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U.S. DELEGATION TO REACH PAKISTAN TODAY TO RESUME TALKS WITH IRAN
US President Donald Trump renewed his threats to destroy Iran's vital infrastructure if it did not agree to a deal with the US to end the war

'NO MORE MR. NICE GUY', TRUMP WARNS IRAN

Trump said his negotiators would arrive in Islamabad on Monday evening. Ahead of the expected talks, Trump stepped up his threats saying the US will "knock out every single power plant and bridge in Iran" if it does not agree to the deal he offers. "NO MORE MR. NICE GUY!" he wrote on Truth Social. Vice President J D Vance is expected to lead the US delegation

DAY AFTER SHIPS FIRED AT, STRAIT STAYS SHUT

■ The Strait of Hormuz remained closed on Sunday. Trump slammed Iran for violating the ceasefire by firing upon ships transiting the strait
■ Meanwhile, Iran doubled down on its pledge to curb ships transiting through the strategic waterway. "It is impossible for others to pass, while we cannot," Iranian speaker Mohammed Ghalibaf said | **P9**

Wednesday
WHEN THE CURRENT CEASEFIRE BETWEEN IRAN AND THE U.S. EXPIRES

Ex-Union min Trivedi to be India's next envoy to Dhaka

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

IN a calibrated move, the government is set to appoint former Union Minister and former Trinamool Congress leader Dinesh Trivedi as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh, opting for a political heavy-weight over a career diplomat at a moment of cautious reset in Dhaka-New Delhi ties.

Though Bangladesh had been quietly informed that the next envoy would be a political appointee, Trivedi's selection stands out for both its timing and signalling value.

He replaces Pranay Verma, who moves to Brussels as India's ambassador to the European Union. Trivedi becomes one of the few overtly political nominees to a sensitive neighbourhood posting in recent years. The appointment comes as India looks to reset its Bangladesh policy amid an evolving political landscape.

Against this backdrop, sending a 75-year-old political veteran suggests a deliberate pivot: from protocol-heavy diplomacy to a more politically managed engagement, where messaging, access and negotiation bandwidth may outweigh traditional bureaucratic continuity. The move also carries domestic political messaging as Trivedi is a former TMC leader.

Trivedi's own arc—from a Trinamool Congress minister in the UPA government under Manmohan Singh to a BJP entrant in 2021—adds a layer of political adaptability that may be seen as useful in a complex bilateral setting. His parliamentary experience across both Houses, and familiarity with West Bengal's political landscape, could also prove relevant in managing cross-border sensitivities.

PUB BRAWL MAN PUSHED FROM 2ND FLOOR, DIES

A 30-year-old man died on the spot after he was allegedly pushed from the second floor of a pub in Vijayanagar, Mysuru, late on Saturday night following a heated altercation. The deceased, Nishanth, was a resident of Gokulam in Mysuru. | **P5**



Concrete structures reduced to rubble at the Vanaja fireworks unit in Kattanarpatti after a massive explosion; (right) fire and rescue services personnel carrying an injured man to safety; (inset) a woman breaks down outside the Virudhunagar MCH | **K K SUNDAR**



23 killed, 11 injured in explosion at Tamil Nadu firecracker unit

Police, some media personnel, including *TNIE* photographer, hurt in second blast during rescue op

HARINI M @ Virudhunagar

AT least 23 workers were charred to death and 11 others sustained injuries in a massive explosion at Vanaja fireworks unit at Kattanarpatti village near Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu on Sunday. At least five policemen, media personnel, including *TNIE* senior photojournalist KK Sundar, and a few fire and rescue services personnel suffered injuries in a second blast at the private firecracker unit during rescue operation around 7pm, sources said.

Based on preliminary inquiry, police said the incident happened around 3 pm when around 50 employees were working at the DRO-licensed unit. The blast is believed to

have originated in the front veranda area, where workers were allegedly handling raw materials. The impact of the blast was so severe that at least four rooms were reduced to rubble, and several adjacent structures were completely levelled. Sources said fire and rescue services personnel battled the flames for several hours.

So far, police have identified the deceased as K Velsamy (56),

S Porkodi (63) both from Thiruthangal village, K Pandiammal (55), M Bakyalakshmi (40), K Kaliammal (45), M Indhurani (46), R Mariammal (57), K Maruthan (50), his wife Nagammal (48), K Pandiammal (54), A Janaki (55) and I Nachiammal (55), all from Servaikaranpatti. The charred bodies of the deceased were shifted to Government Virudhunagar Medical College Hospital and the

A DEAFENING BLAST AND CALL OF DUTY



Virudhunagar: In a firsthand account, *TNIE*'s photojournalist K K Sundar recounts a harrowing experience during the blast at Kattanarpatti. While approaching the site on a Sunday, Sundar was nearly caught in a massive secondary blast. The explosion was so powerful it caused temporary disorientation and a head injury from flying debris. Despite the physical trauma and rising panic, Sundar overcame personal fear to answer his call of duty | **P7**

9,000 Indians facing deportation from Canada as new law kicks in

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

ABOUT 9,000 Indians, most of them students from Punjab, who had sought asylum in Canada, are facing deportation under the country's new immigration law. Bill C-12, enacted on March 26, tightens rules for asylum seekers in Canada.

Many students from Punjab, who had adopted the asylum route to extend their stay in Canada after completing their studies there, due to stringent visa rules and limited pathways to permanent residency, would be affected.

A spokesperson for the Canadian Immigration Minister said the government is now implementing the new law and is in the process of sending procedural fairness letters to affected individuals.

According to reports, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has told



Tighter curbs on asylum seekers
Under Bill C-12, which came into force on March 26, individuals applying for asylum more than one year after arriving in Canada will be deemed ineligible for a full hearing before the Immigration and Refugee Board

some of them to leave the country immediately. Reports said the IRCC has issued procedural fairness no-

tices to 30,000 asylum seekers, including 9,000 from India, informing them that their asylum claims may no longer qualify and advising them to leave Canada voluntarily or face enforcement action.

The IRCC has clarified that those receiving the notice have 21 days to submit additional information.

Failure to respond to the notice could lead to deportation proceedings, it said.

These notices have triggered panic. Affected individuals have been advised to consult registered immigration consultants or lawyers and gather all supporting documents.

Bill C-12 retroactively bars individuals who entered Canada more than one year prior to filing an asylum claim from referring their cases to the Immigration and Refugee Board. This rule applies to entries dating back to June 24, 2020.

injured are also getting treatment at the same hospital.

Police identified the injured as Saratha, Panjavarnam, Petchiammal, Sangli Thangam, Veerabathran, Arunkumar, a 12-year-old V Sathish (son of one of the workers who was playing at the spot). Among the injured, Petchiammal and Panjavarnam sustained more than 80% burns and are said to be critical. The rescue operations resumed post a brief halt after the second blast. Minister KKSSR Ramachandran said that CM M K Stalin will announce compensation after getting approval from the ECI.

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan, PM Narendra Modi and CM MK Stalin have expressed their condolences. **P7**



RETURN TO HEYDAYS

Tourists pose for a photo in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. A year after the terrorist attack, visitors are slowly returning to the tourist spot | **ZAHoor PUNJABI**

6 drown in Cauvery, CM announces Rs 5L relief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

SIX people, including three children, who had gathered for an urus, drowned in the Cauvery river near Arkeshwara Temple in KR Nagar taluk of Mysuru district on Sunday.

All the deceased had come to a nearby dargah. As they were playing in the river, one of them slipped away, while others, trying to rescue the person, entered the water. The deceased were identified as Fatima (42), wife of Ismail from Udayagiri in Mysuru; Mohammed Yasin (23), son of Mohammed Babu, an autorickshaw driver from SBR Layout, Bengaluru; Neha Kausar (19), wife of Mohammed Yasin, from SBR Layout, Bengaluru; Uzeir (5), son of Sadiq, from Udayagiri, Mysuru; Emma Aiman (13), daughter of Arif, from Ka-

dugondanahalli, Bengaluru; and Afif Ahmed (13), child of Riyaz Pasha from Muslim Block, KR Nagar.

Expressing grief, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah posted on X that he was deeply saddened by the deaths. He announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the relatives of each deceased. Mysuru SP Mallikarjun Baladangi and KR Nagar police have visited the spot and are investigating the circumstances that led to the tragedy.



Public gather in front of a hospital in KR Nagar where the survivors are under treatment

Accident on NH-50 kills 4, injures 25

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hosapete

A serial accident claimed four lives and left at least 25 people injured near Danapur village in Hosapete taluk on Sunday. The accident occurred on a stretch of the National Highway-50 where ongoing road repair and bridge construction work had restricted traffic movement to a single lane.

A lorry transporting sacks of garlic from Delhi to Bengaluru lost control and rammed into multiple vehicles. It first hit a car before crashing into a government bus and then three motorcycles. It then hit a van and a container lorry before overturning by the roadside, according to the police.

The deceased have been identified as Sujatha (40) and her father Nagappa (80), residents of Kittur village in Hagari-bommanahalli taluk, and Durgappa (55) from Talebasapura tanda, who was riding one of the motorcycles. Authorities later confirmed that the death toll had risen to four.

The injured include passengers of the government bus, which was heading from Hosapete to Chitradurga. The lorry rear-ended the bus, leaving around 25 passengers injured. All of them were immediately shifted to the Hosapete Government Hospital. Of the injured, six were referred to the Koppal District Hospital for advanced care, while the remaining are being treated at the Hosapete district hospital.

Police said the ongoing highway repair work, which had reduced traffic movement to one side, could be the major reason for the accident.

Tata Trusts scraps Parsi-only clause

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

TATA Trusts, led by chairman Noel Tata, on Sunday said it has decided to correct certain clauses in the trust deed of the Bai Hirabai Jamsetji Tata Navsari Charitable Institution that restrict trusteeship to Parsis, and that too to those residing in the erstwhile Bombay Presidency.

"The trustees, at their April 17 meeting, have decided to initiate proceedings... for alteration of restrictive clauses with respect to the eligibility of trus-

tees," Tata Trusts said in a rare public statement.

The development comes days after Mehli Mistry, a former trustee of the Tata Trusts, challenged the appointments of industrialist Venu Srinivasan and former defence secretary Vijay Singh to the board of Hirabai Trust in a complaint to the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner. The dozen-odd trusts, which own 66.4% of the nation's largest business group, have been embroiled controversy ever

since Noel Tata became chairman in 2024. Several trustees questioned the trusts' functioning and sought the listing of holding company Tata Sons. Non-Zoroastrians have been appointed to the trusts since 2000, following a legal opinion obtained from former Chief Justice of India M H Kania. Tata Sons director R Krishna Kumar became the first non-Parsi trustee on the board of the Hirabai Trust, created under a 1916 codicil to the will of Ratan Tata.

WOMEN QUOTA BILL: JDS PLANS STATE-WIDE STIR AGAINST CONG

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolar

JDS leaders have accused the Congress of being “anti-people” for obstructing the implementation of the Women’s Reservation Bill. They claimed that this has hindered the NDA government’s efforts to provide social justice to women, and warned that the public would respond in the upcoming elections.

Members of the JDS women’s wing staged a protest at Kolar Bus Stand Circle, stating that the 33% reservation bill for women, introduced in the Lok Sabha, failed due to lack of sufficient support. They announced plans to launch a statewide agitation against the Congress, accusing it of playing a key role in the bill’s defeat.

JDS district president and Sriniwasapura MLA G K Venkataswaha

Reddy alleged that the Congress had been blocking the women’s reservation issue for decades and was now continuing that trend by opposing the bill introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He questioned the party’s commitment to women’s empowerment and said women voters would hold it accountable in future elections.

Legislative Council member Inchara Govindaraju said the bill failed to secure the required two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha. He claimed that while 298 MPs supported the bill, 230 opposed it, and expressed concern that 30 out of 74 women MPs voted against it.

Stating that women are equal to men in strength and capability, senior JDS leader C M R Srinath criticised the opposition to granting 33%

reservation despite women constituting nearly half the population. He urged women to be vigilant and reconsider their support for the Congress.

JDS women’s unit district president Gayatri Muddappa said the bill had been approved as early as 1996 but was never implemented. She added that even state-level efforts in 2016 did not receive adequate support. She criticised opposition parties for not backing the bill when it was re-introduced by the NDA government, and highlighted the historical contributions of women rulers in India.

The regional party announced that it will organise a large-scale protest across the state against the Congress for opposing the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam dubbed as Women’s Reservation Bill.

EXPRESS READ

Man dead, niece hurt after car rams into bike

KGF: A 25-year-old man died on the spot and a 15-year-old girl sustained serious injuries after a speeding car rammed into their two-wheeler at Pillagulla Halli, under the Bethamangala Police limits on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Naveen, a resident of Gudiyatham of neighbouring Tamil Nadu. According to the police, Naveen was returning to Pitchahalli to drop his niece, who had visited Gudiyatham for her summer vacation. A speeding car heading towards Voddahalli collided with their two-wheeler, resulting in Naveen’s death on the spot while the injured girl was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Newborn’s body found stuffed in schoolbag

Madikeri: The body of a newborn boy was found stuffed inside a school bag and dumped near the Kushalnagar–Koppa Bridge within the jurisdiction of the Kushalnagar Town Police Station. According to the police, the bag was discovered by a passerby near the Cauvery riverbank. On checking the bag, the person found the body of the infant and alerted the authorities.ENS

HON'BLE SUPREME COURT MONITORED PROJECTS
Executed Through
NBCC (INDIA) LIMITED
(A Navratna PSU of Govt of India)

Through E-Auction

Sale of Tech Park project at Knowledge Park-V, Greater Noida (W), UP of erstwhile Amrapali Group through NBCC.

Interested parties may register themselves on RAILTEL (The agency engaged by NBCC (INDIA) LTD for holding e-auction) or on website <https://nbcceuction.envida.com>.

Last date for submission of EMD is 23.04.2026.
E-Auction will be held on 24.04.2026.

For Details, Please call: 9772907414

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
1st Floor, Jeevan Managali Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Office of the M/S, LIC Housing Finance Limited the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of security Interest(enforcement) Rule 2002 issued demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.

The Borrower and the public in general are here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of M/s. LIC Housing Finance Limited for an amount notice mentioned below and interest thereon.

The Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the said ACT, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower, Loan No & Possession Taken Date	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount	Description of the Property
MR. R. SHIVA KUMAR Loan A/c No. 16027009816 Symbolic Possession Date :18/04/2026	05/02/2026	Rs. 182395.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.3659 New No. L-16, measuring East to West: 23 Feet and North to South: 36 Feet, out of the above East to East to West: 9 Feet and North to South: 10 feet and consisting of 2 square Tiled House with electricity, Water and sanitary facility situated at Mane Manchamma Street, Veeranagere, Laskar Mohalla, Mysore and bounded on the East by: Smt. Mahadevamma's Property, West by: Sri.Basavanna Property, North by: Mane Manchamma Street, South by: Passage and Shankar's Property.

Place: Mysore
Date: 20.04.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A Scheduled Commercial Bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrowers, Co-Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors have availed loans from Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as Non-performing Asset, whereas Jana Small Finance Bank Limited being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand notice calling upon the Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mr. Shivamurthy A, S/o. Chaluvareju, 2) Mr. Chaluvareju, S/o. Sannappa	Loan Account No. 31780440000210 Loan Amount: Rs.3,60,000/-	Mortgaged Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing ID No.2-505-37, Gram Panchayath property No.1802/1702, on site measuring East to West 6.40 meters and North to South 6.55 meters and totally measuring 41.92 square meters and constructed plinth area 41.92 square meters, property situated at Bestara Bidi, Arakalud Taluk, Hassan District and the entire property Bounded by: On the East: Private Property, On the West: Road, On the North: Javarappa Property, On the South: Kumara and Mangala Property.	Date of NPA: 03-04-2026 Demand Notice Date: 15.04.2026	Rs.2,76,778.58 (Rupees Two Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Eight and Fifty Eight Paise Only) due as on 13-04-2026
2	1) Mrs. Vishalakshi, W/o. Nandishwaraiiah K M, 2) Mr. Nandishwaraiiah K M, S/o. Marishamappa	Loan Account No. 31689630000959 31689410001264 Loan Amount: Rs.2,70,000/- Rs.79,000/-	Mortgaged Immovable Property: V.P. Khatha No.67, Property No. 151900200100300077, in Kondanahalli Village, Aalambaadi, Jotheranahalli Grama Pachayathi, Bangarapete Taluk, Budikote Hobli and Bounded as follows: East by: Vacant Site, West by: M Shanthalah Site, North by: Road, South by: Road, East-West: 3.65780 Mtrs. (12 Ft.) and North-South: 7.3152 Mtrs. (24 Ft.) Totally Measuring: 26.76 Mtrs.	Date of NPA: 03-04-2026 Demand Notice Date: 16.04.2026	Rs.3,05,476.46 (Rupees Three Lakhs Five Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Six and Forty-Six Paise Only) as on 13-04-2026
3	1) Mr. Kumara L M, S/o. Muttarayappa, 2) Mr. Lakamma T, W/o. Muthutayappa	Loan Account No. 45469440000502 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	Mortgaged Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the Schedule Property Residential Building bearing Grama Panchayath Khatha No.275, Property No.10, PID No.152500903800720123, measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet is situated at Lakkenahalli Village, Hebburu Hobli, Tumkur Taluk and District and Bounded on: East: Property belongs to Eranna, S/o. Bettaswamaiah, West: Road, North: House belongs to Huchamma, South: Property belongs to Srinivasiah.	Date of NPA: 03-04-2026 Demand Notice Date: 16.04.2026	Rs.1,29,663.47 (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Three and Forty Seven Paise Only) due as on 13-04-2026

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within 60 days of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to Jana Small Finance Bank Limited against the Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 18.04.2026, Place: Hassan, Kolar & Tumkur

Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

Senior Congress leader and founder of the Millat Education Society Kerekate Syed Saifullah (79) passed away due to age--related illness at a private hospital in the city on Saturday. He is survived by his wife Farveez Saifullah, son All India National Youth Congress secretary Syed Khalid Ahmed, five daughters and grandchildren. The Congress minority leader was instrumental in supporting education for oppressed and downtrodden sections of the society.

Bank Of Baroda
Regional Office Mysuru
Baroda Soudha, Vishwamanava Double Road, Saraswathipuram, Mysore-570009
Phone : 0821-2571917 | E-mail: recovery.mysuru@bankofbaroda.com | Website: www.bankofbaroda.com

Sale Notice For Sale Of Immovable Properties "APPENDIX- IV-A [See Proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation 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 accounts. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagor/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Assets/Dues/Reserve Price/E-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

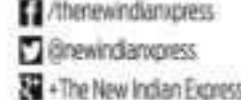
Sr/ Lot No.	Name & Address of Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagor's	Give short description of the immovable Property with known encumbrances, if any (Mortgaged by)	Total Dues.	Date of E-Auction Time of E- Auction Start Time to End Time	1.Reserve Price- Rs./- 2.Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)- Rs./- 3.Bid Increase Amount Rs./-	Status of Possession (Constructive /Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time.
Metagalli Branch							
1.	M/s Nandini Security Services, No. 147, Note Mudrana Nagara, Belavatha Village, Mysore-570003 Managing Partner: Nalini V No. 147, Note Mudrana Nagara, Belavatha Village, Mysore-570003 Partner: Mohan Kumar K S/o Late Krishnappa, No. 147, Note Mudrana Nagara, Belavatha Village, Mysore-570003	All that piece and parcel of the Property No. 46/525, Situated at Belavatha Village, Siddalingapura, Mysore measuring East to West: 9.14 Meters, North to South: 12.19 Meters in the Name of Mr. Mohan Kumar K S/o Late Krishnappa. Boundaries are: East by: Property belongs to Salaudinn, West by: Road, North by: Road, South by: Property belongs to Ravi.	Rs. 26,85,727.95 plus furture applicable interest and charges	DATE: 21-05-2026 TIME: 02.00 PM to 06.00 PM	1) Reserve Price: Rs. 66,00,000/- 2)EMD: 6,60,000/- 3)Bid increment: Rs. 10,000 /-	Symbolic	Up to 20-05-2026, till 4.00 P.M.
Dattagalli Branch							
2.	Mr.Siddarajegowda M C S/o Channegowda, No.47, Marigudi Temple Road, Maddur Taluk, Bharathinagar Mandya-571422.	All that piece and parcel of site property bearing Site no. 01 and as per panchayat record property no 2104/01 and Unique No 152200404162025392 Sy No. 178/2 Situated at Maidanahalli Village Ilwala Hobli, Mysuru Taluk 571130 measuring East to West 9.14 Sq meters and North to South 12.20 Sq meters Total extent 111.51 Square meters in the Name of Mr. Siddarajegowda M C S/o Channegowda. Boundaries are: East: CA Site, West: Property No.02, North: Sy No. 178/5 Extension, South: Property Road.	Rs. 32,84,493.12 Plus furture applicable interest and charges	DATE: 21-05-2026 TIME: 02.00 PM to 06.00 PM	1) Reserve Price: Rs. 27,00,000/- 2)EMD: 2,70,000/- 3)Bid increment: Rs. 10,000 /-	Physical	Up to 20-05-2026, till 4.00 P.M.
Gokulam Branch							
3.	M/s Goldways Hosiery, Prop: Zubedulla No. 1684 B New No 18B Hree Complex,Building H R Street, Mysore-570001 Mr. Zubedulla S/o Late R Ubedulla 191 4th Cross C V Road Bannimantap, Mysore-570015 Guarantors: Mrs. Mallika Jaan alias Malik Jan W/o Late R Ubedulla R Ubedulla 191 4th Cross C V Road Bannimantap Mysore-570015 Mr. Zubedulla S/o R Ubedulla 191 4th Cross C V Road Bannimantap Mysore-570015 Mrs. Sultana W/o Mohammed Kasur No. 2878, Ward No. 15, 1st Cross Tank Road, KHB Colony, Kalyanagiri Mysore-570019 Ms Shabana W/O Syed Abdul Mateen 64 MI G-1 1st Cross, Tank Road, KHB Colony Kalyanagiri Mysore Opposite Abuhanifa Masjid Mysore-570019	All that piece and parcel of Property bearing No 191/A New No 44-2-541-118 measuring East to West (37.08+33)/2ft and North to South(80 + 72)/2ft Consisting of 2690.40 sqft of ground Floor, 1700 Sqft Situated Ward No 44 Bannimantap Mysore-570015 in the Name Mrs.Mallika Jaan Alias Malik Jan Boundaries are: East by: Property bearing No: Passage West by: Property bearing No:191/1, North by: Property bearing No: Road, South by: Remaining Property of South Side.	Rs. 46,45,833.34 Plus furture applicable interest and charges	DATE: 21.05.2026 TIME: 02.00 PM to 06.00 PM	1) Reserve Price: Rs. 1,94,00,000/- 2)EMD: 19,40,000/- 3)Bid increment: Rs. 10,000 /-	Symbolic	Up to 20-05-2026, till 4.00 P.M.
Gokulam Branch							
4.	Mr. Touheed Ahmed S/o Nisar Ahmed 1082 H C G Main Road KN Pura Extension Mysore-570019 Mrs. Gulnaz T W/o Touheed Ahmed 1082 H C G Main Road KN Pura Extension Mysore-570019	All that Piece and parcel of the Residential House Property No +122 LIG-1 measuring East to West -12.25 Meters, North to South 03.00 Meters Totally Measuring 36.75 Sqmt Situated at 1st Stage, Kyathamaranahally HUDCO extension(Kalyanagiri nagar) Nazarabad Mohalla Mysore-570019 in the Name of Mr.Touheed Ahmed S/o Mr.Nisar Ahmed. Boundaries are: East by: MUDA Land, West by: Road, North by: Property No-121 LIG-1, South by: Property No-123 LIG-1	Rs. 26,05,850.34/- Plus furture applicable interest and charges	DATE: 21.05.2026 TIME: 02.00 PM to 06.00 PM	1) Reserve Price: Rs. 29,00,000/- 2)EMD: Rs.2,90,000/- 3)Bid increment: Rs. 10,000 /-	Symbolic	Up to 20-05-2026, till 4.00 P.M.
Nazarabad Branch							
5.	Mrs. Bhagya W/o Sri. Manjunatha, Yadahalli, Ranayakanere Post, Jayapura Hobli, Mysore-570008. Mr. Shivappa, No. 279, Hampapura Hobli, Kanchamalli Post, H.D. Kote-571125.	All that piece and parcel Mortgage of all the piece and parcel of property bearing No. 606, at 2nd phase, Vijayanagara 4th Stage Mysore measuring East-West: 9.00 meters, North-South: 6.00 meters. Boundaries: East: Property No. 614 West: Road, North: Property No. 605 South: Property No. 607	Rs. 49,39,990.49 Plus furture applicable interest and charges	DATE: 21.05.2026 TIME: 02.00 PM to 06.00 PM	1) Reserve Price: Rs.45,00,000/- 2)EMD: Rs.4,50,000/- 3)Bid increment: Rs. 10,000 /-	Physical	Up to 20-05-2026, till 4.00 P.M.
Mandi Mohalla Branch							
6.	Mr. Vignesh B V S/o Veerappaji 1917, 2nd Cross, Near Adithya Circle, Somanath Nagar, Dattagalli, Mysore-570022. Mr. Vignesh B V S/o Veerappaji, No. 52, 'B' Block, Bogadi, Chamaraja Mohalla, Mysuru-570022. Mr. Vignesh B V S/o Veerappaji # 2 B a c h a n a h a l l i (v), Doddakadanur(p), Hall Doddakadanur, Hassan, Karnataka-573211. Mrs. Lalithamma CN W/o Veerappaji, 1917, 2nd Cross, Near Adithya Circle, Somanath Nagar, Dattagalli, Mysore-570022. Mrs. Lalithamma CN W/o Veerappaji, No. 52, 'B' Block, Bogadi, Chamaraja Mohalla, Mysuru-570022	All That piece and parcel of land and building in Site Property bearing No.52 East to West 30.00 Feet, North to South 40.00 Feet Formed by Ananda House Building Co Operative Society Ltd., in 'B' Block, Bogadi Chamaraja Mohalla, Mysuru, Boundaries: North: Road: Property No. 49 East: Property No-51 West: Property No-53.	Rs. 81,20,262.87 Plus furture applicable interest and charges	DATE: 21.05.2026 TIME: 02.00 PM to 06.00 PM	1) Reserve Price: Rs. 1,13,00,000/- 2)EMD: Rs.11,30,000/- 3)Bid increment: Rs. 10,000 /-	Physical	Up to 20-05-2026, till 4.00 P.M.
Industrial Suburb Branch							
7.	M/s. S K Infrastructure Prop: K Ragbhavendra S/o L Kempogowda No F-14, 2nd Main, 7th Cross, Vidyanayapuram, Mysuru-570008	Property No 1: All that piece and parcel of the Site No. 7 in Khata No. 6070/7 measuring East to West - 9.14 mtr and North to South 12.20 mtr, Situated at Ward No. 8, Naganahalli bypass road, Sy. No. 142/5, Badavane, Heggadadevanakote. Boundaries are: East : Site No. 6, West : Site No. 8, North: Road, South: Site No.2. Property No 2: All that Piece and parcel of the Site No. 16 in Khata No. 6079/16 measuring East to West-9.14 mtr and North to South-12.20 mtr Situated at ward NO.8, Naganahalli bypass Road, Sy. No. 142/5 Badavane, Heggadadevanakote. Boundaries are: East: Road, West: Land of Sy.No. 142/4, North: Site No. 15, South: Site No. 17.	Rs. 57,08,112.19 Plus furture applicable interest and charges	DATE: 21.05.2026 TIME: 02.00 PM to 06.00 PM	1) Reserve Price: Rs. 10,00,000/- 2)EMD: Rs.1,00,000/- 3)Bid increment: Rs. 10,000 /- 1) Reserve Price: Rs. 10,00,000/- 2)EMD: Rs.1,00,000/- 3)Bid increment: Rs. 10,000 /-	Physical	Up to 20-05-2026, till 4.00 P.M.

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Place : Mysore
Date: 20-04-2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer
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In all walks of life, women are staking claim for their rightful inheritance, and politics is no exception. The journey towards 33 per cent reservation for the distaff side in state assemblies and Parliament may have been interrupted, but it is only a matter of time before women break free from the manacles of conservatism, dynastic dogmas and paternal manipulation

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR

In a major political development, the proposed Constitutional amendment linked to the implementation of women's reservation framework was defeated in the Lok Sabha on Friday, after it failed to secure the mandatory two-thirds majority required for passage. The Women's Reservation Bill sought to operationalise the provision for reserving 33 per cent seats for women in Parliament and state legislative assemblies.

However, divisions among political parties over issues such as linking of the Bill to census and delimitation, and the timing of implementation led to the amendment falling short during voting in the special session of Parliament on Friday.

According to political observers, the Karnataka Legislative Assembly would have seen an increase of seats by at least 90 if the quota bill linked to delimitation of constituencies came into force and the number of Lok Sabha segments from Karnataka would have risen in number by 13 to 14. Opinion is, however, divided about the quota bill as all the opposition parties opposed its linking to delimitation of constituencies while many political observers felt the bill would be effective only if it was linked to the census plus delimitation.

The Women's Reservation Bill, 2023, was passed by Parliament as the 106th Constitutional Amendment to enhance women's representation in legislatures. The legislation provides for one-third reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. Under the provisions of the Bill, 33 per cent of seats in Lok Sabha and all state Assemblies will be reserved for women. The quota will also apply to the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

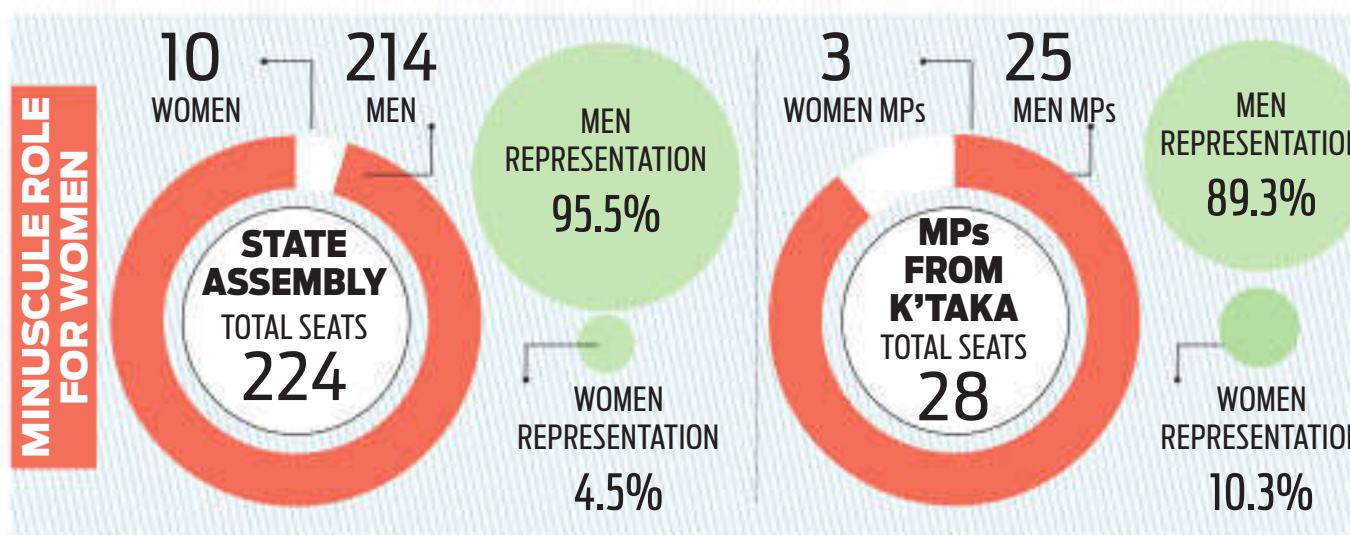
One-third of seats is already reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) will be earmarked for women belonging to these categories.

The legislation specifies that reservation will come into effect only after the completion of the next census and subsequent delimitation exercise. Reserved constituencies for women will be rotated after each delimitation to ensure wider representation across regions. The Bill provides for reservation to remain in force for a period of 15 years, though Parliament may extend it further if required. However, reservation does not apply to Rajya Sabha or State Legislative Councils. The legislation is aimed at increasing women's participation in law-making bodies, where their representa-

tion has historically remained limited. The selection process within major political parties tends to favour candidates with established political lineage, leaving fewer opportunities for first-generation women leaders.

Among the few women Members of Parliament from the state, two come from prominent political backgrounds. Davangere MP Prabha Mallikarjun belongs to the family of senior leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa, while Chikkodi MP Priyanka Jarkiholi is from the influential Jarkiholi political family of Gokak. Their selection, observers say, reflects the broader trend of dynastic influence in women's candidature.

Political observers point out that the scenario could have been markedly different had the proposed Women's Reservation framework been imple-



tion has historically remained limited.

Men hold the strings

Karnataka continues to see limited representation of women in both the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha, with political observers noting that parties often field women candidates primarily from influential political families rather than promoting grassroots leadership.

Despite growing discussions on gender parity, women's presence in the Assembly remains modest. Analysts argue that

ment. The reservation of seats for women in Parliament and State Assemblies was expected to open doors for candidates from diverse social and economic backgrounds, thereby broadening representation beyond established families.

Several people argue that such a shift would not only increase the numerical presence of women but also alter the nature of electoral politics in Karnataka by encouraging participation from grassroots activists, professionals, and leaders from marginalised communities.

Women's quota bill and Karnataka Assembly

The proposed women's reservation framework, which faced a setback in Parliament, would have significantly reshaped representation in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, if implemented. The Women's Reservation law seeks to reserve 33 per cent of seats in all state Assemblies, including Karnataka. The state currently has 224 Assembly constituencies, meaning around 74-75 seats would be earmarked for women after implementation.

will not "forgive or forget this injustice". Siddaramaiah said that Karnataka will stand united with other southern States in opposing any move that undermines their political representation.

He accused the Union Government of rushing the Bill without adequate debate or consensus-building, claiming it was a calculated attempt to portray the Opposition as anti-women. "Indian women are not naive, they can see through such political theatre," he said, criticising the PM for not consulting the Opposition parties or senior women leaders on a matter affecting nearly half the population.

"There was no transparency, no effort to build consensus and only an expectation of blind support. This is an affront to democracy," he said.

"Women's representation cannot be made contingent on a future and uncertain exercise. If the intent were genuine, it could have been implemented immediately," the CM added.

He noted contradictions between references to earlier census data and claims of a potential 50% increase in seats, which he said cast doubt on the Centre's intentions.

BJP never pressed for women's quota: CM

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@Ranebennur (Haveri district)

KARNATAKA Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asserted that the BJP has never consistently demanded 33% reservation for women in legislative bodies, while reiterating that the Congress does not oppose the quota.

Speaking at a programme in Ranebennur town, Haveri district, where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various developmental works, Siddaramaiah said that the Women's Reservation Bill had already been passed in both Houses of the Parliament in 2023. He, however, objected to linking the implementation of the reservation with the process of constituency delimitation.

He recalled that reservation for women in local bodies was introduced through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments during the tenure of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. "The BJP never demanded 33% reservation for women in district and taluk panchayats earlier. Now, they are raising the issue for political reasons," the CM said.

Siddaramaiah expressed concern that the delimitation



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah initiates development works in Ranebennur town, Haveri district, on Sunday | EXPRESS

based on population would be detrimental to southern states. "If representation is increased by 50%, Karnataka's seats would rise to 42, while northern states would gain disproportionately. Our opposition is to this imbalance, not to women's reservation. We support women's reservation," the CM said.

Siddaramaiah further stated that any constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha and ratification by at least half of the states. He said the Congress-led opposition alliance has opposed the delimitation aspect, not the reservation itself.

Questioning the delay in implementation, he asked why PM Narendra Modi had not enforced the Bill despite it being

passed with an overwhelming majority. "Had the Bill been introduced without linking it to delimitation, there would have been no opposition," Siddaramaiah said, accusing the PM of politicising the issue in view of upcoming elections in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

'Deliberately allowed to fail'

Taking to social media platform 'X', the CM said that the Women's Reservation Bill was introduced only to be "deliberately allowed to fail" as part of a political strategy.

Calling the move an "insult to the women of India" and "a betrayal of their long-standing demand for fair representation in legislative bodies", the CM said women across the country

He said that "FOFO parties" have a fear of young, dynamic, and talented women coming from the grassroots level. "If misogyny were an Olympic sport, Congress would win gold. On a global scoreboard of misogynistic politics, Rahul Gandhi can take the top spot," he said, adding that those who never stood by women are now pretending to be their champions. "Congress, TMC, DMK, and SP have strangled women's reservation for the fifth time. Shame on them. The mothers and sisters of this country will never forget this and will never forgive them. For them (Congress), power was more important than empowering women.

That is the true face of the Gandhi family. There is a saying: 'Nari satae teen mite—Ravana, Kaurava, and Kansa.' Now you can add the name of Congress to it," he said.

"No loss, only gain... Not even a single southern state is going to lose (seats), all are going to gain. Southern states are in a win-win situation... 129 seats as of today out of 543, and it is going to be 195 seats. I request Congress, DMK, and other political parties to stop lying about the loss to the southern Indian states," Thakur said.

He dubbed it the opposition's "false narrative" that delimitation would punish and hurt southern states, labelling it a



BJP MP Anurag Thakur addresses the media in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

manufactured crisis by the DMK and Congress.

"In 2010, 'Masterstroke of Duplicity,' the UPA government achieved an overwhelming 186-1 victory in the Rajya Sabha but deliberately refused to table the

Bill passed in '23, but kept in cold storage, says Kharge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AICC president and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha **Mallikarjuna Kharge** on Sunday questioned PM Narendra Modi as to why he had kept the women's reservation bill in cold storage and did not implement 33% quota for women, though it was unanimously passed in Parliament in 2023.

"Yesterday, the Delimitation Bill was defeated, which is against SC/STs and states going for elections. That's why all parties decided to defeat it together. But Modi is saying the Mahila Aarakshan Bill is defeated. The Mahila Aarakshan Bill is different and new delimitation bill is different. We unanimously passed the Mahila Aarakshan Bill in 2023 itself. Modiji himself congratulated all parties for unanimity," he told reporters.

"Why did he keep it 30 months in cold storage, I want to ask. He has not even notified the bill which was passed in 2023. It was notified only at 3am on

April 16. It means the bill was not in existence, but still he brought an amendment. To which bill? So he is just playing to the gallery... that he is for women and opposition are against it," he elaborated.

Kharge claimed the Congress has been fighting for women's reservation as it has brought the Bill in 2010, but it was unfortunately defeated in the lower House. "After that again we cooperated in 2023 and it was passed. Why did he not implement it?," he said. Kharge stated, "BJP is the most cunning party. They don't respect women. They themselves say Shudras and women should not be respected, and women should be kept away from political power, even economic power."

Kharge said Congress was for equal political representation for women since pre-independence as Motilal Nehru had filed a report in 1928. He also pointed out that the party has had Sarojini Naidu as the country's first president, and was led from the front by women like Indira Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi.

two votes, proving that Congress voted yes to the delay and no to the delivery," he said.

Fearing Modi taking credit, Cong opposing bill: Tejasvi

Bengaluru South BJP MP Tejasvi Surya said, "Congress is opposing it out of fear that PM Modi will benefit from its success. If women's reservation is implemented, women will be in favour of Modi," he said.

"If more seats and votes are given to those with higher income and GDP, Mukesh Ambani should be the prime minister. Then the finance ministry will have to decide the votes instead of the election commission," he ridiculed.



PIC: PTI



WOMEN, INTERRUPTED

der the quota over time. Political observers note that the defeat of the amendment in Parliament delays the possibility of reserving seats for women in the Karnataka Assembly.

Noted politician and former MLC Mahantesh Kavatagimath described the bill as historic if implemented, and said it would make way for the aggressive development of the country with women in frontline politics. "Once the bill is implemented, women folk will have a major say in all the important affairs and policies of the government and we will also see the emergence of a large number of women leaders across the country," Kavatagimath adds.

The number of parliamentary constituencies in Karnataka will increase by 12 to 14 seats, and assembly segments by about 90 to 100 seats once the bill comes into effect, he said, adding that the bill would change the face of Karnataka politics if implemented.

Priyanka Satish Jarkiholi, Congress MP from Chikkodi, has voiced strong opposition to the 2026 delimitation bill which

was linked to the women's quota bill, warning that it could disturb India's federal balance among states. She cautioned that southern states, which have performed well in family planning, education and healthcare, could lose parliamentary representation if seats are allocated purely on population basis. She noted that states with larger populations would gain more seats, potentially upsetting the delicate federal balance. Such a shift, she said, could create regional bias in central policy-making and lead to neglect of developed states. Belagavi MLA Abhay Patil said, "The Congress, which opposed women's reservation, has today revealed its true anti-women stance by snatching away the rights of mothers and sisters in the country. Shame on Congress."

Political analysts see setback, not end

Many politicians have termed the defeat of the women's quota bill in the Lok Sabha as a significant setback, while noting that the broader push for increased representation of women in legislatures remains intact. Analysts said the voting outcome reflected the absence of consensus among political parties, particularly over linking the women's quota with census and delimitation exercises. According to observers, while most parties support greater participation of women in politics, differences over timing and implementation led to the bill's defeat.

Several Congress leaders pointed out that tying reservation to delimitation complicated the reform and contributed to political divisions. They noted that concerns were raised about potential changes in constituency boundaries and their impact on regional representation. Despite the setback, several politicians believe the demand for women's reservation will remain a key issue in future parliamentary debates. They said the development delays immediate implementation but keeps the question of enhancing women's representation alive in the national political agenda.



JDS lambasts INDIA bloc over Women's Reservation Bill

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

MLC TA Sharavana has alleged that the Congress and INDIA bloc leaders have set fire to the future of women and criticised the Congress and the INDIA bloc over the Women's Reservation Bill. The Janata Dal (Secular) MLC also alleged that Opposition parties had failed the objective of giving priority to women in all spheres of administration and providing 33% reservation in Parliament, but not ensuring the passage of the bill.

"Fearing that their existence would be threatened if women get reservation, they ensured the historic bill did not get a two-thirds majority. Through this, the true colours of the Congress have been exposed," he lashed out. Sharavana also credited former PM HD Deve Gowda for introducing the concept of women's reservation, particularly in local bodies, and said the idea had its roots in the Janata Dal's policies. He welcomed efforts to expand the framework to the national level. He further stated that the parties in the INDIA bloc have become "anti-women" and had obstructed efforts to provide equal political representation. He urged women voters to reject these parties in upcoming elections.



BEATING THE HEAT

As temperatures rise, a man buys a kiddie pool from a street vendor in Neelambur, Coimbatore, on Sunday | S SENBAGAPANDIYAN

Officer from Karnataka secretary in Rajya Sabha

V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

KS Somashekar, the first-ever officer to become secretary in the Rajya Sabha secretariat from Karnataka, said it is a responsible job and he is grateful for the big opportunity. He told TNIE he will not forget H Hanumanthappa who guided him to take up the secretariat examination, and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda for his support in his career.

Somashekar, from the tiny mango growing village of Neelaturu in Srinivasapura taluk of Kolar district, studied in the government school of Ronuru and got his degree from the government college in Kolar. Somashekar took up Phd at Kuvempu University, working on a comparative study of farmers' plight, and did his MPhil and MA (Literature) and served as guest lecturer in Chintamani. He later took up the secretarial examination

and joined service, serving in various capacities including Deputy Resident Commissioner, Karnataka Bhavan, New Delhi, Joint Director (Administration), Department of Information and Technology, and also as officer on special duty (OSD) to the deputy CM of Karnataka in 2018-19.



Somashekar said though he knows English, Hindi, Telugu and Tamil, his loyalty remains to his mother tongue Kannada. He said he would work hard for the satisfaction of the Rajya Sabha chairperson.

Post retirement, he wants to settle in his native village and get involved in various activities, including teaching the younger generation, just as his father, a retired government teacher did, and concentrate on agricultural activities.

Somashekar's wife is a Railway official, his daughter is studying medicine and son has taken up law, he said.

PM SPEECH IS MCC VIOLATION: STALIN

KRISHNAGIRI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has violated the Model Code of Conduct during his Saturday night address to the nation, said Chief Minister M K Stalin during an election campaign at Hosur in Krishnagiri district on Sunday evening. Stalin was seeking votes for DMK alliance candidates — Uthangarai Congress candidate R Kuppusamy, Bargur DMK candidate D Mathiazhagan, Krishnagiri Congress candidate Dr A Chellakumar, Veppanahalli DMK candidate P S Srinivasan, Hosur DMK candidate S A Sathya and Thalli CPI candidate T Ramachandran. Addressing the gathering, Stalin said that, "On Saturday night, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his speech, criticised opposition parties with a national flag in the background in a government event, this is a violation of the MCC and such speeches should have made as part of election campaigns. **ENS**

P SRINIVASAN @ Erode

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah conducted a road show in Modakurichi Assembly constituency in Erode district on Sunday, during which he accused the Congress and DMK of defeating the Women's Reservation Bill, which 'empowers women', and assured that the BJP would definitely pass the Bill. He also claimed that the DMK's "family politics" in TN is continuing and Stalin wants Udhayanidhi to become the next CM.

Shah said, "In TN, the NDA has formed a winning alliance under the leadership of Edappadi K Palaniswami. When the NDA comes to power here, the DMK's corruption will be eradicated. We will restore law and order, which is in a state of collapse." Shah pledged that the NDA alliance, upon assuming power, would restore TN's glories that the state had lost during the DMK regime.

Further, he said, "Chief Minister MK Stalin's only intention right now is to make his son, Udhayanidhi Stalin, the CM. Initially, M Karunanidhi was the CM. After him, his son Stalin came. After him, Karu-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah campaigns for BJP's Myslapore candidate Tamilsai Soundararajan in Chennai on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

nanidhi's grandson is going to come. Their continuous family politics has never benefited TN in any way."

"We introduced the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament with the aim of empowering women in Tamil Nadu. However, the Congress and DMK have blocked our efforts. Excluding the population census, through the constitu-

ency delimitation process, we also spearheaded significant efforts to increase TN's parliamentary constituencies by 50%. But the Congress and DMK, with their narrow-minded stance that women should not get more seats, prevented this

Bill from being passed. But I will never allow this conspiracy of theirs against women. This Bill will definitely pass," he said.

Earlier, Amit Shah arrived by helicopter at Thamarapalayam village, located within the Modakurichi constituency, from Coimbatore. A helipad had been prepared for this purpose on the grounds of a private school there. Then, from there, he reached Sivagiri village by car. After that, he participated in a road show that took place for about 700m from near the government hospital to the statue of Dheeran Chinnamalai near the bus stand. A large crowd of cadre gathered on both sides of the road to welcome him by showering flowers.

NDA govt to allow Karthigai deepam in hill: Rajnath Singh

ENS @ Tirunelveli/Tenkasi

UNION Defence Minister and senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the National Democratic Alliance, when it forms a government in Tamil Nadu, would permit the lighting of karthigai deepam in Thiruparankundram Hill. The minister was campaigning in Radhapuram (Tirunelveli district) and Vasudevanallur (Tenkasi district) for BJP candidates SP Balakrishnan and Ananthan Ayyasamy, respectively.

While holding a roadshow in Panagudi in Radhapuram, Rajnath Singh claimed that several ministers in the DMK are facing corruption charges, and the party should be ousted from power. He alleged that, during the DMK regime, the law and order situation in TN deteriorated and the looting of mineral resources was rampant.

The Union minister recalled Dy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin's remarks against the sanatana dharma and accused the Dravidian major of crushing the beliefs of Hindus. Reiterating the NDA's promise to light the deepam atop the hill, Singh said the DMK arrested those who attempted to light the karthigai deepam, even after the High Court had passed an order on the same.

Pushed from pub, techie falls to death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A 30-year-old man died on the spot after he was allegedly pushed from the second floor of a pub in Vijayanagar here late on Saturday night following a heated altercation.

The deceased, Nishanth, was a resident of Gokulam in Mysuru. Earlier working at a private company in Bengaluru, he was reportedly unemployed and was searching for a job.

The police said Nishanth had gone to the pub along with two friends. An argument broke out between their group and five others

seated at a nearby table. The verbal spat soon escalated, and in a fit of rage, the other group allegedly pushed Nishanth from the second floor of the building.

He sustained severe injuries and died on the spot. Nishanth's friends reportedly fled the scene after the incident.

Vijayanagar police rushed to the spot, shifted the body to the mortuary of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute and registered a case. One suspect has been taken into custody for questioning, while efforts are on to trace the remaining four accused who are absconding.



KMML The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking), Sankarankulam, Kollam 691583
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TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, <https://tenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmml.com

Sl No	Tender Id	Items
1	2026_KMML_848193_1	Electrification of ARP DCS building
2	2026_KMML_848088_1	Incomer cable laying and associated works
3	2026_KMML_848352_1	AMC for Electric Hoists/Mechanical Hoists for 2026-27
4	2026_KMML_848309_1	Supply of key Bricks

Chavara 20.04.2026 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: EEE/PD/AEE(O)/JE(E)/DVG/2026-27/97-99 Date: 13.04.2026

NOTIFICATION

KPTCL have formulated the following scheme under section 67 of The Electricity act 2003 & the same is herewith published in pursuance of section 67(2) (C), of the said act for information to the public.

1. Name of the work : "Construction of 66kV LILO line with Coyote conductor from existing 66kV-Benkikere-Goppenahalli SC line to proposed 66kV Honnebagi (Vadnal) sub-station for a distance of 0.757kms in Channagiri Taluk, Davanagere District".

2. Approximate length of the New DC Line: 0.757 Kms.
3. Approximate cost: Rs 1741.14 Lakhs.

4. New Line Passing through the following village limit lands & Survey no's : Davanagere District, Channagiri Taluk, Ubrani Hobli, Vaddanahalu Village, Survey no's.124.

KPTCL shall have & exercise all powers which the telegraph authorities possess under part III of the Indian Telegraphs Act 1885(13) for implementation of the above said scheme. Any objections or discrepancies regarding the above scheme shall be sent the office of **Executive Engineer (Ele), Projects Division, K.P.T.C.L., Near stadium, Hadadi Road, Davanagere within 30 days** from the date of publication of this notification for KPTCL pursuance.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer (Ele),
Projects Division, KPTCL, Davanagere.

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/05-2026-27

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) (Inclusive of all Taxes)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0702/0426_TKC2 RFx 5000001529 (2 nd Call) (Two Bid System) for Hiring of Agency for SAP Modernization (S/4HANA Migration), Cybersecure Cloud Hosting, Managed Services & AMS for 5-Year MSETCL on Turnkey basis	Rs.17582.00	08.05.2026 18:00 Hrs
	25,000.00+GST	08.05.2026 18.15 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr-VII)
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai Tel. No.: 022-69852711
Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eegrp8@mahatransco.in, cgm1t@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website <https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/>
Any further amendments/clarifications will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in & <https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/>. Bidders are therefore requested to check these websites for further updates.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (P&C)

भारत सरकार अंतरिक्ष विभाग
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र
तिरुवनंतपुरम

Government of India
Department of Space
Indian Space Research Organisation
VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
Thiruvananthapuram-695 022

विज्ञापन सं. वीएसएससी-339 दिनांक 20.04.2026
ADVERTISEMENT NO. VSSC-339 DATED 20.04.2026
निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए ऑन-लाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है
INVITES ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION

पद सं. Position No	पद का नाम Name of Position	अनिवार्य योग्यताएँ Essential Qualifications	रिक्तियों की संख्या No. of Vacancies
01/2026	कनिष्ठ अध्येता (जेआरएफ) Junior Research Fellow (JRF)	(a) सभी संश्लेषण के अंश के रूप में कुल न्यूनतम 60% अंक या 10 पोस्ट स्केल या समकक्ष पर 6.5 का सीजीपीए / सीपीआइ योग्यता सहित भौतिकी / अनुप्रयुक्त भौतिकी / इंजीनियरी भौतिकी / अंतरिक्ष भौतिकी / वायुमंडलीय विज्ञान / मौसम विज्ञान सहित विज्ञान या वायुमंडलीय विज्ञान / अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान / ग्रहण विज्ञान / अनुप्रयुक्त भौतिकी / इंजीनियरी भौतिकी में एम.एस / एम.ई / एम.टेक M.Sc. Degree in Physics / Applied Physics / Engineering Physics / Space Physics / Atmospheric Science / Meteorology / Planetary Sciences OR M.S / M.E / M.Tech in Atmospheric Science / Space Science / Planetary Science / Applied Physics / Engineering Physics with minimum 60% marks as average of all semesters in aggregate or CGPA / CPI grading of 6.5 on a 10 point scale or equivalent. (b) आवेदकों को निम्नलिखित में से एक में भी योग्यता प्राप्त होनी चाहिए / Applicants should also have qualified one of the following: 1. नेट-लेक्चरशिप सहित सी एस आइ आर-यूजीसी राष्ट्रीय पाठ्य परीक्षा / CSIR-UGC National Eligibility Test, including NET-Lecturehip. 2. एमएचआरडी द्वारा आयोजित इंजीनियरी में स्नातक अभिमुखता परीक्षा (गैट) / Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) conducted by MHRD. 3. जोइंट एन्ट्रंस स्क्रीनिंग टेस्ट (जेईएसटी) / Joint Entrance Screening Test (JEST)	08

विस्तृत विज्ञापन वीएसएससी वेबसाइट <https://www.vssc.gov.in> में दिया जाएगा। उपर्युक्त पदों के लिए आवेदन केवल ऑन-लाइन प्राप्त किए जाएंगे। ऑन-लाइन आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए वेबसाइट दिनांक 20.04.2026 को 1000 बजे से दिनांक 04.05.2026 को 1700 बजे तक खुला रहेगा।
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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. EE(E)/AEE-1/Projects/TKR/2026-27/18-20 Date: 13.04.2026

NOTIFICATION

KPTCL has formulated a scheme under Section 67 R/W Section 164 of the Indian Electricity Act 2003 and the same is herewith published in pursuance of section 67(2)(C) of the said act for information to the public. Particulars of the scheme are as follows.

A) Name of the work: Establishing 2x 20 MVA 66/11KV Sub-station at **Bhogasandra** and construction of 66 kV LILO line on DC towers using Coyote ACSR conductor from existing 66kV Hosakere-Hagalawadi SC line to proposed 66/11KV sub-station at Bhogasandra for a distance of 6.87 Kms and Construction of one number of 66KV Terminal Bay at existing 66/11KV Hosakere S/s for terminating 66KV line to proposed 66/11KV Bhogasandra sub-station n Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru District.

Areas 66KV Line passing through: Tumakuru District, Gubbi Taluk
Hagalawadi Hobli Villages (1) Shettihalli Sy No: 98, (2) Pura Sy No: 21 (3) Yarekavalu Sy No: 107, 106, 108, 109, 104, 105, 103, 113, 114, 120, 121, 117, 118, 148,
Nittur Hobli Villages (1) Haradagere: Sy No: 31, 118, 119, 30, 128, 127, 33, 34, 131 (2) Bandahalli Sy No: -13, 11, 10, 8, 35, 34, 33 (3) Bhogasandra Sy No: -65, 41, 81
Purpose: For improving the quality of power supply in and around the villages surrounding Bhogasandra.
Approximate length: 6.87 Kms.
Approximate Cost: Rs. 2745.90 Lakhs

B) Name of the work: Establishing 2x150MVA, 220/66/11KV Sub-station at **Sirivara (Kodimuddanahalli)** in Tumakuru taluk & district along with Construction of 14.94km of 220kV SC LILO line from the existing 220kV Shivamogga-Anthrasanahalli (B1) Line using HPC conductor, 4.388km of 66kV DC LILO (MC) line from existing 66kV Anthrasanahalli-Anchepalya DC line using Drake conductor & 15.03km of 66kV DC line to the existing 66/11KV Honnudiike sub-station using drake conductor along with Construction of 2 no's. of 66kV Terminal Bays at existing 66/11KV Honnudiike sub-station.

Purpose: For reducing the loads of existing 220/66/11KV Anthrasanahalli S/s and 22/66kV Anchepalya sub-station and for improving the quality of power supply in and around the villages surrounding Sirivara (Kodimuddanahalli).
Approximate Cost: Rs. 19485.43 Lakhs.

1. Areas 220KV LILO Line passing through: Tumakuru District & Taluk
Kasaba West Hobli Villages (1) Habbattanahalli Village Sy No: 40, 39, 38, 36, 35, 34, 32, 31, 29, 28, 27, 22, 21, 20, 19, 18, 17, 16, 13, 12 (2) Mallasandra Amanikere village Sy No: 260, 261, 264, 262, 265, 263, 245, 246, 243, 242, 247, 241, 248, 240, 239, 238, 249, 120, 121, 118, 119, 116, 117, 82, 83, 88, 93, 94(3) Halanur village Sy No: 30, 29, 211, 28, 25, 24, 23, 22, 21, 20, 19, 18, 14, 15, 13, 4, 12, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 105, 126, 125, 124, 106, 117.
Hebbur Hobli villages (1) Karadigere Kaval village Sy No: 108, 112, 111, 114, 115, 120, 116, 117, 118, 123, 122, 132, 135, 134, 136, 155, 154, 153, 158, 159, 163, 164, 165 (2) Mallappannahalli village Sy No: 65, 66, 67, 69, 71, 72, 82, 77, 76, 78, 79 (3) Karadigere village Sy No: 4, 3, 2, 1, 79, 61, 60, 59, 58, 55, 53, 51 (4) Makaanahalli village Sy No: 44, 43, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 55, 57, 60, 58, 59, 61, 63, 78, 80, 82, 85, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91 (5) Gollahalli village Sy No: 4, 22, 91, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 (6) Puradakatte Kaval village Sy No: 89 (7) Puradakatte village Sy No: 24, 2, 22, 20 (8) Sirivara village Sy No: 91, 92, 93, 94, 95 (9) Rayapura village Sy No: 75, 76 (10) Kodimuddanahalli village Sy No: 46.
Approximate length: 14.94 Kms.

2. Areas 66KV DC LILO (MC) Line passing through: Tumakuru District & Taluk
Hebbur Hobli villages (1) Kodimuddanahalli village Sy No: 45, 38, 37, 35, 31, 33, 21, 32, 22, 24, 23 (2) Rayapura village Sy No: 77, 79, 80, 84 (3) Kembalalu Amanikere village Sy No: 5 (4) Kembalalu Valalagere Kaval village Sy No: 28, 25, 26, 18, 20, 19, 16, 15 (5) Nagavalli Amanikere village Sy No: 95, 99, 98, 97, 96, 110 (6) Ballagere village Sy No: 134, 133, 132.
Approximate length: 4.388 Kms.

3. Areas 66KV DC Line passing through: Tumakuru District & Taluk
Hebbur Hobli villages (1) Kodimuddanahalli village Sy No: 45, 38, 43, 39, 41, 40, 52, 2, 3, 4 (2) Seenappannahalli village Sy No: 21, 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2. (3) Kembalalu Amanikere village Sy No: 5 (4) Nagavalli Amanikere village Sy No: 13, 18, 15, 17, 16, 23, 22, 24, 26, 28, 35, 36, 46, 45, 48, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 64, 62, 63, 66, 81, 80, 78, 79, 75, 74, 192, 198, 197, 210, 211, 212, 209, 216, 217, 225, 226, 227, 228, 258, 256, 252, 63 (5) Nagavalli village Sy No: 102, 26, 18, 22, 20, 21, 16, 14 (6) Honasigere village Sy No: 63 (7) Honasigere Kaval village Sy No: 75, 35, 37, 74, 36, 71, 27, 26, 79, 25, 44, 24, 18, 17, 16, 15, 66, 4.
Gulur Hobli villages (1) Mulukunte village Sy No: 113, 112, 110, 109, 111, 107, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 105, 106, 123, 122, 132, 131, 133, 134, 135, 146, 151, 152, 153, 154, 3 (2) Veeranayakanahalli village Sy No: 99, 98, 79, 75, 76, 80, 58, 59, 49, 50, 53, 56, 52, 54, 35, 34, 33, 32, 30, 28, 27, 26, 25, 24, 23, 29, 19, 17, 16, 14, 162 (3) Gadamachanahalli village Sy No: 13, 12, 10, 9, 5 (4) Honnudiike village Sy No: 22, 23, 24, 25.
Approximate length: 15.03 Kms.

KPTCL shall have and exercise all powers which the telegraph authorities passes under part III of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (13 of 1885) for implementation of the above said scheme. Any objections or discrepancies regarding the above schemes shall be sent to the office of The Executive Engineer El., Project Division, KPTCL, Kothitopu, Tumakuru within 30 days from the date of publication of this notification for KPTCL's pursuance.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Ele.,
Project Division, KPTCL, Kothitopu, Tumakuru- 572102

Q4 RESULTS STAY MUTED, FY27 CLOUDS GATHER AS WAR FUELS UNCERTAINTY

THE Q4 earnings season has just begun, but initial results from frontrunners like TCS and Wipro failed to cheer markets. In any case, expectations are subdued not just for the IT sector but also for overall corporate sector performance, due to the deepening Iran war. Luckily, the March quarter earnings may not be as bad, coming off a high base, but as tensions in West Asia continue to disrupt global shipping routes, causing second-order effects, volatile crude oil prices and a weakening rupee, markets are preparing for any eventuality in FY27. That's because the lagged effects of the geopolitical tensions that escalated in March may only become evident in the coming quarters. Even if Q4 turns in a better-than-expected performance, fears have gripped markets over the long-term damage the war-torn trade infrastructure can unleash.

As for sectoral impact, the IT sector's earnings outlook was not rosy even before the war began, due to the adoption of artificial intelligence, which was disrupting traditional business models. Owing to resilient demand, India's FMCG sector was on the road to recovery, though the current quarter may face downside risks from rising fuel prices, supply disruptions, and currency depreciation. Likewise, the auto sector, which reported strong topline growth in Q3, may deliver decent numbers in Q4 as well, but FY27 may not be as promising due to elevated input costs, such as aluminium and other base metals. Banking sector performance too is likely to be mixed, not just in Q4, but also in the coming quarters. Even though credit growth remains healthy, weakening asset quality, slippages, and the RBI's recent foreign-exchange measures, which are constraining banks' other income, may weigh on overall performance. Among all, the pharma sector may deliver better results, though pricing pressures may offset steady growth.

In summary, the January-March quarter was unusual, given two months of relatively benign conditions, followed by a violent March that saw the sudden escalation of the Iran war. It's possible that companies may report stable or even strong numbers in Q4, though it may or may not hold the same for Q1 of FY27 as the March and June quarters represent two opposite earnings environment—one led by stable input costs and steady demand, and the other stifled by rising prices, supply shortages, weakening demand and above all volatility and heightened uncertainty.

TOO RUSHED TO REFORM, TRUST NEEDS MORE TIME

THE Supreme Court's last-minute order allowing some voters cleared by appellate tribunals to be added to West Bengal's rolls just before polling highlights a simple point: inclusion must guide the process. Had this step come earlier, the scramble now facing tribunals and officials could have been avoided. Updating electoral rolls is a routine task—removing deceased, duplicate and fraudulent entries while ensuring genuine voters are listed. It has become contentious largely because the process has failed to build public and political confidence.

The voter list is not a battleground; it is the foundation of sovereignty. A special intensive revision is not, by itself, a cause for alarm. But when voting is a basic right, even short-term exclusion raises serious concerns. Courts can provide safeguards, but the system must work to include, not exclude, and it must explain its actions clearly. The same strain is visible in recent debates on delimitation and the women's reservation law. Both affect political representation and both demand careful handling. Delimitation will reshape the number and distribution of seats. Without open dialogue with states—especially in the South—questions about fairness will deepen. Representation cannot be reduced to numbers alone; any plan must rest on consultation, data sharing and trust.

On women's reservation, there is broad consensus. But the government's hurried special session, the push for quick passage, and the decision to link the quota law to delimitation without sufficient clarity exposed a gap between intent and preparedness. Expanding women's representation will also require political parties to rethink candidate selection and sitting male members to give up seats. That kind of shift cannot be rushed; it needs time and negotiation. Across these issues, the difficulty lies less in intent than in execution. Too much has been attempted in too little time, with too little conversation. Governance cannot rely on last-minute fixes or court intervention. It depends on planning, transparency, and sustained dialogue with states and the opposition. Constitutional changes, in particular, work best when shaped through wider agreement.

India's democracy is strong, but its credibility rests on everyday fairness—clean voter lists, balanced representation and inclusive laws. Treated as partisan contests, these weaken trust. Handled as shared national responsibilities, they strengthen institutions. The task ahead is straightforward: slow the pace, widen consultation and keep the citizen at the centre of every reform.

QUICK TAKE

POLLS GO BOT

A I chatbots have flummoxed Brazil's top electoral court, TSE, six months before their presidential election. Thousands of users are prompting bots to name the best or most winnable candidate. The court has barred chatbots from offering opinions, yet tests show the ban's not working. The concern is clear: in a hyper-connected country, such outputs could muddy campaigns and deepen polarisation. Brazil is not alone. One in ten Dutch voters relied on such tools during the 2025 elections. The TSE, however, has no clear path to enforce its own rule. Platforms respond with stock lines that their bots do not favour candidates. A wake-up call for India when such prompts flood Grok one day.

FINANCIAL markets staged a cautious relief rally as oil prices retreated from recent highs. Perception and reality alternate to reflect the temperament amid high volatility. The shuttering at the Strait of Hormuz was always plausible as Iran's defensive salvo and was forecast to precipitate a deeper crisis than that of the 1970s. An incessant global energy insecurity, resting on a shaky and contentious opening of the passage, could set the stage for stagflation.

A flashback to December 17, 2010 in Tunisia, a North African nation, a short distance across the Mediterranean from Europe. Police harassment and humiliation of a street vendor outside the governor's office in the town of Sidi Bouzid led him to self-immolate. His death in January 2011 was the beginning of the Arab Spring. The initial pro-democracy protests in Tunisia reverberated through Egypt, Syria, Morocco, Algeria and other parts of North Africa. Social violence and civil wars erupted in Libya and Yemen, resulting in major production outages. The oil price flare cast a shadow of uncertainty and financial insecurity over global economies for the next three years.

At a formal meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries members in June 2011, Iran, under sanctions on its oil, dissented from increasing the group's production. Saudi Arabia, at the time, unilaterally decided to increase its output by 1 million barrels per day to make up for the loss of Libyan light crude and stabilise the market, as the UAE also released more oil to ease prices.

Oil lingered above \$100 for the next three years, as Brent averaged around \$108 in 2013. Global supplies flowed unhindered, and by the end of 2014, prices declined almost 50 percent, touching \$62, as US Shale production surged.

US sharp contrast, restraints at the strait, impeding the Gulf's oil and gas transit, shall permanently reset global energy and politico-economic equations.

Conveniently interpreting the recent protests in the Islamic Republic as a replay of the mood of the populace at the time of the Arab Spring, the US-Israel duo saw enough ground to defend "freedom for the people" of Iran. Resting on the rhetoric of regime change, they sought to primarily derail Tehran's nuclear ambitions. Unfortunately, the military action may have succeeded in isolating the West from the Iranian masses, who are confounded by Donald Trump's "help is on its way" call, followed by death and devastation inflicted by the US-Israel bombing in the midst of negotiations.

Oil volatility, sanctions and the West Asia conflict are reshaping energy flows—reviving past shock cycles and heightening market uncertainty with rising stagflation risks

GULF CHOKEPOINT AND SHIFTING ENERGY ORDER

RANJAN TANDON

Senior markets specialist and author



MANDAR PARDIKAR

The Islamic Republic derives around 60 percent of its budget revenue from oil and gas. Though employment in the oil sector, direct and indirect, is estimated at around 4 percent of the working force, the industrial and mining sectors provide jobs to 35 percent, as per 2023 World Bank estimates.

The war has resulted in extensive damage to Iran's energy, industrial and civilian infrastructure. Hits at the South Pars and Mahshahr petrochemical hubs damaged facilities responsible for 85 percent of the Republic's petrochemical exports. A prolonged conflict shall dent trade relations with its neighbours and constrict long-term business opportunities for the ailing economy.

A vast portion of its population lives in dire financial hardship and an estimated 55 percent of retirees do not re-

ceive any pension. As the senselessly inflicted war scales down subsidised State welfare, it shall whip up emotions of retribution for the West. The image of misplaced trust shall thus flip the 'survival' card and resurrect populist support for the nuclear programme.

Shadow fleets are reported to have conveyed around 1.1 to 1.5 million bpd of Iranian oil through the strait in March, mostly destined for China. Though resting on a fragile and obscure system, it has thus far prevented a sharp supply shock and substantially filled Iran's coffers. Partially compensating for its sea-bound supply loss at the strait, Saudi Aramco's East-West Pipeline (built during the 1980s Iran-Iraq war) facilitates the movement of 7 million bpd of oil from the Kingdom's Eastern Province (hosting the world's largest conventional oil fields) to the Yan-

PHILOSOPHY OF ONENESS

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

Vidyaranya Swami was a staunch Advaitin or follower of Adi Shankara's Advaita philosophy. With this background, he would most certainly have prayed to Mahalakshmi, along with Harihara I and Bukka Raya I, from the '*Kanakadhara Shivam*'. Especially the verse 'Gracious goddess, giver of the right to rule kingdoms' evokes her compassion and grace for his just and worthy cause. Having fulfilled his duty to the state, he retired from active politics to become the Shankaracharya of Sringeri, the first institution founded by Adi Shankara. It is our good fortune that he did so because we inherited his fabulous commentaries on the 'real' and 'unreal' in his masterwork, *Panchadashi*.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Adi Shankara's lasting belief of life being a struggle of the individual soul to be reunited with the Supersoul inspires many into the path of faith, love and charity. He also reminded us that our philosophy upholds that oneness with God is best expressed as oneness with the children of God

Like a true Advaitin, Vidyaranya Swami upholds the doctrine of the individual soul and Supersoul. He sees each one of us as containing a part of God because he avers, as Shankara did, that it is our genuine soul connection: whatever outward body we happen to be encased in, the soul within us is a part of the Supersoul. Other schools of thought may find this shocking—how can there be no difference between the Almighty and mere mortals? But the purpose of this philoso-

phy springs from deep compassion: to save humanity from suffering by highlighting our capacity to be worthy children of God, literally a part of God.

Another famous story about Adi Shankara is that, on his way to the Ganga for a bath, his path was blocked by an 'outcaste' Chandal, accompanied by four dogs. "*Dooram gachchal!*" (Go away!) shoed the uber-ascetic's followers. "What shall I move?" asked the Chandal, sweetly; "My body, that is made of the same five elements as yours, or the Immortal Soul that abides in me, as in you?" Hindus love to believe that this was Lord Shiva, with the four Vedas, come to bear witness to his lila, or divine sport, to humble Shankara and teach him the truth. Shankara, being gifted with yogic insight, saw through the disguise, fell at Lord Shiva's feet and composed the '*Manisha Panchakam*' in response.

Shankara reminded us that our philosophy upholds that oneness with God is best expressed as oneness with the children of God. The Isha Upanishad asks, '*Yastu sarvaani bhootani atmaani evaanupashyati sarvabhooteshuchaatmaanam tatho navijugupsate?*' meaning, 'If one sees all beings in oneself and oneself in all beings, how can one feel revulsion for the other?' Another clue to Shankara's loving outlook is that he felt deeply even for Bharata's disgrace and appreciated Kaikeyi's change of heart. We find this in his work, *Sri Rama Bhujangam*. In it, he alludes twice to Bharata as 'Kaikeyi-nandan' or 'Kaikeyi's joy', which shows his restorative intention.

What is Shankara's lasting message for us? In *Bhaja Govindam*, he says, '*Geyam Gita nama sahasram dheyam sripati rupamajasram/neyam sajjana sange chittam deyam deena jananya cha vittam*', which translates into, 'Recite the *Bhagavad Gita*, chant the '*Vishnu Sahasranamam*', meditate on Him in your heart and mind/Seek delight in the company of the good, share your wealth with the poor.'

And there you have it, the tripod to support the human experience: faith, love and charity. A message for the ages indeed.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Prioritise preparedness

Ref: *Markets say don't worry* (Apr 19). Markets may appear resilient, but ignoring geopolitical risks is shortsighted. India must strengthen energy security, accelerate renewable adoption and build strategic reserves. Transparent policy and regional cooperation can temper volatility. Practical preparedness, not complacency, will safeguard growth and investor confidence.
M Barathi, Bengaluru

Democracy arithmetic

Ref: *Political payday* (Apr 19). A government with an overwhelming majority often begins to equate numbers with unquestioned authority. But democracy is not a game of arithmetic alone; it rests on debate, dissent and accountability. A strong, articulate and persistent Opposition is of utmost importance for balance.
Noopur Baruah, Tezpur

Civilisational wisdom

Ref: *What Lutyens really thought* (Apr 19). It's time we unknotted ourselves from the continuing shackles of slavery, whether conscious or unconscious. Our country's innate eclectic wisdom and wealth can't be shoved away. Ours is one of the very few oldest civilisations flowing on in the world despite many forced check dams.
U Atreya Sarma, Hyderabad

Women's cause

Ref: *'Oppn will pay'* (Apr 19). The linking of the Women's Reservation Bill with delimitation exposes the hollowness of the government's sincerity towards women's cause. Why can't one-third of the existing seats be reserved and a more equitable delimitation subsequently be considered?
Aysha Haneef, Kottayam

Battle-tested Vaishali

Ref: *Queen's gambit* (Apr 19). Vaishali has emerged as a shining star and a premier force in global chess. Unlike other games in which lucres is the end goal, chess recommends itself to the wise by the fact that its epic battles are fought more for honours than prizes. It's emphatically the philosopher's game.
R Sampath, Chennai

CSK overhaul

Ref: *SRH win* (Apr 19). CSK needs a thorough overhaul of obsolete strategies and players who are not focused in the first place. Sanju Samson is like a flash in the pan and Ayush Mhatre now lacks fitness. The squad should learn from Punjab Kings.
T M Uday Shankar, email

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Says Parliament defeated delimitation, not women quota, bill ● Offers reasons for making reference to Census data

Cong wants 2023 law to be implemented

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

The women's reservation bill was not defeated, the delimitation, which the govt wanted to thrust on the nation, was defeated... PM Modi is and hiding behind the 'women's reservation bill'

Supriya Shrinате

'PM owes an apology to women'

Referring to Modi apologising to women, Shrinате said the PM owes an apology to the women for what happened to two Manipur women during riots, what happened in Hathras and Unnao, with the women Olympians.



THE Congress on Sunday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of shedding "crocodile tears" over the reservation for women and sought immediate implementation of quota arrangement on the current strength of the Lok Sabha. Asserting that what was defeated in the Lok Sabha on April 17 was not the women's reservation bill but delimitation, the opposition party urged the PM to remove the condition of delimitation linked to set aside seats for women leaders. Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinате pointed out that the women's reservation bill was passed unanimously by Parliament on September 21, 2023, and it is part of the Constitution now. "The women's reservation bill was not defeated, the delimitation, which you (government) wanted to thrust on the nation, was defeated... PM Modi is shedding crocodile tears and hiding behind the women's reservation bill," she said. On PM's address to the nation over the rejection of the bill, Shrinате reiterated her party's stand that if he was really sincere, he should immediately provide reservation to women within the current strength of the Lok Sabha of 543. "You have put a condition on that. Remove that condition. You are the ones creating hurdles in women's reservation, you want to keep men happy and not reduce their seats," she said. Referring to Modi apologising to women, Shrinате said the PM owes an apology to the women for what happened to two Manipur women during riots, what happened in Hathras and Unnao, what happened with the women Olympians and how the convicts in Bilkis Bano case were honoured. Shrinате said of the 240 MPs, only 31 are women, which is only 12%. Of the 1,654 legislators across the country, there are only 164 women, which is less than 10%.

Centre issues FAQs for clarity on '26 bill

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam provides for reservation to women based on delimitation after the Census... If the govt had waited, women would not have been able to benefit in 2029 polls

Centre

No adverse effect on South

The Centre said southern or smaller states would not be adversely affected by the new delimitation proposal. With an expanded House, the number of reserved seats for SCs and STs would increase significantly, it further clarified.

AMID doubts about the NDA government's intent behind introducing amendments to the women's reservation law and two related pieces of legislation, the Centre on Sunday sought to allay concerns by releasing a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs). The Centre stated, "The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam provides that reservation for women will be implemented based on delimitation after the Census conducted post-2026. If the government had waited for the Census and subsequent delimitation, women would not have been able to benefit from 33% reservation in the 2029 general elections." On the issue of delimitation linked with the Adhiniyam, the Centre stated: "Delimitation means finalising the boundary of a constituency, essential for implementing women's reservation. The limit on seats in Lok Sabha was set at 550 in 1976. In 1971, the population of India was 54 crore. Today it is 140 crore. It is important to increase seats to 850 in Lok Sabha to enable fair representation in Parliament." The Centre said no changes were proposed to the Delimitation



Commission Act for political advantage. On the rationale behind increasing Lok Sabha seats to 850, the Centre explained that the proposal was based on a proportional expansion approach. "A uniform 50% increase in seats would maintain the proportion for all states and UTs. Applying this principle to the current 543 seats would lead to approximately 815 seats. Therefore, the upper limit on seats was increased from current cap of 550 seats in Lok Sabha to 850 seats," it added. The Centre said southern or smaller states would not be adversely affected by the new delimitation proposal. With an expanded House, the number of reserved seats for SCs and STs would increase significantly, it clarified.

Two Indian-origin people killed outside gurudwara in Italy at Baisakhi meet

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

TWO Indian-origin nationals hailing from Punjab were shot dead at Covo in the Bergamo province of Italy while leaving a warehouse used as a place of worship during a gathering for the Baisakhi festival. The deceased, both 48 years old, were identified as Raginder Singh of Covo and Gurmit Singh from Agnadello. The attack took place on Friday by the alleged assailant who fired at them in the square in front of the Gurdwara Mata Sahib Kaur on Via Campo Rampino at 11.50 pm in the industrial area of the town and then fled in a white car. As per local media reports, the authorities later recovered approximately 10 shell casings from the site, indicating the intensity of the shooting. Initial findings have ruled out the possibility of a sudden altercation escalating into violence. According to an eyewitness, who spoke to local media, the shooter is suspected to be an "Indian" who also frequented

Italian military police probe to ascertain cause

The attack took place on Friday by the alleged assailant who fired at them in the square in front of the Gurdwara Mata Sahib Kaur on Via Campo Rampino at 11.50 pm in the industrial area of the town and then fled in a white car. The Italian military police had launched an investigation to ascertain the reason behind the shocking incident.

the gurdwara, and the bullets also grazed a third person. The Italian military police (Carabinieri) had launched a full-scale investigation to ascertain the reason behind the killings and to arrest the accused. It has already cordoned off the area. The incident has sent shock waves through the local Sikh community in Italy. An official celebration for Baisakhi was planned for Saturday nearby with the participation of local institutions. More details are awaited as an investigation into the matter is currently under way.



TN-type deadly fire episodes rest on enforcement lacunae

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH @ New Delhi

THE explosion at a firecracker factory in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district on Sunday, which killed at least 22 people and injured six others, has exposed what officials describe as a systemic regulatory failure. The blast at the Vanaja Fireworks unit in Kattanarpatti village was so powerful that it was reportedly felt up to 10 kilometres away. Chief Minister MK Stalin called the incident "extremely painful" and sent two ministers to the site. At the centre of the issue is India's fragmented regulatory framework for hazardous industries. Licensing and inspection of firework factories fall under the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), a body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry based in Nagpur. However, it fails to conduct regular inspections due to severe manpower shortages. Another key institution, the Directorate General of Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards under the Ministry of Home Affairs, frames fire safety norms and guidelines



Saddened by the tragic fire accident at Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu. My condolences to the families of those deceased and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

across the country. However, it has no enforcement powers, leaving compliance entirely to state governments. A senior official noted that the two bodies operate in silos with little coordination or alignment. PESO, established in 1898, regulates hazardous substances such as explosives, compressed gases, and petroleum products. It issues licences to firecracker units nationwide. However, official data shows a deep enforcement gap. According to the 2023-

24 PESO annual report, only 12,299 of 1,36,410 licensed explosive units were inspected—just 9%. Under the Petroleum Act, inspections covered only 5.33% of 2,53,163 premises. Overall, just 6.62% of 3,89,573 licensed hazardous units were inspected, leaving 93% unchecked. The report attributes this shortfall to "severe resource constraints" and vacant posts. PESO has 137 sanctioned Group A posts and 343 Group B/C posts, but 35 Group A and 111 Group B/C positions remain vacant, meaning roughly one-third of its workforce is unfilled. Despite these limitations, PESO generated ₹301 crore in fees in 2023-24 but spent only ₹57 crore on operations, maintaining a revenue surplus for five consecutive years. The 2024-25 annual report of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade also noted weak adoption of its licensing system for district authorities. Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Fire Services' advisories remain non-binding, as states are not obligated to enforce them. The result is a disjointed regulatory system.

Centre issues rules to end legal tiffs in road jobs

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE government has stepped up efforts to ensure swift resolution of arbitration and legal disputes pertaining to road development projects, aiming to curb mounting losses to the exchequer caused by prolonged litigation and delayed decision-making. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued five-point directives for settlement of disputes through the pre-conciliation scheme—Vivad se Vishwas III (VsV-III)—and streamline the conduct of arbitration proceedings. The move comes amidst concerns that inefficiencies and delays in handling legal matters, especially legacy cases, have led to avoidable financial liabilities, including penalties and interest payments. All central and state agencies involving infrastructure development, such as public work departments (PWDs) and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), have been directed to create an aware Vivad se Vishwas III initiative among the contractors or consultants and discuss the ben-

ROAD TO RESOLUTION

5 point plan to speed up dispute resolution in road projects

The aim is to cut losses from delays, penalties and interest payouts

Disputes are to be settled through the pre-conciliation scheme Vivad se Vishwas III



Claims up to ₹100 crore and cases up to ₹200 crore pending in High Courts will be prioritized

Arbitration awards above ₹100 crore and below ₹5 crore will be reviewed for quick settlement

AGENCIES HAVE BEEN TOLD TO PROMOTE THE SCHEME AMONG CONTRACTORS & CONSULTANTS

efits of settlement of disputes under the scheme. The ministry said that small-value cases—claims are upto ₹100 crore and cases up to ₹200 crore decided in the district courts but pending in High Courts—might be dealt with on priority. The Vivad se Vishwas (from dispute to trust) scheme was introduced by the Department of Expenditure of the Ministry of Finance to deal with contractual disputes. The ministry also directed that the pre-concilia-

tion mechanism be actively utilised to facilitate settlement of disputes. "Awards exceeding ₹100 crore and those less than ₹5 crore shall be specifically scrutinised to explore the possibility of immediate settlement," read the internal communication note. The officials said that the ministry's directives followed a review of pending arbitration and court cases related to projects entrusted to state PWDs, road construction de-

CBI to launch AI verification tool to save people from digital arrest fraud

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN a first, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is all set to unveil an artificial intelligence-powered chatbot on Monday to deal with digital arrest fraud cases and to help people verify the authenticity of notices reportedly issued to them. Named 'Abhay', the chatbot will be launched by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant Sharma on the occasion of the 22nd D P Kohli Memorial Lecture organised by the CBI in honour of its founding director, the agency said. The CJI will deliver the lecture on 'Challenges of Cybercrime – Role for Police and Judiciary'. He will also confer 24 medals for meritorious service. "The AI-powered notice verification chatbot, ABHAY, will allow the public to verify the genuineness of a notice purportedly issued by the CBI. In the context of digital arrest frauds, this provides a much-required tool for the citizens,"



QUICK TAKES

- 1 Named Abhay, the chatbot will be launched by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant
- 2 The chatbot will allow the public to verify the genuineness of a notice purportedly issued by the CBI
- 3 In the context of digital arrest, this provides a much-required tool for the citizens

a CBI spokesperson said. In a number of cases, it has emerged that scammers posing as CBI officials have coerced the public by showing fraudulent notices purportedly issued by the agency in non-existing cases, holding the victim hostage in the name of digital arrest and extorting crores of rupees in the process, the spokesperson said. The Supreme Court had recently flagged that ₹54,000 crore was syphoned off by cyber-

criminals in various scams and termed the menace "robbery or dacoity". Earlier, the apex court had issued directions to strengthen the hands of the CBI in the investigation of digital arrest scams. "The CBI shall have a free hand to investigate the role of bankers under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act wherever they are found involved in the opening of mule accounts used in cybercrime cases," it said.

INSIDER TRACK

Deepak Kumar's likely Delhi move

Following the recent shift in political power in Bihar from JD(U) leadership to the BJP assuming a more prominent role, indications suggest administrative changes extending beyond the state. Deepak Kumar, former Chief Secretary and long-time aide of Nitish Kumar, is reportedly set to move from Patna to Delhi. Though no official announcement has emerged, political sources hint at a senior advisory role at NITI Aayog. A retired 1984 batch IAS officer, Kumar is known for his wide governance experience. He served as Chief Secretary from June 2012 to 2021 and later as Principal Secretary on contract. His possible move aligns with Nitish Kumar's expanded presence in the national capital and signals continuity ahead for now.



Raj Niwas new secretary buzz

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs' decision to move Varanasi-linked IAS officer Kaushal Raj Sharma to Delhi as Secretary to Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu has stirred bureaucratic circles. Observers see the combination as potentially influential in shaping governance in the national capital. Sandhu is expected to bring diplomatic experience and institutional weight, while Sharma contributes field-level administrative execution and familiarity with complex urban systems. Many officials believe this pairing could rebalance governance away from prolonged populism toward sharper implementation.



Promotee officers flag cadre tagging

A section of promotee officers from the State Police Services and State Administrative Services has raised concerns about a recent change in cadre notation after induction into the All-India Services. Officers promoted to the IPS or IAS say postings now carry bracketed identifiers such as SPS alongside cadre names (like AGMUT, SPS). Earlier, cadre descriptions reflected only the cadre without indicating the source service. Officers argue the revised format creates unnecessary distinction between direct recruits and promotees within the same service. Many have said that once inducted, all officers should be treated uniformly, without legacy labels. Concerns include the impact on perception, seniority dynamics, and parity, prompting calls for clarity and a possible reconsideration of the policy.

Paperless push, paper still rules

Even as the MoRTH tries to move everything online through the Rajmarg Praveesh portal, old habits persist. Many field offices still demand physical files, printed reports, and signed papers. This defeats the whole idea of a smooth, paperless system meant to speed up road project approvals. Officials on the ground seem more comfortable with what they have always done, even if it slows work. The ministry has reacted sharply and issued fresh directions. It has mandated the use of the revamped Rajmarg Praveesh portal and the uploading of all inspection reports only through the mobile application. No parallel paper process will be allowed.

Muted cheers in Bihar power shift

The BJP finally has its own CM in Bihar, but the mood is not fully celebratory. The swearing-in of Samrat Choudhary took place without the presence of top leaders such as Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. This absence has raised concerns within the party. Some leaders feel it signals unresolved tensions with ally JDU. The distribution of key ministries is still stuck, adding to the unease. Only the CM and 2 Deputy CMs took the oath, leaving the cabinet incomplete. Sources say the contentious ministries, which are still being negotiated among the NDA partners, are home, finance, industry and PWD. The leadership change looks significant on paper, but the political picture behind the scenes remains unsettled.





8 children

between the ages of 1 and 14 killed after a mass shooting in Louisiana, police say



GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thunderstorm • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

TRUMP WARNS IRAN, SENDS TEAM TO PAK FOR TALKS

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said he was sending a delegation to Pakistan on Monday for negotiations with Iran, while renewing his threats to destroy the country's vital infrastructure if it didn't agree a deal.

"No more Mr nice guy!" the American leader declared on Sunday in a post on his Truth Social account, saying that without a deal, Washington was "going to knock out every single Power Plant, and every single Bridge, in Iran".

US Vice President J D Vance will lead the US delegation for talks with Iran in Pakistan, a White House official said Sunday — shortly after Trump said he would not make the trip.

Early in the day, Trump announced he was sending negotiators to Islamabad for meetings with Tehran about ending the conflict that has raged in the West Asia, with a ceasefire soon set to expire.

Trump said that Vance — who led the last round of talks with Tehran in Islamabad, but came away with no deal — would not make the trip, citing security concerns.

"It's only because of security," Trump told ABC News. "JD's great." But the White House quickly flipped the script, when asked about those comments.

Vance, special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner will attend the talks, a White House official told AFP on condition of anonymity. The trio were on hand last time

around on April 11-12.

Trump earlier accused Iran of a "Total Violation" of the countries' two-week ceasefire with attacks Saturday in the Strait of Hormuz — and threatened to destroy its power plants and bridges if no deal is reached.

Iran and the United States, along with Israel, are three days away from the end of a two-week ceasefire that halted the West Asia war started by surprise US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28.

There has so far been only a single, 21-hour negotiating session held in Islamabad on April 11 that ended inconclusively, though groundwork for fresh talks continued afterwards. "We're offering a very fair and reasonable deal, and I hope they take it," Trump said in his post. No date has yet been an-

nounced for a second round of talks, and Iran's speaker of parliament and senior negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf insisted on Saturday night that the two sides were "still far from the final discussion".

Donald Trump justified the war as an attempt to stop Tehran acquiring nuclear weapons — an ambition it has always denied — and the atomic issue remains a key sticking point in negotiations.

Iran and the US had already been discussing Tehran's nuclear programme in Omani-mediated talks when Washington launched the war, which has now added a fresh point of contention — the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint for oil and gas shipments that Iran has ordered closed. *AFP*

Israel orders 'full force' in Lebanon despite ceasefire

SA NUR

ISRAELI Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Sunday that the military had been instructed to use "full force" in Lebanon — even during the ongoing ceasefire — in case the Israeli troops face any threat.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and I have instructed the IDF to act with full force, both on the ground and from the air, including during the ceasefire, in order to protect our soldiers in Lebanon from any threat," Katz said at a function in West Bank. He said that the military had also been ordered to demolish any structure or roads that were "booby-trapped" and threatened soldiers. The aim is "to remove the houses in the villages near the border that served in every respect as Hezbollah terror outposts and threatened Israeli communities," Katz added.

An Israeli soldier was killed in southern Lebanon on Friday — the day a 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon came into effect — when he entered a booby-trapped building, the military reported.

Katz has repeatedly said Israel would demolish houses along the border as part of efforts to establish a security zone in southern Lebanon. On Saturday, Israeli forces carried out demolitions in the town of Bint Jbeil, the scene of intense fighting with Hezbollah prior to the recently agreed ceasefire.

"The overarching goal of the campaign in Lebanon is the disarmament of Hezbollah and the removal of threat to northern communities, through a combination of military and diplomatic measures," Katz said. "If the Lebanese government continues to fail to uphold its obligations — the IDF will do so through continued military action." *AFP*



Children walk through a damaged store as displaced residents return to the southern Lebanese village of Srafa | AFP

Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8-(1)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IFIL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IFIL-HFL) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower 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 Rules. 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 IFIL HFL for an amount as mentioned herein under interest thereon. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the borrower clears the dues of the "IFIL HFL" together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by "IFIL HFL" and no further step shall be taken by "IFIL HFL" for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower/s/ Co-Borrower/s	Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Rs. 1797498.00/-	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mr. H. S. Sathya Mrs. H. S. Sathya Shivalingaswamy Nandini Mrs. Lokamani Prospect No. IL/0957020	All that piece and parcel of E Swathi No. 1522006001001002, No. 585, Hadranu Village, Nanjanagodu Taluk, Mysore District, Karnataka- 571302 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land Area, Built Up Area, Carpet Area, Property Area: 704.00, 1056.00, 330.00. Bounded By North: Passage And Property Of Rajanna, South: Road, East: No. 584, West: Passage And House Of Golega	(Rupees) Seventeen Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Eight Only)	10/10/2025	16/04/2026

For further details please contact to Authorized Officer at Branch Office: 850, 1st Floor, New Karthraj URS Road Opp JSS Law College, Kuvempunagar, Mysore - 570023. or Corporate Office : IFIL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vinar, Ph-IV, Gujgaon, Haryana.

Place : Mysore, Karnataka | Date : 20.04.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IFIL Home Finance Ltd.

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POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of Jana Small Finance Bank Limited under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notices to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Mortgage(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Consentor(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgage	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (In Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	47010530000011 & 46459170095689	1) Mrs. Uma N. 2) Mr. Channaveerappa	20-01-2026 Rs.5,29,374.45 (Rupees Five Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Four and Forty Five Paise Only) due as on 13-01-2026	Date: 17-04-2026 Time: 11:30 AM Symbolic Possession

Description of the Property: All the piece and parcel of the property bearing No.18, Katha No.151900702500200007, measuring East-West 7.70 mtrs, North-South 14.50 mtrs, totally measuring 111.65 Sqmtrs, situated at Chologatta Village, Comes within the purview of Madderi Gramapanchayat, Kolar Taluk and District and Bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Parvathamma, North by: Muneshwaramma, South by: Road.

Whereas the Borrower/s/ Co-Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s/ Mortgagees, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has taken possession of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower/s/ Co-Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s/ Mortgagees mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**.

Place: Kolar Date: 18.04.2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

Quote Express

PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES

ROBERT H SCHULLER

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031. Tel: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax : +91 44 4564 4022

APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notices calling upon the Borrower/ Co-borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice appended below within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.

The Borrower/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this notice.

Loan A/c. No.	Borrower/s/ Co-borrower/s & Guarantors Name	Description of The Mortgaged Properties	Demand Notice		Date and Type of Possession Taken
			Date	Outstanding Amount (Rs.)	
62765855	1. Nanjunda M, 2. Sudha N	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Property Katha No. G Block Property No. 259/B And PID No. 152100700700102672. Extent East To West 4.8768 Meters And North To South: 10.6 Meters, Total 52.02 Sq. Meters. Is Situated At Belagola Village, Belagola GPA, Srirangapatana Tq, Karnataka, And Bounded On The:- East By: House Of Nagaraju, West By: Road, North By: Road, South By: Vacant Place	08.08.2025	Rs. 5,75,658.96/-	17-04-2026 Possession
75352246	1. Vanajakshi K 2. Kumara R	All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing No. 68/133, According To The Form No. 9 And 11 A Katha Issued By The Office Of The Rdrp Govt. Of Karnataka, Situated At Chitthanahalli Village, Manikyanahalli Gram Panchayath Limit, Chinakurali Hobli, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District, Vide E- Katha No: 152100601000900132. Measuring East To West 7.01 Meters And North To South: 14.63 Meter, In Total Measuring 102.56 Sq. Meter, And, Bounded As:- East: House Of Nanjagowda, West: House Of Late Chaluwegowda, North: Beedi, South: Temple Of Huchamma	30.08.2025	Rs. 6,75,841.79/-	17-04-2026 Possession
83975795	1. MN Sharada, 2. MN Mahendra	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 84, According To The Form No. 9 And 11A Katha Issued By The Office Of The R.D.P.R. Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide E-Katha No. 152100701300620145, Measuring East To West: 7.0104000000000001 Meters And North To South: 14.0208000000000001 Meter, In Total Measuring 98.29 Sq. Meters, Situated At M. Shettahalli Village, Sabbanakuppe Grama Panchayath Limit, Srirangapatana Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571807, And The Property Bounded As:- East By: Galli And House Of Yashodamma, West By: Dranage And Road, North By: Galli And House Of Hemanthkumar, South By: Dranage And Road	06.12.2025	Rs. 7,65,473.38/-	17-04-2026 Possession
95302319	1. Shobha KC, 2. Mahadevashetty B, 3. Gowramma B,	Item No. 1: All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 11480/112A, According To The Form No. 11A, Katha Issued By The Office Of The RDRP Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide E-Katha No. 152100602300100010, Measuring East- West: 8.8392 Meters And North To South: 6.096 Meters In Total Measuring 53.88 Sq. Meters, Situated At Kyathanahalli Village, Kyathanahalli Gram Panchayath Limit, Kasaba Hobli, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571427, And Bounded As:- East: Mata, West: Drainage & Road, North: House Of Shanthamma, South: House Of Gowramma Item No. 2: All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 11480/1122, According To The Form No. 11A, Katha Issued By The Office Of The RDRP Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide E-katha No. 152100602300100009, Measuring East- West: 9.144 Meters And North To South: 6.096 Meters In Total Measuring 55.74 Sq. Meters, Situated At Kyathanahalli Village, Kyathanahalli Gram Panchayath Limit, Kasaba Hobli, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571435 And The Property In Bounded On The:- East By: Galli And Land Of Javaraiiah, West By: Galli And Land Of Ankaiah, North By: Empty Site, South By: House Of Bhagyamma And Drainage And Road Schedule-2: All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 51, According To The Form No. 11 A Katha Was Issued By The Office Of The RDRP Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide E- Katha No. 152100602400320005, Measuring East To West: 10.0584 Meters And North To South: 3.6576 Meter, In Total Measuring 36.79 Sq. Meters, Situated At M.bettahalli Village, K.bettahalli Gram Panchayath Limit, Kasaba Hobli, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571435 And The Property In Bounded On The:- East By: Galli And Land Of Javaraiiah, West By: Galli And Land Of Ankaiah, North By: House Of Krishniah, South By: Drainage And Road	15.11.2025	Rs. 6,78,128.00/-	17-04-2026 Possession
98036947	1. Abhishek MK 2. Krishniah MH	Schedule-1: All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 51, According To The Form No. 11 A Katha Was Issued By The Office Of The RDRP Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide E- Katha No. 152100602400300049, Measuring East To West: 10.058 Meters And North To South: 9.7536 Meter, In Total Measuring 98.11 Sq. Meters, Situated At M.bettahalli Village, K.bettahalli Gram Panchayath Limit, Kasaba Hobli, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571435 And The Property In Bounded On The:- East By: Galli And Land Of Javaraiiah, West By: Galli And Land Of Ankaiah, North By: Empty Site, South By: House Of Bhagyamma And Drainage And Road Schedule-2: All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 51, According To The Form No. 11 A Katha Was Issued By The Office Of The RDRP Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide E- Katha No. 152100602400320005, Measuring East To West: 10.0584 Meters And North To South: 3.6576 Meter, In Total Measuring 36.79 Sq. Meters, Situated At M.bettahalli Village, K.bettahalli Gram Panchayath Limit, Kasaba Hobli, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571435 And The Property In Bounded On The:- East By: Galli And Land Of Javaraiiah, West By: Galli And Land Of Ankaiah, North By: House Of Krishniah, South By: Drainage And Road	20.08.2025	Rs. 6,43,534.07/-	17-04-2026 Possession
118928958	1. HC Nandisha 2. Mangalgowaramma C	All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing No. 1328, According To The Form No. 11 B. Katha Was Issued By The Office Of The RDRP Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide E-Katha No. 152100600500101427, Measuring East To West: 13.7160 Meters And North To South: 16.764 Meter, In Total Measuring 229.93 Sq. Meters, Situated At Hirimarrali Village, Hirimarrali Gram Panchayath Limit, Kasaba Hobli, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571434, And Bounded As:- East: Site Of Rashmi, West: Own Site And House Of Javaregowda, North: Own Site And Road, South: Site Of Kamsegowda	17.09.2025	Rs. 7,86,672.02/-	17-04-2026 Possession
137846418	1. Sathish SS, 2. Sanna Thimmegowda	All The Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing No. 17/1, According To The Form No. 9 And 11 A, Situated At Shindogannahalli Village, Hanaganahalli Gram Panchayath, Chinakurali Hobli, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka Vide E-katha No. 152100600900600038, Measuring East To West 12.4968 Meters And North To South 14.7828 Meters, In Total Measuring 184.74 Sq. Meters, Bounded As:- North: Galli And House Of S T Srinivas, South: Road, East: Galli And House Of Ramakrishnegowda, West: Galli And House Of S T Srinivas	31.10.2025	Rs. 10,57,406.46/-	17-04-2026 Possession
143497561	1. Aj Suresha 2. Parvathamma J	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Property No. 693, According To The Form No. 11 B. Katha Was Issued By The Office Of The RDRP Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide E-katha No. 152100601800100798, Measuring East To West:- 9.14 Meters And North To South:- 12.192 Meter, In Total Measuring 111.48 Sq. Meters, Situated At Aralakuppe Village, Aralakuppe Gram Panchayath Limit, Chinakurali Hobli, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571427, And Bounded As:- East: Galli And Objection Site, West: Galli And House Of Mavinakayi Jayarama, North: Galli And House Of Thayamma, South: Road	04.08.2025	Rs. 7,41,789.55/-	17-04-2026 Possession
156607696	1. Umesh MS, 2. Kalamma S	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 119, According To The Form No. 11 B. Katha Issued By The Office Of The RDRP Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide E- Katha No. 152100602400300131 Measuring East To West:- 10.668000000000001 Meters And North To South:- 7.62 Meter, In Total Measuring 81.29 Sq. Meters, Situated At M. Bettahalli Village, K. Bettahalli Gram Panchayath Limit, Kasaba Hobli, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571435, And Bounded As:- East: Gramatana, West: Drainage And Road, North: Site Of Sakamma, South: Gramatana	20.09.2025	Rs. 8,49,577.58/-	17-04-2026 Possession

The Borrower/ Co-borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)** for an amount mentioned in the demand notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.

Date: 17th April, 2026
Place: Mandya, Karnataka

Sd/- Authorised Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031. Tel: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax : +91 44 4564 4022

APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notices calling upon the Borrower/ Co-borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice appended below within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.

The Borrower/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this notice.

Loan A/c. No.	Borrower/s/ Co-borrower/s & Guarantors Name	Description of The Mortgaged Properties	Demand Notice		Date and Type of Possession Taken
			Date	Outstanding Amount (Rs.)	
51696360	1. M P Shankarappa 2. Kamala S	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 2, Having RDRP Unique Code No. 152109100800800002 According To The Form No. 11b And Form No. 30(7) Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development And Panchayath Raj, Beeruvally Village Panchayathi, Situated At Village: Chowdasamudra, Krishnarajpet Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571605, Measuring East To West 8.22 Metes And North To South: 12.80 Meters, In Total Measuring 169.46 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building measuring 105.35 Sq. Meters The Property Is Bounded On The:- East: House Of Puttaswamyshetty, West: Land Of Kumara, North: Land Of Rajappa, South: Road	30.10.2025	Rs. 7,29,510.10/-	15-04-2026 Possession
79069637	1. Uma SJ 2. Sridhara NM	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 104 According To The Form No. 11 B Katha Issued By The Office Of The RDRP Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide E-Katha No. 15210010100020132, Measuring East To West: 8.2296 Meters And North To South: 14.325600000000001 Meter, In Total Measuring 117.69 Sq. Meters, Situated At Neelimganga Village, Haralahalli Gram Panchayath Limit, Sheelanere Hobli, K.R. Pet Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571426, And Bounded As:- East By: Vacant Site, West By: Vacant Site, North By: Road, South By: Own Land	17.09.2025	Rs. 3,75,018.27/-	15-04-2026 Possession
79070261	1. Sudha VR, 2. Balagangadharthiak MK	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 72/2b According To The Form No. 11b Katha Issued By The Office Of RDRP Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide E-katha No. 152100101000100141, Measuring East To West: 11.88 Meters And North To South: 14.32 Meter, In Total Measuring 170.29 Sq. Mtrs., Situated At Hanharapura Village, Hanharapura Gram Panchayath Limit, Kasaba Hobli, K.R. Pet Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571605, And Bounded As:- East: Galli And House Of Mahesh, West: Galli And House Of Kumar, North: House Of Hariharan Thilik, South: Road	15.11.2025	Rs. 4,33,911.18/-	15-04-2026 Possession
90504268	1. Bhagyamma N 2. Hemanth BN	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property No. 831 According To The Form No. 11 B Katha Issued By The Office Of The Rdrp Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide Katha No. 152100102100100967, Measuring East To West 5.1816 Meter And North To South 13.1064 Meter, In Total Measuring 67.91 Sq. Meters, Situated At Bandhole Village, Bandhole Gram Panchyath Limit, Kasaba Hobli, Kr Pete Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571426, The Property In Bounded On The:- East: Galli And Sy No. Land, West: Galli And House Of Vasantha Kumar, North: Own Sy No. Land, South: Road	30.10.2025	Rs. 4,80,222.52/-	15-04-2026 Possession
136186577	1. Shiva C, 2. Sumalatha K B	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 340, According To The Form No. 11 B. Katha Issued By The Office Of The RDRP Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide E-Katha No. 152100100600720102, Measuring East To West: 10.0584 Meters And North To South: 10.0584 Meter, In Total Measuring 101.17 Sq. Meters, Situated At Nargonahalli Village, Balekere Gram Panchayath Limit, Kasaba Hobli, Krishnarajpet Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571426, And Bounded As:- East: Road, West: Remaining Land, North: Site Of Kumara, South: Own Remaining House	17.12.2025	Rs. 6,76,651.95/-	15-04-2026 Possession
150183631	1. Kumara R 2. Makamma R	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 30, According To The Form No. 11 B, Katha Issued By The Office Of The RDRP Govt. Of Karnataka, Situated At Rangegowdanakoppalu Village, Tendekere Gram Panchayath Limit, Sheelanere Hobli, Krishnarajapete Taluk, Mandya District Vide E- Katha No: 152100101700800034, Measuring East To West:- 15.5448 Meters And North To South: 14.3256 Meter, In Total Measuring 222.69 Sq Meters, And The Property Is Bounded On The:- East By: Own Survey No Land, West By: Own Site, North By: 12 Feet Site And Land Of Devamma, South By: Road	06.12.2025	Rs. 7,11,903.57/-	15-04-2026 Possession
105433161	1. Kullamma M, 2. Mavaroji N	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 587 According To The Form No. 11 B Katha Issued By The Office Of The Rdrp Govt. Of Karnataka, Vide E- Katha No. 152100101400120217, Measuring East To West: 9.7536 Meters And North To South: 9.4488 Meter, In Total Measuring 92.16 Sq. Meters, Situated At Sheelanere Koppalu Village, Sheelanere Hobli, Krishnarajapete Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka-571426, And The Bounded As:- North: Road, South: Galli And House Of Sakamma, West: Galli And Vacant Site, East: Galli And House Of Krishnamma	04.06.2025	Rs. 5,01,500.70/-	15-04-2026 Possession

The Borrower/ Co-borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)** for an amount mentioned in the demand notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.

Date: 15th April, 2026
Place: Mandya, Karnataka

Sd/- Authorised Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)

Corporates may delay salary restructuring

Companies grapple with fresh hurdles of aligning compensation with the new Income Tax framework

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

COMPANIES may take longer than expected to roll out revised employee salary structures under the Income-tax Act, 2025, several tax experts cautioned. With barely a couple of quarters since the implementation of the labour codes—under which corporates had to restructure salaries—companies are now grappling with fresh hurdles of aligning compensation with the new Income-Tax framework.

The primary challenge stems from corporates having to recalibrate salary structures across two parallel reform tracks, experts said.

“The key hurdle corporates are facing is that salary structures are currently being re-evaluated simultaneously under two major reform tracks. On the tax side, employers are

reassessing allowances, perquisites, exemptions and reimbursements under the Income-tax Act, 2025, and the Rules thereunder,” said Rajashree Sarna, Partner – Global People Solutions, Grant Thornton Bharat.

She added that the government has pushed for wider adoption of the new tax regime, with nearly 75% of individual taxpayers already opting for it.

However, exemption thresholds under certain allowances—such as house rent allowance (HRA) and children’s education/hostel allowance—under the old tax regime have been increased. This requires employers to design compensation structures that work for employees under both regimes. At the same time, under the new labour codes, a uniform definition of “wages” has been



On the tax side, employers are reassessing allowances, perquisites, exemptions and reimbursements under the Income-tax Act, 2025, and the Rules thereunder

Rajashree Sarna, Partner, Grant Thornton Bharat

introduced, forming the basis for calculating statutory benefits such as provident fund, em-

ployee state insurance, gratuity and leave encashment.

Tax experts noted that companies had only recently completed a detailed review of salary components to determine what qualifies as wages; incorporating changes under the new Income-tax Act has added another layer of complexity.

Until recently, experts said, the new tax regime was clearly more beneficial for most taxpayers.

“With the increase in exempt salary components, individuals will now need to undertake a more detailed optimisation analysis on a case-by-case basis (old vs new). From an employer’s standpoint, this introduces an additional layer of complexity. Companies will need to revisit payroll structures and support

employees in evaluating the old versus new regime, increasing both advisory and administrative effort,” said Shailly Gupta, Partner, Direct Tax, Khaitan & Co.

Experts added that the timing of implementation has further complicated matters.

With the final rules notified only in late March, many companies did not have adequate time to operationalise changes from the start of the financial year on April 1. “Based on our interactions with corporates, implementation is likely to be staggered, with smoother adoption expected over the next few payroll cycles,” Gupta added.

For corporates, this means the transition to the new tax framework may be slower and more complex than initially anticipated.



DHIRAJ RELLI
Chief executive officer & managing director, HDFC Securities

‘Crises are temporary, but compounding is permanent in market’

HDFC Securities chief executive Dhiraj Relli, though is bullish on the market, doesn’t see any net returns this year as there are many missing cogs in the market wheel for a broader rally. In an interview with Bann Kochu-veedan of STNIE he tells the worst is behind us and investors can still rake in real moolah if they entered on the dips as market will remain range-bound. Excerpts:

Is the market out of the woods?

Yes, corrections of the past 18 months are already behind us, and we believe the market has the potential to do well. My view is simple: the Iran war will end. Historically, crises are temporary, but compounding is permanent. If you look at past events—wars, terror attacks, geopolitical crises—they lead to 10-15% corrections, followed by strong rebounds of 35-40% within six months. I see the market rebounding by 12-14% from here.

What makes you so optimistic after massive sell-offs? What’s your Nifty target?

My optimism is based on a few key factors. Over the past 18 months, we’ve seen both price correction and time correction. Secondly, we’re assuming the Iran war will come to an end. I don’t know whether it will take two, four, or six weeks, but it will end.

We’d earlier estimated 18% earnings growth across our coverage universe of 277 stocks. Because of the war, we cut that slightly and even after that, we still see 10-12% earnings growth. We believe markets have the potential to do well.

Once the war ends, investor sentiment will shift. What is currently the fear of missing out may turn into what I call ‘frustration of missing out.’ You can see this in the latest data. Everyone expected SIP flows to fall, but instead we saw a record ₹32,000 crore of SIP inflows in March. That shows the resilience of retail investors. Also, there is a strong trend of financialisation and equitisation of savings. Domestic investors remain positive. ETF flows are also strong.

Why are you excluding Covid from your correction phase comparison?

Because the Covid-19 was a very different kind of a crisis. It lasted 18-24 months. The events we’re comparing are shorter—typically three to six months crisis. Even a one-day event like 26/11 caused a small correction but was followed by a strong rebound. So based on historical patterns, we believe over the next six months, say post-Diwali, the markets should recoup. Even then, we aren’t talking about extraordinary returns—just a 12-14% move, which aligns with earnings expectations.

But doesn’t that still imply limited returns or no real returns at all?

Exactly. Markets may remain range-bound for a longer period. For example, they could move between 24,000 and 27,000 over several years. The Nifty peak was 26,358.25 on January 5, 2026. It could reclaim that but that does not mean it would go up from there. So, the returns depend on the entry point. If you enter at lower levels, you make money; if you enter at the peak, you may see no returns for years. There are many examples of this. Cisco took nearly 25 years to return to its previous high reached in 2001. Back home, Wipro had a long period of stagnation. The key factor here is valuation.

So was there a bubble earlier?

There was froth. In September 2024, valuations were high—27-28x earnings. We were trading at 100% premium to emerging markets as against a long-term average of 60%. That’s when foreign investors started selling. Our current premium to EMs is 31.2%.

Who created that froth? FPIs?

Partly. But the bigger issue was valuation and relative opportunity. FPIs had better options elsewhere—especially in markets like Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and the even US.

MONEY-WISE

RULES TAILORED FOR FINANCIAL SITUATION



FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at
www.subramoney.com and has
authored the best seller ‘Retire
Rich - Invest ₹40 a day’

I live in Navi Mumbai and one couple aged 35 years asked me ‘Should I buy a house in Panvel, for my family – our jobs are in Vashi. Here is what I told them....

Here is a set of financial rules tailored for your situation — a 35-year-old couple with combined CTC of ₹1 crore (about ₹50 lakh each), working in Vashi, planning to buy a house in Panvel. This is a smart move: 3BHK flats currently average ₹1.2-1.8 cr (₹1.3-1.6 cr is realistic for a good ready-to-move or under-construction project in New Panvel. Commute is only 25-40 minutes by train or 20 minutes by car — far better than most Mumbai suburbs.

First, Know Your Real Numbers (Take-Home + Affordability)

- Combined take-home: ₹5.4-6 lakh a month. Each person pays ₹11 lakh tax + ₹3-4 lakh PF/other deductions on ₹50 lakh CTC.
- House price you can comfortably afford: ₹1.5-2 cr
- Loan example: ₹1.5 cr house, 20% down payment (₹30 lakh from you), ₹1.2 cr home loan at 8.5% for 20 years; EMI ₹1.04 lakh/month.
- This EMI is only 17-19% of your combined take-home — very safe. In 2 years this will look small when your take home pay increases!

Golden Rule for Home Loan (3-20-30-40 Rule)

- The House should not cost more than 3x your CTC
- 20 year loan, don’t stretch it to 30 years.
- 30% maximum of monthly take-home on total EMIs.
- 40% down payment

Pre-Purchase Action Plan

BUILD DOWN PAYMENT

- Target ₹40-50 lakh liquid (₹30 lakh down + ₹10-15 lakh emergency).
- Park in liquid funds / savings account @ 6-7%.
- Emergency fund first 6-9 months of expenses (₹12-18 lakh) in liquid funds.
- Clear all other debt (credit cards, personal loans) before applying for home loan.
- **Boost CIBIL:** Should be 750+ (joint loan gets better rate).
- Post-Purchase Rules (Stay Wealthy After Buying)
- EMI cap: Never let total EMIs cross 30% of take-home.
- Don’t Prepay aggressively: Use any bonus/increment to invest in good mutual funds.
- Maintain 40% savings rate even after EMI starts — ₹1.5+ lakh monthly into SIPs.
- Protection & Long-Term Rules (Non-Negotiable)

Insurance

- **Term life:** ₹1-1.5 Cr each (pure term).
- Family floater health: ₹25 lakh top-up.

RETIREMENT

- 35 years old ₹you still have 25-30 years. Invest in equity mutual funds/SIPs (index + flexi-cap+multi-asset).
- **Goal:** ₹10-15 Cr corpus by age 60.

TAX OPTIMISATION

Home loan interest (up to ₹2 lakh) + principal (80C) — switch to old regime only if you have other deductions; otherwise new regime is simpler.

Quick Checklist Before You Finalise the House

House price ≤ 3x combined annual take-home (you are at ~2.5x — excellent).

MONEY MATTERS

HOW IS AI SHAPING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

THE impact of artificial intelligence across sectors is slowly becoming visible. Just like all other segments, it is shaping the future of your money, too. A World Bank report summarising annual digital trends for 2025 highlights that this transition is not just about silicon and code. It is a fundamental restructuring of how wealth is created, managed, and preserved in the Indian economy. For you, merely understanding the shift is not enough. You have to make it a cornerstone of your personal finances.

Impact on knowledge

When you are initially building your savings and investments, there are leaks due to a lack of knowledge. You end up choosing the wrong instruments that cost you more and diminish your long-term returns. Financial advice and wealth management used to be a prerogative of the rich. One of the direct benefits of AI adoption is in financial advice, where it can personalise recommendations to help you determine an appropriate asset allocation. That is irrespective of your net worth. The new generation fintech apps are loaded with robo advisory services that you can utilise to analyse things like your spending patterns, future cash flow needs and make adjustments to your savings and investments. Your exist-



FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at
www.moneyminute.in)

ing bank may already have introduced features based on the usage trends that are suitable for you.

For many years, banks could not easily gather relevant information about you. As a result, despite having a relatively decent profile, your loan applications could have been rejected. A significant part of India’s population was ‘credit-invisible’. The World Bank report identifies AI-driven alternative credit scoring as a major catalyst for financial inclusion. By analysing non-traditional data—such as utility bill payments, transaction histories on digital wallets, and even social footprints—AI is allowing banks to extend credit to small business owners and individuals who were previously ignored.

From a personal finance perspective, this means that your “digital reputation” is becoming as valuable as your credit score. Maintaining healthy digital habits and utilising regulated fintech platforms can open doors to cheaper home loans and



EXPRES ILLUSTRATION

MCX receives Sebi approval to launch coal exchange, to invest ₹100 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX), the country’s largest commodity exchange, is set to expand its footprint into the energy sector following regulatory approval to establish a coal exchange.

In a regulatory filing dated April 18, 2026, MCX announced that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has granted approval under the SECC Regulations for an investment in a proposed subsidiary, tentatively named MCX Coal Exchange Ltd. or MCX Coal Exchange of India Ltd.

The initiative aims to modernise India’s coal market by developing a regulated, technology-driven platform for the physical delivery of coal. MCX intends to leverage its expertise



in governance, surveillance, and clearing mechanisms to create a transparent digital marketplace where coal can be traded at market-driven, fair prices. This move aligns with the broader vision of the Government of India to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the domestic coal ecosystem.

MCX will initially hold a 100% stake in the subsidiary, though it may seek additional partners in the future. The ex-

Coal mkt modernisation

The initiative aims to modernise India’s coal market by developing a regulated, technology-driven platform for the physical delivery of coal. MCX intends to leverage its expertise in governance, surveillance, and clearing mechanisms

change plans to invest up to ₹100 crore to meet minimum net worth requirements as stipulated by draft Coal Exchange Rules. Shares will be acquired at a par value of ₹10 per share.

While Sebi has approved the investment as of April 17, 2026, the company is yet to be formally incorporated. Following incorporation, MCX plans to submit a licence application to the Coal Controller Organization of India as per guidelines.

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ADANI Enterprises (AEL) has announced the incorporation of three new wholly owned subsidiaries focused on real estate and hospitality developments near its airport projects. The move, disclosed in a regulatory filing on April 18, 2026, signals a strategic push by the conglomerate to monetise and develop land parcels surrounding its aviation hubs.

AEL has informed the BSE and NSE that its step-down wholly-owned subsidiary, Adani Airport City Limited, has incorporated three new wholly-owned subsidiaries. These new entities—Adani Navi Mumbai Airport City Limited (ANMA-CL), Adani Guwahati Airport City Limited (AGACL), and Adani Ahmedabad Airport City Limited (AAACL)—were all incorporated in India on



Strategic push to develop lands around aviation hubs

The move, disclosed in a regulatory filing on April 18, 2026, signals a strategic push by the conglomerate to monetise and develop land parcels surrounding its aviation hubs. The primary business objective for these subsidiaries falls under real estate activities.

April 6, 2026.

The primary business objective for these subsidiaries falls under real estate activities. Specifically, ANMA-CL, AGACL, and AAACL are set to engage in the development, leasing, and construction of

buildings, as well as the management of integrated hotels, restaurants, banquets, and business centres.

Each of the three companies has been established with a paid-up share capital of ₹10,00,000, consisting of 100,000

equity shares at a face value of ₹10 per share. Adani Airport City Limited holds 100% of the shareholding in each entity, maintaining them as wholly owned subsidiaries within the broader Adani Enterprises corporate structure. The incorporation was completed via cash consideration and did not require any specific governmental or regulatory approvals.

The Adani Group through its subsidiary Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) operates and manages six airports — Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Thiruvananthapuram. It signed concession agreements with the Airports Authority of India for all six airports.

AAHL also holds a 73% stake in Mumbai International Airport Ltd, which in turn holds a 74% stake in Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd.



Chennai Super Kings have been dealt a major blow with Ayush Mhatre sustaining a hamstring tear during their match against Sunrisers Hyderabad. Mhatre, who came in as an impact substitute, appeared in visible discomfort and clutched his hamstring while attempting a run, requiring on-field treatment during CSK's 10-run loss to SRH on Sunday.

HAPPY HOMECOMING FOR CANDIDATES WINNER VAISHALI

Father and supporters welcome 24-year-old Grandmaster with flowers, chess-board themed cake at Chennai International Airport in wee hours on Sunday

CHANDRA PRABHU @Chennai

WHEN Ramesh Babu got a call from Nagalakshmi around 12.10 am, his wife and mother of Candidates champion R Vaishali, it was an indication that her flight had landed in Chennai from Frankfurt. Days after beating Kateryn Lagno in the final round of the Women's Candidates at Paphos, Cyprus to emerge victorious, Vaishali returned to the city at midnight on Sunday.

The international arrivals at the Chennai International Airport witnessed an outpour much before her arrival. Families were getting reunited, children were finally getting to see their parents, who had been just pixels of various colours on their mobile screens for some time due to West Asia conflict. As

Will put strong bid to host World C'ships: AICF official

Vaishali's entry to the women's World Championship final as a challenger to defending champion Ju Wenjun means that India will have two players fighting for titles. In the Open category, reigning champ D Gukesh will face Javokhir Sindarov, who won the Candidates in Cyprus. AK Verma, head of operations of All India Chess Federation (AICF) said that the national body will try to bring the final to India. "We will fill the bid form first and then we will go to the bidding process," he said. In 2024, India missed out on hosting the Worlds, as Singapore got the hosting rights at the last minute thanks to Google being roped in as a sponsor. "Initially, FIDE was ready to host (in 2024), frankly speaking," he said. The TN government also pushed for the marquee event to be hosted here, as they were ready to pay appropriate fees, according to Verma.

flight activity had been curtailed due to US-Israel's war with Iran, those waiting at the terminal were a picture of emotions as they eagerly anticipated their loved ones' arrival.

But at the extreme left of the A5 exit of the T2, Vaishali's father, relatives and friends patiently waited, even after knowing that she had landed. While her father waited for his daughter,

son and wife like any other man would, the relatives and friends kept their excitement levels in full swing. Around 30-35 school students, trying to battle sleep, patiently waited, as they were to unfurl a banner which read 'R Vaishali, Candidates Champion.'

And by 1.15am, the woman of the hour finally walked towards the exit. The excitement grew



R Vaishali with her parents at the Chennai International Airport | EXPRESS



It was a very close event and an unpredictable one, it could have gone either way and I am very happy. I won the last game which was very crucial in a very tense situation. I think you have to be focussed until the end to handle the pressure. Everything was a learning experience for me

- R Vaishali, Candidates winner

further, the flowers — which were in covers — finally got to see the lights, the turbans waiting to be put on. It was the city's way of welcoming one of its own. But somewhere in the swelling crowd stood her father, with the walker on. His smile was wide and radiant when he saw his family just wearing off the tiredness of eight and a half-hour flight from Frankfurt. (Vaishali flew from Larnaca (Cyprus) to Frankfurt for 4 hours, followed by a 5 hour layover before a flight towards Chennai). After warmly embracing her father, she was taken to a spot where she cut a cake which had the chess board, which read 'Congratulations Vaishali' with a Queen's piece.

With the crowd surrounding her, trying to get a glimpse of her, the 24-year-old spoke about the title win in Cyprus. "It was

a very close event and an unpredictable one, it could have gone either way and I am very happy. I won the last game which was very crucial in a very tense situation," she told select media.

With four rounds left, Vaishali was in the lead there in Cyprus. She said that the defeat to Zhu Jiner released the pressure she had from leading by a point. "Having a one point lead, I felt a lot of pressure. But after losing to Jiner, it was wide open and we were again in a joint lead. I felt like everything was back to normal and I was trying to focus on the remaining games," she said.

This also marked the conclusion of a hectic campaign for her. "It's a long tournament and quite a gruelling one. I think you have to be focussed until the end to handle the pressure. Everything was a learning experience for me," she said.

Kushagra aims to be all-format star

GOMESH S @Chennai

KUMAR Kushagra always dreamt big. Right from the time he was coming up the ranks in Jharkhand age-group to going for big money in the 2023 IPL mini auction, the 21-year-old has always been one of those talents who was made of bigger things. And over the years, he had ticked the right boxes to build that reputation.

However, somewhere along the line he felt he needed more. He had the shots, the talent and the skills as a gloveman, but Kushagra felt something was missing. His aim is to play for India in all three formats but at the same time, he knew he needed the clarity to get to the next level. Enter Gujarat Titans and Vikram Solanki. First signed by Delhi Capitals in the mini auction, Kushagra found himself in the Titans set up last year where he worked with Solanki and Ashish Nehra.

"Your aim is to play in all three formats of India. You have to do some upgrades in your game. Obviously, I couldn't do it my way. I could only do it with someone's guidance. That should be the best. It should enhance my performance. Vikram sir was there. Ashish sir gave a lot of inputs when I came to GT. I had those shots. But I was very much confused that which kind of shots I should play in these kinds of situations. So, that thing, the clarity, plays a very big role," Kushagra told this daily.

The youngster warmed the bench through the 2025 season while working on the sidelines with Solanki and Nehra. One of the things was the belief to bat up the order and deliver for the team irrespective of the format. And it all came to fruition as Kushagra smashed 368 runs in Vijay Hazare, 601 runs in Ranji Trophy and 422 in Syed Mushtaq Ali, helping Jharkhand win the T20 title. In Ishan Kishan's absence, he also led the team in the 50-over format. "Before the last season, I was doing a lot of lower down the order. Even in the white ball tournaments, I was

playing at No 5-6. I was not getting that much opportunity to reveal myself or justify my game. When I came to the GT camp, they told me that I am a player who can bat at the top of the order. You can build the innings and showcase your performance in your team. So, I went back and told them to let me bat at No 3-4. From there, my game got enhanced. I got more time to bat. I used to open for my team in U16 and U19. When the Ranji Trophy came, there were a lot of senior players who were opening. Initially, I was not getting a chance. But now that I have got a chance, I am trying to use that opportunity. They told me to bat at the top of the order. I should have clarity in my shots. I should know how to use my power play. You just have to chip over the fielders. That should be set in your mind. So, these were the things that really helped me," Kushagra explained.

While Solanki worked with him on sidelines, Kushagra spent most of his time at Titans shadowing former England captain Jos Buttler. An all-format player who opens in T20s, bats in middle-order in ODIs and is a modern day great, Kushagra did not hesitate going up to Buttler for inputs and the Englishman took him under the wings. "We speak a lot of cricket. He has the mental skills, technique and ability, having played all formats for England over the years. If you are playing for your country in all three formats and doing it for such a long time, it's a very proud feeling. I think I can become that kind of a player. That's why I take a lot of input from Buttler. Because in all three formats... he bats in different places. So, how does he set that alignment of batting? How does he set it mentally? Those are the things we talk about all the time."

And earlier this month, Kushagra tried to apply it all when he made his debut for Titans in the absence of Shubman Gill. He scored a 14-ball 18, before making way for Gill in the next game, but one thing seems clear: The 21-year-old is here to stay and is doing everything in his power to make sure of it.

Bowlers, Rinku help KKR end winless streak

ENS @Chennai

THEIR bowlers (Kartik Tyagi 3/22, Varun Chakaravathy 3/14 and Sunil Narine 2/26) did the job to perfection restricting Rajasthan Royals to 155/9 but batters continue to struggled before Rinku Singh (53 n.o) and Anukul Roy (29 n.o) led Kolkata Knight Riders to maiden victory of the season.

Chasing the manageable target, the hosts, at one stage, were 87/6 at the Eden Gardens on Sunday but vice-captain Rinku along with Roy added 76 runs for the seventh wicket as the three-time champions crossed the line with two balls to spare. They also needed a bit of luck to break the jinx with Rinku be-

ing dropped by Nandre Burger at eight. The southpaw from Uttar Pradesh made full use of the reprieve with Roy playing the role of a perfect foil.

The win meant Kolkata are now placed ninth on the points table above five-time champions Mumbai Indians. For Rajasthan, it was their second consecutive loss after three straight wins. Except openers — Yashasvi Jaiswal (39) and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (46) — none of their batters came good thus failing to post a good total on the board despite a solid opening partnership of 81 inside nine overs. **Brief scores:** RR 155/9 in 20 ovs (Sooryavanshi 46; Tyagi 3/22, Chakaravathy 3/14, Narine 2/26) **lost** to KKR 161/6 in 19.4 ovs (Rinku 53 n.o, Roy 29 n.o; Jadeja 2/8).



KKR players celebrate their first win of the season on Sunday in Kolkata | BCCI

Arya, Connolly step up for Punjab

ENS @Chennai

THE 182-run partnership between Priyansh Arya (93) and Cooper Connolly (87) for the second wicket and late forays from Shashank Singh and Marcus Stoinis helped Punjab Kings end the first innings at 254/7 against Lucknow Super Giants in the Indian Premier League in Mullanpur on Sunday.

From 3/1 in the first over the duo carried the hosts to 185/2 within 13 overs. The highest point of this partnership came in the 13th over, when Aiden Markram was taken for 32 runs. After this onslaught how-



Priyansh Arya scored a 37-ball 93 to help PBKS post 254/7 | BCCI

ever, the duo did not remain for long. Connolly was caught by Manimaran Siddharth off Prince Yadav in the 14th over.

ISL: Downpour delays match

ENS @Chennai

THE Indian Super League (ISL) tie between NorthEast United and Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) was delayed at half-time due to heavy rain at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on Sunday. Mohun Bagan went into the break with a 1-0 lead thanks to Robinho Azevedo's first-time shot. Visuals of puddles across the stadium was seen at the break, and the referees delayed the start of second half. Ground staff were seen clearing excess water outside the pitch, while the corners appear to be slightly inundated.

Shafali's fifty in vain as South Africa take 2-0 lead

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

INDIA opener Shafali Verma, playing her 100th T20I, scored a breezy 57, but that was not enough as the visitors lost to South Africa by eight wickets in the second T20I in Durban on Sunday. With the win, hosts took 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

With only few months to go for the T20 World Cup, this series was supposed to serve as a preparation for India women. However, so far they have not turned up. In both matches, India lost momentum in the middle-order



Shafali Verma | BCCI

and failed to post a defendable total. India were bowled out for 147, which South Africa chased down with ease, thanks to fifties from Laura Wolvaardt and Sune Luus. **Brief scores:** India 147 in 20 ovs (Shafali 57; Chloë 3/22) **lost** to SA 148/2 in 17.1 ovs (Wolvaardt 54, Luus 57; Shreyanka 2/35).

EXPRESS READ

Agarkar's contract renewed till next year

NEW DELHI: Aji Agarkar will continue as chairman of the senior selection committee after the BCCI decided to renew his contract for a year, keeping an eye on the 2027 ODI World Cup. Under his chairmanship, the selected Indian teams between October 2023 to March 2026 reached four ICC tournament finals, winning three of them — two T20 World Cups and one ICC Champions Trophy — and it was a foregone conclusion that his contract will be renewed for fourth year.

Rybakina beats Muchova to win Stuttgart title

STUTT GART: Australian Open champion Elena Rybakina picked up her second title of the year as she outclassed Karolina Muchova 7-5, 6-1 to win the WTA Stuttgart indoor clay-court tournament on Sunday. Top seed Rybakina, 26, snatched a tight opening set with two breaks against her seventh-seeded Czech opponent after 53 minutes on court in Germany. It's the first time the 26-year-old 2024 champion won a repeat title after claiming 12 in different tournaments previously.

Aditi cards 69 to move to T-36 in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES: India's Aditi Ashok fought back with three birdies on the back nine to move up to tied 36th place with a third-round card of 3-under 69 at the JM Eagle Los Angeles Championship here. Aditi birdied the sixth but gave it back on the Par-5 seventh. On the back nine, she birdied the 11th and added two more gains on the 16th and the 18th for a 69, after 70-72 on the first two days. Korea's Sei Young Kim led by two following a roller-coaster round of 71.

Asian U20 C'ships qualification in K'taka

NEW DELHI: Athletes aiming to earn a ticket to next month's Asian U20 Championships in Hong Kong will have to achieve the AFI qualification standards during the three-day age group competition in Tumkur, Karnataka, from April 24 to 26. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) announced the selection criteria for the upcoming Asian meet on Sunday. The Asian U20 Athletics Championships will be held in Hong Kong from May 28 to 31.

AGENCIES @London

VIRGIL van Dijk scored a last-gasp winner against Everton on Sunday as Liverpool strengthened their push for a Champions League spot next season.

On a pivotal day in the Premier League, fourth-placed Aston Villa squandered a two-goal lead against Sunderland but scored in stoppage time to win 4-3. At the other end of the table, Morgan Gibbs-White netted a hat-trick as struggling Nottingham Forest came from behind against Burnley to win 4-1 and

heap the pressure on troubled Tottenham.

Just a few weeks ago the battle for the top five, which guarantees entry into the Champions League, looked as though it might be tight. But fifth-placed Liverpool's 2-1 victory in their first match at Everton's new Hill Dickinson Stadium takes them seven points clear of stumbling Chelsea, in sixth spot.

Captain Van Dijk was the hero for Arne Slot's Liverpool, heading Dominik Szoboszlai's corner past a helpless Jordan



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah celebrates scoring his side's opening goal | AP

Pickford in the 100th minute. "Today was massive in the situation that we are, in hunt for the Champions League spots," Van Dijk told Sky Sports. "That is definitely not Liverpool-worthy, in my opinion, but it is the reality and it was important we got the win. I'm glad we did."

"We've got five more games left (some) against teams that are also fighting for the Champions League spots. Every game is a big one."

Mohamed Salah had opened the scoring for last season's

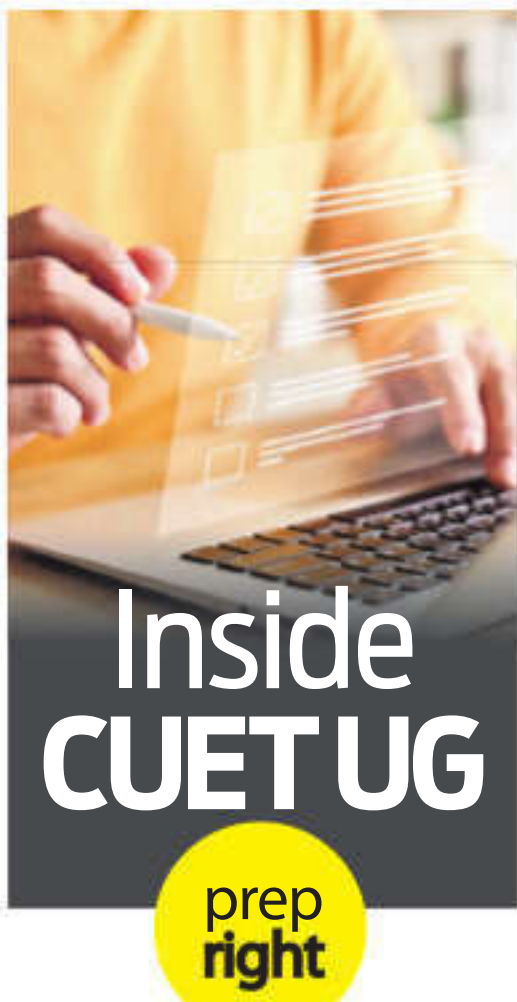
champions, slotting home in the first half following a superbly weighted pass from Cody Gakpo.

The goal came just two minutes after Ilman Ndiaye's effort at the other end was cancelled by VAR, with Jake O'Brien ruled offside. Salah, departing at the end of the season, has equalled Steven Gerrard's nine goals to become the joint top-scoring player in the Premier League fixture between the two Merseyside teams.

Results: Everton 1-2 Liverpool; Nottingham Forest 4-1 Burnley; Aston Villa 4-3 Sunderland.

FOOTBALL

Liverpool snatch derby win to boost Champions League hopes



Inside CUET UG

prep
right

Know how the national exam
is structured, what it includes,
and what happens after

YECHURI SASHIKANTH

THE Common University Entrance Test for Undergraduate programmes, or CUET UG, is a standardised national-level entrance test designed to create a single admissions route across institutions, allowing students from different boards and regions to compete on a common platform. Conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), it now forms the basis of admissions to central universities, replacing reliance on board marks alone, and is also used by a growing number of other participating institutions.



CUET UG 2026 at a glance

- Total subjects: 37 subjects
- Subject choice: Maximum of 5 subjects
- Exam dates: May 11 to 31, 2026
- Mode of exam: Computer-based test
- Questions per paper: 50 questions (All are compulsory)
- Duration: 60 minutes
- Marking scheme: +5 for each correct answer, -1 for each incorrect answer

DECODING THE ADMISSION PROCESS



The role of the NTA ends with the declaration of CUET UG results. It does not prepare merit lists or conduct admissions.

Once the results are announced, the admission process is taken over by the central universities and other participating institutions.



Each university uses CUET UG scores according to its own admission rules, eligibility criteria, and seat matrix. Based on the scorecard, the respective university releases its counselling schedule, admission notifications, and merit lists separately. Candidates should rely on the official portals of universities they have applied to, and not on NTA updates alone.



DID YOU KNOW?

Candidates may choose up to a maximum of five subjects, including languages and the General Aptitude Test, irrespective of the subjects studied in Class XII.

Commerce education once centred on mastering content. It now extends into interpretation, application, and decision making in uncertain contexts, with courses drawing from multiple disciplines

BALANCING THE BOOKS

NIKHIL ABHISHEK

COMMERCE education today rests on a different set of expectations from the ones that defined it even a decade ago.

The classroom still carries its familiar subjects, yet the demands placed on students have widened in scope and depth. What once centred on mastering content now extends into interpretation, application, and decision-making in uncertain contexts. “The most significant shift in commerce education is from knowledge-centric learning to competency-driven education. Knowing facts is no longer enough; students must interpret and act on them in real-world contexts. Commerce education today demands active, adaptive thinkers, not just passive, recall-driven learners,” explains Dr M Thenmozhi, Professor, Department of Management Studies at IIT Madras.

This movement toward application has brought other changes alongside it. Coursework now draws from multiple disciplines, placing accounting, finance, and economics in conversation with data, policy, and management. The classroom mirrors a professional environment

where problems often have very fuzzy edges, and conclusions depend on context and nuance rather than formula alone. The presence of these demands has placed greater emphasis on how students engage with information.

Employers look for graduates who can move beyond calculation and arrive at conclusions that hold under scrutiny. “Students can solve a textbook problem with precision, but struggle when the same concept appears embedded in a messy business situation with incomplete data. Data literacy and professional communication remain the most glaring gaps in today’s commerce graduates,” she says.

Part of this gap can be traced to changes in how work itself is organised. Many of the tasks that used to define early-career roles have begun to move into automated systems, altering how young professionals enter the field and what they are expected to contribute from the start. “The tasks that were once considered the bread and butter of entry-level commerce professionals, such as financial reporting, auditing, credit analysis, and routine compliance functions, are being taken up by AI. What AI cannot replicate is sound professional judgement, ethical reasoning, and the ability to navigate ambiguity,” she explains.

trade
mind

professional judgement, ethical reasoning, and the ability to navigate ambiguity,” she explains.

The emphasis on application extends into how students think about their own academic paths. A broad grounding in the fundamentals continues to matter, especially at the undergraduate level, where accounting, economics, and finance form the base of the discipline. At the same time, depth in a chosen area carries weight in the job market. “At the undergraduate level, specialisation does not mean becoming a narrow technician; it means developing a pronounced strength in one area, whether that is financial markets, taxation, management accounting, or cost accounting, while retaining working fluency across the broader field,” Thenmozhi notes.

This balance between breadth and depth defines how students position themselves in the workforce, and in interviews. A general understand-



What AI cannot replicate is sound professional judgement, ethical reasoning, and the ability to navigate ambiguity

Dr M Thenmozhi,
Professor, Department
of Management Studies
at IIT-Madras



ing across subjects allows for flexibility, while a clear area of strength provides direction and credibility. The combination creates a profile that can respond to varied professional demands without losing focus. Perceptions of the field, however, often lag behind these realities. Commerce has long

FROM CONTENT TO COMPETENCE

Commerce education now places greater emphasis on applying knowledge in real-world situations. Students are expected to interpret data, work with incomplete information, and make informed decisions. Classroom learning connects more directly with how problems are encountered and solved in professional contexts.

WHAT STUDENTS MUST FOCUS ON

Strong fundamentals still matter, but students also need data literacy, communication, and clarity in one chosen area. Employers today look for those who can analyse information, present clear arguments, and demonstrate depth in a specific domain while retaining working knowledge across the field.

highlights. This view continues to influence how students approach the stream and how they measure its possibilities. Such expectations, however, sit at odds with the way the field now operates.

Professional roles evolve alongside changes in markets, regulation, and technology, requiring continuous engagement with new information and frameworks. Students who treat their education as a fixed syllabus risk missing the demands that lie beyond it. A more grounded approach places emphasis on curiosity, reading beyond prescribed material, and following developments in finance, policy, and business.

These habits extend the classroom into a broader learning environment, where theory and practice inform each other. Commerce, in this sense, centres on the ability to engage with complexity over time, where roles demand the interpretation of financial data, evaluation of risk, and informed decision-making within structured systems.

THIS WEEK CHANGED EVERYTHING



April 22, 1970

First Earth Day observed

56 years ago, the first Earth Day mobilised millions and brought environmental concerns into public and policy focus. It led to major regulatory frameworks and institutional action on pollution and conservation. Today, it underpins careers in sustainability, environmental science, and green technology.



April 25, 1953

DNA double helix model published

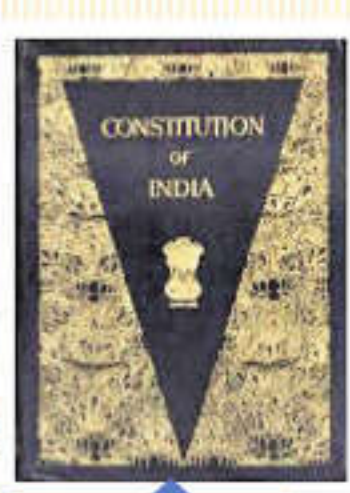
73 years ago, the structure of DNA was identified, explaining how genetic information is stored and replicated. This discovery laid the foundation for modern molecular biology. It continues to drive careers in biotechnology, genomics, and medical research. It is one of the most proffered subjects for students.



April 24, 1990

Hubble Space Telescope launched

36 years ago, the Hubble Space Telescope was placed in orbit, giving scientists an unobstructed view of the universe. It transformed astronomy through high-resolution imaging and large-scale data collection. Its open data archives continue to support careers in astrophysics, data science, and space research.



April 24, 1993

73rd Constitutional Amendment

33 years ago, India granted constitutional status to Panchayati Raj institutions, decentralising governance to the village level. It transferred responsibilities including education, local planning, and resource management. This framework continues to shape careers in public administration, development, and grassroots governance.



April 23, 1995

World Book and Copyright Day established

31 years ago, UNESCO formalised a global day to celebrate books, reading, and authorship while reinforcing copyright protections. It recognised knowledge as both cultural and economic value. In today’s digital world, it shapes how creators protect and monetise their work across media, technology, and publishing.

NICHE JOB!

ARYA VIDYA

MEDICAL physics is one of the lesser-known career paths that offers the chance to see the practical application of physics in clinical settings. It is a field where concepts learned in textbooks can be seen working directly in patient care, making it a unique and meaningful profession. A medical physicist usually works in the radiation oncology department or cancer care centre.

“Our role mainly focuses on treatment planning for cancer patients, carrying out quality assurance tests for medical linear accelerators and brachytherapy machines, and handling documentation work,”

rad
idea

From radiation safety to treatment planning, what a lesser-known healthcare role demands and where it leads

says Kamalaharan W, a medical physicist working in a private medical college in Bhopal.

A medical physicist is also responsible for ensuring that machines function properly, with radiation outputs and mechanical systems remaining within the prescribed limits set by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board of India (AERB), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and other international radiation protection



tion guidelines. To enter this field, the required qualifications include a BSc in Physics followed by an MSc in Medical Physics or Radiation Physics

from an AERB-authorized university or college, along with 12 months of clinical training. Another pathway is completing an MSc in Physics and then pursuing

ing a Diploma in Radiation Physics (Dip.RP) from an AERB-authorized institution. While there is no separate certification required, the 12-month internship in a hospital or clinic is considered essential.

“To succeed in this career, it is important to stay updated with recent guidelines, international cancer studies, and the growing role of AI in the field,” Kamalaharan highlights.

In India, the starting salary can range from 20,000 to 90,000, depending on experience, while Radiation Safety Officers may earn above 1.2 lakh to 3 lakh. Although intake is limited in hospitals and cancer care centres, the scope remains strong as the need for cancer care continues to grow, creating demand for medical physicists and related research.

Countless paths

KARTHIKEYA S

road
map

Here are all the career pathways that your BCom degree opens up for you—beyond just finance and accounting



MANAGEMENT

How to get in: MBA, PGDM, Graduate trainee programmes, GMAT

What it demands

- Operations planning
- Vendor management
- Process design
- KPI tracking

Standard roles

- Operations manager
- Business analyst
- Project manager
- Procurement manager

Lesser-known roles

- Chief of staff
- ESG strategy lead
- Organisational design consultant
- Continuous improvement officer

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

How to get in: Business idea, Pitch deck, Seed funding, Incubator / angel network

What it demands

- Lean thinking
- Rapid prototyping
- Fundraising

- Market awareness
- Standard roles
 - Founder / co-founder
 - Product lead
 - Business dev. lead
 - Startup CFO

Lesser-known roles

- Venture scout
- Fractional CFO
- RevOps specialist
- SaaS product strategist

PUBLIC SERVICE & SOCIAL SECTOR

How to get in: Civil services exams, State services, NGO internships, Public policy / administration

What it demands

- Policy analysis
- Stakeholder engagement
- Public communication
- Governance literacy

Standard roles

- Civil servant
- NGO programme manager
- Government auditor
- CSR manager

Lesser-known roles

- Policy research analyst
- Social impact adviser
- Development economist
- Inter I development consultant

ANALYTICS & DIGITAL

How to get in: Analytics courses, SQL / Python, MBA / PGDM with data specialisation, Digital marketing certification

What it demands

- Statistical modelling
- Data visualisation
- Database basics
- BI tools

Standard roles

- Data analyst
- Business analyst
- Analytics consultant
- Product analytics manager

Lesser-known roles

- Pricing data scientist
- Data strategy officer
- Behavioural economist
- Marketplace economist