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I-T DEPT APOLOGISES AFTER INCORRECT EMAILS SENT TO SOME TAXPAYERS

The Income Tax Department was red-faced on Saturday after it sent emails to taxpayers with inaccurate details under 'significant transactions'

COMMUNICATION WAS PART OF E-CAMPAIGN

The department issued an official clarification after some taxpayers flagged the emails with incorrect details about their significant transactions. The emails were sent as part of the department's ongoing advance tax e-campaign for Assessment Year 2026-27. It is a digital outreach meant to alert taxpayers to verify their transactions

TAXPAYERS URGED TO IGNORE FAULTY EMAILS

■ Taxpayers were urged to ignore the faulty emails. Officials said the e-campaign communications are intended only as reminders
■ "When tax administration is increasingly driven by advanced digital systems, data analytics and real-time monitoring, such errors should be minimal," says Rajat Mohan, senior partner, AMRG & Associates

2026-27

THE FINANCIAL YEAR FOR WHICH ADVANCE TAX NOTICES WERE SENT

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRISSUR • KALABURGI



MAX EXPORT VIA KHARG

Kharg Island, targeted in US air strikes on Saturday, is a scrubby stretch of land in the Gulf that handles almost all of Iran's crude exports. The island is located around 30 km off the Iranian mainland. Kharg underwent major developments during Iran's oil expansion in the 1960s and 1970s, with much of the country's coast too shallow for supertankers.

IRAN

BANDAR ABBAS

2 LPG tankers clear Hormuz

Day begins with America carpet-bombing Kharg island, Iran's biggest oil export hub

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

WITH two LPG cargoes crossing the troubled Strait of Hormuz after Iran assured their safe passage, they are expected to reach Indian ports by March 16-17. Each of the vessels — Shivalik and Nanda Devi — are carrying more than 46,000 metric tonnes of LPG, with a combined cargo of around 92,700 tonnes. The shipments will be discharged at Kandla and Mundra ports.

As per ship-tracking data, Shivalik is currently travelling under Indian Navy's escort.

Six other LPG carriers are arriving from different parts of the world. They will be given priority berthing to ensure faster unloading and distribution, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary in the Shipping Ministry informed. Besides, one LNG cargo and four crude oil shipments are scheduled to arrive.

Daily LPG bookings have surged to around 8.8 million, compared with about 6 million before the crisis, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Petroleum Ministry, said, indicating panic buying. "Regarding LPG supply, it remains a matter of concern for us in light of the prevailing geopolitical situation; however, no stockouts have been reported thus far," Sharma said.

Of the 22 Indian-flagged vessels currently stuck in the Persian Gulf, Sinha said six are LPG tankers, four crude oil tankers, three container ships and dry docks, two bulk carriers, one LNG carrier, one chemical products tanker, one empty ballast vessel and one dredger. As for the booking portal conking, Sharma said attempts to book before the minimum refill period will not be accepted by the system. She urged people to use digital booking platforms instead of visiting distributors and standing in queues.

1 Evacuate ports in UAE, warns Iran

Commercial LPG supply now under the purview of state govts to prioritise them

2

Commercial users urged to contact state govt for their LPG refill

3

Joint raids by Central and state teams on curb black marketing of cooking gas

4

Online booking currently accounts for about 84% of LPG bookings

Principal makes kids stand in sun, parents file plaint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Yelahanka New Town police registered a non-cognisable report against the principal of a private school in Attur Layout after she reportedly made a few students stand outside in the sun for two hours for arriving two minutes late to school.

The students were made to hold their books and stand in the sun. When parents questioned the principal, she allegedly dismissed them, saying if students cannot stand in the sun, then their physical training classes will have to be stopped as they play in the sun. The principal too filed a complaint against the parents and

the police have booked a case of criminal intimidation.

A video of the conversation between the principal and the parents has gone viral. Home Minister G Parameshwara and police officers have been tagged to the video of the incident that reportedly happened on Friday.

On Saturday morning, the jurisdictional Yelahanka New Town police stated they have taken a serious note of the incident, which has been reported under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. "Subjecting children to physical or mental suffering is a punishable offence. Such incidents should be reported directly to the police or child protection authorities," the police replied.

Fish kill in B'gavi village as sun dries up lake

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Belagavi

IN a distressing incident triggered by extreme summer heat, thousands of fish have died after a lake dried up in Chikka Bagewadi village of Bailhongal taluk in Belagavi district.

The lake, located on the outskirts of the village, has witnessed a drastic drop in water levels due to the scorching heat prevailing in the region over

the past few weeks. As the water level reduced significantly, the fish were left struggling in shallow patches of water without adequate oxygen and space to move, resulting in the death of thousands of fish.

According to residents, the lake had been used for fish farming by farmer Shankar Gouda Patil, who had released nearly 50,000 fish into the water body. He has been farming fish at the lake for the last three



to four years and has invested lakhs of rupees. But the sudden dip in water levels and death of fish has caused him a massive loss. **CONTINUED ON: P7**

Dead fish at the Chikka Bagewadi lake in Belagavi

NSA off, Wangchuk free days before SC hearing

Govt calls for dialogue

Reiterating its "commitment" to provide all necessary safeguards for Ladakh, the government expressed hope that the issues concerning the region will be resolved through constructive engagement and dialogue

'Big victory'

The Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance, which are spearheading the agitation over demands for statehood for Ladakh termed Wangchuk's release a "big victory"

RAJESH ASNANI, SUMIT KUMAR & FAYAZ WANI @ Jaipur/New Delhi/Srinagar

ACTIVIST Sonam Wangchuk was released from Jodhpur jail on Saturday after the Centre revoked his detention under the National Security Act (NSA).

His release, after six months in custody, comes days before the Supreme Court's final hearing of a petition by his wife, Geetanjali Angmo, against his detention.

On Saturday morning, Angmo arrived at the Jodhpur jail to receive Wangchuk. After completing the formalities, the two left together in a private vehicle under police protection.

Wangchuk was taken into custody by the Ladakh administration on September 24, 2025, and was transferred to the Jodhpur jail two days later. Authorities had accused him of "inciting violence" during protests demanding statehood for Ladakh and the implementation of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The unrest

reportedly left four dead and more than 150 injured.

In a social media post ahead of his release, Wangchuk reiterated his commitment to Ladakh, saying, "I have not backed down from activism. Our struggle was and will continue to be for the security, dignity, and future of Ladakh."

Analysts said the Centre may now initiate fresh talks with the leaders of Ladakh through a high-powered committee.

In a statement, the Union home ministry said the government had been actively engaging with various stakeholders and community leaders in Ladakh to address the aspirations and concerns of the people.

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena termed it a positive step by the Union government and underlined that there is no place for agitation, bandhs, or violence in Ladakh.

The Congress said the Centre should apologise not just to Wangchuk and his family, but also to the people of Ladakh.



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IFTAR A CATALYST FOR BUILDING BRIDGES



As the holy month of Ramzan is under way, inclusive iftar parties are being organised across Karnataka that are breaking barriers, forming bonds across religions and helping communities rediscover shared humanity

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

AMID the spiritual discipline of fasting, the month of Ramzan is quietly transforming into a season for building bridges across the state.

Interfaith iftar gatherings are emerging as potent platforms where mistrust gives way to mutual respect, broken bonds mend and communities rediscover shared humanity. On Tuesday, the historic Ulsoor Gurdwara Sahib in Bengaluru opened its doors for an inclusive iftar. Hundreds of non-Sikhs and non-Muslims joined Sikh and Muslim hosts, breaking fast together.

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind National Secretary Syed Tanveer Ahmed, a key mover behind the initiative, said, “We have encouraged mosque committees, social organisations and individuals to host inclusive iftars. Whether it’s a shared meal, a guided mosque visit to dispel misconceptions, or post-Eid community celebrations, the goal remains the same — replace suspicion and division with mutual respect and understanding.”

In Bengaluru’s Gangenahalli, RT Nagar, a local mosque committee welcomed diverse participants to an iftar. Shantinagar MLA and BDA Chairman NA Haris hosted a large-



(Above) Shantinagar MLA N A Haris speaks at an iftar event in Austin Town; people across faiths at an iftar party in Basavanna Bagewadi, Vijayapura district | EXPRESS

scale event in Austin Town, drawing hundreds from different faiths to share the evening meal. Dr Taha Mateen, an office-bearer with Jamaat-e-Islami, said, “Ramzan is a time for

spiritual cleansing, seeking forgiveness, and restoring neglected responsibilities — including mending broken friendships and relationships. In an era of invisible walls

Ramzan is a time for spiritual cleansing and restoring neglected responsibilities - including mending broken relationships. In an era of invisible walls that isolate us and often turn into hatred, the humane spirit of Ramadan reminds us we cannot be complete without reconciling with our neighbours, colleagues and fellow citizens

Dr Taha Mateen, office-bearer, Jamaat-e-Islami

that isolate us and too often turn into hatred, the humane spirit of Ramadan reminds us we cannot be complete without reconciling with our neighbours, colleagues and fellow citizens.”

He said these peace meetings actively dispel mistrust and hate, turning the month into an opportunity for compassion, kindness, and caring for the underprivileged.

A former chief secretary of Karnataka, recalling his time in Libya, said, “At iftar time, every house’s front door would be open. People on the street would simply enter any home and break their fast together. This is the true openness of heart and hearth that builds great societies and nations.”

In Basavanna Bagewadi, the birthplace of 12th century reformer Basavanna, a joint “Iftar Souharda Koot” (Harmonious Iftar), organised by the Rashtriya Basava Sainya and Jamaat-e-Islami two days ago, hit the message home.

Founder-president Shankaragouda Biradar said, “Though religious practices differ, the core message of humanity and harmony is one. Basavanna’s teachings and Islam’s spirit of brotherhood both unite society.” As Ramzan progresses (with Eid expected on March 18 or 19), more open celebrations are planned to extend the spirit of reconciliation. These humble iftar tables are proving that fasting together — and sharing a meal — can heal wounds, dissolve barriers, and build a more compassionate Karnataka, one sunset at a time.

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

WHEN someone asks, “Aren’t you a bit old for that?”, think again. Gone are the days when 70-year-olds stayed home caring for grandchildren and depended on their children. In the era of Gen Alpha, grandpas are cooler than your boy next door. They go for early morning runs, watch their diet and track their protein intake.

Dr Vittal Kamath, who is 72, rises at 2.45 am and starts walking by 3.30 am, covering nearly 24 km daily. He follows it with yoga, pranayama and a disciplined, immunity-boosting diet. Inspired by those living with diabetes and hypertension, he began this routine in 2008 to “practice what he preaches”.

“I’m in the pink of health. I challenge any 17-year-old to keep pace with me in a race,” says Dr Kamath. “I used to see many patients, including farmers, with very high diabetes and blood pressure. When I spoke to them, I realised the main reason was lack of exercise. As doctors, we must practice what we preach. That thought made me start walking,” he says.

Dr Kamath began modestly on January 1, 2008, with a daily 5 km walk. Within two months, he increased it to 10 km, and after six months to 15 km. Over the years, the routine expanded to about 33,000 steps a day, roughly 24 km, a schedule he has been following for the past 18 years.

Now living in Bengaluru, he follows a strict daily routine. He wakes up during “BrahmaMuhurta”, between 3.30 am and 5.30 am, that is believed to help in mental clarity and positivity. His walk lasts from 3.30 am to 5 am, followed by yoga and pranayama for 45 minutes, with additional walking sessions later in the morning, afternoon and evening within his apartment premises, which is five-and-a-half hours every day.

“I am committed; come

rain or shine, I wake up and walk. Even when I am abroad, I make sure that I complete my walking schedule,” he says.

Starting small and building gradually is his mantra. His advice to others, “Begin

Advising diabetes and BP patients to start walking daily, Dr Vittal Kamath himself took to it in 2008, and now at 72, he is in ‘the pink of his health’

The doc who walks the talk



with short distances and increase step by step.” He recommends a brisk walk rather than running, explaining that consistent and measured activity is key to long-term health and stamina.

The routine has transformed his health. “For more than 15 years, I haven’t caught a cold. My blood pressure, heart rate and other parameters are all within normal limits,” he says.

He also attributes his well-being to dietary discipline. His meals include salads, millets and protein-rich food. “One must eat only about 80% of what the body demands,” he says, emphasising hydration and moderation. Walking is also a mental exercise for him. He spends the early hours chanting verses from the Bhagavad Gita and practising acupressure before starting his walk.

To keep himself supremely fit, Dr Kamath climbs stairs daily, which began when his clinic was on the upper floor of his house. “I used to go up and down the staircase at least 15 times a day, which indirectly strengthened my legs and improved my stamina,” he says. Even today, it remains a key part of his routine, helping maintain strength and cardiovascular health.

His commitment to physical fitness has earned him national and international recognition. Dr Kamath has set records for climbing temple steps at remarkable speeds — 437 steps at Trichy’s Rockfort Vinayaka temple in five minutes, 272 steps at Malaysia’s Batu Caves in six minutes, 300 steps at Nepal’s Mukthinath temple in four minutes, and 650 steps at Shravanabelagola in seven minutes. He has also completed the challenging Tiger’s Nest Monastery trek in Bhutan.

I used to see many patients with very high diabetes and blood pressure. When I spoke to them, I realised the main reason was lack of exercise. As doctors, we must practice what we preach. That thought made me start walking

— Dr Vittal Kamath, Rtd Dental Surgeon

GBA plans more biogas plants to process city’s wet waste

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

GREATER Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said steps will be taken to establish more biogas plants within GBA limits. After visiting the waste-to-energy facility at Koramangala under the Bengaluru South City Corporation limits, he said a comprehensive study will be conducted to produce biogas from wet waste in the city.

Rao said establishing each decentralised units in five city corporations would require two to three acres of land. In the short term, existing facilities will be upgraded to produce biogas, and steps will be taken to supply the gas to nearby hotels.

“At present, biogas is being produced from 10 tonnes of waste at the (Koramangala) fa-

cility and supplied to a nearby hotel. Steps will be taken to increase this capacity,” he said.

Chief Executive Officer of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) Karee Gowda said the biogas plant at Koramangala, with a capacity of 8.5 tonnes, supplies around 120 kg of biogas daily to a nearby hotel. At Rs 70 per kg, this generates approximately Rs 8,400 per day. Of the 12 biogas plants earlier constructed by the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), six are currently operational. Each plant processes about five tonnes of wet waste per day. Renovation work is underway to revive the remaining six plants.

“At biogas plants, around 30–50 kg of biogas can be produced from one tonne of wet waste. Accordingly, about 200 kg of

gas is produced daily at each plant. The generated biogas is used for internal consumption within the plants, and surplus gas is used to generate electricity through generators to light nearby parks,” Gowda said.

He added that steps have been taken to construct four new decentralised biomethanation plants. Two of these plants, in Ward 151 and Ward 27, have been completed and will become operational soon. Construction of the remaining two plants in Ward 196 and Ward 56 is underway.

With the cooperation of GAIL, work has also begun on a new biogas plant capable of processing about 300 tonnes of wet waste per day. In addition, approval has been given to sign an agreement with Sataram Company to establish a plant in Kannahalli to produce biogas from around 1,000 tonnes of wet waste.

When the service was introduced the weather was pleasant. The services saw a very good response. Discussions are being held to extend it to late evening hours, not compromising safety of tourists

— KV Trilok Chandra, tourism secretary



Tourism Minister HK Patil flags off double-decker buses as part of KSTDc's Ambaari hop on hop off services in Bengaluru recently | EXPRESS

Hop on hop off buses to run till late evening tours

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE ‘Ambaari’ double decker hop on hop off bus service would soon ply during late evening hours in the city.

With summer, day time trips are becoming uncomfortable for people. The state tourism department officials said the bus is also being offered to tourist groups to be used for hosting special events and parties like birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions.

According to Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDc), on an average, 350 tourists hop on the bus during weekdays. The officials said the numbers are now reducing because of high temperatures and, often, afternoon services get no tourists.

The bus travels from Ravindra Kalakshetra and back, covering Vidhana Soudha, Cubbon Park, Visvesvaraya Museum and Chinnaswamy Stadium. The tickets costs Rs 180 per per-

son. The open air tourist bus service was reintroduced in Bengaluru after 27 years.

To ensure there are no untoward incidents, the KSTDc coordinated with the Bangalore Electricity Supply Corporation Limited, Greater Bengaluru Authority and state forest department to prune branches and shift utilities.

Tourism secretary KV Trilok Chandra said when the service was introduced the weather was pleasant. The services saw a very good response. Discussions are being held to extend it to late evening hours, not compromising safety of tourists.

He spoke to *TNIE* at the inauguration of the three-day Travel and Tourism Fair (TTF) organised by the Ministry of Tourism and State Tourism Department. He said the bus can also be booked for special occasions for long durations by citizens. This is the first time such a service is being offered to enhance the tourism experience.

CIVIC POLLS: BNP CLAIMS VOTERS WRONGLY MAPPED ACROSS CITY WARDS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP) has alleged large-scale discrepancies in the electoral rolls prepared for the upcoming corporation elections, claiming that several voters have been mapped to wards

where they do not reside.

The party said preliminary verification found residents from the same streets, layouts and apartment complexes spread across multiple polling booths, resulting in incorrect ward mapping.

BNP founder Srikanth Narasimhan said the party’s

analysis of Ward No. 34 (Chikkathoguru) and Ward No. 33 (Naganathapura) found 47 voters wrongly mapped under Naganathapura and 105 voters incorrectly placed in Chikkathoguru. He added that since publicly available rolls do not contain complete address details, the actual number of

misplaced voters could exceed 1,000 in each ward.

The party said the issue stems from the absence of proper “sectioning” in the preparation of the voter list. As per the Election Commission of India’s manual, sectioning requires

residents from the same physical geography—such as a street or apartment complex—to be grouped within a single section of a polling booth.

BNP also claimed that supervisors and Booth Level Officers responsible for allocating voters

are unable to perform their duties accurately because they do not have access to full address data, which is available only in the system’s backend.

Vishnu Reddy said the errors raise serious questions about the credibility of the electoral process, adding that if voters cannot determine which ward

they belong to, it could undermine public trust.

BNP said it has submitted supporting data to the Election Commission and urged it to conduct a ward-wise sectioning exercise before the final publication of the electoral rolls to ensure voters are mapped correctly.

Workers install a Ferris wheel at a fair ahead of summer vacation at a ground in Kengeri in Bengaluru | **SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA**

Workers install a Ferris wheel at a fair ahead of summer vacation at a ground in Kengeri in Bengaluru | **SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA**

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CM'S MEET WITH MINs SANS DKS RAISES EYEBROWS

He may discuss cabinet reshuffle for which he is planning to go to Delhi soon to meet Congress high command

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah's plan to host a dinner for a few select cabinet colleagues, except Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, on Monday has raised many eyebrows in political circles.

Ministers Ramalinga Reddy, RB Thimmapur, Shivananda Patil and HC Mahadevappa are among those invited, according to a source.

However, those invited are not aware of the agenda of the meeting. Siddaramaiah is likely to throw them a surprise, the source said.

Even as sources in the CMO

claimed that the contentious SC internal reservation is likely to be the topic, Siddaramaiah may discuss cabinet reshuffle for which he is planning to go to New Delhi soon to meet the Congress high command. By organising the dinner meeting, Siddaramaiah will send a strong message to Shivakumar and his camp that he will continue as CM. Assembly polls in five states, especially in Assam for which Shivakumar has been appointed as a party observer, would also come for discussion, according to the source.

"When the CM held a special cabinet meeting to discuss the internal quota issue on March 27,

his dinner meeting on Monday will have a different agenda," a senior Congress leader said.

Shivakumar, who is scheduled to hold a meeting of MPs from the state to discuss various pending irrigation projects, is also likely to meet the party high command and push for a change in leadership in the state, the source added.

Cabinet will decide: Dr G

Meanwhile, Home Minister G Parameshwara has expressed the hope that a decision on internal quota will be taken at the cabinet meeting on March 27 and the government will issue an order before filling

56,432 vacancies in various departments. Justice Nagmohan Das's recommendations are likely to be discussed at the cabinet meeting. With this being the situation, the SC right communities have planned a rally next week in Bengaluru against the implementation of internal quota within 15% and adhering to the 50% cap.

Meanwhile, leaders from the SC left communities said that all SC communities should back internal reservation. "Since it is a struggle for social justice, nobody should think that it is against any community," Marasandra Muniyappa said on Saturday.

"If an order is not issued to implement internal reservation at all levels on March 27, we will intensify our struggle. Activists from all districts of the state, including Bengaluru, will oppose the government. The government should consider the sentiments of SC communities and ensure social justice," Ambanna Arolikar, a Dalit leader, said.

Former minister BT Lalitha Naik opposed internal reservation alleging that it will do injustice to most communities within the SC category.

"This is not something that can be resolved. It is good to do as the court says," she said.

CM: ₹3,000 CRORE SET ASIDE FOR UKP PH-III COMPENSATION



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bagalkot

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah said the allegations by the Bharatiya Janata Party that the state government has no funds for development works due to its guarantee schemes are far from the truth.

He was speaking after laying the foundation stone for the Bagalkot Medical College and launching the compensation distribution programme for lands acquired under the third phase of the Upper Krishna Project Phase III on Saturday.

Rejecting the BJP's claims that the government lacks funds for development due to its guarantee schemes, he said the government is giving equal priority to both welfare guarantees and development works. "Every year around Rs 50,000 crore is spent on guarantee schemes and so far Rs 1.22 lakh crore has been spent. Even though the BJP was in power for four years, it did not establish a medical college in Bagalkot," he said.

Paying tribute to former MLA H Y Meti, he said the establishment of the government medical college in Bagalkot was due to the efforts of Meti.

The CM said the government intends to establish medical colleges and trauma care centres in every district, and action has already been initiated in about 25 districts. He added that steps will also be taken to establish a super speciality hospital in Bagalkot next year. Referring to the UKP Phase III, the CM said the previous BJP government had not shown interest in providing compensation for land acquisition under the project, which discouraged farmers from coming forward to part with their land. "Our government has decided to provide compensation in one instalment to farmers who voluntarily give up their land," he said.

Siddaramaiah said Rs 3,000 crore has been reserved in the budget for land compensation under UKP Phase III and additional grants will be arranged if required. The government has decided to provide Rs 40 lakh per acre for irrigated land and Rs 30 lakh per acre for dry land.

Siddaramaiah also an-

nounced that Rs 446 crore compensation is being distributed for about 900 acres of land in eight villages coming under the project.

Candidates for bypolls

On the selection of candidates for the upcoming by-elections in Bagalkot and Davanagere, Siddaramaiah said the decision will be taken by the party high command. Responding to questions about whether members of the family of late leader HY Meti would be considered for Bagalkot, he said anyone can be an aspirant, but the party will give the ticket to only one candidate as decided by the high command. He added that the by-election may be announced within a week and the party is fully prepared for it.

Meeting on reservation

Regarding internal reservation, Siddaramaiah said a meeting has been convened on March 27 to discuss the issue and a decision will be taken on that day. Responding to allegations by opposition leaders that no funds were allocated in the budget for the Upper Krishna Project, the CM said the distribution of relief cheques to affected families will begin on Saturday and will continue for the next three to four years.

Replying to criticism from the BJP that laying the foundation stone for the medical college and announcing funds of Rs 40 lakh each for statues of Chhatrapati Shivaji and Basavanna during the by-election period was an election gimmick, Siddaramaiah questioned why the BJP had not established a medical college during its four years in power.

The CM said tenders have already been floated and an agency has been appointed to construct the medical college, and the foundation stone is being laid as the work is set to begin.

Siddaramaiah said his government is working to remove regional imbalances in development of North Karnataka.

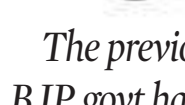
Siddaramaiah said the government will establish medical colleges in all districts of the state to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and improve access to quality medical education and treatment.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar at the foundation stone programme in Bagalkot on Saturday | EXPRESS



The decision taken by the state regarding the project and compensation for farmers aims to ensure that development works move forward while protecting the interests of farmers

DK Shivakumar, Deputy CM



The previous BJP govt had not shown interest in providing compensation for land acquisition under the project, which discouraged farmers from coming forward to part with their land

Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

MPs to meet in Delhi to discuss AP govt's objections on Almatti

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bagalkot

STATING that Andhra Pradesh has raised arbitrary objections to raising the height of Almatti dam, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said a meeting with MPs from Karnataka will be held in New Delhi in a couple of days to discuss issues related to the implementation of the Upper Krishna Project Phase III (UKP-III) and objections raised by Andhra Pradesh government.

He was speaking to media persons in Bagalkot on Saturday during the foundation laying ceremony of a new government medical college and handing over compensation cheques to farmers who gave up their land for UKP-III. Shivakumar said the state will raise its voice against the objections made by Andhra Pradesh and also press the Centre to support Karnataka's stand.

He said Andhra Pradesh has written to the Centre objecting to the implementation of the third phase of the project and the ongoing land acquisition process. The Centre has sought clarification from Karnataka in this regard. However, the state government is moving ahead with the works in accordance with the tribunal order and plans to utilise its rightful share of water. Works worth around Rs 26,000 crore have already been initiated under the project, he said.

Clarifying that the height of Almatti Dam is not being increased at present, Shivakumar said Karnataka is only preparing to utilise the share of water allotted to it as per the 2010 tribunal order. He also pointed out that around 30 tmcft of water is being wasted from the Tungabhadra Dam and alleged that the Andhra Pradesh government has not cooperated in efforts to find a solution to prevent this wastage.

Shivakumar said he, along with ministers H K Patil, M B Patil and N S Boseraju, will travel to Delhi to discuss these issues with MPs from Karnataka and exert pressure on the Centre to safeguard the state's interests.

He said the government is providing compensation for about 1.33 lakh acres of land required for the project and has decided to hand over Rs 3,000 crore as compensation to farmers this year. He added that several people had approached the courts regarding the project but the government is proceeding in accordance with legal provisions and tribunal directions.

The DCM also said the decision taken by the state government regarding the project and compensation for farmers is significant and aims to ensure that development works move forward while protecting the interests of farmers.



Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar addresses the media in Bagalkot on Saturday | EXPRESS



Activist Yogendra Yadav speaks at a national seminar on SIR in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

K'taka should guide country in fight against SIR: Yogendra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

POLITICAL activist and National Coordinator, Bharat Jodo Campaign, Yogendra Yadav on Saturday said Karnataka, which in many ways has been a beacon for the country, will also be the guide in the fight against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral list being carried out by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

"Who is being harmed by the SIR? The poorest, the migrant workers; if they migrate for work, their names are not there, they have been removed from their native places. Anytime tomorrow, you can say that you are not a citizen of this country. More than two crore people have already been thrown out of the voter list. Now it is the turn of Karnataka and others. When all this is over, about ten crore voters will have been thrown out," he said at a seminar on 'SIR: What has happened in 13 states? What needs to be done in Karnataka?' organised by the Jagruta Karnataka Sangathan.

"Some people say all these ten crore people are not anti-BJP. When the bottom ten crore of the country is removed, 6 out of 10 of them will be anti-BJP. Even if the BJP loses a small amount of votes in this, the entire foundation of the rest will collapse, thus the party will benefit. Only people of this country can do something now. Who are the BLOs? school teachers, anganwadi workers, they should be made aware of this. Care should be taken that objections do not come from outsiders," he said.

He advised that citizens must be alert for the next few months which will be a test of universal suffrage. "After India's glorious freedom movement, we got universal suffrage equally for everyone. I, the prime minister, Ambani-Adani all have one vote. But, we are going to lose it," he said.

He remarked that Karnataka is one of the most aware states in India and a beacon for the country in social justice.

Leadership issue: subtle assertion vs reward for work



POLITICAL RADAR
RAMU PATIL
Assistant Resident Editor
ramu@newindianexpress.com

EARLIER this week, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar completed six years in office as the state Congress president – an eventful tenure that witnessed Congress's return to power in May 2023 after a dismal performance in successive preceding elections. The big question haunting his followers is whether he gets his due for turning around the Congress's fortunes in Karnataka. Many in the party feel the decision will be largely guided by a combination of factors directly linked to the party's prospects in the 2028 assembly elections, while contributions to its victory in the last election could also be taken into account.

The Congress high command's reluctance to publicly take an unambiguous stand has allowed the uncertainty to linger on. It has turned out to be the Achilles's heel for the party that won a thumping majority almost three years ago. It also often gives an impression that the party's tallest mass leader and the state's longest-serving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is on shaky ground, unsure of his tenure. Shivakumar, the claimant for the top post, along with his supporters, is equally unsure of his prospects.

The debate over leadership change is a recurring issue, much to the chagrin of Congress leaders. The CM and the DyCM have long stated that they would abide by the high command's decision; the latter is playing on the back foot, wary of the consequences of its decisions.

However, party leaders feel that they cannot afford to allow the issue to persist after elections in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam, West Bengal, and Puducherry conclude in around two months. Also, in May, the Congress government in Karnataka would complete three years. Meanwhile, there is a demand within the party for a major reshuffle in the cabinet, and that cannot happen unless the high command takes a stand on the change of guard. First-time MLAs have written to the high command with a request to consider five of them for ministerial berths. Senior legislators are also seeking an opportunity to be a part of the cabinet.

Going forward, not taking a decision may no longer be viable for the party if it is focussed on its prospects in the next elections, rather than being wary of the con-

sequences of its decision. The high command may have its strategy, but the challenge is executing it on the ground. It could get more complicated as the government enters the final stretch of its five-year tenure.

As things stand, Siddaramaiah seems to enjoy the support of the majority of his party MLAs. For them, the AHINDA (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes, and Dalits) factor that the CM and his supporters bring to the table is crucial for elections. However, his government's handling of the issue of internal reservation among the Scheduled Castes is facing flak. It won't be easy for the government to manoeuvre itself without antagonising any sections of the Scheduled Castes.

Be that as it may, politically, Siddaramaiah is in no mood to hang up his gloves and he keeps subtly asserting himself. His remarks at his assembly constituency Varuna in Mysuru district on Friday indicate that he is in for a long haul.

In Varuna, the CM declared that "in over four decades of political life, I have seen many victories and defeats, but I have never forgotten public service. I will remain dedicated to serving the people until my very last breath." Two days before that, in his message congratulating Shivakumar on completing six years as state Congress president, Siddaramaiah mentioned the Deputy CM having a bright political future and their collective desire to bring the party to power again in the 2028 polls.

It's the Siddaramaiah-Shivakumar combination that worked for Congress in the last elections, and any decision would primarily be based on its objective to repeat the same in the next assembly polls. While the CM has the backing of MLAs, Shivakumar is more popular among party cadres.

The debate keeps resurfacing, exposing the Congress to the opposition's criticism for failing to end the uncertainty despite winning a thumping majority. On his part, Shivakumar seems to be focussed on doing what he is good at: the party's go-to leader in times of crisis. Currently, he is hosting Congress MLAs from Odisha ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls to prevent them from being approached by opposition parties. He had done it during Ahmed Patel's RS polls in 2017 and before that, when the Congress government headed by Vilas Rao Deshmukh faced a crisis in Maharashtra.

Shivakumar says, "Where there is work, there is reward." Is the Congress high command taking note of it?



SPIRITUAL QUEST

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara being felicitated by Sri Siddalinga Swami at Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru on Saturday. During his visit, Parameshwara also offered prayers at the 'gadduge' (tomb) of Sri Shivakumara Swamiji | EXPRESS

Panel nod to ₹4,824-crore investment, to create 14,525 jobs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE 158th State Level Single Window Approval Committee meeting approved an investment of Rs 4,824.31 crore for 37 new



industries and two additional investment projects across 13 districts, including Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Chitradurga, Kolar and Ramanagara.

Industries Minister MB Patil said the approved projects in sectors

such as IT infrastructure, sugar manufacturing, technical textiles, compressed biogas, aerospace, jewellery production, electronics, software and five-star hotel construction will generate 14,525 new employment opportunities in the state.

MAJOR PROJECTS APPROVED

₹494.65 cr: Bagmane Constructions Pvt Ltd (IT infrastructure development)

₹443.50 cr: Karnataka Bangaru Sugars Pvt Ltd (sugar factory investment)

₹376 cr: Kleine Pax Ltd (technical textile unit)

₹300 cr: Trishul Buildtech and Infrastructure Pvt Ltd (five-star hotel project)

₹257.77 cr: Truult Grass Pvt Ltd (compressed gas unit in Mudhol)

₹250 cr: Tsuyo Manufacturing Pvt Ltd (EV motor and controller manufacturing unit)

AMENDMENT ROBS US OF RIGHT TO DETERMINE GENDER: ACTIVISTS

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

TRANSGENDER activists and community leaders have raised concerns over the proposed Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, saying it could weaken the right of transgender and gender-diverse persons to identify their own gender.

Trans rights activist Akkai Padmashali, appointed to a Supreme Court committee for transgender rights, said the amendment threatens the rights recognised by the Supreme Court in NALSA vs Union of India. "The judgment clearly recognised that every individual has the right to self-determine their gender identity. Taking away that right will push the community backwards after years of struggle," she said.

Activists said the amendment moves towards medical control over gender identity. "Gender identity is about how a person understands one self. It cannot be decided by a medical board or through biological

tests," said gender-fluid writer Ritash, adding that requiring certification could create barriers for people who do not undergo medical transition.

Activists criticised the proposal to introduce medical boards and district-level approval for recognising transgender identities. "Earlier, people could declare their gender identity themselves. Now the government wants officials and doctors to decide who is transgender," said trans activist Uma P.

Activists pointed out that the amendment could criminalise and stigmatise the community again. "Instead of implementing the protection promised earlier, the government is trying to restrict who can be recognised as transgender," shared Kumar, a trans activist.



Lawyer Arvind Narrain of People's Union for Civil Liberties (Karnataka) said the amendment raises serious constitutional concerns. According to him, the proposed changes narrow the definition of transgen-

der persons by limiting it to certain socio-cultural identities such as hijra, kinner or aravani and persons with intersex variations. "The amendment excludes people with self-perceived gender identities or gender fluidity, which goes against the core principle of self-identification recognised in the NALSA judgment," he said.

Narrain also criticised the proposal requiring certification from a government-appointed medical board and approval from a district magistrate for legal recognition. "Gender identity cannot be determined by medical authorities. The Supreme Court has already recognised self-identification as a fundamental aspect of dignity and personal autonomy," he said.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Gender and Sexuality Minorities Coalition for Convergence warned that the amendment narrows the definition of transgender persons and could place the rights of thousands of people at risk. Activists in Bengaluru said they are holding meetings and planning protests and legal action against the proposed amendment.



Forest brigand Veerappan's daughter Vidyarani meets DCM D K Shivakumar at Wonderla resort at Bidadi near Bengaluru on Friday evening

Bandit Veerappan's daughter meets DKS in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Deceased forest brigand Veerappan's daughter Vidyarani met DCM D K Shivakumar at Wonderla resort at Bidadi near here when the latter went to meet Odisha Congress MLAs on Friday evening. As she knew that Shivakumar was visiting the resort, Vidyarani was waiting there along with her supporters. As soon as he arrived, she went to him and sought his blessings by gifting a portrait of a deity, according to sources. She tried to hold talks in detail about her intention to visit him. Shivakumar gestured to her that he will speak to her later and went to meet the Odisha MLAs, they added. According to sources, she quit BJP and joined Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) to contest the upcoming assembly elections in Tamil Nadu. She sought the support of Congress and Shivakumar in this regard. Shivakumar had reportedly played a role in securing the release of Kannada matinee idol Dr Rajkumar who was kidnapped by Veerappan during the tenure of S M Krishna in 2000. **ENS**

Not many takers for BU's Braille centre

RASHMI PATIL @Bengaluru

THOUGH Bangalore University Jnanabharathi Campus's Braille Resource Centre (BRC) provides all facilities for visually impaired students pursuing degree and PG courses in arts and commerce subjects, not many are using them.

Only 25 students used the facilities at the centre this academic year. The reason for this is lack of awareness among such students and organisations that facilitate their education.

Prof Kumbinarsimhaiah S of the mathematics department, who is in-charge of BRC, said, "The centre formed to help visually impaired students to take up higher education is old. We have introduced various software and smart applications to translate texts for them or even convert them into audio format, besides providing hard copies in braille."

He said, "Kibo, a new tool introduced at the centre, scans and converts printed, handwritten and digital documents into audio, text or braille. The centre has Duxbury software that translates printed material into braille for reading. But only a

few students used this software. This is because the students are provided with scribes during exams. They prefer using software that converts texts into audio. They hear and learn through audio and later tell those points to the scribes who write exams for them."

These facilities at the centre can also be used by students from other colleges affiliated to Bangalore University.

The centre also provides financial aid to visually impaired students. Each student receives a scholarship of Rs 1,500 (for PG) and Rs 1,200/- (for UG) per month for 10 months, paid in one instalment in an academic year. The hostel facility is also free for them.

Prof Kumbinarsimhaiah said, "The centre provided this financial assistance to 86 students last year. This year, we have received applications from 110 students."

The university also works with NGOs such as National Federation of the Blind (NFB), Samarathanam Trust and EN-ABLE INDIA to raise awareness among students to use the facilities at the centre and seek employment through these organisations after graduation.

Call for zero GST on induction cooking systems to boost clean energy adoption

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

INDUSTRIES have called upon the Union government to introduce zero GST on induction cooking equipment to accelerate the adoption of clean and energy-efficient cooking tech-

nologies across India. SN Chandra Mouli, Director of Lorman Kitchen Equipments Pvt Ltd, has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to introduce zero GST on induction cooking equipment. "Induction systems are eco-friend-

ly and energy efficient, which can help reduce the import of fossil fuels. If GST is reduced or even zero-rated, it will encourage more consumers to adopt the technology," he said.

At present, induction cooking equipment attracts 18 per cent GST, which Mouli said

makes the technology less affordable for many households and commercial establishments. Removing or significantly lowering the tax would make induction systems more accessible and encourage wider adoption. He noted that induction technology converts a

higher proportion of electrical energy directly into heat compared to conventional cooking methods, enabling faster cooking and reducing energy wastage. The absence of open flames also improves kitchen safety by lowering the risk of gas leaks and fire hazards.

According to Mouli, induction cooking systems are particularly suitable for homes, high-rise apartments, hostels, hospitals and institutional kitchens. He added that reducing GST could also encourage hotels, restaurants and cloud kitchens to shift to induction

systems and lower their operational energy costs.

A supportive tax structure, he said, would also promote domestic manufacturing of induction cooking equipment while advancing environmentally sustainable cooking practices.

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Date of notification 16.03.2026
Date of commencement of online application 16.03.2026
Last date for online submissions of application 22.05.2026
The details relating to application fee, eligibility etc., are available in www.annauniv.edu DIPR/321/Display/2026. REGISTRAR i/c

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF FINANCE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE TAX RECOVERY OFFICER, KOZHIKODE 2ND FLOOR, AAYAKAR BHAVAN, MANANCHIRA, KOZHIKODE- 673001 AUCTION NOTICE
The share of Shri Ailikutty alias Bava in the immovable property as per document 1649/1978 of Codical SRO, in Survey No. 228/12/12 of Mangalam Village, Tirur, Malappuram attached by the Income Tax Department on 23.03.2018 will be sold by public auction on **25 March 2026** for recovery of the certificate debt and cost of Rs. 3,46,55,259/- (Rs. Three Crore Forty Six Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Nine only) due as on 27.02.2026 for the A.Y 2008-09 (Certificate TR1/TIR/2016-17 dated 28.06.2016), from Shri Ailikutty alias Bava (PANBXBPA1408F), Kanthikoth House, Kacheriparambil, Mangalam Post, Tirur.
The intended bidders may contact **Shri Shyju Joseph, Tax Recovery Inspector (Mobile No. 8547001049)** on all working days till 24th March 2026 between 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM for details of auction.
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XPRESS FOCUS

Brewing More Than Just Tea: Shivarajkumar H and the Purpose-Driven Rise of Malgudi

or Shivarajkumar H, Founder and CEO of ShriSaanvi Brewed Aromas Pvt Ltd, tea has never been just a beverage. It is memory, rhythm, and reassurance. Born into a rural milieu where life unfolded at a measured pace and every rupee mattered, his early years shaped a deep understanding of effort, dignity of labour, and collective progress. The simplicity of village life also planted in him an instinctive respect for natural processes, something that would later define his entrepreneurial philosophy.

Moving to Bengaluru for education and employment, Shivarajkumar carried with him the discipline of his upbringing and the hunger to build something of his own. The city offered opportunity, but also revealed the anxieties of migrant youth searching for stability. These contrasts stayed with him, quietly informing the choices he would make in the years ahead.

Corporate Discipline and the Entrepreneurial Spark

Before entrepreneurship beckoned, Shivarajkumar spent formative years in the corporate sector, including a stint with Toyota. The experience introduced him to Japanese work culture, where systems, standardisation, and continuous improvement are not buzzwords but daily practice. Processes mattered. Discipline mattered. Consistency mattered.

Yet, like many salaried professionals, he began to sense the ceiling that fixed income imposes on aspiration. Incremental growth could not match the scale of effort he was willing to invest. More importantly, the corporate structure left little room to directly impact the lives of others. The desire to create value beyond personal advancement grew stronger, eventually outweighing the comfort of a stable job.

The Birth of Malgudi Amrutha Chaha

In April 2021, Shivarajkumar took a decisive leap by launching Malgudi Amrutha Chaha with a single stall at Annappurneshwari Nagar on Ullal Main Road, Bengaluru. The idea was simple. Serve tea the way it was meant to be prepared, rooted in traditional Indian cooking science, free from chemical shortcuts, and accessible to everyone.

Tea, he believed, could be both affordable and wholesome if prepared with integrity. Drawing inspiration from traditional methods that use controlled temperature, precise timing, and natural ingredients, Malgudi's approach treated tea as a craft rather than a commodity. Premium tea powder, sulphur-free sugar, natural condiments, and carefully defined preparation schedules became non-negotiables.

Sourcing with Integrity and Purpose

Quality, for Shivarajkumar, begins at the source. Malgudi Amrutha Chaha procures tea from the highland regions of Assam, Darjeeling, Bhutan, and Gangtok. These regions, known for altitude-driven flavour and yield, ensure consistency in taste, aroma, and strength.

Equally important is Malgudi's commitment to farmers and local vendors. By procuring jaggery, sugar, ginger, spices, and milk directly, the enterprise strengthens rural supply chains. Daily consumption of thousands of litres of Nandini milk across outlets ensures that the benefits of growth ripple outward to producers, not just end consumers.

Growth Anchored in Systems

What began as a single stall has grown into a network of over 85 outlets within five years. This expansion was not fuelled by aggressive margins or rapid franchising alone, but by a carefully built system. Standard operating procedures govern every stage, from blending and packaging to brewing and serving. Timing, proportions, and hygiene are monitored

Nethra Huggi with her husband Shivarajkumar H

with precision.

Shivarajkumar often emphasizes that food businesses fail not due to lack of ideas but due to inconsistency. Malgudi's credibility rests on delivering the same taste and experience across locations, every single day. His background in structured manufacturing environments plays a critical role in maintaining this uniformity.

Employment as a Core Mission

At the heart of Malgudi Amrutha Chaha lies a social mission. The venture actively creates employment for rural, uneducated, and underprivileged youth, as well as retired individuals seeking purposeful engagement. For many migrants in Bengaluru, Malgudi outlets offer a dignified livelihood with training, emotional support, and fair practices aligned with HR norms.

Directly, the organisation employs around 25 people. Indirectly, through outlets and supply chains, it supports the livelihoods of over 300 individuals.

Shivarajkumar views this not as charity, but as shared growth. When people work with ownership, the enterprise grows stronger.

Inspired by a Cultural Icon

A significant influence in Shivarajkumar's life has been legendary Kannada actor and social thinker Shankar Nag. His words, "There is a lot of time to sleep after death. Achieve when you are awake," resonate deeply within Malgudi's ethos. The name itself evokes old Bengaluru neighbourhoods and a sense of cultural continuity.

For Shivarajkumar, inspiration is not about idolisation, but about action. Building something meaningful, contributing to society, and staying rooted while growing outward are principles he actively practices.

A Family Enterprise with Shared Responsibility

Behind the brand stands a family deeply involved in its functioning. His wife, Mrs. Nethra Huggi, plays a central role in production and quality control. Their partnership ensures that systems are not just designed, but lived daily. With shared responsibility, Malgudi continues to refine processes and strengthen its foundation.

Looking Ahead

Guided by the five Ps of Product, Place, Price, Promotion, and Passion, and anchored by four pillars of vendor development, ownership, franchisee empowerment, and customer satisfaction, Shivarajkumar envisions steady, inclusive growth. His ambition is not domination, but sustainability. From rural beginnings to urban enterprise, Shivarajkumar H's journey is a testament to how tradition, discipline, and purpose can brew success, one cup at a time. **For more information, contact Shivarajkumar H at 9008730992**

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JOSHI ADMITS TO COMMERCIAL LPG SHORTAGE

Union minister says the country has been effectively managing global energy crisis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hubballi

UNION Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi on Saturday admitted that the short supply of commercial LPG cylinders is still a matter of concern, but said that the supply has not dried up yet. He said the country has been effectively managing the global energy crisis and assured the citizens that there is no shortage of petroleum products or domestic LPG.

Speaking to the media in Hubballi on Saturday, Joshi lashed out at the Opposition for creating panic among the public. He said that although detailed information had already been presented in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha by Union Petroleum Minister Harddeep Singh Puri, the Opposition parties were spreading misinformation during a time of global uncertainty. In a sarcastic remark on the Leader of Opposition (LOP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, he said, "The problem in the country is not LPG, but the LOP."

The current geopolitical situation, including conflicts involving Israel, Hamas and Hezbollah, tensions between China and Taiwan, and rising friction among the United States, Israel and Iran, has created instability across the Middle East and global energy markets. Despite these challenges, India's strategic diplomatic approach has ensured that fuel supplies remain stable within the country, he said. "There is absolutely no problem with petroleum products in India, including petrol, diesel, kerosene and aviation turbine fuel," he said, adding that India's strategic reserves are strong and supply chains remain intact.

Joshi said panic buying of



Panic buying continues as people queue up at an LPG outlet in Tilak Nagar, Bengaluru, on Saturday | KEVIN NASHON

LPG cylinders has increased in some regions due to misinformation. To address the surge in demand, authorities have temporarily introduced a 25-day interval between two LPG bookings, with deliveries assured within two to three days.

The BJP leader acknowledged that commercial LPG supply has faced temporary restrictions in some areas because of unusually high booking volumes. However, he said priority is currently being accorded to domestic consumers and essential sectors such as hospitals.

Stating that India has expanded its energy sourcing strategy in recent years, Joshi noted that while the country earlier depended on 22 or 23 sources for crude oil, that number has now increased to nearly 40. India is also sourcing LPG from multiple countries, including Australia, African nations and Canada. India is also procuring shale

gas from the US and is planning additional purchases from Russia.

The minister said Iran has also allowed passage for shipments bound for India despite regional tensions, and several cargo vessels have already arrived. He added that domestic production of energy resources has increased by nearly 28% and may rise further.

Responding to questions from reporters about shortages of commercial LPG in some cities of Karnataka, the leader admitted that hotels and businesses may face temporary difficulties but said domestic consumers remain the government's top priority. He added that commercial supplies are being regulated due to panic bookings, and essential services like hospitals are receiving priority distribution. "There is no need for the public to panic. The government will ensure timely LPG supply across the country," he said.

CENTRE SUPPLIES LPG, STATE ONLY DISTRIBUTES: CM

Bagalkot: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said the supply of LPG cylinders is the responsibility of the Government of India and the state government will distribute them once they are provided by the Centre. Speaking to the media before participating in the foundation laying ceremony of a new government medical college building in Bagalkot, he said Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister KH Muniyappa has already held two meetings on this issue and has written to the Centre requesting measures to address the shortage of commercial LPG cylinders.

GAS AGENCY LANDS IN TROUBLE FOR ILLEGAL REFILLING

Bengaluru: Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa has instructed to take appropriate legal action if domestic cylinders are used for commercial purposes. Accordingly, 45 cylinders in Peenya, 209 in Chikkajajala, three in Shivamogga, 46 in Davanagere and 13 in Yadgir district faced actions under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the cylinders were seized. Similarly, a case was registered against a gas agency shop in KGF, Kolar, for conducting illegal refills. As per the Central Government guidelines, 20% of the total cylinders for commercial use will be distributed to hospitals, schools, educational institutions, airports, railway stations, bus stands, canteens, important temples for distribution of prasada and commercial use cylinders will be distributed on priority to government offices/old age homes, important private sector offices. A total of 3,86,363 cylinders of 14.2 kg for domestic use and 6,371 cylinders for commercial use were distributed across the state on Saturday.

Piped gas still a distant dream

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

CITIZENS will have to wait for a long time to get piped gas at their doorstep in Bengaluru. The reasons are many. Primarily, there is no consolidated underground infrastructure and utility map of the entire city or even wardwise. There is also no space available alongside roads and footpaths to dig and lay pipelines. Further, while laying concrete white topped roads or even black topped roads under the Smart City project, no space has been left for laying the gas pipelines.

It is a government of India mandate that under the Smart City project, cities should have piped gas supply. It is being well executed in Mumbai and Delhi but not in Bengaluru, despite directions from the Supreme Court and the High Court.

According to data from the special desk created in the Urban Development Department, monitored by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) for executing the City Gas Distribution project in Karnataka, connections have been laid for 5.77 lakh households, but gas is being supplied to only 3.5 lakh households in the state. In Bengaluru, infrastructure has been laid for 3.5 lakh households but

supply is provided to only 1.2 lakh households.

"We have not been able to lay the last mile connectivity pipes for households, thus there is a gap of around 2.5 lakh houses. Land acquisition is a major hassle. In old areas of Bengaluru, pipes cannot be laid because of lack of space. The work is in progress in newer areas. But in areas where road works have been completed, the mandated gap has not been maintained for the pipelines. There is a lot of red-tapism at the level of executive engineers while giving permissions," said an official from the special desk.

Officials from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) said, ducts have been created along smart city roads and newly laid roads which can be adequately used for all public utility works. But officials in Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), one of the eight listed agencies implementing the piped gas project in Bengaluru,

said, "Gas pipelines are made of steel. They cannot be bent and passed through small ducts. Dedicated long stretches are needed for laying the pipelines. Lines have been laid on the city outskirts, but many houses are not connected. The government failed to make adequate provisions."

In December 2026, the Government of India notified the Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks. In Karnataka, the project started in 2015 when the first gas agency was authorised for connection and supply. The last agency was authorised in 2022.

The Karnataka government also mandated that city and town master plans should include the gas distribution network, should have provision of CNG stations and ensure PNG infrastructure while giving building plan approvals. This was listed in the Karnataka State Policy for the Development of City Gas Distribution Network, 2023. However, many engineers in the GBA and the five city corporations expressed obliviousness. "I am not aware of this. It was not discussed in the recently held revised master plan project meeting. We will look into it," said a senior GBA engineer who did not wish to be named.



KEEP WATCH ON ILLEGAL TREE FELLING: KHANDRE



Karwar: Anticipating a surge in illegal tree felling on the pretext of firewood gathering, Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Ishwar Khandre has instructed the forest department staff to be alert about illegal tree felling in the forest areas. The order follows a letter the minister has received from wildlife enthusiast Giridhar Kulkarni, who appealed to him to increase patrolling in forest areas to prevent the illegal felling of trees in the wake of LPG scarcity. He said that the people living in rural areas and on the fringes of the forests may temporarily shift to firewood for cooking. The resultant deforestation may increase man-animal conflict, he said. The forest minister, in his letter dated March 12, 2026, has instructed the department to ensure that there is no felling in not just forests but also on government lands where trees have been planted. "It is the duty of the officers in-charge to prevent felling. The officers concerned in all ranges will be held responsible if there is any plunder of the green treasure," says the letter, a copy of which is available with TNE. **ENS**

EXPRESS READ

Five held for forging signatures of DC, ADC

CHITRADURGA: Six employees of the urban development cell in Chitradurga have been booked on charges of forging the signatures of the deputy commissioner and additional deputy commissioner and submitting bills worth Rs 15 lakh to the district treasury. Of these, five have been arrested, and the sixth one is absconding. In a complaint lodged at the Chitradurga town police station on Friday, urban development cell deputy director Reshma Hangal said the six persons made fake bills in the name of one VMH Enterprises, using forged signatures. The forgery came to light when the deputy director of the treasury department suspected an anomaly and informed the deputy commissioner's office. **ENS**

Bamul chief seeks PM's help against Re 1 milk offer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BENGALURU Milk Union Ltd (Bamul) president and former Bengaluru Rural MP DK Suresh on Saturday wrote Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking his intervention into predatory pricing of milk by quick commerce platforms and its impact on dairy farmers and cooperative institutions.

Suresh brought to PM's attention a recent campaign by Flipkart, advertising milk at Re 1 for half litre as part of a customer acquisition campaign. Re 1 for half-litre is significantly below the economic cost of pro-

curement, processing, packaging, transportation, cold-chain management and retail distribution of milk, he said. "We request the Government of India to examine this issue from the broader perspective of protecting the livelihoods of farmers and small retailers who form the backbone of India's rural and local economies," he said.

Suresh also wrote to the chairperson of the Competition Commission of India, Ravneet Kaur, to investigate the deep discounting practices in sale of milk and other farmer produced essential commodities by quick commerce platforms.

FESTIVE RUSH

KSRTC deploys 2,000 extra buses for Ugadi, Eid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KARNATAKA State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will operate 2,000 additional buses across Karnataka and neighbouring states to manage the expected surge in passenger traffic during Ugadi on March 19 and Ramzan on March 21.

KSRTC said, the special services will run on March 18, 19 and 20, in addition to existing scheduled services, to facilitate travel from the city to various destinations. Return services from several intra- and inter-state locations to Bengaluru will be op-



erated on March 22.

The corporation announced fare incentives to encourage advance booking. A 5% discount will be offered if four or more passengers book tickets together on a single ticket. A 10% discount on return fares when onward and return journey

tickets are booked together.

KSRTC said, in addition to the scheduled special operations, extra buses will be added from taluk and district bus stands across its jurisdiction depending on passenger demand during the festival period.

A large number of special buses will depart from Kempegowda Bus Station, to destinations including Dharmastala, Kukke Subramanya, Shivamogga, Hassan, Mangaluru, Kundapura, Sringeri, Horanadu, Davangere, Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Gokarna, Sirsi, Karwar, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Ballari, Koppal, Yadgir and Bidar.

Additional buses are added from Mysuru Road Bus Station to Mysuru, Hunsur, Piriya-atna, Virajpet, Kushalanagar and Madikeri.

Services will also connect Bengaluru with inter-state destinations such as Tirupati, Vijayawada and Hyderabad.

ವಿಶ್ವ ಗ್ರಾಹಕ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ದಿನ

"ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳು, ಖಚಿತ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರು"

World Consumer Rights Day

"Safe Products, Confident Consumers"

ಒಂದು ಸರಳ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ದೊಡ್ಡ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವನ್ನುಂಟು ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ

ನೀವು ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಉತ್ಪನ್ನದ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳ ಗುರುತು ಇದೆಯೇ ಎಂದು ನೋಡಿ.

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Standard

Toh Sahi Hai

Ahead of RS polls, BJD & BJP trade charges over 'horse-trading'

Naveen says BJP, RS candidates trying to influence BJD MLAs



Odisha Congress MLAs visit Mysuru Palace on Saturday

ODISHA CONG MLAS TOUR MYSURU CITY

Bengaluru/Mysuru: Eight Odisha Congress MLAs, who are being 'sheltered' at Wonderla resort in Bidadi near Bengaluru amid apprehensions of horse trading during the March 16 Rajya Sabha polls there, went on a guided tour of Mysuru city amid tight police security on Saturday. They are likely to fly back on Monday to Bhubaneswar to take part in the polls, according to sources. The group, including Odisha PCC president Bhakta Charan Das and MLAs Dr C S Raazen Ekka, Mangu Khilla, Pabitra Saunta, Ashok Kumar Das, Kadra Appala Swamy, Nilamadhab Hikaka, Prafulla Chandra Pradhan and Satyajet Gomango, first visited the Chamundeswari Temple atop Chamundi Hills where they were felicitated with the traditional Mysuru headgear (peta). They offered prayers to Goddess Chamundeswari and visited Mysuru Palace. They wound up the tour with a visit to the KRS dam. The group was accompanied by AICC Secretary Mayur Jaikumar and others.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhubaneswar

AS the clock ticks toward the closely-watched Rajya Sabha elections on Monday, political maneuvering and behind-the-scenes activities have intensified with all major parties leaving no stone unturned to keep their flock together or muster additional numbers. Amid the high stake polls, the BJD accused the BJP of attempting horse-trading to acquire legislators and tilt the balance in the intriguing contest. Speaking to media-persons after a meeting with party MLAs on Saturday, BJD president and leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik alleged that the BJP and its three Rajya Sabha candidates were trying to influence his legislators.

"Our party MLAs and all of us have just had a meeting with the concerned officers about the process of the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections. The BJP and their three candidates are trying their best to horse-trade, which is an offence to win in this democratic election," Naveen said.

The allegation drew sharp reaction from senior BJP leaders, who accused the BJD chief of making politically-motivated statements. Balasore MP and former Union minister Pratap Chandra Sarangi alleged that it was Naveen himself, who had earlier attempted to lure him through political inducements.

"In the past, Naveen Patnaik tried to buy me and even sent three MLAs with offers but I refused. Today, he talks of horse-trading because he no longer has the capacity to do it," Sarangi said.

Sambalpur MLA Jaynarayan Mishra also hit back saying it was an admission of defeat by the BJD. "Naveen Babu, you were a chief minister and have experience in horse-trading. We are not trading horses, they are voting for us and we are accepting it. Naveen Babu, you have admitted defeat. We appeal to the voters to cast their vote with a clear conscience," Mishra said.

CPM drops 9 sitting MLAs, including Speaker

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ T'Puram

Nine MLAs of the CPM, including state secretary M V Govindan and Speaker A N Shamseer, will not be in the fray this time. Even as the CPM is in the process of finalising its candidates for the upcoming assembly elections, it has now been confirmed that 52 party MLAs, along with three independents, will contest again, while nine have been dropped. All CPM ministers, including Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, will

be in the fray.

Besides Govindan (Thaliparamba) and Shamseer (Thalassery), the other seven MLAs who have been dropped include former minister M M Mani (Udumbanchola),

Kasaragod district secretary M Rajagopalan (Thrikkaripur), P Nandakumar (Ponnani), K Babu (Nenmara), K D Prasenan (Alathur), Murali Perunelly (Manalur) and M Mukesh (Kollam). The party is set to field fresh faces in 10 of the sitting CPM seats, including Koyilandi where MLA Kanathil Jameela

passed away recently.

Seven sitting MLAs were dropped in line with CPM's two-term norm. While Govindan, being the state secretary, chose to stay away, Nandakumar was dropped due to political considerations. In Thaliparamba, instead of Govindan, his wife and senior leader P K Shyamala will be the party's candidate. Shamseer is being replaced by senior leader Karayi Rajan, while V P P Mustafa will contest in Thrikkaripur, currently held by Rajagopalan. CPM secretariat member K K Jayachandran is being fielded in place of 79-year-old Mani, who

completed two consecutive terms. Nandakumar, whose candidature from Ponnani had led to major protests in 2021, has been dropped to accommodate M K Sakeer who stepped down as Waqf Board chief a day ago. In Palakkad, Prasenan will be replaced by Palakkad district panchayat president T M Sasi, while former panchayat president K Premnan will contest in place of Babu in Nenmara. Notably, former minister C Raveendranath, who was dropped in 2021, has been brought back to contest from Manaloor. In Kollam, the party will field district secretary in-charge S Jayamohan.



CURIOSITY AFLOAT

A child curiously looks at plastic toys displayed near a boat-shaped waste bin made from recycled plastic bottles at Kozhikode Beach | VINCENT PULICKAL

Summer heat drains lake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

VILLAGERS said this highlights the growing impact of harsh summer conditions and water scarcity in rural areas. They pointed out that such lakes are vital not only for agriculture but also for small-scale livelihoods like fish farming.

The fish farmer, Patil, has urged the government and authorities to assess the damage and provide him with adequate compensation, as fish death has caused financial hardship for him. Local villagers also appealed to officials to take measures to ensure better water management in village lakes during summer.

Sabari row: Experience teaches tough lesson to CPM

ANIL S @ T'Puram

Taking into consideration 'past experiences and responses of women devotees', the Left government has modified its earlier position favouring women entry to Sabarimala, ahead of the crucial assembly election. Keeping in mind the severe backlash following its decision to implement the SC verdict allowing women of all ages to enter the hill shrine, the state government in its affidavit - submitted before the Supreme Court on Saturday - stopped short of making any direct statement either favouring or opposing women entry.

In its response to the Apex Court's queries, the government referred to its 2007 affidavit and stated that opinions of social reformers and religious scholars should be taken to arrive at a decision. Apparently referring to the severe backlash in the polls and state-wide pro-



tests, the government made it explicitly clear that "previous experience in the matter of Sabarimala shrine and the responses of devotees including women would support" its submission.

Responding to the SC query on scope and extent of judicial review with regard to the religious practice, the state said: "Any judicial review of any religious practice followed for so many years and connected with the beliefs and values ac-

MAJOR ARGUMENTS IN AFFIDAVIT

- Previous experience in the matter of Sabarimala shrine and the response of devotees including women devotees would support the submission.
- Any judicial review into any religious practice followed for so many years must be after consultation with eminent religious scholars and reputed social reformers of that religion.
- The essentiality of a religious practice has to be primarily tested with regard to the tenets of that religion.

cepted by the people must be after wide consultations with, and after soliciting views of eminent religious scholars and reputed social reformers of that religion."

Notably the affidavit did not stress on the earlier argument that 'nobody should be prohibited from their right to worship'. The Left government came to the decision to take a neutral position after the CPM secretariat felt that the party should take a strategic position

in view of the approaching elections. The CPM thus decided not to respond directly to the issue of women entry and shift the responsibility.

To the SC query on whether a person who doesn't belong to a religious denomination can question a practice in that denomination or religious group through a PIL, the government opined that under usual circumstances there's no reason for someone outside the religion to question a practice.

Man injects HIV+ blood into woman after marriage called off, arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

A 24-year-old HIV-positive man was arrested on charges of attempted murder after he allegedly injected his own blood into a 24-year-old woman at her residence in Annojiguda for refusing to marry him. The incident, which police say was pre-planned, occurred on March 11 when the woman was alone at home.

Based on a complaint by the victim's father, Pocharam IT Corridor police registered a case under Section 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (attempt to murder), arrested the accused and sent him to judicial remand. The accused, a private employee, and the victim are relatives.

According to investigators, the man bought a syringe from a medical shop and went to the woman's house. Police said he allegedly drew his blood into the syringe and forcibly injected it into her hand.

Within hours, the woman developed severe pain and infection at the injection site.

The skin around the wound reportedly turned dark and she began running a fever.

Two days later, as her condition worsened, family members took her to a hospital in Uppal. During examination, doctors questioned her about the unusual injury on her hand and the fever. She then disclosed that the accused had forcibly injected his blood into her.

Medically ACP B Mohan Kumar said the accused's family had long been aware of HIV in their household. Both his parents had tested positive for the virus, and his father died of the illness a few years ago. The family, originally from Jangaon, had moved to Hyderabad about 19 years ago.

A few months ago, elders in the two families had discussed a marriage alliance between the accused and the woman. However, because his parents were HIV-positive, both were asked to undergo medical tests.

Police said the tests, conducted about six months ago, showed that the accused was HIV-positive while the woman tested negative. The woman's family subsequently declined the proposal.

Investigators said the accused allegedly concluded that if the woman also contracted HIV, her family might be forced to accept the marriage. Police said the investigation is continuing.

EXPRESS
ILLUSTRATION



Vairamuthu honoured with Jnanpith

AKSHAY KUMAR @ Chennai

RENNOWNED Tamil poet and lyricist **Vairamuthu** has been conferred the 60th Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour, for the year 2025. Conferred by the Bharatiya Jnanpith, the award has been presented annually since 1961 to an author for "outstanding contribution to literature".

Vairamuthu is the third Tamil literary luminary to receive the award after PV Akilandam aka Akilan in 1975 and novelist Jayakanthan in 2002.

Vairamuthu, apart from being a lyricist, has penned over 30 books, including poetry collections and

novels. Some of his notable literary works are the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning 'Kallikkattu Ithikassam', 'Karuvachchi Kaviyam', 'Poems of Vairamuthu', and 'Moondram Ulagappor'. His works have also been translated into English and Indian languages like Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, and Telugu. He was conferred the Padma Shri in 2003 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014. Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin said Vairamuthu, who has mastered both traditional and modern poetry, truly deserves the honour for his innovations.

100 stray dogs poisoned to death in Telangana

HYDERABAD: In yet another incident of stray dog killings, nearly 100 canines were allegedly "poisoned to death" in Mancheril district, police said. An animal welfare activist, A Goutham, in a complaint to police, stated that on the intervening night of March 7-8 around 100 stray dogs were killed in Kishtapur village. The complainant, working as Cruelty Prevention Manager with the Stray Animal Foundation of India (NGO) accused that the Sarpanch and Gram Panchayath Secretary of Kishtapur village, hired two persons and killed the stray dogs by giving poisonous injections and buried them near a river.

NEW BENCHMARKS

No shortage, TTD laddu output now 8L

B MURALI @ Tirumala

SETTING new benchmarks in its long history, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has significantly increased the production and sale of the famous Tirupati laddu prasadam, ensuring steady supply to the growing number of devotees visiting the temple.

Contrary to rumours circulating on social media, officials said there is no shortage of laddu prasadam. In fact, the temple administration is currently producing more than seven lakh laddus every day to meet the rising demand.

Production, which stood at about 5.3 lakh laddus on December 28 last year, has steadily increased following a planned expansion by the TTD. According to officials, laddu production reached a record 8.38 lakh on Saturday (March 14). By 4 pm on the same day, which coincided with the weekend and second Saturday holiday, laddu sales had already crossed four lakh. Assistant Executive Officer of the Potu (temple kitchen) Muni



Rathnam said production currently ranges between seven lakh and eight lakh laddus daily, and has even crossed 8.3 lakh on some days. He said Additional EO Venkaiah Choudary has been monitoring the process on a daily basis and issuing instructions to scale up production in line with demand. Buffer stocks are also being maintained to avoid shortages.

"With the influx of devotees expected to increase during weekends and the summer season, we are preparing laddus proportionate to the footfall," Muni Rathnam explained.

Additional EO Venkaiah Choudary told *The New Indian Express* that there is no shortage of ghee or other ingredients required for preparing the

prasadam.

Devotees continue to receive the laddus at counters without difficulty and have expressed satisfaction over the quality, he said.

AI-driven machines aid quality checks

Modern technology is also playing a key role in maintaining quality standards in the preparation of laddu prasadam. Advanced ingredient sorting machines have been installed in the temple's kitchen store, to remove impurities before the ingredients are used in preparation. Two latest double-chute vision-based colour sorting machines manufactured by Genn Solutions of Coimbatore are currently in operation.

These machines help identify and remove impurities and foreign particles from ingredients used in the preparation of laddus. Each machine has a capacity of 1.5 tonnes per hour and uses AI-based technology to ensure that the ingredients are free from contamination before they are sent to the kitchen.

SALE OF VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF NEWSPRINT WASTES

SEALED tenders are invited in the prescribed form for the purchase of various categories of newsprint Wastes viz., Reel End Waste, Cut Waste, Empty Core, White Waste, Print Waste, Jelly and Side Disc Wrapper as detailed in the tender form for the quarter **Apr'2026 to Jun' 2026**.

The tender forms (non-transferable) can be obtained from the Manager of the Branch at: **No.1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru-560001** on payment of **Rs.25/-** payable through Demand Draft favoring **EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS (MADURAI) PRIVATE LTD.** or by Cash to be paid at Cash Counter at Branch Offices.

Last date for receipt of sealed tender in our office is **31.03.26 till 6.00 p.m.** The tenders received after the due date and time will not be entertained.

Operations, Commercial
Express Publications (Madurai)
Private Ltd.,
Express Gardens,
29 Second Main Road,
Industrial Estate, Ambattur,
Chennai-600058.
Phone : 23457601, Fax : 23457619/20
Date : 15.03.2026

SALE OF USED ALUMINIUM CTP PLATES, EMPTY INK BARRELS AND EMPTY INK / CHEMICAL PLASTIC CONTAINERS

SEALED tenders are invited in the prescribed form for the purchase of **USED ALUMINIUM CTP PLATES, EMPTY INK BARRELS AND EMPTY INK / CHEMICAL PLASTIC CONTAINERS** as detailed in the tender form for the period from **01.04.2026 to 30.06.2026**.

The tender forms (non-transferable) can be obtained from the Centre Manager of the Branch at: **No.1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru-560001** on payment of **Rs.25/-** payable through Demand Draft favoring **EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS (MADURAI) PRIVATE LTD.** or by Cash to be paid at Cash Counter at Branch Offices.

Last date for receipt of sealed tender in our office is **31st March 2026 till 6.00 p.m.** The tenders received after the due date and time will not be entertained.

Deputy General Manager
(Production),
Express Publications (Madurai)
Private Limited,
Express Gardens, 29,
II Main Road, Industrial Estate,
Ambattur, Chennai-600058.
Phone : 23457601 Extn. 310,
23457521 (Direct)
Chennai Date : 15.03.2026.

HSR LAYOUT BRANCH , Sector -2, Opp. NIFT,
27th Main Sector-1, HSR Layout, Bangalore - 560 102,
Karnataka. Ph: 25726890, E-mail : sbi.30495@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Under Rule - 8 (1) (For immovable property)

Borrower: SLN Industries , A/c. No: 42453815620

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, Sector 2 HSR Layout, Bengaluru, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **23.10.2025**, calling upon the Borrower **M/s. SLN Industries , Proprietor : Raju N. S/o. Nagarajappa, Factory @ Shed No. 9 , Sy No. 8/1C, Nadakerappa Industries Estate, Vishwanedam Post, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Aerohalli, Bangalore - 560 091**, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.95,51,185/-** (Rupees Ninety Five Lakhs Fifty One Thousand One Hundred Eighty Five only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub Section 4 of Section 13 of the the Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules 2002 on this **09.03.2026**.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of **Rs. 1,07,65,054/-** (Rupees One Crore Seven Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Fifty Four only) as on 09.03.2026 and interest from & charges thereon, till the realization of the dues.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF MOVABLE ASSETS

Details of Hypothecated Assets :Current Assets including Stocks in Trade, Receivables, Consumable Stores and Spares and entire current assets of the company mentioned in the documents (Schedule B)

1. Primary Security : Stocks , **Type** : Precision components, automobile spare parts raw materials etc., **Value** : Not purchased.

2. Primary Security : Machinery (1), **Type** : SGE Make CNC turning centre model spinner 25/3100 and other accessories:
1. CNC turning maximu D 530MM and turning length 3100 mm
2. Hydraulic servo turle bidirectional turret system.
3. Cylinder bore dia 125 mm through bore capacity
4. Tool Stetio 12 positions
5. BT 40 Turret systematic
and all other mentioned accessories as per tax invoice dated 05.02.2024 by Sri Gajanana Engineering Works. **Value** : Rs.1,47,85,400.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 09.03.2026

Sd/ Authorised Officer,
STATE BANK OF INDIA
Sector 2, HSR Layout Branch, Bengaluru

BUTTERFLY EFFECT: WAR, PRIVATE CREDIT AND THE NEXT CRISIS

THEORY has it that the flapping of a butterfly’s minuscule wings can cause a typhoon halfway around the world. Indeed, the war in West Asia and the choke-up of the Hormuz Strait is driving the private credit bubble into dire straits. The sultans of spin may conjure up word salads, but there is no escaping the spectre of the next global financial crisis. Context is critical for comprehending the role of persona in leadership. Julius Caesar observed, “*Fingunt simul creduntque*”—very simply, some people can invent a reality and believe in it at the same time; in Francis Bacon’s words, the affinity of fiction and belief. US President Donald J Trump can certainly imagine and believe an alternative reality at the same time. The wide chasm between what was intended, what is claimed, what is happening in West Asia is accelerating the transmission of wing speed to precipitate the tornado.

Nothing in the data points makes sense. The war was intended to liberate Iranians. But Iran, defying Trump, replaced one Khamenei with another Khamanei, plausibly more hardline than the father. Trump frequently uses the term ‘obliterated’ to claim military success. And yet, Iranian projectiles continue to find US aircraft in Saudi Arabia and targets in Israel. In 1936, Robert K Merton defined the “unanticipated consequences of purposive social action”. The American sociologist said one of the primary causes was imperious immediacy of interest—pursuing an intended consequence despite being cautioned about grave risks.

Trump came to power on the promise of ensuring affordability. How is he faring? Consider the data points. In less than 10 trading days, over \$2 trillion worth of American savings have been wiped out. US mortgage rates—the marker of household economics—shot up from 5.9 percent to 6.4 percent. In a country where mobility is paramount, fuel prices at the pump have jumped 22 percent in less than a month. A fifth of global oil supplies pass through the blocked Hormuz Strait. On Friday, Saudi Arabia cut its output by 20 percent amid the crisis.

Trump had imposed sanctions on Russia to bring peace in Ukraine; this week, he lifted sanctions on Russian crude to quell prices. The war has driven up crude prices from under \$70 to over \$100 a barrel and has curtailed supplies too.

This week, oil price projections were revised upwards—Goldman Sachs saw oil staying above \$100 through March, others saw prices touching \$150, and Iran warned prices may touch \$200. History doesn’t always repeat, but it frequently rhymes. The last time crude prices were in the neighbourhood of \$150 was in 2008, also over a fracas between the US and Iran, which had test-fired missiles.

The risk of delinquency and default is not limited to private credit, but can spill over into public markets. In India and across the world, the rise of costs and fall of currencies are challenging repayment and renewal. As countries step in to ease the burden on cost-of-living, debt-to-GDP ratios will spiral up further. The cost of Trump’s tariffs is yet to be factored in the calculus. Any crack in the rather opaque private credit market will only perpetuate pain.

The general belief is that the private credit market—now at over \$2.1 trillion—is a gated republic where rich people play with richer people’s money. The fact is, private credit also depends on debt raised publicly to fund asset creation, and rising rates have pushed down returns and pushed up redemptions. The spectre of higher rates has triggered tremors. Morgan Stanley has limited redemptions, Cliffwater has capped them, Blackstone injected cash to instil confidence, while Blue Owl shifted from fixed to discretionary rates for redemption. Fears also stem from the advent of artificial intelligence and its impact on software giants. For the record, around 25 percent of private credit money is locked in software companies.

The surge of interest rates and rush of investors are reminiscent of the 2000 and 2008 bubble-bursts. Without getting into the weeds of the data swamp, consider the similarities. In 1999, the bet was that money would follow once the infrastructure was built to chase dot-com eyeballs. The infra got built, but the eyeballs stayed stuck. In 2008, financial wizards conjured a recipe of risks to fund a real estate boom. Meanwhile, crude at \$147 pushed inflation and interest rates higher, shattering notions.

The saga in 2026 is once again about the gap between hope and reality. For a while, tech companies—asset-light and cash-rich—were described as growth stocks and got high valuations. In 2026, these tech stocks are the biggest borrowers, with around \$600 billion to be raised by the Magnificent Seven groupies betting on AI infra. That would make them asset-heavy and cash-poor. Would the valuations hold? And what would happen to the debt? What happens indeed if the rates ratchet up following bust-ups? The sense of *déjà vu* doesn’t take a pause. Consider the analogues. In 2008, a global financial crisis was triggered as higher inflation pushed out rate cuts. What is the story in 2026? The choking of the strait disrupting supply chains across sectors, driving up inflation. Trump’s desire for a rate cut is fading into the future. J P Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon famously said if there is one cockroach there will be others. The roach reserves have thrown up many and credit markets are frothing with fear. Someday, folks may well sing along with Mark Knopfler: “We’re fools to make war / On our brothers in arms.”

THE WINNERS AND LOSERS OF WAR



POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

IN the volatile cauldron of West Asia, conflicts seldom stay confined to battlefields. Their tremors reverberate through the veins of global commerce, oil pipelines, stock tickers and the quiet ledgers of households every day. The ongoing maelstrom pitting Iran against the US and Israel exemplifies this ruthless alchemy. It has transmuted geopolitical strife into an economic cataclysm that has spared no corner of the world. This war has already lasted for two relentless weeks. What began as a surgical campaign to neutralise Iran’s nuclear threshold and ballistic-missile infrastructure has metastasised into a regional inferno. Ironically, while there are few avaricious gainers in this senseless war, citizens of over a dozen nations who are not a part of the war are the worst losers.

Tehran’s retaliation has been ferocious but asymmetric. The human cost, however, is dwarfed by the economic haemorrhage. Credible assessments by credible researchers place the daily cost at approximately \$1.8 billion. Two weeks have already consumed more than \$23 billion in direct military outlays alone. The conflict has cleaved the world into stark, unforgiving blocs. And no one is interested in halting the war. Why?

Conspicuous by their absence from any serious mediation effort are the two Asian giants—China and India—whose silence is as eloquent as it is self-serving. Beijing’s calculus is ruthlessly

transactional. As Iran’s largest oil customer and a major investor in the Belt and Road corridor through Chabahar and Gwadar, Beijing cannot afford Tehran’s collapse. Yet, it also cannot risk a rupture with Washington that would torpedo its \$600-billion annual trade with the US or endanger its Gulf energy imports. India’s abstention is more paradoxical and more painful. New Delhi is the world’s third-largest oil importer and was the largest buyer of Iranian crude before the sanctions were tightened. At the same time, India maintains a robust defence partnership with Israel.

Inexplicably, the Modi-led BJP government has offered little beyond generic calls for “de-escalation” and “dialogue”. Why? Domestic political compulsions, with assembly elections looming in key states and inflation already a flashpoint, mean any high-profile diplomatic gamble risks being painted as a weakness. Strategic realism, which Indian analysts privately calculate, says that a prolonged bleeding of Iran serves to keep Pakistan’s western neighbour distracted and reduces Chinese influence in the Gulf. Finally, the ministry of external affairs lacks the bandwidth and institutional framework for a sustained shuttle between Tehran, Riyadh and Washington.

While Indian diplomats have quietly conveyed concerns to their American and Israeli counterparts, no public peace initiative like the 1991 Gulf War mediation or the 2003 Iraq outreach has materialised. Consequently, India is suffering the most profound economic wounds. It has opted for the comfort of strategic and diplomatic ambiguity over the risks of leadership. The first tremor of such a war is always felt in energy markets like India’s. This vola-

tility favours a few while punishing many. Oil titans like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and their Gulf brethren revel in the windfall as their coffers swell with each price spike. Yet, for nations shackled to imports, the sting is profound and immediate. India, a colossus of energy hunger, embodies this peril.

Devouring over 80 percent of its crude from abroad, the nation shudders under even modest surges. A mere \$10 uptick per barrel inflates India’s yearly import tab by \$15-20 billion; at \$100 a barrel, the haemorrhage could surpass \$25 billion in a single fiscal cycle, straining reserves, widening the current-account deficit and igniting inflationary fires that would scorch the rupee and erode foreign-exchange buffers painstakingly rebuilt since 2013. The financial tempest swept in swiftly. Market capitalisation in India evaporated by nearly ₹16 lakh crore in the initial panic sell-off. The echoes resounded globally: Germany’s DAX, France’s CAC and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng plunged as capital fled to havens like gold and energy equities.

Amid this wreckage, a grotesque irony emerges in the war economy. While vast swaths of industry bleed, select empires thrive on the carnage. The defence behemoths stand as undisputed victors in this grim pageant. Lockheed Martin, RTX, Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems furnish arsenals with their precision munitions, stealth fighters and drone swarms now consumed at prodigious rates. As US and Israeli strikes continue to pulverise Iranian targets, these firms harvest the spoils. Lockheed Martin’s shares have soared from \$470 to around \$650 over the past year, ballooning its valuation by \$40 billion. RTX surged 5 percent amid the escalation, tacking on \$6-7 billion, while Northrop and BAE mirrored these

multibillion-dollar windfalls. Collectively, these titans have amassed \$50-60 billion in added market heft as the skies darkened over Iran. Each day of conflict is adding roughly \$300-400 million to their combined market cap. Energy conglomerates join in the feast. Exxon-Mobil and Chevron reap fatter margins from elevated crude, while Saudi Aramco, valued at almost a staggering \$2 trillion, accrues billions in surplus with every barrel’s ascent.

Yet, these gains exact a toll from the broader tapestry of global enterprise. Air travellers are bearing the brunt all over. Tourism is wilting under the pall of instability as investors shun ventures in shadowed regions. But the cruellest lash falls upon ordinary hearths. Soaring oil begets pricier transportation, electricity and cooking fuel. The Modi government is grappling with subsidy strains while families are confronting rising bills. For India, the nightmare is leading to a yawning current-account chasm, a plummeting rupee and households crushed by exorbitant gas, transport and food costs.

Defence moguls and oil overlords would, meanwhile, continue to amass fortunes. This is the insidious calculus of conflict. It’s a grand redistribution where arms peddlers and energy emperors ascend, while consumers and import-reliant entities like India descend into penury. The winners of this war are already identified. They are the US-Israeli strategic axis that has achieved operational dominance, the defence-industrial complex that has added tens of billions to its valuation, and the oil-exporting monarchies whose revenues have surged.

If the war grinds on unchecked for another month, it has serious implications for India, which is dreaming of a \$5-trillion economy by 2027. For us, this conflict is not a distant headline, but a dagger at the heart of our ambitions. India just can’t afford to be an accidental and hapless victim of a war in which it hasn’t fired a bullet, leave alone a bomb.



AP

DEFYING AI WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM POETRY



OPINION

GEETHA RAVICHANDRAN
Former bureaucrat and author of *The Spell of the Rain Tree*

M RINANK Sharma, head of safety at Anthropic, recently quit expressing concern over developments in artificial intelligence, stating he would instead pursue poetry. Now, poetry is an interesting choice in the age of disruption. History shows that, on several occasions, poets themselves were the original disruptors. Across cultures, poetry gave rise to archetypes and narratives that captured the imagination of the people.

Today, in the age of AI, writing poetry and leveraging metaphors allow a resurgence of what is essentially human. With the use of large language models, plagiarism and ghost-writing is enabled at the flick of a finger. At such a time, creative originality is a refreshing act of assertion, a statement of purpose. Poetry, after all, calls for a deeper engagement with language and an understanding of nuance and context, something largely beyond the scope of AI systems.

Every language has evolved through cross-pollination of influences over thousands of years. Their uses as tools

of communication and as repositories of knowledge and tradition have distinguished humans from other species. To most of us, the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson describing language as “fossil poetry” may carry little significance. Yet, it’s true that the original sense of language was metaphorical and offered a vivid picture into the nature of things. No wonder several traditions attribute the origin of language to the divine.

Another dimension has emerged in the short span since the advent of LLMs. AI has gained fluency in languages ingested as tokens or data points. The processing is based on a system of prompt-based pattern recognition. Even after being trained on a vast amount of texts, AI is not capable of comprehending the meaning of words. It was recently reported that poetic verse has been able to ‘jailbreak’ AI systems. It could be speculated that this was due to the fact that poetry mostly did not figure in the training data sets. As such, it exposes a fault line in AI systems. Genres of creative writing lend themselves to subjective interpretation and are not mere codes to be cracked.

AI promises to increase productivity and create abundance even while reshaping the workspace and drastically reducing jobs. Areas of work that until now attracted the best young talent may soon become redundant. Many tech leaders have spoken of the importance of humanities in these times of AI dominance. People with training in humanities can contribute to ethics, reduce bias and be better at deciding where AI deployment would add value.

At the same time, concerns over safety have increased manifold especially

with the rise of agentic AI. Researchers have observed deceptive, defiant behaviour and AI turning rogue. These are sources of potential conflict. Predictions of AI taking control of critical areas that were once exclusive domains of humans pose an existential threat and induce anxiety. It’s similar to the angst people faced during the not-too-distant times of the Covid pandemic.

Literary activity, including poetry, surged during the pandemic as poets explored themes of mortality, inequity, marginalisation and healing. The democratisation of poetry was made pos-



Poets have been the original disruptors in many eras. As reports of artificial intelligence tools tripping over poetry surface, there’s hope that the form can remain an assertive corner of creativity ring-fenced from the all-consuming technology

sible due to the use of digital platforms. In India, there was a spike in poetry during the pandemic with chat groups, zoom meetings and social media providing newer platforms. Instagram poets who write simple, emotive verses gained mass following. Today, poetry festivals held across India are testimony that the form is here to thrive.

Perhaps, poetry is one area that can be ring-fenced from AI. If there is ever a ‘captcha test’ designed for poets, AI would not get through the gate when

asked to describe core sensory experiences like taste or pain. While AI slop may mimic a poet’s voice or output forms resembling poetry, it would be no match for content based on lived experience, which resonates across centuries. Poetry, with its use of metaphor and imagination, has the power to delight, startle and shock. To quote W S Merwin, when writing a poem, “a sequence of words starts giving off what you might describe as a kind of electric charge”. It is the process that counts, not merely the product.

Japanese forms like haiku may seem simple and short. AI can indeed generate haiku with a facile confidence, counting the number of syllables and lines. But there’s something more to the form. Originally written by Zen masters, it is now being written in many Indian languages too. The haiku sensibility of being mindful fosters attentiveness in an age of infinite iterations. It is an act of discernment. Kala Ramesh, a haiku poet and teacher who mentors a vibrant community of poets in India, says, “The most important tenet of haiku thought is *‘fuga no makoto’*. This relates to the truth, sincerity and honesty a poet needs to aim at while writing haiku.” When writing becomes a mere performative display, there would not be the slightest trace of this underlying principle.

Even as AI commodifies writing, there is still an option for writers to remain stubbornly rooted in time-tested traditions and rely on their inherent abilities. For, the act of writing is an act of self-discovery. The value of originality and critical thinking in these times cannot be overstated.

(Views are personal)

QUOTE CORNER



It’s important to recognise that there has been a struggle for democracy in Iran going on for more than 100 years. But there has been a very explicit effort by those who want to have war to portray the country as if there are no nuances there... Because it’s that simplified picture you need if you want to wage war.

Trita Parsi, vice-president of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft and author of *Losing an Enemy: Obama, Iran and the Triumph of Diplomacy*

Do you draft these petitions at midnight? You people are running PIL shops.

Chief Justice Surya Kant, warning advocates against filing frivolous petitions like one on Jain beliefs of *tamasic* energy in food items

What he has done is in the law. I think if he thinks it’s right, it’s right. But if you ask me, I would have done it differently.

Salman Ali Agha, Pakistan batter, after Bangladesh’s Mehidy Hasan Miraz ran him out while he was trying to hand the ball to the bowler

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Code conflict

Ref: *Societal fault lines raise question of fairness on UCC call* (Mar 14). Our constitutional fathers rightly made the contentious UCC a non-enforceable provision while guaranteeing the freedom of religion. When in 2022 Iranian women were revolting by letting their hair down, Indian Muslims were on the staircase of the Karnataka High Court to allow the wearing of hijab. If a matter as simple as clothing can be so conflicted globally, one must understand the complexity in the codification of a UCC and the gravity in its enforcement. At a time when there are growing calls to remove the word ‘secular’ from the Preamble, we must be careful that unity is sacrificed at the altar of uniformity.

K S Mohana Murugan, Chennai

Iran outreach

Ref: *Safe passage for India* (Mar 14). India has been robust in maintaining its relationships at multilat-

eral forums. Before oil, US sanctions on Iran created uncertainty over India’s investment in Chabahar Port. Now, in 2023, India had supported the expansion of BRICS, which included Iran as a member. Now, Iran has indicated it would allow India-bound fuel ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, reflecting the continued goodwill between the countries. It underlines how sustained diplomatic engagement and strategic autonomy help India protect its energy security and maritime interests.

Srishti Singh, email

Eco-tourism needed

Ref: *Boating ban in Nilgiris’ Pykara lake* (Mar 14). The excuse given by Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation for polluting Pykara through the use of motorboats shows their lack of responsibility in protecting nature. Encouraging tourism is a lame excuse here. Pages of information have been published about how present and future tourism can be the best opportunity to raise awareness about environmental issues because people usually come with their children, who need to learn about the

protection of our lakes, forests and wildlife. Eco-tourism must be practised everywhere.

Komala B, email

War costs

Ref: *Trump says strikes to intensify* (Mar 14). The UN secretary-general has made clear that said the attacks by US and Israel against Iran have pushed the region towards a breaking point and affected many more countries. Since February, at least 1,400 people in Iran and 773 in Lebanon have been killed. There is a global energy crisis and air fares are up. Considering the grave threats posed, Trump must set aside the plan of intensifying the war.

P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Illegal intervention

Why should Donald Trump interfere with the internal issues of Iran? The people of Iran should choose their leader, not America. War means devastation. So many innocent school children were killed in just one attack. The people of all countries are suffering the consequences of the war, too. So all countries

should try to convince the US and Israel that the only solution is through dialogue.

Banani Chaudhury, email

Fertiliser buffer

Ref: *Govt creates economic stabilisation fund* (Mar 13). Fertiliser supply may become the next crisis if the disruption continues. The Gulf, especially Qatar, is a major urea producer. Rising input costs can reduce yields and push up food prices. Import-dependent countries like India may face higher subsidies and inflation. Diversifying imports and maintaining buffers are essential safeguards right now.

R S Narula, Patiala

Legendary policeman

Ref: *A Legend of modern policing* (Mar 14). It’s an eloquent homage to the iconic H J Dora, a visionary director general of police in undivided Andhra Pradesh. His forethought and strategies undertaken for decades are now finally succeeding in dissolving left-wing terrorism. Hats off to such a personage.

U Atreya Sarma, Hyderabad



Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor
Delighted that the Centre has revoked @son-
amwangchuck's detention, but 169 days
seems to have been an inordinately long time.



Asaduddin Owaisi @asadowaisi
This is becoming a pattern in UP: in one case, Muslims
were detained for offering namaz inside a home; in Samb-
hal, no more than 20 people can pray on private property.



Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
Yet, despite these desperate attempts to ob-
struct people from reaching the rally, over 10
lakh people have gathered at the Brigade.

Navy comes in aid of LPG tankers

‘Shivalik’ escorted by Naval ships near Hormuz, expected to arrive in India early next week

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

INDIAN Navy warships have moved into the Gulf of Oman to monitor and escort India-bound merchant vessels as tensions in West Asia disrupt traffic near the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world’s most critical energy corridors.

Tracking data and satellite imagery shared by OSINT expert Damien Symon show that the Indian-flagged LPG tanker Shivalik is currently sailing under naval escort. “Three Indian Navy warships appear to have moved into the Gulf of Oman, likely to escort merchant vessels amid the tense security situation in the region. Ship-tracking data shows that the Indian-flagged LPG tanker Shivalik (IMO 9356892) is currently under escort,” he posted on X.

Navy sources said Indian warships routinely patrol the area under ongoing maritime security missions, including anti-piracy patrols and Operation Sankalp, which ensures safe passage for commercial shipping. However, monitoring has been complicated by electronic interference reported in surrounding waters.



The escort comes as two LPG carriers, Shivalik and Nanda Devi, head toward India after successfully crossing the Strait of Hormuz, which had been disrupted over the past two weeks. Both tankers, owned by the Shipping Corporation of India and chartered by Indian Oil Corporation, are carrying nearly 85,000 metric tonnes of LPG and loaded their cargo at Ras Laffan, Qatar, a major LPG export hub. Sources say the ships are expected to reach Indian ports early next week.

Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Fathali confirmed that Indian vessels have been allowed to transit through the strait, citing historical ties and shared interests. “Yes, we have

allowed some ships to pass through Hormuz, but we can’t tell how many at this moment. Iran and India have historical relations and common interests. Both countries are supporting each other,” he said in New Delhi.

The passage followed diplomatic outreach between New Delhi and Tehran, though details remain undisclosed. The reopening of the strait is crucial for India, which relies heavily on Gulf imports over 90% of its LPG, more than 50% of LNG, and around 40% of crude oil move through Hormuz. With shipments previously stuck at the chokepoint, India has faced supply pressures.

101 medical students from Iran to reach India today

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

AFTER weeks of desperate attempt to reach India from Iran, the first batch of 101 medical students are set to arrive in Mumbai and Delhi on Sunday from Armenia via Dubai. The hiccups in their plan continued till the last minute as the airline cancelled the first flight to Mumbai on Saturday hours before they were to depart from their hotels in Armenia. The students are returning fearing for their safety amid escalating tensions in West Asia.

Indian Embassy officials in Iran have escorted the students up to the bordering Armenia. “The 101 students have boarded FlyDubai flight FZ8124 from Yeravan International Airport at 1.25 pm (local time). They will have a layover at Dubai and depart from there at 5.05 local time on Sunday by two flights. One flight will reach Mumbai at 4.15 am and the other will reach Delhi at 9.55 am,” said Dr Mohammed Momin Khan, national vice president of the All India Medical Students Association, who has been co-ordinating with them.

They are part of the 1,000-plus stranded Indian students after over 2,000 departed before the Israel-US attacks on Iran on February 28. A majority of them are from Jammu & Kashmir and were studying at Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. Over 50 students, after reaching Delhi, will leave for Jammu & Kashmir by buses on Sunday. “The exact break-up of students coming to Mumbai and Delhi is not clear,” Khan added.

Another set of students from Islamic Azad University and Iran University of Medical Sciences have reached Azerbaijan and will come to India.

ers, particularly urea, which is widely used in foodgrain cultivation. Estimates indicate that India consumes about 35-36 million tonnes of urea annually, while domestic production is roughly 28-29 million tonnes, leaving a gap of around seven million tonnes that is met through imports. A significant share of these imports comes from Gulf countries. Around 63% of India’s nitrogen fertiliser imports originate from Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

For diammonium phosphate, the Gulf accounts for roughly 32% of imports. These shipments typically move through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global shipping corridor:

Centre rules out fertiliser shortage risk for upcoming Kharif season ’26

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

DESPITE concerns about potential supply disruptions linked to the ongoing war in West Asia, the government on Saturday said that the country has adequate fertiliser stocks for the upcoming Kharif 2026 cropping season.

Responding to queries on fertiliser availability, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the Department of Fertilizers had already issued a detailed note on the situation.

He added that current inventories were higher compared with last year. “What I can tell you is that India has more than adequate stocks of fertilisers at this point in time, especially for

Output likely to exceed consumption: Jaiswal

For diammonium phosphate, the Gulf accounts for roughly 32% of imports. These shipments move through the Strait of Hormuz. On domestic production, Jaiswal said output is currently expected to exceed consumption levels as the Rabi season concludes.

Kharif 2026. Our stocks of urea are more than what they were at this point last year. Our DAP stocks are double of what they were last year. Our NPK stock position is similarly much higher today in comparison to last year.”

India is among the world’s largest consumers of fertilis-

Centre not kept farm promises: Rahul

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

STEPPING up attack on the Centre over the India-US trade agreement, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged on Saturday that the government has not honoured its promises to farmers and is prepared to sacrifice India’s agriculture for its own interests.

In a social media post, the Leader of Opposition shared a question he raised in the House recently: whether the Centre would announce a minimum support price for crops and whether the trade agreement with the US would change its existing MSP policy.



“In the Lok Sabha, I asked a question: Why has the promise of a statutory MSP—calculated at C2+50 per cent—made to farmers in 2021, not yet been implemented?” Gandhi said the government chose to sidestep

‘Govt prepared to sacrifice agriculture for on interest’

The government not only refuses to honour the promises made to farmers, but it is also prepared to sacrifice Indian agriculture for the sake of its own interest, Gandhi alleged in his post. “We will continue to raise our voices—both inside and outside Parliament—to defend farmers’ rights,” he said.

his query.

“Evading a direct response, the government merely reiterated its existing MSP policy. The government also admitted to pressuring states to discontinue MSP bonuses—a move it

sought to justify, without any logical basis, in the name of national priorities,” Gandhi said in his post in Hindi.

The LoP said another critical question is whether the trade agreement with the US speaks of reducing non-trade barriers. “Does this imply an intent to undermine the MSP mechanism and government procurement?” Gandhi asked. The government is evading this question, he claimed. “We will continue to raise our voices—both inside and outside Parliament—to defend farmers’ rights and protect the minimum support price,” the Congress leader asserted.

SANJU SAMSON

SAMSON STRIKES, SCRIPTS ALL-NEW KERALAM STORY

GOMESH S

ON the historic night of their T20 World Cup triumph the players were rejoicing in their own inimitable ways at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad last Sunday. Some were dancing, yelling, while some were capturing each of those unforgettable moments in their phones. Some were celebrating with their families too. One person stood out in the melee. Sanju Samson. Perhaps brooding over the turn of events that propelled him to such stardom.

The India opener just bagged the Player of the Tournament award after playing another match-winning innings. He was standing in front of the temporary dias all alone before his wife Charulatha Remesh joined him. Clapsed in his hand was the trophy — perhaps as a reminder of all that he had to endure during those dark and dreary days when he was sitting on the bench looking for that opportunity to strike. He was soaking every bit of the beautiful moment, away from the crowd. And why not? He has earned every bit of it.

Sanju was not in the playing XI when the World Cup began. He was struggling with form and the final was the last thing in his mind. But destiny had other plans. The final scene was of composure. This may seem unusual, but for those who know him this is what Sanju as a person is. Quiet and grounded, unassuming yet witty. A person with whom one can relate irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

It is not difficult to understand if one follows his background. Fondly known as Chetta, Sanju was born in Vizhinjam, Kerala, a pious christian settlement. His belief in the historic Portuguese church of his village is unflappable. He spent his early years in Delhi before moving back to Kerala to pursue his cricketing ambitions. His biggest influences have been both his father and grandfather. He can speak Hindi, is a fan of Tamil superstar Rajinikanth and looks and behaves like the boy next door in any South Indian household.



MANDAR PARDIKAR

Samson was fast-tracked as he moved up the ranks in IPL with Rajasthan Royals and even made his India T20I debut at 20. The next decade, however, was a long agonising wait. Call it bad luck or lack of consistent opportunities or not making the most of it when he could have, Sanju spent years on the sidelines, watching prodigies become stars and stars become legends in Indian cricket. There were years where he excelled at IPL but never got to break into the heavily-crowded India top-order. There were moments where he felt broken, where he thought his time may never come. He tried his best, but in elite sport one fails more than they succeed. Sanju learnt that over the

years. Yet, all the while, despite not playing regularly for India, his stardom grew. It seemed inevitable even. It was visible when he captained RR in IPL or even India A in Chennai. Thousands turned up at Chepauk to cheer for Sanju who took pictures with them after the match. They all waited for him to shine on the big stage. This World Cup the statistics reflected his enormous talent. 321 runs in five innings, three match-winning knocks in as many must-win games — from being the star that could not step up, the 31-year-old finally delivered. He still remembers the last time he was in the World Cup winning team. “I had to spend time on the sidelines (in 2024),” he told the official broadcasters after the final.

This time he did not want to be just a secondary fiddle. It was not easy, either. He had kept believing in himself and one man who helped him surmount those troubles was Sachin Tendulkar. His SOS to the legend helped him recover. “I have been in constant touch with Sachin Tendulkar sir. I think when I was outside, sitting outside in Australia, I was not playing a game. So, I thought about, okay, what is the mindset required now? So, I reached out to sir and I had huge, huge, big conversations with him,” he said, before adding, “When I was with the 2024 World Cup-winning team in the West Indies, I couldn’t play a game. I kept on visualizing. I kept on dreaming. I kept on working. This is exactly what I wanted to do then. And by God’s grace, I think today things have turned around. I’m very proud and very happy that I was courageous enough to dream about it,” Sanju said.

Tendulkar knows a thing or two about being a player of the tournament without winning a World Cup. Here, Sanju had both as he sat quietly on the podium, watching everyone around him celebrate. He knows no matter what happens from here on, he has earned the respect of the cricketing world and love from 1.4 billion people of this country. For someone who spent years on the sidelines, the hours in the limelight could be eternally fulfilling.

EXPRESS READ

New species of lichen moths discovered

Scientists at the Zoological Survey of India have announced the discovery of two new species of lichen moths, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said on Saturday. “The discovery of Caulocera Hollowayi and Asura Buxa are vital contribution to the documentation of India’s moth biodiversity,” the minister wrote on X. He said this underscores the necessity of sustained taxonomic efforts in biodiversity hotspots. The findings, published in the international taxonomic journal Zootaxa, document seven new species of lichen.

Univs must focus on innovation: VP

Modern universities must focus on faculty development, innovation, and strong academic collaboration to build a globally competitive education system, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan said on Saturday. Addressing the ninth convocation of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, he noted that a majority of medal winners were women, calling it a strong reflection of growing women’s empowerment and their increasing contribution to the nation. The VP called upon students to dedicate themselves to nation-building.

RAJYA SABHA ELECTIONS

NDA looks to boost leverage and reshape leadership dynamics

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AS elections approach for 37 Rajya Sabha seats on March 16, the ruling National Democratic Alliance is positioned to expand its influence in the Upper House, cashing in on shifts in state-level politics over the past year. Beyond routine vacancies, the contest offers the NDA a chance to consolidate its already comfortable numbers and shape leadership dynamics in key states.

Currently, the Bharatiya Janata Party holds 103 seats, while the NDA’s combined tally stands at 133 in the 245-member chamber. Party sources suggest the alliance could secure 21–22 of the 37 seats, potentially pushing its strength closer to 140, a mark that would reinforce its leverage for the remainder of the term.

37 seats up for grabs

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All eyes are on Bihar, where the state assembly, dominated by the NDA after Nitish Kumar returned to the fold, will elect five members. The NDA has fielded five candidates, two from the BJP, two from the Janata Dal (United), and one from ally Upendra Kushwaha. Nitish Kumar’s own bid for the Upper House has sparked speculation about a potential political transition in Bihar, opening space for the BJP to assert greater au-

thority in state government.

“The elections for 37 seats are crucial more for BJP and JD(U) than others, as both have fielded their top leaders—BJP its national president Nitin Nabin and JD(U) its founder and CM Nitish Kumar,” said Patna-based analyst R K Verma.

While the NDA enjoys numerical strength in states like Assam, Odisha, Haryana, and Chhattisgarh, cross-voting remains a wildcard, too. Meanwhile, the NDA faces challenges in West Bengal.

The elections also highlight internal shifts, with JD(U) dropping Hariyansh Narayan Singh to accommodate Nitish Kumar. With 71 Rajya Sabha seats set to fall vacant between March and November, this cycle of 37 seats could reshape the NDA’s Upper House strategy and cement its legislative edge.

Ruling alliance holds meet, new MLAs trained

Senior NDA leaders on Saturday held a meeting with MLAs ahead of Rajya Sabha elections even as Bihar police’s Economic Offences Unit (EOU) has been placed on high alert to monitor and prevent potential “horse-trading” in the run up to the RS polls scheduled for March 16. The meeting was held at the residence of Rashtriya Loktantrik Mocha (RLM) leader and former union minister Upendra Kushwaha.

Haryana BJP moves MLAs to private star hotel

With the Rajya Sabha elections slated for March 16, the ruling BJP has moved its MLAs to hotel JW Marriott in Chandigarh. It is learnt that CM Nayab Singh Saini, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Gujarat Dy CM Harsh Singhavi, who has been appointed an observer, had also gone to the hotel. Cabinet minister Krishna Bedi was appointed election agent, and minister Ranbir Singh Gangwa and MLA Yogender Rana, counting agents.

‘Resort politics’ back as Oppn eyes 3 seats in Haryana, Bihar and Odisha

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

WITH the countdown for the Rajya Sabha biennial election beginning, the spotlight has shifted to Odisha, Bihar, and Haryana, which have emerged as key battlegrounds between the ruling NDA and the Opposition alliance for three crucial seats from these states. With fear of horse trading and cross-voting looming large, parties, particularly the Congress, have resorted to ‘resort politics’ and shifted their MLAs to different states to keep their flock together until polling day.

Out of the 37 seats that are going to polls, 26 candidates have been elected unopposed.

The election for the remaining 11 seats—five in Bihar, four in Odisha, and two in Haryana—would be held on March 16.

The numbers are stacked in



favor of the NDA for four seats in Bihar, two in Odisha, and one in Haryana, giving the ruling alliance a comfortable edge. All eyes are on the remaining three seats, where both the Opposition and the NDA are locked in a close contest.

The contest in Haryana has become tighter with three candidates vying for two vacant seats. While Congress has fielded Karmavir Singh Boudh, the BJP has nominated Sanjay

Bhatia. The third candidate is contesting as an independent.

In the 90-member assembly, the BJP holds 48 MLAs, Congress 37, two INLD, and three Independents. To win, a candidate needs at least 31 votes. While the Congress has already shifted 32 MLAs to Himachal Pradesh, in Odisha too, the party has moved eight of its MLAs to Karnataka. Odisha is also having a contest for one seat as two candidates, are in the fray.

Bihar is also set for a tight contest, with the RJD fielding its nominee for one of the five vacant seats. In the 243-member Assembly, the Opposition alliance, including the RJD, Congress, and Left parties, commands 35 MLAs. To secure the fifth seat, the Opposition would require the support of all five AIMIM MLAs as well as the lone BSP MLA.

**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**
Follow us on @SCRRailwaysIndia
Details of the Tender Notice of S Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Open e-Tender Notice Nos. C/E.29/ Elec/MSC/49/OEW/OT/2025-26 Dt.11.03.2026

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the given below work up to 15.00 hours on 06.04.2026

1. e-Tender No. : etenderNo.C/E.29/Elec/M/SC/49/OEW/OT/2025-26
etender No.E-M-SC-49-OT-2025-26
Name of work: Secunderabad Division Electrical Maintenance Department - Provision of web based monitoring (IoT) and controls of Pumps including automation of pumps, 30%-70% Lighting on Platforms, street lighting circuits, Lifts and Escalators, DG sets, LT connection and major load centres integrate with IR-NIYANTRAC portal (Phase-III) - Electrical arrangements. **Tender Value :** (₹) 9,15,55,644.00 EMD : (₹) 6,07,800.00 CTF : (₹) 0.00 **Completion period:** 6 Months

1. Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at "www.ireps.gov.in" which can be downloaded, can be participated and can view any modifications if any.

2. The tender notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Sr.DEE(Maintenance), Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad which can be seen on all working days.

3. The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, (M) Secunderabad

TENDER NOTICE No: 63/2026 Dt.13.03.2026
SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS e-Procurement Tender Notice

The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website www.ireps.gov.in And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System As Available On www.ireps.gov.in."

Tender No.	Brief Description
66265416	Track Machine Spares of plasser make
LH2625322	Speed sensor FS01
LY265085	Track Measuring System for Surveying Railroad Geometry model Track Scan.
LH265317	Traction motor complete
LH265324	(scr) kbz-10J4001 Disc brake unit
38262063	Bogie centre pivot bottom (Flat type)
30251150	Helical Spring
66265520	Procurement of Valves for track machine
6026PT009	Procurement of Combination Fishplate to RD50T-8533 to 8536
38265011	Cast steel Bolster with Integrated 14' center pivot bottom for LWLH25 Bogie
6026PT007	Procurement of Various of Fishplates.
38265012	Cast steel bolster for BLC Wagon
66265656	Procurement of Transducer etc, for Track Machine
38262097	Bogie centre pivot bottom (Flat type)
38265013	Cast steel side frame for BLC Wagon
LH265320	70 AH, 110 V VRLA lead acid Battery set
66258000	Procurement of LORAM MAKE spares for Track Machines.
66265563	Procurement of spares for track machines
66256193B	Procurement of CRCC HTEC MAKE spares for the use of Track Machines

Note:-Due dates of Tender Opening: SL.No.01 on dt.27.03.2026.SL.No. 02 on dt.30.04.2026. SL.No. 03 on dt.01.04.2026. SL.No.04 to 08 on dt.06.04.2026. SL.No.09 & 10 on dt.07.04.2026. SL.No.11 & 12 on dt.08.04.2026. SL.No.13 to 15 on dt.09.04.2026. SL.No.16 on dt.10.04.2026. SL.No.17 on dt.13.04.2026. L.No.18 on dt.15.04.2026. L.No.19 on dt.20.04.2026

Corrigendum
1).Tender Notice No.59/2026 dt.12.02.2026 Tender No.5225011A due on 09.03.2026 Brief :IP Based VSS for Diesel Loco may be read as Due date 23.03.2026. instead of existing.
2).Tender Notice No.58/2026 dt.06.02.2026 Tender No.66259796 due on 09.03.2026 Brief procurement of spares for track machines. may be read as Due date 16.03.2026. instead of existing
Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having Value Above Rs.50 Lakhs. For Details, Please Visit Railway Website Above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/Secunderabad
A2668
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

**IDBI BANK**
CIN : L65190MH2004GQ148838
Mission Road Branch: Retail Recovery, 2nd Floor, IDBI House, # 58, Mission Road, Bangalore-560027. Ph: 080-6145123/234/241/246/250/268. Email: recovery.bangalore@idbi.co.in

CORRIGENDUM
In the Sale Notice published in this newspaper on 09.03.2026, The Reserve Price and EMD in the Sale Notice relating to the borrowers: **Mrs. Lakshmi Srinivasa & Mrs. Rathna Srinivasa** has been wrongly printed as Serial No.2, Reserve Price : Rs. 44,00,000/- and EMD: Rs. 4,40,000/- and Serial No.3, Reserve Price : Rs. 46,80,000/- and EMD: Rs. 4,68,000/-. Please consider the correct details as **Serial No.2, Reserve Price : Rs. 46,80,000/- and EMD: Rs. 4,68,000/-** and **Serial No.3, Reserve Price : Rs. 44,00,000/- and EMD: Rs. 4,40,000/-**. All other contents remain unchanged.

Date: 14.03.2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place: Bangalore IDBI Bank

**WESTERN RAILWAY**
CORRIGENDUM
With reference to Tender No.: W641-22-23-06C (E-434312) wherein Date & Time of Tender closing to be read as 31.03.2026 at 11:00 hrs instead of 17.03.2026 at 11:00 hrs. Other Terms & Conditions remain the same. 1217
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

**The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd**
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651216, e-mail: mdg@kmmml.com, URL: www.kmmml.com

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

Sl.No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2026_KMML_844288_1	AMC - rewinding of LT induction motors
2	2026_KMML_844663_1	Iron oxide shifting from New IOP
3	2026_KMML_846665_1	Iron oxide Brick Making plant
4	2026_KMML_846337_1	Supply of Low-Density Polythene (LDPE) film
5	2026_KMML_847290_1	Supply of 100MR Pipe CS ERW IS 3589, 500MM x 8MM & 30MR Pipe CS ERW IS 3589, 600MM x 8MM

Chavara 15.03.2026 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

**Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences**
Roorkee Road, Lucknow-226015 (UP)
Telephone: 0522-244633, 244634
E-mail: sgpi@sgpi.ac.in, website: www.sgpi.ac.in

Corrigendum
Refer advertisement of SGPGMS published in this newspaper on 14th March 2026 under "Establishment of A Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Facility on Public Private Partnership Basis" in Core Lab. The advertisement number should be read as **1/58/Contract Cell/NGS Facility Core Lab/2025-26** instead of **1/58/Contract Cell/NGS Facility Core Lab/2025-26**. All other terms and conditions remain the same.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUER COLLEGE OF NURSING
LAJPAT NAGAR IV, NEAR MOOLCHAND METRO STATION, NEW DELHI-110024 Tel. Nos. 011-2643 6788, 2643 5270, 26435397
E-mail-principal-rakcon@gov.in

ADMISSION NOTICE
M.Sc. Nursing (Session 2026-2027)
Affiliated to University of Delhi

Applications are invited for admission to M.Sc. Nursing, academic session 2026-2027. Prescribed application forms with prospectus can be downloaded from college website www.rakcon.com and should be submitted online from 20/03/2026 to 24/04/2026 by 5.00 p.m. on online payment of Rs. 1500/- in favour of Principal, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur College of Nursing payable at New Delhi.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
The Candidate must have passed the B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing Examination from University of Delhi or B.Sc. Nursing/Post Basic Nursing from a recognized University with minimum 55% marks in the aggregate and completed one year experience in Nursing in a Hospital/Specialty Institute/Educational Institution or Public Health/ Agency (100 & more bedded). The experience will be calculated up to 24th April, 2026. The selection test will be held on 31 May, 2026 at 10.00 a.m.
CBC 17149/11/0001/2526

**STATE BANK OF INDIA**
Kalyan Nagar Branch (17735), 5th Main Road, HRBR Layout 2nd Stage, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043.

NOTICE FOR SALE OF VEHICLES BY E-AUCTION

Notice to public is hereby given to the effect that the vehicle described herein will be sold by State Bank of India by way of E-Auction on the date and time mentioned in this notice is "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" basis.

Sl. No	Name of the Borrower	Vehicle Make & Model	Reg. No.	Parking Location	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
1.	Shri. Shravan Kumar Bheemraj Mathadin	Hyundai Creta Electric Excellence	KA 04 NF 2418	SBI Regional Office Banaswadi Basement	Rs. 20,12,000/-	Rs. 2,01,200/-

Date & Time of E-Auction 23/03/2026, 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM (Last date of EMD Amount : 23/03/2026, 02.00 PM)

Terms and Conditions:
1. E-Auction is being held on "as is where is condition" basis and the Bank is not responsible for any condition or any other facts affecting the vehicles.
2. The above vehicles will not be sold less than the Reserve Price.
3. The successful bidder should pay the Bank 25% of the H1 Bid Amount (10% EMD+15% Amount) on the same day of the E-Auction and the balance 75% should be paid before 15 days from the date of E-Auction. Failing to which any amount paid to the Bank will be forfeited.
4. The bidders have to increase the bidding amount by minimum Rs. 10,000/- above reserve price.
5. Intending bidders can inspect the vehicles at the respective parking yards on working hours by calling Smt. Prachi Guptha, Chief Manager (Mob 96325 21591)
6. The Authorized Officer shall be at liberty to cancel or postpone the E-Auction process at any time, before declaring the successful bidder, without assigning any reason.
7. The E-Auction will take place through portal <https://baanknet.com/> as per the terms and conditons.

Date: 13.03.2026
Place: Bangalore
Sd/-
Authorised Officer

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ
ಸಕ್ತಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ-571313
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ :- apmccnagar@rediffmail.com, apmccnagar@gmail.com
ದೂ: 08226-222103,225665

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕೃಷಿಮಾಸ(ಚಾ): 761/2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09-03-2026

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಇದುವ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕತೆ ಕಾಯಿದೆ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ, ಸಬ್ಸೈಲಿಂಗ್‌ಕೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಎರಡು ಲಕ್ಷೀಟಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಏಜಿಡುವುದು ಕೆಂಡದುಗುಳನ್ನು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪ್ರೋಟೋಕಾಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗೂ Standard Tender Documents KW-4 Clause 3 (withlatest amendments) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಆದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ-1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸರ್ವೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸುವಿಕೆ- 3 ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನದ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಉಳಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರಿಗೆಸಾಲು ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (ಏಜಿಡುವುದು ಕೆಂಡದ), ಕೆಂಡದಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.14.97/-418,22,896=18 ಲ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೂಲಬಲ ರೂ.2.15 ರಂತೆ ಅಥವಾ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ (ಇ ಬೇಸಿಂಗ್)-6,28,000=00 ಕೆಲಸ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ನಿಗದಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದ ಅದರ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡಿಸಿ) 6 ತಿಂಗಳು, ಅರ್ಜಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ- ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ-4 ಕ್ಲಾಸ್-3 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು 4 ಲೋ.ಇಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಿಬಿಡಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು, ಇ ಪ್ರೋಸೀಜರ್ ಫೀ. (ಇ ಬೇಸಿಂಗ್)- ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪ್ರೋಟೋಕಾಲ್‌ನಂತೆ ಕೆಂಡದ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಮೇಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ:

1) ಪ್ರೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮಿಲಿಟರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06/04/2026, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ: 11-00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ
2) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಕೆಂಡದ ವಾಹಿನಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಲಿಟರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ:13/04/2026 ಮತ್ತು ವೇಗಮಧ್ಯಸ್ಥ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16/04/2026 ಮತ್ತು ವೇಗ: ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11-00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:22/04/2026 ಮತ್ತು ವೇಗ: ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11-00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಂತರ

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors>
ಕೆಂಡದುಗುಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ: ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ, ಪತ್ರ ವ್ಯವಹಾರದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ,

ಸಹಿ:- (ಇ. ಪರಗಿಡಾಡ್)
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃಷಿಮಾಸ
ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ
ಸಂವತ್ಸಾರಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಚಾಸಂ:789/2025-26

**V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY**
Civil Engineering Department
TUTICORIN - 628 004

GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Only Through E-Tendering Mode)

VOCPA E-Tendering Website : <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>
NIT.No:09/PD/OH HAM/PMC/2025-26/ D. 881 **Date:14.03.2026**
V.O.Chidambaram Port invites tenders (Online tenders) in "Two bid system" from interested, reputed, well experienced Consultants

i. Name of Work	Project Management/ Consultancy services for the Project "Construction of Breakwater, Rock Bund, Wharf and capital dredging and reclamation for backup yard including maintenance thereof on Hybrid Annulity Model (HAM) under Development of Outer Harbour at V.O. Chidambaram Port."
ii. Bid security amount	Rs.85,00,000/- (Rupees Eighty Five lakhs only)
iii. Downloading of Tender from VOCPA online e-tendering website / CPP Portal	18.03.2026 to 08.04.2026
iv. Pre Proposal Conference date	25.03.2026 at 12:00 hrs through Video conference (Link will be sent to the bidders who show interest via mail)
v. Last date and time for submission of e-Tender through online	08.04.2026 upto 15:00 Hrs
vi. Online Bid opening date and time	09.04.2026 at 15:30 Hrs
vii. Period of completion	As specified in clause 2.1 V of Section 2 of tender.
viii. Validity of tender	120 days from the last date fixed for receiving the tender

For further details, visit port Website: www.vocport.gov.in/ <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>
Ph.No : 0461-2372306
Email : ce@vocport.gov.in

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER

**COIMBATORE CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**
Tender Date Extension Notice
Tender Notice No. e17/2026 Dated: 14.03.2026
(Two Cover System-e-submission only)

1.Bids are invited Two cover system - Carrying out pollution control works in the Noyyal River and undertaking improvement works on both banks of the river from Aathupalam Junction to Nanjundapuram Road Junction.

2.Total Estimate Amount Rs.202.74 Crore.

3. The bid documents can be downloaded from the website <https://tntenders.gov.in> free of cost.

4.Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the estimated value of work.

5.Any additional/further details and conditions related to these works can be had from the office of the Commissioner, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation.

6.Important dates

Sl.No.	Description	Tender Date (Original)	Extended Date Details
1	Downloading of Tender Documents	04.03.2026 upto 3.00 PM	31.03.2026 upto 3.00 PM
2	Last Date for Submission of Tender	04.03.2026 upto 3.00 PM	31.03.2026 upto 3.00 PM
3	Opening of Technical Bids	04.03.2026 at 4.00 PM	31.03.2026 at 4.00 PM

7. In the event of the specified date for submission of bids is declared as a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time.

8. Commissioner, Coimbatore Corporation, Big Bazaar Street, Townhall, Coimbatore-641001, Ph.No.0422-2396026, E-mail commr.coimbatore@tn.gov.in

COMMISSIONER,
COIMBATORE CORPORATION

DIPR/1794/TENDER/2026

**METROPOLITAN CORPORATION (CHENNAI) LIMITED**
PALLAVAN HOUSE, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 002.

TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of MTC, e-tenders are invited for the "Procurement, Supply, Operation and Maintenance of 20 Double Decker Air Conditioned Electric Buses and Development of Allied, Electric and Civil Infrastructure on Gross Cost Contracting (GCC) Model".

Tender document download date start from	Tender document submission start date & time	Tender document submission end date & time	Tender will be opened on (Date & Time)	EMD amount in Rs.	Pre-bid meeting date and time
14.03.2026	31.03.2026 12.00 Hrs	16.04.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs	16.04.2026 at 16.30 Hrs	30,00,000/-	23.03.2026 at 15.00 Hrs

The tender documents are available in the tender websites : <https://tntenders.gov.in>, <https://mtcbus.tn.gov.in>, <https://tnidb.tn.gov.in>. Bidders are requested to upload their tender documents through the Government e-procurement portal <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgpe/app> only. Any modification (if any) in tender terms and tender invitation period will be uploaded in the websites and the tenderers are requested to go through the above website periodically.

MTC (Chennai) Ltd reserves the right to Accept / Reject any tender without assigning any reason thereto.

DIPR/ 1783 /TENDER/2026

MANAGING DIRECTOR

QuoteExpress

PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES

ROBERT H SCHULLER



20%

Of employees will be laid off by Meta to offset costly artificial intelligence infrastructure bets and prepare for greater efficiency brought about by AI-assisted workers.

NEWSCOPE

Now, Akasa levies fuel surcharge

Revised charge will be applicable from today as airline claims ATF sees notable price rise

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AFTER Air India and IndiGo, Akasa Air has announced that it will introduce a fuel surcharge to offset the impact of rising jet fuel prices.

The low-cost airline has introduced a fuel surcharge ranging from ₹199 to ₹1,300 on our domestic and international routes for all bookings that will be made from 12 am on March 15. "There has been a significant increase in the price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), driven by evolving geopolitical developments in the Middle East. As fuel represents a significant portion of airline operating costs, this impacts the cost of operations across the aviation industry," said a spokesperson from Akasa Air.

IATA's Jet Fuel Monitor indicates over 85% increase in fuel prices for the region. Jet fuel is the biggest expense for airlines, accounting for 30% to 40% of total operating costs.

It will be applied per sector and will vary based on the duration of the flight.

"At Akasa Air, we remain focused on offering warm and efficient customer service, reliable operations, and affordable fares while maintaining the highest standards of operational efficiency. We will continue to closely monitor the operating environment and review the fuel surcharge on a regular basis," said the spokesperson.

IndiGo on Friday announced introducing a fuel surcharge between ₹399 and ₹2,300 for its

domestic and international flights. While offsetting the entire impact of this fuel price surge requires a very substantial adjustment to fares, IndiGo has introduced a relatively smaller amount as a fuel charge keeping in mind the consequential burden on customers, said the airline.

Earlier this week, Air India had also announced an increase in fuel surcharge of

₹399 to ₹4,600 (\$50) amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

Ever since tension escalated in West Asia after the US and Israeli forces targeted key Iranian sites on February 28, oil and gas prices have seen a sharp surge. Brent crude prices have surpassed the \$100/barrel mark following the continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz, limited storage facilities in the producer countries

and the attacks on oil & gas infrastructure and vessels.

According to industry figures, jet fuel prices in many markets have doubled since the conflict began. In recent sessions, jet fuel prices are hovering between \$150 and \$200 per barrel, up from \$85 to \$90 per barrel before the war. Aviation turbine fuel accounts for 35-40% of airline industries' operational cost.



Jet fuel prices are hovering between \$150 and \$200 per barrel, up from \$85 to \$90 before the war

No need to import petrol, diesel: Govt

PUSHPITA DEV @ New Delhi

INDIA has enough capacity to meet the domestic demand, and there is no need to import petrol and diesel as the refineries are working in full capacity, assured the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Saturday. It even urged the people not to go for panic buying.

"Sufficient quantities of petrol and diesel are available and there is no report of dry out. As per the needs of the country, we yield ample quantities of petrol and diesel. That's why there is no need to

import too," said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary (Marketing & Oil Refinery), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, during a press conference.

The Ministry also issued an advisory asking people not to take or store fuel in loose or inappropriate containers, as it poses serious safety risks. It has come to notice that in a pump in Tamil Nadu, petrol was reportedly being dispensed in a loose container at a retail outlet, which violates safety norms.

Petrol and diesel prices in India remained unchanged despite global crude oil mar-

kets continuing to witness sharp volatility. Recent volatility in crude oil prices has been linked to geopolitical tensions in West Asia, with concerns growing over potential supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil transit route.

Even oil companies like IOCL confirmed a couple of days ago that fuel supply across the country remains uninterrupted and assured that all its fuel stations nationwide are fully operational and adequate stocks of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products are available.

EXPRESS READ

JSW Steel launches coal project in Mozambique

NEW DELHI: JSW Steel will develop Minas de Revuboa coking coal mine in Mozambique in phases, it said. Minas de Revuboa has 850 MT of reserves, and potential to yield 250 MT of usable coking coal.

Centre amends power norms for industries

NEW DELHI: The government on Saturday announced amendments in the electricity norms for bringing more clarity for captive power generation, especially for industries, in line with India's energy transition goals.

FRESH SCRUTINY

USTR probe to target electronics, garment exports

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S exports of solar panels, electronics and garments to the US may face increased scrutiny under a new US investigation into forced labour in global supply chains, according to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI).

The move follows the decision by the Office of the USTR to launch investigations under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 covering around 60 economies, including India and China. It will examine whether countries allow goods produced using forced labour to enter global supply chains and eventually reach the US. It will also look at cases where import inputs suspected of being produced with forced labour and use them for exports.

GTRI said several Indian export sectors may be affected because they depend heavily on imported components from China. Electronics exports could also be examined because Indian manufacturers depend on Chinese components, cables and sub-assemblies. Similarly, the textile and garment sector may face tighter checks as manufacturers frequently use imported yarns and fabrics from China.

Remain patient, extreme volatility is not new: Pandey

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Saturday urged investors to remain patient and not to panic amid tension in West Asia.

He added that episodes of extreme volatility are not new and the markets have historically recovered after major global disruptions.

It can be noted that since the war on Iran began on February 28, the markets have lost more than 8%, the second worst after the Japanese Nikkei which lost 8.5% in the past 13 days.

While the Sensex lost 8.3%, the broader Nifty is down 8.1%, wiping out ₹34 lakh crore of investors' wealth in the past two weeks. This selloff has pulled down the BSE market capitalisation to ₹429.4 lakh crore.

Since the war began, foreign investors have sold shares worth ₹64,500 crore, this is on the back of another ₹40,000 crore between January and February and \$18.9 billion in the previous calendar year.



"One lesson becomes clear: periods of extreme volatility don't last forever and investors must remain patient. In the past we've witnessed disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. Markets witness turbulence, but they eventually stabilise," the Sebi chief said at an event.

According to the regulator, the resilience of markets is tested during periods of extreme uncertainty, but efficiency and transparency allow them to recover and that market volatility from geopolitical tensions eventually stabilises even as he admitted that markets face turbulence from geopolitics, energy shocks and AI disruption.

CISF unit of Paradip Port authority celebrates 57th Raising Day

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Unit of Paradip Port Authority (PPA) celebrated its 57th Raising Day at the CISF Complex in Paradip with enthusiasm and pride. PL Haranadh, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and took the salute from the marching contingents during the ceremonial parade. Haranadh said that the CISF for its indispensable contribution to the port's unprecedented growth and outlined an ambitious vision for its future as a global "Mega Port." The port achieved a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of approximately 9% over the last four years, doubling the national average.



SBI regional office Cuttack organised International Women's Day

The State Bank of India in Cuttack organized the International Women's Day celebration in a local hotel here. On this occasion, the General Manager of SBI Bhubaneswar Circle, Dr Vandana Aggarwal, attended as the Chief Guest, while DGM Prashant Kumar joined as the Guest of Honour. During the programme, several women who have achieved recognition in different fields participated in the event. The programme also highlighted various services and initiatives provided by SBI to empower women and make them self-reliant. Dr. Lucy Das, Dean and Principal of SCB Medical College and social worker Kabita Mohapatra shared their long professional experiences and spoke about the empowerment and advancement of women.



Policybazaar holds fifth edition of its flagship event with Star Health

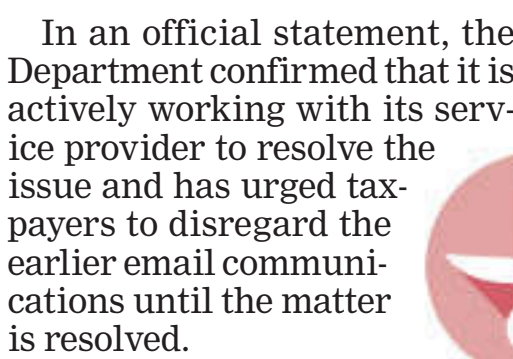
Policybazaar's flagship event 'Insurance Ka Superhero' successfully concluded its fifth edition in Chennai on Tuesday. Organised in association with Star Health Insurance, the event championed the brand's long-standing commitment to fair and transparent claim settlements. It brought together heartfelt stories behind every successful claim and honoured the 'Superheroes' who made it happen along with the support of our insurer partners. In its partnership with Star Health Insurance, Policybazaar has assisted over 1.7 lakh families over a course of five years. The brand has successfully helped process claims worth 620 crores, and holds a stellar CSAT of ~90% when it comes to customer satisfaction. All of these efforts are concentrated towards the single mission of strengthening consumer trust with positive claims experiences in the industry.

In an official statement, the Department confirmed that it is actively working with its service provider to resolve the issue and has urged taxpayers to disregard the earlier email communications until the matter is resolved. Officials were quick to clarify that the e-campaign communications are intended solely as facilitative reminders, designed to help taxpayers re-

view their financial information on the Compliance Portal and ensure proper advance tax compliance — not as any form of notice or action. Taxpayers have been advised to independently verify their transaction details through the e-Campaign tab on the Compliance Portal, which is accessible via the e-Filing portal.

Meanwhile, tax experts have

In an era where tax administration is increasingly driven by advanced digital systems, data analytics and real-time compliance monitoring, such errors should ideally be minimal — Rajat Mohan of AMRG & Associates



NMDC reaches 50 million tonnes of iron ore production

NMDC Limited, India's largest iron ore producer and a Navratna CPSE, has scripted history by becoming the first mining company in India to produce 50 million tonnes (MT) of iron ore in a single financial year, a significant milestone that comes days ahead of the close of FY 2025-26. Established in 1958 to develop iron ore resources, NMDC produced around 10 MT in 1978. Over the decades, output has expanded fivefold to reach a historic 50 MT in FY 2025-26, reflecting the company's steady transformation into the backbone of India's iron ore supply chain. NMDC's rise to the 50-million-tonne mark also underscores a sharp acceleration in growth in recent years.



Punjab & Sind Bank expands footprint in Odisha

Strengthening its presence in Odisha and reaffirming its commitment to financial inclusion, Punjab & Sind Bank inaugurated its new branch at Balangir. The branch was inaugurated by MD & CEO Swarup Kumar Saha, during his visit to the state. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Saha highlighted the bank's strong commitment towards expanding its banking network in Odisha and providing greater access to financial services. He emphasised that the opening of the Balangir branch is part of the bank's broader strategy to deepen its presence in emerging regions and contribute to the state's economic growth.

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY / e-Tender Notice**
Tender No : KWA/JB/2113/2026-E11

RENEWAL OF TAILOR MADE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY FOR KERALA WATER AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS for the year 2026 - 27
EMD : Rs. 0
Tender fee : Rs. 0
Last Date for submitting Tender : 28-03-2026 03:00-pm, Phone : 9746126729
Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-793-2025-26 Chief Engineer (HRD&GL) Jalabhavan, Thiruvananthapuram

**Kerala State IT Mission**
Department of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of Kerala.
Website: <https://itmission.kerala.gov.in/>

e-Tender Notice
Tenders are invited for the following works:
1. Appointment of System Integrator (SI) for Implementation of State Data Exchange Platform for the Government of Kerala(Re-Tender)
Tender ID: 2026_KSITM_828799_2
Tender Reference No: e-Governan/5/2025-KSITM
2. Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of IT/Network devices at State Data Center(Re-Tender)
Tender ID: 2026_KSITM_847472_1
Tender Reference No: SDC/15/2019-KSITM
Detailed Notification and RFP documents can be downloaded from <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/>

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
STATE INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT
TITILAGARH ROAD,BALANGIR - 767001 (ODISHA)
No. 1249/SIHM/2025-26/E-Tender Date: 13-03-2026

E-tender invited by SIHM, Balangir under a two-bid system from established Dealers/Manufacturers/Distributors/Firms registered in India for the supply, installation and commissioning of Single Disc Machine with Pad Holder and Pad different color & Scrubbing Brush, Automatic Scrubber Drier with Brush, Pad Holder & Pad, Steam Generator with Accessories, Dry & Wet Vacuum Cleaner (33 l) with Accessories, Dry & Wet Vacuum Cleaner (62 l) with Accessories and Mop Wringer Trolley at SIHM, Balangir for the Academic Session 2025-26.
Interested parties may kindly visit the below mentioned website for further details
www.tenderwizard.com/SIHM or www.sihmbalangir.org
Sd/-
Principal

ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಹೂಗೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹೂಗೂರು
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಸಂ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್-01/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.03.2026
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ-2000 ರಂತೆ, ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಅವಗಾಹನೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಹೂಗೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹೂಗೂರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೂಗೂರು ಆನೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಡೆ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ನೌಕರರನ್ನು (ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರು, ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು, ಡಿ ಗ್ರೆಡ್ ನೌಕರರು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು) ಹೂಗೂರುಗಿನ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ, ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುವುದು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿ: 18.03.2026 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 20.03.2026 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 3) ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 20.03.2026 ರಂದು 17.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳ ಸಮೀಪದ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ಮೇಳಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಅಥವಾ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಹೂಗೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹೂಗೂರು
DIPR/DMYS/1822/KSMCA/1230/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client is intending to purchase the schedule property from Sri. SANDEEP M.S. S/o. Sri. M.M.Srinivasa, AADHAR No. xxxx x00X 1271 and Smt.USHA R. W/o. Sri.M.S.Sandeep. PAN: ACGPU2453H. Both are residing at: No.79, Nanyandakda, Chayandane, Kodugu- 571212. Any person/banking Institutions/company, etc., has got any sort of legal right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said sale transaction, shall approach the under mentioned Auctioneer within 7 days from this day, with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement to sell considering there is no objection to the said sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property bearing residential vacant Site No. 114B/A, comprised within the layout Formed by the Bangalore Development Authority in 4th H Block, Banashankari 6th Stage, layout known as "Banashankari Further Extension", formed in Sy. No. 32, U.M. Kaval Village, Bangalore South Taluk and presently within the administrative jurisdiction of BDA having E PID No.600061834 and measuring East to West 12.00 Mtrs and North to South (9.00+7.00)2 mtrs., in all measuring 96.00 Sq. Mtrs. together with rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface including all the rights and privileges thereon and bounded on:
AND BOUNDED ON:
East by : Road, West by : Site No. 114B/A, North by: Road, South by: Site No. 114B.
N.S. SHIVASHANKAR, Advocate
No. 207, Ground Floor,
26th Cross, Behind BVSSSB Office,
Uttarahalli- Kengeri Main Road,
Pooma Prajna Nagar, Bengaluru-560061.
Ph No. 93430 94442, 98459 31901

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby notified that my client intends to purchase the SCHEDULE PROPERTY from its owner Mr.Sridhar Kamineni, Mr.R.V.Rama Mohan Reddy and Mr.K.Hemanth Reddy.
Persons/banks/society/firm or any other body having any right, title, interest, claim or charge over the schedule mentioned property or any part thereof is hereby notified to lodge their objections/claims if any, in writing with documentary evidence regarding their manner of right, title, interest, claim or charge, within 10 days from the date of this publication to the office of undersigned, after which period my client shall proceed to purchase the schedule mentioned property on the basis that there are no objections/claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule mentioned property.

SCHEDULE
ALL that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing Site No. SC-513, BBMP E Katha bearing No. 88-254-SC-513, HSRB Layout, II Block, Presently BBMP Ward No. 88, Bangalore City Measuring East to West 50 Ft., North to South 80 Ft., Totally measuring 4000 Sq. Ft., together with building standing thereon consisting Two Rooms, Hall, Kitchen, Toilet, built up area 2200 Sq. Ft., in Ground Floor and One Room, Toilet, built up area 500 Sq. Ft., in First Floor with RCC Roof, Mosaic Flooring, Home Wood Doors and Windows with ACH and Sanitary Connection Bounded on the East by: Site No. SC/515, West by: Site No. SC/511, North by: Site No. SC/514, South by: 5th Cross Road.

LEGAL & LEGAL, ADVOCATES.
No. 32, Rukmani's Brindavanam,
1st Cross, 1st Main, Subramani Layout,
Ramamurthy Nagar,
Vijayapada, Bengaluru-560 016
Mob: 9900111844, 7406234888.

**STATE BANK OF INDIA**
HSR LAYOUT BRANCH , Sector -2, Opp. NIFT,
27th Main Sector-1,HSR Layout, Bangalore - 560 102,
Karnataka, Pin: 25726890, E-mail : sbi.30495@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Rule - 8 (1) (For immovable property)
Borrower: Mahitha Industries , A/c. No: 42607019433, 42689039689
WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, Sector 2 HSR Layout, Bengaluru, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 23.10.2025, calling upon the Borrower M/s. Mahitha Industries, Proprietor Govindappa Venkatesh S/o. Govindappa, Factory @ No. 1056/1052A, 2nd Main Road, Hegganahalli, Bengaluru- 560 058. to repay the amount mentioned in the noticebearing Rs. 67,74,845/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Five only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub Section 4 of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules 2002 on this 09.03.2026.
The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of Rs. 71,91,427/- (Rupees Seventy One Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Seven only) as on 09.03.2026 and interest from & charges thereon, till the realization of the dues.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF MOVABLE ASSETS
Details of Hypothecated Assets : Current Assets including Stocks in Trade, Receivables, Consumable Stores and Spares and entire current assets of the company mentioned in the documents (Scheule B)
1. Primary Security : Stocks , Type : Precision components, automobile spare parts raw materials etc., Value : Rs.8,00,000/-
2. Primary Security : Machinery (1). Type : Yantranga VMC series VX800 with 4th axis Dia 200 mm rotary table, Specification : Yantrang VMC Series VX 800 and other accessories:
1. Rapid Traverse 24M/Min
2. 7.5/11 KW servo spindle motor
3. BT40 Cartridge Type Spindle
4. Machine with 4th Axis Dia 200 mm rotary Table and
and all other accessories mentioned as per quotation dated 18.11.2023 by RT Enterprises. Value : Rs.65,00,000/-
Total Value : Rs.73,00,000/- Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Place:Bengaluru STATE BANK OF INDIA
Date:09.03.2026 Sector 2, HSR Layout Branch, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the General Public that SRI. RAJASEKHAR B S/o late SRI.Bhuvaneshwar.R is the owner of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and he has lost the original Sale Deed dated 10/1/1958 bearing Document No.5647/1987-68. Block 1, executed by SRI.P.L.Narayana Swamy in favour of SRI.K.R.Ramakrishna registered in the office of sub registrar, Bangalore, in case anybody having any claims or in possession of the said document, shall inform the under signed and handover the same within SEVEN DAYS from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the bearing Property No.38, New No.20, II Main Road, Nagappa Block, Bangalore-560 021, measuring 20 feet x 40 feet, together with built up area of 800 square feet of commercial building in the ground floor and (ii) a duplex house comprising of 800 square feet in the first floor and another 800 square feet, measuring East to West 26 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring 640 sq feet and bounded and bounded on: East by: Temple, West by: Road (II Main), North by: Mahakavi Kupwara Road, South by: Shanthanmasa's House.

N. JAGADEESH KUMAR, Advocate
No.301, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross, Near NR Colony- Bus Stand, Opp. Hotel Dwaraka,
Bangalore-560019, Call # 9341261700.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that, our clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners PRAVEEN PODDAR HUF, represented by its Kartha SRI.PRAVEEN PODDAR and NAREN PODDAR HUF represented by its Kartha SRI.NAVEEN PODDAR, residing at No.1010/A, 10th Main, 3rd Stage, 1st Block, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore- 560 079. If any persons have any manner of claim, right, title, interest, claim or charge over the property or over the Schedule Property, they are hereby requested to file their objections along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within 14 (Fourteen) days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection's received thereafter will not be binding on our clients.

SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Municipal No.117, Property No.79/117, PID No-63-133-117, E.P.D.No.4784586130, measuring East to West 63ft and North to South 30ft, in all measuring 2490 Sq.ft., with a building thereon, situated at 2nd Main, Bharathi Layout, Subbagantappa, Bangalore, within the administrative limits of BBMP Ward No.152 and bounded as follows:
East by: Road, West by: Property bearing No.83, North by: Property bearing No.116 & 84, South by: Property bearing No.116
Sd/- BAYYA REDDY, M.
For ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 2nd Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex, 22nd Main Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari BDA Complex, Bangalore- 560 070.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPUR
O.S.No. 152/2011

Plaintiffs : Doddarasamma and others
Vs
Defendants : Muthanarasaiah and others
4. Ankit Jain, R/o. 25 years
S/o Rajesh Kumar, R/o. No.8/15, Kalavai Street, Chintinagar, Anasalai,
Chennai-600002, Tamilnadu.
5. Mr.Sanjay, age 44 years, S/o. Parashral, R/o. Plot No.101, Golecha, Chintinagar, 5th Floor, B-1 Block, Gopal Layout, VTC, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu-641001
7. Mr.N.Samyak Golecha, age 21 years, S/o Naveen Golecha, R/o. No.54/70, Meera Street, Chocia, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600112
8. Mr.Roshan.P, age 32 years, S/o.B.Padma Chandra, R/o.No.7, New Bungalow Street, Chintinagar, Anasalai, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600002
9. Mr.M.Rishab, age 38 years, S/o.C.Mohide, R/o.No.163, G Floor, National High School Road, V.V. Puram, Bangalore, South, Bangalore - 560004
10. Mr.Prem Prakash.M age 55 years, S/o. Mangal Jain, R/o.No.2 Bazar Street, Venkatarajapuram, Ambatur, Thiruvallur, Tamilnadu-600053

Whereas the Plaintiffs have filed the above suit against you for the relief of Partition in respect of the schedule properties situated at Chigaranahally and Kadathippur, Doddaballapur taluk, Doddaballapur taluk against M.Muthanarasaiah & others. Plaintiffs have filed an application to implement the following proposed defendants in the case as they are necessary parties. Plaintiffs have taken suit summons to the proposed defendants 4, 5, 7 to 10 through court and also by Speed Post. Proposed defendants 4, 5, 7 to 10 have deliberately and intentionally avoided the summons. Hence you are hereby summoned through paper publication in Indian Express daily to appear before the Court in person or by Pleader on the day 17-4-2026 to answer the same, failing which the case will be disposed of ex parte by the Hon'ble court.

SCHEDULE
Item No. 2
Property bearing Sy.No.19 and 20 measuring 4 acres 28 guntas and 4 acres 28 guntas respectively situated at Chigaranahally Village, Doddaballapur taluk and Doddaballapur taluk and having common boundaries as recorded as follows: East by : Bommalie Elie West By : Lands of Ramakrishnaiah & Arasappa North by : Sy.No.17 of Chigaranahally South by : Sy.No.21 of Chikka Doddabai & N.Veeranna's land

Item No. 3
Property bearing Sy.No.16, measuring 4 acres 26 guntas and 4 acres 26 guntas situated at Chigaranahally Village, Doddaballapur taluk and bounded as follows East by : Bommalie Elie West By Lands of Ramakrishnaiah & Arasappa North by : Nanappa's land in Sy.No.16 South by : Land of Sy.No.17

Item No. 4
The land bearing Sy.No.53/1 measuring 18 guntas, situated at Kadathippur, Doddaballapur taluk, bounded on East by : Land of Thammannaappa West By : Land of Muthanarasaiah North by : Land of Banavegowda South by : Land of Nanjappa

Item No. 5
The land bearing Sy.No.37/17 measuring 1 acre 15 guntas situated at Kadathippur, Doddaballapur taluk, bounded on East by : Land of Banavegowda South by : Land of Nanjappa

Item No. 6
The land bearing Sy.No.37/17 measuring 1 acre 15 guntas situated at Kadathippur, Doddaballapur taluk, bounded on East by : Land of Banavegowda South by : Land of Nanjappa

Item No. 7
The land bearing Sy.No.39/2 measuring 1 acre 16 guntas situated at Kadathippur, Doddaballapur taluk, bounded on East by : Bommalathi Sona West By : Halla North by : Sy.No.39/1 South by : Land of C.Nanjappa

Item No. 8
The land bearing Sy.No.47/7 measuring 1 acre 1 guntas, situated at Kadathippur, Doddaballapur taluk, bounded on East by : Land of A.Ranganasiah West By : Land of Thammannaappa North by : Road South by : Land of C.Nanjappa

Item No. 9
The land bearing Sy.No.47/9 measuring 12 guntas, situated at Kadathippur, Doddaballapur taluk, bounded on East by : Land of Lakkarasiah West By : Land of Thammannaappa North by : Land of C.Nanjappa South by : Land of Bheemanna

Item No.10
The land bearing Sy.No.47/11 measuring 4 guntas, situated at Kadathippur, Doddaballapur taluk, bounded on East by : Land of Bheemanna West By : Land of C.Nanjappa North by : Land of Bheemanna South by : Land of Arasappa

Item No.11
The land bearing Sy.No.39/1 measuring 24 guntas, situated at Kadathippur, Doddaballapur taluk, bounded on East by : Halla West By : Halla North by Sy.No.39 South by : Land of Muthanarasaiah

Item No.12
The land bearing Sy.No.50/4 measuring 1 acre 1 guntas, situated at Kadathippur, Doddaballapur taluk, bounded on East by : Land of Muthanarasaiah West By : Road North by : Road South by : Sarakani Halla

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this the 12th day of March 2026
BY THE ORDER OF THE COURT.
Sd/- Principal
Senior Civil Judge Court, Doddaballapur

Sd/- Advocate to Plaintiff
Sd/-Kishanmurthy, B.A.L.B. Advocate,
No.522 "Incent Nussan" Na Nanjundiah Road, Near New Bus Stand, Doddaballapur.

**Bank of Baroda**
Basaveshwaranagar Branch,
No.18/119, 80 Feet Road, KHB Colony,
Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560079.
Tel: 080-23201561, E-mail: VJBASA@bankofbaroda.co.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
"APPENDIX- IV-A [See provision to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]"
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrowers/Mortgagor/Guarantor/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

Sr. lot no.	Name & address of Borrower	Description of the Properties	Total Dues	Date & Time of Auction	Reserve Price EMD Amount Increment amount	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)	Property Inspection date & time
1	1) Mr T Daniel Francis, No.18, 2nd Cross Dobbespet, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore North PO, Bangalore GPO, Dist Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001. 2) Mr T Daniel Francis, No 47, Cantonment Railway Quarters, Benson Town, Bangalore 560046, Karnataka. 3) Mr T Daniel Francis, GF 001, Ground Floor, "Sri Sai Kamal Nivas", Deepika Layout, Jayanagar Housing Society Layout, Subramanyapura, Gubbalaali Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore 560061, Karnataka	SCHEDULE "A": All that piece and parcel of the residential immovable Property bearing Nos. 10, 23 & 24, formed in Sy. No.58/5A, duly converted by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, vide Order Conversion No.BD/IS.ALN.SR(S) 288/03-04, dt: 15-11-2003, V.P. Khatha No. 690, situated at GUBBALALI VILLAGE, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently within the limits of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.184, Uttarahalli Sub-Division, Bangalore and the site measuring East to West: North side:86-0 feet, Southern side:86.6 feet and North to South: 60-0 feet and totally measuring 5190 Sq. Ft., and bounded on the:East by: 30 feet Road,West by: 30 feet Road, North by: Site No.8 & 25,South by Site No.11 & 22. SCHEDULE 'B': Description of undivided share773 Square feet of undivided share right, title, interest, claims whatsoever in the land of the Schedule-A Property. SCHEDULE 'C': All that piece and parcel of the residential Apartment bearing Flat No.GF-001, 2 BHK, having BBMP Khatha No.1446/GF-001/747/9, 10, 23, 24 in the Ground Floor of the apartment building known as "SRI SAI KAMAL NIVAS", having super built up area of 1260 Sq. ft. & One Car Parking, with Vitrified tiles flooring, with all civic amenities and with right to use common areas, entrances, staircases, passages, corridors, etc., provided in the Schedule 'A' Property and New E Swattu PID No.8845435080 and bounded on the:East by: Flat No GF 003,West by: 40 Feet Road,North by: Flat No GF 002, South by: Vacant Plot (Private Property)	Rs 98,28,274/- (Rupees Ninety-Eight Lakhs Twenty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Four Only) as on Possession Notice dated 23.01.2026 plus interest and other legal charges	22.04.2026 between 02.00 PM to 06.00 PM	Rs. 73,50,000/- Rs.7,35,000/- till 2 PM Rs. 50,000/-	Symbolic Possession	With prior appointment from Authorised Officer
2	1) Mr Nagendra Gaur, Flat No. B003, 'B' Block, Ground Floor, "Garudadi Springs" Apartment, Yelachenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru 560078. 2) Mr Nagendra Gaur, Flat No. B004, 'B' Block, Ground Floor, "Garudadi Springs" Apartment, Yelachenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru 560078. 3) Mr Nagendra Gaur, Post Mahagurup Dhahar, Hathipur, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh 4) Mr Nagendra Gaur, U-34/48, Front Side, 3rd Floor, Sector 24, Gurugram 122010, Haryana. 5) Mr Nagendra Gaur, 480, 481, 1st Floor, Tower 1, GDC, Udhayg Vihar, Phase-3, Gurugram, Haryana	PROPERTY NO - 1: SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property Khaneshumari No. 169, House list No.26, 27 & 28, Khatha No.240, 243 & 241 (Old No.472) situated at Yelachenahalli village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore. Presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP, and bounded on the:East by: Road,West by: Private Layout,North by: Private Property,South by: Layout of Jayanagar Co-operative Society,Measuring East to West: 100 feet, and North to South 182 feet, totally measuring 18,200 Sq.ft. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of Flat bearing No. B-003 in Ground Floor, B Block, having Three Bed Room, having 1494 Sq.ft., of super built up are in an apartment known GARUDADRI SPRINGS along with 379 Sq.ft., of undivided share in Schedule 'A' Property and along with 2m Car Parking Space.East by: Lift and Flat No B 002,West by: Area Open to Sky,North by: Common Corridor & Flat B 004,South by: Area Open to Sky SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of Flat bearing No. B-004 in Ground Floor, B Block, having Two Bed Room, having 1242 Sq.ft., of super built up are in an apartment known GARUDADRI SPRINGS along with 379 Sq.ft., of undivided share in Schedule 'A' Property and along with 1 Car Parking Space.East by: Common Corridor, West by: Area Open to Sky, North by: Area Open to Sky, South by: Flat No B-003,	Rs 1,80,27,677/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Lakhs Twenty-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Seven Only) as on Possession Notice dated 23.01.2026 plus interest and other legal charges	22.04.2026 between 02.00 PM to 06.00 PM	Property No. 1 : Rs. 77,50,000/- Rs.7,75,000/- till 2 PM Rs. 50,000/- Property No. 2 : Rs. 62,50,000/- Rs.6,25,000/- till 2 PM Rs. 50,000/-	Constructive Possession	With prior appointment from Authorised Officer

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and online auction portal <https://baanknet.com> and Also, prospective bidders may contact the Branch head on Tel No. 080-23201561 & Mobile 9833009762.
Date: 13.03.2026
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
Bank of Baroda, Basaveshwaranagar Branch

**STATE BANK OF INDIA**
Home Loan Centre, HSR Layout
No.241, 19th Main Road 4th Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560 102.
Mob No. 9972361099, Email: rappc.hsr@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Rule - 8 (1) (For immovable property)
File No. KNR/15035/HL/202, Account Nos. 65216958240 &65216959902
WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (No. 3 of 2002) issued a Demand Notice dated 08.09.2024 calling upon the borrower Shri. A Gopala, S/o. Appaji Gowda to repay the amount mentioned in the notice Rs. 25,68,929/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Nine only) as on 07.09.2025and interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on 10.03.2026
The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of Rs. 24,34,094/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand Ninety Fouronly) as on 07.03.2026 and interest + expenses thereon.
The borrower's/ mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Sale Deed Regd. Doc. BNS-1-14296-2014-15, CD No. BNSD339, dated 25.11.2014 at SRO: Shivajinagar (Banawasi), Bengaluru.
All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No. 19, formed in Property No. 45, Khatha No. 45, situated at Kalkere Channasandra Village, (K Channasandra), Krishnarajapura Hobli, erstwhile Bengaluru South Taluk, now Bengaluru East Taluk, now comes within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet, totally measuring 1200 Square feet, together with 900 Square feet RCC Roofed House with Granite Flooring, Honne Wood Doors and Steel windows along with water, electricity and sanitary amenities attached thereto, standing in the name of Shri. A Gopala S/o. Appaji Gowda and bounded on the East by: Road, West by: Private property, North by: Site No. 20 and South by: Site No. 18, Standing in the name of Sri.A Gopala S/o. Appaji Gowda.

Place:Bengaluru Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Date: 10.03.2026 State Bank of India, Home Loan Centre,
HSR Layout Bengaluru

**Canara Bank**
Regional Office West Branch
Chitrapur Mutt Complex,
Malleswaram 15th Cross,
Bangalore-560055
(A Government Of India Undertaking)

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)] TO BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR
NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002
'We, Canara Bank, Regional Office West Branch had issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered Post with Acknowledgment Due (RPAD) to the addressees furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. Since the notice has not been acknowledged and returned due to non-availability of addressees at the said addresses / due to evading of service of the notices sent by RPAD, notice could not be served. Further, Bank had served the said demand notices by affixure at the addressees given. The contents of the said notices are mentioned herein below.

1. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor :
(1) Mr.Mahantesh Shindhe, S/o Gopal Sindhe No 43, 4th Main Road Meenakshi Nagar, Kamakshipalya, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560079 (2) Mr.Lokesh Shindhe (Co-borrower) S/o Gopal Dyammanna Shindhe, D. No. 12 3 30A5, Anugraha Complex Moodanidamboor, Brahmagiri Circle, Udipi, Karnataka-576102 (2a) Mr.Lokesh Shindhe (Co-borrower) S/o Gopal Dyammanna Shindhe, 16143 Shri Durga Anugraha Nivasa, 4th Main, Meenakshi Nagar, Kamakshipalya, Bangalore North, Basaveshwaranagar, Karnataka-560079 (3) Mrs. Kamalakshi (Co-borrower), W/o Mr.mahantesh Shindhe, No. 43,4th Main Road, Meenakshi Nagar, Kamakshipalya, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru North, Bangalore-560079.

Details of the credit facilities availed by the borrower:

Sl. No	Nature of Loan/Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount of Sanction	Liability With interest as on 12.03.2026	Rate of Interest
1	Term Loan 2529605002845	06/11/2020	Rs. 27,00,000/-	Rs. 18,08,529.48	11.10 + 2 % (penal interest)

Total Liability Amount: Rs.18,08,529.48 (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Nine and Forty Eight Paise Only) together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.
NPA Date : 11.03.2026 Demand Notice Dated : 13.03.2026
Name of Title holder : Mr.Mahantesh Shindhe.
Description Immovable Property: All that part and parcel of Southern portion of the Property bearing No 71/7, Sy No 71/7, House List No 1414, CMC khatha No 1324, Kamakshipalya Village, Saneguruvanhalli Dhakale,Yeshwanthpura Hobli Bangalore North Taluk , Now comes under the Administrative jurisdiction of Bruhuth Bangalore, Ward No. 18 Municipal No. 15, PID No. 18-14-15 4th main Road Meenakshinagara Kamakshipalya Bengaluru Measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 15 ft, Totally measuring 600 sq feet and consist of RCC roofed 5 squares Building at ground, first and second floors and bounded on : East by :Property belongs to Smt.Shamakka, West By :Road, North By :Northern portion of property belongs to Smt. Lalitha, South By : Road.

You are hereby called upon to pay Canara Bank, within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the amount mentioned here above, failing which Canara Bank will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act, against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers and the Guarantors. The powers available to Canara Bank under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower / Guarantors / Mortgagor including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by Canara Bank shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice affixed and also Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section (13)(2) of the said Act.

Date : 14.03.2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Place : Bengaluru Bank of Baroda, Basaveshwaranagar Branch

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank



Former England captain Kevin Pietersen, who mentored the Delhi Capitals last year, said that he won't be able to serve the role in IPL 2026. "I cannot be the mentor for Delhi Capitals this IPL season. I cannot give the time that the job requires. Best wishes to all the players for this season!" Pietersen said on X in a post written in Hindi.

IPL'S CHALLENGES IN TIME OF CRISIS

With energy sector hit, especially cooking gas, it needs to be seen how league think-tank navigates should the West Asia conflict continue

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Chennai

THE next edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) is scheduled to begin on March 28 in Bengaluru. Actually, scratch that. The next edition of the IPL is a scheduled to begin on March 28 in Bengaluru but subject to how the situation in West Asia progresses over the next 10 days. In all likelihood, the defending champions, RCB, as has been customary, may have the honour of opening the league but subject to the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) implementing the recommendations of the Justice Michael D'Cunha report following the stampede and the strategy during the victory celebrations outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium last year.

So, it's fair to say that the 19th edition of one of the world's richest sporting leagues is facing some headwinds as another season approaches. Outside of geopolitical factors as well as the issue around the Stadium -- some sources have suggested that the Stadium will receive the necessary go-ahead -- other factors too may play a role. With elections scheduled to be held in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu in the Summer, the officials can only announce the fixtures for the rest of the campaign once the Elections Commission releases the dates as well as counting (Assam, too, is going to polls but Guwahati may have already finished hosting its quota of games for the season by then).

On Thursday night, Devajit

Saikia, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), posted a facebook link on his X. It was a news item. It basically said the secretary was confident that the war wouldn't affect the IPL. His comments came just a few days after the chair of the IPL GC, Arun Dhimal, had told this daily that 'we are reviewing the development'. "Since this is an evolving situation, nothing can be said of now. But we will take a call accordingly."

Whether the BCCI wants or not, the conflict in West Asia could well affect the situation around the IPL. The IPL has shown some robustness in shape-shifting whenever factors have threatened its conduct. In 2009, because of the general elections, they staged the whole show in South Africa. Two editions have been held in the UAE (one can confidently say there's zero chance of hosting it there in 2026) because of Covid. The 2014 edition was staged there for a few weeks, again because of general election. That way, the IPL, irrespective of the body's leadership group, have showed they can adapt and adjust according to the situation.

This time, too, they may have to display that. While the Indian government have stressed for peace, they have not yet managed to get any major long-term concessions with respect to the flow of energy products via the Strait of Hormuz. Why is it that important? The narrow stretch of water is one of the world's most critical energy chokepoints, with 20% of the world's energy needs flowing through it. From an India perspective, they import over 80% of their energy

UPDATE ON IPL CENTRE STATES

As the West Asia conflict continues, gas crisis in the country is creating issues in several states. The sharp decline in supply of commercial LPG has hit hotels, hostels, private lodges and restaurants across several states. Hotel association said gas supply has forced them to trim menus and in future they might turn to electric appliances. Here are the states with IPL centres...

- Tamil Nadu (Chennai)
- Karnataka (Bengaluru)
- Telangana (Hyderabad)
- Maharashtra (Mumbai)
- Assam (Guwahati)
- Punjab (Mullanpur)
- UP (Lucknow)
- West Bengal (Kolkata)
- Gujarat (Ahmedabad)
- Delhi (New Delhi)

needs via this Strait. If they cannot get any concessions from the Iranian government, the country will begin to feel the pinch as supply chains begin to dwindle.

They have managed to get permission from the US government to purchase Russian oil already in the market but that's only for a month. So far, the authorities have stressed for calm, maintaining that there's enough supply. But they have also put in place a tiered priority system.

In it, Industrial and commercial consumers -- star hotels and restaurants, for example -- have been placed in Priority Sector IV. And they will receive only 80% of their average consumption. And when IPL teams come calling, they usually consume a lot of energy. Some of them are over 100-strong including families of players and an army of support staff. They generally tend to take over entire floors. Hotels may not have the capacity to cater to their demands for over two

months if supply chains are badly hit already.

That's just one of the many ways the IPL could feel the energy pinch in the next two-and-a-half months.

The Indian government has maintained there's enough refined fuel stocks to tide over the crisis but scenes in petrol bunks in a few places across the country has led to some fears of an upcoming fuel crunch. In several petrol bunks in Chennai, they had run out of

petrol. It forced several firms to issue advisories, advising citizens to not panic. Some reports have stated that the country has stocks worth at least 50 days.

But it's clear that supply chains have been hit and the war is not showing any signs of reaching a conclusion. If anything, the US and Israel have amped up rhetoric over the last 24 hours, including attacking Kharg, one of Iran's most important oil resources. In such a scenario, how much crude will enter India in the days and weeks ahead?

Why is crude important to the running of the IPL? A one sentence answer are floodlights. According to some associations, venues where IPL is scheduled to be held in the first two weeks, they need at least 2500-3000 litres of diesel to ensure continuous and uninterrupted use of floodlights for all night matches. In case there's a supply shock to the system, it may create significant challenges to play night games or even evening games. With Indian summers very harsh, starting games at 1.00 PM may be out of the question.

Outside of floodlights, resources are needed to keep a Stadium functioning during the 75-day gala. This newspaper has already reported how some of the caterers are planning the bracing up to manage gas crunch. Using of tandoors, electric stoves and grills are some of the alternatives they are exploring. Some even said that the menu would change and fry items will be replaced by tandoor and grilled items.

Also keep in mind the distress calls made by small businesses and restaura-

rants. Some of these same restaurants, as well as other hotels, usually set up stalls to feed the over 30,000 people who move through the turnstiles on an everyday basis for two months. Will they be able to source commercially available LPG to keep that running? Answers to this may be known later this month.

On Friday, Gudakesh Motie, the West Indies spinner, opted out of the upcoming Pakistan Super League (PSL). Motie, one of the players who was stranded in India till a few days ago, had just reached his place. It's not yet known if that was his primary reason but it begs the question. What about the IPL-bound West Indies players who were part of the World Cup? Will they be able to come back in time for the opener on March 28? This may sound like scaremongering but at least one commercial airline has cancelled all flights from London to Abu Dhabi indefinitely.

Other airlines may take a call to cancel flights to West Asia. Of course, the IPL has the financial bandwidth to operate charter flights from Africa and Europe but this is a new development to keep in mind.

By all accounts, it's been business as usual inside IPL HQ. Teams have started the final leg of their pre season camps, new jerseys have been stitched and franchises have already announced plans in the lead up. At JioHotstar, employees are planning as usual. There is an air of calm authority. Before long, all the camera equipment will be in place. The players should be there. Will diesel and gas follow them? The million dollar question.

EXPRESS READ

Four Indians reach Futures Cup finals

BANGKOK: India's young boxers continued their impressive run at the World Boxing Futures Cup 2026, with Chandrika, Gunjan, Joyshree Devi and Ambekar Meetei advancing to the finals after registering convincing victories in their semifinal bouts here on Saturday. In the women's 51kg category, Chandrika beat Rihab Hamdoune of Morocco by Referee Stopped Contest (RSC) in Round 2, sealing her place in the gold-medal bout.

Swiss Open: Tharun loses to Ginting

BASEL: India's Tharun Manneppalli put up a gallant fight before going down to Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in a thrilling three-game quarterfinal at the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament here. The world No. 43 Indian lost 19-21, 21-19, 13-21 to Ginting, who is returning from injuries. The defeat also brought the curtains down on India's campaign at the \$250,000 tournament.

BCCI to honour Binny, David & Mithali

CHENNAI: Former India all-rounder Roger Binny and former captains Rahul David and Mithali Raj are to be honoured with the lifetime achievement award at the BCCI annual awards 2026 on Sunday in New Delhi. The two men's cricketers will receive the Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award while Mithali will be honoured with BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women. At the event, all five ICC trophy winning teams across men, women and junior are also set to be felicitated.

Senior nat'l TT: PSPB, RSPB start strongly

INDORE: Traditional powerhouses PSPB and RSPB started their campaign in the 87th UTT Senior National Table Tennis Championships with dominant victories, moving closer to the knockout stage here on Saturday. In the men's section, PSPB set the early pace in Group A with convincing 3-0 victories over Andhra Pradesh and Punjab. Later, RSPB asserted control in Group B, defeating Rajasthan 3-1 before brushing aside Gujarat 3-0.

SPORTS BEAR BRUNT
A LOOK AT SOME SPORTING EVENTS THAT ARE AFFECTED DUE TO WEST ASIA TURMOIL....

CRICKET



The bilateral series between Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, scheduled to begin on March 13 in the UAE, was postponed due to current crisis.

WEIGHTLIFTING



The Asian event, scheduled to be held in Ahmedabad, has been pushed from April to May to ensure safe travel of participants.

FOOTBALL



The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) was forced to postpone Champions League Elite (West Region last 16) set for early March.

FORMULA ONE



F1 races in Bahrain on April 10-12 and Saudi Arabia a week later are set to be cancelled or rescheduled, due to the conflict in West Asia.

TENNIS



A ATP Challenger event (March 2-8) in UAE was halted mid-match and subsequently cancelled due to security concerns.

BASKETBALL



FIBA World Cup 2027 Asian Qualifiers matches this month -- including India's tie vs Lebanon were postponed.

Nieva hopeful of strong show during Asian meet

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

THE usual grind to elevate their all-round boxing skills with special focus on tactics and an offbeat session to lighten up the atmosphere and inculcate team spirit, the last few weeks have been a good learning experience for Indian boxers. Santiago Nieva, head coach of the women's boxing team, is one of the key figures who has been overseeing the boxers' daily progress. Now, Nieva is hopeful that those sessions will translate into success during the upcoming Asian Championships at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, which is set to be held from March 28 to April 11.

After a fairly successful 2025 for women, the team is in high spirits and eager to maintain their rhythm. The said continental meet will be their first major tournament of the year. The importance of this event cannot be understated as it can decide the future for all. If the boxers manage to reach the finals, they'll be an automatic

choice for the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games, which will be held later this year. In a competitive sport like boxing, that's a big advantage to have.

Nieva is not new to Indian boxing, having served earlier as high-performance director from 2017 to 2021. Having had a good look at talent in store since his comeback (rejoined earlier this year), he has a fair idea on where the boxers stand. Nieva said the coaching staff mainly focussed on their technique, especially their guard. "It's (worked on) a bit of everything. We mainly worked on some of the technical things with the girls. We looked at how they can use a strong guard, especially those who have very good feet, moving in and out. Their defensive side, using side steps... Sometimes, when they are a little bit tired, they tend to become quite messy, their punches. We are working a little bit on how they can manage those things," he told this daily. "With (worked) their footwork



and also their upper body movement, also working on building a strong guard to tighten their defence, especially if the opponent comes on very aggressively or they are a little bit tired towards the last round and how to stay compact during those times and also how to counter effectively during those times. We implemented those things in Spain already and hopefully, we can add more during the Asian Championships," the Argentina-born tactician from Sweden added.

The first batch of boxers including Nikhat Zareen reached Mongolia on Saturday. Nieva, who's part of the second batch, is set to leave on Sunday. The team will get ample time to acclimatise and apply finishing touches to their skills. Nikhat, one of the medal contenders, will be taking part in an international meet for the first time this year. Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain, who captured a gold medal during the Boxam Tournament at Spain in February, is another member of the team who needs no introduction.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Abdulla wins gold, pole vaulters secure CWG berth

SAPTARSHI C @ Bengaluru

POLE VAULTER Dev Meena, and triple jumper Abdulla Aboobacker shone on Day 1 of the Indian Open Jumps competition at the Anju Bobby High Performance Centre on Saturday.

While Aboobacker and Praveen Chithravel locked horns in a gripping triple jump contest, the pole vault arena produced equally thrilling moments with Meena and Kuldeep Kumar, both representing Madhya Pradesh, giving a run for their money. In the triple-jump

pit, Aboobacker had the upper hand. Aboobacker got his rhythm right in his third attempt to take home the gold medal with a distance of 16.83m. He improved his mark from 16.05m in the first attempt to 16.57m in his second. Chithravel's 16.78m leap earned him silver in the season-opening competition. "He got some good speed and strength, but needs to improve his ankle work, which we are focusing on now in training," Chithravel's coach and former Cuban triple



jumper Yoandri Betanzos said.

For the pole vault event, the crossbar was set at 5.25m for the decisive attempts. Both athletes cleared it successfully, leaving them as the final two competitors in the competition. For Kuldeep Kumar, this breakthrough jump represented a significant new personal best, surpassing his previous mark of 5.15m.

Meena, who holds the national record of 5.40m, used the event as a confident season opener. After securing the win

at 5.25m, he pushed further. After successfully clearing 5.35m, he narrowly missed out on bettering his national record. Kuldeep, meanwhile, fell short at 5.35m after three attempts. "We had to prepare well. Both (Meena & Kuldeep) of us came with the mindset to clear the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games cut-offs," he told this daily. He also called on the government to improve the condition of stadiums and facilities across India to better support athletes' training and development.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

BFC frustrate Bagan in 0-0 draw

SAPTARSHI C @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU FC held firm against league leaders Mohun Bagan Super Giant in a 0-0 stalemate in the Indian Super League at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday.

Mohun Bagan remain top of the table with their unbeaten run intact, while the Blues move to eight points from five matches and remain competitive in the mid-table scrap. In a match that promised fireworks

given the attacking talent on display, both sides prioritised defensive solidity over flair; resulting in a cagey affair with few clear-cut chances. The home side started with intent, pressing high and looking to exploit the flanks through Ryan Williams and Ashique Kuruniyan. BFC talisman Sunil Chhetri had two efforts denied, with Anirudh Thapa throwing himself in the way to block both attempts. BFC's emphasis on keeping the ball on the

ground and limiting the use of long balls seemed clear. "I'm very happy with the way BFC played today. We defended well and kept the ball low, which is very important," head coach Renedy Singh said in the post-match press conference. The Mariners grew into the game as the half wore on. Jamie MacLaren tested Gurpreet Singh Sandhu with a low drive, while Liston Colaco's pace caused problems on the counter.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

South & North win, DSJA in TT finals

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

RISHABH Singh's sparkling unbeaten century powered North Zone to a commanding nine-wicket victory over West Zone in the JK Bose Inter-Zonal T20 Cricket Trophy at the Roshanara Cricket Club here on Saturday, during the Golden Jubilee edition of the Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) National Convention. South Zone beat East Zone comfortably in other match.

Batting with authority, Rishabh smashed an unbeaten 102 off just 43 balls, peppering the ground with 18 fours and two sixes as North Zone chased down the modest target of 134 with ease. Earlier, West Zone were bundled out for 133 in 19.2 overs after opting to bat.

PTI's Bharat Sharma was among the standout performers as Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA-1) entered the table tennis final where they will face Sports Journalist Association of Mumbai.

FOOTBALL ROUND UP

Nine-man Bayern Munich hold on for draw at Leverkusen

AGENCIES @ Leverkusen

LEADERS Bayern Munich held on for a 1-1 draw at Bayer Leverkusen despite finishing with nine men in an eventful Bundesliga clash on Saturday. Second-placed Borussia Dortmund's comfortable home win at Augsburg drew their nine points behind reigning champions Bayern with eight games to

play. Aleix Garcia's goal gave Leverkusen the lead and Bayern striker Nicolas Jackson saw red before half-time.

Luis Diaz levelled things up but picked up a second yellow card for diving in the box. Bayern held firm to grab a point, even as Leverkusen had two efforts chalked off in stoppage time. Bayern also had strikes from Jonathan Tah and substi-

tute Harry Kane ruled out by VAR for handball in a sometimes manic match at the BayArena. Dortmund inched closer to Bayern with Karim Adeyemi and Luca Reggiani both getting on the scoresheet in a 2-0 home win over Augsburg.

EPL: Brighton grab win

Brighton beat Sunderland 1-0 to



BayernMunich players celebrate during the clash against Bayer Leverkusen | AP

JAVARIA RANA @ NEW DELHI

WARS have always extracted a steep price from those who wage them. But the ongoing confrontation, now in its third week, between the United States and Israel on one side and Iran on the other has shown the light on a strategic reality that defence planners are only beginning to fully reckon with. A militarily inferior power, through calculated and asymmetric means, can impose costs on a superior one that are entirely disproportionate to its own expenditure.

In the first six days of American military operations alone, Pentagon officials told US lawmakers in a closed-door briefing that the cost of the campaign had already crossed \$11.3 billion, covering precision-guided munitions, bomber and carrier sorties and missile defence activity, but excluding lost aircraft, damaged infrastructure and broader deployment overheads. The actual cost can be much higher.

At the centre of this imbalance is a cheap drone. Iran's Shahed-136 loitering munition, estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$50,000 per unit, has repeatedly compelled American and allied forces to respond with interceptors costing exponentially more. A single Patriot PAC-3 missile runs to \$3-4 million, while a THAAD interceptor can exceed \$10 million per launch. The arithmetic is unforgiving.

Naval mines laid in the Strait of Hormuz and alleged Chinese supply lines providing components and radar technology to Tehran have added further pressure on an already strained battlefield calculus.

Perception warfare has proved equally consequential. Both sides have claimed successes the other has vigorously disputed. AI-generated and doctored images purporting to show destroyed carriers, burning cities and mass-casualty strikes have circulated widely on social media, many debunked by open-source analysts within hours but not before reaching millions of viewers. Decoys and dummy equipment have been struck and presented as significant hits. Civilian casualty figures remain bitterly contested. In a conflict where controlling the narrative is as vital as controlling the airspace, separating operational fact from strategic messaging has become a challenge in itself.

Three forces are driving the shape of this conflict: cheap strike systems are rewriting the rules of warfare; air-defence networks face unprecedented strain; and the battle for perception is shaping how the world sees and judges this war.

The rise of the sky's new AK-47

The weapon that has most defined this conflict did not originate in the arsenals of a superpower. The Shahed-136 is 3.5 metres long, weighs roughly 200 kilograms, is powered by a piston engine reverse-engineered from a German civilian aircraft motor and carries a 50-kilogram fragmentation warhead in its nose. It cruises at low altitude along pre-programmed GPS routes and announces its arrival with a distinctive buzzing sound that Ukrainians, who encountered it first, have compared to a lawnmower.

Russia began deploying Iranian-supplied Shaheds against Ukrainian cities in October 2022, striking power grids and civilian infrastructure in waves that drew immediate international condemnation. What the AK-47 was to the twentieth century, the Shahed has become to this one; cheap enough to produce at scale, lethal enough to matter, expendable enough to be treated as a commodity.

Over three years of battlefield use in Ukraine, it was quietly improved, adding anti-jamming antennas, electronic warfare-resistant navigation and upgraded warheads iteratively through operational feedback. Iran unveiled a variant in September 2024 with a range of 4,000 kilometres. The drone that arrived over the Gulf in the past few days was a considerably more capable weapon than the one that first darkened Kyiv's skies in 2022.

ISSAC JAMES MANAYATH @ CHENNAI

IN a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court recently allowed withdrawal of life support for a 32-year-old man in coma for the past 13 years. Though this is the court's first order allowing passive euthanasia, the groundwork for it was laid as far back as 2011.

The case that set the ball rolling

The first legal recognition of passive euthanasia came in the Supreme Court's judgment in the Aruna Shanbaug vs Union of India case in 2011. In 1973, Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug was sexually assaulted by a janitor at the King Edward Memorial (KEM) Hospital, Mumbai, where she worked as a nurse. Shanbaug suffered severe brain injuries during the brutal attack and fell into a coma.

Decades later, in 2009, activist and author Pinki Virani filed a petition seeking the Supreme Court's approval to withdraw Shanbaug's life support, arguing that her continued existence is a violation of her right to live with dignity. As per the petitioner, Shanbaug "cannot be said to be a living person and it is only on account of mashed food which is put into her mouth that there is a facade of life which is totally devoid of any human element".

However, the staff at KEM Hospital, under whose care she had been, opposed the plea. In their submission, they argued, "Aruna accepts food normally and responds to commands through facial expressions or by making sounds. She appears happy and smiles when she receives her favourite food. She also enjoys devotional songs and music played in her room, which has a calming effect on her."

In the end, the court rejected Virani's plea to end Shanbaug's life, stating it is for the



CHEAP DRONES, BILLION-DOLLAR WARS AND THE BATTLE OF PERCEPTION

Washington's answer to the drone problem has been to reverse-engineer it. The US rushed 10,000 Ukrainian-developed Merops counter-drone interceptors, priced at \$1,000 to \$2,000 each, to West Asia and confirmed that Task Force Scorpion Strike had, for the first time in American military history, deployed one-way attack drones in active combat. LUCAS (Low-Cost Uncrewed Combat Attack System), is a direct clone of the Shahed-136 built by Arizona-based SpektreWorks at approximately \$35,000 per unit. "These low-cost drones, modelled after Iran's Shahed drones, are now delivering American-made retribution," CENTCOM said.

The magazine problem, Chinese shadows and the cost of losses

The financial and material toll on US forces has been striking, and underscores a rarely discussed problem in defence planning, often referred to as "magazine depth". American forces are highly capable, but even their most advanced munitions are finite and a sustained high-tempo campaign can deplete stocks faster than the industrial base can replenish them.

Beyond soaring munitions costs, hardware losses have mounted steadily. Several MQ-9 Reaper drones, each valued around \$30 million, have been shot down in theatre. A KC-135 Stratotanker refuelling aircraft crashed in western Iraq, killing all six crew members, attributed by the US to technical failure. In the first week of the conflict, CENTCOM acknowledged that a friendly-fire incident involving a Kuwaiti aircraft brought down three F-15 Eagles on the same day. Approximately 140 US service members have been wounded across 10 days of sustained attacks.

Iran's layered air-defence network combines passive infrared and electro-optical sensors that do not emit radar signals, making them difficult to detect and suppress in advance. According to think-tank assessments, these systems are particularly effective against high-endurance drones operating at predictable altitudes, forcing US forces to expend higher-cost interceptors and adapt operational tactics.

China's involvement has added a technical dimension to the conflict. Reportedly, Chinese military transport aircraft delivered compo-

KEM Hospital staff to take a call on it, and not the petitioner.

"It is the KEM Hospital staff who have been caring for her devotedly, day and night, for so many years as her next friend. Therefore, it is for them to make that decision. They have clearly expressed their wish that Shanbaug should be allowed to live," the court noted.

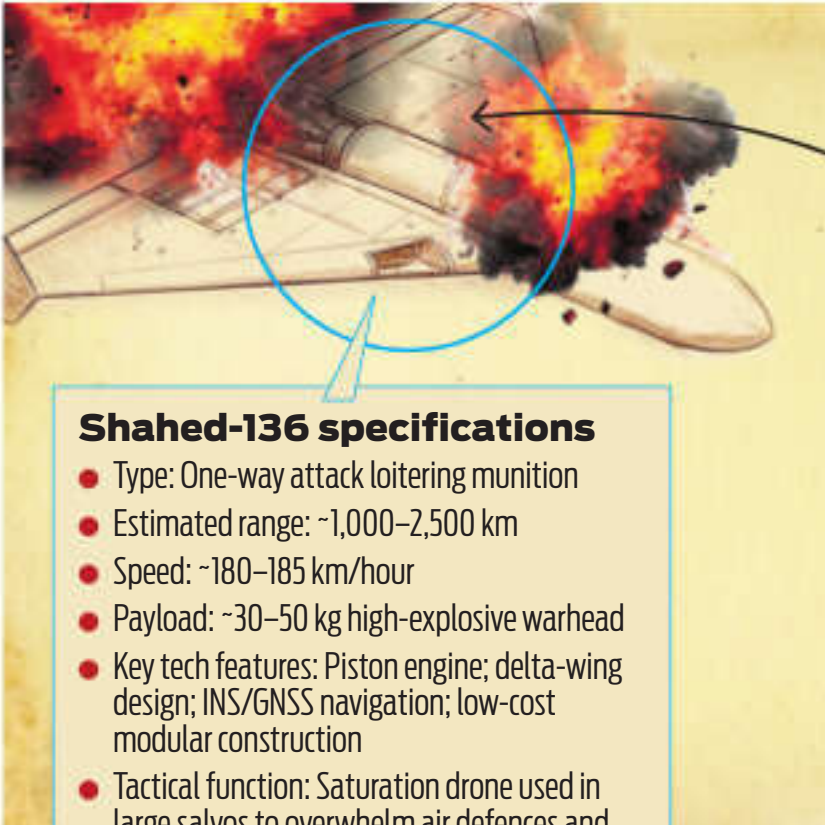
Guidelines laid down

However, what made this judgment significant is that the court agreed that passive euthanasia "could be considered as an option" in certain situations. Laying down the guidelines, it directed that when a euthanasia petition comes before a high court, its chief justice must constitute a two-judge bench to look into it. The bench must appoint a panel of three medical experts, which after carefully examining the patient, studying their medical history and consulting doctors treating them, must give its opinion on the right course of action. The bench can then take a call on granting passive euthanasia based on their opinion. "The above procedure should be followed all over India until Parliament makes legislation on this subject," the top court ruled.

In the Shanbaug case, it noted that if and when the authorities at the KEM Hospital feel that withdrawing Shanbaug's life-sustaining treatment is the appropriate course of action, they should be allowed to do so. Shanbaug passed away in 2015 after 42 years in a coma.

Passive euthanasia legalised

Although the court opened the door to passive euthanasia in 2011, it was only in 2018 that the "right to die with dignity" was recognised as a fundamental right under Article 21. In 2005, Common Cause, a Mumbai-based NGO, moved the Supreme Court seeking its recognition for 'living wills' or 'advance med-



Shahed-136 specifications

- Type: One-way attack loitering munition
- Estimated range: ~1,000–2,500 km
- Speed: ~180–185 km/hour
- Payload: ~30–50 kg high-explosive warhead
- Key tech features: Piston engine; delta-wing design; INS/GNSS navigation; low-cost modular construction
- Tactical function: Saturation drone used in large salvos to overwhelm air defences and force expenditure of costly interceptors
- Shahed-107, 238 also used in Wasia campaign

Ukraine's Sting Interceptor

- Cruise speed: 140–170 km/hour
- Maximum speed: 280 km/hour
- Minimum horizontal flight speed: 140 km/hour (at slower speed, it begins to lose altitude)
- Operational flight altitude: 0–5,000 m
- Maximum altitude: 7,000 m
- Maximum flight range: 37 km
- Payload capacity: 500 g
- Tactical operating radius: 18.5 km
- Has taken down hundreds of Shaheds

Drones / Offensive attack systems

- Shahed-136 (Iran): \$20,000 to \$50,000
- LUCAS clone (US): \$35,000
- Merops counter-drone interceptor: \$1,000 to \$2,000
- MQ-9 Reaper drone: \$30 million per unit

Defence / Intercept systems (per shot)

- Iron Dome interceptor (Israel): \$40,000 to \$100,000
- Patriot PAC-3 missile (US): \$4 million to \$5 million
- THAAD interceptor (US): \$10 million to \$15 million

THE FINANCIAL TOLL

US campaign cost in first 6 days - \$11.3 billion (Excludes lost aircraft, damaged infrastructure, medical support, deployment overheads)

For every Shahed drone Iran fires at roughly \$50,000, the US can spend up to \$15 million to shoot it down. That is a cost ratio of 300 to 1

nents to Iran, including the YLC-8B radar system developed by the Nanjing Research Institute of Electronics Technology. Operating in the UHF-band, the system is designed to counter stealth aircraft, complicating the operational use of platforms such as the F-35 Light-

ning II and B-2 Spirit in the Persian Gulf.

Assessments from multiple defence studies say that Iranian missile accuracy has improved compared to previous conflicts. This is attributed in part to the fact that Iran has officially transitioned its military architecture from American GPS to China's BeiDou-3 satellite navigation system, which provides encrypted, centimetre-level precision signals resistant to Western jamming.

China has additionally been providing Iran with real-time signals intelligence and terrain mapping through its fleet of over 500 satellites. Days before the war began, Iran was in the process of finalising a deal with China for the procurement of CM-302 supersonic anti-ship missiles, the export variant of the YJ-12, capable of travelling at Mach 3 and considered by military analysts to be carrier-killers given their speed and 290-kilometre range.

Beijing has positioned itself publicly as a potential mediator while continuing to supply Tehran with technology that has materially complicated American and Israeli strike doctrine. A Hudson Institute report reads that Iran's pivot towards Chinese air defence systems reflects eroding confidence in Russian reliability as a defence partner. The posture serves Chinese interests on multiple fronts simultaneously, preserving relationships across the Gulf, keeping Washington

occupied and avoiding the costs of direct confrontation, all without firing a single shot.

The Strait of Hormuz has become the conflict's most consequential pressure point, and the one Washington is arguably least prepared for. Iran declared that any vessel wishing to transit the strait must obtain Iranian approval or face attack. At least 18 commercial vessels have been struck since the war began, with Iran deploying an integrated combination of naval mines, suicide boats, sea drones and shore-based missile batteries.

The US destroyed 16 Iranian mine-laying vessels near the strait earlier this week but despite nearly two weeks of sustained strikes, Iran's small craft fleet has largely remained intact. The National Security Council and Pentagon officials had underestimated Iran's willingness to close the strait entirely, a miscalculation whose consequences continue to reverberate through energy markets and allied capitals.

The war on the screen

From the opening hours of Operation Epic Fury, psychological operations, AI-generated imagery and disinformation campaigns were woven into the military action as integral tools rather than peripheral supplements. Both sides have understood that in a conflict watched in real time by global audiences, the narrative of who is winning matters almost as much as who is actually winning.

Pro-Iran social media accounts have adopted a narrative that exaggerates the destruction wrought by Iranian forces, supported by what is being reported in Iranian state media, leading to a large number of AI-generated videos of supposed air strikes circulating widely. Accounts have been recycling footage of Iranian missile strikes from April 2024, October 2024 and June 2025 and presenting them as showing recent events.

The American response has been equally deliberate. CENTCOM shifted from traditional press releases to a sustained public counter-narrative campaign built around its official social media accounts, publicly refuting at least half a dozen specific Iranian claims, including a supposedly sunk American destroyer, multiple downed aircraft and a forced withdrawal from the region, with individual posts reaching audiences in the low millions.

What this conflict has laid bare is a fundamental shift in the nature of contemporary war. Technological superiority is no longer sufficient, the side that prevails will be the one that can impose costs, shape perception and sustain pressure across every domain at once, for as long as it takes.

Permitting the END OF LIFE with dignity

TIMELINE

1996 In Gian Kaur v. State of Punjab, the Supreme Court ruled that the "right to life" under Article 21 of the Constitution does not include a "right to die"

2006 The Law Commission of India (17th Law Commission) recommended legalising passive euthanasia

2011 In Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug v. Union of India, the Supreme Court held that passive euthanasia could be allowed in certain circumstances

2018 In Common Cause v. Union of India, the Supreme Court ruled that the right to live with dignity includes the right to die with dignity, and recognised passive euthanasia under strict guidelines

2026 In Harish Rana v. Union of India, the Supreme Court delivered its first ruling permitting passive euthanasia

ical directives' of patients who are terminally ill. The petitioner also sought that 'the right to die with dignity' be declared a fundamental right. In its judgment, a five-judge Constitution Bench permitted the creation of a 'living will' by terminally ill patients on withdrawing medical support if they slip into a coma.

The court agreed with the petitioner and ruled that the right to live with dignity under Article 21 also includes the right to die with dignity. In doing so, it concurred with the views of American legal scholar Ronald Dworkin that "dignity may be compromised if the dying process is prolonged and involves becoming incapacitated and dependent". The court directed the Centre to ensure that persons with "deteriorated health" or those who are terminally ill are able to execute a living will that contains an appropriate course of action that can be taken if they fall into a coma.

However, before a living will can be executed, the patient's condition must be assessed by two medical boards: one appointed by the hospital treating the patient and the other by the chief medical officer of the relevant district. Both must agree that passive euthanasia is the best course of action.

Revisiting the norms

While the 2018 judgment legalised passive euthanasia, the court went a step further in 2023 by making the process easier and less time-consuming. Responding to a plea by the Indian Council of Critical Care Medicine, the court removed the requirement that a judicial magistrate attest the patient's living will and that the document be kept in the custody of the district court. The medical boards were also given 48 hours to provide their opinions.

Landmark verdict

The first court order approving passive eutha-

nasia came nearly eight years after the Common Cause judgment. Thirty-two-year-old Harish Rana from Ghaziabad suffered severe head injuries after falling from the fourth floor of a building in 2013 and has remained in a coma for nearly 13 years. In 2024, the Delhi High Court rejected a petition by his parents seeking permission to withdraw Rana's life support, saying he was not on a ventilator.

The parents then approached the Supreme Court, which directed that two medical boards be constituted to assess Rana's condition. Both concluded that he has been in a persistent vegetative state for 13 years and has no chance of recovery. Based on these and the submissions made by his parents and others, the court ruled that prolonging Rana's life was not in his best interests and approved the withdrawal of life support.

"For the past 13 years, the appellant has lived a life defined by pain and suffering. A suffering made more cruel, as unlike most of us, he was stripped of his ability to even give voice to his anguish," Justice Pardiwala stated. Life support in the case of Rana included the Clinically Administered Nutrition (CAN), which means food delivered directly to the stomach via a PEG tube and a tracheostomy tube to help with breathing.

The Supreme Court had recognised in the Common Cause case that a feeding tube constituted a form of life support. "Passive euthanasia occurs when medical practitioners do not provide life-sustaining treatment or remove patients from life-sustaining treatment," Justice AK Sikri had said in the Common Cause judgment. While the Rana case verdict has been celebrated, what stands out in the eight years since the Common Cause ruling is the absence of legislation on passive euthanasia. The Rana case verdict reiterated that its guidelines will remain in place only until Parliament enacts a law on the subject.