinier Domínguez, Polina Shuvalova, Stavroula Tsolakidou, Leon Luke Mendonca.

upGrad Mumba Masters: Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Vladimir Fedoseev, Carissa Yip, Harika Dronavalli, Bardiya Daneshvar.

PBG Alaskan Knights: Viswanathan Anand, Arjun Erigaisi, Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus, Kateryna Lagno, Nino Batsiashvili, Abhimanyu Mishra.

Triveni Continental Kings: Alireza Firouzja, Wei Yi, Aravindh Chithambaram, Zhu Jiner, Alexandra Kosteniuk, Pranav Venkatesh.

I want to crack the top 10: GM Harshavardhan

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

G.B. Harshavardhan must have heaved a sigh of relief after becoming India's latest Grandmaster, achieving the title in his home town, four years after securing his first norm.

The 22-year-old is happy to have ended the wait after coming close several times. Now, he is keen to improve his rating and break into the top echelons of chess.

"My immediate priority is to increase my rating and crack the top 10," Harshavardhan, son of noted FIDE trainer K. Gopalakrishnan, told *The Hindu*.

Harshavardhan.

Watching his father train players probably drew him to chess and he began playing when he was four. He quickly impressed with his skills and did well in age-group tournaments, winning medals at will. Among the notable triumphs were the FIDE World Youth Online under-18 gold in 2021 and a crown in the Asian Juniors the next year.

However, despite the victories, the GM title kept eluding him after he had earned his maiden norm in 2022.

"There were a lot of missed norms. The rating dipped a bit. I am happy I was able to achieve the third and final norm in Chennai," said Harshavardhan, who is now coached by GM Deepan Chakkravarthy.

A B. Com graduate, he has now decided to focus completely on chess. "I want to play in Europe and improve my rating. It is also important that I learn from my mistakes," said Harshavardhan.

For now, he is delighted to join the elite club of GMs and would be musing 'better late than never'.

Jerome credits Dragan for India's resurgence

Jerome led the team from the front. SAI

S. Shrivathsan

A bronze medal rarely feels as valuable as gold but in the India men's volleyball team's latest case, it definitely does.

As India returned to the international arena after a year of inactivity – it was away from the scene due to Volleyball Federation of India's mess – there were question marks over whether the players would be match-sharp at the AVC Cup in Ahmedabad.

But the World No. 42 side let its actions speak by earning a third-place finish in the 11-team event. At the front and centre of India's resurgence was captain Jerome Vinith. The skipper credited head coach Dragan Mihailovic for instilling belief within the group and making his job easier. "Dragan is the man behind these performances," Jerome told *The Hindu*.

"In the past, we had teams with a good mix of experienced and young players, but the understanding was not as good as we have now. He brought unity within the squad. He emphasised that big things could be achieved only when we are 'one'. Dragan made it clear that only achievements will lead to recognition," said the opposite hitter.

For Jerome, ensuring all his teammates were on the same page before and during the tournament gave him the greatest satisfaction. "I know how to lead the team because it is not that difficult to make them play on court. Making them stay together was important," he added.

Jerome stressed that more international exposure was the need of the hour. "If we continue to get those chances (playing top-quality opposition), we will only get better".

Govt. of Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand 25
GAURAV, VIKAS AUR SANKALP KA PARV

Devbhoomi Uttarakhand

VIKAS BHI, VIRASAT BHI

"The Honorable Prime Minister has called the third decade of the 21st century the decade of Uttarakhand. In line with the Prime Minister's vision, we are working with an uncompromised resolve a 'Vikalp Rahit Sankalp' to make the state an exemplary state in every field."

PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI, Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

"There are two major pillars in building the developed India of the 21st century. First, taking pride in our heritage, and second, making every possible effort for development. Today, Uttarakhand is continuously strengthening both of these pillars. This decade is Uttarakhand's decade."

NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

Foundation Stone Laid for Iconic Ropeway Projects

The foundation stone has been laid for the construction of ropeways from Gaurikund to Kedarnath and Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib.

"The 12.9 km ropeway from Sonprayag to Kedarnath will be constructed at a cost of ₹4,081 crore, while the 12.4 km ropeway from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib will be built at a cost of ₹2,730 crore.

Expansion of Air Services

An additional terminal has been constructed at the Dehradun Airport.

Regular flight services have commenced from Dehradun Airport to major Indian cities, including Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Shamshabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Pune, and Kullu.

Agricultural & Industrial Development

The Central Government has sanctioned a fund of ₹25 crore for farm fencing in the state.

The Central Government has transferred 45.33 of land belonging to the HMT Factory in Haldwani (Ranibagh) to the Government of Uttarakhand.

Roads and Corridors

Approval has been granted for the construction of the proposed Rispana and Bindal Elevated Corridor projects to alleviate growing traffic congestion in Dehradun city.

The Prime Minister dedicated to the nation the 210 km long Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor, built at a cost of ₹11,963 crore.

The Central Government has approved ₹1,105 crore for the construction of the 12.67 km long, 4-lane Rishikesh Bypass.

Railway Expansion

Uttarakhand welcomes two Vande Bharat Express trains, making travel from Dehradun to Delhi and Dehradun to Lucknow highly convenient.

"Train operations have been approved for routes connecting Lalkuan to Amritsar Junction, and Dehradun to Tanakpur.

Construction of the Rishikesh - Karnaprayag rail line is progressing rapidly, with 72.5% of the work already completed.

Approval has been granted for the survey of the Tanakpur- Bageshwar rail route; work on the project's Detailed Project Report (DPR) is underway at a swift pace.

NEW DIMENSIONS OF DEVELOPMENT

Development Initiatives Dedicated to Nation Building

Uttarakhand allocated ₹4,769 crore under the Rail Budget in the Union Budget 2026-27.

The chardham shrines have been connected with an all-weather road built at a cost of over ₹12,000 crore, making travel across the mountains smooth and hassle-free.

Uttarakhand secured the first position among small states in the Export Preparedness Index 2024 released by NITI Aayog.

The Jamrani Dam project received approval from the Central Government. To be constructed at a cost of ₹3,678.23 crore, the project is slated for completion by June 2029.

To economically empower women, more than 2 lakh 54 thousand women in the state have successfully become 'Lakhpati Didis'.

A dedicated Rafting Base Station will be built in Rishikesh, for which the Central Government has sanctioned ₹100 crore.

The National Games were hosted in the state for the very first time.

Tourism, Culture & Sports

Work is progressing rapidly under the Master Plans for Kedarnath and Badrinath Dham. Development projects worth ₹255 crore are underway to transform Badrinath Dham into a smart spiritual hill town.

The grand construction of the Yamuna Teerth Sthal in Haripur Kalsi is currently underway.

A fund of ₹500 crore has been released to kickstart preparations for the upcoming Kumbh Mela 2027 in Uttarakhand.

Health & Social Welfare

A total of 61 lakh Ayushman cards have been generated in the state under the Atal Ayushman Yojana. So far, over 17 lakh patients have benefited from cashless treatment worth more than ₹3,400 crore.

Construction of the AIIMS Satellite Centre in Kichha is in full swing, with 85% of the project already completed.

Under the Vibrant Villages Programme, around 200 development projects are being executed across 51 border villages at a cost of over ₹270 crore.

Water Resources & Disaster Management

The Song River Dam Drinking Water Project has received approval from the Central Government. Being constructed at a total cost of ₹2,520.86 crore, this project will supply 150 Million Liters per Day of drinking water to Dehradun city and its suburban areas.

For the mitigation of landslide-prone sites, Uttarakhand has received a central assistance of ₹113.90 crore under the ₹461 crore State Disaster Mitigation Fund.

National Achievements & Good Governance

Uttarakhand secured the 1st rank across the country in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index 2023-24 released by NITI Aayog.

On the occasion of National Startup Day, the Department of Industries, Government of Uttarakhand, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for its outstanding performance in the startup ecosystem.

The Central Government has sanctioned an incentive of ₹264.5 crore to Uttarakhand for implementing various reforms initiated by the Urban Development and Housing Department.

Uttarakhand delivered an outstanding performance in mining sector reforms, securing the 2nd position in the country, for which the Central Government has released an incentive bonus of ₹200 crore."

When we come from our hometowns to Devbhoomi for the Chardham Yatra, we do so with a resolve in our hearts. In the same spirit, I would also like to urge you to take five resolves: Narendra Modi

First Resolve : Cleanliness is paramount.

Second Resolve : Sensitivity toward nature and the environment.

Third Resolve : Emphasis on service, cooperation, & unity.

Fourth Resolve : Promotion of 'Vocal for Local'.

Fifth Resolve : Adherence to discipline, safety, & decorum.

ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS, UTTARAKHAND

www.uttarainformation.gov.in | DIPR_UK | UttarakhandDIPR | UttarakhandDIPR

A CH-CHE

A New Era in Geriatric Healthcare

Athulya
Geriatric Care
Hospitals

For over a decade, Athulya has been dedicated to the care and well-being of seniors. Now, we bring that same understanding and expertise to a hospital built entirely around their needs.

A place where expert care, thoughtful design and a deep understanding of ageing come together to help seniors feel comfortable, confident and cared for.

Services

- Anaesthesiology
- Cardiology
- Critical Care
- Dental
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- ENT
- Gastroenterology
- General Medicine & Diabetology
- General Surgery
- Geriatrics
- Oncology – Medical & Surgical
- Imaging & Radiology Services
- Laboratory Services
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics
- Physiotherapy & Rehab.
- Preventive Health Checks
- Psychiatry
- Pulmonology
- Urology
- Home Healthcare

Launch Offer
50% OFF*
On all health check packages*

*T&C Apply. Offer valid till 31st July 2026.

45,000+ seniors served | 1,500+ beds | 5 cities | 10 years and growing

Chennai | Coimbatore | Bengaluru | Kochi | Hyderabad

NABH CARE HOME | Healthcare sector skillcouncil | Great Place To Work. Certified

For Appointments: +91 78715 25000 | Log on to: athulyageriatriccare.com

Athulya Geriatric Care Hospitals, 153, Arcot Road, Valasaravakkam, Chennai - 600 087.

An appetiser with lingering bitterness

An unbeaten streak encompassing 16 series spread over three years in the most unpredictable and unforgiving of formats was snapped ruthlessly by an honest Irish side that made capital of its familiarity with the conditions

Supermen: Hollard and Moondra combined to torment the India batters and script an incredible series win for Ireland. The latter castled Samson (below) off the first ball he bowled in the opening T20I. GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

India's first Twenty20 International outing after lifting the 2024 T20 World Cup in the Americas ended in a crushing defeat to an unfancied opponent. History repeated itself last week as they courted a similar result in their first fixture after successfully defending the world crown at home this March.

Nearly two years earlier, in July, a second-string outfit led by Shubman Gill went down by 13 runs to Sikandar Raza's team at the Harare Sports Club. Fear not, said the intrepid bunch; Abhishek Sharma made up for a four-ball duck on debut with a stunning century in game two, the catalyst for what in the end was a commanding 4-1 score line that reiterated that defeat in game one was an aberration.

Worst imaginable start

Last Friday, India surrendered their unbeaten record against Ireland in the most unedifying of manners, slumping to a 34-run humbling in Belfast. It was the worst imaginable start to Shreyas Iyer's new avatar as India's T20I captain, a comedown from the highs of the IPL for stars weaned on terrific batting strips. The conditions at the Civil Service Cricket Club in Stormont were demanding, arduous, anything but ideal for unfettered ball-striking. India were found desperately wanting despite being at full strength from a batting perspective as a target of 183 proved well beyond them.

It happens, everyone said. You can sometimes be fixed by alien conditions. The opposition is allowed one terrific game, you are allowed one poor day in office, especially because as a team, the Indians had gathered together for the first time in more than three and a half months. Not an excuse, because Ireland outplayed them, but you could see some rationale behind what was indisputably a horror outcome.

But *a la* Harare and 2024, there were no comebacks this time. India conceded Sunday's second T20I too, admittedly by only a solitary run, as a proud record came to a juddering halt. An unbeaten streak encompassing 16 series spread over three years in the most unpredictable and unforgiving of formats was snapped ruthlessly by an honest Irish side that made capital of its familiarity with the conditions, though more than anyone else, one suspects, the Irish themselves would have been surprised at home tamely India's famed batting line-up capitulated.

Ryan ten Doeschate, India's refreshingly honest and forthcoming assistant coach, spoke of 'disbelief' within the camp after Sunday's tense finish. He stressed the need to adapt, and adapt quickly, when the team travels to Europe and to other parts of the world where seam can be a major factor. He pointed to the smarts the Irish displayed, silently bemoaning the lack of the same from his wards.

India will have arrived in England on Monday to blaring headlines about Ben Stokes' dramatic, sudden but almost inevitable retirement from international cricket following his latest dalliance with infamy

This was supposed to be the teasing appetiser before the sumptuous main course, which will unfold on Wednesday when India lock horns with England in the first of five T20Is. But the appetiser has left a bitter taste in the mouth and left Gautam Gambhir, the beleaguered head coach, with a fresh headache that he must find a solution to in double quick time.

Gambhir has overseen three excellent white-ball title-winning runs - at the Champions Trophy in March 2025 and the T20 Asia Cup that same September, both in Dubai, and at the home T20 World Cup earlier this year. But he has also been the central figure in unprecedented Test series routs at home against New Zealand in late 2024 and South Africa 12 months thereafter. When it comes to the Test squad, he alternates between the word 'transition' and 'inexperience'. He bristles at players only eight and ten Tests young being (unfairly) judged and bares his fangs at the slightest perception of criticism. But the numbers are stacking up against him. And cricket, more than any other sport, is a game of numbers.

Between the two T20 World Cups in 2024 and 2026, India lost just six out of 41 matches, a grand result considering that like now, they had a new captain. Rohit Sharma's retirement after the 2024 edition ushered Suryakumar Yadav into the job; the axe falling on the latter despite him leading his unit to the 2026 crown has thrust Shreyas into the hot seat. It will be unfair, to borrow from Gambhir, to judge the youngest of the trio of Mumbaikars to have led the T20I side in the last few years on the back of just one series, and that too given that India had very little time to get used to environs that they are reasonably unfamiliar with. But Shreyas will be mindful that he himself managed just 3 and 10 on his comeback to the T20I mix, and that will hurt him immensely because he is a firm believer in the 'leading from the front' philosophy.

Let's not grudge Ireland their moment of unmatched glory. They have produced stunning upsets, not least at the 2011 50-over World Cup when a magical century from Kevin O'Brien pulled the rug from under England's feet in Bengaluru. But this will take precedence, one suspects, even though it came in what was a regular bilateral series - inasmuch as any series involving India can be termed 'regular'.

They were blithely expected to be lambs to the slaughter, to roll over without much resistance. But we should have known better. Ireland don't surrender, they don't throw in the towel. They are spirited, sure, but they are also very skilful and supremely self-confident. They leave nothing behind in the change room, and win or lose, they are content when they know that they have given it their all.

This time, their 'all' translated to an epochal 2-0 sweep against the World Cup winners and the No. 1 team in the world which had all its batting guns to fall back on, and with one of the most destructive modern-day weapons watching on from the dugout.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi needs no introduction, not anymore, not after his spectacular deeds at the Under-19 World Cup and in the IPL and during the triangular 'A' series in Sri Lanka. At 15, he is already making heads turn, forcing people to reach for their remotes when he takes guard, delighting his millions of fans and sending chills and shivers down the spines of the most celebrated active bowlers in world cricket. The temptation to unleash this man-child beast must be immense, but ten Doeschate was emphatic in stating that like everyone else, the precociously unique talent must go through the processes and bide his time. That there will be no special treatment, no matter how special he is.

Learning process

That's part of the learning process, the growing-up stage, though with each passing failure for Sanju Samson or Ishan Kishan or both - two of the more influential cogs during the World Cup campaign, Samson the more feted for match-winning knocks in the last three matches but Kishan no less impactful - the clamour for Sooryavanshi's much awaited debut will gather pace.

Let's just hit the pause button and remember that he is 15. Fifteen. That he should not be - never mind that he is yet to make his maiden appearance - expected to carry the Indian batting on his strong and sturdy but very, very young shoulders. Let's not transpose our expectations onto him, let's not compare him with Sachin Tendulkar because hey, how silly is that? The teen phenom will be desperate to make his first India appearance - which cricketer worth his salt wouldn't? - not so much because it will be another feather in his already overcrowded cap but because he genuinely loves playing and putting on a show. But he will learn the virtues of patience and being treated as just another player, which should stand him in grand stead in the long run.

Gambhir has overseen three excellent white-ball title-winning runs – at the Champions Trophy in March 2025 and the T20 Asia Cup the same September, both in Dubai, and at the home T20 World Cup earlier this year

Chastened by the Ireland humbling orchestrated by a software engineer from our own Tonk in Rajasthan, India will know the magnitude of the task that awaits them in England. Jai Moondra, a strapping 29-year-old who moved to Dublin in 2021 to pursue a master's degree in electronics and communication, still holds an Indian passport but did the country of his birth no favours, exposing an old Indian kryptonite - left-arm pace. Five wickets in his first two appearances for his adopted country, and the Player of the Series honours, is a high Moondra will soar on, deservedly and understandably, for a long time to come.

India will have arrived in England on Monday to blaring headlines about Ben Stokes' dramatic, sudden but almost inevitable retirement from international cricket following his latest dalliance with infamy. Stokes' announcement was the most visceral on a Sunday of high-octane cricketing entertainment in the British Isles. The Indian men's loss to Ireland came around the same time that the women were eliminated from the T20 World Cup after going down to Australia in their must-win final league tie at Lord's. Over in Nottingham, around the Stokes headline act, England and New Zealand were in a pitched battle for series honours and World Test Championship points.

India's most recent 20-over skirmish with England itself was not devoid of thrills and tension and agony and ecstasy. A total of 253 in the World Cup semifinal in Mumbai in March seemed inadequate when Jacob Bethell put on an exhibition, simultaneously sparking awe and dread among Indian spectators. India needed the genius of Jasprit Bumrah to come away unscathed, by the hair-raising margin of just seven runs, but there is no Bumrah now - rested - and therefore it will be incumbent on the rest of the bowlers to step up.

The returning Harshit Rana showcased his combativeness in Ireland and Prince Yadav was impressive on his debut, suggesting that with Arshdeep Singh now in the role of the lead enforcer, the pace bowling is in pretty good hands. It's the lack of batting form that will trouble Shreyas, Gambhir and the rest of the leadership group.

Against singularly attack-minded teams like England, India have historically relied on their batting strength to bail them out. Now, that strength has become a temporary weakness. What corrective measures are put in place in a very straitjacketed time-frame remains to be seen. But these measures are imperative because otherwise, Harry Brook and embattled coach Brendon McCullum's England, themselves feeling no little heat, will feast on them with ill-concealed glee.

THE GIST

- Ireland don't surrender, they don't throw in the towel. They are spirited, sure, but they are also very skilful and supremely self-confident
- Chastened by the Ireland humbling orchestrated by a software engineer from our own Tonk in Rajasthan, India will know the magnitude of the task that awaits them in England

Scientists test cockatoos to see if animals understand death

In a 2020 paper with cognitive scientist Antonio J. Osuna-Mascaró, philosopher Susana Monsó argued that two forms of anthropocentrism — the belief that human beings are superior to all others — undergird humans' reluctance to acknowledge ability of animals to understand death

Sayantan Datta

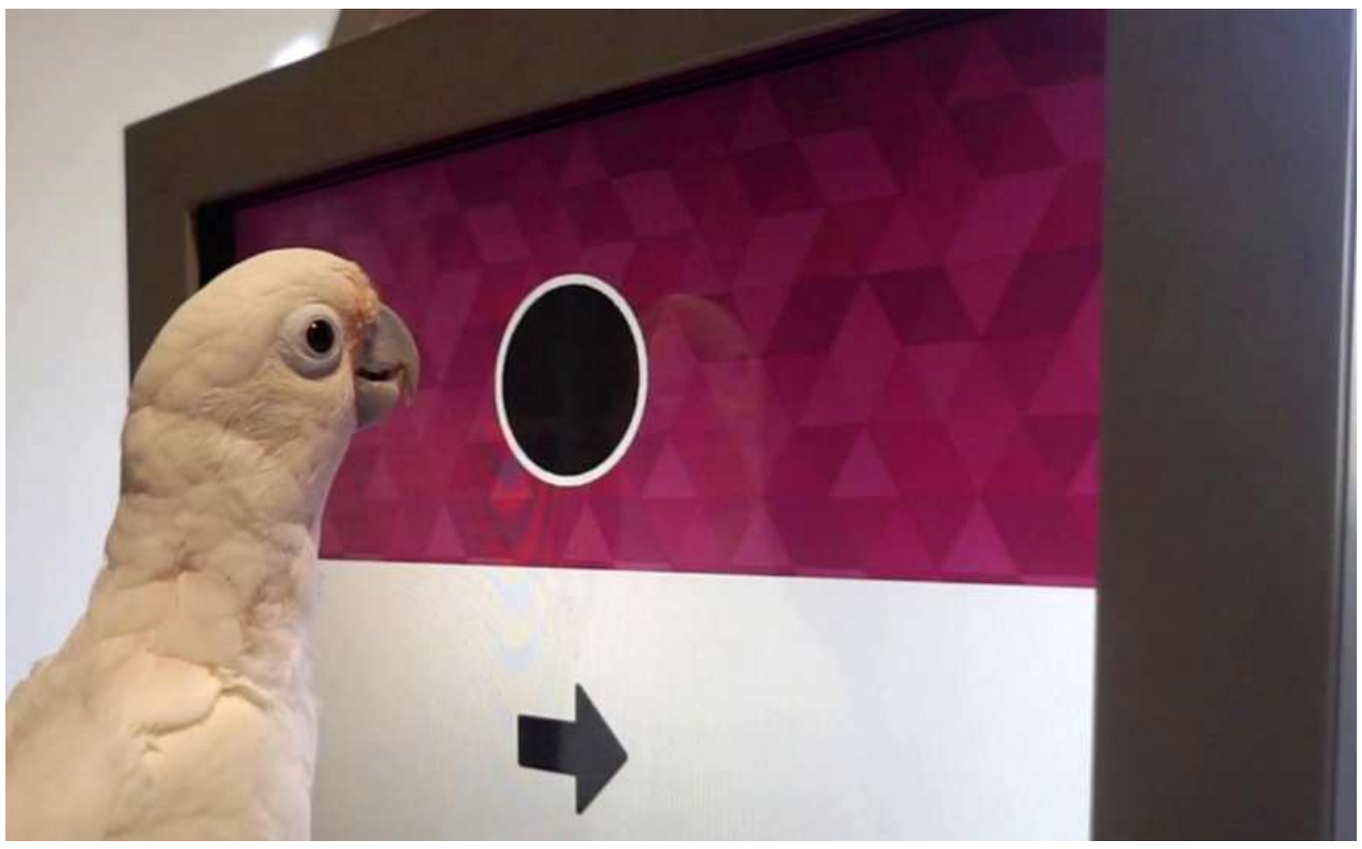
One day in 2025, Jane perched facing a computer screen. The screen's top half displayed a black circle on a magenta background. The bottom half had a black arrow on white. After what appeared to be a moment of deliberation, Jane extended her neck and touched the circle. Small pellets of food appeared in the tray before her. Then, the magenta was replaced by green.

When she touched the circle this time, the screen flashed a bright red before reverting to green. This time, no food appeared. Jane looked at the screen, checked the tray, and looked at the screen again. Then, she touched the arrow. A new background appeared, and with that came the renewed possibility of obtaining more food.

Jane is a Goffin's cockatoo housed at the Messerli Research Institute, University of Veterinary Medicine (UVM), Vienna. With 14 of her peers, she has helped researchers demonstrate that the parrots can recognise and adapt to permanent non-functionality – the notion of something that previously worked ceasing to be functional in a specific context.

This might be the first step in testing experimentally whether an animal has the cognitive requirements to understand death, according to the researchers who conducted the study, published in *Scientific Reports* earlier this month.

But before that, people have to redefine what it means to understand death.



Jane is a Goffin's cockatoo housed at the Messerli Research Institute. With 14 of her peers, she has helped researchers demonstrate that the parrots can recognise and adapt to the notion of something that previously worked ceasing to be functional in a specific context. ANTONIO J. OSUNA MASCARÓ

'Minimal death'

For many philosophers and anthropologists, the ability to understand death has been a defining feature of humanity. For example, the German philosopher Martin Heidegger declared in a 1939 seminar that "mortals are they who can experience death as death. Animals cannot do this."

"Only man dies. The animal perishes," he added in his 1971 book *Poetry, Language, Thought*. By that, he meant that only human beings possessed the ability to understand death's significance.

Philosopher Susana Monsó, associate professor at the National University of Distance Education, Madrid, disagreed. In a 2020 paper with UVM cognitive scientist Antonio J. Osuna-Mascaró, she argued that two forms of anthropocentrism – the belief that human beings are superior to all others – undergird humans' reluctance to acknowledge animals' ability to understand death.

One: the framing of death as an abstract concept, "as something that we know will inevitably befall all of us, but which we cannot point to or perceive with any of our senses." The duo called this intellectual anthropocentrism. The second they called emotional anthropocentrism: "the excessive focus on grief as a reaction to death".

These might be the reasons why existing accounts of animals' reactions to their kin's deaths are limited to those deemed exceptionally intelligent – chimpanzees, elephants, orcas, and crows – and focus overtly on their human-like displays of grief and rituals.

Instead, Dr. Monsó proposed in 2019 the "minimal concept of death": the bare minimum that would be required for an animal to understand what happens when an individual dies.

"It does not require a human-like concept of eternity, or a sophisticated understanding that another individual's mind is gone," Dr. Osuna-Mascaró, her collaborator, explained. "It requires only that an animal recognise death as the irreversible loss of the characteristic functions of a living body," he added.

Recognising permanent non-functionality would be one of the cognitive components relevant to such an understanding.

Testing the bird

While Dr. Monsó thought about how they could test animals' ability to recognise and adapt to permanent non-functionality, Dr. Osuna-Mascaró and his colleagues' work had already shown that Goffin's cockatoos are able to recognise and discard non-functional tools.

"So they were a great candidate species for testing whether animals can understand when something is irreversibly broken," Dr. Monsó said.

To test whether Goffin's cockatoos could comprehend permanent non-functionality, the team designed a touchscreen-based task. They trained parrots to learn that if they touched the round button on the screen, they received a food reward. The parrots could also touch an arrow to proceed to the next trial.

Then, the researchers tested the birds on a slightly more complex task. At times, when the birds touched the round button, the screen would flash and the button would stop working – but only against a particular background. Against other backgrounds, the button still worked.

> It does not require a human-like concept of eternity, or a sophisticated understanding that another individual's mind is gone
>
> **ANTONIO J. OSUNA-MASCARÓ**
> Cognitive scientist

The question was whether the cockatoos could learn more than "this button no longer works," Dr. Osuna-Mascaró explained.

In fact, they had to learn that a flashing event meant that the "particular context was no longer useful", he added.

Further, the cockatoos had to distinguish the non-functional background from new ones in later trials.

The researchers found that as the trials proceeded, the cockatoos learned to skip the backgrounds in which the button had stopped working. However, they continued to touch it when it appeared against other backgrounds.

That is, "they had not simply lost trust in the touchscreen, but were adjusting their behaviour to the specific context," Dr. Osuna-Mascaró said.

Thus, they concluded the cockatoos had "acquired flexible sensitivity to permanent non-functionality," the authors wrote in their paper.

'One cognitive capacity'

Some birds reacted strongly to the button's dysfunction. Rose, a juvenile female, called out in a manner typically used to obtain food or attention. Renki, a juvenile male, displayed aggression.

Even though these displays were not a part of the study's analysis, they "made the task feel very real from the birds' perspective. Something that had just worked suddenly no longer did," Eleonora Rovegno, one of the study's lead authors, said.

That said, all (independent) animal cognition researchers this reporter spoke to were reluctant to take this as evidence for cockatoos' understanding of death – minimal or otherwise.

While calling the study "cool" and worthy of applause, Anindita Bhadra, professor of biology at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata, cautioned that the "study shows only that the cockatoos can learn the non-permanence of rewards and cues."

Dr. Bhadra works on the social lives of free-ranging dogs.

"Being able to recognise non-permanence of inanimate objects is very different from understanding non-permanence of a living being," she added. "Food rewards are very different from social interactions with other individuals."

Similarly, Anindya Sinha, a cognitive ethologist and professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru,, said the cockatoos' actions are "truly significant in terms of their mechanical problem-solving abilities" but added that there is still "no empirical evidence yet of any conceptualisation of inactivity following the death of a living being".

Dr. Osuna-Mascaró agreed that the study "does not show that cockatoos understand death." However, he added, "it does suggest that they possess at least one cognitive capacity that contributes to such an understanding."

(Sayantan Datta is an independent science journalist and a faculty member at Alliance University, Bengaluru. dattasayantan95@gmail.com)

Ignore a mosquito bite and the itch is 'gone in five or 10 minutes for most people'. NIAID/UNSPLASH

It's a bad idea to scratch a bug bite, research says

Associated Press

A lot of things can cause itchiness, sometimes serious diseases. Whatever the cause, doctors have long warned that scratching too much can damage the skin. Now researchers better understand why even a mildly annoying itch could put you on an itch-and-scratch cycle if you give in.

How did they find out? In part by putting tiny "cones of shame" onto mice to uncover what happens on a cellular level when an itch gets scratched – or left alone. They also gained insight into why a good scratch at least at first brings a sigh of relief. After all, not just people and other mammals scratch, even fish do. The commonality suggests there must be some evolutionary reason and the mouse experiment hints at a little germ protection – but still not a reason to scratch.

Daniel Kaplan, a University of Pittsburgh dermatologist whose lab studies immune reactions in skin, was exploring a run-of-the-mill type of itch called allergic contact dermatitis, caused by irritants such as poison ivy or nickel in jewellery.

Normal mice scratched and inflammatory immune cells rushed to the site, increasing swelling. The rash was much milder in mice bred with defective itch-sensing nerve cells

Kaplan's research team put a rash-inducing irritant on the ears of mice. Normal mice scratched and inflammatory immune cells rushed to the site, increasing swelling. The rash was much milder in mice bred with defective itch-sensing nerve cells. But was the difference really the scratching?

Normal mice put into collars like those veterinary "cones of shame" so they itched but couldn't scratch gave the answer: They, too, had much less swelling and fewer inflammatory cells.

Kaplan said that evidence matches people's everyday experiences that scratching really can make things worse.

Ignore a mosquito bite and the itch is "gone in five or 10 minutes for most people," he said. "But if you start scratching it, it's your friend for a week," getting itchier and more inflamed.

To understand what was happening in the skin, Kaplan's team took a deeper look at mast cells, among the immune system's first responders. When called into action, they release compounds that can help fight germs or toxins – or, through a compound called histamine, trigger itchy allergic reactions.

Scientists have long known that allergens can activate mast cells. But other signals can summon mast cells, too, including pain. And when we scratch, "we tend to scratch until it starts to hurt," Kaplan noted.

Pain-sensing nerve cells release a chemical messenger called substance P. In findings published last year, Kaplan's team reported that substance P can activate mast cells through a different molecular pathway than allergens do – a double whammy that explains why scratching further inflames itchy rashes or bites.

If we experience pain like touching a hot stove, we'll learn not to do that again. Yet relief from a good scratch, in evolutionary terms, is positive feedback.

One long-held theory is that it may help creatures slough off parasites like fleas or mites. But Kaplan also was intrigued by other labs' findings that mast cells could fend off a common type of skin bacteria called *Staphylococcus aureus*. Sure enough, mice who scratched had lower levels of that germ on their ears, maybe because of the extra inflammation or some other mast cell-related compound.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Diseases that changed history

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Treponema pallidum causes X. While it is transmitted only among humans and baboons, it has had an outsized effect on the course of human history. Its helical shape allows it to move quickly through mucous membranes and its infections are hard to diagnose because the symptoms mimic those of other diseases. Name X.

QUESTION 2

Smallpox is caused by the Variola virus, with evidence of infections dating back to 1,500 BC. Its spread expanded manifold from the late 15th century onwards thanks to the _____ _____, named for the famous Italian explorer. In this event, many plants, animals, and diseases were transferred between the Western and Eastern hemispheres. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

Mycobacterium _____ bacteria have shaped social and legal institutions over centuries through fear and stigma. Unlike its cousin, which causes tuberculosis, it depends overwhelmingly on its host for sustenance and only infects humans, nine-banded armadillos, and red squirrels. It was the first bacterium to be identified as the cause of a human disease. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

Since the 19th century alone, Y has had seven pandemic outbreaks. In the course of studying it, physicians and scientists developed theories of disease and treatment that are useful even today. The physician Sambhu Nath De definitely proved that Y causes the disease it's responsible for. Name Y.

QUESTION 5

This virus was first isolated from primates and spreads through blood and sexual contact. It mutates so fast that infected people develop slightly different versions. Scientists have struggled to contain it because it hides inside cells and constantly changes its genetic makeup. Name this virus.

Answers to June 25 quiz:

1. Technique to acquire speed from a planet's orbital energy

– **Ans: Gravitational slingshot**

2. Region just outside the event horizon of a black hole – **Ans: Ergosphere**

3. Expansion of MHD

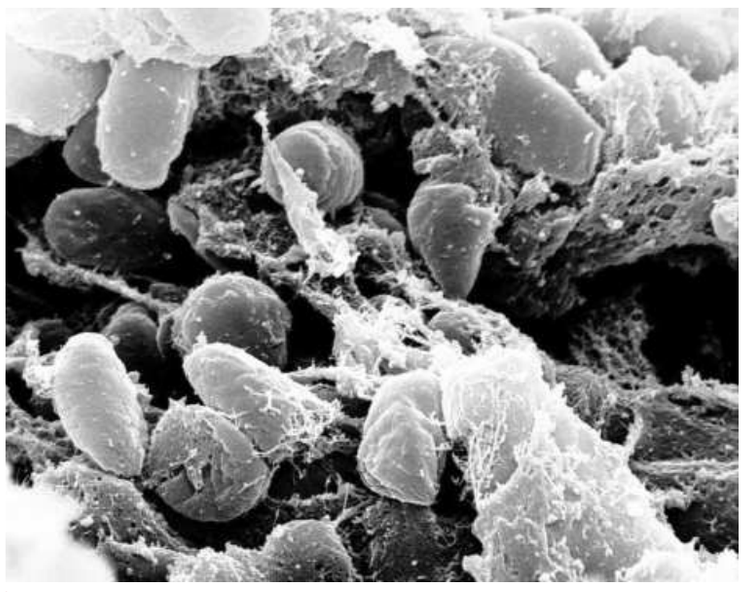
– **Ans: Magnetohydrodynamic**

4. Effect where two close plates feel an attractive force – **Ans: Casimir effect**

5. Electric power based on a salinity gradient – **Ans: Osmotic power**

Visual: Tidal stream generator

First contact: Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Pankaj Gharde | Saif Malik Khan | Snehil Jain



VISUAL: Name the mass of bacteria shown here in the foregut of a flea. Scientists recently found that just 5,500 years ago, these bacteria could be transmitted directly; today, they spread via infected fleas.
PUBLIC DOMAIN

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Outlay of clean technology scheme for steel sector

5,000 in ₹ crore. The Centre is planning to introduce a scheme to promote the adoption of clean technologies in steelmaking processes. The scheme named National Strategy for Sustainable Secondary Steel is expected to be launched in the next three months. PTI

Number of civilians in Afghanistan killed by Pakistan airstrikes

36 Overnight airstrikes by Pakistani forces have killed at least 36 civilians and injured more than 160 others, Afghan officials said on Monday. Hundreds of people have been killed in cross-border fighting since February, when Afghanistan launched retaliatory strikes after Pakistan carried out airstrikes inside Afghan territory. PTI

BLOs conducting special intensive revision in Delhi

13,000 The special intensive revision (SIR) of Delhi's electoral rolls will begin on Tuesday, with over 13,000 booth-level officers (BLOs) undertaking a door-to-door verification exercise, Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Ashok Kumar said on Monday. PTI

Japanese entities on which China imposed export controls

40 China imposed new export controls Monday on 40 Japanese entities it says are contributing to the country's "remilitarisation," as tensions with Tokyo continue to rise. Twenty entities have been placed on a control list, which prohibits Chinese and foreign exporters from selling to them dual-use items made in China. PTI

People in Europe facing temperatures above 35°C

130 in million. At least 130 million people in Europe, mainly located in the central and eastern parts of the continent, are set for temperatures exceeding 35 °C on Monday, according to AFP calculations. This is down from more than 191 million on Sunday. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu X.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

On the delay in India-U.S. trade deal

India and the U.S. announced in February 2025 that they would work towards a Bilateral Trade Agreement, but differences over agriculture and Russian oil, along with legal battles in Washington and investigations initiated by the Trump administration, have clouded its prospects

EXPLAINER

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:
India and the U.S. in February 2025 announced that they would work towards a comprehensive Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) that was to be finalised by fall 2025. Then, in February 2026, they signed a framework agreement for an interim trade deal that was to be implemented by April-May 2026. Neither deal has come to pass.

Why was the BTA delayed?
Soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump announced their intentions to complete a BTA in February 2025, it became clear that a comprehensive deal would be elusive. The talk among government officials was about finalising at least the first tranche of the deal by fall 2025 (September-November 2025).

Talks intensified post April 2025, after Mr. Trump first announced his 'Liberation Day' reciprocal tariffs and then paused them for 90 days so he could negotiate deals with U.S. trade partners. However, despite several meetings, India and the U.S. could not finalise the first tranche, with key sticking points being India's reluctance to open up its agricultural and dairy sectors, and its decision to buy oil from Russia.

In two successive announcements in late July and early August, Mr. Trump raised tariffs on imports from India to 25% and then to 50%, with the latter hike being a penalty for India's Russian oil imports. This decision froze negotiations for a few months before matters thawed once again and talks resumed in October.

What is the interim deal?
Once talks resumed, Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump in February 2026 signed a framework for an interim agreement on trade. This was not a trade deal itself, but the framework along which one could be worked out. At the time, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal expressed his confidence that the deal would be completed by April, or at the latest by early May 2026.

GETTY IMAGES

Under the framework, the U.S. was to reduce total tariffs on Indian imports to 18%, providing it a competitive advantage over its competitors. Both sides also committed to providing each other preferential market access in "sectors of respective interest".

Why has this deal been delayed?
Soon after the framework was announced, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated the reciprocal tariff system itself, saying the law it was based on – the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of the U.S. – did not allow for such tariffs. That removed a major foundation on which the deal negotiations had taken place.

Since then, the U.S. has taken several decisions that have further added to the tariff uncertainty.

Right after the Supreme Court's decision, Mr. Trump announced that he would be imposing a flat 10% tariff on imports from all countries under the Trade Act of 1974, which he said authorised him to take action to address the U.S.'s ballooning trade deficit. This tariff was temporary, supposed to last 150 days up to July 24. Mr. Trump said he would raise it to 15%, but never did.

The U.S. Court of International Trade deemed these illegal as well, but an appeals court put a stay on that order.

What fresh investigations have added more uncertainty?
In March, the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) said it had initiated two investigations under Section 301 of the Trade Act into several of its trade partners that could potentially see further tariffs being imposed on them.

The first investigation against 16 economies, including India, was to see whether these economies were using excess manufacturing capacity to export to the U.S. in a manner that was hurting American businesses.

The second one, against 60 countries including India, was to look into whether these countries had taken "sufficient steps" to prohibit the import of goods produced with forced labour and how the "failure to eradicate" these practices impacts U.S. workers and businesses.

Under the forced labour investigation, the U.S. government in early June proposed to levy a tariff of 12.5% on imports from 54 countries, including India, as they have "failed to impose and effectively enforce" prohibitions on the import of goods produced using forced labour. To be sure, this does not mean the U.S. is saying that India uses forced labour, but that it has not stopped the import of goods that have been manufactured using forced labour.

India has made its representations to the U.S. on this matter and the final hearing is on July 7. The findings of the excess capacity investigations are expected in mid-July.

What is India's stance on the deal?
As repeatedly expressed by Mr. Goyal, India remains committed to finalising a trade deal with the U.S. but is firm about the fact that it should receive a comparative advantage over its competitors as was agreed in February. For this, the Section 301 investigations will have to be completed and the tariffs decided on various countries.

In the meantime, the two sides continue to negotiate on the other non-tariff aspects of the deal, such as enhanced market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers, and expanded cooperation in strategic sectors. The latest visit by USTR Jamieson Greer to India on June 23-24 did not yield any deadlines.

THE GIST

- India and the U.S. missed both the planned 2025 Bilateral Trade Agreement and the 2026 interim deal after disagreements over agriculture, dairy and Russian oil imports, followed by shifting U.S. tariff policies and legal challenges that disrupted negotiations.
- New U.S. Section 301 investigations into excess manufacturing capacity and forced-labour-related imports have delayed tariff decisions, while both sides continue negotiating non-tariff issues, with India insisting on a comparative tariff advantage before finalising the deal.

Has RBI changed the rules for scam compensation?

Who can claim compensation, how much can they receive, and what are the eligibility conditions?

Aroon Deep

The story so far:
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday issued fresh rules to protect customers from scam transactions where they lose money to fraudsters and cyberattacks. These directions amend the RBI's 2017 circular on "Limiting Liability of Customers in Unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions". That previous framework only left banks liable to compensate scammed customers if transactions were not even authorised by customers, such as in a successful hacking incident. These rules are only a pilot for now, but may be extended in the future. They are effective from January 1, 2027, and last for the year.

What has the RBI changed?
In Wednesday's amendments, a draft version of which was released for public comment in March, customers can get reimbursed when they fall prey to certain scams, like digital arrests (where they are "coerced" into paying money), or when one-time passcodes (OTPs) are "fraudulently" stolen from them. Most financial fraud currently relies on "social engineering" attacks, which require hoodwinking customers in one way or another; since banks' core cybersecurity infrastructure is heavily regulated and subject to RBI audits, "zero click" hacks are vanishingly rare.

The new key concept is "fraudulent electronic banking transactions (EBTs)". RBI defines these as transactions which are "executed by a third-party using the credentials obtained from the customer through fraudulent means or executed by the customer by granting approval under coercion or duress from the third-party" or "an EBT which is not authorised by a customer and inter alia includes an EBT occurring on account of negligence by a bank and/or a third-party breach."

This means that customers who ignore fraud signal warnings, such as those on a UPI PIN screen that a given transaction could be a scam, would not be eligible for any compensation. In cases of a third-party hack, the timeline for a customer to report the loss has been increased to five calendar days from three working days. As in the 2017 rules, if any amount is deducted after a customer reports fraud, the customer bears no liability and is entitled to a reversal of the transaction.

Banks can waive customers' liability even if a transaction is negligent, but this is subject to their own discretion. If a user does not have their latest phone number or email address registered with the bank, this counts as negligence, as the bank would not send fraud alerts to the right contact.

How much compensation can customers receive?
For losses up to ₹50,000, individual victims can claim 85% of the amount as compensation, only once in their lifetime, up to ₹25,000. (This means that for any amount from ₹29,412 till ₹50,000, customers will receive a flat ₹25,000 compensation.) Roughly three-fourths of the amount will be paid by RBI itself, while the customer and beneficiary banks will pay half the remaining amount.

A customer must report to the cybercrime helpline (1930) within five days to be eligible for this. It is worth noting that scams above ₹50,000 don't seem to be covered in this framework at all.

What changed between the draft and final rules?
From the March draft, banks have been given more time to implement this new system; the draft rules had a July 1 effective date. This is now January 1, 2027. Complaint settlement timelines are also now increased to 45-60 days, with the latter applying for international transactions.

Dvara Research, a non-profit financial inclusion think tank, had suggested that the vulnerability of customers be taken into account. "Research suggests that Indians encounter fraud attempts multiple times a week, that these attempts are growing more sophisticated, and therefore, it is not unlikely that customers may fall for them more than once," the body wrote.

"Vulnerable customers may not be expected to meet high standards of attentiveness or defend themselves against frauds that are sophisticated even for the more evolved customers ... Under the Indian Contract Act, contracts executed under information asymmetry, external influence, or fraudulent pretext are voidable... Bundling such different transactions under the common definition of 'authorised transaction' diminishes their fundamental difference and may even reduce the significance of a liability framework."

THE GIST

- RBI's revised rules expand customer protection by allowing compensation for certain fraud caused by coercion or stolen credentials, not just unauthorised transactions.
- Eligible customers can claim up to ₹25,000 for losses of up to ₹50,000 if they report the fraud within five days; the pilot framework takes effect from January 1, 2027.

KEYWORD

What India's 12 'operationally deployed' nuclear warheads really mean

SIPRI's latest assessment shows the maturation of India's second-strike capability rather than a shift away from its long-standing 'no first use' doctrine; the development comes amid a broader global trend of nuclear modernisation and weakening arms-control frameworks

Shrawani Shagun

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its annual yearbook in June. For the first time, it classified 12 of India's estimated stockpile of 190 nuclear warheads to be operationally deployed, i.e., positioned with active military forces mated with delivery systems and ready for use.

This sounds alarming – but the alarm itself may not be warranted. The reason is that India has neither crossed a strategic threshold nor has it abandoned its decades-old 'no first use' policy.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute noticed India's increasing reliance on canisterised Agni-series missiles. FILE PHOTO

India's promise

India's 'no first use' (NFU) policy is a pillar of its nuclear doctrine and its credible minimum deterrence posture. At the UN High-Level Meeting commemorating the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons in September 2025, India's representative Sibi George reaffirmed India's commitment to NFU and to the non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states.

The political foundations of the doctrine are intact even as some analysts within India have periodically called for a conditional or hybrid first-use posture. Those calls have not prevailed.

Under NFU, India commits to not launching a pre-emptive nuclear strike. What it needs is the absolute certainty that even after absorbing a nuclear first strike, enough of its nuclear arsenal will survive to deliver a devastating retaliatory blow. This survivability guarantee is what strategists call a second-strike capability, and without it, NFU is not a doctrine but a liability. In other words, the doctrine depends on a force that can survive and retaliate.

The SIPRI report does not indicate a shift towards first use, a lowering of the threshold for nuclear employment or indeed any revision of the political controls that govern India's nuclear weapons. Instead, it documents the maturing of India's ability to credibly deliver the second strike.

Stockpile v. Deployment

This distinction is significant. Possessing a nuclear warhead and deploying it as part of an operational deterrent is not the same thing. For most of its nuclear history, India has kept its warheads in a de-mated state, meaning the warheads were stored separately from their delivery vehicles, in a central storage site and under strict civilian and political oversight. The idea was to maximise safety, reduce the risk of accidental use, and signal restraint to the international community.

Deployment, on the other hand, means a weapon has been paired with a delivery system – a missile, aircraft, or submarine – and positioned with operational military forces in a state of readiness. Again, this does not mean the weapons are about to be used; it means they are configured for use if authorised. A de-mated weapon requires time to prepare and deploy; a mated weapon can, in principle, be launched more quickly.

What SIPRI has recorded when it classified 12 Indian warheads as being deployed is that a small – but no doubt significant – fraction of India's arsenal now is being maintained in a state of operational readiness. And SIPRI has linked this assessment to the maturation of India's nuclear triad, particularly its sea-based deterrent, suggesting that a small number of warheads may now be deployed aboard a nuclear ballistic missile submarine (which are also called SSBN) conducting occasional deterrence patrols.

India's Arihant-class submarines have steadily strengthened the survivability of the country's second-strike capability, with additional platforms expected to further consolidate this leg of the triad. SIPRI also noticed India's increasing reliance on canisterised Agni-series missiles. This means the missiles are kept ready with fuel in a sealed cylinder, from which they can be directly fired without further preparations. Canisterisation thus indicates a greater level of operational readiness.

Overall, it seems India's long-envisioned deterrent posture is becoming increasingly operational across land and sea-based delivery systems – but not that the country is on a war footing.

NFU architecture

Bearing in mind India's pursuit of a doctrine of credible minimum deterrence centred on assured retaliation, the maturation of its submarine-based deterrent doesn't depart from NFU but is a means of strengthening it.

A doctrine that relies on retaliation requires forces capable of surviving an adversary's first strike. Land-based missiles, however capable, sit at known and mappable locations. An adversary confident in its intelligence could, in theory, target them in a disarming first strike before a retaliatory order is ever issued. On the other hand, a stealth submarine operating in the ocean can't be found, tracked or destroyed in time.

This is a fundamental difference – and in fact, ballistic missile submarines provide the most secure second-strike capability available. As the scholar Vipin Narang has written, states pursuing assured retaliation postures must, above all, solve the survivability problem, and sea-basing is the most robust solution available.

India has now done that. With three operational SSBNs sufficient to keep at least one submerged and on patrol at all times, India has closed the central vulnerability any NFU doctrine faces.

Manpreet Sethi, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies, New Delhi, said, "With the operationalisation of tri-SSBNs, it is not surprising that some of India's nuclear warheads now stand mated with delivery platforms. This in no way implies a doctrinal shift. Rather, it makes assured retaliation more credible and, hence, India more confident in its commitment to 'no first use'."

Wider warning

SIPRI's documentation of India's deployment milestone lies within a broader, more concerning global trend. The organisation's 2026 Yearbook observed that states are "increasingly relying on nuclear weapons as instruments of national power", signalling a reversal of decades of gradual progress in disarmament.

As of January this year, the world's nine nuclear-armed states collectively possessed an estimated 12,187 nuclear warheads. China's arsenal has grown to approximately 620 and continues to expand at a pace unmatched by any other nuclear power. In this context, India's reported deployment of 12 operationally assigned warheads is strategically significant.

India's nuclear choices must be understood from within this evolving security environment. SIPRI has noted that India's modernisation programme is increasingly focused on developing long-range delivery systems capable of reaching targets throughout China – while continuing to account for Pakistan.

With China's arsenal now more than three times the size of Pakistan's estimated stockpile, and Beijing simultaneously expanding its sea-based nuclear deterrent, India's SSBN programme appears directed as much towards maintaining credible deterrence against China as towards preserving stability with Pakistan.

The world that the SIPRI report has described is one in which the post-Cold War nuclear order is under mounting strain. Arms-control agreements have weakened or collapsed while competition in areas such as hypersonic delivery systems, artificial intelligence-enabled decision support, missile defence, and anti-submarine warfare continues to intensify.

The risk of miscalculation is correspondingly increasing. India's evolving deterrent posture should therefore be seen not as an isolated development but as part of a wider transformation in the global strategic environment. Policymakers should treat this as a warning that the institutions designed to manage nuclear risk must adapt quickly enough to keep pace with the capabilities now being fielded.

(Shrawani Shagun is a researcher focusing on environmental sustainability and space governance)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"So, did you drop your cousin off at the station?"

"No. I walked him till the auto stand."

"I walked him to the auto stand. You don't walk someone till the auto stand. The word 'till' and 'until' are generally not used in connection with distance."

"What are they used with then?"

"You normally use 'till' and 'until' in connection with time. My cousin and I kept studying till 6:00 o'clock."

"I'll stand here until the bus comes."

"The baby finally fell asleep when we reached Pune station. It continued to sleep till we reached Mumbai."

"In that sentence you are talking about the amount of time the baby slept."

"Exactly!"

"Tell me, when is 'to' used?"

"When the focus is on distance or a particular destination. For example, the children were told to run to the airport. It's wrong to say the children were asked to run until the airport."

"How about this example? As the bus was late, we walked to school."

"Sounds good."

"Tell me, is there a difference between 'till' and 'until'?"

"Not really. They mean more or less the same thing. In most cases, they can be used interchangeably. 'Until' can be used in both formal and informal contexts. 'Till', on the other hand, is restricted to informal ones."

"I see. Someone told me that..."

"...the phone is ringing. Could you answer it, please?"

"It's Uma. She says that...."

"...tell the airhead that I will call her up later."

"She said that she would ring you up this evening. Around 8:30. By the way, Uma is definitely not an airhead."

"Do you know what 'airhead' means?"

"I think I do. Isn't an airhead someone who is very stupid?"

"That's right, an airhead is a stupid person. Someone who has nothing but air between his ears."

"We have a lot of airheads in my class."

"When I was in Hyderabad recently, I saw several airheads make a U-turn on the flyover near my...."

"....there are many airheads like that in our city too."

"By the way, the word 'airbrain' means the same thing as 'airhead'."

"I see. Can I say, I saw some airbrain jumping from one building to another."

"I suppose you could."

"Tell me, have you seen Uma's father recently? I...."

"...I avoid him. He is not all there."

"What do you mean that he's not all there? He's always there in his office."

"When you say that someone is not all there, it means that you think that the person is slightly crazy."

"I suppose it's an expression used in informal contexts."

"That's right. When the interviewer saw Ashok talking to himself, he figured that he wasn't all there."

"When you meet Jugal the first time, he gives the impression that he's not all there. Actually, it's just an act he puts on."

"I know. You cannot expect much help from Lalit. He's not all there."

"What about you then? You never help people. Does that mean that you are not all there?"

"You know, now that I think about it, I must be crazy. How else can one explain having friends like you?"

Published in The Hindu on February 13, 2001

Word of the day

Pother:
an excited state of agitation

Synonyms: fuss, panic, bother

Usage: *There is no need to pother over every little detail.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/pother

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pɒðə/

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

On June 30, 1905, Albert Einstein's paper introduced the Special Theory of Relativity, fundamentally reshaping our understanding of space, time, and motion

Prathmesh Kher

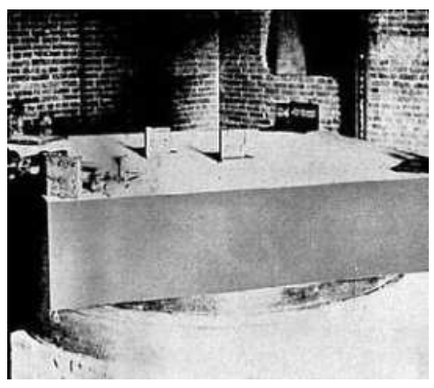
QUESTION 1
In which scientific journal was Einstein's Special Relativity paper first published?

QUESTION 2
What is the original German title of Einstein's 1905 paper on Special Relativity?

QUESTION 3
According to Special Relativity, which physical quantity remains invariant for all inertial observers?

QUESTION 4
Which paradox describes a travelling twin returning younger than the twin who remained on Earth?

QUESTION 5
Which of Einstein's 1905 papers was published after his Special Relativity paper and is often regarded as completing the "miracle year"?



Visual Question:
This interferometer was used in which landmark 1887 experiment whose null result challenged the existence of the luminiferous ether and paved the way for Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity? CASE WESTERN RESERVE ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. A total of 215 goals were scored across 72 matches. Apart from France, which other teams netted 10 goals each? **Ans: Germany and The Netherlands**
2. Three teams progressed with perfect records, of which one had no goals conceded against it. Name the teams. **Ans: Mexico (no goals conceded), France and Argentina**
3. Which modern-day great became the first to score in six editions and who achieved the feat of scoring in seven consecutive matches? **Ans: Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi**
4. Two teams registered three draws and had a goal difference of zero. But thanks to the qualification rules, one made it to the next phase while the other was eliminated. **Ans: Cape Verde and Iran, respectively**
5. Only one match in the round-of-32 will see two teams who have made the summit clashes before with one of them having tasted glory. **Ans: Sweden (1958 runner-up) and France (1998 & 2018 champion and 2022 runner-up)**
6. Which stadium had the distinction of hosting 80,824 spectators on two separate occasions? **Ans: Estadio Azteca / Mexico City Stadium**
Visual: He was one of three to achieve what feat in the group stages? **Ans: Canada's Jonathan David who netted a treble against Qatar**

Question 6 in yesterday's World Cup quiz was not correct. The error is regretted