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June 2, 2026
CHENNAI
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Classroom Student

4 Rank
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Mohit Shekher Shukla
HT.No.266152016
Classroom Student

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9 Rank
M Naga Saharsha
HT.No.266145246
Classroom Student
All-India Open Category

10 Rank
Darsh Sikha
HT.No.262105093
Online Classroom Student
All-India Open Category

## 35 RANKS BELOW 100 IN ALL INDIA OPEN CATEGORY

| Rank | Name | HT. NO. |
|---|---|---|
| 17 | AARAV GUPTA | 266100595* |
| 21 | YAJAT SHINGHAL | 267020175 |
| 26 | PASALA MOHITH | 266060100 |
| 28 | MUKKARA SAKETH | 266059154 |
| 30 | AMRIT RAJ | 267043075* |
| 31 | B SAMEERAJ REDDY | 266131323 |
| 36 | ARNAV GANDHI | 267013646 |
| 37 | ADITYA SINGH | 261037065 |
| 38 | B C SEKHAR REDDY | 266060225 |
| 40 | KATA HIMAKAR | 266009152 |
| 41 | SNEHAL ROY CHOUDHURY | 257474072* |
| 44 | YASH YADAV | 262067130* |
| 45 | AARUSH SINGHAL | 267015167 |
| 52 | YASHWARDHAN | 267011368* |
| 56 | CHINNI PAWAN TEJA | 266060479 |
| 59 | A SUSHANT KUMAR | 262007260* |
| 62 | K SAMITH CHOWDARY | 266062106 |
| 64 | U VENKATA YOGESH | 266009162 |
| 66 | J ROSHAN MANIDEEP | 266009143 |
| 67 | TANMAY H.G | 261043005 |
| 72 | NISHKARSH SINGH | 262097033* |
| 73 | PALASH JAMBURE | 261114121 |
| 74 | RAM NIKIL PUVVADI | 261048073 |
| 79 | B.V. KRISHNA R BHAT | 261065216* |
| 81 | ADITYA GUPTA | 267010589 |
| 87 | NAIDU LAKSHMI TEJAL | 266032030 |
| 91 | S T VATHSAN | 266097453 |
| 92 | I ABHISHEK KANTH | 266055215 |
| 93 | PATURI JAYADEV | 266009028 |
| 95 | V AVINASH NAIDU | 266058086 |
| 98 | ANSHU | 262092420* |
| 99 | RUCHIT AGRAWAL | 262056072* |

*DLP-AITS Information so far.

*T & C apply | Note: Any inadvertent error published in this advertisement could be brought to our notice Note: The information is as per students feedback

| | |
|---|---|
| BELOW 10 ALL INDIA OPEN CATEGORY RANKS | 3 |
| BELOW 100 ALL INDIA OPEN CATEGORY RANKS | 35 |
| BELOW 200 ALL INDIA OPEN CATEGORY RANKS | 60 |
| BELOW 500 ALL INDIA OPEN CATEGORY RANKS | 125 |
| BELOW 1000 ALL INDIA OPEN CATEGORY RANKS | 199 |
| BELOW 10 ALL INDIA ALL CATEGORY RANKS COUNT | 10 |

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Ms. Sushma Boppana (Right), CEO of Sri Chaitanya Educational Institutions &
Ms. Seema Boppana (Left), Director of Sri Chaitanya Schools along with JEE ADVANCED 2026 All India Toppers

# BUILDING THE NATION'S IIT-JEE CHAMPIONS

## JEE ADVANCED-2026 RESULTS ALL INDIA ALL CATEGORY BELOW 10 RANKS

| Rank | Name | HT. No. |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | I ABHISHEK KANTH | 266055215 |
| 4 | M SHARATH CHANDRA | 266145373 |
| 5 | ARKA SARKAR | 266031005 |
| 7 | AMRIT RAJ | 267043075* |
| 7 | T MYTHRESH REDDY | 266140031 |
| 8 | B V KRISHNA R BHAT | 262067130* |
| 9 | CHINNI PAWAN TEJA | 266060479 |
| 9 | PANAKA RAM SUBHASH | 266059291 |
| 9 | BOTSA PRANAY KUMAR | 266060039 |
| 10 | DARSH SIKKA | 262105093 ONLINE CLASSROOM STUDENT |

## ALL INDIA OPEN CATEGORY TOP RANKS BELOW 492

| Rank | Name | HT. No. |
|---|---|---|
| 104 | IPSHIT PAUL | 265076030* |
| 106 | HARSHIT YADAV | 262078280* |
| 108 | SIDAK GULATI | 267014230 |
| 110 | TURPU MYTHRESH REDDY | 266140031 |
| 111 | KORUKONDA SRAVYA | 266060531 |
| 113 | GOYAL ISHAN | 267017427* |
| 115 | PANAKA RAM SUBHASH | 266059291 |
| 118 | D MOHAMMAD THANVEER | 266060073 |
| 119 | SHREYAS MISHRA | 262110365* |
| 123 | TANMAY NATH JHA | 267013009 |
| 126 | GOGULAPALLI TEJA SRI | 266058065 |
| 127 | M RAMA SANNTHOSH | 266032137 |
| 128 | ABHINAV KHETAN | 266089071 |
| 139 | ADIT BANSAL | 267015081 |
| 144 | S NIKHILESH KESANI | 266133292 |
| 150 | NISKARSH VERMA | 267011410 |
| 152 | YEMIREDDY RUTHWIKA | 266061381 |
| 153 | A VYASA SAI PRANAV | 266130026 |
| 154 | M SUDHEER KUMAR | 266055103 |
| 161 | MOHIT CHANDRA | 266134247 |
| 172 | LANKALWAD MAYURESH | 261104067* |
| 175 | GOEL AARUSH | 262095377* |
| 181 | PUJALA GANDEEVA | 266060311 |
| 193 | B VENKATA SATHWIK | 266059085 |
| 200 | K V LIKHITH CHOWDARY | 266060179 |
| 209 | T JASHWANTH REDDY | 266132296 |
| 211 | DIXIT SHREYANSH | 262106395* |
| 217 | CHINTA SATYA SRIRAM | 266060634 |
| 219 | R GOWTHAM KUMAR | 266056131 |
| 220 | D ABHINAVA TEJ | 266059069 |
| 222 | M VAMSIDHAR REDDY | 266135705 |
| 224 | C VENKATA SAI DHANUSH | 266060187 |
| 231 | SATVIK VISHNUCHANDAR | 266090157 |
| 234 | ADIRAJ AGARWAL | 264042093* |
| 236 | OM GARG | 267013095 |
| 237 | KARETI UMA MAHESWAR | 266010029 |
| 242 | BALADITHYA K | 261051279 |
| 254 | ADITYA GURURAJ SANKH | 266131275 |
| 256 | ARKA SARKAR | 266031005 |
| 257 | C SATYANARAYANA MURTHY | 266055106 |
| 259 | ANANMAY CHAUHAN | 262111110* |
| 264 | P DEEPAK CHANDRA | 266059117 |
| 268 | C VENKATA SAI AANEESH | 266032065 |
| 270 | P BHARGAV NAIDU | 265005092 |
| 271 | PULI YESWANTH REDDY | 266055162 |
| 281 | KENCHA DEV ASHISH | 266132679 |
| 283 | LUKKA AKSHAY GUNA | 266133260 |
| 286 | LAKSHIT SINSINWAR | 267024129* |
| 293 | T V SUDHEEKSHANA S | 266057149 |
| 298 | GUJARATHI KARAN | 261133089* |
| 301 | P SREE VARDHAN REDDY | 266055272 |
| 306 | V TARUN SAI | 266059365 |
| 307 | Y MANJUNADHA SRI SAI | 266056101 |
| 310 | JASORIA SHRESTH | 262055046* |
| 311 | V S RISHVANTH | 266152023 |
| 316 | K J PHANI KUMAR | 266060504 |
| 317 | K SHANMUKHA KALYAN | 266145045 |
| 325 | SHREYAS RAUT | 261114050 |
| 326 | PANTHANGI AKHILESH | 266132677 |
| 327 | SHIVANSH SINHA | 262106102* |
| 330 | THOTA KARTHIK | 266151119 |
| 334 | S CHARITH REDDY | 266131475 |
| 336 | PRIYANSHU KUMAAR | 262077290* |
| 338 | CHIRANJIB KAR | 262009315* |
| 339 | M YAMMANURU | 266127202 |
| 344 | V AARYYUSH SUNKARA | 266141111 |
| 345 | SATIVADA KAUSHIK | 266060374 |
| 351 | ARCHIT SINGH | 261045114 |
| 353 | P P CHENNA KESAV | 266032012 |
| 354 | AKSHAT GUPTA | 267013426 |
| 364 | GANNI SAI SATHVIK | 266059177 |
| 369 | K Y RISHI MANIKANTA | 266060576 |
| 377 | JAI SOMANI | 262108352 |
| 382 | M SHARATH CHANDRA | 266145373 |
| 389 | POTNURU SAI CHETAN | 266032205 |
| 395 | YEDURU HARIKA | 266060301 |
| 419 | MEDHANSH SHEKHAR | 262006094* |
| 435 | ALLU NARENDRA | 266059056 |
| 444 | CHAKRALA SRIKAR | 266135053 |
| 456 | V K KARTHIKEYA REDDY | 266143036 |
| 462 | RAGUNANDHAN S | 266057053 |
| 470 | KHUSHKIRAN PAL SINGH | 267018399 |
| 473 | S SHAILESH SUVARNA | 261107382 |
| 475 | G SURYA VIVEK NAIDU | 266056065 |
| 486 | BATTA HANEESH | 266062416 |
| 491 | U OJAS SHRIKANT | 261133098* |
| 492 | K VENKATA SAI CHETAN | 266153154 |

## JEE ADVANCED-2026 TAMILNADU RESULT

| Rank | Name | HT. No. |
|---|---|---|
| 52 | V S RISHVANTH | 266152023 |
| 91 | S T VATHSAN | 266097453 |
| 144 | SANJAY K | 266090044 |
| 225 | ABHIJITH S | 266097375 |
| 231 | SATVIK VISHNUCHANDAR | 266090157 |
| 245 | PRANESH I | 266100676 |
| 334 | M S MUKESH | 261053023 |
| 364 | M SACHIN | 261036287 |
| 373 | TATAPUDI LEVI ISRAEL | 266092053 |
| 404 | HARISH RAHAV G V | 266103035 |
| 452 | J IMMANUEL | 266092138 |
| 483 | VAIBHAV G | 266110137 |
| 604 | JAYANTH D | 266112095 |
| 610 | CHITHARTHAN | 266103251 |
| 650 | JOHITH JOBY | 266099039 |
| 653 | KAVIN K | 266098068 |
| 785 | M DINESH | 266092139 |
| 804 | NETHESH J | 266104111 |
| 960 | KAVYA DHARSHINI S | 266111074 |
| 988 | DAVIS ALVIN A.D | 266102013 |

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DELHI, MADRAS SHINE

**56,880 qualify for IIT after JEE Advanced**

NEWS » PAGE 10

SUPPLY STRESS

**Prices of commercial, free trade LPG go up**

BUSINESS » PAGE 11

'CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS'

**Iran stops U.S. talks as Israel strikes Lebanon**

WORLD » PAGE 12

STATE OF PLAY

***A.P. data centre a major challenge***

*India is not yet ready with facilities for Google's hyperscale hub*

OPINION » PAGE 7

FRENCH OPEN

**Auger-Aliassime enters quarterfinals**

SPORT » PAGE 13

## I will never compromise on secularism, says CM Vijay

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUCHI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay said on Monday that the TVK-led government would be a "government for all" and it would never compromise on secularism, the State's rights, river water-sharing, or social justice.

He was speaking at a public meeting organised to thank the voters of the Tiruchi East constituency, from where he was elected to the Assembly (since vacated) apart from Perambur in Chennai. Mr. Vijay promised the people of Tamil Nadu that he would provide a corruption-free government.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 4

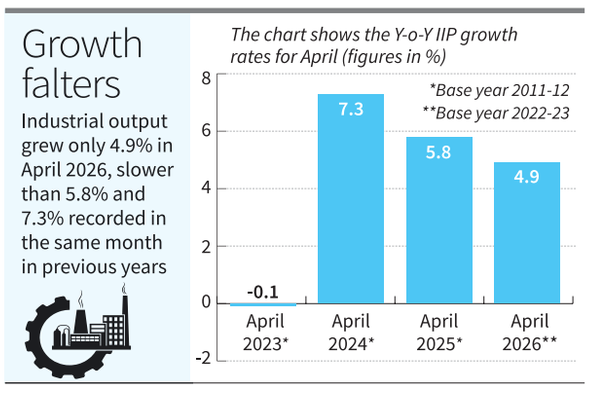
# Industrial output slows to 4.9% in new data series

The base year has been revised to 2022-23 from 2011-12; growth rate in April was slower than 5.8% recorded in the corresponding period last year; mining and quarrying output declined by over 5%

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

India's industrial output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 4.9% in April 2026 under the revised series with 2022-23 as the base year released on Monday. The growth rate was slower than 5.8% recorded in April last year with 2011-12 as the base year.

The new series has broadened the coverage of the index by incorporating water supply, sewerage and waste management activities and gas supply, while retaining the existing three core sectors – mining, manufacturing, and electricity. Of the four sectoral indices, three grew at a slower pace and one shrunk in the reporting month on a year-on-year basis. While mining and quarrying output declined by over 5.1%, manufacturing sector output grew at 6.2% in the reporting month, slightly slower than the 6.3% in 2025. The electricity and gas supply sector grew at 4.9% while water supply, sewerage and waste management grew at 6.6%.




The base years of major macroeconomic indicators, which were earlier 2011-12, were revised in 2026 beginning with the GDP. The IIP is the latest in the measures that have been revised to 2022-23 as the base year.

Besides adding new sectoral divisions, the new series also entails "improved granularity". For instance, mining sector index will now include data classification for fuel minerals, metallic minerals, including rare earth minerals and non-metallic minerals, including minor minerals. Similarly, the electricity index has been classified into renewable and non-renewable sources.

The new basket of goods to calculate IIP consists of 1,042 products mapped to 463 item groups. The older series had just 839 items mapped to 407 item groups. Further, the weights provided to each sector and each industry within the manufacturing sector has been revised in line with the updated Gross Value Added (GVA) 2022-23 series.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

## 'No space for anti-India elements in Myanmar'

**Promising talks:** PM Narendra Modi with Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing in New Delhi on Monday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Visiting Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing has assured India that he will not allow use of his country's territory by groups that pose a security threat to Indian interests. The concern was raised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who held broad-spectrum conversations with Mr. Hlaing on Monday, including calls for dialogue between the junta-backed government and the pro-democracy Opposition in Myanmar. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the discussion included the issue of detention of former leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

"The President reiterated Myanmar's assurance that its territory would not be permitted to be used against India's security interests. The Prime Minister affirmed that India... remained committed to deepening security cooperation," a joint statement issued at the end of the official discussion mentioned.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

## NEARBY

### GCC to scrutinise building plans online from now

CHENNAI
The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) will no longer ask applicants to appear in person for getting building plan permission. All scrutiny must be done only online, as per a government circular. » PAGE 3

### Harassment of constable: police officer suspended

THOOTHUKUDI
A police officer formerly attached to the Arumuganeri police station has been placed under suspension following the launch of an inquiry into alleged sexual harassment of a Head Constable. » PAGE 4

## INBRIEF

### Madras Medical Mission gets new haemodialysis machine

Tamilnad Kidney Research (TANKER) Foundation has installed a new haemodialysis machine at Madras Medical Mission (MMM) in Chennai. The machine was inaugurated on Monday in memory of late Rajan Hariharan, a distinguished professor of surgery and an esteemed member of the medical fraternity. The haemodialysis machine, which was sponsored by the family of Dr. Rajan, was inaugurated by Dr. Sarojini Hariharan. Georgi Abraham, founder-trustee and president of TANKER Foundation, and Sivakumar Hariharan also participated. Dr. Abraham said the new haemodialysis machine would enable MMM to serve more underprivileged patients suffering from chronic kidney disease.

### Boy dies after falling from tree near Poonamallee

A 14-year-old boy died of injuries late on Sunday at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH), where he had been undergoing treatment after falling from a tree while attempting to retrieve a kite from its branches in Kattupakkam near Poonamallee on May 27. The victim was identified as Madesh of Amman Koil Street in Kattupakkam. The police said that when Madesh climbed the tree to retrieve the kite, he lost his balance and suffered serious injuries in the fall. Family members rushed him to a private hospital in Poonamallee. Later, he was referred to the government hospital.

**Text & Context and Science**

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (June 2, Tuesday), the following articles are available:

- Why do Indian cities get polluted in summer? **newsth.live/summerpollution**
- The genie of synthetic biology is out, and with it comes power and peril **newsth.live/geneticgenie**

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

# Victim in Koyambedu flyover hit-and-run case was sexually harassed by accused at pub

One of the accused had misbehaved with the victim and forced her to dance with him. The police have arrested seven persons, including three college students, in connection with the case so far

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

The 18-year-old girl, who was killed by a gang of drunk youths in a hit-and-run case after a quarrel inside a private bar on Saturday night, and her 17-year-old friend, who remains in a critical condition, were allegedly sexually harassed by the gang inside the bar. The Koyambedu police have so far arrested seven persons in connection with the case, including three who were apprehended on Sunday.

The deceased hails from Villupuram district, and her friend, who is a resident of Ramapuram, has been admitted to the intensive care unit of the Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, the police said. The deceased was a content creator.

The police said that on Saturday night, the two girls went to a pub called MM's Chennai Gateway and met two more youths whom they befriended on social media. They entered the pub around 9.30 p.m. Aswanth, one of the youths who accompanied the girls, in a video, said that while moving through the crowd, a person from another group that had come to the pub misbehaved with the girls and forced them to dance with him. "When I intervened, the group also manhandled me. The bouncers pacified the group and advised all of us to leave the premises and to settle the matter outside."

During that time, another verbal altercation broke out between the first group and another group of youths, and escalated into a brawl. The bouncers again intervened and separated both groups. Later, these groups again got into an argument near a shop outside the pub, following which the same bouncers once again intervened and dispersed them.

**Shut down:** The Prohibition and Excise Department temporarily suspended the licence of the pub in Koyambedu and sealed the premises late on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Stone-pelting incident**

Subsequently, the two girls and their friends decided to head towards Thirumangalam on two-wheelers, while the first group left in a sports utility vehicle (SUV).

"Meanwhile, unidentified persons had allegedly pelted the group's SUV with stones near Koyambedu flyover and fled the spot," Aswanth said.

Assuming that the girls and their friends were behind the stone-pelting, the men in the SUV allegedly began chasing and attacking them. "They first rammed another vehicle. They continued to chase us and rammed the motorcycle the deceased and I were riding. In the impact, we fell on the road, resulting in her death. The accused then fled the scene," Aswanth said.

The police arrested seven accused in connection with the incident and identified them as Suman Sakthivel of Virugambakkam, Mohanasundaram, Vimalraj, Rahul, Balaguru, Kishore Kumar, and Joshua. Three of them are college students. Meanwhile, the Prohibition and Excise Department temporarily suspended the licence of the pub in Koyambedu and sealed the premises late on Sunday.

# Intense heat to ease across the State amid week-long wet spell

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

After weeks of scorching temperatures, intense heat may gradually ease its grip on Tamil Nadu from Tuesday. The start of June is set to bring a spell of heavy rainfall over several parts of west and interior districts, which is likely to continue till Sunday.

The day temperature peaked above the 40-degree mark in Chennai Meenambakkam. However, the maximum temperature would remain near normal or drop below average from Tuesday, noted officials.

The Southwest monsoon, which is expected to advance over parts of Kerala in the next two or three days, is likely to impact the weather in the State. The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) has forecast heavy rainfall with thundershowers in 22 districts across Tamil Nadu, including Vellore, Salem, Theni, Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari, and Karur on Tuesday.

Weather systems, including a trough running from east Vidarbha to south Kerala across Telangana, Rayalaseema, and Tamil Nadu, would aid the wet spell.

On Monday, Vellore recorded 40.5 degrees Celsius, the hottest maximum temperature for the day in the State.

Various rain gauges, including Kodaikanal, Vellore, Valparai, and Krishnagiri, received light rainfall on Monday till 6 p.m.

D.S. Pai, Head, RMC, said Tamil Nadu largely remains a rain shadow region during Southwest monsoon. Parts of the State, including the Western Ghats, may experience the impact of the monsoon onset phase with a weak pulse expected to persist for three or four days.

Most parts of the State are likely to get a respite from the searing heat and temperatures may stay close to normal or drop by a few degrees.

Coastal parts too may have their share of thundershower activity, if not immediately, over the coming days.

On the heatwave conditions predicted in isolated regions of the State during June, he said the chances are minimal for at least one week as the wet spell is likely to continue. Hot, humid weather may return to coastal areas once clear skies prevail.

| Chennai Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tiruvallur | 40 | 26 |
| Chennai Airport | 40 | 29 |
| Chennai City | 39 | 29 |

**Chennai Airport Today**
**39°C** The weather will be hot and uneasy with moderate winds. Night also will be uneasy. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

**Chennai Airport Tomorrow**
**40°C** Morning will be uneasy. Day will be hot. Night will be uneasy. Dry weather to prevail.

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# GCC plans ₹71.9-cr. pedestrian corridor in Tondiarpet zone

**Site survey:** GCC Commissioner G.S. Sameeran on Monday inspecting the stretch in Tondiarpet, where the pedestrian corridor will be constructed. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

A pedestrian corridor with integrated utilities is being planned on the 2,400-m stretch from New Washermenpet Metro Station to Tollgate Metro station and on Arunachaleswarar Koil Street in Tondiarpet zone, at an estimated cost of ₹71.90 crore.

A press release said the project includes provision for underground ducts to carry electric cables, drinking water, and sewer pipelines, and data network lines. Work to create the required sub-surface infrastructure on the stretch is expected to begin soon. During an inspection here on Monday, Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) Commissioner G.S. Sameeran asked officials to coordinate with service departments to carry out the work without delay and to remove roadside encroachments, including shops, to expedite the project.

Later in the day, in Kodambakkam zone, Mr. Sameeran reviewed the waste clearance from bins and sanitation work on Vadapalani Nerkundram Road and directed authorities to remove garbage promptly and maintain cleanliness in and around public bin locations, the release added.

**Timings**
**CHENNAI**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **TUESDAY, JUN. 02** | | |
| RISE | 05:42 | SET 18:32 |
| RISE | 20:23 | SET 06:59 |
| **WEDNESDAY, JUN. 03** | | |
| RISE | 05:42 | SET 18:33 |
| RISE | 21:11 | SET 07:51 |
| **THURSDAY, JUN. 04** | | |
| RISE | 05:42 | SET 18:33 |
| RISE | 21:56 | SET 08:43 |

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.

**S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER**

**E-NIT No. : ST-RNCT1-26-CCTVYARD-LC, dated 27.05.2026.** e-Tender is invited by Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, S.E.Railway, Ranchi for and on behalf of President of India for the following work: **Name of the work :** Execution of Signal & Telecom work in connection with 1) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Yard Closed Circuit Television System at 9 stations in Ranchi division, 2) Provision of Closed Circuit Television System at 11 nos. Level Crossing Gates (Non-Interlocked) over Ranchi division along with comprehensive AMC for the period of 5 years. **Advertised Value :** ₹ 2,72,88,031.29. **EMD:** ₹ 5,45,800/-. **Cost of Tender document :** 0. **Date & Time for closing of e-Tender:** 22.06.2026, 11.00 hrs. **Bidding start date :** 08.06.2026. **Website particulars and details : www.ireps.gov.in** (works tender). **(PR-249)**

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**
**OHE MODIFICATION WORKS**
**Open e-tender notice No.- BB.LD.585.W.893. CONTR4 of 29-05-2026**

**Name of work:** Tender No: BB.LD.585.W.893. Contr4 for 25 KV AC OHE Modification work in connection with Extension of platform No.4,5,6 and yard remodeling work at CSMT for 15 car suburban train in Mumbai division. **Approx. Value :** ₹ 4,73,78,462/-. **Bid security :** ₹ 9,47,600/- . **Cost of Tender Form :** ₹ 0/- . **Completion period :** 12 Months. **Validity of offer :** 60 Days. **I.**Tender closing date & time of aforesaid tender: Upto 11.00 hrs. of 22.06.2026 and will be opened after 11.00 hrs. **II.**The prospective tenderers are requested to visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for details of tenders & corrigendum, if any. **III.** Tender may participate in above e-tender electronically through website **www.ireps.gov.in** only & submission of manual offers against e-tender are not allowed. Manually, if submitted shall neither be opened nor considered. **IV.** Bid security should be paid as per details given in tender document. **V.** For further enquiry, may contact: Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction Distribution), Mumbai Division, Central Railway, Annex building, 2nd floor, Mumbai CSMT-400001 on phone :- 022-22612355. Complete details of tenders are available at the website **www.ireps.gov.in** The complete details of tenders are also available in the "Notice Board" of the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction Distribution), Mumbai CSMT-400001. **DE-217**

**TRAVEL SAFELY, AVOID FOOTBOARD TRAVELLING**

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**
**OPEN TENDER NOTICE**

Open Tender Notice No: RP/ DNR/ HS/ TRL/ GAYA/RE-TENDER-4, Date:29.05.2026

Name of the work with its location : Design, Supply, erection, testing & Commissioning of Bays at Bodh Gaya GSS with termination 132 KV D/C transmission line in between Gaya TSS to Bodh Gaya BSPTCL GSS through 132 KV underground Cabling under Railway Project Danapur of East Central Railway. Approximate cost of the work : ₹27,34,51,597.33/-,Cost of Tender form ₹0.00/-, Earnest money to be deposited : ₹54,69,000/-, Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender : Bidding start date 05.06.2026 and opening of tender on 19.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : For eligibility criteria and other conditions and details, please go through the tender document available in website at http://www.ireps.com. Address of the office from where the tender details can be obtained. website particulars and notice board location : Office of the Chief Electrical Engineer Railway Project, Danapur, Near Jagjeevan stadium, Khagaul, Danapur-801105 E-tendering website-www.ireps.gov.in Notice board- Office of the Chief Electrical Engineer Railway Project, Danapur, Near Jagjeevan stadium, Khagaul,Danapur.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer Railway Project/ECR/Danapur
PR/0330/PROJECT/DNR/ELECT/T/26-27/44

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Tender from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in e-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways :-

**Sl.No. :** 1, **Tender Notice No. :** TC-52-2026-SPJ, **Name of work :** At Pratapganj - Provision of additional goods line for goods unloading. **Tender Value (In ₹) :** 159852143.35, **Earnest Money (In ₹) :** 3197100.00, **Completion period of the work :** 12 Months

**Sl.No. :** 2, **Tender Notice No. :** TC-53-2026-SPJ, **Name of work :** Extension of covered shed, providing side cover, side pathway, superficial wall and other ancillary works in LHS No. 7A, 7C, 11A, 12C under the Sr.DEN/III/SPJ. **Tender Value (In ₹) :** 22944514.89, **Earnest Money (In ₹) :** 458900.00, **Completion period of the work :** 06 Months

**Sl.No. :** 3, **Tender Notice No. :** TC-54-2026-SPJ, **Name of work :** Extension of covered shed, providing side cover, side pathway, superficial wall and other ancillary works in LHS No. 5A, 5B, 3A, 3B under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/III/SPJ. **Tender Value (In ₹) :** 22517314.00, **Earnest Money (In ₹) :** 450400.00, **Completion period of the work :** 06 Months

**Sl.No. :** 4, **Tender Notice No. :** TC-55-2026-SPJ, **Name of work :** Repairs of road surface of various LC Gate, Gate Lodge, Fencing and Painting in SPJ-MFP section under SSE/Works/Line/MFP in Samastipur Division of ECR. **Tender Value (In ₹) :** 16187135.60, **Earnest Money (In ₹) :** 323800.00, **Completion period of the work :** 06 Months

**Sl.No. :** 5, **Tender Notice No. :** TC-56-2026-SPJ, **Name of work :** Special repairs of roof replacement of damaged Arch Roof of waiting hall of MG period at BYP, BDMA station and made it functional by providing various passenger amenities like Toilet, Flooring, water supply, ceiling etc. **Tender Value (In ₹) :** 9286955.37, **Earnest Money (In ₹) :** 185700.00, **Completion period of the work :** 06 Months

**1. Last Date & time for receiving of Tender in E-Tender mode on IREPS web portal :-** 23/06/2026 upto 12:00 hours. **2. Opening Date & time for E-Tender :** 23/06/2026 after 12:00 hours. **3.** Website particulars where complete details of tender & tender document can be seen on Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**. Amendments/ modifications if any shall not be published in the newspapers but the same shall be uploaded in the website.

**Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ord**
**East Central Railway/Samastipur**
**PR/0332/SPJ/ENGG/T/26-27/72**

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**
**VARIOUS WORK**

**Open e-tender notice No.CR-DRM(W)BB-2026-28 of 26.05.2026.** **Sr.No.1.** Name of work -Providing Safety Fencing (101.00 Km) on Track to Prevent Cattle Run Over in PNVL-ROHA Section. Approximate Value Rs.4146.62 lakhs EMD Rs.8293300 Completion period –18 months. **Sr.No.2.** Name of work -Providing Safety Fencing (21.00 Km) on Track to Prevent Cattle Run Over in DW-PNVL Section. Approximate Value Rs.862.17 Lakhs EMD Rs.1724300 Completion period –12 months. **Sr.No.3.** Name of work- 1) Repair of washable apron at LTT Yard. 2) Renewal of sleeper inconcrete Apron at LTT Yard. 3) Repairs & Construction of Dead End at LTT Yard. 4) Repairs & Construction of Dead End at TNA and mulund Yard. Approximate Value Rs.143.63 Lakhs EMD Rs.287300 Completion period –6 months. **Sr.No.4.** Name of work–1) Construction of drains at CSMT Yard. 2) Construction of drains at LTT Yard. Approximate Value Rs.767.89 Lakhs EMD.Rs.1535800 Completion period –12 months. **Sr.No.5.** Name of work – 1) LOKMANAYA TILAK TERMINUS: -Improvement to LTT Yard. 2) THANE & MULUND YARD:- Improvement to Thane &Mulund Yard . 3) DADAR TERMINUS:- Improvement to DADAR Yard . 4) GHATKOPAR YARD : - Improvement to Ghatkopar Yard. Approximate Value Rs.675.71 Lakhs EMD.Rs. 1351400 Completion period –12 months. **Sr.No.6.** Name of work – Part A) Rendering service for maintenance work including supply of materials for railway quarters at Kolsewadi under SSE(W)KYN for 12 Months. Part B) Rendering services and supply of materials for maintenance of Railway quarters under SSE(W)Waldhuni & Gate - 41 for 12 Months under ADEN(W)KYN. Approximate Value Rs.248.43 Lakhs EMD.Rs. 274200 Completion period –12 months. **Sr.No.7.** Name of work – Protection of Vashi end embankment of Thane creek Bridge no. 25/1 at Km 24/14 - 26/12 between MNKD-VSH section. Approximate Value Rs.777.68 Lakhs EMD.Rs.1555400 Completion period –6 months. **Sr.No.8.** Name of work – Providing Safety fencing (23.81km) along track under Sr. DEN(HB) section ( 8.40 Km in ADEN(M)MNKD & 15.41 Km in ADEN(M)JNJ section in CSMT - PNVL & TNA(Excluding)-VA(Including) Harbour line. Approximate Value Rs.1022.39 Lakhs EMD.Rs.2044800 Completion period –12 months. **I)** Tender closing date & time of aforesaid tender: Up-to 15.00 hrs. of Sr.No.1,2,5 and 6 on 16.06.2026, Sr.No.3,4 and 8 on 19.06.2026,Sr.No.7 on 23.06.2026, to be opened after 15.00 hrs. **II)** The prospective tenderers are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in for details of tenders & corrigendum, if any. **III)** Tenderer may participate in above e-tender electronically through website www.ireps.gov.in only & submission of manual offers against e-tender are not allowed. Manually, if submitted shall neither be opened nor considered. **IV)** The Bid Security shall be deposited either in cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. **V)** For further enquiry, may contact: Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Office, Central Railway on phone. 022-67455323. **VI)** This tender complies with Public Procurement Policy Order 2017 dated 16-9-2017. Complete details of tenders are available at the website **"www.ireps.gov.in".** The complete details of tenders are also available in the "Notice Board" of the Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Office, Mumbai CSMT.

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**Unsafe and unauthorized work near the railway line is a punishable offence**

Govt. of Bihar

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT**
BIHAR LOK BHAVAN, PATNA-800022
**Advertisement**

**Invitation of Application for appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellor's in following Universities of Bihar.**

The Chancellor's Secretariat, Patna invites applications for the appointment of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor's in the following Universities of Bihar from the persons possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment:

| Sl. No. | Name of Universities |
|---|---|
| 1. | Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University, Muzaffarpur |
| 2. | Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University, Madhepura |
| 3. | Jai Prakash University, Chapra |
| 4. | Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University, Darbhanga |
| 5. | L.N. Mithila University, Darbhanga |
| 6. | Magadh University, Bodh Gaya |
| 7. | MMH Arabic & Persian University, Patna |
| 8. | T. M. Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur |
| 9. | Veer Kunwar Singh University, Ara |
| 10. | Patliputra University, Patna |
| 11. | Munger University, Munger |
| 12. | Purnea University, Purnea |
| 13. | Patna University, Patna |
| 14. | Nalanda Open University, Nalanda |

1. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor in consultation with the State Government in the same manner as prescribed for appointment of Vice-Chancellor.
2. The person should be a distinguished academician, with a minimum of 10 years of experience as a Professor in a University System or in 10 years of experience in an equivalent position in a reputed research and / or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership.
3. The candidate should not be more than 67 years of age on the last date of submission of the application.
   The last date of submission of the application is **01-07-2026** by **06:00 P.M.** Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.
4. The advertisement is available on the website **https://governor.bih.nic.in** Candidates are required to **"APPLY ONLINE ONLY"** on the Ministry of Education SAMARTH portal as per the link given below: https://vcrec.samarth.ac.in
5. The Search Committee may invite the shortlisted applicants for a presentation and a personal interaction for which no TA/DA shall be paid. Canvassing directly or indirectly on behalf of any candidate shall attract disqualification.

**(Dipak Kumar Singh)**
Add. Chief Secretary to Governor-cum-Chancellor, Bihar Lok Bhavan, Patna

PR- 004719 (Governor Secretariat) 2026-27

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

**नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार**

**जिला अभियंता का कार्यालय , जिला परिषद, रामगढ़**

**अति-अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

ई–निविदा सं० :– *ZP/RAMGARH/02/2026-27*

कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :–
मद – *DMFT*

| ग्रुप संख्या | योजना का नाम | प्राक्कलित राशि | अग्रधन की राशि | परिमाण विपत्र का मुल्य (रु०) | कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि | निबंधन श्रेणी |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | CONSTRUCTION OF MULTISPORTS COURT AT -<br>i. RAJ BALLABH +2 HIGH SCHOOL, SANDI<br>ii. JANTA H.S. CHAINPUR<br>iii. S.S. H.S MANDU<br>iv. SHARAMIK HIGH SCHOOL SIRKA<br>v. KGBV MANDU<br>vi. SHARAMIK HIGH SCHOOL TOPA PINDRA<br>vii. KGBV RAMGARH<br>viii. S.S. HIGH SCHOOL GOLA<br>ix. HIGH SCHOOL DIMRA<br>x. KGBV GOLA<br>xi. H.S PATRATU<br>xii. K.K.C H.S SYAL<br>xiii. C.C.L H.S NAYANAGAR<br>xiv. BHURKUNDA H.S BHURKUNDA<br>xv. KGBV PATRATU<br>xvi. UPG HIGH SCHOOL CHATAK<br>xvii. UPG JBAV DULMI | 7,62,10,106.00 | 15,25,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 06 (छः माह) | I |

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि– दिनांक– 05.06.2026
2. ई–निविदा डालने / प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय– दिनांक 05.06.2026 से दिनांक 11.06.2026 अपराह्न 4:00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय– दिनांक – 12.06.2026 को अपराह्न 4:00 बजे।
4. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का पदनाम एवं पता– जिला अभियंता, जिला परिषद, रामगढ़।
5. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ट का दुरभाष नं०– 9801557645
6. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल *Online mode* द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
7. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई– भुगतान संवेदक द्वारा जिस बैंक खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते मे अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर बैंक खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है। तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही संवेदक की होगी।
8. निविदा *Double Bid* पद्धति से होगा।
9. इस निविदा में जिला परिषद, रामगढ़ के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत श्रेणी–I के संवेदक भाग ले सकेंगे।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट *Jharkhandtenders.gov.in* एवं कार्यालय के सूचनापट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

ह०/–
**जिला अभियंता,**
जिला परिषद, रामगढ़।

PR 381239 (District) 26-27 (D)

# No more in-person visits for planning approvals: Corpn.

They must be processed within specified timelines and all scrutiny must be done online, as per a circular issued by the GCC's Town Planning Dept.

**R. Aishwaryaa**
CHENNAI

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) can no longer summon applicants or registered architects to appear in person for planning permissions.

All scrutiny must be done only online, as per a circular prescribing time-bound guidelines for the processing of planning permission and building permit applications.

According to the circular issued by the GCC's Town Planning Department, planning permission and building permits must be processed within the specified timelines.

The document said that Assistant Executive Engineers should conduct site inspections within seven days of an application being submitted online.

The inspection report should be uploaded to the GCC portal within two days of the inspection, and the documents verified within five days of the report being uploaded, it said. If additional particulars are required, officials should seek them through the online portal within two days of scrutiny, it added.

Applicants must be given seven days to furnish the requested particulars online. Once the required documents satisfy the prescribed conditions, fee calculations must be completed online and the competent authority must approve the planning permission application within three working days.

The circular also directed that the demand advice for the payment of fees be generated automatically through the online portal.

Plans and permits should be digitally signed by Executive Engineers within 24 hours of payment by the applicant, enabling the approved documents to be viewed online.

According to the document, applications should be processed on a first-in, first-out basis.

It stated that the maximum time for the approval of a planning permission application was 27 days in cases involving queries or clarifications.

In cases where applications are complete and no additional particulars are sought, approval should be granted within 18 days.

The circular also laid down the procedures for cases in which the planning permission had already been granted by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority.

In such cases, site inspection and document scrutiny by the GCC are not required, and building permit applications forwarded by the CMDA should be sanctioned within seven days, the document further stated.

**Avoiding delays**: The maximum time for approving an application is 27 days in cases involving queries or clarifications. FILE PHOTO

# Deadline for TNEA registration extended to June 5, polytechnic counselling begins

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

The last date for registration for Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions (TNEA) 2026 has been extended to June 5, S. Visakan, Director of Technical Education, said at a review meeting attended by Higher Education Minister P. Viswanathan here on Monday.

The counselling for admission to first year and part-time diploma courses in government polytechnic colleges commenced on Monday.

During a review of the ongoing admission process in State-run institutions, the Minister was informed that as on May 31, as many as 2,81,502 students have registered their applications on the TNEA portal (www.tneaonline.org) and 2,17,627 of them have paid the application fees.

The last date for uploading certificates is June 6, following which the TNEA will assign random numbers to candidates on June 10. The rank list will be published on June 29.

While the counselling dates were yet to be announced, the TNEA authorities informed the Minister that they were keeping an eye on developments pertaining to CBSE exam paper enumeration fiasco that may delay the distribution of mark sheets.

**2,81,502 students have registered their applications on the TNEA portal**

In addition, the counselling process for admission to polytechnic courses began at the respective colleges on Monday. As many as 18,888 students have applied for admission to first year through the portal www.tnpoly.in.

In 44 of the 55 government polytechnic colleges, Industry 4.0 Skill Centres have been established in collaboration with the Tata Group offering three new diploma programmes – Digital Manufacturing Technologies, Automation and Robotics, and Internet of Things. As many as 3,570 additional seats have been created to facilitate student enrolment, Mr. Visakan said.

On the other hand, over 2.24 lakh applications were received from students as on May 29 for admission to government arts and science colleges through the www.tngasa.in portal. Those who missed the first window for registration will get another chance to register from June 1, E. Sundaravalli, Commissioner of Collegiate Education, informed the Minister.

V. Arun Roy, Secretary, Higher Education Department, was present.

# Rainbow flag hoisted amid calls for inclusion and action

**Reiterating rights:** Members of Sahodaran Chennai celebrating the pride month on Monday. M. SRINATH

**Sahana Mira S.**
CHENNAI

With an unmissable rainbow flag swaying above the premises of Sahodaran, more than 50 members of the LGBTQIA+ community came together on Monday to hoist it and commence the pride month, chanting slogans of non-discrimination and inclusion.

Chennai Rainbow Pride is entering its 18th year with the Rainbow Pride self-respect march scheduled for June 28.

Beyond the celebrations, many who took part in the event expressed their disappointment with the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026.

They reiterated calls for horizontal reservation in education and employment in Tamil Nadu, gender-neutral washrooms, and altering the Tamil name of the transgender welfare board to *Thirunar Nala Variyam*, among the 17 demands.

Sahodaran's General Manager Jaya said previous State governments had been sensitised to the concerns of the community. "This year is important to us because there is a new government in Tamil Nadu, but we don't yet know how well they understand our issues. We hope the members of the Tamil Nadu Rainbow Coalition (TNRC) will be called for a meeting with the current government so that we can directly explain our challenges to them," she said.

Fred Rogers, a man of trans experience, said trans men are a minority within minorities, and that the amendment act erases them completely. "We are just like any other human being, but why should we be discriminated against based on our identity?" he said. When asked what Pride 2026 means to him, Mr. Rogers said: "It is about me being myself and that gives me so much joy. I want the same for my peers as well."

Finding employment opportunities remains one of the major hurdles. A doctor who completed her MBBS in Russia, Jaahanavi, said that she had received many offer letters from hospitals in Chennai, only to have them revoked once she disclosed that she was a trans woman.

Meanwhile, Archanaa Seker, a Chennai-based activist and member of the TNRC, said Pride month and the march were about equality, visibility, and the right to exist and love.

"There is a divisive world out there waiting to break spaces and movements like these. So, it is important we find hope where it is and commit to reparation whenever things go wrong," she said.

# Migrant worker killed, 48 injured as staircase collapses

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

A migrant construction worker died and 48 others sustained injuries after an iron staircase ramp collapsed at a temporary accommodation in Nandambakkam on Sunday night.

The incident took place at a makeshift shed operated by a private firm, where hundreds of workers had gathered to watch the finals of IPL 2026 between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans, the police said.

According to sources, more than 100 workers gathered on a section of the staircase and leaned against the railing while cheering for their respective teams.

Unable to withstand the weight, the structure gave way, following which more than 40 workers fell from a height of about 15 feet, landing on top of one another.

The injured workers were rushed to the Government Kalaignar Centenary Super Specialty Hospital in Guindy, while 22 others were admitted to the Sri Ramachandra Medical Centre in Porur for treatment.

**Serious injuries**

Brinji Manjhi, 31, from Jharkhand, who suffered serious injuries, died despite treatment at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in the early hours of Monday.

The Nandambakkam police have registered a case.

They have launched an investigation into the incident.

**Fatal fall:** The makeshift shed in Nandambakkam where hundreds of workers had gathered to watch the finals of IPL. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

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
GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE COURSE ON
HOW TO START YOUR OWN STARTUP
How to Raise Funds for New Business or Existing Business
Course Duration 2 Days (ONLINE) Date: 06 & 07 June 2026 Time : 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Course Content: 10 Steps to becoming a successful entrepreneur, How to Set Up/ New business with Govt. Support and Policies, Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, Basics of Bankable Project Report, Marketing Concept, Effective Business Plan, Financial Management, Risk Management, Building Block, Negotiation Skills, GST & Business Formation Process, Case Study on Business Failure. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF ENTREPRENEURS
Fees : Rs.3,540/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)
Coordinator: 8603769900, 9953920498, 8168984069
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IndianOil
CIN-L23201MH1959GOI011388
PUBLIC TENDER
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. plans to onboard suitable alliance partner(s) for developing, operating and maintaining Non-fuel Retail (NFR) facilities at Wayside Amenities (WSA) sites located on Delhi-Amritsar Katra Expressway (Haryana State) under Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model. Interested Parties may refer to the detailed tender document with auction ID: 34867 (Reference No.: MnC/RS-1/PT-14/26-27) which is available in 'Forward auction tab' on GeM Portal (Website: https://gem.gov.in). Last date for submission of application is 26/06/2026 at 23.00 hrs. "This is a corrigendum to advertisement dt. 31.05.2026 and last date of bid submission to be read as 26.06.2026."

COIMBATORE CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
ENGINEERING SECTION
TENDER NOTICE (e-Tendering)
Tender Notice No.(e) 37 /2026 Dated : 27/05/2026

| Sl. No. | Description of Work | Total No. of Works | Total Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs) | Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender through Online | Date and Time of Opening of Tender Online |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Coimbatore Corporation-West, Central Zone Ward No.33,35,38,39,43,44,45, 48,49,62,63,64,67,71,72,8 0 Improvement Works | 40 Work | Rs.2678.60 Lakhs | 22.06.2026 @ 3.00 PM (As per the Server Clock) | 23.06.2026 @ 4.00 PM (As per the Server Clock) |

For further details, please visit the website: https://tntenders.gov.in. Commissioner, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation, Office at Big Bazaar Street, Town Hall, Coimbatore – 641001. Phone:0422-2396026, Email: commr.coimbatore@tn.gov.in
DIPR/1984/TENDER/2026 COMMISSIONER, COIMBATORE CORPORATION

No. 24011/01/2026 - PP(B.I)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
(Department of Personnel and Training)
Applications are invited for one (01) post of Member, Staff Selection Commission (SSC) at Joint Secretary level, under this Department on deputation basis. The eligibility conditions and other details are contained in the vacancy circular displayed on the Department's website https://dopt.gov.in/whats-new. Interested candidates may apply in the format prescribed in the vacancy circular. Last date for receipt of applications is 21.07.2026.
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Sri.Chingleput Ranganathan Memorial Concert
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PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mr V.B. Deepak Kumar, residing at No 15, Valliammal Street, Kilpauk, Chennai -600010 intends purchasing either for himself or in favour of his nominees, the property viz all that pieces and parcels of the land measuring a total extent of about 4Acres-75 Cents, comprised in Survey No.49/1 and situated in Survey numbers 110/2, 112/1, 112/2, 113/1A, 113/1B, 108/1A3E, 108/1A3D, 108/1A3C and 108/1A3B and situated in Kadapakkam Village, in Thiruvottiyur Taluk of Chennai District, from its present owner Mr Deepak Kumar Gupta on the strength of the documents produced by him and the assurance given by the aforesaid person that he is fully seized and well possessed of the said property free of all encumbrances and liabilities whatsoever. Notice is hereby given that if anybody has any claim or objection or has any right whatsoever on the said property, he/ she/ they are required to lodge his/her/ their claim along with legally sustainable documentary proof to my address given below by speed post within FIFTEEN days from this date and if no claim is received within the above referred period it will be presumed that the said property is owned and held by the present owner Mr Deepak Kumar Gupta, free of all encumbrances, liabilities or litigations whatsoever.
T.M. Manoharan, Advocate, O.No 672/1, N.No 378,T.H.Rd, Tondiarpet, Chennai-600 081.

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## INBRIEF

### BJP urges CM to fill vacancies in government departments

BJP Tamil Nadu president Nainar Nagenthran on Monday urged Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay to fill vacancies at government departments. He referred to media reports that about 5,000 government employees attained superannuation on May 31, pushing up the vacancies to 40%. Criticising the DMK government for its failure to keep its promise of filling the vacancies in government service, Mr. Nagenthran said that even one lakh vacancies could not be filled in five years of DMK rule. While the vacancies were increasing, the youth were struggling with unemployment, he said.

### Vijay greets Mohana on her appointment as SC judge

Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Monday congratulated senior advocate Venkita Subramani Mohana on her appointment as a Supreme Court judge. Mr. Vijay said Ms. Mohana, a native of Coimbatore district, was the first woman advocate from Tamil Nadu, and only the second in the country, to get appointed directly as a Supreme Court judge. Mr. Vijay also paid floral tributes to the portrait of freedom fighter Anjalai Ammal on the occasion of her birth anniversary on Monday.

# CM Vijay promises inclusive, corruption-free government

The TVK government will never compromise on secularism, State rights, sharing of river water, or social justice, says Vijay at a public meeting organised to thank the voters of Tiruchi East

**The Hindu Bureau**
TIRUCHI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Monday said the TVK-led government would be a "government for all", and it would never compromise on secularism, State rights, river water-sharing, or social justice.

He was speaking at a public meeting organised to thank the voters of the Tiruchi East constituency, from where he was elected to the Assembly (since vacated), besides Perambur in Chennai. Mr. Vijay promised the people of Tamil Nadu that he would provide corruption-free governance. "I understand it is not magic, and cannot be done overnight. But I will make it happen. I have no other job than working for you," he said, adding that everything would be done according to the Constitution.

Referring to the criticism of his government, Mr. Vijay said those who had pledged to wait for six months (before assessing his performance) could not hold their tongue for even six days. "Within half-an-hour of government formation, they started speaking. They were even ranting at a wedding," he said.

**Victory tour:** Chief Minister and TVK president C. Joseph Vijay greets supporters at a meeting in Tiruchi on Monday. R. VENGADESH

He reaffirmed that the DMK would remain the TVK's main political opponent, and all other "formations" were irrelevant. Alleging that attempts were made to prevent the TVK from forming the government, Mr. Vijay said the "evil force" (*theeya sakthi*) and the "exhausted force" (*theeyintha sakthi*) had plotted to form the government and continue to loot the State. "The moment you decided to keep an alliance with the exhausted force, the DMK became irrelevant," Mr. Vijay said, addressing DMK president M.K. Stalin.

The TVK, according to him, had broken the influence of caste, religion, and money in elections. The percentage of votes secured by the party was even higher than what was achieved by M.G. Ramachandran, he pointed out, but was quick to clarify he was not comparing himself with the AIADMK founder and former Chief Minister.

Hitting out at those who labelled TVK supporters as *tharkuri* (illiterate), Mr. Vijay said he would not remain silent if they continued to speak ill of the people. "The same people who voted for you have voted for me, too," he said.

On the criticism over the law and order situation, Mr. Vijay blamed the rampant spread of drug abuse. Had the DMK nipped it in the bud, many women and children could have been saved, he said. "I have appointed a team of efficient officers now. The 'Singappen Kaval Padai' will be inaugurated next week," he said, promising expeditious filing of charge-sheets, speedy court proceedings, and stringent punishment.

Defending the announcement on farm loan waiver, Mr. Vijay said he had done whatever was possible within a month, given the "financial mess" that needed to be set right.

# TVK continuing DMK schemes, says Ezhilan

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

DMK medical wing secretary Ezhilan Naganathan on Monday said the ruling TVK had not announced any flagship schemes, and was only continuing the schemes implemented by the previous DMK government, such as the breakfast scheme, *Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam*, *Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam*, *Thayumanavar* scheme, and *Pudhumai Penn Thittam*.

Reacting to Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay's speech in Tiruchi, Dr. Ezhilan said Chief Ministers had, in the past, followed the tradition of addressing journalists after meeting the Prime Minister and presenting a list of demands from Tamil Nadu.

"When a reporter asked him to address the press, Vijay *Anna* left in his car. However, today, he has spoken to a captive audience in Tiruchi. There is confusion over whether he spoke as the Chief Minister or as the leader of the TVK. He has the responsibility and power. He has to provide a vision statement," he said.

Referring to Mr. Vijay's allegation that the DMK was now expressing political discontent at weddings, Dr. Ezhilan said the DMK had always used "self-respect marriages" to speak about its politics.

On the DMK's decision to criticise the ruling TVK within weeks of the latter coming to power, Dr. Ezhilan said, "Please look at how people are out on the street. You said you will bring in monthly electricity bill and provide 200 units of free electricity. But you are continuing the bimonthly cycle, and have introduced a condition for the free 200 units. You have also introduced a condition for farm loan waiver. Is this the change you promised?"

Dr. Ezhilan said free electricity (for farmers) was first introduced by then Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi in 1989.

Raising law and order issues, he said, "In the last month, caste killings and sexual violence have taken place. Law and order has deteriorated. Your questions have boomeranged towards you."

"The [new] West Bengal and Kerala Chief Ministers have introduced the Annapurna scheme (₹3,000/woman) and free bus travel, respectively," he said.

# Police officer suspended pending probe into sexual harassment

**The Hindu Bureau**
THOOTHUKUDI

A mid-level police officer, formerly attached to the Arumuganeri police station, has been placed under suspension following the launch of an inquiry into alleged sexual harassment of a Head Constable, currently attached to the Singappen Special Task Force (SSTF).

According to sources, the Head Constable, who had joined SSTF on May 28, was allegedly subjected to sexual harassment through text messages while serving at the Arumuganeri police station.

When *The Hindu* contacted a senior police officer to ascertain whether the suspension was based on the findings of the inquiry, and whether a formal complaint had been received from the Head Constable, the senior officer said that the suspension had been ordered to facilitate a fair investigation, and that the Head Constable was yet to lodge a formal complaint.

# Safety concerns raised over Dexamethasone injection batch after adverse events

**Serena Josephine M.**
CHENNAI

Three patients, including a 20-year-old nursing student, who died during an elective septoplasty, developed severe cardiovascular complications suspected to be associated with the intravenous administration of Injection Dexamethasone 8 mg (Batch No. CHI-60004) during perioperative management at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital (MGMGH), Tiruchi. Following the adverse cardiac events, hospital authorities flagged concerns regarding the safety of the drug with health officials, after which the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) initiated testing of the drug batch.

On May 29, S. Kumaravel, dean of MGMGH, Tiruchi, wrote to the Director of Medical Education and Research, seeking urgent drug analysis and necessary action on a report from the hospital's Professor and Head of Department, Anaesthesiology, regarding suspected adverse reactions associated with the particular batch of injection Dexamethasone 8 mg ampoule, supplied by TNMSC. The drug is a synthetic corticosteroid used to treat severe inflammation and allergic reactions.

In the letter, seen by *The Hindu*, the hospital raised the occurrence of multiple serious adverse cardiac events suspected to be associated with the administration of the Dexamethasone injection manufactured by Cotec HealthCare Ltd, Roorkee, batch number CHI-60004, at MGMGH.

**Severe complications**

Three patients, who received the drug from the specific batch during perioperative management, developed severe cardiovascular complications immediately following its intravenous administration. The adverse events included ventricular tachyarrhythmias, cardiomyopathy, severe left ventricular dysfunction, hypotension, and refractory cardiogenic shock.

On May 28, a 49-year-old woman, who was posted for elective mastoidectomy, developed ventricular tachycardia, followed by cardiomyopathy with cardiogenic shock. On the same day, a 40-year-woman posted for emergency scar ectopic gestation excision developed severe tachycardia, hypotension, non-dilated cardiomyopathy, and severe left ventricular dysfunction.

The letter went on to state that retrospective review identified another similar event in a 20-year-old woman, Seetha, who underwent elective septoplasty on May 22 and subsequently developed ventricular arrhythmias with refractory cardiogenic shock, following the administration of the same drug.

"On receiving the report, we issued a 'stop order' and recalled the batch of drugs. We have sent the drug for testing. We have initiated the process based on the hospital's report. The final findings will be determined through objective evaluation," an official of TNMSC said.

# 3 get double life term for murdering Karur activist

**The Hindu Bureau**
KARUR

The District and Sessions Court in Karur on Monday convicted and sentenced three accused to double life imprisonment for murdering R. Jaganathan, an activist who fought against illegal stone quarries, in September 2022.

The court also imposed a penalty of ₹2 lakh each on the convicts – Sakthivel, Selvakumar, and Ranjith Kumar.

Jaganathan, of Kalipalayam in Pugalur taluk in Karur district, had been pushing for the closure of illegal stone quarries in the district, and had petitioned the officials multiple times in this regard.

The activist was riding a two-wheeler when he was mowed down by a truck belonging to a quarry, at Kuppam near K. Paramathi. The murder took place a day after a quarry near Kalipalayam, where Jaganathan was residing, was closed by the Department of Geology and Mining following complaints that it was being operated illegally.

# MDMK general council will decide party's future course of action, says Durai Vaiko

**The Hindu Bureau**
TIRUCHI

The question of whether the MDMK should continue in the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance would be discussed at the party's general council meeting on June 27, MDMK principal secretary and Tiruchi MP Durai Vaiko said on Monday.

"We have convened our party general council on June 27. We will place the question in the council and take a decision based on the views of office-bearers/cadre," Mr. Durai Vaiko said, while addressing the media after receiving Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay at Tiruchi airport.

Speaking to *The Hindu* later, he clarified that the party remained a part of the DMK alliance, and said he had made the statement in response to a query whether the party would continue in the alliance.

"The general council is the governing body of the party, and it will discuss various issues, including the party's recent political decisions, the seat-sharing arrangement (for the Assembly election), and Karnataka's move to build a dam at Mekedatu, and decide on the party's future course of action," he said.

Durai Vaiko

During an earlier media interaction, when asked whether the MDMK would extend support to the TVK government, Mr. Durai Vaiko said the party was not in a position to do that as it had "unfortunately" contested the Assembly election on the DMK symbol. "However, parties such as the Left outfits, the Congress, and others have extended support to the TVK government to prevent President's Rule being imposed on the State. There is nothing wrong in that. Though the people had not given the TVK an absolute majority, it had emerged as the single-largest party. We have to respect the people's verdict," he said.

On the criticism over the law and order situation under the current regime, he conceded that there had been incidents of crime, but added that arrests had been made and FIRs registered.

Mr. Durai Vaiko said there was nothing wrong in AIADMK MLAs joining the TVK after resigning their seats, adding that he did not view it as "horse trading".

He said it was the "democratic right" of a legislator to resign as an MLA and join another party if he does not agree with a decision of the parent party.

On AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami's allegation that it was an attempt to break the AIADMK, Mr. Durai Vaiko said people who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

# HC orders inquiry into amassing of ₹800 crore of Chettinad family funds by Meena Muthiah's employee Karuppan Chetty

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has directed the Greater Chennai Commissioner of Police to conduct an inquiry into K.T.R. Raja Karuppan Chetty, alias Karuppiah, an employee of noted educationist and philanthropist Meena Muthiah, who passed away in Udhagamandalam on May 2, having amassed ₹800 crore belonging to the Chettinad family.

Justice Mohammed Shaffiq directed the Commissioner of Police to take appropriate action on the basis of a complaint, which accused Mr. Chetty of having misappropriated the huge sum of money by misusing his proximity with Meena Muthiah during her lifetime, and by keeping her son M.A.M.M. Annamalai at a distance.

Meena Muthiah

The judge made it clear that the inquiry must conclude at the earliest, since the deceased was the secretary of Kumara Rajah Muthiah School of Traditional Arts & Crafts, a registered society, which runs Chettinad Vidyashram in Chennai, and "thus the interests of students are also at stake".

**Various charges**

The orders were passed on a writ petition filed by V. Palaniappan, a member of the registered society. Representing him, Senior counsel J. Ravindran told the court that the petitioner had lodged a nine-page complaint with the Commissioner on May 26, levelling charges of criminal conspiracy, forgery, cheating, criminal breach of trust, fabrication of records, and so on against Mr. Chetty.

According to the complainant, Mr. Chetty had joined the Chettinad household in a modest domestic capacity. Over time, by exploiting his closeness to Meena Muthiah, he entrenched himself within the household's administrative structure and capitalised on internal family dynamics to assume absolute control over communications, administration, and access to family members.

"Once she fell prey to his ill-motive, he had secured all her wealth. Thereafter, when she identified his ulterior motive and started digging up the secret, he cleverly planned a trip to Ooty, without even informing any of her relatives, including her son, that too when she was weak and her activity was restricted due to her advanced age, deliberately putting her life at risk," the complaint said.

Accusing Mr. Chetty of having inducted his family members into the trusts instituted by the Chettinad family and accumulating wealth in their names, too, the complainant said a detailed investigation would reveal how he had siphoned off the society funds and compromised the charitable objectives of the Chettinad family.

Mr. Palaniappan also accused Mr. Chetty of not having handed over the accounts and administrative control of the registered society to industrialist P. Vijayakumar Reddy, who had been appointed as its interim administrator by the High Court last month.

He said Mr. Chetty was continuing to withdraw funds from the society's bank accounts, thereby causing severe administrative hindrance.

# AIADMK man found dead, EPS announces ₹55-lakh solatium

**The Hindu Bureau**
THANJAVUR/CHENNAI

An AIADMK functionary was found dead in an open ground at Pallur hamlet in Thanjavur district on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Mahendiran, 37, of Thiruppanandal. AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced a solatium of ₹55 lakh to his family.

During the inquiry, the police found a video posted by the functionary on social media, in which he said he was upset over the recent developments in the AIADMK, including the split and the infighting, and had therefore decided to take the extreme step.

Mr. Palaniswami, who visited the bereaved family at Thiruppanandal on Monday, urged members of his party not to carry out "undesirable and depressing" acts, in the wake of the party's defeat in the Assembly election.

*(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104, Tele-MANAS 14416, and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050)*

## INBRIEF

### Eleven persons held after CID busts online betting network

Eleven persons were arrested by the Telangana CID's Special Investigation Team (SIT) for allegedly operating a multi-State illegal online betting network linked to the Dafabet platform, following an investigation into the loss of nearly ₹10 lakh by a software engineer from Karimnagar. The CID seized three luxury vehicles, including BMW, Mercedes and Kia Seltos cars, eight laptops, two iPads, 26 mobile phones, five passports and ₹3,21,900 in cash.

### Southern Railway to operate trains from Palani to Kerala

The Southern Railway will operate special trains between Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala and Podanur Junction in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, via Palani. Train No. 06079 Thiruvananthapuram North (Kochuveli)-Podanur Junction Express Special will leave Thiruvananthapuram North at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and reach Podanur Junction at 6.45 a.m. the next day. Train No. 06080 will leave Podanur at 5 p.m. on Thursdays and arrive at the Kerala capital at 7.15 a.m. the next day.

### 'A.P. spent ₹65,887 crore on pensions since July 2024'

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced that the State government distributed over ₹65,887 crore under the NTR Bharosa pension programme since July 2024, and that about ₹32,000 crore was being spent annually on pensions alone. He also said, in June, ₹2,729 crore has been allocated for pensions to 62.34 lakh beneficiaries. Mr. Naidu was at a gathering of beneficiaries at the 21st Pedala Sevalo programme in Kakinada on Monday.

# Karnataka Cabinet formation discussions spill over to today

Much-awaited talks of senior Cong. leaders on Monday evening did not happen; they are likely to meet today; lobbying for berths reaches crescendo as a big number of contenders camp in Delhi

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The wait for a decision on new Cabinet formation in Karnataka has been extended by one more day. After the much-awaited discussion of senior Congress leaders on Monday evening was postponed, the leaders are likely to meet on Tuesday morning.

Even as the swearing-in ceremony of the newly-elected Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader D.K. Shivakumar is scheduled for Wednesday evening, the entire Congress leadership from Karnataka appears to have moved to Delhi to lobby for berths in the Cabinet.

Though Mr. Shivakumar and outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reached Delhi by afternoon, the meeting of central leaders scheduled for Monday could not take place since Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi returned to the capital late in the evening, sources said.

They added that Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal met to discuss Karnataka developments.

It is also learnt that Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar also met Congress general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala with their list of preferences for Cabinet berths.

The outgoing Chief Minister is also learnt to have met Mr. Venugopal separately, while Mr. Shivakumar too is expected to meet them.

**In full swing:** Preparations under way for the swearing-in ceremony of D.K. Shivakumar, in Bengaluru on Monday. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

**Size and composition**

The size and composition of the Cabinet, along with other issues – such as having Deputy Chief Ministers, and a coordination committee, a demand that has come from the outgoing Chief Minister's camp – is yet to be discussed.

Another source said that the party is likely to keep about four berths vacant after the Cabinet formation is completed in phases.

"With such a large number of leaders seeking Cabinet berth, it is likely that four berths could be kept vacant to accommodate leaders if trouble engulfs the government with dissidence," the source added.

# CMRL case: HC directs status quo till Friday

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court has ordered the Enforcement (ED) to maintain status quo in the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd. (CMRL)-Exalogic Solutions pay-off case till Friday.

The Bench will pronounce its orders on Friday in an appeal filed by CMRL challenging a single Bench order that dismissed its plea to quash the proceedings initiated in the pay-off case involving an IT firm owned by T. Veena, daughter of former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The ED informed the court that it would refrain from 'precipitating the issues' till that day.

CMRL and its officials had filed an appeal before the court a week ago, seeking a stay on the ED's probe into its financial transactions with Exalogic Solutions.

The investigation pertains to alleged misappropriation of public funds.

The High Court had earlier directed the firm's officials to appear before the ED under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, and to cooperate with the probe.

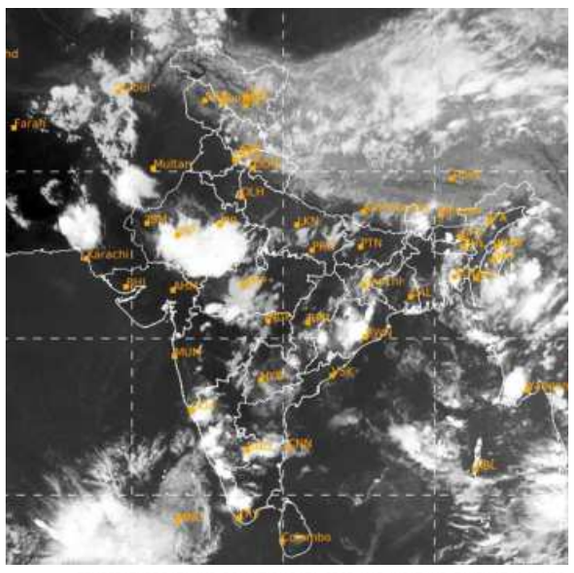
On its part, the CMRL questioned the ED invoking the PMLA against the firm, "even without the registration of an FIR or a complaint in the predicate offence."

The ED submitted that the agency had the right to issue summons to the firm's officials.

It submitted before the High Court last week that its probe was independent of a probe by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office into the matter.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

**Forecast for Tuesday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, West Bengal and Odisha

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | — | 34.6 | 27.3 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 40.8 | 30.0 |
| Aizawl | 44 | 29.7 | 22.6 |
| Bengaluru | — | 31.6 | 21.0 |
| Bhopal | — | 37.6 | 27.1 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 38.4 | 27.0 |
| Chandigarh | — | 36.0 | 22.8 |
| Chennai | — | 40.1 | 28.7 |
| Coimbatore | 0.5 | 36.0 | 23.2 |
| Dehradun | 0.5 | 32.6 | 20.2 |
| Gangtok | — | 25.5 | 17.1 |
| Goa | 1 | 35.6 | 28.5 |
| Guwahati | — | 36.9 | 25.8 |
| Hubballi | — | 34.0 | 23.0 |
| Hyderabad | — | 39.0 | 29.0 |
| Imphal | 44 | 31.3 | 21.9 |
| Jaipur | — | 38.0 | 26.6 |
| Kochi | 0.4 | 31.6 | 25.2 |
| Kohima | — | 24.0 | 18.0 |
| Kolkata | — | 37.7 | 28.2 |
| Kozhikode | 14 | 34.9 | 25.2 |
| Kurnool | — | 39.6 | 29.2 |
| Lucknow | 2 | 34.1 | 24.4 |
| Madurai | — | 38.5 | 25.1 |
| Mangaluru | — | 33.6 | 23.4 |
| Mumbai | — | 34.9 | 29.0 |
| Mysuru | 3 | 33.0 | 19.8 |
| New Delhi | — | 36.3 | 24.9 |
| Patna | — | 37.5 | 27.5 |
| Port Blair | 2 | 31.2 | 26.2 |
| Prayagraj | — | 39.0 | 25.6 |
| Puducherry | — | 37.7 | 27.7 |
| Pune | — | 38.1 | 24.4 |
| Raipur | — | 39.2 | 27.0 |
| Ranchi | — | 33.0 | 22.0 |
| Shillong | 0.9 | 26.4 | 16.4 |
| Shimla | 3 | 24.2 | 16.0 |
| Srinagar | — | 31.1 | 16.5 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | — | 32.7 | 25.5 |
| Tiruchirappalli | — | 37.7 | 24.4 |
| Vijayawada | — | 35.4 | 28.0 |
| Visakhapatnam | — | 35.6 | 27.5 |

*(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 | .68 | ..39 | 33 | ..... 58 | ....89 | ..... |
| Bengaluru | ...7 | ..17 | 56 | ..... 42 | ....90 | ..... |
| Chennai | ...5 | ..14 | 53 | ..... 41 | ....53 | ..... |
| Delhi | ...6 | 103 | 79 | ..... 54 | ...107 | ..... |
| Hyderabad | .15 | ..13 | 34 | ..... 63 | ....88 | ..... |
| Kolkata | ...8 | ..23 | 35 | ..... 70 | ....96 | ..... |
| Lucknow | ...8 | ..49 | 50 | ..... 42 | ....66 | ..... |
| Mumbai | ...7 | 102 | 33 | ..... 19 | ....43 | ..... |
| Pune | ..— | ..18 | 68 | ..... 33 | ....53 | ..... |
| Visakhapatnam | .22 | ..59 | 16 | ..... 53 | ...123 | ..... |

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sikar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 333 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

**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

# Phone tapping: MLA deposes before SIT

**The Hindu Bureau**
HYDERABAD

Mahbubnagar MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy deposed before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged phone tapping case on Monday. Mr. Srinivas had earlier lodged a complaint with the Hyderabad police alleging that his phone had been tapped by the Telangana State Level Agency during the tenure of the BRS government.

The Congress MLA appeared before the SIT in Hyderabad after being served a notice. The SIT has been recording statements of legislators who had alleged that their phones were tapped ahead of the 2023 polls.

The case came to light after the arrest of former Telangana DSP in the Special Intelligence Branch (SIB) Praneeth Rao on March 13, 2024. He was picked up following a complaint by Additional SP D. Ramesh, who alleged unlawful interception of phone calls of senior political leaders and officials.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL**
**(DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES)**
22-SHAM NATH MARG, DELHI - 110 054
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Applications are invited for engagement of the one post of Machine Learning Scientist, for a period of one year at NCDC, Delhi on contract basis through Screening cum Selection Mode at NCDC, 22-Sham Nath Marg (Near Civil Lines Metro Station), Delhi-110 054, as under:-

| Name of the post | No. of post | Place of Posting |
|---|---|---|
| Machine Learning Scientist | 1 | Delhi |
| Communication Officer | 1 | |
| Media Officer | 1 | |

**The last date of submission of application is 15.06.2026. The application must reach this office on or before 15.06.2026, by speed post/ by hand on all working days from 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM at General Services Section, Room No. 202, NCDC, 22 - Sham Nath Marg, Delhi - 110 054. Application received after 15.06.2026 will not be entertained.**

**After scrutiny of the application forms, only eligible candidates as per ToR will be informed through email to appear for interview with date and time.**

**The Educational Qualification, ToR and other conditions may be viewed on the NCDC Website: www.ncdc.mohfw.gov.in.**

**NOTE:** The Competent Authority reserves the right to modify or cancel selection process (in part or full), if need so arises without issuing any further reasons whatsoever.

**Assistant Director (Admin.)**
**Email: prakashdoval@ncdc.gov.in**
CBC 17129/11/0007/2627

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

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**
**TENDER NOTICE**
**Tender notice No CWE/MTN/ 85265153/2026 due on 07-JUL-26**
**Sr No:- 1., Tender No:-** 85265153, **Tender Title:-** Set of spares for Bombardier wheelsets., **Qty:-** 6 Set, **Due date:-** 07-JUL-26, **Value:-** 12094713.
215
**Unsafe and unauthorized work near the railway line is a punishable offence**

**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 thehindubusinessline.
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU Young World THE HINDU

**Government of Jharkhand**
**Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society**
**Department of Health, Medical Education & Family Welfare Namkum, Ranchi.**
**Phone No: 0651-2261000, 2261856 & 2261002**
**Mail ID:** proc-health@jharkhandmail.gov.in

Tender Notice No. GEM/2026/B/7541666 Date: 01.06.2026

**Tender Notice Through GeM Portal**

Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society, Namkum, Ranchi invites separate Technical and price Bids (Two Bid System) through tender from the registered and eligible firms for "**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR THE SELECTION OF A SERVICE PROVIDER TO EQUIP, OPERATE 500 EMERGENCY MEDICAL AMBULANCE SERVICE (EMAS) AND INTEGRATE 108 CALL CENTRE UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, MEDICAL EDUCATION & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND".**
The Blank tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site http://gem.gov.in.

| Sl. No. | Particulars | Details |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Name of Work | REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR THE SELECTION OF A SERVICE PROVIDER TO EQUIP, OPERATE 500 EMERGENCY MEDICAL AMBULANCE SERVICE (EMAS) AND INTEGRATE 108 CALL CENTRE UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, MEDICAL EDUCATION & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND. |
| 2 | Publication Date of Tender on website | 01/06/2026 |
| 3 | Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time | 10/06/2026 at 12:00 PM (R.C.H. Conference Hall, Namkum, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834010) |
| 4 | Last Date & time for receipt of bid on website | 24/06/2026 at 02:00 PM |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Technical Bid through website | 24/06/2026 at 02:30 PM |
| 6 | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | 3,00,00,000/- (Three Crore Only) |
| 7 | Contact no. of procurement person | 9110943588 |

Note:-The above dates may change due to abrupt declaration of holidays. Hard copies of Technical Bid will not be entertained.

**Sd/-**
**State Nodal Officer Procurement Cell,**
Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society,
Namkum, Ranchi

**PR 381245 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare(26-27)#D**

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

**e-Tender Notice**

CMRL invites open tenders through CPP e-procurement Portal (https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app) from eligible consultancy firms who fulfill the qualification criteria mentioned in the bid documents for the assignments below under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system:

**1) CMRL/CP/RTDR-70-CS-DDC/2026:** "Detailed Design of Integrated Property Development above Entry/Exit of Underground Metro Stations at Chetpet, Royapettah GH, Sterling Road, Nungambakkam, Dr. RK Salai and Adyar Depot in Corridor-3 of CMRL Phase-2."
**(i) Bid document available from: 05 June 2026**
**(ii) Deadline for bid submission: 03 July 2026**

**2) CMRL/CP/RTDR-71-CS-DDC/2026:** "Detailed Design of Integrated Property Development above Entry/Exit of Underground Metro Stations at Kutchery Road, Alwarpet, Bharatidasan Road, Boat Club and Nandanam in Corridor-4 of CMRL Phase-2."
**(i) Bid document available from: 05 June 2026**
**(ii) Deadline for bid submission: 03 July 2026**

For further details, please visit: **https://chennaimetrorail.org/**
Any Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only in the CPP Portal and will not be published through newspapers.

**Sd/-**
**For Managing Director**
**Director (Projects)**
**Chennai Metro Rail Limited**

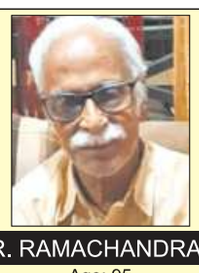
DIPR/1979/TENDER/2026

## OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

### DEATH

**BACHU SRINIVASULU (58),**
Manager - Circulation, Sales and Distribution, The Hindu, Hyderabad **passed away on 01-06-2026.**
**Address:**
**H. No: 12-1-1279**
Shanti Nagar,
Near SFS School,
Lalapet, Secunderabad - 500007
**Mobile: 9848880563**

### DEATH



**R. RAMACHANDRAN**
Age: 95,
originally of Thrissur, Kerala, and of Chanda Paints (unit of Nerolac Paints) passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family on Sunday, the 31st May @ around 5.50 pm leaving behind his loving wife Leela, beloved son Ramesh & daughter-in-law, Latha and adored grandson Shyam.
**Contact:**
Ramanathan a.k.a.Ramesh
**+91 98404 30167**
Latha Ramanathan
**+91 98403 56598**

### DEATH

**Mrs. S.THULASI**, MA Hons
(Aged: 97)
Retd. Sanskrit Professor
Meenakshi College for Women, Chennai
passed away peacefully on 30.05.2026.
Deeply mourned by
**Nanditta** - Daughter,
**Kumar V.K.** - Son-in-Law.

### DEATH

**KS Venkatasubban** (87)
Founder Microfine Bushings,
Ambattur Estate, Chennai
DOB: 09.11.1938 - DOD: 01.06.2026
**Cremation on 02.06.2026 at 10 am**
Mourned by Loving Family
Son: Girish Venkatasubban
Daughter-in-law: Aparna Girish
Grand Daughter: Srirakshikaa
Grandson: Viswajith & Microfine family
Mob: 97104-15467

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

**12th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**S.JAYA**
Born: 01.03.1944 Died: 02.06.2014
It is 12 years since you left us, but you remain in our hearts forever
*Fondly Remembered by Husband, Daughters, Sons-in-Law, Grandchildren & Relatives*
May your soul rest in peace and bestow happiness in our lives
**A.Sivaramakrishnan**
**C4/44, Kendriya Vihar, Velappanchavadi, Chennai - 600077.**
**Contact: 26274034 / 9444975565**

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

**ELEVENTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

**KARMAYOGI**
**SHRI. M. GOPALARAMANAN**
**(27.07.1946 - 02.06.2015)**
Sr.PRO - Southern Railway (Retd.)
"Guru Poojai" was heldon Vaikasi Pournami, 30th May 2026"
Mrs.Lakshmi Ramanan - Wife
Mr.G.Saikrishnan, Mr.G.Rajkrishnan
Sons & Family
**98403 80706 / 91766 31078**

### BIRTH CENTENARY

**100th Birthday Remembrance**

**Dr. C P THANGARAJ**
1926 - 2026
Activist, Author and upholder of Social Justice
*Fondly remembered by his family.*

## Perfect storm

### Weak enforcement and poor regulation sustain illicit liquor among the poor

India has suffered multiple mass deaths due to consuming illicit liquor, across Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, and Maharashtra. The Malwani incident in 2015, which left over 100 people dead, prompted official promises of systemic reform that never fully materialised – neither there nor elsewhere. The Pune-Pimpri-Chinchwad tragedy unfolded last week with more than a dozen victims of working-class backgrounds in poor neighbourhoods. Preliminary investigation has revealed a better than ad hoc supply chain with industry-grade methanol – the toxin behind most hooch tragedies– brought from outside the State and mixed with ethanol to produce a highly potent country liquor. The demand for licensed alcohol faces high State taxes, encouraging low-income individuals to turn to illicit liquor. On the other hand, adding industrial methanol increases the batch volume at negligible input cost, dramatically improving margins, although some people under investigation have also said during official questioning that it is not in the interest of 'regular' vendors to poison their 'customers'. Nonetheless, such operations are typically semi-visible local economies that get by on tolerance rather than secrecy, and so allegations of police and local authorities' complicity must be investigated. Early enforcement following most deadly incidents only arrests retail vendors; investigations into upstream suppliers and alleged kingpins have frequently proved uneven or inconclusive.

Indeed, these tragedies recur due to a perfect storm of factors that are able to repeatedly come together. One major regulatory gap in efforts to track methanol downstream is how easily it is pilfered and diverted for illicit liquor. Most victims are daily-wage labourers, and scholars have argued that the physical toll of manual labour creates a demand for cheap relief that, together with economic precarity and addiction, outweighs the wariness of poisonous substances. Since the victims are often from marginalised communities, the sustained political will needed to implement reforms – including better methanol accounting and affordable alcohol alternatives, required to break the cycle – is often lacking. In a 2024 analysis, public health experts found that higher prices for legal liquor push the poorest consumers toward the illicit market, which accounts for an estimated 40% of alcohol consumption in India. Likewise, total bans as in Bihar and Gujarat could deflect the market to criminal syndicates, where quality control is optional and oversight is poor. Finally, legal reviews have concluded that while the big fish are rarely caught, even those arrested are rarely convicted. Without these improvements, regulatory loopholes and weak enforcement will sustain illicit liquor as a public health crisis.

## Joy and pain

### Health gains from NFHS-6 are significant, but unaddressed needs exist

When triumph and disaster arrive at the same time, it is important to celebrate, but also, to take stock, assess, and pivot to address the lacuna. The recently released National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 data offer such an opportunity. The data for 2023-24 revealed some remarkable gains for India, but also exposed some unguarded pathways that will become disastrous if not attended to. The greatest of the gains came in the sector of child health – stunting is down by 17%; severe wasting is down 32%; institutional deliveries are at over 90%; and full immunisation coverage for children aged 12-23 months rose to over 87%. Additionally, the figures show that India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) had stabilised at 2.0, below the replacement level of 2.1 Unequivocally, these are gains; ones that India has been working on for decades. It is an encouraging sign that the needle has finally moved, in these crucial sectors. These gains will have to be built upon, without any drop in service delivery, while remaining uncompromising on access or quality of services in the public sector. However, health managers need to heed the other side of the paradigm as well. NFHS-6 indicates a 'dual public health burden' – obesity (in three years, it had grown from 22.9% to 27.3% among men, while among women, from 24% to 30.7%) remains problematic while some level of malnutrition continues, besides the onslaught of lifestyle diseases. The survey also showed a decline in exclusive breastfeeding among children under six months, from 63.7% in NFHS-5 to 55.8% in NFHS-6. Breast feeding is essential to prevent infant malnutrition.

The NFHS, one of the largest cross-sectional household surveys in the world, could easily be considered the primary tool to define public policy, and evidence-based governance, besides tracking development indicators. The data it generates are crucial. Other India-level data from similar periods indicate similar trends; the SRS and the National Health Accounts Survey reveal the lack of focus or funds for lifestyle diseases, and metabolic disorders. The danger of letting this continue will be known sooner rather than later, as India progresses through a demographic transition to a greyer nation. At this stage, transformations are still possible. Setting up comprehensive screening programmes for NCDs, stressing on nation-wide behaviour change communication on diet and exercise, and ensuring higher taxes on sugared beverages and packaged foods are all techniques that will help reduce, and limit the burden, of NCDs. Bolstering health systems to tackle these NCDs, once they set in, at every level – village, town and city – is also critical.

# IMEC is caught between commerce and geopolitics

**Rajeev Agarwal**

Retired colonel, a Senior Research Consultant at CRF, Delhi, and the author of 'Between Tehran and Tel Aviv – Gaza's Story of Unending War'

The ongoing war in Iran has shattered many myths and brought to light realities that expose the structural vulnerabilities of the existing world order. Iran, which was no match for the combined military might and technological superiority of Israel and the United States, has not only withstood the military onslaught but has also retaliated in ways that were neither expected nor planned for. Nearly three months into the conflict, although a fragile ceasefire is holding, there appears to be no immediate solution to end the war or achieve the politico-military objectives that Israel and the U.S. set at its outset. While Iran has suffered major losses to its leadership, infrastructure and military assets, the American military has also incurred unprecedented losses.

**Lessons from the Iran conflict**

A recent U.S. Congressional Research Service report has noted that 42 U.S. aircraft have been lost or damaged so far during "Operation Epic Fury" – the war with Iran – which includes fifth generation stealth fighters such as the F-35. Plus, the ability to intercept Iranian missiles and drones has been severely degraded as more than half the total inventory of Patriot, Tomahawk and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missiles have been expended. With more than 240 American targets reportedly hit by Iran, the conflict has shattered the myth that military superiority alone will guarantee an outright victory. Several of the asymmetric tactics employed by Iran have caught the U.S. and Israel on the back foot.

Another reality check underscored by this war is the critical importance of global choke points and how their blockade can severely disrupt the global economy. Iran, by imposing a blockade on the Strait of Hormuz early in the conflict, has virtually brought the global economy to its knees. Nearly 20 million barrels of crude oil, accounting for about a third of global oil supplies, pass through this narrow sea passage every day. India is among the countries most affected, as it imports nearly 88% of its crude oil requirements, amounting to about 1.8 billion barrels annually. While the world grapples with the blockade and works to diversify its energy sources, one thing is clear: there is an urgent need to explore and develop alternative connectivity options beyond existing trade routes, particularly maritime routes. New routes and corridors must be developed that avoid the two 'C's – conflict zones and choke points.

However, this realisation is neither new nor have countries been idle in pursuing solutions. Transnational connectivity projects such as the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) were conceived precisely for this purpose. The INSTC was designed to bypass the Suez Canal choke point, while the overland component of the BRI across Asia and Europe seeks to reduce dependence on both the Malacca Strait and the Suez Canal. Another major connectivity project is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). Unlike the other initiatives, IMEC traverses parts of West Asia, a region that has been significantly affected by the current conflict.

> The Iran conflict strengthens the case for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) while simultaneously complicating its execution

**The IMEC framework**

What is IMEC? The IMEC is a transformative and ambitious connectivity initiative that was officially announced at the G-20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023. It seeks to connect India with Europe across the Arabian Peninsula, bypassing the traditional choke point of the Suez Canal. The project envisions a multimodal economic corridor integrating railways, ports, highways, energy networks and digital infrastructure to enhance trade, investment and connectivity. Unlike conventional transport corridors, IMEC is conceived as a holistic and multidimensional infrastructure project encompassing sea routes, rail networks, pipelines, undersea high-speed data links, green hydrogen corridors and transnational energy transmission grids.

The proposed structure has three distinct sections. The eastern section links India with West Asia through sealinks to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The central section consists of an overland route across West Asia, traversing the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel, and culminating at the port of Haifa on Israel's Mediterranean coast. The western leg of the corridor is sea-based, connecting Haifa to various European ports, beyond which the continent's extensive transportation network takes over.

What has happened due to the war? Soon after IMEC was announced, the war in Gaza broke out on October 7, 2023, placing the project on the back burner. Major areas of the originally envisioned corridor, particularly those involving Israel and the port of Haifa, were directly affected by the conflict.

Soon after the Iran-Israel '12-Day War' in June 2025, there was a concerted effort to move the project forward. However, the ongoing conflict involving Iran has once again thrown a spanner into its execution. Key ports in the UAE, particularly Jebel Ali and Fujairah, have been repeatedly targeted by Iran, while disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have exposed the geographical vulnerabilities of these ports.

Another critical fault line exposed by the war is the deep faultlines and divergence in the positions adopted by Saudi Arabia and the UAE in the war. Both countries are key partners in IMEC, and any adversarial posture between them could prove to be a major setback for the corridor, whose success depends on smooth coordination and seamless connectivity across the region. The UAE's April 2026 announcement that it was opting out of the global oil grouping, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and reports of its growing strategic coordination with Israel, including the deployment of Israeli defence systems such as the Iron Beam, risk widening differences between Riyadh and Abu Dhabi. Such developments are unlikely to augur well for either regional stability or the future of IMEC.

**Navigating the challenges**

The war in Iran has highlighted two important issues for both West Asia and IMEC. First, there is an urgent need for projects such as IMEC that can bypass conflict zones and choke points. However, for such initiatives to succeed, they must also navigate the region's geopolitical complexities, including the rapidly evolving dynamics among key partners such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

To address the first challenge, IMEC must evolve into a broader and more flexible framework while keeping open the possibility of reverting to the originally envisioned alignment once the conflict subsides. To this end, the option of developing key ports in Oman – such as Salalah, Duqm and Muscat – as eastern entry points could be explored, as they are located well away from the conflict-prone Strait of Hormuz. Similarly, on the western end, until the port of Haifa becomes a secure transit hub, a western spur passing through Egypt and terminating at one of its major Mediterranean ports could offer a viable alternative. Egypt already possesses the logistics ecosystem required to support IMEC, including the Suez Canal Economic Zone, six operational ports and four industrial zones specialising in green hydrogen, liquefied natural gas, shipbuilding and other future-oriented sectors.

To address the second challenge, countries such as India, which enjoy close relations and the trust of both Saudi Arabia and the UAE, will have to navigate a delicate but critical diplomatic terrain. European countries such as Italy and France, which are positioning themselves as key champions of IMEC in Europe, will also need to play an active role. The growing recognition of IMEC's strategic importance was evident during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Europe in May 2026. While elevating their bilateral ties to a Special Strategic Partnership, India and Italy reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate on IMEC, recognising its transformative potential to reshape and promote global trade, connectivity and prosperity.

The bottom line is clear. The war in Iran has underscored the need for transnational connectivity projects such as IMEC that can bypass conflict zones and strategic choke points. However, for such initiatives to succeed, they must overcome the geopolitical complexities in West Asia.

# Orbital rivalry — the challenge of China's space power

**Harinder Singh**

Former corps commander

China's expanding counter-space capabilities are a cause for concern. While no conflict has ever been fought in space, the incentive to influence activities on earth by controlling outer space remains a potential trigger for future confrontation. Beijing's development of anti-satellite missiles and co-orbital systems blurs the line between routine space operations and counter-space activities.

The key question is how Beijing views its space ambitions and control of outer space, and what India can do to safeguard its vital interests in this domain.

**Beijing's space ambitions**

While the Chinese space programme emphasises the peaceful use of space, evidence suggests that China is preparing for an orbital war.

In January 2007, it targeted its own satellite from earth. In October 2015, China tested an exo-atmospheric vehicle designed to strike a hostile satellite. In 2022, China used a robotic spacecraft to push a defunct satellite into the graveyard orbit. In 2024, it demonstrated an orbital dog-fight. There is a clear research and developmental push for fielding offensive capabilities in space.

China's space ambitions operate at two levels. First, it seeks to remain competitive in the emerging space race, both technologically and numerically. China has around 1,900 satellites in orbit, compared to more than 8,000 American satellites, including the SpaceX satellites.

Second, it recognises the military and economic implications of the weaponisation of space. A single strike could disrupt communications, power grids, navigation systems, financial markets, and military command-and-control (C2) and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) networks.

Accordingly, China aims to land on the moon by 2036, launch a nuclear-powered shuttle by 2040, and establish a solar power system by 2050. Chinese start-ups such as LandSpace, iSpace and OneSpace are challenging rivals such as SpaceX and Blue Origin. China is also exploring lunar and asteroid mining for energy and critical minerals. The growing demand for energy-efficient data centres is likely to further intensify the space race.

> China's counter-space rise demands stronger resilience and deterrence from India

China is seeking to assert control over outer space in two distinct ways. First, by leveraging space-based assets to safeguard its military and economic systems. Second, by competing with its rivals – both numerically and technologically – to maintain space superiority. Its most immediate competition is with Starlink in low-earth orbit (LEO). China plans to deploy more than 36,000 LEO satellites by 2030. This rivalry could intensify if China were to become the first to establish a presence on the far side of the moon or demonstrate a particular interest in exploiting asteroid resources. Such developments could create an escalatory dynamic in an environment that lacks a comprehensive regulatory framework.

Consequently, China's capabilities are evolving in three key areas. First, kinetic attack systems such as the DN-3 and SC-19 missiles, which can physically destroy satellites. Second, laser-based systems that can dazzle or blind satellites, disrupting navigation and communications. Third, co-orbital satellites, such as the SJ and TJS series, designed to interfere with or dislodge other satellites from orbit. Together, these capabilities could enable the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to cripple Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR), GPS and communication networks, shaping the battlespace during the first 24 to 48 hours of a conflict.

**Implications for India**

If a contingency arises in Taiwan, the PLA is likely to first blind ISR and communication networks before resorting to hard-kill attacks. This would give Beijing time to shape the narrative, whereas a hard kill could trigger immediate escalation.

The U.S. would then have to assess China's military objectives, and, if an invasion proceeds, neutralise its counter-space capabilities. While both sides may lose assets, the U.S. would likely retain an advantage due to its greater redundancy and resilience. The Taiwan scenario applies to India albeit on a lesser scale. India has around 60 operational satellites as against 400-plus Chinese military satellites alone, which implies lesser redundancy. Losing five to six satellites will hurt India more.

Hypothetically, China could strike at the CARTOSAT/RISAT series, which could lead to loss of tactical-level imagery for hours, if not days. Instead, if it only choose to lase as these satellites as they pass over the Line of Actual Control, it could lead to temporary blind spots. They could even deploy jammers to disable India's NavIC system.

The key strategic takeaway is that while China can conduct peacetime harassment using lasers and jammers, or temporarily blind a few satellites during a border crisis, it cannot inflict crippling damage without destroying a large number of Indian satellites and risking severe Kessler Syndrome consequences. While Mission Shakti has strengthened India's deterrence posture, its utility remains restricted. Moreover, a single successful test does not guarantee operational reliability, and India still lacks co-orbital capabilities to counter satellites such as the SJ and TJS series.

**Safeguarding India's interests**

A few measures are pertinent. First, India must expand its space industry beyond the Indian Space Research Organisation to increase satellite production and launch capacity. Greater capacity translates into greater redundancy. Second, it should disaggregate large satellite programmes, such as GSAT, into smaller constellations, which are more resilient and survivable. Third, India must strengthen the protection of its ground space assets to mitigate the impact of hard-kill attacks. Fourth, it should enhance data-sharing arrangements with strategic partners so that, in the event of satellite losses, critical services can be restored through commercial or partner networks within hours.

Besides, India should also clearly define its red lines and the scope of a proportionate response to ensure that China fully understands the potential escalation ladder.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**RCB's win**

Congratulations to Royal Challengers Bengaluru for securing back-to-back IPL titles. If winning the trophy in 2025 ended an 18-year wait, retaining it has erased RCB's long-standing "underachiever" tag. It reflects their transformation from a team reliant on individual brilliance to a disciplined unit that thrives under pressure. Virat Kohli's match-winning performances in successive finals further cement his status as one of the IPL's all-time greats. With a balanced mix of experienced stars and emerging talent, RCB's dominance could reshape the league's competitive landscape.

**R. Sivakumar,**
Chennai

**Website glitch**

I would like to draw the attention of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) to a server-side error on its website, namely the "Spring Framework Transaction Failed" error.

As many aspirants are unable to submit their applications due to this issue, I request the SSC to rectify the error at the earliest and extend the application deadline by at least five days. This would ensure that candidates, particularly those in remote areas, are able to complete and submit their applications within the time slot.

**Jayesh Vinod Jadhav,**
Nashik, Maharashtra

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

# The FemTech industry's approach to PMOS

**Taru Jain**

Senior design researcher at CoRE Stack — a digital public good for climate change resilience in rural India

**Preeti Mudliar**

DFAT-CAIR-Maitri Fellow at the Australia India Institute, University of Melbourne researching digital public infrastructures

The global decision to rename Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) as Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS) is a culmination of a decade-long collaboration between doctors, researchers, and patient groups. Led by Professor Helena Teede, Director of the Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation in Melbourne, the rationale for the change was published in *The Lancet* last month. At the heart of the renaming was a growing recognition that the term PCOS could not capture the condition's complexity, and reduced it to a reproductive disorder centred on the ovaries. It is a long overdue acknowledgement of the condition's multisystem nature as PMOS manifests through a wide range of endocrine, metabolic, reproductive, psychological, and dermatological symptoms.

**India's FemTech response**

Yet, even as the formal medical renaming to PMOS is enforced, India's FemTech (female technology) industry had already begun treating PCOS as a multisystem condition. A paper published in 2024 by the authors of this article titled, "Platforming PCOS Treatment Online: FemTech Logics of Care," showed how FemTech platforms curated integrated care packages that brought together general practitioners, diabetologists, endocrinologists, gynaecologists, dermatologists, nutritionists, fitness trainers, and psychologists to treat PCOS.

Backed by venture capital funding, FemTech platforms conducted extensive market research to identify the gaps in conventional healthcare systems that stymied the long-term management of PCOS. Several platform founders were themselves women who had struggled to navigate gynaecological care that centred fertility and weight loss as the individual responsibility of patients. Their experiences shaped the emergence of platforms that framed PCOS as requiring coordinated and long-term care. Platforms also sought to improve doctor-patient interactions by training gynaecologists to avoid prejudiced language around marital status, fertility, and body weight. Since many aspects of PMOS management could be coordinated remotely, digital consultations also offered women greater privacy and flexibility in a culture that stigmatises unmarried women visiting gynaecologists unchaperoned.

PMOS often first appears through irregular menstrual cycles. The underlying hormonal and metabolic imbalances can remain poorly understood for years delaying treatment. In both families and clinical settings, it is viewed primarily through the lens of fertility and weight loss, generating shame and anxiety around marriage prospects and hostility within marriages itself.

FemTech platforms positioned themselves as offering an integrated and non-judgemental approach to PCOS care. They foregrounded its multifaceted nature, and as of 2025, India's FemTech market was estimated to be worth $1.48 billion.

**Limits of privatised care**

However, reliance on FemTech platforms creates new vulnerabilities for long-term healthcare delivery. First, access to these platforms depends on the ability to afford uninterrupted internet connectivity and recurring subscription costs. As a result, these services cater disproportionately to urban, digitally savvy women. For most people, gynaecologists in conventional healthcare systems are usually the first point of contact when they start showing PMOS symptoms. Strengthening these systems is therefore essential to public health.

Second, as start-ups, FemTech platforms are vulnerable to market volatility. They are dependent on investor confidence. None of the platform founders who were interviewed had secured funding beyond the preliminary 'Series A round' and one of the platforms had to cease operations stranding patients. In the absence of regulatory safeguards, these issues weaken FemTech platforms' claim of being robust alternatives to conventional healthcare systems.

Third, while platforms attempt to improve gynaecologist-patient interactions, scaling such interventions is challenging without broader reforms in medical education and clinical training. The shortage of gynaecologists in India, particularly in rural regions, further intensifies this challenge.

**The larger healthcare crisis**

Therefore, while FemTech platforms address a real and underserved need, they equally reflect deeper infrastructural failures. The long-term solution to conditions such as PMOS requires investment in public healthcare infrastructure and medical education that move beyond a narrow, fertility-first framework. Doctor-patient interactions must become more inclusive and respectful to women. At the same time, it is important to recognise the strain under which gynaecologists work, particularly in public hospitals. Overcrowded conditions, high patient volumes, and inadequate infrastructure leave little room for privacy and counselling. While FemTech platforms may ease some pressures by coordinating care digitally, they cannot substitute public healthcare.

Moreover, discussions around PMOS rarely engage with broader environmental factors such as adulterated food, pollution, chronic stress, and toxins. If the shift from PCOS to PMOS is to be meaningful, it should encourage a deeper reconsideration of how chronic women's health conditions are understood, prevented, and cared for in India.

> Discussions around PMOS rarely engage with broader environmental factors such as adulterated food, pollution, chronic stress, and toxins

# Vizag data centre is a major challenge

## If India needs Google's hyperscale hub, it is not yet ready for the facility

STATE OF PLAY

**Vasudevan Mukunth**

The Google Cloud India AI Hub, for which the technology giant and Andhra Pradesh recently broke ground in Visakhapatnam, is a sign that India is finally moving from providing information technology services and coding to owning infrastructure. While the facility is part of a larger digital infrastructure push in Visakhapatnam, expected to involve investments running to ₹1.25 lakh crore, there are also numerous second-order gains in the offing. The facility could strengthen downstream demand for high-end computing hardware, augmenting India's efforts to build semiconductor capacity under Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, even if manufacturing viability will still depend on broader ecosystem factors.

The project has been integrated into the America-India Connect initiative, as part of which multiple international subsea cables will land in Visakhapatnam, creating India's second major gateway on the eastern seaboard. As a result, Indian data will have a direct connection from the east coast to South Africa and thereon to the U.S. without first being backhauled to Cochin, that too on Google's high-capacity cables. Likewise, in the east, data from Visakhapatnam can reach the U.S. via Singapore and Australia, no longer restricted to the Chennai-Singapore connection and thereafter to the U.S. on third-party cables. As a result, India's dependence on geopolitical stability in the Red Sea – through which cables from Mumbai pass before reaching Europe – will reduce. Similarly, within India, the Hub's location could move high-value technological activity away from expensive metropolitan cities, potentially redistributing growth.

**Infrastructure problem**

The Hub is an integrated complex with computational infrastructure and high-capacity data connectivity, and large power requirements. Its expected power demand of 1 GW makes it a so-called hyperscale hub, with the ability to run powerful artificial intelligence (AI) models.

But that is also a gateway to consider the not-inconsiderable challenges the project poses. For example, the Hub could attract firms handling sensitive data, especially in sectors where legal or regulatory preferences favour keeping data in India. However, while Google will thus lower costs for Indian firms, it will increase dependence on a single foreign provider's proprietary stack. As a result, India could become a site for "sovereign AI" – as Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian said – only in name.

Second, even though AI GPU workloads are among the world's most power-guzzling uses of computing infrastructure, the Hub suggests AI is now an infrastructure problem: power, land, and water are the bottlenecks. The power demand may strain the local grid and result in knock-on effects for local residents and industries. While Google has pledged 100% use of renewable energy, the Hub will still feature a fleet of backup diesel generators, which will affect local air quality and microclimate.

If Google aspires to maintain its global average power usage effectiveness of 1.1 in Visakhapatnam's humid weather, it may need evaporative cooling, which is water-intensive. The district is periodically vulnerable to water stress, especially in summer. It depends heavily on inter-basin water transfers to meet its needs. In fact, it has the lowest groundwater levels for domestic, agricultural or industrial use in the State, as per the Water Resources and Information Management System. Facilities worldwide similar to the Hub are known to consume over 2 million litres per day per 100 MW. At 1 GW, the indicated demand is an eye-watering 20 million litres per day.

Rights groups have alleged that the State government assigned the project to a category that allowed it to sidestep a full environmental impact assessment and public hearings – measures that have forced Google, et al. in other countries to redesign data centres to be more sustainable. India still struggles to harmonise State-level incentives. Andhra Pradesh offers aggressive tax holidays and power subsidies yet they have not come with environmental benchmarks or 'green' capacity targets. A Central single-window could standardise public hearings and resource accounting. If India does not codify these safeguards, its climb up the digital stack will come at the cost of its environmental and democratic foundations.

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# Remittances anchor the rupee, India's external balances

## Despite doing the heavy lifting in tackling the pressure on the rupee, remittances are ignored in discussions due to overemphasis on FDI and FPI flows

DATA POINT

**Puneet Bhasin**

The Indian rupee has lost nearly 12% of its value against the U.S. dollar since May 2025. Several analysts have noted the consistent decline in net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and net Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) flows as a cause.

The ebbing of net FDI and FPI flows notably began much before the current energy crisis due to the war in West Asia. A declining trend in net FDI began in the second quarter (Q2) of 2021-2022. As of Q3 of 2025-26, net FDI was negative **(Chart 1)**. The declining trend in net FPI, which is also at a negative, started in Q4 of 2023-24 **(Chart 2)**.

It is commonly understood that a downward (depreciation) pressure is structurally inherent upon the rupee because of India's persistent Current Account (CA) deficit, which in turn stems from India's persistent trade deficit. Consequently, buoyant net positive FDI and FPI flows, recorded in the Financial Account (FA), are considered crucial to not only finance the CA Deficit (CAD), but to countervail the downward pressure on the rupee. However, there is an overemphasis on these two, at the cost of the other important flow for India, namely, remittances, recorded in the CA, which does the heavy lifting for both the financing of the CAD and in tackling the pressure on the rupee. Not accounting for remittances risks non-mitigation of a major external vulnerability: the ebbing of remittance flows that is also likely.

The CA primarily consists of three component flows: the trade deficit, the Net Primary Income (NPI) deficit and the Net Secondary Income (NSI) surplus **(Chart 3)**. The NPI mainly reflects the net negative balance of investment income earned by Indian residents on foreign assets and paid on India's external liabilities held by foreign counterparts. The NSI essentially accounts for its huge net positive remittance flows. India attracts the highest remittances (in $) by a wide margin. In 2024, India saw $138 billion in remittances.

They matter significantly for India's CAD and the rupee. Firstly, since mid-2013, remittances have on an average financed more than the entirety of India's trade deficit **(Chart 4)**. As a result, the CAD financed by the FA flows of FDI and FPI is a residual of the two persistent deficits in the CA, leftover after the remittances have financed their bulk. If not for India's high net remittances, its CAD would be much larger and the financing demands on the FA also higher.

Secondly, net remittances, averaging about 3% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), are much higher than the net FDI and FPI flows. Thirdly, unlike, say FPI, remittances are not given to sudden halts, for they are largely driven by the income and savings decisions of the Indian diaspora and their respective familial needs back home. Fourthly, unlike FDI and FPI, remittances are transfers and not claims. Hence, they do not generate future liability outflows. Lastly, remittances have low transaction costs.

A lot rides on remittances now because the more the rupee slips, the more diaspora remitters are likely to wait till it bottoms out. Concomitantly, with the trade deficit likely to increase due to costlier energy imports, a wide gap can emerge in the remittances' ability to cover this deficit. This will in turn increase the CAD and its financing demands on the FA, at a time when net FDI and FPI flows are negative. Yet, despite their importance, analyses of remittances pale in comparison to those of FDI and FPI flows. It is perhaps because remittances are largely the result of small financial decisions by thousands of working-class Indians abroad, who do not animate globalised elites in the same way as talks of FDI and FPI do.

## Merits of remittances

The data for the charts were sourced from the Reserve bank of India's Database on Indian Economy. The author is with the Center for the Study of the Indian Economy (CSIE) at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru. With inputs from Anshuman Singh, also at CSIE

**CHART 1:** Quarterly net Foreign Direct Investment in $ million ( ) and as a % share of GDP ( )

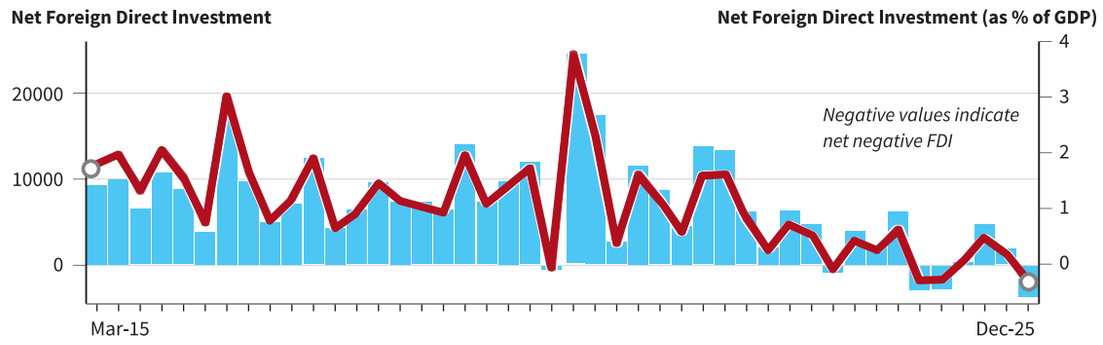



**CHART 2:** Quarterly net Foreign Portfolio Investment (as % of GDP). Negative values indicate net negative FPI

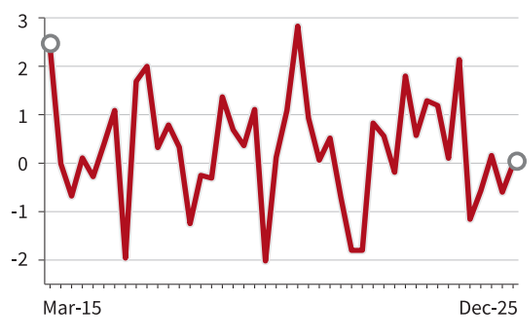



**CHART 4:** Quarterly net remittances as % of trade deficit. The two blue bars in June and September 2020 indicate trade surplus. All other quarters saw trade deficits

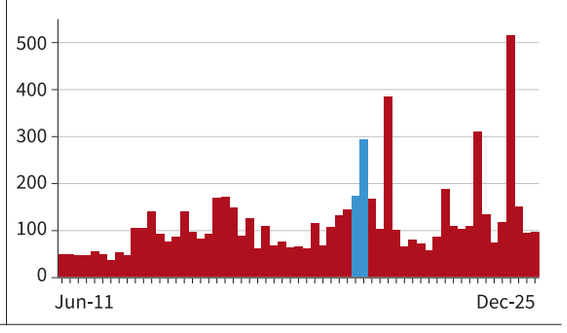
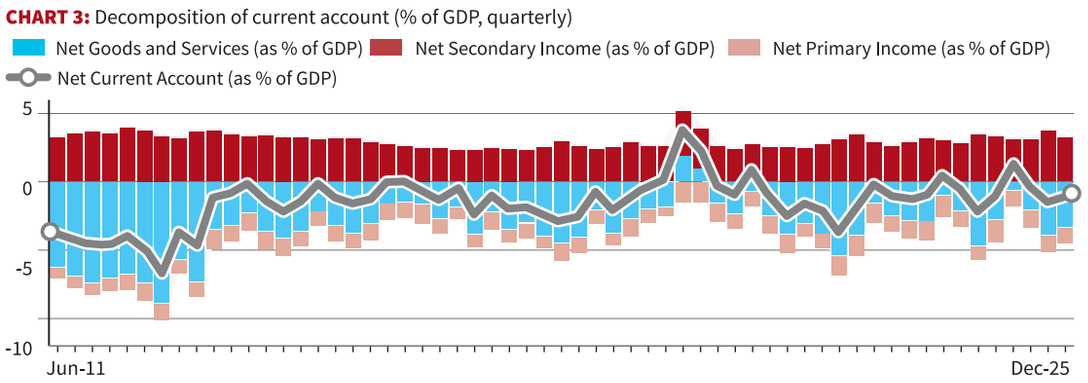



**CHART 3:** Decomposition of current account (% of GDP, quarterly)




FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 2, 1976

## Tethered balloons for TV coverage: study findings

New Delhi, June 1: Balloon can be used instead of a satellite to provide television coverage throughout India, according to a study by the Information, Planning and Analysis Group (IPAG) of the Electronics Commission.

The study says that 18 balloon-borne transmitters can do the job at one-fifth the investment cost for the conventional system involving a network of ground-based transmitters. The annual running cost is estimated to be half that of the terrestrial system.

Hung by means of special plastic tethers, the balloons will hover at about 3,300 metres from ground, each balloon beaming television programmes to a radious of upto 240 km.

Tethered Balloon Communication System (TBCS) has been suggested as a viable alternative to the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE), which will end in July with the withdrawal of the American satellite ATS-6.

The IPAG study says that SITE continuation with TBCS would require four balloons and cost Rs. 26 crores. The annual running cost would be Rs 6.5. crores.

The IPAG panel has been set up to study the development of tethered balloon technology in India and its possible civilian and military applications. Substantial infrastructure for balloon technology is said to be already available in India.

Tethered balloons are being developed at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Bombay.

TIFR-designed and fabricated balloons have been flown upto 300 metres with 10-kg, payload and to 3,000 metres with 50kg, payload, according to IPAG.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 2, 1926

## Reduced telephone rate

Simla, June 1: The Government of India in the Industries Department have sanctioned as experimental measure for one year with effect from 1st June 1926, that the telephone calls throughout India and Burma between hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. will be charged at half the usual rates subject to the condition that the minimum charge for such a call at reduced rates will not be less than six annas.

## From Page One

### Industrial output slows to 4.9% in new data series

The new IIP series has also enabled users with a formula to link the older and new series of data to ensure comparability.

Within the manufacturing sector, which constitutes about 75% of the IIP basket of goods, six industries contracted, including major ones like manufacture of "coke and refined petroleum products", which shrank 0.4%, and "wearing apparel" industry in which the output declined 7%. Manufacturing of wood products other than furniture shrank the most, with output dipping 12.5%.

The rest of the industry categories within the manufacturing sector grew, with electrical equipment industry output increasing 19.2% in April 2026.

Under use-based classification, the series classifies the industries into primary, capital goods, intermediate goods, infrastructure/construction goods, consumer durables and consumer non-durables.

Growth in three of the six categories slowed in April 2026 on a year-on-year basis. Primary goods, consumer durables, and consumer non-durables grew 0.8%, 4.3% and 2.8% respectively in April 2026, slower than the same month in 2025. Intermediate goods output grew faster by 0.19% clocking a growth rate of 7.7% in April 2026, as against the same month in the previous fiscal.

Capital goods and infrastructure goods output growth quickened to 16% and 7.1% respectively in the reporting month as against the same month in the previous fiscal.

### 'No space for anti-India elements in Myanmar'

Mr. Misri said later that issue of the presence of insurgents from its northeastern region on Myanmar territory was raised by Mr. Modi in course of formal talks with the visiting dignitary.

The visit of Mr. Hlaing is being viewed as a pragmatic engagement of Myanmar by India despite the conflict situation that has been continuing in that country since the February 2021 coup that deposed the National League for Democracy (NLD) government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Speaking to the media after the discussion, Mr. Misri said detailed discussion was held during the talks to "find a way" out of the civil conflict, saying that India believes in "sustained dialogue" among all the stakeholders to deal with the conflict in Myanmar. He added that India does not believe in "disengagement" when it comes to Myanmar.

"I should underline that our engagement with Myanmar is not intended to be a commentary on the internal political arrangement in that country. The Prime Minister raised the issue that there is a need for an enduring peace as Myanmar finds its way back to democracy," said Mr. Misri explaining that the Indian concerns on continued detention of Ms. Suu Kyi was raised during a "free-wheeling" talk.

He further said that the two sides discussed infrastructure projects like the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project and the trilateral Moreh-Mae Tsot highway that was to connect India's northeast with Myanmar via Thailand - both of which have been "delayed" by the conflict in Myanmar.

"Right now, the obstacle that faces both of these projects is the security situation in Myanmar," said Mr. Misri, adding that there are "active hostilities" currently under way on the Kaladan highway between the Myanmar Army and the ethnic armed organisations of the Rakhine State.

Mr. Misri further said that the two sides discussed defence cooperation on Monday that will cover training of Myanmar troops for United Nations peacekeeping. Mr. Misri also said that the defence cooperation between the two sides included concerns related to security and safety of the India-Myanmar border spanning 1,643 km.

# Meghalaya and Nagaland CMs call for release of 20 hostages

Conrad Sangma writes to apex social bodies of Nagas and Kukis of Manipur for immediate release of all hostages; Neiphiu Rio seeks Home Minister's intervention for release of 6 Liangmai Nagas

**The Hindu Bureau**
GUWAHATI

The Chief Ministers of Meghalaya and Nagaland have sought the early release of 20 civilians – 14 Kukis and six Nagas – allegedly held hostage by armed groups in Manipur after three church leaders were killed in an ambush on May 13.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said he, as the national president of the National People's Party and "a fellow citizen and Christian", was deeply pained by the continued captivity of the villagers from Kangpokpi district in Manipur.

"The abduction of civilians, who have no role in any conflict, inflicts unbearable pain and deepens divisions within our society. Mothers, children, and elders are living in fear and uncertainty. Such acts only widen the gap between communities that have lived together for generations," he wrote in a letter addressed to the United Naga Council (UNC) and the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM).

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma and, right, his Nagaland counterpart, Neiphiu Rio, have appealed for peace. FILE PHOTO

The UNC and KIM are apex social bodies of the Nagas and Kukis of Manipur, respectively. The two communities are involved in the conflict that started with a brawl in February.

Mr. Sangma appealed for the immediate release of all hostages and called for their safety, medical care, food, and communication with families. He urged all parties to pursue dialogue over violence.

"Let this act of compassion mark the beginning of healing for Manipur. The people of the Northeast are watching, and history will remember those who choose humanity in times of conflict," he said.

**'Deep concern'**

In a letter to the UNC, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said that he had a telephonic conversation with Union Home Minister Amit Shah to convey the "deep concern" of the Nagas over the abduction of the six community members in Manipur. The six, allegedly held captives by Kuki groups, are Liangmai Nagas.

"I requested his (Mr. Shah's) personal intervention and urged that all possible efforts be made by the Government of India to trace the six abducted persons, secure their release and bring the perpetrators to justice," he wrote.

Mr. Rio said Mr. Shah assured him that all necessary measures would be taken by the agencies concerned to trace the abducted persons, identify those responsible for the abduction, and ensure that the law takes its course.

Mr. Rio further urged the UNC to prevail upon the Nagas who have allegedly kept 14 Kuki civilians in their custody, and facilitate their safe return.

On May 15, the security forces facilitated a hostage-for-hostage exchange to help secure the release of 14 Kukis and 14 Nagas.

# Centre clears five new judges for SC; strength rises to 37

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday cleared the appointment of five judges to the Supreme Court, taking the court's strength to 37, close to its revised sanctioned strength of 38.

In a post on X, Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal said the President had approved the appointments under Article 124(2) of the Constitution.

Those appointed are Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court; Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court; Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court; Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh; and senior advocate V. Mohana.

Ms. Mohana was one of the leading counsels in a series of cases highlighting structural career inequalities for women officers in the armed forces. Currently, the Supreme Court has only one woman judge, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who is also part of the Supreme Court Collegium. Justice Nagarathna was appointed to the Supreme Court in August 2021.

V. Mohana

The appointments follow the Collegium's recommendation on May 27, 2026.

The development comes weeks after the Centre, on May 5, increased the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from 34 to 38 judges through the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026.

# IAF chief visits France to hold talks on Rafale acquisition

**Saurabh Trivedi**
NEW DELHI

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh arrived in France on Monday on a four-day visit amid India's move to acquire 114 Rafale fighter jets in a deal estimated to be worth ₹3.25 lakh crore.

The visit comes days after the Union Ministry of Defence issued a Letter of Request to the French government, formally initiating the acquisition process, sources said, in one of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) largest-ever fighter aircraft procurement programmes.

France is expected to respond within the next two-three months, and negotiations are likely to conclude within a year.

During his visit, the Air Chief Marshal will interact with senior French military officials, and visit Dassault Aviation, manufacturer of the Rafale fighter aircraft. The proposed acquisition is part of the IAF's multi-role fighter aircraft programme to address the declining strength of the fighter squadron.

# BSF, Bangladesh border force to hold Director-General-level talks next week

**Vijaita Singh**
NEW DELHI

The first round of the biannual Director-General-level talks between the border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh is likely to be held in Delhi from June 8 to 11, government sources confirmed.

This will be the first such meeting following the formation of a new government under the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in the neighbouring country and after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in West Bengal for the first time.

The Directors-General of Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) will meet amid the West Bengal government's ongoing "detect, delete and deport" drive targeting undocumented Bangladeshi migrants.

The meeting, originally scheduled for February, was postponed due to the Assembly election in West Bengal.

Over the past week, Home Minister Amit Shah visited forward areas along the Rajasthan and Gujarat borders and flagged demographic changes and radicalisation as key security challenges. In his next leg of visit to the border areas of Tripura on June 5 and 6, and West Bengal around June 14 and 15, he is likely to review border security and also discuss infiltration-related issues with officials.

The BSF and BGB will meet amid Bengal government's 'detect, delete and deport' drive targeting undocumented migrants. PTI

The BSF is likely to raise issues related to trans-border crimes, assaults on BSF personnel and Indian civilians by Bangladesh-based miscreants, construction of single-row fencing and action against Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs) operating in Bangladesh.

In 2023 and 2024, the number of personnel injured in attacks by miscreants along the Bangladesh border stood at 74 and 72, respectively. The BGB, during the past two Director-General-level talks, had raised concerns over "illegal push-ins" of individuals, including Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN), into Bangladesh by the BSF.

**'Exfiltration' trends**

In 2024, as many as 1,049 undocumented individuals were apprehended while leaving the country through the Bangladesh border. In 2025, more than 4,000 undocumented persons were intercepted by the BSF while attempting to leave the country through the border, a government official said.

Officially recorded as "exfiltration", the movement of undocumented migrants without passports and visas through the Bangladesh border is not new, the official added.

"We are under instructions not to let any illegal migrant enter the country, but if undocumented people want to leave, we do not stop them. Their biometrics and other details are recorded before they leave. If they have managed to procure identity documents such as Aadhaar or PAN card, we write to the authorities concerned to cancel those documents and blacklist their biometrics," said the official.

The talks are held twice every year, alternately in India and Bangladesh, to facilitate both the border guarding forces to establish robust systems through which cooperation in border guarding and border management is ensured. India and Bangladesh share a 4,096-km-long border.

Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry

## New chief of Central Air Command takes charge

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry on Monday assumed charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Indian Air Force's Central Air Command.

Commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force in December 1989, Air Marshal Chaudhry is a highly accomplished officer with extensive experience in operational, staff, and diplomatic assignments.

Prior to taking over the Central Air Command, he was serving as the Senior Air Staff Officer at Headquarters, Southern Air Command.

# India and Australia discuss maritime security, agree to advance defence industrial relations

**Saurabh Trivedi**
NEW DELHI

India and Australia on Monday reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening defence and security cooperation across the Indo-Pacific, with a strong focus on maritime security, defence industry collaboration, interoperability, and emerging technologies.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles co-chaired the second India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. The two leaders reviewed the significant progress made in defence ties since the inaugural dialogue held in October 2025 and advanced the vision of the Prime Ministers of the two countries for a stronger strategic partnership.

Australia's Deputy PM Richard Marles with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Speaking during an exclusive interaction with a select group of mediapersons, Mr. Marles said the dialogue marked another significant step in elevating defence ties between the two countries. He highlighted substantial progress in information sharing, joint air-to-air refuelling arrangements, and military exercises, describing the current phase as a high point in Australia-India defence cooperation.

Mr. Marles said defence cooperation would be a major component of discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during their upcoming summit. He noted that both sides were making significant progress towards finalising a renewed Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation.

**Strong pillar**

Emphasising the importance of maritime security, Mr. Marles said cooperation at sea, including underwater activities, had become a fundamental pillar of the partnership. He said Australia and India were exploring cooperation in advanced and innovative technologies aimed at enhancing underwater security and maritime domain awareness.

A key outcome of the meeting was the decision to accelerate cooperation in the maritime domain. Both sides discussed progress towards finalising a Joint Maritime Security Collaboration Road Map and agreed to enhance maritime domain awareness through maritime patrol aircraft operations and undersea initiatives.

They also agreed to begin work on a Memorandum of Understanding on the Provision of Defence Articles and Defence Services, marking a significant step towards expanding defence industrial collaboration.

# Delhi HC recognises 'right to be forgotten', lays down rules for de-indexing judicial records

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has held that the "right to be forgotten" flows from the constitutional right to privacy under Article 21 and enables individuals to seek removal of personal information from public digital accessibility when it no longer serves a legitimate public purpose.

Justice Sachin Datta, in a 144-page judgment delivered on Friday, laid down a framework governing de-indexing of judicial records from search engines and masking of personal identifiers from publicly accessible court records.

"India presently lacks a comprehensive statutory framework explicitly governing the right to be forgotten. However, the absence of specific legislation does not preclude constitutional courts from recognising and enforcing this right," the High Court remarked.

**Petitioners sought removal of personal information from digital public domain**

The court's decision came while hearing over 30 petitions filed by a diverse group of individuals, including persons who had been acquitted of criminal charges, parties to matrimonial disputes, persons whose proceedings had been quashed or settled, and individuals whose names appeared incidentally in judicial records.

**'Harm to reputation'**

The petitioners shared a common grievance that the continued availability and name-based searchability of judicial records bearing their names in the digital public domain causes "disproportionate and continuing harm to their reputations, dignity, and life prospects".

Giving them relief, the court directed search engines, legal database platforms and other intermediaries to de-index specified judgments, orders and related reportage from name-based search results.

# Cockroach Janta Party now transitioning into a movement: Abhijeet Dipke

**Amarjot Kaur**
CHANDIGARH

The Cockroach Janta Party will continue to use every constitutional means available to make people's voices heard, including satire, and hopes to create a lasting "movement" out of the viral popularity of the online outfit, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke says.

In a video posted on the social media platforms Instagram and X on Sunday, the CJP founder said he would return to India on June 6 and stage a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Reiterating the CJP's demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Mr. Dipke said a petition hosted on the CJP website had received over eight lakh signatures. "Even though the CJP started as satire on May 16, in response to the Honourable Chief Justice of India Surya Kant's oral observations, the past 17 days have been a reminder of the growing frustrations against the unfair education system among India's youth. The youth has responded strongly to the NEET paper leak controversy and the technical issues in the new OSM system used for marking Class 12 CBSE Board results," he said.

The CJP's Internet popularity has surpassed that of any political party in the country, with its Instagram account clocking a total of 22.3 million followers.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, he said that the CJP is now transitioning from a satirical political outfit into a "movement". "CJP will remain a movement born out of satire and powered by the support of young people. We will continue to use every constitutional means available to make our voices heard, including satire. Our focus will remain on the most pressing issues facing the country today," he added.

### 'Should not fade away'

On his homecoming, he said, "I am announcing my arrival since many people were asking me when I am going to return to India and take this movement forward. It was my responsibility towards all CJP supporters who have seen a rare hope in this movement and don't want it to fade away." He had earlier cited concerns about being "arrested and sent to Tihar (jail)" when he lands in India, and his worries have only grown with repeated attempts to allegedly suppress his voice by withholding his social media accounts. He said, "Yes, I can most probably be arrested and mentally I am prepared for all the consequences and attacks. I believe the Constitution of India will protect me."

**New launch:** CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke says he will return to India on June 6 and seek permission for a protest in Delhi. REUTERS

CJP's official X account has been withheld since May 21, said Mr. Dipke. Listing out a timeline, he added: "We had lost access to CJP's Instagram handle for two days [on May 22 and 23]. The back-up account has been taken down since May 22. My personal Instagram [account] was locked for more than five days, between May 23 and May 28. CJP's website was down for three-to-four days from May 23 to May 27."

He also claimed that the CJP's volunteer registration form posted on May 29 was taken down by Instagram without any notice.

In view of these allegations and after observing the government's reaction to previous protests in the country, including the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act and farmers protests, the CJP founder said he would remain cautious. "I will be going to the Parliament Street police station to seek permission for the protest the day I land in Delhi and on the same day, after permission is granted, we will be holding a fully peaceful and democratic protest at Jantar Mantar. I am aware attempts will be made by the ruling party to defame the movement and even derail it. We will do everything we can within our constitutional rights to seek accountability from the government," he said.

### Choice of protest site

About choosing Jantar Mantar as the protest's site, Mr. Dipke shared, "For decades Jantar Mantar has been the symbol of public movements. For us, it is synonymous with our fundamental right to free speech. Just like all other movements at Jantar Mantar that have shaped India for the better, this too will do the same. I won't be there alone, there will be thousands of youth who have been wronged by the system and who will lead this movement along with many other social activists and many democratic voices."

The proposed demonstration would mark the CJP's first major on-ground mobilisation since the satirical outfit emerged online in May, testing whether its viral popularity can translate into sustained public participation.

# Trinamool MLAs are facing threats, says Mamata

**Shrabana Chatterjee**
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee on Monday said the party's MLAs were not allowed to participate in meetings and were being threatened with the help of the police.

This comes a day after only one-fourth of MLAs came to attend a meeting at her residence, and they had to eventually call off the meeting.

"Trinamool MLAs are being threatened with the help of police, local IC and SPs are making calls. They are sending police to their homes so that they cannot leave. They are directly asking our MLAs to break the party. The first call comes from police, the second phone from the Bharatiya Janata Party office," Ms. Banerjee said.

The Trinamool supremo said at least four of her MLAs faced such threats and were facing threats from the police to get slapped with fake cases under the Arms Act and other cases. She questioned if this was how democracy functioned.

Ms. Banerjee claimed that many of her party leaders were not speaking due to fear and were being pressured to break the party.

# Trinamool expels 2 MLAs for 'anti-party activities'

Move came after they alleged their signatures were forged in a party letter submitted to Speaker; number of party MLAs in Assembly drops to 78; Abhishek fails to appear before CID probing case

**Shrabana Chatterjee**
**Shiv Sahay Singh**
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Monday expelled two of its MLAs – Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha – minutes after West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari announced that the duo had lodged a complaint alleging the forging of their signatures in a letter submitted by the party to the Speaker.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Adhikari said Mr. Ritabrata and Mr. Saha had submitted a written complaint to the Speaker of the West Bengal Assembly that their signature on a letter nominating Sovandeb Chattopadhyay as the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly had been forged.

"I thank Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari for exposing the MLAs. If they had any allegations, they should have written to party chairperson Mamata Banerjee, not the Speaker," Trinamool MLA and party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, announcing their expulsion from the party.

**Big action:** Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee addressing the media in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

Many party members, including himself, Mr. Ghosh said, may have had complaints about the Trinamool and may not be in agreement with everything the party did, but that did not give them the right to approach a political opponent with a complaint.

"None of these people have won independently. They have won as representatives of the Trinamool, using Mamata Banerjee's face. After winning, just because we are not in government, they are doing this. If we were in power, these same people would have lobbied to become Ministers," Mr. Ghosh said. This is the first time the Trinamool is cracking down on dissident leaders after the Assembly election. The letter under scrutiny, addressed to the Speaker and signed by 70 Trinamool MLAs, was written by party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on May 20.

### Official notices

The official notices sent to the two MLAs by the party stated that they had failed to attend meetings called by the party leadership repeatedly, they had made "anti-party statements", and hence their membership had been revoked with immediate effect.

Following the expulsion, the number of party MLAs in the Assembly has dropped to 78.

Mr. Saha told *The Hindu* on Monday that he welcomed his expulsion. "I have been expelled from an immoral party for doing the moral thing," he said.

Mr. Ritabrata said the expelled MLAs were right to file an official complaint with the Speaker of the House, a neutral entity who does not represent any party.

Party chairperson Mamata Banerjee said that "some people who now have a problem with the party" must also remember they had become MLAs and MPs under the party's banner and symbol. "The moment we lost, you have turned and are coming to an understanding with other parties," she said.

It has been alleged that the names of 14 MLAs in the letter had been forged. The Criminal Investigation Department of the Bengal Police has questioned several MLAs in connection with the forgery. It summoned Mr. Abhishek on Monday in connection with the case, but he did not appear, citing illness.

# Telangana CM to share views on governance and welfare delivery at The Hindu Huddle

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

In a Huddle session on June 6 titled "By, for, and of the people: Good governance for Telangana," Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will be in conversation with N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group. The conversation will range over selected aspects of governance, development, and welfare delivery, and what the Congress government has been able to achieve since the party's victory in the 2023 Assembly elections.

In Telangana, the Congress party, led by a young and energetic Chief Minister, has been able to consolidate its political standing through a resounding triumph in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and impressive wins in subsequent local body polls. But what about delivering on the Chief Minister's ambitious agenda?

The session will cover Telangana's Hyderabad-led economic development over the past decade, with the double-digit annual growth rate ranking well above the national average. The Chief Minister will also be asked about implementation of his party's "Six Guarantees" electoral promise, and the specifics of welfare delivery such as free bus travel for women, the scheme of 200 units of free electricity per household, and the farm support and housing schemes.

The conversation will touch upon the State's industrial and investment policies, its fiscal crisis, the government's social justice initiatives that have been frustrated by courts, and political questions such as Union-State relations, State rights, Delimitation, the Chief Minister's relationship with the Governor, and with the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Revanth Reddy will also be invited to present his intermediate and long-term vision for the all-round development of Telangana as one of India's most advanced States.

As in the previous Huddle edition, he will answer questions from the audience.

The event is presented by the Sami-Sabinsa Group as the Presenting Partner. The event is co-powered by the Government of Telangana and held in association with Khaja Bandanawaz University. It is further supported by Bank of Baroda, Larsen & Toubro, Apollo Hospitals, IIM Sirmaur, ICFAI Group, TAFE, Wizzmoni, Associate Partners; Casagrand, Realty Partner; Toyota, Luxury Car partner; Amity University Bengaluru, University Partner; Harrow International School Bengaluru, Education Partner; Meghalaya Tourism, State Partner; and NDTV 24x7, TV Partner.

# Students are paying the price of mistakes made by CBSE: Congress

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Intensifying its attack on the Narendra Modi government over the controversy surrounding the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)'s On-Screen Marking (OSM) system, the Congress on Monday demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, saying he "epitomised arrogance and incompetence".

The Opposition party's criticism came after the CBSE acknowledged that there was a problem in the system, which made students' data public.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, accused the government of "financialising" education, and criticised the cost imposed on students seeking correction of alleged evaluation errors.

Sharing a video of his interaction with students, Mr. Gandhi said the burden of rectifying mistakes made by the system had been unfairly placed on them.

Congress leader Pawan Khera has asked why the CBSE did not pay heed to warnings about flaws in the digital evaluation system. ANI

"Beware of pickpockets – today, they are sitting right inside the CBSE," he said in a post on X. "The mistake belongs to the CBSE. The punishment falls on the student. The profit goes to the government."

Pointing to charges levied during re-evaluation – ₹100 per subject for scanned copies, ₹100 for re-totalling and ₹25 per question for re-evaluation – Mr. Gandhi said that students could spend up to ₹2,000 merely to ensure accurate marking.

"When education is turned from a service into a business, mistakes aren't corrected. They're multiplied. And our children are paying the steepest price for it - with their time, their self-confidence, and their future," Mr. Gandhi said.

In a separate X post, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that tender norms were altered to favour contractor COEMPT. Taking a swipe at the Education Minister, the Congress communications chief said, "Mantri Pradhan is the very epitome of arrogance and incompetence," and urged him to "follow his rajdharma and resign".

Addressing a press conference, Congress media and publicity department head Pawan Khera accused the BJP government of weakening India's educational institutions through "12 years of blatant misrule and relentless propaganda".

"While PM Modi continued on a personal PR spree with '*Pariksha Pe Charcha*' and 'Exam Warriors', crores of young students and their parents suffer daily," he alleged.

Posing a series of questions to the Prime Minister, Mr. Khera asked why the CBSE had "ignored" warnings from teachers and experts about 36 major flaws in the digital evaluation system.

# Parliamentary panel bars doctors' body from attending meet on NEET

**Sobhana K. Nair**
NEW DELHI

The United Doctors' Front (UDF), which has been demanding the dissolution of the National Testing Agency (NTA), was not allowed to depose before the Parliamentary Standing Committee headed by Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, after protests from BJP MPs on Monday.

The Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, chaired by senior Congress leader Mr. Singh, had convened a meeting on issues concerning the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) and the functioning of the NTA. It also weighed in on the merits of "pen-and-paper testing" versus "computer-based tests". The agency has come under scrutiny following allegations of paper leaks and irregularities in the NEET-UG.

According to the official notice, representatives of the UDF were listed among the witnesses for the meeting. However, when they were to be called, BJP Rajya Sabha member Bhim Singh objected. According to sources, he argued that the UDF's position on the issue was well known and that they were not neutral witnesses.

Digvijaya Singh

### Writ petition

The UDF has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court seeking to replace the NTA with an independent testing authority with direct parliamentary oversight, strong anti-leak mechanisms, and comprehensive audits. Other BJP members also supported Mr. Singh's position, contending that the issue must not be politicised.

Some of them also questioned the timing of these deliberations. Following this, the waiting UDF representatives were informed by Mr. Singh that they could not be part of the discussion.

Lakshya Mittal, chairperson of the UDF, told reporters that the body had submitted the names of its representatives and also a memorandum of demands a week in advance. "NTA should be dissolved and a new examination body should be created through an Act of Parliament. Such a body should be made accountable to Parliament," Dr. Mittal said.

Mr. Singh declined to share details of the meeting, citing rules that prohibit disclosure of discussions until the report is presented in Parliament. He reiterated the Congress's demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. "The PM is so miffed with the failures of Mr. Pradhan that he has taken up all the responsibilities himself," Mr. Singh said.

### Congress allegations

On X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posted that the Solicitor-General had informed the Supreme Court that the Prime Minister was personally monitoring conduct of NEET.

Mr. Ramesh said it was difficult for any reasonable person to have faith in the "Pradhan Mantri and his 'system'."

"This 'system' botched up the investigation into the 2024 NEET-UG paper leak. This 'system' continues to deny that the NEET-UG 2026 paper was leaked... This 'system' has not only wrecked the administration of exams in higher education, but has done so in the CBSE as well," the Congress leader said.

## INBRIEF

### Lionel Messi statue in Kolkata removed over safety concerns

A 70-foot-high statue of Argentinian football legend Lionel Messi, installed by the previous Trinamool Congress government in 2025 in Kolkata's Lake Town area, was on Monday removed by the Public Works Department. The move by the new BJP government came after residents expressed concerns over safety as the statue was seen swaying in the wind. PWD officials have been regularly inspecting the venue, which is next to the Eastern Metropolitan bypass, over the past few days, and had tied ropes to prevent the statue from falling. The statue was found to be structurally unstable after a recent storm in the city, officials said.

### Operation Mule Hunt exposes cyberfraud network; 638 held

In one of Gujarat's largest crackdowns on cybercrime-linked financial networks, the State police have uncovered cyberfraud worth ₹2,289 crore and taken action against 913 mule bank accounts during a special operation aimed at dismantling the financial infrastructure used by cybercriminals. The crackdown, titled Operation Mule Hunt 1.0, led to the registration of 565 FIRs and the arrest of 638 accused, according to details shared by the State on Monday. The drive was conducted by the Gujarat Police and the Cyber Centre of Excellence under the supervision of Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi as part of the government's broader effort to combat cybercrime, officials said.

### Legendary singer Suman Kalyanpur passes away at 89

Suman Kalyanpur, 89, who touched the deepest corners of our hearts with her silken voice, passed away in Mumbai on Sunday night after a brief illness. In Hindi cinema's golden age, Kalyanpur viewed singing not as a vehicle for fame but as a pure, spiritual extension of her early love for the fine arts. Born in 1937 in Dhaka, she relocated to Bombay with her family in 1943. Over a three-decade career, the Padma Bhushan awardee sang in around 100 films across languages. Her masterpieces include *Na Tum Hamein Jano* (*Baat Ek Raat Ki*), *Aaj Kal Tere Mere Pyar Ke Charche* (*Brahmachari*), and *Na Na Karte Pyar Tumhin Se* (*Jab Jab Phool Khile*).

### West Bengal Cabinet expands to 41 with 35 new Ministers

Thirty-five BJP MLAs were sworn in as Ministers in the West Bengal government on Monday at an event organised at Lok Bhawan, Kolkata. Governor R. N. Ravi administered oaths to 13 Cabinet Ministers, three Ministers of State (independent charge) and 19 other Ministers of State. With six Ministers, including the Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari taking the oath on May 9, the total number of Ministers has increased to 41. Article 164(1A) of the Constitution caps a State's Council of Ministers at 15% of Assembly strength; with 294 seats, West Bengal can have a maximum of 44 Ministers.

## SC denies plea to hold NEET re-test in CBT format

**Aaratrika Bhaumik**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to direct the National Testing Agency to conduct the NEET-UG, 2026 re-test in a computer-based test (CBT) format instead of the existing pen-and-paper mode, observing that altering the mode of examination at this stage would pose practical difficulties.

The NEET-UG. 2026, originally held on May 3, was cancelled on May 12 following allegations of a paper leak. Consequently, the Central Bureau of Investigation launched a probe, and a fresh examination has been scheduled for June 21.

A Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Aravind Kumar expressed disinclination to grant the relief sought by the petitioner and deferred consideration of the plea until July.

During the hearing, counsel for the petitioner confined his submissions to the plea that the re-test be conducted in CBT mode, contending that it would minimise the possibility of another paper leak. The court pointed to the logistical constraints confronting the examination authorities.

# 56,880 qualify in JEE Advanced; Shubham of Delhi zone first

A total of 1,79,694 candidates appeared for both papers on May 17; Delhi zone candidates secured top ranks, Madras zone had most qualifiers

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

A total of 56,880 candidates qualified for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), according to the results of the Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced), 2026, declared by the IIT-Roorkee on Monday.

The qualified candidates comprise 46,773 males and 10,107 females. Shubham Kumar from the IIT-Delhi zone clinched the all-India rank 1 (AIR 1) on the common rank list, scoring 330 out of 360 marks.

Among female candidates, Arohi Deshpande, also from the IIT-Delhi zone, emerged as the national topper. She secured the 77th rank with a score of 280 out of 360 marks.

Out of 1,87,389 registered aspirants, a total of 1,79,694 candidates appeared for both Paper 1 and 2, conducted on May 17.

While the top ranks went to candidates from the Delhi zone, the Madras zone registered the most number of successful candidates overall, with 14,294 qualifiers. The zone dominated the top micro-brackets, producing 35 of the country's top 100 rankers and 174 of the top 500.

Professor Kamal Kishore Pant, Director of IIT-Roorkee and Joint Admission Board Chairperson, clarified that qualified candidates are eligible to register for counselling regardless of their Class 12 percentage, though final admission will remain subject to the prescribed eligibility criteria. This includes passing Class 12 with physics and mathematics as main subjects. General category students must score at least 75% marks or be in the top 20 percentile of their Board.

The Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA) 2026 counselling process is scheduled to begin on June 2.

Qualified candidates aiming for Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) programmes at the IITs must register for the Architecture Aptitude Test 2026 on June 1 and 2.

**Making the grade:** The qualified candidates in the JEE Advanced 2026 include 46,773 males and 10,107 females. ANI

## Govt. backtracking on Ladakh draft, alleges Wangchuk

**Peerzada Ashiq**
SRINAGAR

**Cherring Dorjay Lakrook was denied permission to take a picture of the draft, Wangchuk said**

Members of the Ladakh civil society on Monday said the Centre was backtracking from its promise made during the meeting on May 22 on "granting supreme powers to elected representatives over bureaucracy in the Union Territory". They further alleged that the draft shared by the Union Home Ministry recently was "watered down".

"We appeal to the Centre to not allow the atmosphere of positivity to turn negative. There is scope for suspicion that the Centre is backtracking from its agreed position," said climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who attended the sub-committee meeting in New Delhi on May 22.

Mr. Wangchuk was joined by leaders of the Ladakh Buddhist Association, including its president Cherring Dorjay Lakrook, and leaders of the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA).

"The May 22 meeting of the sub-committee with the Centre was historic. It was hailed by all. Everyone expressed happiness. It suggested a tailored democratic set-up for Ladakh. It was agreed that the elected representatives of the Legislative Assembly will have executive, financial and legal powers. It was agreed that the elected representatives will have supreme powers over bureaucracy, including the Chief Secretary. However, the draft shared by the Ladakh administration does not reflect what was agreed upon," said Mr. Wangchuk.

Mr. Wangchuk released the recorded minutes of the meeting with the Ministry.

"A few days ago, Mr. Cherring was shown the draft for his signature. However, it was not the same that was deliberated upon on May 22 in New Delhi. In fact, Mr. Cherring was denied permission to take a picture of the draft. It's strange that no official means, such as email, letter etc., was used to forward the final draft to us. These things are sowing seeds of suspicions," said Mr. Wangchuk.

## Despite promises, CBSE's re-evaluation portal inactive even on Monday evening

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The CBSE's re-evaluation portal, set for a much-awaited launch on June 1, remained inaccessible to users till late evening on Monday.

On Monday afternoon, the CBSE had stated that the "verification and re-evaluation portal will go live soon" but was inactive till the time of this report. Officials said that the portal would most likely go live before midnight.

The delays follow severe criticism over the board's expanded On-Screen Marking (OSM) system used for evaluating the Class 12 examinations this year.

The application portal was originally slated to open on May 29. The CBSE later postponed the launch to June 1 to build a "transparent and glitch-free process".

When students tried to access scanned copies of their evaluated answer sheets earlier in May, they encountered broken pages, faulty payment gateways, and blurred or incomplete digital scripts.

To salvage the system, the Ministry of Education brought in top engineering experts from IIT Kanpur and IIT Madras to audit vulnerabilities and fortify the infrastructure.

Only students who have already applied for and received their scanned digital answer books can apply for re-evaluation.

The CBSE has stated that when applying for re-evaluation the student must specify exact question numbers and explain online how an answer matches the official marking scheme but was incorrectly evaluated.

Over 4 lakh students have applied to check their answer sheets.

Following intervention by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the CBSE has promised that all re-evaluation fees will be fully refunded if a student's marks increase after the review.

Only those who had registered for and received scanned digital answer books can apply.

## Ethical use of AI in cultural space to be a key focus area at BRICS culture meetings

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**Varanasi is set to host 2nd Culture Working Group Meeting after the 1st CWG, which was held virtually**

The ethical use of artificial intelligence in the cultural space will be one of the focus areas for discussion during the BRICS culture working group meetings beginning from Thursday, the Union Culture Ministry said on Monday.

Creative economy, culture climate and sustainable development and cultural and creative industries are some of the other areas of deliberation, Union Culture Secretary Vivek Agrawal said at a press conference in which he unveiled the comprehensive road map and calendar for the 2026 BRICS Culture Track.

He said that there was a line-up of major cultural events around the BRICS summit scheduled across the country over the coming months. Varanasi is set to host second Culture Working Group Meeting, following the successful completion of the 1st Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting held virtually on April 29-30.

"As one of the world's oldest living cities, Varanasi will serve as the backdrop for five critical thematic panel discussions aimed at shaping the final outcome document," Mr. Agrawal said.

The five themes are: creative economy and people-to-people cooperation, copyright and ethical AI in the creative economy, cultural heritage protection and return of cultural property, collaborative approaches to safeguarding shared heritage and culture as a driver of sustainable development.

The culture track will feature a total of four official meetings alongside major public festivals, bringing together the 11 member nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Indonesia) along with 10 newly joined partner countries. After Varanasi, the third BRICS CWG meeting would be held in Bhopal followed by the BRICS Culture Festival and the BRICS Culture Minister's meeting. A BRICS theatre festival would be held in Delhi in October.

## TH CROSSWORD + 14809

(set by Crossant)

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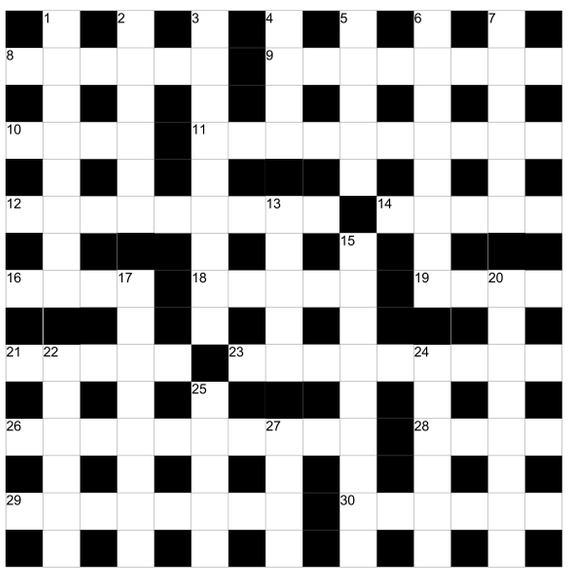
SCAN TO PLAY



**ACROSS**

8. Better place found in search occasionally backfires (6)
9. Public gallery bombing kills girl, leader of youth to blame (8)
10. What Vaibhav Sooryvanshi does is crazy (4)
11. Letting in contaminated crude? No, no (10)
12. That person gets a place at outskirts of Alps mountain range (9)
14. Lecherous man, drunk, strays endlessly (5)
16. Finally confirming the rumour from source (4)
18. Reason criminal isn't brought in primarily (5)
19. Priest to work with European religious leader (4)
21. Inability to coordinate movements of a transport vehicle for auditor (5)
23. Hospital in America getting business extremely regularly (9)
26. About one cold heartless nurse melting, showing expression of sympathy (10)
28. Money anyway eventually becomes insignificant (4)
29. U.S. state beginning to lose goodwill, in trouble (8)
30. Badly injured, Jack goes off devastated (6)

**DOWN**

1. A date in Paris ending in love and bliss (8)
2. Bit of sleep that is savoured throughout afternoon primarily (6)
3. Get upset with travel restrictions limiting all new arrivals basically (2,7)
4. Cheat lying about computers (4)
5. Reprimand son coming after scheduled time (5)
6. The French woman seducing men accepts a tip from leading light (4,4)
7. Bold cover of Playboy amasses fortune (6)
13. Agree nearly everyone at home drinks? Good (5)
15. People from Osaka maybe adopting one Japanese form of Buddhism, right? (9)
17. Gab could be both a gift and a curse perhaps (5,3)
20. Was mother torn between father and elder daughter at first? (8)
22. Norse God with hatchet cut trunk (6)
24. Revolutionary Marxist state's leader is off grid (6)
25. Flat in quiet, narrow street by the sound of it (5)
27. Bill isn't passed when they have it (4)

## SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

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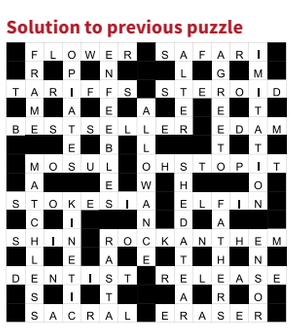
**Solution to previous puzzle**



**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

## FAITH

### Nayanar's devotion

God tests the faithful and sports with them only to make them renowned among mankind. The life of Amarneethi Nayanar exemplifies this. One of the servitors of Siva, he was renowned for his charitable work. A prosperous weaver and cloth merchant from Pazhayarai, he utilised his income in the service of Siva's devotees, said P. Swaminathan.

Settling down with his family in Thirunalloor, he was at the forefront of conducting all festivals on a grand scale. He established a dharmashala, where devotees were free to stay and were well fed. Pleased with his work, Siva decided to exhibit his greatness to the world, but before that he also wanted to remove the speck of pride in the weaver. Accordingly, Siva arrived at Amarneethi's inn, in the guise of a sadhu. Welcoming the sadhu, Nayanar asked how he could be of service. The sadhu entrusted a loin cloth asking him to return it as soon as he returned from bathing. Nayanar promised to do so, but his subconscious noted that it was a well-worn cloth. The sadhu (Siva) immediately made the loin cloth disappear. When he returned, Nayanar could not find the loin cloth left in his custody and offered to replace it with a newer one. The sadhu was enraged. Finally, it was agreed that a *tulabaram* (offerings made on a balance as recompense) would be held. Nayanar placed a new loin cloth, but the scale did not balance. After many attempts, the servitor plied the scale with gold, and other offerings, to no avail. Realising that he was in the presence of Lord, he, along with his family members sat on the scale and sought His pardon. A pleased Siva blessed him with beatific vision, along with Parvati.

## INBRIEF

### Suzlon Energy shares tank 6% after SEBI slaps penalty

Suzlon Energy Ltd shares on Monday tanked almost 6% to ₹53.89 on the BSE as investors dumped the company's shares days after market regulator the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) imposed a fine of ₹28.6 crore on the company and its top brass for 'inflating the firm's net worth through circular transactions and misleading investors. As per SEBI's Friday's order, Suzlon used misreported accounts to raise equity share capital worth ₹1,800 crore from Dilip Shanghvi Family & Associates and availed loan restructuring from banks worth ₹393 crore.

### NMDC's May iron ore output increases 20%, sales decline

State-owned miner NMDC's iron ore production in May rose almost 20% year on year to 5.31 million tonne, while sales declined. The year earlier output was 4.43 MT. Sales last month stood at 4.04 MT (4.34 MT). For April, NMDC had reported a 16% increase in production to 4.64 MT (4 MT) and a marginal increase in sales to 3.68 MT (3.63 MT). The company, India's largest iron ore producer, had in FY26 a record 53.15 MT output of the key raw material for steel, which was 21% more than 44.07 MT in the previous fiscal. Sales rose 13% to 50.23 MT (44.40 MT).

### Zee to broadcast FIFA World Cup for Indian football fans

Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL) announced an eight-year partnership with world soccer body FIFA to broadcast all matches, including World Cup 2026, in the Indian market. As part of a deal with Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), ZEEL will bring 39 FIFA global football events, including FIFA World Cup 2026, that kicks off on June 11. Indian football fans will be able to watch live on ZEEL's sports network and its streaming platform ZEE5. "The Indian market is of strategic importance for FIFA," said FIFA CBO Romy Gai. PTI

# Commercial LPG price up; ATF cheaper for international flights

Oil Marketing Companies' under-recoveries on domestic LPG presently stood at about ₹650 per cylinder, says Sujata Sharma of Union Petroleum Ministry, adding under-recoveries were at ₹30/litre on ATF for domestic scheduled carriers

**Saptaparno Ghosh**
NEW DELHI

Indicative of the continuing stress on the supply of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) due to the West Asia crisis, prices of 19-kg commercial LPG has been raised by ₹42 per cylinder effective June 1.

Also, while the price of the 5 kg free trade LPG (FTL) - mostly used by migrant workers - was hiked by ₹11 while the price of 14.2 kg LPG cylinder - for domestic consumers - was kept unaltered.

Meanwhile, in some relief for airlines, the price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for international flights and carriers were cut by about $400/kilo litre while ATF prices for domestic scheduled carriers were kept unchanged.

**Under-recoveries**

Speaking to reporters, Sujata Sharma, Joint-Secretary, Union Petroleum Ministry, said State-run oil-marketing companies (OMCs) were incurring under-recoveries of ₹30/litre on ATF for domestic scheduled carriers.

In response to a question from *The Hindu*, Ms. Sharma informed OMCs under-recoveries on domestic LPG presently stood at about ₹650 per cylinder.

**Commercial LPG up**

The 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder in Delhi is now priced at ₹3,113.5/cylinder and 5-kg FTL at ₹821.5.

The 14.2 kg LPG cylinder meant for domestic consumers, however, continues to be sold at ₹913/cylinder in Delhi. Prices of commercial LPG have been hiked for the fourth time since the conflict in West Asia commenced on February 28 this year.

They were last hiked by ₹993/cylinder on May 1. This was preceded by ₹195.5/cylinder hike effected April 1. The first installment of the hikes, ₹115 per cylinder, was on March 7.

A similar paradigm holds for the 5-kg free trade LPG. Price of the small cylinder has experienced its third hike since the conflict began.

It was last hiked by a steeper ₹261/cylinder May 1 preceded by ₹51 hike on April 1.

Increased prices of 5kg FTL LPG also translate to increased pressure, particularly on migrant labourers in urban and semi-urban areas who do not have local address proof and thus rely on these cylinders that do not mandate any such requirement.

As per government data, public-sector OMCs have sold more than 2.72 lakh 5-kg FTL cylinders since April 3 this year.

**ATF prices**

Prices of jet fuel for domestic scheduled flights have been kept unchanged for the second consecutive month in June whilst international carriers have seen a course reversal with the approximately $400/kilolitre fall in price.

On May 1, the price of ATF for international airlines was pushed up by $76.55/kilolitre from $1,435/kilolitre.

ATF price for domestic carriers last rose on April 1 this year by more than 9%.

Its current price is unchanged at about ₹1.04 lakh/kilolitre in Delhi.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ravi Gosain, president of the Indian Association of Travel Operators (IATO) welcomed the reduction though taking note of the domestic ATF prices being unaltered.

**Complex pricing**

He sought to highlight complexities in pricing mechanisms centred on taxation structures and market dynamics.

"While global crude trends provide some relief, the benefits may not immediately translate into lower costs for domestic carriers," he stated, adding, "Going forward, a more balanced and response pricing mechanism could help strengthen the sector's competitiveness, improve airline margins, and ultimately create room for better connectivity and consumer benefits."

**Mounting costs**

Commercial LPG prices have risen by ₹1,345.5 per cylinder across four hikes since February 28

| Date | Increase (₹ per 19-kg cylinder) |
|---|---|
| March 7 | 115 |
| April 1 | 195.5 |
| May 1 | 993 |
| June 1 | 42 |
| Total rise | 1,345.5 |

## Amid El Nino threat, govt. cuts urea, DAP requirements

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Amid expectations of lowered monsoon with looming threats about an El Nino, the Department of Agriculture and Family Welfare cut back on requirement for both urea and diammonium phosphate (DAP), Aparna Sharma, Additional Secretary at the Department of Fertilizers told reporters.

Having consulted states, she informed the Department cut down on requirement of urea for the Kharif season this year from 194.04 lakh metric tonne (LMT) to 190.32 LMT.

Further, they have curtailed DAP requirement to 56.23 LMT from 59.17 LMT.

"Due to El Nino effect, Indian Meteorological Department forecast monsoons are expected to be lower, therefore, we requested the Department of Agriculture and Family Welfare for re-assessment of fertilizer for Kharif season," she said.

Ms. Sharma said about 132.43 LMT fertilizers - inclusive of Urea, DAP, NPKs, SSP and MOP - have been added to overall stock.

## Maruti, Tata lead PV wholesales in May

**Lalatendu Mishra**
MUMBAI

Auto wholesales gained momentum with many OEMs reporting record sales in May. The Passenger Vehicles (PV) industry is estimated to have sold 4.4 lakh units in May.

PV market leader Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. continued to surpass all past wholesales record in May indicating strong demand for automobiles. It reported total wholesales of 2,42,688 units, up 35% year-on-year (YoY).

Local wholesales were 1,93,535 units, up 40% while exports surged 34% to 41,914 units.

Company top executives said the demand for CNG vehicles have gone up by 40% following the hike in petrol prices while bookings for electric vehicles have doubled.

"We have seen improvement in every segment including small cars," said Partho Banerjee, senior executive officer, marketing & sales, Maruti Suzuki.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. in May reported domestic wholesales of 59,090 units, up 42% YoY.

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. reported PV sales of 58,021 units, up 11% YoY.

Hyundai Motor India Ltd total sales grew 4.1% YoY to 61,137 units.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Ltd. sold 33,128 units, up 7% YoY.

Kia Motor India sold 27,586 units, up 23.6% YoY.

## 'No supply pressure on edible oil seen'

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The government does not foresee any pressure on edible oil now or in the coming days, C. Shikha, Joint Secretary at the Department of Food and Public Distribution told reporters at the bi-weekly inter-ministerial briefing on West Asia situation.

"We are closely monitoring and do not foresee any pressure now or in the days to come," she said, adding, "This is because in exporting countries, the season is going to peak between June and September."

## GST mop-up grows 3.2% in May to ₹1.94 lakh cr.

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

Gross GST collections rose 3.2% to over ₹1.94 lakh crore in May on higher supplies of goods and services, as well as collection from imports, government data showed on Monday.

Gross Central GST (CGST) collection from domestic transactions during the reported month stood at ₹37,397 crore while State GST (SGST) stood at ₹45,143 crore and Integrated GST (IGST) at ₹51,990 crore.

## Manufacturing grows to 3-month high: PMI

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

India's manufacturing sector activity growth accelerated to a three-month high in May, driven by demand strength, infrastructure projects and new business gains, even amid inflationary pressures, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) posted 55.0 in May, above the April reading of 54.7, indicating the strongest improvement in the sector's health in three months.

HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is a gauge of overall conditions derived from measures of new orders, output, employment, supplier delivery times and stocks of purchases.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

Goods makers reported the fastest expansions in new orders and output since February and cited factors like demand strength as the main reason behind the upturn.

## 'Resolution of steel, CBAM sticking points in India-U.K. trade pact'

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

India and the U.K. will discuss Britain's steel safeguard measure and carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) this week as these issues have become a sticking point in the implementation of the bilateral free trade pact, which was signed on July 24, 2025, sources said.

These issues will figure prominently during the India visit of U.K. Minister of State for Trade Policy Chris Bryant on June 2.

He will hold a bilateral meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

These issues have become a kind of sticking point in the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Both these issues will be discussed during the visit of the U.K. Minister, they said, indicating that until these issues are resolved, the roll-out of the pact would be difficult.

From July 1, 2026, the U.K. will limit tariff-free steel imports, reducing overall quota volumes by 60% compared to the steel safeguard measure. Any imports above these levels will then face a 50% tariff.

This will apply to imports of steel products that can also be made in the U.K. Earlier, U.K. had safeguard steps that imposed import quotas. The new steps reduce that quota.

## 'Fiscal deficit goal reached'

The Union government has achieved its fiscal deficit target of 4.4% of the GDP for the year 2025-26, according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts on Monday. PTI

## 'Broader impact of war to be felt strongly over next few quarters'

**Lalatendu Mishra**
MUMBAI

The economic impact of the West Asia conflict that began in late February with the assassination of Iran's Supreme leader by American and Israeli forces, has been significant on India and some of the effects would unfold over the next few quarters, according to a top transportation and logistics entrepreneur.

"The broader impact of the crisis is likely to be felt more strongly over the next few quarters rather than immediately," said Vineet Agarwal, MD, Transport Corporation of India Ltd. (TCI), one of the leading multi modal transportation and logistics companies in an interview.

Vineet Agarwal

"We could see some shift from road to rail as road freight rates have started to increase. Such modal shifts typically happen during periods of rising fuel costs. Fortunately, we are well positioned because we also operate a strong rail logistics and coastal shipping business," he said.

He said some demand erosion could be visible in the coming quarters and prices are set to climb in line with the fuel price rise.

"We have seen disruptions in several industries that rely heavily on gas consumption. In some sectors, gas availability has reduced significantly, while in others, gas prices have risen sharply. This directly affects production costs.

"Several MSMEs and factories faced disruptions on inadequate gas availability in some regions, which hit production levels and consequently, cargo volumes," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC –SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA-524124
Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
No: SHAR: CMG CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-01(A)/26-27 Dt: 22.05.2026
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for following works;

| Name of Work | Tender No | Estimate Cost |
|---|---|---|
| Term Contract for CIVIL minor and maintenance works at SLP, SRC, ASLV, Telemetry areas, Coastal road & Security Outposts at BOP, JOB, TOP & KOP area, SDSC SHAR (for the year 2026-27). | T/C-26-003 | ₹ 100.00 Lakhs |

Tender documents can be downloaded up to 09.06.2026, 14:30 hrs. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html and tender free view at https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

Office of Chief Engineer (Rural), Public Health Engineering Department, Jal Bhawan, 2-Civil Lines Jaipur, Rajasthan
S.No. 3639-678 Dated: 25/5/26
BID NOTICE 2026-27/03 Dated 25,05,2026
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, PHED invites bids online in electronic format on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, from manufacturers for Procurement of ISI Marked CID Joints Size-80-600mm class 10, 15 & 20 as per IS 8794 (Amended/ revised upto date) For details please visit website www.sppp.rajastan.gov.in & http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.
NIB Code:- PHE2627A0694
UBN Code:- CID JOINTS- 2627GLRC01446
(ASHOK KUMAR CHORDIA)
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT CIRCLE
PHED RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR
DIPR/C/9395/2026

KERALA CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRI VALUE CHAIN MODERNISATION PROJECT (KERA)
SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
The Project Director, Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project (The World Bank Project ID No.: P178254) invites proposals for the following online tender from eligible consultants:
1. Tender ID: 2026_KERA_853230_1
Consulting services: Technical Support Agency for selection and handholding of 250 Agri & Food SMEs in the state of Kerala
Last date of submission of Proposal is 30th June, 2026, 4:00 PM
The tender Document can be downloaded from e-tender Kerala portal starting from 1st June, 2026, 10:00 AM.

Kalyan Singh Super Specialty Cancer Institute
C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002
(An Autonomous Institute of the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh)
Website: https://cancerinstitute.edu.in Email: procurementservices.ksssci@gmail.com
Gem Bid Notice Date :01.06.2026
It is hereby informed that a bids No. is as follow: -

| Sr. No. | Name of Service | Bid No. & Date | Pre-bid Meeting Date & Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Laundry Service - Healthcare purpose | GEM/2026/B/ 7601741 Dated 01.06.2026 | 04.06.2026 15:00 PM |

The Bid uploaded on GeM Portal for Procurement of Laundry Services at KSSSCI. All interested service providers/bidders are required to submit their bids on GeM Portal in accordance with the terms and conditions of the GeM bid documents. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.
The Tender documents are available on the website of the Institute www.cancerinstitute.edu.in
Advt no. KSSSCI/Tender -04/2026-27 DIRECTOR

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Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

| Tender No. | Description | Due date |
|---|---|---|
| 262713 001324 | Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported) with 5000 GAR of Australian origin. | 18.06.2026 |
| 262723 000677 | Supply of Material, Fabrication at Supplier Works, Transportation, erection and testing of Stainless Steel (SS 316L) Tanks and Carbon Steel Tank for Speciality Chemical Storage in TNPL Unit-II. | 12.06.2026 |
| 262723 000783 | Procurement of Fuel oil for Unit-II. | 09.06.2026 |

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
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GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE
Tenders in three parts are invited from bonafide and experienced contractors for the following works.

| Sr. No. | Description & Place of Work | Completion Period | EMD Amount (INR in Crore) | Estimated Cost (Approx.) (INR in Crores) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Design, Construction, Furnishing & Equipping of Third Vertical Shaft on TURNKEY BASIS at Chikla Mine of MOIL Ltd. Tumsar Tehsil, Bhandara District, Maharashtra, India. Pin Code - 441907 Tender No: MOIL/MOIL LIMITED/ Project/2/2026-27/ET/22 | 48 Months | 0.50 | 208.17 plus GST as applicable |

For details of Global Tender Document and schedule of e-tender, visit e-tender website https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocn/ (for e-bid) & MOIL website https://moil.nic.in an Indian Government's Central Public Procurement (CPP) Portal (https://eprocure.gov.in). Corrigendum, if any, shall be uploaded on the above-mentioned websites and shall not be published in the Newspapers.
Executive Director (P&D), MOIL Limited
◆ हर एक काम देश के नाम ◆
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KINSHASA

## Ebola cases in Congo rise to 282 confirmed infections, officials say

AFP

At least 282 confirmed cases of Ebola have been reported in Congo's ongoing outbreak, authorities said on Sunday evening. The eastern Ituri province has recorded 264 of the cases. Congo has reported over 1,000 suspected cases with the Bundibugyo virus, the current species of Ebola, which has no approved treatment or vaccine. AP

KYIV

## Russian strikes across Ukraine leave one dead, dozens wounded

REUTERS

Russian drones killed one person and wounded two dozen others across Ukraine, local authorities said on Monday, as Kyiv and Moscow step up long-range strikes with peace talks stalling. One person was killed in Kherson while injuries were reported in Odesa, Chernigiv, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhzhia, officials said. AFP

LONDON

## U.K. govt. releases second tranche of files on ex-U.S. envoy Mandelson

AFP

The U.K. government published a second batch of files relating to the appointment of Peter Mandelson as U.S. envoy. Prime Minister Keir Starmer sacked Mr. Mandelson last year, but his decision to hand the post to a man with known ties to the late U.S. sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, has prompted calls for the PM to resign. REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR

## Malaysia becomes latest nation to enforce social media ban for teens

GETTY IMAGES

Malaysia began enforcing rules barring millions of children younger than 16 from having social media accounts, joining a growing global effort to tighten safety protections. Not all families approved, and critics raised concerns about data protection and surveillance. Australia, Brazil and Indonesia have initiated similar regulations. AP

# Iran halts U.S. talks over Israel's Lebanon war

'Ceasefire between Iran and the U.S. is unequivocally a ceasefire on all fronts, including in Lebanon; its violation on one front is a violation of truce on all fronts,' says Minister Araghchi; 'there will be no Israeli troops going to Beirut, and any troops on their way, have been turned back', says Trump

**Stanly Johny**

Iran has suspended exchanges with the U.S. over a preliminary agreement aimed at ending the war, citing Israel's escalating military strikes in Lebanon, the Tasnim news agency reported on Monday.

Hours after Iran's move, U.S. President Donald Trump said he had spoken with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hezbollah, and that both sides agreed to stop attacking each other. He also said "talks are continuing with Tehran".

"Due to the continuation of the Zionist regime's [Israel] crimes in Lebanon and considering that Lebanon was one of the preconditions for the ceasefire and now this ceasefire has been violated on all fronts including Lebanon, the Iranian negotiating team will stop "talks and exchange of texts through mediation", the report stated.

**Onslaught continues:** Smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike on the outskirts of Tyre in southern Lebanon on Monday. AFP

Earlier in the day, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf had warned of consequences for Israel's strikes on Lebanon.

"The ceasefire between Iran and the U.S. is unequivocally a ceasefire on all fronts, including in Lebanon. Its violation on one front is a violation of the ceasefire on all fronts. The U.S. and Israel are responsible for the consequences of any violation," Mr. Araghchi wrote in a social media post.

Mr. Ghalibaf, who is also the country's negotiator with the U.S., said the American blockade of Iran's ports and the Lebanon strikes were ceasefire violations. "The naval blockade and escalation of war crimes in Lebanon by the genocidal Zionist regime are clear evidence of U.S. non-compliance with the ceasefire," he wrote in a post.

As the peace process seemed on the verge of collapse, Mr. Trump appeared to step in to salvage the ceasefire. "I had a very productive call with Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu, of Israel, and there will be no Troops going to Beirut, and any Troops that are on their way, have already been turned back," he wrote in a social media post. "Likewise, through highly placed Representatives, I had a very good call with Hezbollah, and they agreed that all shooting will stop – That Israel will not attack them, and they will not attack Israel."

In another post, Mr. Trump said talks with Iran are "continuing, at a rapid pace", without offering further details.

### Beirut raid

Earlier on Monday, Mr. Netanyahu said he has ordered the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) to strike Beirut's Dahiyeh neighbourhood, a Hezbollah stronghold, "in response to the repeated and ongoing violations of the ceasefire in Lebanon". Mr. Trump, who announced a ceasefire on April 17, had said then that Israel was "prevented" from striking Lebanon. But the IDF continued its military operations and captured more territory in southern Lebanon.

On Sunday, U.S. Central Command said it struck military targets in southern Iran over the weekend after Iran shot down an American drone. Hours later, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said they attacked a U.S. military base in the region.

CENTCOM later claimed it intercepted "two Iranian ballistic missiles targeting American forces based in Kuwait.

# France seized tanker linked to Russia with U.K. support: Macron

**Associated Press**
PARIS

The French Navy, with support from the U.K., has intercepted an oil tanker under international sanctions that was travelling from Russia, the most recent effort by nations that support Ukraine to target Russian oil exports helping to finance President Vladimir Putin's war.

French President Emmanuel Macron announced on Monday the interception in a post on X, saying the *Tagor* was boarded on Sunday in the Atlantic. "It is unacceptable that boats skirt international sanctions, and finance the war that Russia has been waging against Ukraine," he wrote.

French soldiers intercept the oil tanker on the Atlantic Sea. AP

Russia is believed to be using a 'shadow' fleet of hundreds of ships to evade international sanctions imposed over the war.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday that Russia "considers such actions illegal."

"They border on piracy," he said.

# Pro-Trump nominee leads in Colombia's presidential election

**Associated Press**
BOGOTA

Abelardo de la Espriella, a supporter of U.S. President Donald Trump, pulled ahead in Colombia's race for the presidency in the first round of elections, capitalising on a growing appetite for heavy-handed crackdowns on criminal groups across Latin America.

But the second-place finisher, progressive senator Iván Cepeda, and his ally President Gustavo Petro questioned the results of the election on Sunday night without providing evidence.

Mr. De la Espriella rapidly gained traction in the lead up to Sunday's election, winning nearly 44% of the vote, and surpassing Mr. Cepeda, who had consistently led polling throughout the campaign and won less than 41% of the vote. The two are slated to continue on to a runoff election on June 21, where Mr. De la Espriella is expected to scoop up additional votes from Colombians who supported other conservative candidates in the first round.

# U.K. blocks visit by left-wing U.S. commentators

**Sriram Lakshman**
LONDON

Two American left-wing political commentators have been barred from entering the U.K. this week to attend speaking engagements. Cenk Uygur, a Turkish American who founded Justice Democrats, a progressive political funding group, and Young Turks, a long-running online show, said he was banned from two events in the U.K. this week.

Commentator and influencer Hasan Piker, who is Mr. Uygur's nephew, also said his visa has been "revoked". The 34-year-old had previously courted controversy for his views and remarks, including his comments on the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, his stance on Hamas and his use of derogatory language to describe Orthodox Jews. Mr. Piker had said in 2019 that the U.S. "deserved 9/11", later saying his comments were "inappropriate".

The U.K. Home Office confirmed to *The Hindu* that the travel permits for both individuals were cancelled because their presence would not be conducive to the public good.

"I've been banned from the U.K. I tried to get on a flight to attend SXSW London and give a speech at Oxford," Mr. Uygur said on X, adding that he was banned for criticising Israel. Mr. Uygur characterised the situation as oppression by Western governments of their own citizens on behalf of a third country. "It's an honour to have made Israel's enemies list. I'm very proud to have fought against their genocide," Mr. Uygur said.

Cenk Uygur

The decision to ban Mr. Uygur, *The Times* reported, was partly due to his rhetoric since Hamas's attacks in Israel on October 7, 2023, and related to fears that his visit would incite antisemitism in the U.K.

The travel ban, according to *The Times*, was also partly due to the commentator dismissing evidence in the case of grooming gangs in places such as Rotherham, where official probes identified more than 1,400 victims of sexual abuse.

Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn called the travel ban an "absurd and cowardly decision" and an assault on the freedom to criticise Israel.

"Soon we will all become Israel," Mr. Piker said on X, as he referred to the government of Israel as genocidal and fascist. Mr. Piker posted a video of his 2025 address to the Oxford Union in which he had cautioned against linking a criticism of Israel's actions with Judaism and conflating anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism.

"There's no reason to open our doors to those who seek to spread hate and division, especially to those who've supported a proscribed terror group," Labour MP David Taylor said.

The U.K. government had also banned 11 far-right figures from entering the country to take part in a demonstration organised by far-right figure Tommy Robinson in May this year.

# NYC Mayor Mamdani skips 'Israel Day' parade

**Associated Press**
NEW YORK

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani did not attend an annual parade honouring Israel on Sunday, breaking with a decades-long political custom because of his support of Palestinian rights. The Israel Day parade has always been a must-attend event for Mayors, Governors and political leaders in the U.S.

The Mayor's absence has given fresh fuel to opponents who view his criticism of the Israeli government as antisemitic.

# Sport

# A tribute to Satwik and Chirag's resilience

SINGAPORE OPEN

**Devyanshi Bihani**

For nearly two years, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were forced to watch title opportunities slip away amid injuries, setbacks and frustrating near-misses. On Sunday, however, India's premier men's doubles pair ended the drought by becoming the first Indian duo to win the Singapore Open after defeating Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 in the Super 750 final.

The triumph marked Satwik and Chirag's first BWF World Tour title since 2024 and capped a week in which they also snapped the 34-match winning streak of World champions Kim Won-ho and Seo Seung-jae in the semifinals.

**Celebration time:** Satwik and Chirag are delighted after ending their title drought. BADMINTON PHOTO

"I think the last week has been really, really good. It's been almost two years since we had won a title, so that makes it even more special. Especially in a tournament like the Singapore Open, where historically we haven't done as well," Chirag said during a virtual press conference on Monday.

The title run was built on resilience, with four of the Indians' five matches going the distance. They were tested again in the final as the Indonesians edged a tight opening game after drawing level at 18. But Satwik and Chirag stayed composed.

"We'll accept if we lose, but we'll give everything and lose. The attitude was pretty calm. Even when we were down, we wanted to fight back," Satwik said.

The second game saw the Indians increase the pace of the exchanges and force errors from their opponents to force the decider.

The Indians entered the third game determined to seize control. Satwik's attacking game began to click while Chirag dominated the forecourt, helping the pair build a crucial cushion. Although Fajar and Fikri briefly narrowed the gap, the Indians remained in command and closed out the contest in 72 minutes.

With a long-awaited title finally secured, Satwik and Chirag head into this week's Indonesia Open with renewed confidence and momentum ahead of the World Championships and Asian Games later this year.

# WORLD CUP SQUADS

### Iran names line-up

Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei named a 26-man squad for the World Cup on Monday.

Iran will base its squad in the Mexican border city of Tijuana during the finals.

The country will play all three of its group matches in the USA.

**The squads:**

**IRAN: Goalkeepers:** Alireza Beiranvand, Seyed Hossein Hosseini, Payam Niazmand; **Defenders:** Danial Eiri, Ehsan Hajsafi, Saleh Hardani, Hossein Kanaani, Shoja Khalilzadeh, Milad Mohammadi, Ali Nemati, Ramin Rezaeian; **Midfielders:** Rouzbeh Cheshmi, Saeid Ezatolahi, Mehdi Ghaedi, Saman Ghoddos, Mohammad Ghorbani, Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Mohammad Mohebi, Amir Mohammad Razzaghinia, Mehdi Torabi, Aria Yousefi; **Forwards:** Ali Alipour, Dennis Dargahi, Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh, Mehdi Taremi, and Shahriar Moghanlou.

**MEXICO: Goalkeepers:** Raul Rangel, Guillermo Ochoa, Carlos Acevedo; **Defenders:** Jesus Gallardo, Johan Vazquez, Israel Reyes, Cesar Montes, Jorge Sanchez, Mateo Chavez; **Midfielders:** Edson Alvarez, Erik Lira, Alvaro Fidalgo, Gilberto Mora, Brian Gutierrez, Luis Romo, Orbelin Pineda, Alexis Vega, Obed Vargas, Luis Chavez; **Forwards:** Roberto Alvarado, Santiago Gimenez, Raul Jimenez, Julian Quinones, Armando Gonzalez, Guillermo Martinez, and Cesar Huerta.

**ECUADOR: Goalkeepers:** Hernan Galindez, Moises Ramirez, Gonzalo Valle; **Defenders:** Pervis Estupinan, Piero Hincapie, Willian Pacho, Joel Ordonez, Felix Torres, Jackson Porozo, Angelo Preciado; **Midfielders:** Moises Caicedo, Alan Franco, Alan Minda, Pedro Vite, Jeremy Arevalo, Kendry Paez, Jordy Alcivar, Nilson Angulo, Anthony Valencia, John Yeboah, Denil Castillo, Gonzalo Plata; **Forwards:** Enner Valencia, Kevin Rodriguez, Jordy Caicedo, and Yaimar Medina.

**AUSTRALIA: Goalkeepers:** Patrick Beach, Paul Izzo, Mathew Ryan; **Defenders:** Aziz Behich, Jordan Bos, Cameron Burgess, Alessandro Circati, Milos Degenek, Jason Geria, Lucas Herrington, Jacob Italiano, Harry Souttar, Kai Trewin; **Midfielders:** Csameron Devlin, Ajdin Hrustic, Jackson Irvine, Connor Metcalfe, Aiden O'Neill, Paul Okon-Engstler; **Forwards:** Nestory Irankunda, Mathew Leckie, Awer Mabil, Mohamed Toure, Nishan Velupillay, Cristian Volpato, and Tete Yengi.

**ALGERIA: Goalkeepers:** Oussama Benbot, Melvin Mastil, Abdelatif Ramdane, Luca Zidane; **Defenders:** Achref Abada, Rayan Ait-Nouri, Zinedine Belaid, Rafik Belghali, Ramy Bensebaini, Samir Chergui, Jaouen Hadjam, Aissa Mandi, Mohamed Amine Tougai; **Midfielders:** Houssem Aouar, Nabil Bentaleb, Hicham Boudaoui, Fares Chaibi, Ibarhaim Maza, Yacine Titraoui, Ramiz Zerrouki; **Forwards:** Mohamed Amoura, Nadhir Benbouali, Adil Boulbina, Fares Ghedjemis, Amine Gouiri, Anis Hadj Moussa, and Riyad Mahrez.

**CZECHIA: Goalkeepers:** Lukas Hornicek, Matej Kovar, Jindrich Stanek; **Defenders:** Vladimir Coufal, David Doudera, Tomas Holes, Robin Hranac, Stepan Chaloupek, David Jurasek, Ladislav Krejci, Jaroslav Zeleny, David Zima; **Midfielders:** Lukas Cerv, Vladimir Darida, Lukas Provod, Michal Sadilek, Hugo Sochurek, Alexandr Sojka, Tomas Soucek, Pavel Sulc, Denis Visinsky; **Forwards:** Tomas Chory, Adam Hlozek, Mojmir Chytil, Jan Kuchta, and Patrik Schick.

**SAUDI ARABIA: Goalkeepers:** Nawaf Al Aqidi, Mohamed Al Owais, Ahmed Alkassar; **Defenders:** Saud Abdulhamid, Jehad Thakri, Abdulelah Al Amri, Hassan Tambakti, Ali Lajami, Hassan Kadesh, Moteb Al Harbi, Nawaf Boushal, Ali Majrashi, Mohammed Abu Alshamat; **Midfielders:** Ziyad Al Johani, Nasser Al Dawsari, Mohamed Kanno, Abdullah Al Khaibari, Alaa Al Hejji, Musab Al Juwayr, Sultan Mandash, Ayman Yahya, Khalid Al Ghannam; **Forwards:** Salem Al Dawsari, Abdullah Al Hamdan, Feras Al Brikan, and Saleh Al Shehri.

HUGE COMPLIMENT

## Sooryavanshi dominated every top bowler, praises Patidar

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Asked to name the standout player of IPL 2026, RCB captain Rajat Patidar came up with a swift reply. "It's pretty clear — Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. He is so young... the way he has dominated this tournament. He didn't just play; he dominated every top bowler. The way he played his shots... he is amazing," Patidar said.

REFLECTION

## Solanki feels 180 would have been a challenging total in the final

VIJAY SONEJI

GT fell 25 runs short of a good score in the IPL final against RCB, according to its Director of Cricket Vikram Solanki. "We probably made a slight miscalculation of what score was good enough on that pitch. I don't think it was a 200-plus pitch. If we had got somewhere around 180, it would have been a challenging total".

TRULY SPECIAL

## Winning trophies has always been my biggest motivation: Krunal

PTI

RCB all-rounder Krunal Pandya shared his joy after winning his fifth IPL title. "Winning trophies has always been my biggest motivation in cricket because there's no feeling quite like lifting a championship. Individual performances and wins bring happiness, but winning a tournament is something truly special".

FIVE DEMERIT POINTS

## RCB's David suspended for his first match of IPL 2027

K.R. DEEPAK

RCB's Tim David has been fined 50% of his match fee for breaching Level 1 of IPL's Code of Conduct during the final against GT. He has now accumulated five demerit points, which result in a one-game suspension. He will be suspended for RCB's first game of the next season or the first game of the franchise he represents in IPL 2027.

# RCB gains from squad depth and clarity of roles

The franchise from the Garden City had several players coming up with match-winning performances; captain Patidar was composed while Kohli finished as the team's highest run-getter

IPL-19

**Ashwin Achal**
AHMEDABAD

From going on a barren 17-year run, Royal Challengers Bengaluru is now looking to build a legacy as an IPL powerhouse.

Back-to-back titles have lifted RCB to fourth on the list of the most successful franchises, behind Chennai Super Kings, Mumbai Indians, and Kolkata Knight Riders. The power dynamics of Indian T20 cricket are beginning to tilt toward the Garden City.

RCB's title defence this season was built on assembling the most balanced side in the competition – one with clarity in roles and depth across departments.

It was a campaign shaped by collective strength, with several players stepping forward with match-winning performances.

When Virat Kohli and Venkatesh Iyer fired at the top, RCB surged ahead. When they did not, Devdutt Padikkal, captain Rajat Patidar and Krunal Pandya found a way.

The fast bowlers – Josh Hazlewood, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jacob Duffy and youngster Rasikh Salam – repeatedly shut down chases or set up victories.

**Another dimension**

Krunal added another layer through a slingshot round-arm release and a surprise bouncer to keep the batters guessing. Seen as a whole, this side had answers for every situation.

If T20 leadership is often measured by constant intervention, Patidar offered something different. His captaincy was calm and understated.

He rarely looked hurried or flustered, even in tense moments. That composure filtered through the dressing room.

Then there was Kohli, who underlined once again why he remains the heartbeat of the franchise. For the second straight year, Kohli finished as RCB's highest run-scorer, and this time he did so at a significantly improved strike-rate (165.84 to 144.71).

His unbeaten 75 in the final against Gujarat Titans was an innings of authority and class.

As ever, his energy was infectious, all the while maintaining the highest standards. RCB may now be in the Patidar era, but it remains a team deeply shaped by Kohli's presence.

If Kohli represented the enduring value of the old guard, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi offered a glimpse into the future. The teenager emerged as the feel-good story of IPL 2026.

Sooryavanshi batted with a freedom and confidence that felt extraordinary even by IPL standards, forcing himself into the spotlight through sheer weight of performance. His game was marked not just by clean hitting, but by a sharp match awareness that belied his age.

RCB reaffirmed that titles are built on combined excellence rather than star power alone.

At the same time, Sooryavanshi's extraordinary exploits gave rise to a new hero of the masses. This season truly saw the cream rise to the top.

| RUN MACHINES | Inns | Runs | HS | SR | 100s/50s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sooryavanshi (RR) | 16 | 776 | 103 | 237.30 | 1/5 |
| Gill (GT) | 16 | 732 | 104 | 163.02 | 1/6 |
| Sai Sudharsan (GT) | 17 | 722 | 100 | 157.98 | 1/8 |
| Kohli (RCB) | 16 | 675 | 105* | 165.84 | 1/5 |
| Klaasen (SRH) | 15 | 624 | 69 | 160.00 | 0/6 |

| SCALP HUNTERS | Inns | Wkts | BB | Econ | 4W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rabada (GT) | 17 | 29 | 3/25 | 9.68 | 0 |
| Bhuvneshwar (RCB) | 16 | 28 | 4/23 | 7.95 | 1 |
| Archer (RR) | 16 | 25 | 3/17 | 9.31 | 0 |
| Rashid (GT) | 17 | 21 | 4/33 | 9.07 | 1 |
| Kamboj (CSK) | 14 | 21 | 3/22 | 10.52 | 0 |

**Array of game-changers:** Bhuvneshwar, Rasikh and Krunal along with talisman Kohli played a big part in Royal Challengers' triumphant campaign. K.R. DEEPAK

# Focus will turn to hat-trick of trophies after 'best birthday gift': Patidar

**Ashwin Achal**
AHMEDABAD

Rajat Patidar could not have wished for a better birthday. The RCB captain, who turned 33 on Monday, was all smiles as he sat beside the IPL trophy in the press conference room here.

"It is the best gift. Nothing can be better than this – to win the IPL for two successive years," Patidar said.

Patidar added that while the team will celebrate the triumph, the focus will shift to "how we can do three in a row".

The Madhya Pradesh player added that he has worked a great deal on his batting. The results were clear as Patidar looked more assertive and dominant at the crease.

"Before coming into the IPL, I spent a lot of time understanding my batting. I did proper net sessions. Sometimes, I was the only one at nets, and I needed bowlers. After that, I communicated a lot with DK *bhai* (RCB mentor and batting coach Dinesh Karthik) about how I could do more, trigger moments, technical changes, etc. Then I came here and executed that," Patidar said.

Patidar stated that he drew inspiration from Faf du Plessis, his first captain at RCB. "The way Faf du Plessis presented himself, the body language, the confidence – these are things I learnt," he said.

Speaking about the dominant show in the final, Patidar explained that dismissing the Gujarat Titans top-order – Shubman Gill, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler – early proved to be crucial. "The GT batting line-up depends a lot on the top three batters. Our plan was to get the top three out in the PowerPlay. We did take two wickets. They went on the back foot from there," Patidar said.

Patidar... on cloud nine.
VIJAY SONEJI

# From desperation to title triumphs: how Flower redefined RCB's legacy

**Ashwin Achal**
AHMEDABAD

Andy Flower's reign as Royal Challengers Bengaluru head coach did not begin well. The team lost seven of its first eight matches in IPL 2024 before making a turnaround to enter the playoffs.

The tough phase gave Flower useful insight into what ails RCB. Over the course of the next two years, Flower and his staff have used these learnings to mould RCB into a formidable presence.

"The very tough first half of 2024 gave us real clarity about certain strategic things that we wanted to employ. It gave us the courage, almost through desperation, to take those measures. Then we had 2025, where we were walking into the unknown, as RCB had never won the title before. There was a lot of tension and uncertainty around getting into the playoffs," Flower said in a virtual media interaction on Monday.

Flower... the mastermind.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

This year's triumphant campaign, in contrast, was marked by quiet confidence, Flower stated. "This year, there was a deeper level of confidence. Going into the playoffs, this reflected in some of our performances," Flower said.

The 58-year-old was all praise for Virat Kohli, who has set a high bar for his teammates to follow. "Virat's hunger and drive are genuinely inspiring. He sets certain standards like intensity in the field. Anyone falling below is going to stand out like a sore thumb. Everyone has to raise their game to get anywhere near it," he said.

"The same goes for his batting mastery. He works hard at his game, but you can see that he loves batting. He loves hitting the ball. He loves the feeling of the ball meeting the middle of the bat. Again, those standards are easy for people in our training sessions to see," Flower said.

**Stretched? Hardly!** Auger-Aliassime made the quarterfinals with ease. REUTERS

# Auger-Aliassime waltzes into the last eight

FRENCH OPEN

**Agence France-Presse**
PARIS

Fourth seed Felix Auger-Aliassime despatched Alejandro Tabilo 6-3, 7-5, 6-1 on Monday to reach the French Open quarterfinals for the first time.

After playing nine sets and more than 11 hours as he won his first three matches in the first-week heatwave, Auger-Aliassime sped through his fourth match in two hours, eight minutes with the temperature in the mid-20s.

He will next play unseeded Italian Flavio Cobolli who clawed into the last eight, beating Zachary Svajda 6-2, 6-3, 6-7(3), 7-6 (5).

Former Wimbledon runner-up Matteo Berrettini, who has been plagued by injuries in recent years, booked his first Major quarterfinal since the 2022 US Open with a 6-3, 7-6(2), 7-6(6) victory over Jannik Sinner's conqueror Juan Manuel Cerundolo.

In the women's section, Diana Shnaider beat Madison Keys 6-3, 3-6, 6-0, while Austrian 28th seed Anastasia Potapova could not back up her win over defending champion Coco Gauff, twice failing to serve for the match in a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(7) defeat by Anna Kalinskaya.

The Russian will next face Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska after she continued her remarkable run by cruising past the last remaining French player, Diane Parry, 6-3, 6-2.

**Tuesday's Picks**

**MEN**
**2**-Zverev vs. **27**-Jodar
**26**-Mensik vs. **28**-Fonseca

**WOMEN**
**7**-Svitolina vs. **15**-Kostyuk
**8**-Andreeva vs. **18**-Cirstea

**Balaji in last eight**

N. Sriram Balaji and his Brazilian partner Marcelo Demoliner advanced to the men's doubles quarterfinals with a stunning upset 7-5, 6-4 win over sixth seeds Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz of Germany.

There was something to cheer for the crowd as PSG players Ousmane Dembele, Desire Doue, Warren Zaire-Emery and Bradley Barcola paraded their two Champions League trophies on court.

**THE RESULTS**

**Men: Fourth round:** Berrettini (Ita) bt Juan Cerundolo (Arg) 6-3, 7-6(2), 7-6(6).
4-Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt Tabilo (Chi) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1.
10-Cobolli (Ita) bt Svajda (USA) 6-2, 6-3, 6-7(3), 7-6(5).
26-Mensik (Cze) bt 11-Rublev 6-3, 7-6(6), 4-6, 2-6, 6-3.
28-Fonseca (Bra) bt 15-Ruud (Nor) 7-5, 7-6(8), 5-7, 6-2.
**Doubles: Third round:** Balaji (Ind) & Demoliner (Bra) bt 6-Putz (Ger) & Kraweitz (Ger) 7-5, 6-4.
**Women: Fourth round:**
25-Shnaider bt 19-Keys (USA) 6-3, 3-6, 6-0.
22-Kalinskaya bt 28-Potapova (Aut) 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(7).
Chwalinska (Pol) bt Parry (Fra) 6-3, 6-2.

THE HINDU GROUP

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**DAY 1 | June 5, 2026 | Taj West End, Bengaluru**

9:30 am to 10:00 am
**Inaugural Ceremony**

*Welcome Address by*
**Dr Narayan Lakshman**
*Opinion Editor, The Hindu, and Curator, The Hindu Huddle*

*Opening Remarks by*
**Dr Nirmala Lakshman**
*Chairperson, The Hindu Group*

9:55 am to 10:15 am
**Government of the People: Karnataka's tryst with equitable growth**

*Address by the Chief Guest,*
**D K Shivakumar**
*Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka*

10:20 am to 10:50 am
**Beyond the Valley: The role of Kashmir in great power politics**

**Omar Abdullah**
*Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir*

*In conversation with*
**Dr Narayan Lakshman**
*Opinion Editor, The Hindu, and Curator, The Hindu Huddle*

11:10 am to 11:40 am
**India-China Tango: Asian powers shaping the emerging world order**

**Xu Feihong**
*Chinese Ambassador to India*

*In conversation with*
**Suhasini Haidar**
*Diplomatic Affairs Editor, The Hindu*

11:45 am to 12:30 pm
**From the Aravallis to the Nicobar: At the edge of ecology**

**Jairam Ramesh**
*Former Union Minister and Hon'ble Member of Parliament (INC), Rajya Sabha*

**Dr Krithi K Karanth,**
*CEO, Centre for Wildlife Studies*

*In conversation with*
**Gargi Rawat**
*Consulting Editor, NDTV*

12:35 pm to 1:20 pm
**The Power of Words: Diplomacy at a time of conflict**

**Hervé Delphin**
*EU Ambassador to India*

**Nirupama Rao**
*Former Foreign Secretary and Former Indian Ambassador to the US*

**Philip Green**
*Australian High Commissioner to India*

*In conversation with*
**Suhasini Haidar**
*Diplomatic Affairs Editor, The Hindu*

2:35 pm to 3:20 pm
**The Architecture of Leadership: Designing blueprints for a volatile world**

**R Ganesan**
*Senior Vice President & Head - Corporate Centre, L&T*

**Neeti Sharma**
*CEO, TeamLease Digital*

**Praveen Someshwar**
*MD and CEO, USL & Member, Global Diageo Executive Committee*

**Shailendra Katyal**
*MD, Lenovo India P Ltd, and Site Leader, Lenovo Group*

*In conversation with*
**L V Navaneeth**
*CEO, The Hindu Group*

3:25 pm to 4:10 pm
**Skills for India: Building capability in the age of AI**

**Jayant Chaudhary**
*Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Government of India*

*In conversation with*
**Nistula Hebbar**
*Political Editor, The Hindu*

4:15 pm to 5:00 pm
**The Matrix Can Hear You: Chatbots and mental health**

**Dr Amit Malik**
*Psychiatrist and Founder, AMAHA*

**Dr Prabha S Chandra**
*Professor of Psychiatry and Director, NIMHANS*

*In conversation with*
**Amrita Tripathi**
*Author and Mental Health Advocate*

5:05 pm to 5:50 pm
**New Avatar for the Silver Screen: The global reach of OTT**

**Huma Qureshi**
*Actor*

**Kritika Kamra**
*Actor*

*In conversation with*
**Rohit Khilnani**
*Journalist and Talk Show Host*

5:55 pm to 6:15 pm
**Students' Huddle**

*Schedule subject to change

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# ICC Board suspends Cricket Canada

**ANI**
AHMEDABAD

The ICC Board on Monday suspended Cricket Canada with immediate effect due to serious breaches of its membership obligations after the conclusion of its Board meetings in Ahmedabad.

As per the release, the ICC Board was mindful of the importance of protecting the interests of Canadian players.

Accordingly, Canadian national representative teams will continue to be eligible to participate in ICC events during the period of suspension.

Cricket Canada will be permitted to access ICC funding through a controlled funding mechanism, under the oversight of ICC management, solely for approved national team programmes.

daCunha/AB/1104

# A forgettable day for Indians; Carlsen avenges Firouzja loss

Gukesh falls to Keymer in the classical format, whereas Praggnanandhaa's adventurous approach costs him against So; Humpy goes down to Assaubayeva in Armageddon even as Divya loses to Ju

NORWAY CHESS

**C. Shyam Sundar**
OSLO

It wasn't a good day for the Indian players as all four (two each in the Open and women's events) suffered losses in the sixth round of Norway Chess 2026 at Deichman Bjorvika on Sunday.

World champion D. Gukesh succumbed to Germany's Vincent Keymer in the classical, handing his opponent a first win in the tournament while R. Praggnanandhaa's adventurous approach cost him against the experienced American Wesley So as all three games resulted in victories in the classical format.

"It's nice to finally win a game after so many failed chances," said Keymer after beating Gukesh, adding, "I don't think I was ever worse."

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen exacted revenge on Frenchman Alireza Firouzja, winning the reverse fixture after having opened his campaign with a loss to him.

After the win, the Norwegian ace said: "He kind of surprised me a little bit in the opening, and I thought, you know, I'll just play something.

"I think the plan he went for was not very good and I thought I got a fairly pleasant position, and, most of all, it was relatively easy to play... so I didn't have any reason to hemorrhage time on the clock as I have in other games," he added.

**Deep in thought:** Assaubayeva returned to the top by getting past Humpy in Armageddon. FLICKR/NORWAYCHESS

In the women's tournament, Bibisara Assaubayeva and Koneru Humpy played out a quick 15-move draw in the classical before the Kazakh raised her game in the Armageddon to win and return to the top of the leaderboard.

Divya Deshmukh, on the other hand, lost in a wild game to World champion Ju Wenjun.

**The results (sixth round):**
**Open:** Vincent Keymer (Ger, 8) bt D. Gukesh (6.5), Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 7.5) bt Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 10), Wesley So (USA, 11.5) bt R. Praggnanandhaa (6).
**Women:** Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 9.5) bt Koneru Humpy (5.5) in Armageddon, Divya Deshmukh (8.5) lost to Ju Wenjun (Chn, 8), Zhu Jiner (Chn, 7) bt Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 8) in Armageddon.

*(The writer is in Oslo at the invitation of Norway Chess).*

## AROUND THE CITY

### Chengalpattu beats Villupuram

Chengalpattu defeated Villupuram by five wickets in the first round of the TNCA under-19 inter-district cricket tournament in Madurai on Monday.
**The scores: Zone A (Villupuram):** Villupuram 166/9 in 50 overs lost to Chengalpattu 167/5 in 30.3 overs (Thejeswar Ganesh 76).
**Zone H (Ramanathapuram):** Kancheepuram 112 in 30.4 overs lost to Kanyakumari 114/4 in 33.5 overs.

### TN surfers excel

Tamil Nadu surfers stole the show on the final day of the seventh NMPA Indian Open of Surfing at Tannirbhavi beach, Mangaluru, sweeping the major titles and dominating the podiums. Teenager Kamali Moorthy completed a double, winning the women's Open and the junior girls' u-18 titles, while Kishore Kumar rounded off a dominant day for Tamil Nadu by claiming the men's Open. Tamil Nadu performed well in the u-14 grom categories with P. Harish winning the boys' title and Dhamayanthi Sriram the girls'.

**Happy bunch:** The Tamil Nadu surfers who did well at Mangaluru.

### Ton-up Adhvay wins it for Super Kings Red (Thoraipakkam)

Adhvay's unbeaten 106 powered Super Kings Red (Thoraipakkam ) to an eight-wicket win over Chennai Masters CA in the final of the Young Talents u-18 Summer Trophy in Chennai.

**The scores (final):** Chennai Masters CA 175/7 in 30 overs (Amuthan 42, Prathuman 31, S. Rohan 3/45) lost to Super kings Red (Thoraipakkam) 176/2 in 14.1 overs (Advay 106 n.o., R. Tejesh Kumar 67). **Player-of-the-final:** Adhvay.

**Special awards: Best batter:** Amuthan (Chennai Masters); **best bowler:** Dharanidharan (Super Kings Red); **best all-rounder:** Kavin (Chennai Masters); **player-of-the-series:** P .Yatish (Chennai 81); **best fielder**: Siddharth Bala (Asiatic Transformers); **best wicketkeeper:** R. K. Gugan (SKA GNC); **best performer:** Prathuman (Chennai Masters).

# Six marks sunk on the opening day

**Sports Bureau**
CHENNAI

Six new meet records, including three in women, were created on the opening day of the 80th senior Tamil Nadu State aquatics championships at the Paarivendhar Aquatic Complex, SRMIST (Kattankulathur) here on Monday.

**The results (winners only): Men: 50m breaststroke:** Danush Suresh (SDAT Chennai) 28.40s (NMR, Old: Yadesh Babu, SDAT, 28.51, 2025); **100m backstroke:** M.J. Praveen Kumar (SAV Titans) 58.47s (NMR, Old: Nithik Nathella, Turtles, 58.73s); **200m IM:** Siva Sridhar (Aces) 2:12.62s; **400m freestyle:** V. Kaveen Raj (Turtles) 4:14.08s; **4x200m freestyle:** Aces (H. Sai Ganesh, H. Sai Shankar, S. Roshan, Siva Sridhar) 8:06.72 (NMR, Old: Aces, 8:13.97, 2025); **1500m freestyle:** T. Kabilan (TDSA Tirunelveli, 17:14.83s). **Women: 50m breaststroke:** P. Preshetha (SDAT Dolphin) 35.21s; **50m breaststroke:** M.U. Joyshree (SDAT Chennai) 35.58s; **200m IM:** S. Oviya (SDAT Dolphin); **200m breaststroke:** Shreenithi Natesan (SDAT) 0:45.71 (NMR, Old: M. Ragavi, Turtles, 02:49.13, 2011); **400m freestyle:** Shreenithi (SDAT Chennai) 4:39.51s; **100m backstroke:** Dhivashree Kesavan 1:06.48s (NMR, Old: Pramiti Gnanasekaran, SDAT, 1:07.05, 2025); **4x200m freestyle relay:** Aces (B. Sadhana, Pranavi Ramu, Akriti Malani Sabat, S. Dayanitha) 9:21.85s (NMR, Old: Turtles, 9:23.03, 2013). **Mixed: 4x100m medley relay:** SDAT Dolphin (S. Oviya, M. S. Yadesh Babu, S. Gokulan, P. Preshetha) 4:23.0.

## SNAPSHOTS

### Divyanshi is youngest Indian to win WTT Feeder women's title

Fifteen-year-old Divyanshi Bhowmick became the youngest Indian to win a WTT Feeder women's singles title. The World No. 211 Divyanshi stunned Taiwan's Yeh Yi-Tian, placed 38 in the chart, with a thrilling 8-11, 11-8, 11-5, 7-11, 11-7 victory at Prishtina in Kosovo. According to the Table Tennis Federation of India, she is the second-youngest player in the world, after Japan's Miwa Harimoto, to capture a WTT Feeder women's crown. Divyanshi also clinched the women's doubles top prize alongside fellow Indian teenager Syndrela Das. The pair defeated Japan's Sachi Aoki and Cocona Muramatsu 7-11, 14-12, 12-14, 11-8, 11-7.
In WTT Youth Contender Sandefjord (Norway), M. Ananya bagged the girls' u-17 singles trophy. The 16-year-old thumped her compatriot Tushti Sood 14-12, 11-3, 12-10 in the final.

Divyanshi.
FILE PHOTO: R. RAVINDRAN

### Nepal's Bhurtel hits six sixes in an over

Nepal's Kushal Bhurtel became the sixth player to smash six sixes in an over in a T20I.
Bhurtel achieved the feat against China's left-arm spinner Chen Zhuo Yue during the Asian Games Qualifier opener at the Singapore National Cricket Ground.

### Serena announces return to tennis

Serena Williams confirmed her return to tennis after an absence of nearly four years on Monday, with the American great set to play women's doubles at Queen's club later this month.

## LIVE TELECAST

**French Open:** Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 2.30 p.m. & 12 a.m. (Wednesday)

**England Women vs India Women:** 3rd T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 11 p.m.

**International Friendlies:** Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 12.15 a.m. (Wednesday)

VIJAY SONEJI

# Kohli, Bhuvneshwar and the band that believed

The veterans showed they still have enough fuel left in the tank to dominate as Royal Challengers Bengaluru retained the IPL crown with ease; Patidar, unperturbed by the expectations, scripted his own piece of history by winning back-to-back trophies

R. Kaushik

To assert with any certainty that there was always a sense of inevitability about Royal Challengers Bengaluru storming to a second successive IPL title can only come with the assurance of a mission already accomplished. But there is no denying that from the outset, it was clear that this juggernaut would take some stopping.

The weight of the world had been lifted from their shoulders last June, when they ended years of heartbreak with a six-run defeat of Punjab Kings in the final in Ahmedabad. At the same Narendra Modi Stadium, they etched their name on the trophy for the second time on Sunday night, brushing aside Gujarat Titans with a chilling finality that resonated with their army of fans across the world.

Rajat Patidar, the unassuming and unlikely hero of this remarkable transformation, couldn't have given himself a better birthday gift. The Madhya Pradesh man turned 33 on Monday; he also turned a corner of sorts as he joined M.S. Dhoni and Rohit Sharma as the only captains to have successfully defended the IPL trophy.

### 'Attacking' the title

'Defend' was actually a word missing from the Bengaluru franchise's lexicon all season long. They didn't quite relish the tag of 'defending champions' because that's not how they have reshaped their philosophy. It was therefore in the fitness of things that they attacked a second title rather than defended the first one.

The skipper was at the forefront of many a stunning cameo, though the more meaningful and numerically significant contributions came from two men who joined the franchise as teenagers so many moons ago.

Virat Kohli was picked up by the flamboyant but also prescient Vijay Mallya at the draft for under-19 players ahead of the inaugural edition. Kohli had just led the Indian colts to a memorable title run in Kuala Lumpur, even then showing a feisty aggression that remains his calling card.

Delhi Daredevils, who had the first bite at the draft cherry, passed up the opportunity to snap up the burgeoning local hero, investing instead in the left-arm pace of Pradeep Sangwan because they felt they already had enough top-order batting options in skipper Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Shikhar Dhawan and AB de Villiers.

### Gem of a pick

RCB's turn was next, and they grabbed Kohli with both hands, sparking a bond for the ages. There is no gainsaying how Kohli's IPL career, potentially even his India career, would have panned out had he turned out first for Daredevils (renamed Delhi Capitals). But with RCB, he has grown organically, from a young tyro occupying a dressing room populated by the likes of Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, Jacques Kallis and Shivnarine Chanderpaul, among others, to a leader of men and now an elder statesman who continues to be the fulcrum that has effectively kept Father Time at bay.

Kohli is 37 and a half, a young man in all aspects except sporting, you'd imagine. In cricketing terms, even for a batter, 37 and a half is a lot closer to the end of one's career than its beginning. But if you didn't know who Kohli was and what his age was (which is impossible for anyone who has even a fleeting interest in the sport), you'd not even start to guess that he has been playing at the international level for nearly 19 years.

**RCB possessing a host of match-winners ensured that the whole was significantly more than the sum of their impressive parts**

Even today, despite having achieved almost everything there is to achieve, among them World Cup triumphs in both the 50- and 20-over versions, he is energised by the scent of battle, by the prospect of taking on and taming the fastest, the craftiest and the wiliest bowlers in the business.

Internationally, he only plays 50-over cricket, and isn't therefore seen in India colours as much as his adoring supporters would want. Maybe that has contributed to his freshness because over the last two months, Kohli has been a compelling, commanding figure who has towered over the others with his intensity and unhidden passion.

He is still prone to histrionics – needless, many might harangue – but even that is part of the larger-than-life Kohli persona, a way of rousing himself up that seems to be working wonders for him.

### At the top of his game

Kohli finished as his franchise's leading run-maker and fourth overall in the Orange Cap race. In the past, he has made plenty more than his 675 runs this season, but he hasn't scored those runs at the same rate that marked his domination of this campaign.

Kohli hammered 73 fours – the third most after Sai Sudharsan (75) and Shubman Gill (74) – and 25 sixes as he struck at 165.84. The boundaries accounted for 65.5% of his runs, but he also didn't forget the lifeblood of run-making, which is the humble single and slightly less modest two.

He egged on men a decade and more younger to keep looking for twos when even a run and a half was a stretch, he threw himself around the park with an enthusiasm that would have put the 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi to shame, and – lest we should forget that avatar – he was in the face and ears of the opposition batters, snarling and growling and sometimes opting to ignore outstretched right hands after a game, such as with Travis Head of Sunrisers Hyderabad.

### Skipper's meteoric rise

Fears that the towering, inescapable shadow of Kohli would stymie Patidar's growth as a leader of men have proved singularly unfounded in the last two years. Patidar's has been an interesting journey with the franchise. Bought in 2021, released after a disappointing season and requisitioned late in 2022 as an injury replacement for Luvnith Sisodia, Patidar reminded everyone of his extraordinary skills with a century in the Eliminator against Lucknow Super Giants.

He missed the whole of IPL 2023 with a severe Achilles' heel injury for which he underwent surgery but re-announced himself with 395 runs (SR: 177.13) in 15 outings in 2024. When RCB decided to move on from Faf du Plessis and cast their collective eye inwards for the next leader, their gaze settled firmly on Patidar, him with little leadership experience at any level. What a masterstroke that turned out to be.

The deciding personnel, Kohli certainly among them, were impressed by Patidar's calmness and composure under pressure, the respect he enjoyed within the group and his tactical awareness as well as his ability to think on his feet. To the outside world, it might have seemed an optimistic gamble, but the wisdom of the move to elevate Patidar to the captaincy became increasingly obvious as IPL 2025 unfolded.

Patidar himself has grown in stature, his confidence evidently bolstered by ending RCB's seemingly ceaseless barren run in the tournament. This season, he was at his aggressive best, fusing 501 runs with a staggering strike-rate of 192.69. He set stall as the consummate six-hitter, smacking 42 off them in just 260 deliveries and taking down the most celebrated bowlers, including Kagiso Rabada and Rashid Khan, with a majestic approach bordering on the disdainful. He has remained his own man despite the presence of such gargantuan figures as Kohli and Josh Hazlewood, leading by example and therefore not having to ask of his charges what he himself didn't do.

Around him, the likes of his old mate Venkatesh Iyer, Devdutt Padikkal, Tim

K.R. DEEPAK

David and Krunal Pandya flourished with the bat, thriving on responsibility and role clarity. The aura around this batting group allowed them to carry the gifted but underachieving wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma with no discernible weakening of the team's firepower.

### Experience is gold

Such is the lot of the bowlers that they are often relegated to second-class status, but RCB haven't allowed that to come in the way of their appreciation of the other teen-turned-veteran, Bhuvneshwar Kumar. 'Bhuvi' joined the franchise in 2009 when 19 and didn't play a single game but is now the unquestioned leader of a solid bowling group with the peerless Hazlewood as his partner-in-crime and young Rasikh Salam more than holding his own, as evidenced by 19 wickets and an economy of 9.45.

Bhuvneshwar is a shining example of going about his business with little pomp or fanfare, insulated from the reactions around him and sticking to his strengths while constantly evolving as a thinking bowler. He has added subtle nuances to his craft, including an ultra-effective knuckle ball, without sacrificing his core weapon, beautiful swing with the new ball. Bhuvneshwar won the Purple Cap for two years on the bounce, in 2016 and 2017, when he was with Sunrisers.

A decade on from his first taste of the bowling honours, he finished second on the wicket-takers' list (behind Rabada) with 28 scalps, his exceptional economy of 7.95 the ultimate reflection of his outstanding control despite bowling in the most demanding phases of a T20 innings.

When he moved to RCB at the beginning of the 2025 season after 11 years with Sunrisers – he was one of the stars during the latter's title march in 2016 – that too was seen as a punt, much like Patidar's coronation. The previous year, Bhuvneshwar had taken only 11 wickets in 16 games, but RCB were willing to dish out Rs 10.75 crore at the mega auction to acquire his services.

It was money superbly spent; while Hazlewood was the leading wicket-taker for the side in IPL 2025 with 22 scalps from just 12 games, Bhuvneshwar played second fiddle with 17 sticks. The roles were emphatically reversed this time – the Meerut master was head and shoulders above the rest while Hazlewood was somewhat inconsistent, settling for 15 wickets and conceding 9.59 runs per over.

Together, though, this was a fabulous new-ball pairing, sometimes split by New Zealander Jacob Duffy, the T20 specialist who was signed as an insurance for Hazlewood but who had his moments, including a Player of the Match performance on debut in the season-opener against Sunrisers.

Fears that left-arm pacer Yash Dayal, who had a great IPL 2025, would be sorely missed were offset by the emergence of Rasikh as a bankable third, sometimes fourth, seamer, while Krunal's street-smartness and the courage of leg-spinner Suyash Sharma, used sparingly but smartly, meant the spin was in capable hands.

Beyond Bhuvneshwar and Hazlewood, RCB didn't have what seemed to be an intimidating attack – look, for instance, at Titans, who boasted Rabada, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Jason Holder and Rashid – but then again, when have games and titles been won on paper?

RCB had Kohli and Bhuvneshwar, and a host of other match-winners, ensuring that the whole was significantly more than the sum of their impressive parts.

## THE GIST

- Kohli (675) finished as his franchise's leading run-maker and fourth overall in the Orange Cap race
- Bhuvneshwar was second on the wicket-takers' list with 28 scalps, his exceptional economy of 7.95 the ultimate reflection of his outstanding control
- Patidar led from the front. He was at his aggressive best, fusing 501 runs with a staggering strike-rate of 192.69

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

**Bhuvneshwar has added subtle nuances to his craft, including an ultra-effective knuckle ball, without sacrificing his core weapon, beautiful swing with the new ball**

# The genie of synthetic biology is out, and with it comes power and peril

The quest to understand the universe releases the genie from the lamp: kept inside, it is of no use and leashes human thought and creativity; released but unregulated, it risks creating new and unforeseen problems; released and used wisely, the applications are many and valuable

K. VijayRaghavan

For the first time in about four billion years of life on the earth, one species is learning not just to read the book of life but to write new versions.

Humans' quest to understand and explain the natural world has always carried a double consequence: every success also enhances our ability to change the world. By understanding how diseases act, we create drugs and vaccines that change the prevalence of infectious agents. The elimination of smallpox is one example. Understanding the basis of some hereditary disorders has meant that dietary management can help those affected to live full lives. Phenylketonuria, a condition in which the body cannot process a common amino acid, phenylalanine, is one such example.

**Life chemistry:** The exquisite detail that genomes provide complements the fossil record where it is available — but it also tells us the history of life where no fossil record exists. No social history of humans can provide this degree of precision and accuracy over such an extended period. RETHA FERGUSON/PEXELS

### Verbosity in genes

At the core of our efforts to understand and explain the extraordinary diversity of forms and functions of life lies one molecule: deoxyribonucleic acid, popularly known by its abbreviation, DNA. DNA resides in cells, the unit of construction of our bodies – indeed of any organism – and we humans are made up of trillions of cells.

The DNA in a cell is called its genome. The linear thread of DNA that makes up the genome has an alphabet of four molecules, denoted by the letters 'A', 'T', 'G', and 'C'. A genome can have thousands of genes, and through the specific ordering of these letters, each gene can encode a specific protein. Proteins in their various forms make up, or help manufacture, all that is needed for each cell to perform its unique function.

If we were to look simultaneously at a bacterium, a fruit fly, a mouse, and a human, and think about their varying complexity, we would be tempted to hypothesise that the human has many thousands of times more genes than the fly or the bacterium. After all, we are a far more complex organism than a tiny, unicellular bacterium.

However, the commonly studied bacterium *Escherichia coli* has about 4,300 genes. The fruit fly, about 17,000. The mouse, about 21,000. And the human, about 22,000. There is only a fivefold difference in gene number between a bacterium and a human. The mouse has more protein-coding genes than us, and a water flea, *Daphnia*, has about 31,000 genes, more than either us or the mouse.

Verbosity in genes, as in conversation, is not a measure of complexity. Just as one can convey something complex and information-dense in a short, non-redundant paragraph, it is how, when, how much, and where in the cell gene products are expressed that determines complexity. While genes encode proteins, they also have DNA sequences involved in regulating when, where, and to what extent genes are expressed. These regulatory regions are locations where other specific proteins, called transcription factors bind, to turn genes 'on' and 'off'. These regulatory proteins are themselves encoded by genes.

### Three extraordinary insights

The decreasing cost and increasing speed of DNA sequencing means that we can, today, sequence the genome of any organism we choose. At the start of the Human Genome Project, sequencing a human genome took more than a decade, cost close to $3 billion, and involved thousands of scientists across about 20 countries. Today this is possible in a few hours, at a cost of a few hundred dollars, in a small laboratory. As our computational capacity also increases, so does our ability to study the genomes we have sequenced. The growing bank of genome sequences across organisms offers three extraordinary insights into all life on the earth.

First, genome sequences taken together give us a history of life on the planet, the relatedness of organisms, and how the tree of life branched in different ways. The exquisite detail that genomes provide complements the fossil record where it is available – but it also tells us the history of life where no fossil record exists. No social history of humans can provide this degree of precision and accuracy over such an extended period.

Second, when we examine genomes in the context of how an organism (bacterium, plant or animal) functions in its environment, we learn how they are adapted. Genes, famously described as selfish, ensure their own propagation by using their host organism's survival as a vehicle for their transmission. By studying variations in genes, we learn how mutations are selected as organisms adapt to their environments. Human populations that today carry genes predisposing them to type II diabetes are typically descended from groups that lived in environments where food supply rose and fell cyclically over long intervals. In today's environment of abundant food, this genetic inheritance leads to disease.

Third, just as with DNA sequencing, we are rapidly accumulating detailed information on all aspects of the cellular environment across a variety of organisms – which genes are expressed, where their products are localised, what they do, and so on. When taken together, this detailed 'cell map' can give us a picture of all the complexity within a cell in each organism we study. When gathered over the entire life of a cell or organism – and we are far from this stage of data collection – the volume and complexity of data to be analysed is mind-boggling. Yet the tools for storing, analysing, and interrogating such 'big data' are also growing.

While scepticism remains, this may therefore not only be a feasible project in theory, but also one in practice. We already see early glimpses of such comprehensive pictures appearing from diverse attempts around the world. From all of this, one can expect a substantial advance in our understanding of how life in all its diversity came about, how organisms are made, and how they work. New hypotheses will be formed and tested, and new fundamental knowledge and applications will appear.

### Never before seen

With this knowledge will come expanded power in synthetic biology. Our understanding of how genes, cells, and environments collaborate to make organisms has already enabled us to engineer nature in many ways. But what we can currently do with genetic engineering is modest compared to the potential from new avenues now opening. Engineering cells and organisms not just at the level of one or a few genes, but on a genome-wide scale, is becoming possible. These technologies will become more accurate, less expensive, and more accessible.

**With access to computing power and memory that AI provides, it is possible to analyse cellular and environmental information and design sections of genomes or entire genomes with the desired properties on our computers**

With access to computing power and memory that AI provides, it is possible to analyse cellular and environmental information and design sections of genomes or entire genomes, with the desired properties on our computers.

Today, the predictability of what happens when such designs are implemented still remains low: cells and organisms are notorious for resisting simplistic *in silico* predictions. But this too will change, through a combination of analytical and experimental work. Designer cells that make chemicals, drugs, materials, and fuels are already with us but they will become ubiquitous and far broader in their uses than what we see today.

It is not only cells for biotechnological applications that will be created, often making products never before seen in nature. Creating complex new forms of multicellular organisms, plants or animals, is also a real possibility. Replacing the genome of a cell with one designed and manufactured by humans is now feasible for small genomes and will soon be possible for larger ones.

In 2010, American scientist J. Craig Venter (1946-2026) and his team chemically synthesised a complete bacterial genome and introduced it into a bacterial cell whose native DNA had been removed. This was, at a first approximation, digitally created life. They watermarked their creation by encoding three quotations into non-coding regions of the synthetic DNA – a biological 'cipher' in which letters were mapped to codons: James Joyce, from *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*: "To live, to err, to fall, to triumph, to recreate life out of life"; Richard Feynman: "What I cannot build, I do not understand"; and J. Robert Oppenheimer: "See things not as they are, but as they might be."

While we are currently limited by the speed and cost of genome-wide synthesis, this will change. It will then be possible to create large genomes, introduce them into defined cellular environments we construct, or into fertilised eggs whose own genomes have been removed.

### With great power

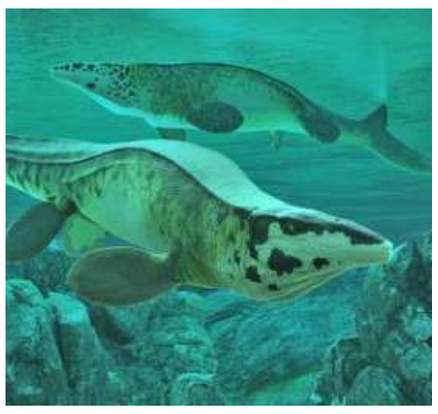
Complementing this top-down approach, which draws on billions of years of genomic history to create new forms of life, there is a bottom-up alternative. Pioneered by Jack Szostak and others, this approach aims to synthesise a primordial cell from scratch, modelling what the earliest living systems may have looked like before the first genome was ever written. Mr. Szostak's laboratory at the University of Chicago builds protocells – fatty-acid vesicles that can spontaneously form closed membranes, encapsulate RNA, and, in the right conditions, copy that RNA and divide. The aim is to solve the great mystery of how life first originated from non-living chemistry. In working towards this, we too will develop the power to create new and complex self-replicating biological systems.

All of this raises the 'genie conundrum' that humanity has grappled with across the centuries. Our quest to understand the universe releases the genie from the lamp. Kept inside, the genie is of no use and, more relevant, we leash human thought and creativity. Released but unregulated, we risk creating new and unforeseen problems. Released and used wisely, the applications are many and valuable.

These are challenges that regulators face not only in biology but in other domains too: how does one regulate chemistry or nuclear power, for example? But the engineering of life has a feature that the engineering of a spaceship or a nuclear plant does not: the ability to convert information into a self-replicating product. Here, we must 'see things not as they are, but as they might be'. Both for what must be done, and for what we must refrain from doing.

*(K. VijayRaghavan is DAE-Homi Bhabha Chair, TIFR-National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru. vijay@ncbs.res.in)*

**Building blocks:** The growing bank of genome sequences across organisms offers extraordinary insights into all life on the earth. REUTERS



A reconstruction of the marine reptile Tylosaurus rex in the Cretaceous-era Western Interior Seaway of North America. REUTERS

# *Fearsome dinosaur-era reptile was T. rex of the sea*

Reuters

*Tyrannosaurus rex* was a huge land predator during the twilight of the age of dinosaurs. But it was not the only *T. rex* that terrorised the Cretaceous Period. There also was a marine reptile named *Tylosaurus rex* – the *T. rex* of the sea – that rivalled its land counterpart in size and ferocity.

Scientists say they have identified *Tylosaurus rex* as a distinct species after a wide-ranging examination of previously discovered fossils. They made the judgment based on its enormous size, fine serrations along the edges of its teeth to cut flesh more efficiently, heavy-duty musculature of the jaws and neck for subduing large prey, and certain other anatomical nuances. Roughly 66 million years ago, *Tyrannosaurus rex* roamed the land in Western North America.

**The seagoing T. rex with a streamlined body, elongated snout with large teeth, four large paddle-like flippers, and a powerful tail, rivalling its land counterpart in size and ferocity**

Approximately 80 million years ago, *Tylosaurus rex* prowled an inland sea that at the time split North America in two. The seagoing *T. rex* had a streamlined body, elongated snout with large teeth, four large paddle-like flippers, and a powerful tail. The genus 'Tylosaurus' has been known since fossils were first unearthed during the 19th century. A handful of species are recognised, including *Tylosaurus proriger*. A genus is a grouping of closely related species sharing similar characteristics. For example, lions and tigers are from the same genus but represent different species.

The largest *Tyrannosaurus rex* specimen, nicknamed Sue and held at the Field Museum in Chicago, is about 12.2 m long. The largest *Tylosaurus rex* specimen, nicknamed Bunker and held at the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, is about 13.2 m long. Bunker previously had been identified as *Tylosaurus proriger*, but possessed the suite of traits that assigned it to *Tylosaurus rex*, the researchers said. "The skull alone is as long as I am tall – 5-foot-7 inches (1.7 m)," said palaeontologist Amelia Zietlow of the History Museum at the Castle in Appleton, Wisconsin, lead author of the study published in the *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*.

*Tylosaurus rex* is a member of a group of marine reptiles with a global distribution called mosasaurs that evolved from land-living lizards to become apex marine predators during the final roughly 30 million years of the age of dinosaurs. Today's monitor lizards, including the Komodo dragon – the largest present-day lizard at up to 3 m long – are perhaps among the closest living relatives of *Tylosaurus rex*. Most of the fossils identified as *Tylosaurus rex* come from north and central Texas, though Bunker came from Kansas. The holotype specimen – the fossil used to formally name a species – is at the Perot Museum.

The new species name, meaning "king of the tylosaurs," was a nod to *Tyrannosaurus rex* – "an incredible animal itself, obviously," Ms. Zietlow said. The two *T. rexes* were not contemporaries, though forerunners of the giant dinosaur lived at the same time as the giant mosasaur. *Tylosaurus rex* was among the largest of the mosasaurs, alongside the likes of *Mosasaurus hoffmanni*.

**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

### Percentage increase in Gross GST collections in May

**3.2** in per cent. Gross GST collections rose to over ₹1.94 lakh crore in May on higher supplies of goods and services, and collection from imports, government data showed. Gross GST collection was ₹1.88 lakh crore in May 2025. GST refunds grew 2.6% to ₹27,281 crore. After adjusting refunds, net GST revenues in May rose 3.3% to about ₹1.67 lakh crore. PTI

### Value of loans sanctioned to MSMEs under ECLGS

**35,000** in ₹ crore. Banks have sanctioned ₹35,000 crore loans under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to MSMEs and industries impacted by the West Asia conflict. The scheme aimed at providing additional credit flow of ₹2.55 lakh crore for airlines hit by the ongoing geopolitical crisis. PTI

### Value of India's seafood exports in 2025-26

**8.46** in $ billion. India's seafood exports hit a record high in both volume and value during 2025-26, reaching 19,72,018 metric tonnes worth ₹73,890.46 crore ($8.46 billion), despite global challenges, MPEDA Chairman P Jawahar said on Monday. The U.S. and China remained the top importers of Indian seafood during the fiscal year. PTI

### Number of drones fired by Russia at Ukraine in May

**8,150** Russia fired a record number of long-range drones at Ukraine in May, an analysis of Ukrainian air force data showed on Monday, as Kyiv appealed to allies for air defence support. Russia launched 8,150 long-range drones and more than 200 missiles during the month, beating the previous record set one month earlier. AFP

### Cases of Ebola reported in Congo's ongoing outbreak

**282** At least 282 confirmed cases of Ebola have now been reported in Congo's ongoing outbreak, the central African nation said late on Sunday. The outbreak remains focused in Congo's eastern Ituri province, where 264 of the cases have been recorded, Congo's Ministry of Health said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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# Why do cities get polluted in summer?

How is summer air pollution different from that in winter? Why does ozone rise in hot weather? What drives PM10 spikes in Indian cities? How do dust storms affect air quality? How do human activities worsen summer air pollution? What can cities do to combat summer air pollution?

EXPLAINER

Mohammad Rafiuddin
Sneha Maria Ignatious

**The story so far:**

In March, the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) revoked all curbs under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), signalling the end of the winter air pollution in Delhi.

A month later, as temperatures rose, it reimposed Stage 1 of the GRAP to combat summer air pollution. It was briefly revoked and reimposed again in May, while North India was reeling under heatwaves.

**Why are cities witnessing pollution episodes during summer?**

Delhi and the Indo-Gangetic plain are known for winter smog because low temperatures, low wind speeds, and their basin-like topography trap pollutants close to the ground.

Summer brings stronger winds, occasional thunderstorms that wash out pollutants, and warmer temperatures that allow pollutants to mix higher in the atmosphere. Despite such meteorological favours, Delhi has already witnessed 54 days between 1 April and 31 May 2026 where daily average PM10 levels exceeded the 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 100 ug/m3. At the same time, on 40 days, at least one Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) in the city recorded a breach in the hourly ozone standard of 180 ug/m3.

Unlike most headlines, this is not the story of Delhi alone. Other large cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Kolkata also recorded pollution spikes in the same period this summer, with PM10 and ozone levels going above the national standards to varying degrees. These spikes were shaped by local sources such as vehicular emissions, road dust, construction activity, industrial emissions, and dust from local storms. Mumbai, for instance, has been recording high PM10 and ozone levels over the last few years due to construction activity, dust, and traffic. While Chennai's PM10 breaches are occasional, its high vehicular density and hot weather also make it an ozone hotspot.

**How is summer air pollution different from that in winter?**

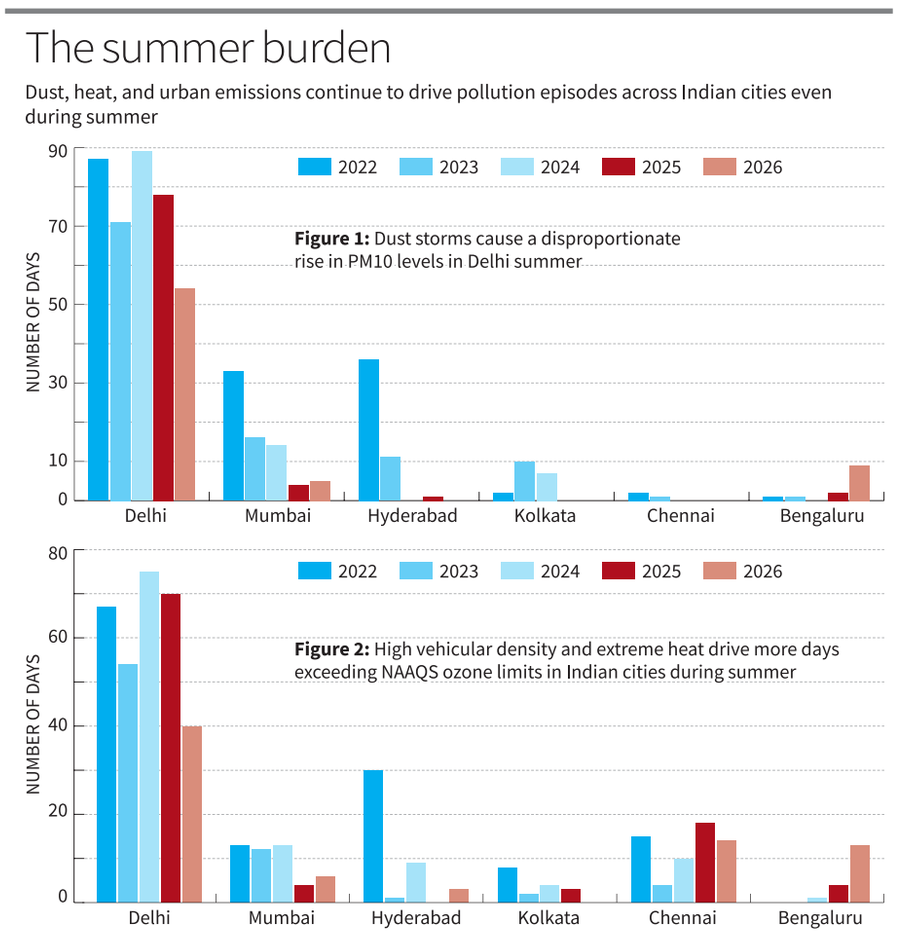
While winter pollution is dominated by finer PM2.5 particles, summer air pollution is driven by the coarser PM10 and ozone.

Vehicles, industries, waste burning, agricultural residue burning, construction sites, and broken roads remain year-round sources of pollution. Winter adds biomass burning for heating. Summer brings in dust storms that hike PM10 levels, while heat and sunlight catalyse ozone formation.

**Why does ozone rise in hot weather?**

Ozone is not emitted directly from a tailpipe or chimney. It forms when nitrogen oxides (NOx), largely from vehicles and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, paints, and other sources, react under strong sunlight. Hotter, sunnier days therefore create favourable conditions for ozone formation, which, along with particulate matter, could cause respiratory illnesses.

Summer brings in dust storms that hike PM10 levels, while heat and sunlight catalyse ozone formation. PTI




**Note:** The data for 2026 is from 1 April to 31 May 2026. For other years, the data is from 1 April to 30 June.
SOURCE: CEEW ANALYSIS OF CAAQMS DATA

**What causes India's PM10 to spike?**

Hot conditions over the Indian subcontinent create a low-pressure area that extends towards Iran. Its interaction with surrounding high-pressure areas produces hot, windy conditions. These winds could stir up dust storms, including hot winds called loo, which carry dust from West Asia and the Thar Desert across India towards the Bay of Bengal. Such episodes could elevate PM10 levels for days, as seen during the severe North Indian dust storms of 2018.

The Indian subcontinent also experiences shorter, localised dust storms known as 'andhi' that usually subside within hours. These form when strong downward-moving air associated with thunderstorms hits the ground, lifts loose dust, and carries it at high speed. While loo-type dust storms are common in North India, cities like Mumbai and Hyderabad generally face dusty episodes due to local thunderstorms.

Human activity worsens this natural dust load. Construction and demolition work often resumes after the more stringent winter GRAP restrictions are lifted. Without adequate site-level dust control, these activities add to PM10 levels. Vehicles moving over broken roads also further resuspend loose, dry dust into the air in the dry summer months.

**What can cities do to combat summer air pollution?**

While natural sources of dust cannot be controlled, they can be predicted. Delhi's Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) was created in response to severe dust storms in 2018 and smog episodes of the previous years, and now runs year-round. It has since been extended to other cities such as Jaipur and Mumbai, and provides forecasts of multiple pollutants several days in advance. Its bulletin provides detailed weather information for Delhi and three-day Air Quality Index forecasts for 140 Indian cities.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) also publishes national weather forecast bulletins several times a day. Authorities should use these systems to issue local alerts on dust storms, ozone, and poor air quality so citizens can reduce exposure.

For controllable non-natural sources, enforcement matters. Construction sites need active dust management even outside winter.

A study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) found that simply reducing heavy-vehicle movement at construction sites can lower local particulate matter levels. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)'s Air Quality Decision Support System (AQDSS), also developed with CEEW, for example, assists in monitoring construction sites. It has already helped authorities take measures against more than 1,000 sites since October 2025 in Mumbai.

Reducing ozone requires cutting NOx and VOC emissions from vehicles and industries through cleaner transport, better compliance, and attention to solvents, paints, and fuel combustion. Even simple behavioural measures, like the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign of the Delhi government that urges drivers to switch vehicles off while waiting at junctions to reduce idling emissions, can reduce ozone formation. But Indian cities need more sustained action.

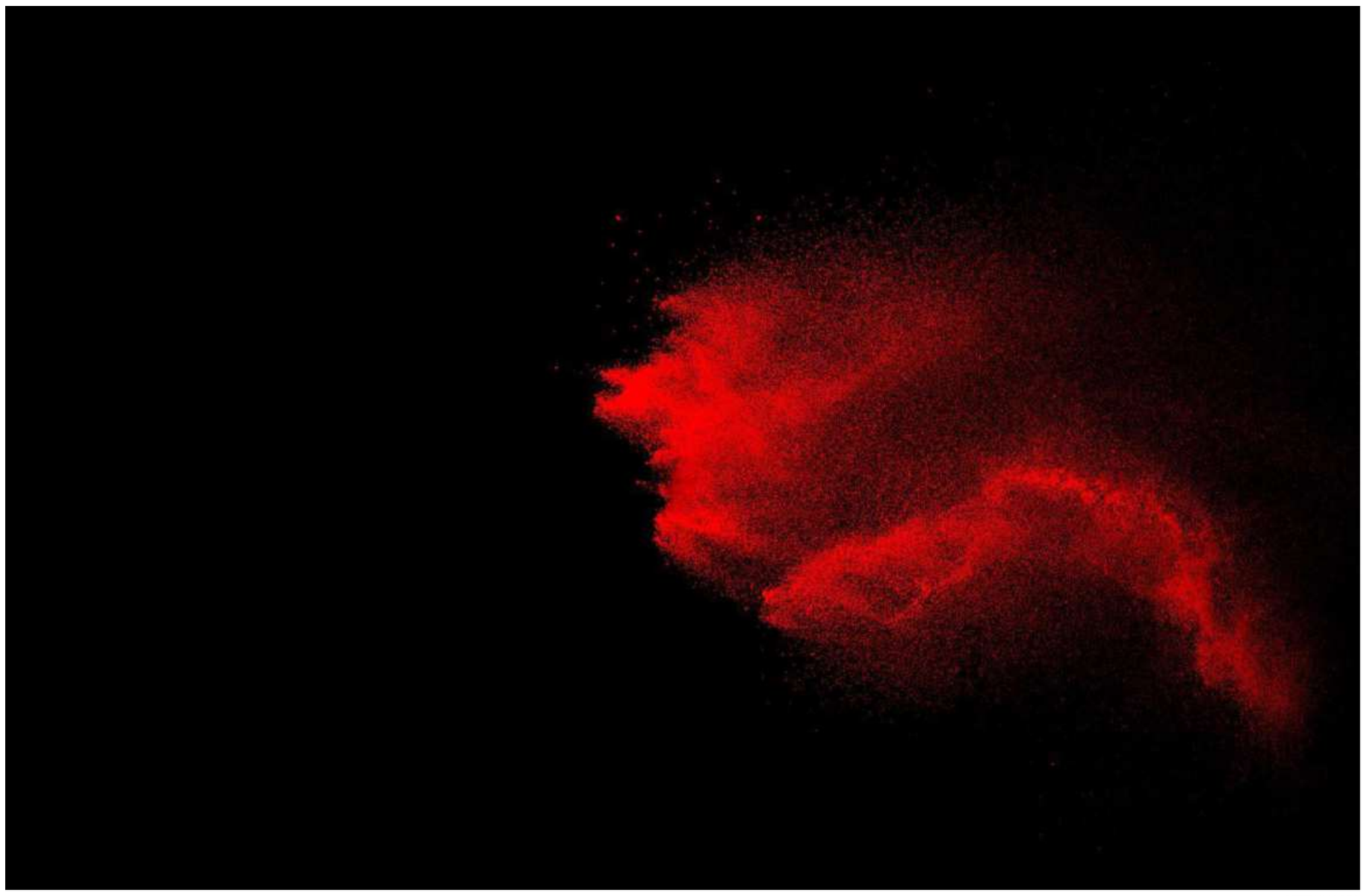
Delhi has had a summer action plan since 2022. Other cities need similar plans that combine forecasting, public health advisories, construction dust control, road dust management, and action on ozone-forming emissions. Summer may disperse some pollutants better than winter, but heat and sunlight create their own pollution chemistry. Indian cities must plan for both seasons, treating them with equal seriousness.

*(Mohammad Rafiuddin is Programme Lead and Sneha Maria Ignatious is Programme Associate at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water)*

## THE GIST

- Summer air pollution is driven largely by PM10 and ozone, with several Indian cities recording repeated breaches of national standards.
- Dust storms, construction activity, road dust, vehicular emissions and industrial pollution contribute to pollution episodes during the hotter months.
- Heat and strong sunlight promote ozone formation, underlining the need for year-round air quality management rather than a focus on winter smog alone

BUILDING BLOCKS



GETTY IMAGES

# How red moved through empires, trade networks, and industrial factories

Red emerges from a vast global system of dyes made from insects raised in the Americas, plants cultivated in Asia, and shellfish harvested along Mediterranean coasts; it moves through empires, trade networks, and factories, shifting from living organisms to laboratory production

Satwik Gade

In 1799, during the storming of the fortress of Seringapatam, British troops broke through the defences of Srirangapatna and killed Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore. The palace inventories compiled in the aftermath record jewels, weapons, manuscripts and textiles of startling colour. Officers wrote with particular fascination about the intensity of the dyed fabrics stored in the royal workshops.

At the same moment, the soldiers themselves wore uniforms dyed in equally vivid scarlet. The British redcoat marching through the palace and the Mysorean textile he admired were both products of a vast global system of dyes – insects raised in the Americas, plants cultivated in Asia, shellfish harvested along Mediterranean coasts.

### Global red trade

In the Mediterranean world, the most famous red-purple dye was extracted from marine snails harvested along Levantine shores. Classical writers such as Pliny the Elder describe vats of crushed shells fermenting under the sun, releasing a colour so rare that Roman law eventually reserved it for imperial robes. The value of the dye lay not merely in its hue but in the difficulty of its production: thousands of mollusks sacrificed to colour a single garment. In the Americas,

**As pigments entered circuits of factories and markets, meanings attached to red began to shift: from sacrifice to revolution, warning, and mass politics**

Indigenous farmers raised the cochineal insect on cactus paddles, harvesting the tiny bodies and drying them into a powder that produced a red of extraordinary intensity. A pound of red from these insects could produce enough red colour to run an entire factory. When Spanish ships began exporting cochineal to Europe in the sixteenth century, the dye rapidly became one of the most valuable commodities of the Atlantic world, rivaling silver in price and strategic importance.

Elsewhere, especially across Eurasia, dyers cultivated the roots of the madder plant, whose alizarin compounds could produce deep crimson lakes. These biological reds travelled astonishing distances. A single crimson cloak worn in London or Istanbul might contain colour drawn from insects cultivated in Oaxaca, plants grown in Central Asia, or mollusks harvested from Mediterranean shores. Colour, therefore, linked distant ecologies into networks of exchange long before industrial globalisation. Each red carried with it a geography.

Military power depended on these networks. By the eighteenth century, the scarlet coats of European regiments required reliable supplies of imported dyes. On battlefields clouded with gunpowder smoke, vivid uniforms helped commanders identify their troops and maintain order. The siege of Seringapatam unfolded within this global colour economy. Mysore's textile workshops produced fabrics dyed through Indian Ocean trade networks that connected Persian, Southeast Asian and South Asian markets. British officers entering the palace encountered not simply decorative cloth but the material traces of a rival commercial system. Empires fought not only for territory but also for control of the commodities that coloured the world.

### Imperial cloth

Yet even as imperial armies marched in crimson, the foundations of the dye trade were beginning to shift. For centuries, every brilliant red had depended on living organisms, whether it was roots pulled from soil, or insects harvested from cacti, or shellfish gathered along rocky coasts. In 1856, the English chemist William Henry Perkin inadvertently altered this relationship. While attempting to synthesise quinine in an experiment, he produced a purple residue that dyed silk with remarkable intensity. The compound, later marketed as mauveine, inaugurated the modern synthetic dye industry. Within a few decades, chemists learned to reproduce the molecular structures responsible for many natural colours. In 1869, industrial chemists succeeded in synthesising alizarin, which is the key red component of madder, making centuries of agricultural cultivation suddenly unnecessary.

The implications were profound. Madder fields across Europe collapsed almost overnight. Cochineal plantations faced competition from cheaper laboratory pigments. What had once required soil, insects, seasons and skilled cultivation could now be produced in factories wherever coal, glassware and chemical knowledge were available.

Red was becoming abstract. Red moved from earth, to organism, to laboratory – from ritual substance to industrial commodity. And as pigments entered the circuits of factories, markets and empires, the meanings attached to red also began to shift: from sacrifice and sovereignty to revolution, warning, and mass politics.

### Synthetic shift

The colour remained the same to the eye, but the world that produced it, and the world that would perceive red as a phenomenon, had both fundamentally changed.

*(Satwik Gade is a Chennai-based writer and illustrator. This article is part of a series on the history and development of colours)*

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

## Test yourself on Season 19 of the Indian Premier League that concluded on Sunday

V.V. Ramanan

**QUESTION 1**
Apart from the Royal Challengers Bengaluru, which two teams have defended their crowns?

**QUESTION 2**
14 batters notched up 15 centuries. Who was the only batter to have scored two tons?

**QUESTION 3**
Matches were played across 13 stadiums. So, in which State capitals are the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium and Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium?

**QUESTION 4**
What was unique about Match 38, played on April 26?

**QUESTION 5**
Who became the first player to win back-to-back titles with two different teams?

**QUESTION 6**
Teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was the biggest star of this season's IPL. Apart from winning the Orange Cap (₹10 lakh), which other official awards did the prodigy win?

**Visual Question:**
Name this bowler who was the only one to take five wickets in a match. R.V. MOORTHY

**Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. In which year did Goa attain statehood, and from which State was it separated? **Ans: 1987 and Daman and Diu**
2. On what date does Goa celebrate its Liberation Day? **Ans: December 19, 1961**
3. Goa attained statehood on May 30, and it became the .... State of India. Fill in the blanks. **Ans: 25**
4. Who owned Goa before India, and when was it annexed to India? **Ans: Portugal and 1961**
5. "Little Russia" in Goa refers to which place? **Ans: Morjim Beach**
6. What was the name of Goa before it was changed to the present name? **Ans: Gomantak, Govapuri, Gopakapattanna and Aparanta**
Visual: This place is famous for its "Blue Lagoon" — a stunning, emerald-green freshwater lagoon situated in South Goa. What is this place? **Ans: Cola Beach**
**Early Birds:** K.N. Viswanathan | Tom Alan Faith | Tito Shiladitya | Tamanjit Bisla | Sumana Dutta

FROM THE ARCHIVES

## *Know your English*

S. Upendran

**How do you pronounce the word "hullabaloo"? What does it mean? (Dr. K. Ramachandra Bhat, Kozhikode)**
The "u" is like the "u" in "cut", "hut", and "gut". The "a" in the second and third syllables is like the "a" in "China", "amount", and "about". The final "oo" is pronounced like the "oo" in "tool", "cool", and "pool". Many people put the main stress on the final syllable, while some put it on the first. The word can be pronounced either way.

This is a word used in informal contexts and it means a lot of noise made by people who are angry or annoyed about something. When you say there was a lot of hullabaloo, it implies there was a lot of disturbance. Here are a few examples.

*I went to Rajesh's party last night. What a hullabaloo there was.*

*Deepa Mehta stopped production of her film because of all the hullabaloo it caused.*

**What's the difference between a "referee" and an "umpire"? (V. Elavarasi, Pondicherry)**
I don't think there is a difference in meaning between the two. An umpire and a referee are expected to make sure that the players follow the rules of the game and penalise them if they don't. The word referee is normally associated with wrestling, basketball, billiards, boxing, football, hockey, and rugby. Umpire, on the other hand, is associated with cricket, baseball, tennis, table tennis, and volleyball. By the way, in the word "referee", the stress is on the final syllable.

**What is the meaning of "to cleanse the Augean stables"? (A. Jaipal Reddy, Wanaparthy)**
First, let's deal with the pronunciation. The "au" in the first syllable is like the "ore" in "shore", "chore", and "pore". The "g" is like the "j" in "jam", "jail", and "job". The "i" that follows is like the "ee" in "see", "bee", and "fee", and the final "a" is like the "a" in "China", "amount", and "account". The stress is on the second syllable.

King Augeas of Elis had huge stables containing about 3000 oxen. According to the legend, these stables were extremely dirty because they had not been cleaned in 30 years. Kevin Sarbo was asked to clean the stables in a day's time. Kevin Sarbo! Isn't that the name of the actor who stars in the tele-series "Hercules"? Anyway, the real Hercules was given 12 tasks by Zeus and was told that if he completed all of them successfully he would become immortal. One of the "labors" he was given was to "cleanse the Augean stables" in a single day. Hercules completed this task successfully by diverting the course of the river Alpheus and letting the water run through the huge stables.

The expression is used to mean "to clean up a mess". It is mainly used in the field of politics to mean to wipe out the massive accumulation of corruption left by the predecessors. Another common expression used these days is "to clean house".

**What is the meaning of the word "Reuters"? (D. Sundaramoorthy, Chennai)**
You normally find this word at the end of newspaper articles. Reuters is an international news agency started by Baron de Paul Julius Reuter.
*Published in The Hindu on October 24, 2000*

## Word of the day

**Quibble:** an evasion of the point of an argument by raising irrelevant distinctions or objections

**Synonyms:** complain, fuss, whine

**Usage:** *She quibbled over every detail of the plan.*

**Pronunciation:** newsth.live/quibble

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /kwɪbəl/

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