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📍 Noida (delhi-NCR)	22 May 6:00 PM	19 मई दोपहर 3:00 बजे
📍 Ranchi	29 May 2:00 PM	9 जून शाम 5:00 बजे
📍 Patna	25 May 8:00 AM	21 मई शाम 5:00 बजे

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Medical body moves top court against NTA
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Jaishankar slams 'unilateral' sanctions
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Wholesale inflation at 8.3% as fuel prices rise
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Unseasonal storms leave 111 dead in Uttar Pradesh

At least 72 people injured as heavy rain and thunderstorms wreak havoc across State; 179 livestock losses, damage to 227 houses reported; CM directs officials to aid victims, release compensation

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Over a hundred people were killed across Uttar Pradesh after a powerful storm and unseasonal heavy rain pounded the State, uprooting trees and electric poles and damaging houses, on Wednesday and Thursday. Large-scale storms, lightning, and thunder strikes caused significant damage across several districts over the past 36 hours, State Relief Commissioner Hrishikesh Bhaskar Yashod said on Thursday, adding that the situation is being monitored.

"Reports of 111 deaths were received from 26 districts. 72 persons were injured, 170 livestock losses and damage to 227 houses



Extensive damage: An uprooted tree blocks a road in Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

have been reported," the Relief Commissioner's office said in a statement.

At least four people each died in the districts of Barabanki, Bahraich, Kanpur Dehat, Basti, Sambhal, Hardoi, and Unnao. A video of the extreme weather event in social media showed a man being hurled into the air in Bareilly

district during strong winds on Wednesday. The man was taking shelter under a tin shed when the storm reportedly ripped off the structure, throwing both the shed and the man several feet into the air before he crashed to the ground with minor injuries.

Chief Minister Yogi Adi-

tyanath directed district magistrates and other officials to "immediately visit the affected sites and provide assistance to the victims and release compensation," and sought updates every three hours, an official statement said.

Noting that lakhs of people have been badly affected by the storms, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav asked the government to provide comprehensive relief. "The government should carry out relief and rescue work on a war footing, immediate arrangements should be made for the best possible free treatment for the injured, food and water should be made available as soon as possible, the dead should be cremated with respect," he said in a post on X.

Satheesan chosen as Kerala Chief Minister; swearing-in on Monday

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



V.D. Satheesan addressing the media in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Senior Congress leader V.D. Satheesan will be sworn in as Kerala's next Chief Minister on Monday, with the party's leadership finally declaring its choice on Thursday, 10 days after the Congress-led United Democratic Front swept the Assembly election.

Following his formal selection as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party in the State, Mr. Satheesan, accompanied by senior Congress leaders, met Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at the Lok Bhavan on Thursday evening and staked his claim to form the government.

Mr. Satheesan, 61, will take oath as Chief Minister at 10 a.m. on Monday at the Central Stadium in the State's capital. Further clarity on how many Ministers will be sworn in along with him is expected after the UDF meeting sche-

duled for Friday. All the remaining MLAs will be sworn in on May 21. Mr. Satheesan, who led the Opposition in the Assembly from 2021 to 2026, will be the 13th person to hold the Chief Minister's position in the southern State.

Talking to presspersons after the announcement, he expressed his resolve to build a new Kerala by raising the living standards of the people and fulfilling the UDF's poll promises.

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OLIVE BRANCH
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IN BRIEF HC: ensure safety of people hit by post-poll violence

KOLKATA
The Calcutta High Court on Thursday directed the West Bengal police to ensure the safety of people affected by post-poll violence in the State and arrange for their safe return irrespective of party affiliations. » **Page 3**

Chargesheet filed against 10 in Red Fort blast case

NEW DELHI
The National Investigation Agency has filed a 7,500-page chargesheet against 10 accused persons in the Red Fort area car bomb explosion case. » **Page 12**

16 States, three Union Territories to undergo SIR from May 30: EC

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (EC) on Thursday announced the schedule for Phase 3 of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 16 States and three Union Territories beginning May 30.

The EC said that with this phase, the exercise would cover the entire country, except Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for which the SIR would be announced later after considering the completion of Phase-II of the Census and

weather in the upper reaches. The States and Union Territories where the SIR Phase 3 would be carried out in a staggered manner were: Delhi, Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Telangana, Punjab, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Tripura, Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. The combined voter base of these States was 36.73 crore.

FULL REPORTS ON
» **PAGE 12**

Uneasy truce in Beijing as Trump, Xi discuss trade, Taiwan



Leaders' day out: China's President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing as the two leaders took a tour on Thursday after delegation talks. AFP

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

The United States and China appeared to come to an uneasy truce – at least for now – on trade, Taiwan, and the future of an increasingly contested relationship, as their leaders met for talks in Beijing on Thursday. Chinese President Xi Jinping told visiting U.S. President Donald Trump that relations could descend to "clashes and conflicts" if the Taiwan question, which he described as "the most important issue in China-U.S. relations", was not managed properly, according to the Chinese readout of the talks. "If it is handled properly, the bilateral relationship will enjoy overall

stability. Otherwise, the two countries will have clashes and even conflicts, putting the entire relationship in great jeopardy," he said. China also conveyed its opposition to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan.

The U.S. readout, for its part, made no mention of Taiwan, though Secretary of State Marco Rubio later told presspersons the U.S. position remained unchanged. The readouts suggested both sides had merely underlined their respective positions on an issue that remains a flashpoint. The White House statement said both did agree on the need to keep the Strait of Hormuz open and to support the free flow of energy, and that Mr. Xi had "made clear China's

opposition to the militarisation of the strait". However, there appeared no broader agreement on addressing the Iran crisis.

The ceremony in Beijing trumped the substance. Mr. Trump's visit began with a grand welcome on Thursday morning, as he was greeted by marching PLA troops and cheering schoolchildren at the Great Hall of the People. "It really was a magnificent welcome like none other," Mr. Trump said. The two leaders spent several hours in each other's company, with delegation talks followed by Mr. Xi taking the U.S. President on a tour of the Temple of Heaven.

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» **PAGE 12**

Over 38 people held hostage by different groups in Manipur, says Home Minister

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A day after four persons were killed in separate incidents in Manipur, the State's Home Minister, Govindas Konthoujam, said on Thursday that at least 38 people from the Kuki and Naga communities are being held hostage by different groups.

Some organisations claimed that 43 people have been either detained or abducted by various groups.

Three of the four killed in Wednesday's separate ambushes by suspected extremists were Kuki church leaders. Two of them were key members of the Thadou Baptist Association of India (TBAI). The attacks took place in the Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi dis-



People blocking a road amid shutdowns called by the Kuki and Naga communities in Churachandpur, Manipur, on Thursday. PTI

trict. The fourth, a Naga villager, was killed in the Naga-majority Noney district.

"We have reports that more than 38 people from both communities have been held hostage by different groups. We are working with civil society organisations and political

leaders to secure their release," Mr. Konthoujam told journalists after visiting the family of Wilson Thanga, who was killed in Noney.

He also went to the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences in the State's capital, Imphal, where Thanga's body had

been kept for autopsy. Three Naga MLAs accompanied him.

Tense atmosphere

Mr. Konthoujam also echoed Chief Minister Yumnan Khemchand Singh's assurance that the State government would spare no effort to bring the perpetrators of Wednesday's attacks to book.

The hill districts of the State remained tense on Thursday after the attacks. Mr. Konthoujam said the State government apprised Union Home Minister Amit Shah of the security situation and of efforts to secure the hostages' release. "We suspect that some people do not want peace to return to Manipur," he said.

CONTINUED ON
» **PAGE 12**

25 foreign nationals held for fraudulent voting in Tamil Nadu Assembly election

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

About 25 foreign nationals have been arrested or detained so far for allegedly casting votes with fraudulently obtained identity documents in the recent Tamil Nadu Assembly election, police sources confirmed on Thursday.

The accused persons, carrying foreign passports, were intercepted by officials of the Bureau of Immigration and detained by the local police after indelible ink (the mark of a cast ballot) was found on their index fingers. The operation that started about a week ago is continuing.

Action initiated

Legal proceedings under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Representa-



Swift probe: Investigators are verifying the details of those who arrived in the State before the poll and are staying on. FILE PHOTO

tion of the People Act, 1950, and other laws were initiated against them.

Investigators said a majority of the suspects were Sri Lankan nationals, though the group included British and Canadian citizens. Many more foreign nationals who arrived during the election time could have exercised their fran-

chise and stayed back, knowing that the police were verifying their credentials during departure at airports. Acting on intelligence that some foreigners were attempting to leave the country after voting, the law enforcement agencies alerted officials at the Chennai, Madurai, and other airports.

"We conducted discreet inquiries and alerted the authorities who detained 25 to 30 persons as they prepared to board flights," a senior official told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

A man of Indian origin, who obtained a British passport in 2015, allegedly voted in the Pattukottai Assembly constituency. He was detained at the Chennai International Airport while attempting to board a flight to London.

The probe revealed that several of the foreigners arrived in the State shortly after the election was notified. Some might have stayed back for the indelible ink to disappear. Digital records and other investigative means could still verify their participation, said an official who did not want to be named.



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For appointment: **95940 52777**

INBRIEF



CM Fadnavis's bike ride for austerity draws Opposition ire

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday rode a motorbike to Vidhan Bhavan after Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for austerity measures. The bike rally of the Chief Minister and his convoy drew the ire of the Opposition which asked the Ministers to use public transport instead. Congress leader Varsha Gaikwad also quizzed the Chief Minister over an alleged lack of Pollution under Control (PUC) certification for the bike he used. The BJP hit out at the Congress, calling it a cheap publicity attempt, claiming that the digital certification was in place.

10 new-elected MLCs, including six from BJP, take oath

A day after the tenure of nine sitting MLCs ended on May 13, ten newly-elected members of the Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC), including six from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), took oath on Thursday at the Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai. The list of newly-elected members includes Neelam Gorhe of Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena; Bachchu Kadu of Prahar Janshakti Party; Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena's Ambadas Danve; Sunetra Pawar-led NCP's Zeeshan Siddique; and six MLCs from BJP - Pragya Satav, Pramod Jathar, Madhavi Naik, Sunil Karjatkar, Vivek Kolhe, and Sanjay Bhende.

NCB seeks to replicate H.P.'s twin-pronged 'anti-heroin' plan of action in other States

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Himachal Pradesh government has adopted a twin-pronged approach to eradicate the drug menace, even as it identified 234 Panchayats severely affected by *chitta* (heroin) abuse and trafficking, categorising them under the 'red zone'. Under its 'anti-*chitta*' model, the State government has clamped down on drug traffickers while simultaneously focusing on the rehabilitation of victims affected by substance abuse. As a part of its strategy, not only drug traffickers but also drug abuse patterns were mapped at panchayat level. Himachal Pradesh has become the first State in the country to identify drug addicts and traffickers at the village level and categorised areas into red, yellow and green zones based on the



Police personnel with three drug suppliers arrested during an anti-narcotics operation in Shimla district. FILE PHOTO

cases of heroin in the panchayats, said a government spokesperson on Thursday. The model launched by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu is now drawing attention from across the country. The regional office of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has sought a detailed report from the State government to study the model and explore its implementation in other States for more effective action

against the drug menace, said the spokesperson.

174 offenders detained
As part of this strategy, the government invoked the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and detained 174 offenders, propelling Himachal Pradesh to the top position in the country in terms of stringent action taken under the law, said the statement.

First *nikah halala* case filed under UCC in Uttarakhand

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

For the first time since its implementation in Uttarakhand last year, police have invoked provisions of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in a *nikah halala* case alongside dowry and other criminal offences on a complaint filed by a woman against her husband and in-laws. *Nikah halala* is a practice in some interpretations of Muslim personal law involving remarriage requirements after divorce. It has remained politically and legally contentious in India. The case stems from an FIR registered at the Bhagwanpur police station in Haridwar on April 4 following which a chargesheet

was submitted on Thursday. The accuser, Shabana, approached the police with a written complaint over allegations of dowry harassment, cruelty and 'offences' linked to Muslim marriage laws. The FIR was initially registered under Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, Sections 3 and 4 of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Sections 115(2) and 85. Police also examined *nikah halala* charges, as alleged in the complaint. They said evidence emerged during probe supporting the addition of Sections 32(1)(ii) and 32(1)(iii) of the UCC. Police have named nine accused in the case.

Unorganised labourers, trade unions in Rajasthan seek minimum wage revision

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Trade union activists, unorganised labourers and civil rights practitioners here on Thursday demanded a revision in minimum wages in Rajasthan to enable workers to earn a "dignified livelihood". Rajasthan ranks among the States where the minimum wage rates are the lowest. Addressing a State-level convention at the Samagra Seva Sangh headquarters here, activists said the current wage rates were inadequate for meeting the basic necessities of food, healthcare, education, rent and transportation. Since the workers are unable to cover minimum expenses for their families, their debt burden continues to mount.



Activists said as workers are unable to cover minimum expenses for their families, their debt burden continues to mount. FILE PHOTO

The speakers at the convention called for increasing minimum wages to ₹26,000 per month and incorporating actual inflation rates and the cost of living into the wage determination process. A resolution stated that the variable dearness allowance

should be reviewed regularly as part of wage increments and the minimum wages revised every six months.

Calls for setting up panel
Several speakers raised the issues of silicosis infection at work, precarious employment, delayed wage

payments and weak enforcement of labour rights. The resolution proposed the constitution of a People's Workers' Commission for sending recommendations to the government and a Minimum Wage Struggle Front to formulate future strategies and spearhead a State-wide dialogue and struggle. While Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) State president Ravindra Shukla said the current minimum wage rates in Rajasthan were anti-workers, All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) general secretary Kunal Rawat said the failure to provide adequate wage increases, despite rising inflation, constituted a direct assault on the lives of workers.

A day after the split in the AIADMK Legislature Party, Edappadi Palaniswami-led faction and the rebel camp leaders trade charges and demand that the petition filed by the other side be rejected

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A day after the split in the AIADMK Legislature Party during the voting on the trust motion moved by the TVK government, both factions presented petitions to Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar on Thursday, claiming legitimacy and demanding that the petition filed by the other be rejected.

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami and the rebel camp leaders – led by S.P. Velumani, C.Ve. Shanmugam, and C. Vijayabaskar – traded charges in a statement and at a press conference respectively.

In a statement issued in the evening, Mr. Palaniswami called upon the party cadre to defeat the disgraceful actions of individuals who he alleged were eyeing posts. Pointing out that some AIADMK MLAs [25 in all] voted for the government, he said it was an act



Police personnel guarding the AIADMK office, as part of security arrangements, in Chennai on Thursday. RAGU R

of "betrayal".

However, Mr. Vijayabaskar said he was elected the AIADMK Legislature Party whip, and their representation sought the disqualification of 22 MLAs [who voted against the motion] for defection. He said Mr. Palaniswami and others defied what he called his "whip" issued for the vote held on Wednesday.

Two senior AIADMK functionaries, owing allegiance to Mr. Palaniswami, presented a petition at the Speaker's office. In a related development, five senior

AIADMK functionaries, owing allegiance to Mr. Palaniswami, submitted a representation to the Secretary to the Governor in the Lok Bhavan.

'Actions invalid'

Mr. Velumani told journalists that all the actions taken by Mr. Palaniswami were invalid. He said Mr. Palaniswami should not take any "unnecessary action" and instead call a party general council meeting to review the party's defeat in the election.

Another senior function-

ary, Natham R. Viswanathan, said Mr. Palaniswami did not have the authority to remove functionaries from their posts.

The AIADMK office at Ashok Nagar in Pudukkottai was locked, allegedly by the faction led by Mr. Vijayabaskar, to prevent the entry of the newly appointed district secretary and his supporters. The police brought the office under tight security. The stand-off occurred after Mr. Vijayabaskar, who has been elected to the Assembly from Virudhachal, was removed from the party posts of Pudukkottai North District secretary and organising secretary by Mr. Palaniswami on Wednesday for supporting the trust vote in the Assembly.

TVK's offer

The Congress has been offered a place in the TVK government and the party has accepted the offer, All India Congress Committee in-charge for Tamil Nadu Girish Chodankar said.

I take responsibility for poll defeat, says Stalin; attributes it to a 'tsunami of illusion'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

DMK president and former Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Thursday that he took responsibility for the party's defeat in the 2026 Assembly election.

"One is blaming another, and they are pointing the finger at someone else. There will be no end to it if we keep blaming one another. When I take pride in victory, I should also take responsibility for defeat. There is nothing wrong in it," he said, at a meeting of the DMK district secretaries held at the party headquarters, Anna Arivalayam, in Chennai.

While underscoring the importance of the district secretaries, he said it should not become the norm that only they were important. "Everyone is important. A building stands, supported by all its pillars. If someone feels they cannot live up to expectations, they can leave," Mr. Stalin said.

What had happened in the election was a new and attractive "tsunami of illusion", he said. "By tsunami, I do not mean any achievement or adventure. I only



DMK chief M.K. Stalin

mean that it has caused great damage. It has damaged the interests of Tamil Nadu," he said, referring to the victory of the TVK, led by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay. He said the district secretaries should think of ways to rescue the people from the 'tsunami'.

'Must introspect'

"Where is the problem? It is important to introspect... We have to study it. Each constituency has its own problems. It is just an electoral current, and it does not mean we cannot recover. We have to change our activities with a little more care. More importantly, we should work in unity," he said. Mr. Stalin stressed the need for eliciting the opinion of party members at all levels on the reasons for the defeat.

Singing of *Vande Mataram* must in all State-run schools during assembly: W.B. govt.

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvedu Adhikari on Thursday issued an order mandating the singing of National Song *Vande Mataram* in all State-run schools during assembly prayers before commencement of classes.

"In supersession of all previous orders and practices, the government of West Bengal has mandated the singing of National Song of Bharat - *Vande Mataram*, during school assembly prayers before commencement of classes in all schools under the School Education Department across West Bengal, effective immediately," Mr. Adhikari posted on social media, sharing the notification by the School Education Department.

The notification re-



CM Suvendu Adhikari

serves the order by the Trinamool Congress in November 2025, where the government made it mandatory for all schools run and aided by the State government to sing the State Song, *Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol*, during their morning assembly. The *Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol* is a 1905 composition of Rabindranath Tagore which means The Soil of Bengal, The Water of Bengal.

In February 2026, the

Union government had said in a set of instructions to States and other government bodies that *Vande Mataram* should be sung or played before the national anthem *Jana Gana Mana* when both the songs are played at an event.

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led government had also organised a debate in Parliament to mark the 150th anniversary of the song, written by Bengali novelist Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

Campaign issue

During the campaign for the West Bengal Assembly poll, the BJP leadership had accused the Trinamool Congress government of not giving due recognition to *Vande Mataram*. Some members of the family of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay also joined the BJP.

M.P. BJP leader loses post over large convoy despite austerity appeal

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday removed an office bearer of its farmers' wing in Madhya Pradesh after he celebrated his appointment with a large number of cars in his convoy, days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the countrymen to save fuel amid the West Asia crisis.

Sajjan Singh Yadav had recently been appointed the Bhind district president of BJP's Kisan Morcha and returned home with much fanfare, leading to traffic woes in the region. Multiple videos showing his convoy, comprising mostly SUVs with banners of his appointment causing traffic conges-

tions, sparked outrage on the social media on May 13.

In a letter dated May 14, Kisan Morcha's State unit chief Jaipal Chavda said that Mr. Yadav's appointment has been cancelled on directions of M.P. BJP chief Hemant Khandelwal.

Not lone incident

Earlier on May 11, just a day after Mr. Modi's clarion call, BJP leader Soubhagya Singh travelled from Ujjain to Bhopal with hundreds of cars to assume his charge as the new chairperson of Madhya Pradesh Textbook Corporation.

The Opposition Congress launched attacks on the ruling party, saying BJP leaders "themselves tore Mr. Modi's appeal to shreds".

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CM
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ANDHRA UNIVERSITY

VISAKHAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Recruitment notification for Associate Professor positions for Regular Vacancies (Employment Notification No. 5.11.15/549-1-17/2023&ad, date 15.05.2023). Applicants in the prescribed format, are invited online for the following Regular Vacancies of teaching positions for various Departments at Andhra University, India.

Associate Professors - 29

DC	SC-I	SC-II	SC-III	ST	BC-A	BC-B	BC-C	BC-D	BC-E	FWS
12	01	02	02	02	01	02	01	01	01	02

The detail information of the above posts relating to qualification, experience, pay scales, reservation, interview schedule etc. are in online application form, can be obtained from the University website: www.andhrauniversity.edu.in or <https://apnhr.universityofap.org>. The link of application form is available from 15-05-2023 till 15-06-2023, 15:00 PM. The last day of the application along with the fee submitted is 15-06-2023, 15:00 PM. The last date of the interview is 15-06-2023, 12:00 PM.

NOTE: The interested candidates are invited to apply on the official website of the university. For the details of the posts, please contact the University Cell Centre between 11:30 A.M. and 05:00 P.M. on Phone No. 3553416655, e-mail at facultyrecruitment2023@andhrauniversity.edu.in.

Date: 15.05.2023

 **Prof. Registrar**
 **Self-Register**


ANDHRA UNIVERSITY
VISAKHAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA
RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
 (Recruitment Notification No. S.J.N/1484-V-16/2026), Date: 15/05/2026

PART-A (SC/ST Backlog)

United Government of Andhra Pradesh Professors posts for SC/ST backlog vacancies
 Applications in the prescribed format are invited online for the following SC/ST Backlog
 vacancies of teaching post for various Departments on an ad-hoc/interim basis.

Cadre	SC			ST	Total
	I	II	III		
Associate Professors	0	0	2	4	6

PART-B (BC Backlog)

Recruitment Notification for Associate Professor positions for BC backlog vacancies
 Applications in the prescribed format are invited online for the following BC Backlog
 Vacancies of teaching positions for various Departments on a direct/interim basis.

Cadre	BC-A	BC-B	BC-C	BC-D	BC-E	Total
	0	3	0	0	0	
Associate Professor	0	3	0	0	0	3

The date of submission of the above posts relating to qualified persons whose pay scales are prescribed in the pay scale of the recruitment rules, as detailed below, shall be as follows:-
 (a) For posts of Associate Professor (Jr), <https://apugov.ac.in/employment/apugov>
 (b) Their respective subject applications, from 15-05-2026 to the website, their submission of
 online application is 03-06-2026, 05.00 PM. The hard copy of the application along with the
 consolidated documents should be reach on or before 15-06-2026, 05.00 PM.
NOTE :- The above vacancies shall remain open till the date of the application submission closes.
 For any queries, please contact the University Cell Centre between 10.30 AM and 05.00 PM,
 at Phone No.395916669, e-mail id: facultyrecruitment2026@andhruniversity.ac.in.
 Date: 15.05.2026


Sd/- Registrar

ANDHRA UNIVERSITY
VISAKHAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA
RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
(Employment Notification No. S.U./VU/44-NOTIFICATION / Date : 13.05.2020)

PART-A (SC/ST Backlog)

Limited Recruitment Notification for Assistant Professors positions for SC/ST backlog vacancies.
Applications in the prescribed format are invited online for the following SC/ST Backlog Vacancies of teaching positions for various Departments on direct recruit basis.

Cadre	SC			ST	Total
	I	II	III		
Assistant Professors	0	1	0	0	1

PART-B (BC Backlog)

Limited Recruitment Notification for Assistant Professors positions for BC backlog vacancies.
Applications in the prescribed format are invited online for the following BC Backlog Vacancies of teaching positions for various Departments on direct recruitment basis.

Cadre	BC-A	BC-B	BC-C	BC-D	BC-E	Total
	Assistant Professors	2	1	0	1	

The object of issuance of the above notification is to qualify and recommend suitable persons for vacant posts in the University of Andhra Pradesh, Visakhapatnam campus. For details about the recruitment process visit the website www.andhrauniversity.edu.in.
The last date and address for receipt of applications is till 15-05-2020 at 05.00 PM. Afterward admission of online application is closed. On 15-05-2020, 05.00 PM. The hard copy of the application card will have to be submitted alongwith documents and e-mail on or before 15-05-2020, 05.00 PM.
NOTE: 1. The shortlisted person(s) will have to appear for written examination on 16-05-2020 at 10.00 AM. For further queries, please contact the University Cell Centre between 10.30 AM and 05.00 PM on Phone No. 2093419696, e-mail id: facultyrecruitment2020@andhrauniversity.edu.in.
Date: 15.05.2020

Sd/- Registrar

 **ADIKAVI RANNAYA UNIVERSITY, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM**
Limited Recruitment Notification for SC & ST BC Backlog Associate Professor Vacancies
Notification No:RU/HR/Assoc.Professor/Backlog - SC & ST/02/2023 Date: 15.03.2023

PART-A (SC&ST Backlog)
Limited Recruitment Notification for SC & ST Backlog Associate Professor Vacancies
Applications in the pre-scribed format are invited online for the following cadres of SC & ST Backlog Associate Professors for various Departments on direct recruitment basis:

Cadre	SC-I	ST	Total Positions	
			SC	ST
Associate Professor	2	1	2	1

PART-B (BC Backlog)
Limited Recruitment Notification for BC Backlog Vacancies
Applications in the pre-scribed format are invited online for the following cadres of BC Backlog Associate Professors for various Departments on direct recruitment basis:

BC - BACKLOG VACANCIES		
Cadre	BC-A	Total
Associate Professor	2	02

The detailed information of the above posts relating to qualifications, experience, age, caste, reservation, etc. for submission of filled-in form to applications, which can be obtained from the University website www.sru.edu.in or www.recruitment.sru.edu.in

Receiving of the online applications will commence from: 18.03.2023. Last date for submission of filled-in application is 05.06.2023 (by 5.00 PM IST). The last date for the submission of hard copy of application (already submitted online) along with the self-attested relevant documents is 15.06.2023 (by 5.00 PM IST).

NOTE: The University reserves the right to fill or not to fill any of the posts without giving any reason whatsoever.

Date: 15.05.2023
Place: RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM
University Call Center : 7093004842 (Ph no) from 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM

Sd/- Registrar

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
Head Office: PO-16/24, Acharya Nagar, Bandar Road, Vijayawada-520007
Mktg/M/0888/ICDS/FPO/Pool Tender/July, 26 to 28 Dt.-14.05.2026

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

BIDS ARE INVITED FROM THE ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR SUPPLY OF 1092 KLS OF EDIBLE FORTIFIED POIL WITH VITAMIN A AND D IN ONE (1) LITRE & HALF (1/2) LITRE WITH SECONDARY PACKING SHALL BE 12/16 LITRE POUCHES IN 1 CARTON TO ALL MLS POINTS OF THREE ZONES COMPRISING OF 28 DISTRICTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH FOR DISTRIBUTION UNDER ICDS/THR SCHEME FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY 2026 TO SEPTEMBER 2026 THROUGH NCDEX & Markets Limited (NEML) PLATFORM.

Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited Short Tenders for supply of 1092 KLS OF EDIBLE FORTIFIED POIL WITH VITAMIN A AND D IN ONE (1) LITRE & HALF (1/2) LITRE WITH SECONDARY PACKING shall be 12/16 LITRE POUCHES IN 1 CARTON TO ALL MLS POINTS OF THE THREE ZONES COMPRISING OF 28 DISTRICTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH may visit www.apscscln.in & www.neml.in to view and download tender documents at free of cost.

Interested bidders need to register in portal as vendor i.e., in NCDEX & Markets Limited Contact Tel: 9962059599 or 9032429420 or 9885549722 and Email: askus@neml.in.

The last date of registration and completion of registration for the e-auction shall be 24.05.2026 upto 5.00 pm and the tentative date of online e-auction through NCDEX & MARKETS LIMITED (NEML) platform would be 26.05.2026 at 11:30 am onwards.

Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

IIFM INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST
MANAGEMENT, BHOPAL
(An Autonomous Institute Under the Ministry of
Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)

**DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN MANAGEMENT (DPM)
ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 2026**

IIFM, Bhopal, a premier sectoral management
institute, invites applications for its **Doctoral
Programme in Management (PhD programme)
2026**. For information on eligibility for admission,
fellowship for selected meritorious candidates as
per Institute norms, structure of the programme
and online application, please visit [https://www.
iifm.ac.in/dpm](https://www.iifm.ac.in/dpm). The last date for submission of
the application is **31st May 2026**.

M.P.M./25767/2026 **CHAIRPERSON-DPM**

ADIKAVI NANNAYA UNIVERSITY, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM
Limited Recruitment Notification for SC & ST, BC Backlog Vacancies
 (Undercastes Not Under SC/ST/BC Categories: Professions, Arts, B.A., B.Sc., B.Com, B.Agr., B.Arch, B.Des)

PART-A (SC&ST Backlog)
 Limited Recruitment Notification for SC & ST Backlog Assistant Professor Vacancies
 Applications in the prescribed format are invited online for the following
 addresses of SC & ST Backlog Assistant Professors for various Departments and
 direct recruitment basis:

Centre	SC+ST	Total Positions
Assistant Professor	1	1

PART-B (BC Backlog)
 Limited Recruitment Notification for BC Backlog Assistant Professor Vacancies
 Applications in the prescribed format are invited online for the following
 addresses of BC Backlog Assistant Professor Vacancies for various Departments
 combined basis direct recruit

BC - BACKLOG VACANCIES			
Cadre	BC-A	Total	
Assistant Professor	2	02	

The detailed information of the above posts relating to syllabus, application fee, register, reservation, and for submission of filled-in form applications, can be obtained from the University website www.univ.ac.in or hr@univ.ac.in or hr@univ.ac.in

Receipt of the online applications will commence from: 18.05.2026.

The last date for submission of the application is 08.06.2026 (5 PM IST).

The last date for the submission of hard copy application (already sub-mitted online) along with the self assessed relevant documents is 16.06.2026 (5:00 PM IST).

NOTE: The University reserves the right to fill or not to fill any of the posts without giving any reason whatsoever.

Date: 18.05.2026

Place: RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

Sd/-Registrar

University Call Center : 7093000492 (PN no) from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM

ADIKAVI NANNAYA UNIVERSITY, RAJAHMENDRAVARAM

Recruitment Notification for Assistant Professors (Regular Vacancies)

Notification No.24/KNU/Assistant Professors/Regular/2026, Date:16.01.2026

Applications in the prescribed format are invited online for the following Regular Assistant Professors (only) for various Departments or direct recruitment basis.

REGULAR VACANCIES											
CADRE	OC	ENS	SC-A	SC-B	BC-B	BC-C	BC-D	BC-E	SC-II	SC-III	Total
Assistant Professor	17	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	37

The detailed information of the above posts relating to qualifications, experience, pay scales, reservation, link for submission of applications online and other details, can be obtained from the University website www.adikavi.ac.in or Adikavi@adikavi.ac.in

Receipt of the online applications will commence from 18.01.2026

The last date for submission of online application is 18.06.2020 (by 5.00 PM IST).
The last date for the submission of hard copy of application (already submitted online) along with the self-assessed relevant documents is 18.06.2020 (by 5.00 PM IST).
NOTE: The University reserves the right to fill or not to fill any of the posts without giving any reason whatsoever.
Date: 18.06.2020
Place: RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM
University Call Center : 7093064892 [Ph no] from 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM
Sd/-Registrar

ADIKAVI NANNAYA UNIVERSITY, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM
Recruitment Notification for Associate Professors (Regular Vacancies)
(Notification No:ADUK/Associate Professors/Regular/2020, Date:15.05.2020)
Applications in the prescribed format are invited on-line for the following regular Associate Professors' posts – for various departments on direct recruitment basis.

REGULAR VACANCIES

Cadre	OC	SC-I	Total
Associate Professor	1	1	2

The detailed information of the above posts relating to qualifications, academic pay scales, reservation, for submission of hard-copies of applications etc., can be obtained from the University website www.sriap.ac.in or <http://sriap.wdcm.in> or contact person.

Receiving of the online applications commences from: 18.05.2026.

The last date for submission of online application is 03.06.2026 (By 5.00 PM IST).

The last date for the submission of hard copy of application (already submitted online) along with the self-assessed research documents is 15.06.2026 (By 5.00 PM IST).

NOTE: The University reserves the right to fill or not to fill any of the posts without giving any reason whatsoever.

Date: 15.05.2026
 Place: RAJMAHENDRAVARAM
 University Cell Center : 7093008492 (Ph no) from 10.00 AM to 05.30 PM

Sd/-Registrar

HC to take up Bageerath's request for protection from arrest

Marri Ramu
HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court will take a final call on Friday on the pre-bail request of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son Sai Bageerath in a case registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against him.

After hearing arguments in the criminal petition filed by Mr. Bageerath on Thursday, Justice T. Madhavi Devi of the HC vacation bench adjourned the hearing of the anticipatory bail for one week. The contentions of senior counsel S. Niranjan Reddy centred around granting interim protection from police arresting his client, Mr. Bageerath in the POC-SO case before the bench decided the anticipatory bail prayer.

Bail plea in POCSO case
He contended there was no bar on granting anticipatory bail in POCSO cases, unlike the Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act cases. "But I am making an argument only for interim protection till my anticipatory bail is not considered," the senior counsel said. Protests continued in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Satheesan holds out an olive branch to other contenders

Kerala CM-designate calls Chennithala 'his leader and close friend'; praises Venugopal's 'immense contribution to UDF's historic win'; some groups say high command gave in to IUML's pressure

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Congress's Chief Minister-designate for Kerala V.D. Satheesan appeared to extend an olive branch to the All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K.C. Venugopal, MP, and senior leader and MLA-elect Ramesh Chennithala, who were in the reckoning for the top post since the announcement of the election results on May 4.

Mr. Satheesan termed Mr. Chennithala, who was the United Democratic Front's (UDF) campaign committee chairperson, as "his leader, close friend and beloved party compatriot". He also appeared to place on record Mr. Venugopal's "immense contribution to the UDF's historic win".

Mr. Satheesan attributed the 10-day period of uncertainty that plagued Congress's Chief Minister selection process to the "galaxy of leaders immensely qualified for the post".

'No loss of face'
"Other governing parties have taken more time to form the government. There is no loss of face for the Congress, as alleged by those lacking a sense of history. Choosing the Chief



Powerplay: (left to right) Congress leaders V.D. Satheesan, Ramesh Chennithala, K.C. Venugopal. ANI

Minister designate was a laborious and crucial task for the high command," he added. Mr. Satheesan said the UDF would fast-track the formation of the government and that he "dedicated" his post to "the people of Kerala" and promised the State a "new era" of progress and development.

Mr. Satheesan also singled out the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) State president Panakkad Syed Sadikali Shihab Thangal, IUML's national general secretary P.K. Kunhali-kutty and Kerala Congress leader P.J. Joseph for their "unflinching support". Simultaneously, new

factional battle lines seemed to emerge in the Congress in Kerala as Mr. Chennithala did not attend the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) meeting at the Kerala Legislative Assembly complex later in the day.

Mr. Chennithala's 'loyalist' and MLA-designate Jyothikumar Chamakala told presspersons in Thiruvananthapuram that the leader was not at home. He demurred when asked whether Mr. Chennithala would attend the CPP meeting or join the United Democratic Front (UDF) Cabinet. Mr. Chamakala was with Mr. Chennithala, along with MLAs-elect An-

war Sadat and T.J. Vinod, when the All India Congress Committee (AICC)'s announcement nominating Mr. Satheesan as Chief Minister broke on television news channels. General secretary of the Nair Service Society G. Sukumaran Nair slammed the Congress high command for 'capitulating' to the IUML by choosing Mr. Satheesan as the Chief Minister candidate. "The high command broke convention and murdered democracy by overlooking the opinion of MLAs-elect and also the seniority of Mr. Chennithala. Its capitulation to the IUML is pathetic," he said.

Use only one vehicle, avoid foreign tours, Naidu tells officials

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

A day after cutting the number of vehicles in his convoy in response to the call made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for cutting down fuel consumption in the wake of conflict in West Asia, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday appealed for austerity in the State, urging the administration and public to embrace a culture of savings, responsible spending and sustainable living.

At a Cabinet meeting held in the Secretariat in Amaravati on Thursday, the Chief Minister announced that the government would soon launch 'My Nation - My Responsibility', an awareness campaign aimed at encouraging people to adopt disciplined financial habits and avoid unnecessary expenditures.

Making it clear that symbolic gestures would not help, Mr. Naidu said reducing the security convoys for Ministers and VIPs was a beginning. He directed

the Ministers to prepare department-wise action plans within 48 hours. The Chief Minister instructed the Ministers to cut down expenditure during the district visits and advised the officials to avoid foreign tours, unless necessary. Stressing the importance of technology-driven governance, Mr. Naidu pushed for wider use of virtual meetings.

He suggested exploring the feasibility of work-from-home systems in suitable sectors.

In a move that sparked discussion within bureaucratic circles, Mr. Naidu sought details of the number of official vehicles being used by IAS officers.

Learning that some senior officials, including those in the CMO, handling multiple departments, were using four to five vehicles, he said every officer must use only one official vehicle. The Chief Minister also stressed energy conservation, directing all government offices to maintain the air-conditioner temperatures between 24 degree celsius and 26 degree celsius.

SC Bench concludes Sabarimala reference hearing

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said courts cannot give up their duty to judicially review religious practices to examine if they violate fundamental liberties, though the primary obligation to usher in reform and ensure social welfare lay with the legislature.

Appearing before a nine-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant in the Sabarimala review hearing, *amicus curiae* senior advocate K. Parameshwar, said the judiciary could neither remain a passive observer nor an overzealous reformer.

"Constitutional courts cannot give up their responsibility. It is not a question of power. It is the duty of a constitutional court," the Chief Justice said. Mr. Parameshwar contended that the validity of religious rights must not be judgement factors such as rationality. The court reserved the case for judgment after 16 days of hearing. .

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UTTAR PRADESH MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)

Tender Notice

Tender Ref. No.: UPMSCL/Drugs-258/08 Dated: 11-05-2026

E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF INSECTICIDE TO UTTAR PRADESH MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED

Online tenders are invited from licensed manufacturers for supply of Cyphenothrin 5% EC in 1 liter bottle to UPMSCL. The details of tender, list of items and Tender Documents are made available on website <https://etenderup.nic.in> and www.upmsc.in. The last date/time of online submission of the tender documents is 26th May 2026 up to 15:00 Hrs.

Managing Director
UPMSCL, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

CENTRAL RAILWAY
(E-TENDER NOTICE)

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. DRMWNGP-53-2026 OF 09/05/2026

1) **Name of work:** Chandur Bazar-Narkher- Work of miscellaneous repairs to staff quarters. (i) **Approximate cost** : Rs. 9999712.93 (ii) **Earnest Money** : Rs. 200000.00 2) **Name of work:** Provision of a platform to High Level with toilet blocks, water stands, seating arrangements and telecom amenities with all Divyang facilities at Tinkheda (PF-1& 2) & Mowad (PF-1) stations. Provision of FOB at Tinkheda station, UMB 2025-26 under PH -53. (i) **Approximate cost** : Rs. 129554423.61 (ii) **Earnest Money** : Rs. 2591100.00 **Date & time of closing of tender:** 01/06/2026 15:00 Hrs. Complete details and instructions for e-tendering and on-line participation for the above work is available on Railway's website www.irops.gov.in

ANJ/28/211 **DRM (Works) / Nagpur**
Travel safely, Avoid footboard travelling

CENTRAL RAILWAY
(E-TENDER NOTICE)

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. DRMWNGP -54-2026-01 OF 11/05/2026

1) **Name of work:** (i) NGP-Renovation of existing control office at Control Building 1st floor under ADEN(HQ)NGP. (B) NGP-Provision of additional lift in DRM office building. Improvement to passages to first floor, upgradation of samadhan meeting hall, samvaad room and dining area, improvement to facade of control building, and DRM office entrance gate under ADEN HQ NGP. (C) Improvement work in Officer's quarters at Civil lines, Dharampeth and Mount road Officer's colony under ADEN(HQ)NGP. (II) Proposal for repairs & renovation of all toilet blocks (gents, ladies and officer toilet) in DRM office building under ADEN/HQ/NGP. (i) **Approximate cost** : Rs. 53988599.97 (ii) **Earnest Money** : Rs. 1079800.00 **Date & time of closing of tender:** 02/06/2026 15:00 Hrs. Complete details and instructions for e-tendering and on-line participation for the above work is available on Railway's website www.irops.gov.in

ANJ/29/212 **DRM (Works) / Nagpur**
Travel safely, Avoid footboard travelling

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
Viduyt Soudha, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500082

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

The TGTRANSCO invites bids online for the following works.

Spec. No.: e-TSTLI/01/2026. **Name of work:** Supply of material/Equipment, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of (i) Erection of 220KV DC line (37KM) from 220/132KV SS Sadashivpet to M/s. Zaheerabad NIMZ Ltd., (ii) 2Nos 220KV Bay extensions at 220/132KV SS Sadashivpet and (iii) 2Nos 220KV Bay extensions and 1No. Metering bay at M/s. Zaheerabad NIMZ Limited in Sangareddy District against the Tender Specification No. e-TSTLI-01/2026 on Turnkey basis. **Tender Availability on web site:** 20-05-2026.

NOTE: Further details can be seen in website: tender.telangana.gov.in

Fax No.: 040-23323565, **Phone No.:** 040-23396000, **Extn.:** 3552, 3424, 3672, 3305.

DIPR R.O. No.: 129-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 **Sd/-** Chief Engineer, Lift Irrigation Schemes

EASTERN RAILWAY

BID Number: GEM/2026/B/7527270, Dated: 12.05.2026. Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/LHB, C & W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah-711204 invites e-tender on open tender basis for the following work: **Bid Details:** **Item Category:** Custom Bid for Services - Cleaning and upkeement work at C and W Workshop, Liluah. **Similar Category:** Cleaning, Sanitation and Disinfection Service -Outcome Based. **Estimated Bid Value (Inclusive of all taxes):** Rs. 11,06,97,830.60. **EMD Details:** **Advisory Bank:** State Bank of India. **EMD Amount:** Rs. 7,03,490/-. **ePBG Details:** **Advisory Bank:** State Bank of India. **ePBG Percentage(%)**: 5.00. **Contract Period:** 2 year(s). **Bid Offer Validity (From End Date):** 120 days. **Bid End Date/Time:** 02.06.2026 at 17:00 hrs. **Bid Opening Date/Time:** 02.06.2026 at 17:30 hrs. **Minimum Average Annual Turnover of the Bidder (for 3 years):** Rs. 554Lakh(s). **Years of Past Experience Required for same/similar service:** 1 year. **Past Experience of similar services required:** Yes. **MSE Relaxation for Years of Experience and Turnover:** No. **Startup Relaxation for Years of Experience and Turnover:** No. **Do you want to show documents uploaded by bidders to all bidders participated in bid?** Yes (Documents submitted as part of a clarification or representation during the tender/bid process will also be displayed to other participating bidders after log in). **Minimum number of bids required to disable automatic bid extension:** 1. **Number of days for which Bid would be auto-extended?** 3 days. **Number of Auto Extension Count:** 1. **Bid to RA enabled:** No. **Documents required from seller:** Experience Criteria, Bidder Turnover, Certificate (Requested in ATC). "In case any bidder is seeking exemption from Experience / Turnover Criteria, the supporting documents to prove his eligibility for exemption must be uploaded for evaluation by the buyer. **Type of Bid:** Two packet Bid. **Evaluation Method:** Total value wise evaluation. **Financial Document Indicating Price Breakup Required:** Yes. **Time allowed for Technical Clarifications during Technical Evaluation:** 2 days. **Arbitration Clause:** No. **Mediation Clause:** No.

MISC-40/2026-27

Tender Notices are also available at websites : www.e.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

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 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) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS						
Lot No.	A. Name of Branch B. Name of the Account C. Name & addresses of the borrower/Guarantors Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name(mortgagors of property(ies))	A. Date of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002. B. Outstanding Amount as on... C. Possession Date u/s-13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002. D. Nature of possession Symbolic / physical			
			A. Reserve Price (in lakh.) B. EMD C. Bid increase amount	Date and time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditor	
1.	A.Branch: Tankuppa , Gaya. B. Shri UPENDRA KUMAR S/o Shri Devlal Mahto C. Shri Upendra Kumar S/o Shri Devlal Mahto , Shri Devlal Mahto S/o Late Chhathu Mahto. Add-AT-Vill-Aaropur, P.O-Tankuppa, Fatehpur,Distt-Gaya-824232	Property covered under Registered Sale deed no-2633 Dated-05/02/2016, Khata no-84, Plot no-964, Thana No-509, Area-1.812 Dismil in the name of Shri Devlal Prasad S/o Late Chhathu Mahto Situated at Gram-Aaropur, P.S-Wazirganj, P.O –Tankuppa, Distt-Gaya, Add-AT-Vill-Aaropur, P.O-S-Chharu Choudhary and Vasan Kuwar, E-Sukhdeo Yadav, W-Ramswarup Yadav.	A. 06.02.2024 B. Due Amount: Rs.9,91,218.86/- (Rs. Nine lakh ninety one thousand two hundred eighteen and paisa eighty six only) as on 31.01.2024 plus further interest w.e.f.01.02.2024 and other expenses until payment in full. C. 10.05.2024 D.Symbolic Possession	08.06.2026 11 am to 4 pm	NIL	
2.	A. Branch: A P colony, Gaya B. Sumit Gupta S/o Shri Krishna Murari Prasad. C. SUMIT GUPTA S/o Shri Krishna Murari Prasad, Shri Sudhir Kumar S/o Shri Kanhaiya Prasad Gupta. Add-Village-Barev (near holy public school), P.S-Muffasil, Distt- GAYA -823001, P-S-Village-Ramdhampur, Raj Colony, Pahsi, Kotwali, DISTT-GAYA-823001. Add:-New Godown, Pahasi Lane,Near Rama Press,Sonu Gali,P-S-Kotwali, Distt-Gaya-823001.	Property Covered Under Sale Deed No-7013 Dt.26.04.2017, Khata No-40(Old), 07(New),Thana No- 268, Plot No. 519(Old), 875(New), Area 1000 Sqft, Property Situated At Mauza-Barev, P.S-Muffasil, Distt-Gaya in the name of Shri Sumit Gupta S/o Shri Krishna Murari Prasad. Boundary:- N- Block no-9 Sadhna Devi Aaj Kharidaar, S- Block No-7 Neej Lekhyakari, E- 10 Feet Wide Road, W- Block No-5 Sangita Sinha Aaj Kharidaar.	A. 04.09.2021 B. Due Amount: Rs. 15,84,944.16/- (Rs. Fifteen Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Four And Sixteen Paise Only) Plus Further Interest w.e.f from 01.04.2021 And Other Expenses Until Payment in Full. C. 04.12.2021 D. Symbolic Possession	A. Rs. 5,13,000/- B. Rs. 51,300/- C. Rs. 10,000/-	08.06.2026 11 am to 4 pm	NIL
3.	A. Branch: Rai Kashi Nath More, Gaya. B. Smt. Suman Kumari W/o Shri Rajesh Kumar. C. Smt. Suman Kumari W/o Shri Rajesh Kumar. Co-Borrower-Shri Rajesh Kumar S/o Shri Devi Saw Add-Add-Sahoda Moulanager Atri, Distt-Gaya,Bihar-823311	Property in the name of Mrs. Suman Kumari W/o Shri Rajesh Kumar, Add - Sahoda Moulanager Atri, Dist.- Gaya and the mortgaged IP is Situated at Amawan, P.S.- Bodhgaya Dist.- Gaya in Khata No.-140 (New), Plot No.-402 (New), Block No.-04, Thana No.-355, Area-680 sq. ft. or 1.56 dismil, vide Sale Deed No.-3917 of 18.03.2015. Boundary: East-Raj kumar Singh, West-Prastabit Rasta 14 ft., North-Aaj khaareedar Kiran Devi, South-Nij Seller.	A. 27.03.2023 B. Due Amount: Rs.9,95,478.26/- (Rupees Nine lakh Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Eight and Paise Twenty Six Only) as on 27.03.2023 plus further interest w.e.f. 28.03.2023 and other expenses with until payment in full. C. 25.07.2023 D.Symbolic Possession	A. Rs. 7,30,000/- B. Rs. 73,000/- C. Rs. 10,000/-	08.06.2026 11 am to 4 pm	NIL

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:

- The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"
- The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
- The Sale will not be the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://baanknet.com> on 08.06.2026 at 11 AM TO 4 PM. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://baanknet.com> & www.pnbindia.in.

BIDYANAND MISHRA
Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank
Secured Creditor
Mob:9051446655

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 138, Karur Dist., Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
262713 000940	Imported Limestone for Soda Recovery Plant through Stock and Sale Basis	25.05.2026

Submission of E-tender at <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>
Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & Conditions, Qty, Tender Fee, EMD etc., are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/1898/Tender/2026 **TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper**

CCL Central Coalfields Limited
"A Miniratna Company"
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/ respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, www.centralcoalfields.in/). CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiattenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in/>".

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
6th Floor, 2nd Gate, M.S. Building
Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

No.: ED 18 NO 2026 Date: 14.05.2026

SELECTION OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR TO THE DAVANGERE UNIVERSITY, DAVANGERE.

Invitation of Application for the Post of Vice-Chancellor, Davangere University, Davangere as per Section 14(2) of Karnataka State University Act, 2000.

The Higher Education Department, Government of Karnataka invites Application for the Post of Vice-Chancellor, Davangere University, Davangere. The application should be submitted within Thirty Days (30) from the date of this Notification. The detailed application form and the further details are available on Higher Education Department website <https://hed.karnataka.gov.in> **Sd/-**
Deputy Secretary to Government (Universities)
Department of Higher Education

DIPR/CP/651/SAI/2026-27

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

For and or behalf of the India invited e-open tender (E-Tender Notice No. 40265267) from experienced contractor for the work given below:- (1) **Tender Title:** Set of Spare items for Brake System, Qty. 05 Nos. (2) **Approx. cost of the Tender:** Rs. 89,46,593.5/- (Eighty nine lakh forty six thousand five hundred ninety three Rupees and Fifty Paise Only) (3) **Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs. 1,78,940/- (Rupees One lakh Seventy eight thousand Nine hundred Forty only) (4) **Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender:** Tender submission date & time: Up to 14.00 Hrs. 03.06.2026 Opening date & time: After 14.00 Hrs., 03.06.2026 (5) **Website particulars notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender from can be purchased etc.:** Website: - <https://www.irops.gov.in> Railway administration reserves the right to postpone/modify or to cancel the tender any time without assigning any reasons. **Sr. DMM/STORES/SEE** PR/0229/SEE/STORE/26-27/32

E-Tender Notice

For and or behalf of the India invited e-open tender (E-Tender Notice No. 40265142) from experienced contractor for the work given below:- (1) **Tender Title:** Supply and installation of Stainless steel 3 in 1 Recycle Bin Capacity 65 x 3 ltr, Qty. 504 Nos. (2) **Approx. cost of the Tender:** Rs.1,68,84,000/-(Rupees One Crore Sixty-eight Lakh Eighty four thousand Only) (3) **Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs.3,37,680/- (Rupees Three lakh Thirty-seven thousand Six hundred Eighty Only) (4) **Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender:** Tender submission date & time: Up to 14.00 Hrs. 08/06/2026 Opening date & time: After 14.00 Hrs., 08/06/2026 (5) **Website particulars notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender from can be purchased etc.:** Website: - <http://www.irops.gov.in> Railway administration reserves the right to postpone/modify or to cancel the tender any time without assigning any reasons. **Sr. DMM/STORES/SEE** PR/0228/SEE/STORE/26-27/32

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I. SANTANU NANDI, S/o - Late Dipendra Nath Nandi, resident of Nilmalta Apartment Phase -3A P.O.-Garia, P.S - Narendrapur, Kolkata-700084, do hereby declare that I have changed my minor son's name from **BAISNAWAR NANDI** to **NILARYA NANDI** and henceforth he shall be known as **NILARYA NANDI** in all purpose, vide affidavit no. 39047 sworn before the Ld. Executive Magistrate 1st Class at ALIPORE, on 22.04.2026. **BAISNAWAR NANDI** and **NILARYA NANDI** are the same and one identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Sohini Roy D/O, Swapna Ray R/o 20b Bonomali Naskar Road, Parnasree, Kolkata 70060, West Bengal, India have changed my name from Sohini Roy to Sohini Ray and henceforth I shall be known as Sohini Ray in all purpose, vide affidavit no. 1384 sworn before Notary Public on 14th February 2023 Sohini Ray and Sohini Roy both are same and one identical person.

NOTICE

Notice to hereby given to all concerned that Ashish Kumar Lal and Smt. Nishu Devi have purchased 2 kh land vide Deed No 370/2021 registered on 13.01.2021 at A.D.S.R Behala in Mouza Gopalpur, L. R Dag Nos. 2144, L. R Khatian No 2143, P.S Maheshatala from Prabir Das son of Late Netai Ch Das as constitute Attorney of Sri Kartick Mondal son of Late Nityananda Mondal and others. Power of Attorney No 937/2015 registered at ADPSR BEHALA. That my clients has applied for Mutation before the B.L. L.R.O T.M Block, Kolkata 700008. Jagadish Mondal Advocate



Bursting at the seams

The current rise in inflation is not transient, but systemic

India’s April retail inflation, at a 13-month high of 3.48%, is only marginally higher than its March print of 3.4%, and continues to remain deceptively benign. Wholesale inflation has more than doubled to 8.3% in April from 3.88% in March – a 42-month high – signalling that substantial upstream price pressures are still working their way through the economy. Unsurprisingly, the spike in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has been led by soaring fuel and power prices, which rose 24.71%, while petroleum and natural gas prices surged 67.2%. This clearly indicates that the full impact of rising energy costs has not yet been passed on to end-consumers. However, such a pass-through now appears imminent. Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri recently indicated that the Centre may have little choice but to raise retail petrol and diesel prices, with public sector oil marketing companies reportedly absorbing “under-recoveries” of nearly ₹30,000 crore a month since the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran began. Any increase in retail fuel prices will have economy-wide implications.

April retail inflation has already been driven chiefly by food, with the Consumer Food Price Index rising to 4.2% from 3.87% in March. Predictably, restaurants and accommodation services witnessed among the sharper increases, reflecting the cascading effect of rising commercial LPG prices. The price of the widely used 19.2 kg commercial LPG cylinder has risen by roughly ₹850-₹1,000 over revisions since the conflict began, while the 5 kg canister has reportedly seen increases of over ₹200 in several markets. The canister is extensively used by migrant wage labour across the country, directly feeding into food basket costs and potentially dampening consumption demand. This comes even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed to people to refrain from “extravagant spending on weddings and travel abroad” and to cut back on buying precious metals for a year. Consequently, the Centre doubled import duties on gold and silver in an attempt to discourage safe-haven investments and ease pressure on the rupee, which has depreciated by nearly 8.5% against the U.S. dollar in the past two-and-a-half months since the conflict began. For context, the rupee had depreciated by roughly 2%-3% annually on average over the previous five fiscal years. The current slide is therefore exceptionally sharp. It is increasingly evident that retail inflation is bursting at the seams and will likely find fuller expression in the months ahead. The sharp divergence between the Consumer Price Index and WPI suggests that producers are still absorbing a significant share of rising costs, a situation that is unlikely to remain sustainable. This leaves the Reserve Bank of India with limited room but to eventually tighten monetary policy in order to keep inflation within its tolerance band of 2%-6%. What is unfolding is not merely transient inflation driven by commodity volatility, but also broader systemic inflationary pressure, with limited manoeuvring space for both the government and the central bank.

Cooling doctrine

Access to safe indoor temperatures must be a public-health entitlement

Over the past decade, India’s response to extreme heat has settled into a familiar choreography. Summer comes and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) regurgitates its tally of rising preparedness. The 16th Finance Commission has gone further, recommending that heatwaves be notified as a national disaster – a designation that would unbolt the door to dedicated central funding. But the heat action plan, as currently conceived, has reached the limits of what it can do. Even the NDMA concedes that the quality of these plans is uneven – several are imitations of plans drafted elsewhere. Where implementation happens at all, it leans heavily on short-term palliatives such as water kiosks, public advisories, and shaded waiting areas at bus stops. While these measures save lives at the margins, they do not alter the underlying exposure of the tens of millions of Indians who work, commute and sleep in conditions that are becoming, in the most clinical sense of the word, biologically untenable.

What India needs is something larger and more ambitious – a national cooling doctrine; a scalable framework that treats sustained access to safe indoor temperatures as a public-health entitlement to be guaranteed. The doctrine must begin where the harm is most acute: mandatory minimum cooling standards for indoor workplaces – factories, warehouses, commercial kitchens, call centres, delivery hubs – backed by an honest and fair inspection regime. Technology will have to do the heavy lifting by deploying passive cooling materials, reflective roofing deployed at scale, district cooling systems for dense urban zones, and cheaper, more efficient air conditioning calibrated for the peculiarities of Indian grids. But the problem cannot be solved by importing solutions designed for the temperate, wealthy economies of the global North. India’s heat is wetter, longer and more humid than the dry European summers that produced much of the existing cooling literature. Most Indians cannot afford the energy bills that western-style mechanical cooling implicitly assumes, as the grid in India, even on its best days, can supply at most 60% of its installed capacity. There is no quick fix on offer but to keep printing heat action plans while indoor temperatures climb is no longer a serious answer – it is theatre.

United States President Donald Trump’s tariff wars against friend and foe over the last year now pale in comparison to the upheaval created by the unprecedented Israeli-American attack on Iran and counterstrikes. For decades, India’s stakes in a stable and friendly Tehran have been huge for energy security, geopolitical advantage, and space for strategic autonomy. If the Ukraine war tested India’s foreign policy agility and independence, the Iran war is a generational challenge. The slew of economic and defence deals that India signed with European countries recently was popularly seen as a signal of major geoeconomic and geopolitical shift in India’s favour. In this new West Asian war scenario, it is already clear that deals with France and the European Union (EU) hardly give India a stronger hand.

Strategic autonomy is difficult

The 114 Rafale fighter jet purchase from France and the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) pointed to historic achievements. These surprisingly quick denouements (after 20 years of slow negotiations on the FTA and extended talks on the Rafales since 2016) were mostly rearguard actions against Mr. Trump’s punishing tariffs. But New Delhi and some European countries such as France seemed to believe they were important steps toward a more distributed multipolar world order against American unilateralism. Washington’s disregard for potentially catastrophic effects from the attack on Iran on global commerce and security are showing that U.S. unipolarity is holding fast.

Until Mr. Trump’s coercive tariffs, New Delhi did not have to worry much about independence in economic policymaking. That is because unlike the post war American-led military order with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Asian formal treaty alliances, Washington’s liberal economic order tended to be open and inclusive, driven largely by market forces. The double whammy of economic and military unilateralism will now make it more difficult for countries such as India to exercise strategic autonomy.

President Trump is changing the economic system in ways that mirror the exclusivist military system. The U.S. government is increasingly demanding a greater alignment of the economic policies of other countries with American strategic interests. This is a fundamental break from the earlier practice and it threatens the entire post-Second World War liberal economic order. New Delhi has been able to pick and choose close economic tie-ups with the U.S.



Deepa M. Ollapally

Research Professor of International Affairs, The George Washington University, U.S.



N. Manoharan

Professor and Director, Centre for East Asian Studies, CHRIST University, Bengaluru

Despite the defence, commerce and trade deals, India needs to be aware of a possible European alignment with the United States

while, at the same time, keeping its distance from alliance politics. That had not stopped the U.S. from nurturing commercial ties with India in a big way since 2000. Indeed, the U.S. overtook China as India’s largest trading partner in 2021-22. But note that China was at the top of India’s economic partners even as U.S.-China relations were sharply declining. All this is to say that until very recently, economic and strategic relations could co-exist along competing trajectories.

For India and the U.S., a convergence of interests about a rising China had brought their relations to a level that appeared irreversible. Even as this meeting of the minds occurred, India’s diversification of big power partnerships remained intact. India’s ability to maintain good relations simultaneously with the U.S., Russia, China, Iran, Israel, Vietnam, and the major European powers – without taking strong sides, even under duress – is the clearest expression and exercise of strategic autonomy.

Mr. Trump’s arbitrary demands to discontinue crude oil imports from Russia, forego the strategic partnership with Iran on Chabahar port, desist from even considering a de-dollarise option in BRICS, and clearly align with American geoeconomic and geopolitical interests, pose the biggest challenge to India’s strategic autonomy in decades. America’s 30-day waiver for Russian oil purchases owing to energy supply chain disruptions came as a brief reprieve for India, yet on terms set by Washington. It was more than just an embarrassment for India when a U.S. submarine sank an Iranian naval ship (*IRIS Dena*) in the Indian Ocean that was returning from the Indian Navy’s International Fleet Review 2026 naval exercise on March 4. India’s image as the key regional naval power took a big hit.

Deals with Europe have not eliminated risks

India’s FTA with the EU and historic Rafale fight jet deal with France are two developments that many interpreted as India trying to manage the new autonomy dilemma created by Mr. Trump. New Delhi chose French fighter jets over Russian and American jets with the hope that it would finally get the technology transfer and domestic production it has long sought. India is growing, and so is its military; it will keep buying, and France is locking itself into a huge commercial deal.

For India, while the spending is extremely high, it will not get a better deal with the U.S.; and it will not get a better performing fighter jet from Russia. In this geopolitical climate, this deal helps both India and France as they want to diversify partners and protect their strategic autonomy.

Building a preventive health culture in India

India has made remarkable strides in health care over the past four decades. It has built institutions of global repute, trained exceptional clinicians, and expanded access to advanced treatments. Yet, even as it celebrates these achievements, it must confront a deeper truth: it has built a system that responds to illness far more effectively than it preserves health.

For too long, health has been viewed as something to recover after it is lost, rather than something to protect every day.

After four decades of building the institutions of modern medicine in India, I have come to understand that the greatest threat to our national health is not the disease we have failed to cure. It is the disease that we have failed to prevent.

We, as a civilisation, have confused the treatment of illness with the pursuit of health. These are not the same endeavour. One begins when something is already broken. The other is an act of continuous, deliberate care for oneself, for one’s family, for the generations that will inherit the consequences of choices made today. India has built a world-class capacity to heal. It must now build the culture and the will to protect.

A civilisational reckoning

Non-communicable diseases – heart attack, strokes, cancer, diabetes, and infectious diseases – are now the leading cause of death in India, surpassing infectious illnesses. Approximately



Dr. Prathap C. Reddy

Founder Chairman, Apollo Hospitals

The country’s economic and social progress depends on citizen health and longevity

270 million Indians live with chronic disease today, the majority unaware of their condition until the body has already begun to fail. This is not a medical statistic. It is a measure of a society that must learn to listen to itself.

The economic consequences for a young democracy can be severe and compounding. Preventable illness diminishes the contribution of individuals who might otherwise have given their best years not to illness but to their work, their children, and their country. A nation cannot reach its highest potential while its people are quietly losing ground to conditions that need not have taken hold.

The window for action

Insights from large-scale health assessments, including Apollo Hospitals Health of the Nation Report 2026, point to a critical window in early adulthood. The decade between 30 years and 40 years of age is emerging as a turning point. It is during these years when individuals are most engaged in building careers and supporting families that early metabolic and cardiovascular risks begin to take hold.

By the age of 40, a significant proportion of individuals are no longer disease-free. The concern is not only the presence of disease but also the absence of awareness. Most people do not seek care because they do not feel unwell. By the time symptoms appear, the opportunity for early reversal is often lost.

And yet, there is reason for optimism. The

But there is some doubt about just how much tech is being transferred and the fact that source codes and algorithms will be under French control. This means that India will be wedded to the French for upgrades. This also could undercut India’s ‘Make in India’ aspiration.

As for the FTA, we could see this in the context of Mr. Trump’s economic assaults and a rushed attempt to save the idea of a liberal economic world order. But there are domestic political hurdles in India to overcome, from farmers and industrial workers who are a big electoral chunk. Moreover, France and the EU might be using commerce and trade now as a way to gain leverage over India. De-risking from Mr. Trump’s uncertainties through the FTA has obviously not eliminated political or economic risks.

America’s long shadow

What seems the flimsiest basis for strengthening strategic autonomy is the novel idea of a common perception of a new world order. Geopolitically speaking, India is much more in favour of global multipolarity than western countries. Europe (less France) tends to fall into line with the U.S. under pressure. At this particular moment of Mr. Trump’s high-handedness with Europe, it is not surprising that Europe is turning to countries such as India. But historically they have followed the American lead.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio’s speech at the Munich Security Conference in February 2026 made it clear that Europe and America belong together, casting it in common civilisational and identity terms which leaves the Global South out in the cold. He minced no words, openly whitewashing western colonial expansion and calling for a “western supply chain” to regain its position. This suggests that a new geoeconomic alliance system of this sort would be hierarchical. The Global South seems to be less partners, more targets of competition. The standing ovation for Mr. Rubio from a supposedly critical European audience spoke volumes.

In this era of culture contests and tribalism, it is hard to see a natural affinity between Europe and India when the going gets tough. As the world remains shell shocked by the Iran war, it is clear that European states will effectively facilitate American and Israeli interests despite the display of reservations by pronouncements such as “not our war” on the West Asian conflict. In any new regional order that emerges, it is also clear that New Delhi will hardly be able to count on the Europeans for Indian strategic autonomy purposes.

human body is remarkably resilient when intervention is timely. Early detection, lifestyle correction, and sustained monitoring can prevent, delay, or even reverse many of these conditions. The window exists – but it does not remain open indefinitely.

This is why India must now embrace a new paradigm: one of self-stewardship.

Push for transformation

Prevention is not a programme. It is not a policy intervention or a campaign to be launched and forgotten. It is a philosophy – one that asks each of us to understand that the stewardship of our own health is among the most consequential duties we carry. Not only for ourselves, but for everyone who depends upon us, and for a nation whose extraordinary promise rests entirely upon the vitality of its people.

India has the knowledge and the infrastructure. What remains is the transformation of habit – a culture of early action, of routine checks, of health understood not as the absence of disease but as the active, daily commitment to life.

The legacy a nation leaves is measured in the health and the hope it passes forward. The ambitions we hold for India – economic, social, and global – rest on the strength, vitality, and longevity of its citizens.

That reckoning can begin not in a hospital but in the choices that homes and families make before one is ever needed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kerala CM selection

Ultimately, the All India Congress Committee has succeeded in selecting the most suitable leader for the post of Chief Minister of Kerala. V.D. Satheesan had already served effectively as the Leader of the Opposition during the previous regime, gaining valuable administrative and political experience. Moreover, in the recently concluded Assembly elections, the Congress-led UDF secured a resounding victory under his leadership, clearly reflecting the confidence reposed in him by both the party and the people. At the same time, it would not be appropriate for leaders to aspire to the highest office merely on the basis of their position as Members of Parliament or

their proximity to the Congress high command. Leadership opportunities should also be extended to those who demonstrate the capability, vision, and intellect required to govern the State effectively. **Basavaraj N. Akki**, Dharwad, Karnataka

Message and reaction

While the intention behind the Prime Minister’s recent appeal urging citizens to conserve fuel and avoid ostentation and luxury is commendable, it has inadvertently triggered panic among some sections of the public, leading to large-scale stockpiling of petrol and diesel. Such behaviour not only disrupts the supply chain but also creates unnecessary fear and instability in the market.

Panic-driven demand and hoarding can quickly turn a manageable situation into a real and widespread shortage, despite the availability of adequate reserves. In this context, the media must spread awareness about the actual fuel situation and inform citizens about what they can do. A well-informed citizenry can help prevent hoarding, ensure equitable distribution, and maintain calm. **Anushk Singh**, Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Floor test and governance

That Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay and the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam-led alliance won the floor test after days of hectic political activity is welcome. One cannot deny the significant role played

by social media in the phenomenal success of the actor-turned-politician’s party within a short span of time. On the flip side, social media algorithms tend to polarise people towards extreme viewpoints. In sharp contrast, news reports in the conventional print media often reflect ground realities more accurately. The balanced mindset of a large section of Tamil Nadu’s voters is evident from the fact that quite a few did not support the TVK in the election. In this context, Mr. Vijay, as the elected Chief Minister of

Tamil Nadu, has a duty and responsibility to encourage regular engagement with print media among the people he has now politically mobilised. In addition, he should pay attention to prominent voices in the conventional print media. Such a move would help young parties such as the TVK broaden their outreach among a wider section of voters. **A. Venkatasubramanian**, Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

A certain set of images

The article, “When grief has a face” (Open Page, May

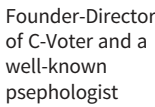
Corrections & Clarifications

A report, “CBI arrests five, conducts raids across India in NEET leak case” (Front Page, May 14), referred to “three brothers — Mangilal Biwal, Vikas Biwal, and Dinesh Biwal”. However, Dinesh and Mangilal are brothers, while Vikas is Mangilal’s son.

The Readers’ Editor’s office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28577634/28576300; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

10), was moving. Several photographs have captured the raw emotion, tragedy, and chaos of India’s darkest moments, serving as enduring and unfiltered records of history. When one thinks of tragic images etched in public memory, photographs by the legendary photojournalist, Raghu Rai, instantly come to mind. His photographs following the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy remain among the most haunting depictions of the disaster. Similarly, his cover photograph after Indira Gandhi’s assassination is still regarded as one of India’s most memorable images of grief. **R. Sivakumar**, Chennai

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Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

People belonging to the Kuki and Naga communities detained

38 More than 38 people belonging to the Kuki and Naga communities are being held hostage by various groups in Manipur, according to the State Home Minister, amid renewed violence that has left several people dead and triggered shutdowns in multiple districts. PTI

Value of assets frozen in a money laundering case

526 in ₹ crore. The Enforcement Directorate froze bank deposits and other movable assets worth ₹526 crore and seized gold jewellery and cash during searches linked to a probe against gaming platform Gameskraft. Three founders of the company were also arrested. PTI

Arunachal allocation under the ‘Pride of Hills’ initiative

4,900 in ₹ crore. Arunachal Pradesh has received ₹4,900 crore under the Centre’s ‘Pride of Hills’ initiative aimed at improving infrastructure and connectivity in Himalayan and hill States. The scheme was introduced earlier this year. PTI

HFCL investment in Andhra Pradesh defence facility

230 in ₹ crore. HFCL will invest around ₹230 crore to set up a defence manufacturing facility in Andhra Pradesh’s Sri Satya Sai district. They will manufacture multi-mode hand grenades and defence products as part of its expansion into the strategic sector. PTI

Pilgrims died during the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand

38 Pilgrims have died due to health issues, including altitude sickness and cardiac arrest, during the first 26 days of the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand, with Kedarnath accounting for the highest number of fatalities. PTI
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Capital flight and pressure on the rupee

India’s economy is witnessing significant capital outflows and depreciatory pressures on the rupee amid rising oil prices and global uncertainty; coupled with a widening current account deficit, future interest rate increases abroad could place further stress on India’s external account and underlying vulnerabilities

ECONOMIC NOTES

Rahul Menon

The recent announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging individuals to reduce their consumption of gold and petrol brought to the fore what many analysts have warned about: India’s situation on the external front is far from rosy. The rupee has witnessed significant depreciation over the last few weeks, while the rise in LPG prices has caused hardships for the working classes and triggered a reverse migration of workers back to villages.

Let us focus on the question of capital flows. The outbreak of hostilities in the Persian Gulf and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz have led to an outflow of foreign capital and a weakening of the rupee relative to major currencies. These are to be expected given the profound uncertainty that has gripped global markets. What makes the situation doubly worrying for India is that these outflows and depreciation have occurred even though interest rates in the U.S. and the U.K. have not changed. If foreign central banks do raise interest rates, it might lead to even more pressure on India’s external account in the future.

The taper tantrum

Emerging market economies such as India offer higher returns, but they are also exposed to currency and inflation risks. A rise in Indian inflation and/or a depreciation of the rupee can lower the net return to a foreign investor on holding Indian assets. The returns on Indian assets would have to be higher relative to those on foreign assets to compensate for these risks. In simple terms, the decision to hold Indian assets relative to foreign ones depends on the difference between Indian and foreign interest rates.

If Indian interest rates remain fixed, an increase in foreign interest rates can prompt foreign investors to reduce their



GETTY IMAGES

holdings of Indian assets. This leads to depreciation of the rupee as it is exchanged for dollars. The only way – apart from capital controls – to arrest such a slide is to raise domestic interest rates, but that would negatively affect domestic investment. Monetary policy in emerging economies is tied to that of the U.S.; any increase in U.S. interest rates often forces smaller economies to consider raising their own rates to defend their currencies.

Given the ease with which capital can flow across borders, these outcomes can occur merely on the expectation that interest rates will rise, even before any actual rise. Such an outcome was seen in 2013. With interest rates hitting the zero lower bound in the wake of the 2008 Great Recession, the U.S. Federal Reserve announced a possible end to quantitative easing. The mere expectation of higher future interest rates caused a massive withdrawal of capital from emerging market economies. This was known as the ‘taper tantrum’.

What is happening currently is somewhat similar, with capital flight occurring even though interest rates have not actually risen. What is worrying about

the current scenario is that India’s depreciation and capital flight have occurred even though foreign central banks have not made any definitive signal that they intend to raise interest rates in the future.

Uncertainty in monetary policy

Despite turmoil in energy markets, central banks in developed economies did not initially raise interest rates. The U.S. Federal Reserve and the Bank of England have maintained interest rates at 3.75% since December 2025. Their initial forecasts were built on the idea that the war – and the subsequent oil price increase – would be temporary, with prices returning to normal levels. Raising interest rates in such a scenario would only prove deflationary.

However, the longer the war continues, the greater the possibility that oil prices will remain elevated, thereby increasing inflationary expectations. Rising wages and prices, as economic agents fought to maintain their purchasing power in the face of rising energy prices, would result in rising inflation.

As the war drags on, the possibility of interest rate increases to combat

inflationary pressures rises.

The beginning of the war provided confusing signals to central banks. While the futures market in the energy sector anticipated an eventual decline in prices, interest rate futures assumed heightened inflation. In dealing with this profound uncertainty, the central banks of the U.K. and the U.S. initially maintained interest rates, providing detailed forecasts outlining different scenarios. And yet, foreign capital exited the Indian economy despite foreign central banks making no commitment to raising interest rates and forecasting the rise in energy prices as being merely temporary.

The rupee had been facing depreciatory pressures for some time; the war gave impetus to a process already occurring. Perhaps one could argue that foreign capital has priced in the possibility of future interest rate hikes and has already acted upon these expectations. The future rise in interest rates – if it were to occur – may not have much of an effect then. But this is to assume that foreign wealth holders have completely discounted the initial stance of Central Banks that inflation was temporary. This is a dangerous assumption to make in a situation of such profound uncertainty.

The Prime Minister’s announcement diagnoses the problem the economy currently faces. The current account deficit is widening owing to rising oil prices. Coupled with capital flight, it puts significant pressure on the rupee. But moral suasion cannot be a policy response.

The RBI had initially intervened by imposing restrictions on certain foreign exchange derivative contracts, and the government has recently announced the imposition of import duties on gold. But this has not resolved the underlying vulnerabilities. If interest rates were to rise in the future, these vulnerabilities would come under further stress. The economy is not out of the woods yet. (Rahul Menon is associate professor at O.P. Jindal Global University)

THE GIST

▼ The outbreak of hostilities in the Persian Gulf and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz have created profound uncertainty in global markets, leading to capital outflows from emerging market economies such as India.

▼ Foreign investors may have already priced in the possibility of future interest rate increases abroad, while the war merely accelerated the depreciatory pressures that the rupee had already been facing for some time.

India’s labour market shows gains, but challenges persist

PLFS 2025 points to improving employment trends alongside structural gaps in skills and participation

Phalasha Nagpal

Every year, about 7-10 million young Indians enter the labour market. They are better educated than any generation before them – the average years of formal schooling for those aged 15 and above has reached 10 years nationally – and with hopes and expectations to match. This raises key questions: Can India’s economy productively absorb the current generation of new workers, including youth and women? Under what conditions? And how can India ensure that its demographic potential translates into meaningful employment and economic growth?

The recently released Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025 report offers some key insights.

It points to measurable progress across several dimensions, while also underlining some challenges that must be addressed to fully leverage India’s demographic dividend.

Encouraging trends in employment

The Labour Force Participation Rate stands at 59%, the Workforce Participation Rate at 57%, and the unemployment rate at 3%. These are robust headline indicators. Youth unemployment has declined since 2024, with gains for rural and urban youth. Monthly PLFS bulletins through 2025 also point to improving trends in women’s participation. Female LFPR in rural areas rose across successive months through September 2025, reaching its highest level since May. These trends show a sustained and directional improvement across multiple survey rounds.

The quality of employment has also improved. The share of regular wage and salaried employment increased from 22% to 24%, with gains recorded for both men and women. Correspondingly, the share of self-employment declined from 58% to 56%. Since formal salaried employment is associated with higher earnings and access to social protection, this shift in the nature of employment is among the more

important signals in the 2025 data.

Wage trends reinforce this pattern, particularly for women. In regular salaried employment, female earnings grew by 7%, compared to 6% for men. In self-employment, female earnings rose by 9% against 8% for men, while in casual labour, women’s wages increased by 5%, even as male wages largely remained unchanged.

At the same time, there remains scope to further narrow gender gaps in absolute earnings. Analysis of the data indicates that women earn about 76% of male wages in salaried work, around 69% in casual labour, and just 36% in self-employment. While disparities remain substantial, the shift towards salaried employment is beginning to offer more tangible economic gains for women.

Structural transformation is also creating better employment opportunities. Agriculture’s share of employment has declined to 43%, while manufacturing and services have grown to around 12% and 13%, respectively.

Young people, particularly young women, are increasingly entering manufacturing and service sectors. Caste- and gender-based occupational segregation among younger cohorts is measurably lower than among older ones, reflecting the cumulative effects of expanded access to education and rising social mobility now beginning to translate into more inclusive labour market outcomes.

Gaps in skills and job creation

The first is the education-to-employment transition. India has significantly expanded tertiary education enrolment, making higher education more accessible across income groups. Yet gaps remain. For instance, between 2004 and 2023, roughly 5 million graduates entered the labour market annually, but only about 2.8 million secured employment of any kind.

Limited access to formal skills training also poses a challenge. Only 4% of individuals aged 15-59 have received formal vocational or technical training. Yet among those who have, workforce participation is substantially higher – 83% for men and 51% for women – underscoring the strong link between skills training and employment, which needs to be both harnessed and scaled up.

Another challenge lies in women’s sustained workforce participation. While most men outside the labour force cited education as the primary reason, women pointed to childcare and household

responsibilities, revealing structural constraints rooted in the unequal distribution of unpaid work. For instance, urban self-employed men work approximately 17.5 hours more per week than women, and in regular salaried employment, the gap is about 7.9 hours per week, reflecting a persistent double burden of paid and unpaid labour that women experience disproportionately.

The fourth challenge is the NEET group. Around 25% of those aged 15-29 fall into this category. Moreover, these individuals are not counted in unemployment figures. Without timely intervention, this disengagement can lead to young people becoming detached from the workforce in the long term.

The way forward

The PLFS 2025 data points to a labour market that is moving in the right direction. However, translating these gains into meaningful and productivity-led economic growth will require more targeted interventions: scaling industry-relevant skills training, enabling women’s workforce participation through gender-responsive interventions, and strengthening pathways to stable job employment with expanded social protection and a focus on green sectors. Targeted programmes like apprenticeships will also be crucial to re-engage NEET youth as active contributors to the economy. (Phalasha Nagpal is Livelihoods and Gender Lead, Oxford Policy Management)

KEYWORD



School children rendering *Vande Mataram*. FILE PHOTO

Vande Mataram and the challenge to multicultural nationalism

The decision to sing the full version of *Vande Mataram* at government events has revived debate over the song’s communal undertones and its compatibility with the secular and multicultural foundations of the Indian state

Venkatanarayanan S.

The official oath-taking ceremony of C. Joseph Vijay, as the 13th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, on May 10 saw the playing of the national song *Vande Mataram* at the beginning and end of the event, before the national anthem and the Tamil anthem (*Tamil Thai Vaazhthu* – a song praising Mother Tamil). Written in 1871, the Tamil anthem has been sung at all Tamil Nadu government events since 1970, following an order issued by the then Chief Minister, Mr. Karunanidhi. It is a secular song that praises the language and culture of the land without invoking any specific religion.

In 2018, controversy erupted when the Kanchi Pontiff, Shri Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal, refused to stand during the Tamil anthem. A legal case was filed, and in 2021, Justice G.R. Swaminathan of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court said that the Tamil Anthem was only a prayer song and that there was no executive or statutory order requiring people to stand. Then, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government under M. K. Stalin declared *Tamil Thai Vaazhthu* the State song and mandated that everyone, except persons with disabilities, should rise while it is sung. It has been performed before the national anthem at all State government events.

Vande Mataram has long been controversial due to its glorification of one religion. In February 2026, the Government of India made it mandatory to play or sing the full song at all government events. According to the order, the song should be rendered during the arrival and departure of the Governor at formal State functions. *Vande*

Mataram was sung at Mr. Vijay’s oath-taking ceremony in this order. But why did the opposition parties, including Congress, oppose singing the full verses of *Vande Mataram* at government events? While the song is celebrated for its literary excellence and its role as a slogan during the freedom struggle, the song has a strong communal undertone, glorifying the Hindu religion, which is against the secular and multicultural values of the Indian state.

Historical origins
Bankim Chandra Chatterji’s Bengali novel *Anandamath*, written in 1882, has the song *Vande Mataram* (“*Hail to the Mother*”). The novel was translated into English as *Abbey of Bliss* by Nares Chandra Sen-Gupta in 1906. The original novel’s context was the Sannyasi rebellion against Muslim rule, where the author welcomed British rule and its positive potential for transforming India.

During the national independence movement, the novel was translated again by Basanta Koomar Roy in 1941. This version sanitised all its communal aspects to suit the Indian independence movement.

In the preface to the 1941 translation, William J. Jackson, Professor, Department of Religious Studies at Indiana University-Purdue University, mentioned that the original author would not have approved of various omissions made in the new translation. The 1941 translation, which is widely available today, does not reveal the original context of the novel or the song *Vande Mataram*.

In the prefatory note to the original 1906 translation, *Abbey of Bliss*, Nares Chandra Sen-Gupta stated that anti-Muslim sentiment and Hindu

nationalist feelings were significant aspects of the novel. He wrote: “Two very sinister consequences are seen to flow from this conception of a religious basis of nationality in the present work. The first is the attempt to rehabilitate the Hindu Pantheon with new-fangled patriotic gods and goddesses, and the second is the morbid dislike of *Mussulmans* that seems to be indicated in this work” (pages vii-x). He further observed that the heroes of the novel were hostile to *Mussulmans*, and this led him to think thrice before placing the work before a larger public through translation.

The novel not only glorifies the Hindu religion but also expresses anger that the caste system is not being protected under Muslim rulers. One passage states: “In every country, the bond that binds a sovereign to his subjects is the protection that he gives; but our *Mussalman* king – how does he protect us? Our religion is gone; so is our caste, our honour and the sacredness of our family, even! Our lives even are now to be sacrificed. Unless we drive these tipsy long beards away, a Hindu can no longer hope to save his religion.”

It is not only the Muslim rulers who are opposed in the original novel; hatred against ordinary Muslims is widespread. In some sections, the villagers are urged to set fire to the Muslim homes and pillage them. The novel also mentions the Sannyasi rebellion as a means to make the British, the sovereigns of India, who are friendly and can instill knowledge of Hinduism. One passage reads: “The true Hinduism is based on knowledge and not on action. To revive it, therefore, you have first to disseminate objective knowledge. The English are great in objective sciences, and they are apt

teachers. Therefore, the English shall be made our sovereign”.

The present debate
During the pre-independence period, the leaders did not reject *Vande Mataram* completely but tried to restrict it to the first two stanzas, as the other stanzas glorified religion. Jawaharlal Nehru read the original English translation, *Abbey of Bliss*, to understand the song’s background and agreed that it would irritate Muslims. In 1937, a Congress sub-committee resolved to sing the first two stanzas, which praised the beauty and abundance of the motherland. The other stanzas were excluded from the singing. During the Constituent Assembly debates, many Bengali members, including Syama Prasad Mookerjee, praised the song, but finally, *Jana Gana Mana* was adopted as the national anthem.

An idea or a text derives its meaning from the context in which it emerges; without that context, it becomes a mere ritual. Nationalism and patriotism are not mere rituals; they carry emotional and moral duties towards the political state. The revival of the song and its imposition at this period, when accusations against the ruling regime of its communal polarisation reeked more ideological than nationalistic. Indian nationalism can never be confined to a monocultural identity, and we need stronger voices from Opposition parties and civil society to protect the multi-cultural foundations of the Indian state. (*Venkatanarayanan S. teaches at the Department of International Relations, Political Science and History at Christ University, Bangalore. The views expressed are his personal*)

THE DAILY QUIZ

On Sukhdev Thapar’s birth anniversary, a quiz on the life, networks, and revolutionary activities of one of the sharpest organisers of India’s anti-colonial movement

Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1
At which historic 1928 meeting was the word “Socialist” formally added to the Hindustan Republican Association’s name?

QUESTION 2
What organisational post did Sukhdev hold in the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association after the 1928 restructuring?

QUESTION 3
Which specific incident convinced many HSRA revolutionaries that constitutional protest alone would not weaken colonial rule?

QUESTION 4
What was the official title of the Lahore Conspiracy Case in which Sukhdev was a principal accused?

QUESTION 5
On what date were Sukhdev, Bhagat Singh, and Rajguru executed?



Visual Question:
Identify this police officer who was assassinated in 1928 in retaliation for the death of Lala Lajpat Rai? PUBLIC DOMAIN

Questions and Answers to the previous day’s daily quiz: 1. Hantaviruses are naturally found primarily in which group of mammals?

Ans: Rodents
2. Smallpox was an infectious disease caused by ____ virus, which belongs to the genus Orthopoxvirus. Fill in the blank. **Ans: Variola**
3. This is a virus belonging to Reovirales, an order of segmented, non-enveloped, double-stranded RNA viruses. It is an arbovirus, being primarily transmitted to humans from the bite of infected mosquitoes of the genus Culex. Which is it? **Ans: Banna virus**
4. This virus causes a type of

viral hemorrhagic fever. It is endemic in West African countries, especially Sierra Leone, the Republic of Guinea, Nigeria, and Liberia. Which is it? **Ans: Lassa Virus**
5. This is the main cause of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) in East Asia. It is transmitted by the striped field mouse. Name the virus. **Ans: Hantaan virus**
Visual: Identify the infection caused by this virus. What is the name of the cancer that may be an eventual result of this? **Ans: HPV (Human papillomavirus infection)**
Early Birds: Sunil Madhavan | Arun Kumar Singh | Pulkit Sathe | Mohan Lal Patel | Pranab Biswas



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the difference “in time” and “on time”? (G. Natarajan, Trichy)
When you are “in time” for a function, you arrive a few minutes before the function begins. Here are a few examples.
I thought I was going to be late. But I was in time for class.

Saritha was in time to take the flight.
If you arrive an hour before an event begins, then you don’t usually say “in time”. In such situations, we usually say “early”, “very early”, or “well in time”. The expression “in time” usually implies that you arrived a few minutes before the event began.

If you are “on time” for an event, you arrive punctually. If a class begins at 11:00 and you are on time for it, you arrive at exactly 11:00. If you are “in time” for it, you arrive a few minutes before 11:00. If you arrive at 11:01, you are late! Here are a few examples.

The flight arrived on time. I was in time to receive Mohan.
Venkat is always late. I wonder when he will learn to be on time.

What is the meaning of “to cock a snook at”? (Dr. M. Balakotiah, Prakasham District, A.P)
This is something that we all probably did when we were children. When you “cock a snook” at someone, you place your thumb on the nose and point the remaining fingers straight up and pretend that you are playing the trumpet or something. Some people place their thumb under the nose and push it up - you end up seeing their dirty nostrils! Do you remember making these gestures to your friends when you were young? Why did you do it? You did it in order to show your contempt for that person. And that’s what the expression to “cock a snook” at someone means - to show or express defiance or scorn at someone. Here are a few examples.

The arrogant rich boy cocked a snook at the principal and continued to cheat in the exam.
Preetha cocked a snook at her parents and went with Rahul to the party.

What is the meaning of the term “Kafkaesque”? (B. Jambulingam, Thanjavur)
This word is derived from the name of the Czech writer Franz Kafka. In his writings, “The Trial” and “The Castle”, he created a world in which individuals are oppressed and full of despair. When you say that something is “Kafkaesque”, it means that it is like the work of Kafka - in other words, a world in which sinister and impersonal forces control human affairs.

Is it ok to say, “I am on diet”? (M. S. K. Rao, Hyderabad)
Dictionaries say that you can “go/be on a diet”. So you have to say “I am on a diet.” Here are a few more examples.
Sunitha always seems to be on a diet.
It’s about time that Anand went on a diet.
I don’t believe in going on a diet.
Published in The Hindu on August 22, 2000

Word of the day

Kerfuffle:
a disorderly outburst or tumult

Synonyms: commotion, stir, disturbance

Usage: *There was a kerfuffle before the event began*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/kerfuffle

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kəˈfʌfəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject ‘Text & Context’

From Page One

Satheesan chosen as Kerala Chief Minister

The UDF scored a landslide victory in the April 9 election, winning 102 of the 140 seats in the State Assembly and ending the ten-year rule of the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Democratic Front (LDF).

With the suspense about the Chief Minister’s post now over, the focus has shifted to the division of portfolios and the Congress’s internal efforts to placate senior leaders Ramesh Chennithala and K.C. Venugopal, who were the other top contenders for the CM’s post. Mr. Satheesan told reporters that the new Ministers would be selected by the party.

Mr. Venugopal met with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for three hours just before the All India Congress Committee declared Mr. Satheesan as its choice for CLP leader at noon. Mr. Venugopal then stated that he respected the AICC’s choice. The announcement was made in New Delhi by AICC general secretary in charge of Kerala, Deepa Dasmunsi, the party’s central observers Ajay Maken and Mukul Wasnik, and senior leader Jairam Ramesh.

The CLP meeting was held at the Kerala Legislative Assembly complex at 6 p.m., with 62 Congress MLAs in attendance.

Uneasy truce as Trump, Xi discuss trade, Taiwan

A state banquet followed in the evening, with further talks over tea set for Friday in the Chinese leadership’s Zhongnanhai compound.

New vision for ties

At the formal talks, Mr. Xi called for “a new vision” for ties, which he labelled “a constructive relationship of strategic stability” for “the next three years and beyond”.

The two leaders may meet three more times this year alone, officials said. Mr. Trump invited Mr. Xi to visit the U.S. on September 24, which he provisionally accepted. The two leaders could also meet at an APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) summit that China is set to host later this year, and at the G-20 meet in Miami.

The broader challenge facing the two leaders as they navigate a fractious relationship is a changed dynamic. “The U.S. still thinks it is dealing with the China of 10 years ago, but the power dynamic has shifted”, said Cameron Johnson, formerly Professor at New York University Shanghai and senior partner at a supply chain consulting firm that advises U.S. and Chinese companies.

Both countries have traded blows in an ongoing trade and technology war. For U.S. businesses, restricted access to rare earths was a major worry, while for China, American export controls remain a concern, especially on semiconductors.

The visit could yield a temporary truce. Mr. Johnson said there could be some relaxation by China on rare earths for commercial use, but even that would depend on whether the U.S. eases up on tariffs and export controls. Reports on Thursday said the U.S. cleared 10 Chinese firms to purchase advanced H200 chips from Nvidia, whose CEO Jensen Huang accompanied Mr. Trump to Beijing.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Thursday that both sides were also discussing setting up a Board of Trade for trade issues and a Board of Investment to allow Chinese investment in non-sensitive sectors.

The U.S.-China trade tango offered lessons for India, Mr. Johnson said. “There are thousands of choke points in the supply chain,” he said.

Over 38 people held hostage in Manipur

Manipur’s Congress MP Angomcha Bimol Akoi-jam, however, doubted the government’s seriousness in protecting the lives and property of the people of the State affected by an ethnic conflict since May 3, 2026. “We strongly condemn this violence and the Government of India’s irresponsible abdication of duty, and demand immediate action against those responsible,” he said.

The statements issued by various organisations and individuals suggest 43 people have either been detained or abducted by various groups in Manipur.

In an ultimatum to the Chief Minister, the United Naga Council (UNC) said Kuki groups have held 20 Nagas hostage in Kangpokpi district. The UNC is the apex body of the Naga tribes of Manipur. The UNC said 18 of these hostages, including women and a two-year-old child, are at Leilon Vai-pei village, while two priests are at Sapermeina.

The council said it had reached out to the community concerned and the relevant authorities through all available channels for the safe and unconditional release of the hostages on both sides. “Despite our sustained engagement, there has been no positive result. The lives and liberty of innocent civilians cannot be held hostage indefinitely, and such grievous acts will inevitably spiral out of control if not contained at the earliest,” the UNC said.

The UNC set 6 p.m. of May 15 as the deadline for the government to ensure the release of the abducted Nagas to avert “any consequences arising out of its inaction”.

Earlier, the chairman of Taphou Kuki village said he filed a complaint with the Senapati police station, seeking the release of 23 Kuki villagers detained by unknown persons.

Phase 3 of SIR in 16 States, 3 UTs from May 30, says EC

With this phase, SIR will cover the entire country, except Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh: exercise seeks to ensure that only eligible voters are included in poll rolls, says CEC

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (EC) on Thursday announced the schedule for Phase 3 of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 16 States and three Union Territories beginning May 30.

The EC said that with this phase, the exercise would cover the entire country, except Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The SIR schedule for these States would be announced later after considering the completion of Phase 2 of the Census and due consideration of the weather in the upper reaches or snow-bound areas.

36.73 crore voters

The States and Union Territories where the SIR-3 will be carried out in a staggered manner are Delhi, Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Tripura, Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. The combined voter base of these States is 36.73 crore.

The final electoral rolls of the States undergoing the SIR under this phase

Fresh round

EC announces schedule for Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls across 16 States and three Union Territories

Revision begins on May 30 States/U.T.s covered	Key dates for final rolls
Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Telangana, Punjab, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Tripura, Delhi, Chandigarh, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	September 6: Odisha, Sikkim, Mizoram, Manipur October 7: Delhi, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand December 23: Tripura
Schedule for Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh to be announced later	Around 3.94 lakh booth-level officers to be deployed Political parties to appoint 3.42 lakh booth-level agents



will be published on different dates this year, beginning with Odisha, Sikkim, Mizoram and Manipur on September 6 and ending with Tripura on December 23. The final voter lists of Delhi, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra and Jharkhand will be out on October 7.

Appeal by CEC

The exercise had already been conducted in Bihar, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. In Assam, due to legalities of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), a “special revision” was conducted.

“I appeal to all electors to enthusiastically partici-

pate in phase 3 of the SIR and fill their enumeration forms. SIR is being conducted to ensure that only eligible voters are included in the electoral roll,” Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said.

3.94 lakh BLOs

Over 3.94 lakh booth-level officers (BLOs) will go house-to-house assisted by 3.42 lakh booth-level agents (BLAs) appointed by political parties during the enumeration phase, the poll body said in a statement.

The voter base across the 12 States and Union Territories stood at more than 50.99 crore when phase 2 of the SIR was announced by the EC on October 27 last and now the figure stood at 45.81 crore – a decline of over 5.18

crore, which was around 10.2%.

The rules of the Phase 3 SIR would be the same as those of the Phase 2. While announcing the Phase 2 on October 27 last year, the EC had introduced certain changes with learnings from Bihar where the first phase had been carried out.

The most important of them was that no documents were to be collected from electors during the enumeration phase. Aadhaar had been added as the 12th document as directed by the Supreme Court, but only as proof of identity and not of citizenship.

Fresh voter registrations were also carried out simultaneously during house-to-house enumeration.

India backs two-state solution for Palestine issue, says Jaishankar at BRICS meeting

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Highlighting India’s traditional approach to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday presented the “National Statement” at the BRICS ministerial, reiterating India’s call for a “two-state solution” to the issue and calling for an end to “risks to maritime traffic, and disruptions to energy infrastructure” in the Gulf region.

Supporting the need for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve multiple conflicts in the region and in North Africa, Mr. Jaishankar sought “coordinated diplomatic efforts” to deal with the situations in Lebanon, Syria, Sudan and also in Libya.



Multilateral engagement: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation of BRICS countries during a meeting in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

The day-long BRICS Foreign Ministers’ meeting witnessed several speeches, including one by Iran’s Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi who said that Iran will defend its sovereignty while “advancing diplomacy”, adding that the U.S.-Israel attack against Iran will not have a

“military solution”. “The wider region also gives rise to serious concern. The conflict in Gaza has grave humanitarian implications. A sustained ceasefire, humanitarian access, and a credible pathway towards a durable and peaceful resolution remain essential,” Mr. Jaishankar,

said. “India supports a two-state solution where the Palestine issue is concerned.”

Mr. Jaishankar referred to the impact of the U.S.-Israel war on Iran and highlighted the risks that the conflict has posed to shipping and energy infrastructure. “Safe and unimpeded

Activists question impartiality of SIR, electoral process

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the Election Commission of India (EC) rolled out the third phase of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls on Thursday, civil society activists, including former Election Commissioners, questioned the impartiality of the exercise, alleging that it was weakening democracy.

“In Bengal, people who have been left out [of electoral rolls] have passports and birth certificates. But the Supreme Court says don’t vote this time, you can vote next time,” transparency rights activist Anjali Bharadwaj said at a discussion on “SIR—Elections—One Nation, One Election” on Thursday.

The event was organised by the Constitutional Conduct Group and the Group on Federalism and Elections.

‘Vote dacoity’

Ms. Bharadwaj pointed out that of the 27 lakh people left out after the adjudication process in West Bengal, only 2,000 had been heard by the EC-appointed tribunals so far.

“In 150 seats, the winning margin was less than the number of deletions. That is almost 50% of the seats,” she said, adding that the EC was not willing to share the CCTV footage

of the polling booths. “How will the common man know whether elections took place properly? Are the elections free and fair? That is the big question.”

Bureaucrat-turned-activist Harsh Mander held that no impartial observer can say that free and fair polls are taking place in India now. “In Bengal, not vote *chori* but vote dacoity took place openly,” he alleged.

There is a need to understand not just how but also why elections are being stolen in this country, Mr. Mander said. “If we don’t understand this, then we don’t understand how grave this situation is,” he said.

Former Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa said he had many questions about the SIR, the answers for which have not been found in the past 11 months. “The ECI had said that the SIR was being conducted under Article 326 of the Constitution. Will the ECI now share data that of Article 326, how many people have been kept out of the electoral rolls,” he asked.

Mr. Lavasa observed that the Supreme Court had earlier said that if there were mass deletions under SIR, then it would intervene. “Now mass deletion has happened. When will they intervene?” he asked.

Arunachal clears stricter Inner-Line Permit norms

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, has approved a decision to make the Inner-Line Permit (ILP) system more watertight.

The decision followed the enforcement of a 36-hour shutdown on Thursday morning by the Scheduled Tribe Bachao Andolan Committee, a local organisation. The ILP is a temporary travel document that Indians who are not permanent residents of Arunachal Pradesh must possess to enter the State. Community-based and student organisations have been pressuring the State government to make the document forgery-proof.

NIA files chargesheet against 10 accused in Red Fort bomb blast case

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a 7,500-page chargesheet against 10 accused persons in the Red Fort area car bomb explosion case.

“All 10 accused, including the main perpetrator, Dr. Umer Un Nabi (deceased), were linked to the organisation Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH) – an offshoot of the al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), as per the charges filed before the NIA special court at Patiala House Courts in New Delhi,” said the agency.

AQIS and all its manifestations were notified as a terrorist organisation by



An accused in the Red Fort bomb explosion case being produced before the NIA Special Court in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

the Ministry of Home Affairs in June 2018.

Pulwama-based Dr. Nabi was allegedly driving the car when the bomb had exploded on the evening of November 10, 2025. He was an assistant professor of medicine at Al-Falah Un-

iversity in Faridabad (Haryana).

Apart from Dr. Nabi, those named in the chargesheet are Aamir Rashid Mir, Jasir Bilal Wani, Dr. Muzamil Shakeel, Dr. Adeel Ahmed Rather, Dr. Shaheen Saeed, Mufti Irfan

Ahmad Wagay, Soyab, Dr. Bilal Naseer Malla and Yasir Ahmad Dar.

‘Detailed evidence’

“The chargesheet is based on extensive investigation spread across the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and the Delhi NCR region. It includes detailed evidence in the form of 588 oral testimonies, more than 395 documents and over 200 seized material exhibits,” the NIA said.

The agency found that the accused, some of whom were radicalised medical professionals, were inspired by AQIS/AGuH ideology to carry out the deadly attack.

‘National security needs preparedness’

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday asserted that India’s future military strength will depend on how effectively its armed forces, defence laboratories, and industries

work together.

Addressing the third edition of Kalam & Kavach, a defence conclave in New Delhi, on video, the Defence Minister said: “National security demands our preparedness, resilience, innovation, and strategic confidence.”

APPEAL

Ms. Priyadharshini P., The Madras Medical Mission, UHID No.20130304220, 14 years is Diagnosed to have TOF, Pulmonary Aresia, Left Modified BT Shunt, Post ICR 2013, Severe Tris PR. She is advised to undergo a Cardiac Catheterisation Test + RVOT Stent Angioplasty + Percutaneous Pulmonary Valve Implantation. The Approximate Expenditure for the above mentioned Procedure is Rs. 16.37,000/-.

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. **Save Poor Lives A/c Priyadharshini P.** Our A/c Details: S/B A/c No. 20000913487, S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbil. Donations are exempted under 80G offl.T.ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Door No.14/76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai-600028. Ph. No. 044 42044165 / 9884607377. Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

Free and fair elections are dependent on a truly independent poll body: SC

Top court questions neutrality of Prime Minister-led selection panel for Election Commissioners, highlights absence of even 'one absolutely neutral person'; Attorney-General says the court cannot become a 'second chamber of Parliament'; Bench suggests referring petitions to Constitution Bench

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday nudged the Union government to address concerns over its dominant role in the appointment of Chief Election Commissioners and Election Commissioners, observing that free and fair elections depend on a truly independent Election Commission.

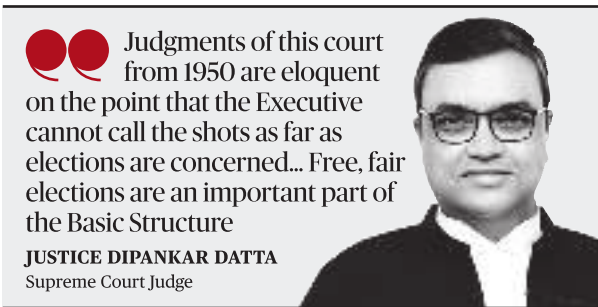
The court highlighted the absence of even “one absolutely neutral person” on the Prime Minister-chaired selection committee. It questioned the presence of a Cabinet Minister on the panel, observing that such a Minister could not be expected to defy the Prime Minister. The court also asked whether the presence of the Leader of the Opposition on the committee was merely “ornamental” as appointments could be made without a unanimous vote.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions challenging the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act, 2023.

The petitioners contended that the Act “defeated” a Constitution Bench judgment in the *Anoop Baranwal versus Union of India* case, which had constituted a selection panel comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India. The 2023 Act, passed within months of the judgment, replaced the Chief Justice with a Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.

‘Judicial restraint’

Describing the *Anoop Baranwal* judgment as a “classic example of judicial restraint and statesmanship”, the court indicated that the 2023 Act handed the power to the Executive to “call



the shots” in the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).

“Judgments of this court from 1950 are eloquent on the point that the Executive cannot call the shots as far as elections are concerned... Free fair elections are an important part of the Basic Structure

Justice Dipankar Datta, heading a Division Bench, told Attor-

ney-General R. Venkataramani, appearing for the Union government.

Mr. Venkataramani said one cannot make a “hugely hypothetical assumption” that the Act would result only in subservient CECs and ECs unless there was an actual lapse on the ground.

“Unless you taste the pudding, how can you say the pudding is bad,” Mr. Venkataramani asked.

Justice Datta replied that it was not enough for the Election Commission to be independent, and that the poll body should also appear to be independent.

The judge asked the top

law officer which law he thought occupied the “pride of place” immediately after the Constitution.

“After the Constitution, which law occupies the prime place? There are thousands of legislations, which one would you place right next to the Constitution... I would say, the election laws. Would I be wrong? Without democracy, there is nothing,” Justice Datta said.

A-G’s argument

Mr. Venkataramani argued that the Supreme Court could not become a “second chamber of Parliament”. The petitioners, he said, cannot expect Parliament to enact laws blindly in consonance with Supreme Court judgments.

“Can somebody come to the court and say Parliament disregarded your judgment when it was bound entirely to the word of the court? The court can declare the law while exa-

mining the legality of a legislation or a state action. But the court cannot decide what a law should look like and expect Parliament to follow suit by enacting a law faithfully mirroring the court’s vision,” the Attorney-General submitted.

Mr. Venkataramani said the court did not declare any law under Article 141 in the *Anoop Baranwal* judgment. It had merely put in place a stop-gap arrangement for the CEC and EC appointments until Parliament enacted a law under Article 324(2).

Towards the end of the hearing, the Bench suggested referring the petitions to a Constitution Bench. The petitioners strongly opposed the move, arguing that the pleas involved a “conventional” challenge to the 2023 Act and not a “substantial question of law” warranting reference to a larger Bench under Article 145(3).

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested two more persons in connection with the NEET-UG paper leak case and conducted searches at 14 locations to track down the suspects on Thursday. The agency has not yet ruled out the role of any public servant.

The arrested accused have been identified as ayurveda practitioner Dhananjay Lokhande from Ahilyanagar and beauty salon owner Manisha Waghmare from Pune in Maharashtra. The State police had detained the two accused and handed them over to the CBI.

The five accused earlier arrested by the agency were produced before a special Delhi court that sent them to seven days’ CBI custody for interrogation. They have been identified as Mangal Biwal, Vikas Biwal and Dinesh Biwal from Jaipur, Rajasthan; Yash Yadav from Gurugram, Haryana; and Shub-

The probe agency conducted searches at 14 locations across the country to track down suspects

ham Khairnar from Nashik in Maharashtra.

While the agency is yet to unearth the entire conspiracy, it is suspected that Mr. Shubham provided the “guess” paper to Mr. Yash, who supplied it to Mangal Biwal for his younger son. It is alleged that Mr. Yash knew Mangal’s elder son Vikas from a coaching centre in Sikar, Rajasthan. Subsequently, the question paper was distributed among others.

The CBI registered the case on Tuesday, following a written complaint from the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education. In coordination with the police in various States, it is probing the network behind the leak and those involved in the distribution of the “guess” paper that closely matched the actual question paper.

Cong. moves HC over sale deed of its headquarters

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Centre and Delhi government to respond to a petition by the Congress seeking the execution of a sale deed in the party’s favour for its former headquarters at 7 Jantar Mantar Road in New Delhi.

Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav issued notice on the petition as well as an application for interim relief. While senior advocate Abhishek M. Singhvi, appearing for the All India Congress Committee, urged the court to pass an interim order to ensure that the premises are not allotted to someone else in the meantime, Justice Kaurav questioned the maintainability of the petition.

Mr. Singhvi said that the petitioner party was an allottee and had been in possession of the property for decades but the authorities had yet to act on its request to execute a sale deed in its favour.

PM’s call for change in consumption pattern was only an appeal: Vallabh

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s appeal for Indians to rationalise consumption of fuel, abstain from buying gold for a year and work from home, is “an appeal for intelligent substitution of the consumption” of goods that make up a large part of India’s import bill and affect the current account deficit, according to Gourav Vallabh, member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Vallabh said that there was “no ban on anything, nor any need for any panic” as the Prime Minister’s call for a considered change in consumption pattern was an appeal above all else.

Geopolitical angle

According to Mr. Vallabh, there are three big geopolitical pressures – the conflict in West Asia, the slowdown in Europe due to the Russia-Ukraine war, and the U.S.-China face-off that



Prime Minister Modi’s appeal is for smart, intelligent substitution of the consumption of goods which have foreign exchange impact

GOURAV VALLABH
EAC-PM member

has directly hit commodities. “In the Indian context, we need to see all three overlaid on our import bills. The two biggest items in that bill are crude oil and gold. Figures from financial year 2026 show that we imported around ₹11 lakh crore worth of crude oil and gold for the same period was ₹6.5 lakh crore [totalling], approximately, ₹18 lakh crore. The price of crude oil, which was \$70 per barrel, is now, after two-and-half months of war at \$105, without it reflecting at the pump stations. The foreign exchange outflow on these two items alone have risen to ₹22-23 lakh crore to make up for that gap. Mr. Modi has appealed for an

intelligent substitution of these consumables, if possible,” he said.

“If by this particular advice, we can reduce our forex outflows by 10% in a year, we will be saving close to ₹2.5 lakh crore of foreign exchange outflows [per year],” he said.

‘Lot of uncertainty’

“Mr. Modi’s appeal is for smart, intelligent substitution of the consumption of goods which have foreign exchange impact. In a geopolitical crisis, where there is a lot of uncertainty, the message is that there are certain measures which are in the people’s own hands,” Mr. Vallabh said.

He added that there was an expectation earlier that

the West Asia war would end by March or later in April, but now a situation of uncertainty over outcomes prevails.

“If it is going to continue for a long term, then naturally the world will find its own way, routes will be recalibrated, but currently not just fuel or gas, almost everything is undergoing supply stress and high prices, from parts for laptops, for cars, etc.,” he said.

Optimism remains

Despite the difficult situation, he spoke in an optimistic tone about the growth prospects of the Indian economy, stressing that there was no need to panic.

“Most agencies that look into these issues, like the Reserve Bank of India, World Bank and the IMF, are predicting that the Indian economy is going to grow at 7% of GDP or more than that in this fiscal year. No other country is going to grow at the rate at which we are growing right now, as far as large economies are concerned,” he said.

NTA ignored SC directions to overhaul system after 2024 leak: medical body petition

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The Federation of Indian Medical Association (FIMA) has flagged the “recurring, systemic, and catastrophic” failure of the National Testing Agency (NTA) in conducting the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) and has urged the Supreme Court to take a “stricter approach”.

The NTA “casually” ignored recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Committee and the court’s directions after the 2024 leak. “Mechanism should be in place to ensure that any non-compliances will lead to exemplary penalties,” it said in a petition.

It said “repeated digital breaches” and “administrative paralysis” in the NTA that cause multiple paper leaks warrant that the Supreme Court should invoke its extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 142, which it had earlier used to “strip the Medical

The court should order the creation of a modern, foolproof, and transparent system, it says

Council of India of its independent policy making powers”. It wanted the court to “step in and order the creation of a modern, foolproof, and transparent system so that the futures of millions of students are never put at risk again”.

The petition said NTA relies heavily on unverified private service providers for logistics, including centre management and security, funnelling public funds into lowest bidder infrastructure despite repeated warnings against it by Parliamentary Standing Committees and the court when it heard the 2024 paper leak case.

It said that the court had pointed out lapses in the NTA’s system in 2024. These included unauthorised access to stron-

grooms, transportation of highly sensitive examination materials on e-rickshaws and through private couriers, the absence of any prescribed time limit for the submission of OMR sheets, and a complete lack of direct oversight over the invigilators.

The petition said that attempting to re-conduct the exam using the exact same flawed methods and private contractors, without first implementing the committee’s safety measures, is “highly irresponsible”. “It practically guarantees that another paper leak will happen, causing further trauma to the students,” it said.

“In light of such a systemic collapse, the mere cancellation of the exam is a ‘Band-Aid’ solution to a ‘surgical’ problem. There is an urgent need for SC to exercise its extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 32 to lay down strict, permanent guidelines for transparency and digital security,” it said.

Dr. ABDUL HAQ URDU UNIVERSITY
(A State University Established by Govt. A.P.)
KURNOOL-518002, A.P., INDIA.

Recruitment Notification for Professor and Associate Professor positions for Regular vacancies
(Employment Notification No. 1/DAHUU/Professor & Associate Prof./Regular/2026 Dt. 15.05.2026)

Applications in the prescribed format are invited online for the following cadres of Regular Vacancies for various departments on direct recruitment basis:

Faculty Position	OC	SC-I	SC-II	SC-III	ST	BC-A	BC-B	BC-C	BC-D	BC-E	EWS
Professor	03	01	-	-	-	01	-	-	-	-	-

Total posts: 05

Faculty Position	OC	SC-I	SC-II	SC-III	ST	BC-A	BC-B	BC-C	BC-D	BC-E	EWS
Associate Professor	05	01	01	-	01	01	01	-	-	-	-

Total posts: 10

The detailed information of the above posts relating to qualification, experience, pay scales, reservation, link for submission of filled-in online application etc., can be obtained from the University website: www.ahuuk.ac.in or <https://apuniversitiesrecruitment.apcfss.in>. Receiving of the online applications will commence from 18.05.2026.

The last date for submission of online application is **08.06.2026 (by 5.00 PM IST)**.

The last date for the submission of hardcopy of application (already submitted online) along with the self-attested relevant documents is **15.06.2026 (by 5.00 PM IST)**.

NOTE: The University reserves the right to fill or not to fill any of the posts(s) without giving any reason whatsoever.

University Call Center: 7901628488 from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM
sd/- REGISTRAR FAC, Dr.Abdul Haq Urdu University, Kurnool-518002, A.P.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
O/o CE (Thermal Design), 602, Investment Building, Lalitkoti, Tonk Road, Jaipur

E-TENDER NOTICE - TN-68 (RVU2627WLOB00248)

Online tenders are invited for Comprehensive Contract for Operation & Maintenance of 2x600 MW Suratgarh Super Critical Thermal Power Plant, Suratgarh. Tender details are available on <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> (for e-tender), www.energy.rajabasthan.gov.in/rvuul&www.sppp.rajabasthan.gov.in.

Raj.Samwad/C/26/2779 RVUN/PR-4393 Superintending Engineer (TD-4)

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. : 1/MT/2026/27/1878-90 Date : 13/05/2026

निविदा सूचना/2026-27

निविदा सूचना के लिए केंद्र : राज सरकार के अधिकाधिक विभागों एवं उनके अधिकृत संगठनों में परीक्षा एवं अनुमति संकेतों से निर्धारित प्रत्येक में ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट प्रणाली हेतु अनिवार्य निविदा सूचना का जारी है।

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत (₹)	निविदा सूचना संख्या
Development of Four Lane Road from Pipral Village to Pipral Circle, Sikar on Kotputli-Sikar-Kuchaman Road. UBN: RRC2627WLOB00123	1387.11 Lakh	ई-079/26-27
Remaining work at Risk & Cost of Balance work for vented Causeway (140 Meter Long) and other works of Phagi (SH-12). UBN: RRC2627WLOB00137	332.88 Lakh	ई-088/26-27

निविदा से सम्बंधित प्रत्येक में निविदा शुल्क, प्रवेश राशि, डाउनलोड करने व कोलोन की जरूरत सहित समस्त विवरण एवं संबंधित वेबसाइट <http://eproc.rajabasthan.gov.in> तथा <http://sppp.rajabasthan.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकता है। दृष्टिक से संबंधित कोलोन के अंतर्गत निविदा सूचना के माध्यम से निविदा ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट प्रणाली पर दर्ज कराना आवश्यक है।

महामंत्री

कायालय नगर निगम जयपुर
(पब्लिक रीन-डायल उपाययोजन मवन, लालकोठी टॉक रोड, जयपुर)

क्रमांक :- जसज / 2026 / 72 दिनांक: 11.05.2026

ई-निविदा सूचना सं. अधिशासी अभियन्ता (प्रोजेक्ट द्वितीय) - 05/2026-27

सभी पात्र एवं इस कार्य हेतु अधिकृत निविदादाताओं से अधिशासी अभियन्ता (प्रोजेक्ट द्वितीय) से सम्बंधित कार्य (Replacement of old and damaged existing sewerage system along with laying of new sewerage system and all ancillary works including 3 year defect liability with 5 years O&M for Package-2 (Malviya Nagar & Jagatpura Zone) of Nagar Nigam Jaipur under AMRUT 2.0 Scheme.) हेतु निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत टेंडर बेबे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तात्पर्य टेंडर शर्त आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण नगर निगम, जयपुर की वेबसाइट www.jaipurmc.org.com व राजस्थान सरकार के पोर्टल <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> तथा <http://eproc.rajabasthan.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकता है। ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट प्रणाली पर दर्ज कराना आवश्यक है।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता (प्रोजेक्ट द्वितीय) नगर निगम जयपुर

रा.सं.सं.वा. / सी / 26 / 2705

The Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works (ALHW), Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, is a subordinate office of the Ministry of Port Shipping & Waterways, inviting applications for filling up of 01 post of “Chief Engineer & Administrator on deputation in ALHW, For eligibility criteria Annexures and others terms and conditions, please visit link: andswt1.and.nic.in/alhw or refer to Employment News/Rozgar Samachar dated 11-17 April 2026. The last date for receipt of application is 10 June 2026.

Petronet LNG Limited

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF FLOATING SOLAR POWER PLANT AT PETRONET LNG LTD., KOCHI

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites bids from experienced and financially sound contractors for “Design, supply, installation and commissioning of Floating Solar Power plant” at PETRONET LNG LTD., KOCHI (Kerala).

Interested parties are requested to visit our website www.petronetnig.in for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and/or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion. No separate notification w.r.t. this tender shall be issued in press. Interested parties to regularly visit aforesaid PLL website for any updates.

Sr. Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
Survey No-347 (PSEZ), Puthuvypu P.O, Kochi-682508, Kerala, India.
Tel: No. - 0484-2757702 / 1
Email : cnp_kochi@petronetnig.in; shriranga@petronetnig.in

Dr. ABDUL HAQ URDU UNIVERSITY
(A State University Established by Govt. A.P.) KURNOOL-518002, A.P., INDIA.

Recruitment Notification for Assistant Professor positions for Regular vacancies
(Employment Notification No. 2/DAHUU/Assistant Professor/Regular/2026 Dt. 15.05.2026)

Applications in the prescribed format are invited online for the following cadres of Regular Vacancies for various departments on direct recruitment basis:

Faculty Position	OC	SC-I	SC-II	SC-III	ST	BC-A	BC-B	BC-C	BC-D	BC-E	EWS
Assistant Professor	09	01	02	01	01	02	01	01	01	01	02

Total posts: 22

The detailed information of the above posts relating to qualification, experience, pay scales, reservation, link for submission of filled-in online application etc., can be obtained from the University website: www.ahuuk.ac.in or <https://apuniversitiesrecruitment.apcfss.in>. Receiving of the online applications will commence from 18.05.2026.

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University Call Center: 7901628488 from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM
sd/- REGISTRAR FAC, Dr.Abdul Haq Urdu University, Kurnool-518002, A.P.

Government of Rajasthan

Local Self Government Department (Directorate of Local Bodies, Rajasthan, Jaipur)
G-3, Rajmahal Residential, Near Civil Lines, Railway Crossing, Jaipur
Tel No. : +91 141 2222469, Fax No. : +91 141 2222403,
website: www.lsg.urban.rajasthan.gov.in
No. : F 55/0/CLB/SBM-U/Legacy Waste/Cluster 1,2,3,4 & 7/2026/8754
Date: 10.05.2026

CORRIGENDUM-I

Online Technical and Financial Bids in Single Stage two envelopes are invited on behalf of Governor of Rajasthan by State Mission Director, SBM-2.0 (U), DLB, vide NIB no. F 55 (U) PA/CE/SBM/2/Legacy waste/cluster 1,2,3,4 & 7/2026/6727 dated 10.04.2026 for the works “Bio-Remediation of Legacy Waste (46.80 Lakh Cum) at old Dumpsites in 121 ULBs (Cluster 1,2,3,4 & 7) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0. The bidding schedule is being revised as follows:

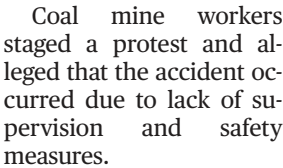
Sl. No.	Event	Earlier	Revised
1	Bid Document submission end Date & Time	11.05.2026 at 15:00 Hrs	18.05.2026 at 15:00 Hrs
2	Submission of DD/BG etc. for bid security	11.05.2026 at 15:00 Hrs physically at DLB.	18.05.2026 at 15:00 Hrs physically at DLB.
3	Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	11.05.2026 at 16:00 Hrs	18.05.2026 at 16:00 Hrs

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.
DIPRC/8391/2026 State Mission Director, SBM (U)

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said that an Indian-flagged commercial vessel had come under attack off the coast of Oman, but all its crew members are safe. The MEA described the attack as “unacceptable”, but its statement did not say who had carried out the attack which took place on Wednesday. “The attack on an Indian-flagged ship off the coast of Oman yesterday is unacceptable and we deplore the fact that commercial shipping and civilian mariners continue to be targeted,” the statement said. “All Indian crew on board are safe and we thank the Omani authorities for rescuing them,” it added.

The court observed that the Rajasthan government had displayed a “wholly casual, indifferent, and indolent approach” towards complying with the court’s earlier directions aimed at halting the “irreversible environmental degradation” within the sanctuary. “Such persistent inaction, despite the grave concerns recorded and directions issued by this court, demonstrates a disturbing lack of seriousness and intent on the part of the State machinery in addressing matters directly involving environmental governance, public safety, and the rule of law itself,” the court said.

A rescued worker said that it felt like the ground



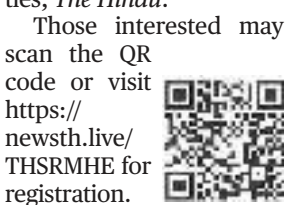
The colliery authorities have begun an investigation into the incident.

According to police, the men did not pay the promised amount after which she decided not to deal with them. However, media reports contradict the police's position, saying

Further, the NCW has directed the authorities to furnish details of preventive and corrective measures proposed to strengthen the safety of women travelling through public and private transport systems in Delhi, particularly during late hours.

Access to services shaping health outcomes also expanded rapidly between 2015 and 2024. During this period, 961 million people gained access to safe drinking water, 1.2 billion to sanitation, 1.6 billion to basic hygiene and 1.4 billion to

With industries increasingly valuing interdisciplinary skills, the session will explore how disciplines in the humanities and sciences are opening doors to careers across sectors such as research, technology, media, analytics, public policy, behavioural sciences, communication, sustainability, and innovation. It will offer insights into emerging trends, industry expectations, and other critical aspects.



The court also recalled its May 13 order asking the authorities to consider an application by Mr. Varadarajan, a U.S. citizen, for a “return visa” and allowing him to travel to Estonia between May 14 and 19.

1. Drop vessel, eating very little (8)
2. Fine bits of radish alongside vegetable (4)
3. Conservative husband in old style baggy trousers (6)
4. Spanish ranch house had a nice complex (8)
5. Say, Hawaiian acting in one's play (10)
6. Supporting books - starting from Othello, immediately (6)
8. Smart new tutor led extremely unusual careers (4-6-3)
13. Oscar called you and me to protect brown animals (10)
16. Touchy about party reduced to a caricature (8)
17. Girl with *bhai jaan*, not oddly pacifist by principle (8)
19. Item of crockery the camp lost frequently (6)
20. Part of expat in American film (6)
22. Whack fly (4)

Appar says people do not worship Lord Siva's feet with flowers. They do not chant His names. They spend all their lives pursuing material wealth. And what is all this for? Eventually, when they die, their bodies become food for crows, says Appar. Sundarar in his praise of the deity of Thiruppugalur addresses poets and tells them not to praise mortals. It often happens that even when a poet praises a wealthy man and is close to him, the rich man does not honour the poet with any gifts. That being the case, poets should not sing the praises of rich men, says Sundarar. Instead, they should praise Lord Siva of Thiruppugalur. He will not only provide food and clothing throughout their lives, but will also get rid of their worries.

INBRIEF



Tata Motors PV Q4 PAT falls 32% hit on JLR headwinds

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. (TMPVL), for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026, reported a 32% fall in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) at ₹5,783 crore as compared with ₹8,470 crore in the year-ago period. The company delivered revenues of ₹1,05,447 crore, up 7.2% year on year (YoY). For FY26, the company reported PAT of ₹82,390 crore as compared with ₹27,830 crore a year ago, up 196% YoY. FY26 revenues stood at ₹335.582 crore down 8.3% YoY. “On a full year basis, the profitability was impacted by several headwinds at Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), including a cyber incident, tariffs, China luxury tax, VME pressures and adverse commodities prices,” the company said in a filing. The consolidated net debt stood at ₹30,700 crore. The company’s board has recommended a final dividend of ₹3per share.

Inox Clean buys solar energy assets in U.S. for \$750 mn

Home-grown renewable energy firm Inox Clean has acquired 3 GW module and 3 GW cell manufacturing capacity from Boviet Solar in the U.S. in a \$750-million deal. While the solar module capacity is operational, the cell manufacturing capacity is expected to be commissioned by the end of this year, Inox Clean Energy Ltd. (Inox Clean) said in a statement. The company has acquired the assets of Boviet Solar Technology LLC (Boviet Solar) through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Inox Solar Americas LLC, as per the statement. The asset purchase unlocks significant economic advantages under the U.S. government’s domestic manufacturing push. The products sold will be eligible for incentives, enhancing profitability while also mitigating tariff- and policy-related uncertainties through a localised manufacturing footprint, the company said.

Jaishankar slams ‘unilateral’ sanctions days before expiry of Russian oil purchase waiver

Suhasini Haidar
Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

As India awaits the United States’ decision on extending its waiver on sanctions against the import of Russian oil, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday hit out at unilateral non-UN sanctions, calling them unjustified. Delivering the national statement at the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting chaired by India, Mr. Jaishankar called on the grouping of emerging economies to address the problem of such sanctions.

Significantly, the meeting was attended by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi representing two of the U.S.’s most heavily sanctioned countries. With the latest waiver in place, import of Russian crude oil surged to 1.96 million barrels per day since the start of May till date compared with 1.57 million barrels per day during the full month in April, according to data from real-time maritime analytics provider Kpler. The major increase in India’s oil intake from Moscow in May indicates that Indian refiners are rushing to secure stable supplies from Russia while those from West Asia are stuck due to the blockades on the Strait of Hormuz. In fact, India’s import of Russian oil stood at 1.98 million barrels per day in March as the U.S. extended its sanctions waiver on Russian oil purchases for the second consecutive month. Oil imports from Russia have surged despite



External Affairs Minister Jaishankar with his Russian and Saudi Arabian counterparts at the BRICS meet on Thursday. PTI

These unjustifiable measures cannot substitute dialogue, nor can pressure replace diplomacy

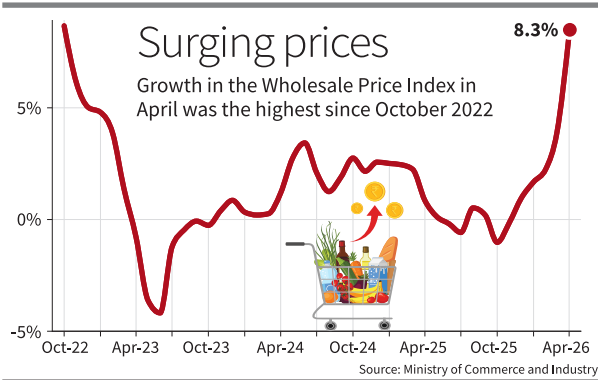
S. JAISHANKAR,
External Affairs Minister

the fact that Russian crude oil is being sold at a premium of as much as \$5 for every barrel to Indian importers. “We must also address the increasing resort to unilateral coercive measures and sanctions inconsistent with international law and the UN Charter. Such measures disproportionately affect developing countries,” Mr. Jaishankar said. “These unjustifiable measures cannot substitute dialogue, nor can pressure replace diplomacy,” he said. In the wake of the war in West Asia, the U.S. had granted month-long waivers for oil imports from Iran and Russia, which India took advantage of. However, the waiver on Iran lapsed last month, and the waiver on Russia, which was extended, is set to expire on May 16, with U.S. officials indicating that there would be no extension.

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

In the first sign of the impact of the West Asia crisis on prices in India, wholesale inflation in India jumped to 8.3% in April 2026, its highest level in 3.5 years, driven by the sharp rise in crude oil and natural gas prices. Inflation in this category stood at 67.2% in April.

Data on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Thursday showed that the last time wholesale inflation in India was higher than this was in October



2022. It had stood at 3.9% in March 2026.

Notably, food inflation at the wholesale level remained relatively low, at 2% in April 2026, compared with 1.9% a month

earlier. “The first sign of the impact of war on the Indian economy has been seen in the WPI inflation number for April which came at 8.3%,” Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at

the Bank of Baroda said. “This is a direct result of the global developments which have manifested on the oil front.” Shashwat Singh, Fundamental Analyst at Bajaj Broking too said that the rise in wholesale inflation was largely driven by higher crude oil prices, fuel and power costs, imported inflation, and elevated input prices amid the ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia. Within the index, inflation in the crude oil and natural gas sectors stood at a 46-month high of 67.2% in April 2026, coming on the back of a 39-month

high in March. While the higher international prices of both products are a driving factor for this, there is also a significant base effect pushing the inflation numbers up. That is, the sector witnessed deflation of 7.6% and 15.5% in March and April of last year.

Fuel inflation The fuel and power category, too, saw inflation rise to 24.7% in April 2026, the highest since October 2022. This was driven by inflation in the mineral oils category, which rose to 39.5% in April 2026. Mr. Singh pointed out

that this elevated wholesale inflation could soon pass on to the retail level and directly affect consumers. He added that it could also hurt the profitability of companies. “Higher logistics, freight, and commodity prices are now increasingly getting reflected in wholesale inflation, which could eventually pass through to consumer inflation as well,” Mr. Singh said. “The spike also suggests margin pressure for manufacturing and industrial companies if cost increases cannot be fully passed on to consumers.”

India back on EU approved list of aquaculture exporters

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

In a major boost for India’s seafood industry, the country has been re-included in the list of nations that can export aquaculture products to the EU from September 2026, as it has proven its compliance with EU restrictions related to use of antimicrobials in animals used for food.

In October 2024, the EU omitted India from the list of countries allowed to export aquaculture products to the EU from September 2026, raising concerns in the domestic industry, as

India has proven its compliance with EU restrictions on anti microbial use in food producing animals

the EU is a major export destination for Indian seafood. Aquaculture covers finfish, including eels, and products of finfish (such as roes and caviar), and crustaceans.

“Under EU rules, the use of antimicrobials in livestock for growth or yield purposes is not allowed, nor can animals be treated with antimicrobials re-

served for human infections,” the European Commission said in its statement. “The countries on the list have proven their compliance with the EU restrictions on antimicrobial use in food-producing animals.” It added that the list will be formally adopted “in the coming days”, with the rules on imports applying from September 3, 2026. The development builds on the fact that in September 2025, the EU added 102 new Indian fisheries to its list of approved establishments that can export to EU member countries.

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The Department of Commerce issued a notification on Wednesday moving sugar from ‘restricted’ to ‘prohibited’ list of items for exports.

Export of raw, white and refined sugar is banned till September 30, 2026.

The ban, however, does not apply to exports to the United States and the European Union under the CXL and TRQ quota, and exports under the advance authorisation scheme.

It will also not apply to government-to-govern-

ment exports. If the shipping bill has been raised or the consignment loading has commenced or handed over to the Customs, the exports will be permitted, according to the notification.

The Indian Sugar and Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) had said in February this year – almost three months after the commencement of the sugarcane crushing season – that sugar production was expected to be 324 lakh tonnes in the 2025-2026 sugar season and that 31 lakh tonnes would be diverted for ethanol.

The net sugar production was expected to be still 30 lakh tonnes more than last sugar season at 293 lakh tonnes. The Association said on Thursday that exports were permitted by the Government last November based on the then prevailing production estimates and an encouraging outlook for the sugar season. However, as the season progressed, sugar production in certain key states, particularly Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, was impacted resulting in a moderation of overall actual production.

Auto wholesales continue to grow in double-digits in April

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The first month of FY 2027 posted high double-digit growth in passenger vehicles (PVs), three-wheelers and two-wheelers, according to wholesales data from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Thursday.

This is in line with continuing sales momentum of the second half of FY 2025-26 following the GST rate cut. In April 2026, the passenger vehicles segment recorded the highest-ever sales of 4.37 lakh units with a growth of 25.4%, over April 2025. The three-wheeler segment also posted its highest ever sales of 0.66 lakh units, registering a growth of 32.8%, com-

A total of 18.73 lakh units of two-wheelers were sold in April 2026, up 28.4% over the previous year

pared with April 2025. A total of 18.73 lakh units of two-wheelers were sold in April 2026, up 28.4% over April of the previous year. “Though there are concerns of high commodity prices emanating from the disruptions in West Asia, the industry has been witnessing good demand,” said Rajesh Menon, Director-General, SIAM. SIAM said total production of PVs, three-wheelers, two-wheelers, and quadricycles in April 2026 was 29,22,427 units.

Air India’s \$2.79 bn loss drags down Singapore Airlines’ profit

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India posted a full-year loss of \$2.79 billion (₹26,798 crore), inflicting a \$743 million hit on Singapore Airlines’ bottom line in the first full year since the carrier acquired a 25.1% stake in the Tata Group airline, dragging it into a sharp profit decline. Singapore Airlines (SIA), which holds a 25.1% stake in Air India, reported a 57.4% fall in full-year net profit to \$930 million (SGD \$1.18 billion) even as operating profit surged 39% to \$1.89 billion (SGD 2.4 billion). Its annual statement also showed Air India’s hefty annual losses. FY26 marks the first full year in which SIA absorbed the impact of Air India’s losses after acquiring its stake in the merged Air In-



Air India’s losses came amid a year marked by multiple headwinds. REUTERS

dia-Vistara entity in November 2024. In a press statement, Singapore Airlines attributed the sharp decline in net profit to “the absence of a prior year one-off accounting gain, coupled with the share of full year losses from Air India.” Last year, SIA had benefited from a \$866 million (SGD1.098 bn) non-cash accounting gain arising from the completion of the

Air India-Vistara merger. Air India’s losses came amid a year marked by multiple headwinds, including a sharp dent in passenger demand following the June 12, 2025 Ahmedabad crash, weakening travel demand from the U.S. market, ban of Pakistan airspace for Indian carriers, and airspace restrictions in West Asia due to regional tensions that has forced 5-6 hour long detours for Air India flights to North America and sharply raised fuel costs. On Wednesday, the airline announced a 27% reduction in flights across its international network as soaring aviation turbine fuel costs and operational disruptions weighed heavily on profitability. The impact split beyond west-bound flights, affecting even east-bound routes.

‘Mitsui OSK Lines confident of investing in India’

Saptaparno Ghosh

Despite the global headwinds, Mitsui OSK Lines is confident about making investments in India and the momentum has not changed, Jotaro Tamura, President and CEO of the company owning the world’s largest vessel fleet told *The Hindu* on Monday. Mr. Tamura underlined that while the escalating tensions in West Asia and the ensuing impact on shipping might have introduced uncertainties in the short term, Mitsui OSK Lines in focussed on the longer-term. “For India, in the long-term we expect the Indian economy to scale up to the



Jotaro Tamura

next level, therefore, our momentum has not changed,” he stated, adding, “Our efforts are focussed on catching up with India’s economic growth, and that (confidence about investments in India) remain unchanged. We still look at it as a good opportunity.” Escalating tensions in West Asia and Tehran’s

blocking of the Strait of Hormuz has impacted vessel movement across the globe. Responding to a query about the impact on the company, the Mitsui OSK Lines chief noted the closure of the prominent energy route led to increase in price of fuel, which the shipping market is increasingly factoring into their operations. “We have seen oil prices have hiked. The overall shipping market is factoring this onto businesses. As a knock-on effect, with oil prices up, the freight market too has been impacted,” he stated, adding from a larger context, “If I take containers for example, it (operational costs) have increased from pre-war le-

vels.” Mr. Tamura also held at present Mitsui OSK Lines’ priority is to ensure the passage of their ships out of the Persian Gulf. Elaborating on the Indian opportunity, Mr. Tamura noted that it extended beyond just energy trade to transport of automobiles, among other things. “As the Indian economy grows that would give more impulse to energy [trade] and that will give us more opportunities for charter deals,” he stated, adding, “[Further], we are relatively quite big in transport of automobiles and India is becoming the export hub for vehicles. As it grows further, we are definitely interested in catching up with demand from

customers in the two segments.” The Mitsui OSK Lines chief said that India has “great potential” in its efforts towards green shipping and decarbonisation, as it could be a producer of green energies and become a potential supplier of green hydrogen and ammonia to the world. “Overall [the global decarbonised shipping] market may have slowed down a bit in the past six to twelve months for varied reasons, that is, in the short term. However, in the mid to long term, we believe the decarbonisation efforts would be unchanged and that is where India can play a role,” he stated.

JERUSALEM

UAE denies Netanyahu secretly visited the country during Iran war



REUTERS

After Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said on Wednesday that he quietly visited the UAE during Israeli-U.S. war with Iran, the UAE later denied any secret visit had occurred. The UAE's official IAWM news agency posted that the country's relations with Israel "are not based on non-transparent arrangements". AP

DAMASCUS

Amnesty calls for probe into Israeli destruction of south Syria homes



AFF

Amnesty International said on Thursday that the Israeli army's destruction of civilian homes in southern Syria since the fall of long-time ruler Bashar al-Assad should be investigated as "war crimes". The rights group said it used satellite imagery to verify damage and destruction to 23 structures in the villages. AFP

RIGA

Latvian Prime Minister resigns over stray Ukrainian drones row



AFF

Latvian Prime Minister Evika Silina resigned on Thursday after her left-leaning Progressives partner quit the coalition, stripping her majority. It followed Defence Minister Andris Spruds' ouster over stray Ukrainian drones breaching Latvian airspace. Ms. Silina's resignation comes just months ahead of general elections. AP

MANILA

Philippine senator Ronald dela Rosa, wanted by ICC, flees Senate



REUTERS

Philippine Senator Ronald dela Rosa, wanted by the International Criminal Court, fled the Senate on Thursday, evading arrest for alleged crimes against humanity in ex-President Rodrigo Duterte's drug war. Gunshots during a security clash helped him escape from the Senate, where he had taken refuge on Wednesday. AP

Iran says UAE 'active partner' in U.S.-Israeli war

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Thursday accused the United Arab Emirates of playing an active role in the U.S.-Israeli war against his country.

"The UAE is an active partner in this aggression, and there is no doubt about it," Mr. Araghchi said in a Telegram post while attending a BRICS summit in India.

Mr. Araghchi also referred to what Israel has described as a "secret" meeting in the UAE during the war between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

"I must say that the UAE was directly involved in the act of aggression against my country. When this aggression began, they even refused to condemn it," Mr. Araghchi said. "It also became clear that they participated in these attacks and may have even acted directly against us."

U.K. Minister quits, paving way for leadership contest

Health Secretary Wes Streeting says he lost confidence in the Prime Minister's leadership; Starmer has vowed to fight back in any contest for his post; he has 53% support among Labour members

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

A competition to oust British Prime Minister Keir Starmer from No. 10 Downing Street drew closer on Thursday, with U.K. Health Secretary Wes Streeting – seen for months as a potential contender – resigning, citing recent election losses for Labour and Mr. Starmer's leadership style.

The Health Secretary said he had surpassed targets set by Mr. Starmer for cutting National Health Service (NHS) waitlists for medical appointments – a key voter concern.

Despite this, Mr. Streeting said, he had chosen to resign "having lost confidence" in the Prime Minister's leadership. Mr. Streeting warned of the growing dangers of nationalism, racism and the hard-right Reform UK party. Mr. Starmer too has warned of these,



REUTERS

At the helm: Wes Streeting has for months been viewed as a potential challenger to Keir Starmer within Labour.

but as for reasons to not plunge the country into "chaos" by having a leadership contest.

A total of 81 MPs are required to officially request a leadership contest. Though over 90 MPs have wanted Mr. Starmer to go following Labour's losses in council and regional elections last week, a sufficient number of lawmakers has not coalesced behind any one contender.

Mr. Streeting is on the right flank of Labour compared to the other potential candidates for Mr. Starmer's post – Deputy PM Angela Rayner, Energy Minister Ed Miliband and Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham. Mr. Starmer has in recent days vowed to fight back in any contest for his post.

"It is now clear that you will not lead the Labour Party into the next general

election," Mr. Streeting wrote in his letter dated May 14, adding that Labour MPs and workers' unions associated with Labour wanted a debate on what comes next based on ideas not personalities.

Support for Mr. Streeting was below that for Mr. Starmer as per Labour List, which describes itself as a think-tank that supports the Labour Party but is independent of it. As per this poll, Mr. Streeting would secure 23% of support among Labour members, compared to Mr. Starmer's 53%. Former Deputy PM Rayner announced on Thursday that she had been exonerated by the tax authorities of wrongdoing and settled her tax bill – the issue around which she had resigned in 2025. Earlier, she had told *The Guardian* that she would not trigger a leadership contest, although she did not rule out contesting in one.

7 killed as Russia hits Kyiv with hundreds of drones

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russia pummeled Kyiv for hours early on Thursday, firing hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles in an attack that killed at least seven persons and further shredded hopes of a halt to Moscow's grinding invasion.

Air raid sirens wailed out over the city before several hours of thunderous explosions and flashes in the sky sent Kyiv residents running to shelter in metro stations.

The Ukrainian air force said Russia had launched 675 attack drones and 56 missiles, mainly at Kyiv, adding its air defence units had downed 652 of the drones and 41 missiles.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said 20 sites in the capital were damaged including homes, a school, a vet clinic and other civilian infrastructure.

Seven bodies were pulled from the rubble of a single destroyed residential building – three men, three women, and a young



AFP

Rescuers work at a residential building partially destroyed following Russian drone and missile strikes in Kyiv on Thursday.

girl, the police said.

Another 45 people were wounded.

down 94% of all drones and 73% of the missiles fired by Russia.

A slew of Ukraine's allies, including the United Kingdom, Estonia, Latvia, Finland, the Netherlands, Moldova, and Slovakia condemned the fatal attacks.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen says Kyiv attacks show that Russia "openly mocks" efforts to end the war.

Russia said the wave of missiles and drones had targeted military-linked sites and energy facilities that support the Ukrainian army.

Ukraine said it shot

Lebanon and Israel hold new peace talks in U.S. as 'ceasefire' nears end

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Lebanon and Israel held new peace talks in Washington on Thursday, as their latest ceasefire – considered to still be in place despite hundreds of deaths in Israeli strikes – nears its end.

Israel's military said it was striking Hezbollah targets in south Lebanon on Thursday

Lebanese and Israeli representatives last met on April 23 at the White House

after warning residents of several towns and villages there and in the country's east to evacuate. It also said a Hezbollah drone fell in Israeli territory, wounding several civilians.

Lebanon's state-run *National News Agency* reported Israeli air strikes on the south and east, including in areas not covered by the warning, a day after the Health Ministry said intense raids killed 22 people, eight of them children.

Lebanese and Israeli representatives last met on April 23 at the White House, where a three-week ceasefire extension was announced.

Five soldiers, 7 militants killed in Pakistan clashes

Agence France-Presse
QUETTA

At least five soldiers and seven militants were killed in clashes in Pakistan's turbulent south-western province of Balochistan, officials said on Thursday.

An improvised explosive device detonated near a convoy of paramilitary Frontier Corps troops and was followed by a clash with mili-

itants, they said.

"Five soldiers were killed and another was critically wounded," a senior official said.

"During the operation, a group of terrorists was located and engaged by troops. During fire exchange seven terrorists were killed," the army's media wing said.

The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the attack.

Blackouts, protests break out as Cuba says fuel has 'run out'

Agence France-Presse
HAVANA

Cuba was hit by worsening power outages on Thursday as the island's communist government said oil reserves had run out and rare protests broke out around the capital Havana.

Eastern Cuba was plunged on Thursday into the latest of regular electricity shutdowns affecting the whole country, while people protested against power outages in neighbourhoods around Havana, in the west of the island.

Oil reserves sent by Russia have now "run out," Energy Minister Vicente de la O Levy told state television, describing the situation as "very tense".

"The heat continues to rise, and the impact of the blockade is indeed causing us significant harm... because we are still not receiving fuel."

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio renewed an offer of \$100



Miguel Diaz-Canel

million in aid on the condition that the assistance be distributed by the Catholic Church, by-passing the government.

'Ready for talks'

"We are ready to hear the details of the proposal and how it would be implemented," said Cuba's top diplomat, Bruno Rodriguez, on social media.

A resident of San Miguel del Padron, a neighbourhood on the outskirts of Havana, said that people had protested the power cuts by banging pots and

pans on Wednesday evening.

Several other similar small protests were held in neighbourhoods across the capital to express widespread frustration.

"Turn on the lights!" shouted residents in Playa, a district in the western part of the capital.

President Miguel Diaz-Canel on Wednesday blamed a U.S.-imposed "genocidal energy blockade" on Cuba for its grim energy shortages.

Data compiled showed prolonged blackouts and record generation shortfalls in recent days – 65% of Cuban territory endured simultaneous blackouts on Tuesday.

"This dramatic worsening has a single cause: the genocidal energy blockade to which the United States subjects our country, threatening irrational tariffs against any nation that supplies us with fuel," Mr. Diaz-Canel said.

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Sd/- Managing Director

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
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[Ref. Advt: F. No/AIIMS/IG/Reg/SR(NA)/2026-27/01 dated 21/04/2026 & F. No/AIIMS/IG/Reg/2026-27/Tutor/01 dated 21/04/2026]
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GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
SAMAGRA SHIKSHA

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible candidates to the post of **Inclusive Education Expert in Austin under SALT programme, Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh**. Interested candidates are requested to visit the official websites for detailed notification including eligibility criteria, qualifications, experience, remuneration, selection procedure and application format. For detailed notification, visit: <https://ese.ap.gov.in/>
Last date for submission of applications : 29/05/2026.
Sd/- State Project Director,
DIPR 5082PP/CL, Dt.14/05/2026 Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
CDAC

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C-DAC invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Indian companies for 'Fabrication, Assembly, Testing and Deployment of ARIES ECO / Equivalent Boards using THEJAS32.'
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Invitation For Bids - BDA Identification No.350/EM/BDA/2026-27 Date: 13/05/2026

Engineer Member, BDA on behalf of Bhubaneswar Development Authority, Bhubaneswar invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for civil works as mentioned below :

- Nature of works : Civil, Horticulture and Electrical Work (Improvement and beautification of Baagchi Cancer hospital Road from ch.0/000 to 2/904 km Under Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA).
- Total No. of works : 01 (One) No.
- Amount put to tender : Rs.15.18 Crore
- Class of Contractor : 'A' & 'Special' Class
- Period of Completion : 11 (Eleven) Calendar months
- Cost of Bid Documents : Rs.10,000.00 + 18% GST=Rs.11,800.00 (Online transfer by the last date & time for receipt of bids)
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) : 1% of estimated cost put to tender (Online transfer by the last date & time for receipt of bids)
- Availability of Tender : From 15.05.2026 to 5.30 PM of 25.05.2026 <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
- Date of opening of Tender : Dt.26.05.2026 at 11.30 AM
- Place of opening of Tender : O/o - Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / Corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.
13001/485/2627 OIPR-13001/13033/1/26-27/0032

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, CHENNAI
MeitY, Govt. of India

Vacancies for Multiple Position (Purely Contract Basis)

- Project Engineer (VLSI) - 1 No.
- Project Associate (Training) - 2 Nos
- Project Engineer (IoT) - 1 No.
- PE(Full Stack Development) - 1 No
- Office Assistant- 1 No.
- Business Development Executive - 1 No

Online Interview will be held on 03.06.2026
For further details, please visit: <https://rect.nielitchennai.edu.in>
E-mail: chennai@nielit.gov.in
Ph: +91 9445880125
Adv.No.01/04/2025/Recruitment/08 Director in charge

Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul
TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR BRIDGE WORKS IN ODISHA
Bid Identification No. Bridge Online AGL-02/2026-27

No. 1622 // Dt. 12/05/2026 //

- Name of the Work : Bridge Works
- Total No. of Work : 2 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs.193.17 Lakhs to Rs.310.61 Lakhs (Approx.)
- Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
- Period of Completion : As per Annexure
- Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Bridge Online - AGL- 02/2026-27	20.05.2026 at 9.00 A.M.	03.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	02.06.2026 up to 1.00 P.M.	04.06.2026 at 9.00 AM	Will be intimated separately

(1) For detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorisssa.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.
25001/132/2627 OIPR-25001/25180/1/26-27/0002

CHASE MASTER

Some of the shots Kohli played were simply remarkable: Padikkal



EMMANUAL YOGINI

Devdutt Padikkal had the best seat in the house to watch Virat Kohli's hundred for RCB against KKR in Raipur. "Some of the shots he played were simply remarkable. Coming into the game after two ducks is never easy, and he showed who he is," said Padikkal who was involved in a second-wicket stand of 92 with Kohli.

ONE OF A KIND

Varun is hard to replace: KKR coach Nayar after loss to RCB



FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

KKR head coach Abhishek Nayar rued the unavailability of ace spinner Varun Chakaravarthy in his side's defeat to RCB in Raipur. "It is an open secret that we have done very well with the Sunny [Narine] and Varun combo. He's got a fracture in his foot. We'll always miss a Varun Chakaravarthy, and he's hard to replace."

IN AND OUT

CSK names all-rounder Forrester as replacement for Overton



FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Chennai Super Kings has named Dian Forrester as a replacement for Jamie Overton, who has been ruled out of the remainder of IPL 2026 due to a right thigh injury. The South African all-rounder will join CSK for ₹75 lakh. The 25-year-old left-hand batter will join the squad ahead of the match against SRH in Chennai.

DESTRUCTIVE PLAYERS

Fleming backs Dube and Brevis to finish the season on a high



SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming is confident that Shivam Dube and Dewald Brevis can produce good performances. "Brevis and Dube are due [for some runs]... this could be their time. Sometimes when you have a situation like this, people appear, and we're hopeful that those two will finish the tournament on a high."

Prabhsimran's fifty, Omarzai's late charge lift Punjab Kings to 200

The opener slams 57 off 32 balls while the all-rounder rescues his side with a cameo; Shardul scalps four for the Bumrah-led MI

IPL-19

Abhishek Saini
DHARAMSHALA

Azmatullah Omarzai's late assault salvaged Punjab Kings from a precarious situation and took it to 200 for eight against Mumbai Indians in IPL 2026 at the HPCA Stadium here on Thursday.

Shardul Thakur's hit-the-deck approach on a sticky wicket got him four for 39 on the day, and sent the Kings innings into a tailspin. The host lost six wickets for 33 runs off 30 deliveries through the middle overs and even faced the prospect of being bowled out.

But Omarzai picked Shardul and Corbin Bosch over mid-wicket for boundaries, before getting 18 runs off Deepak Chahar in the 18th over to change the course of the innings. A few freewheeling slogs from Impact Player Vishnu Vinod and Xavier Bartlett in the last two overs were enough to get the side to 200.

Earlier in the innings, the Kings openers Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya curbed their usual instinct for big hits and still put up 50 runs.

Jasprit Bumrah waited 156 games to captain his IPL side and he could have marked the occasion by snaring Prabhsimran at



Shining stars: Prabhsimran and Omarzai fired for PBKS while Shardul was the pick of the MI bowlers. R.V. MOORTHY

first slip if not for Naman Dhir's dropped catch. The reprieve was sandwiched between a nudge down fine-leg and a slash over point for two boundaries.

Prabhsimran got a second life on 28 when Bosch could not hold onto a chance off his own bowling. The reprieve galvan-

ized the opener to change gears and leg-spinner Raghun Sharma bore the brunt. Off slightly over-pitched deliveries, Prabhsimran launched his slog sweep off successive deliveries and cleared deep midwicket.

But Shardul dragged MI back into the game with

two wickets in three balls. Prabhsimran's attempted heave flew to deep third off a top edge while Shreyas Iyer did not account for the seam away from him and saw his off-stump disturbed.

Raj Angad Bawa tightened the noose. He first castled Cooper Connolly

and then took a blinder at short mid-wicket to sent back Suryansh Shedge off Shardul.

Shashank Singh, leg-before off Bosch, and Marco Jansen, cleaned up by Shardul, were undone by the low, skiddy bounce of the surface.

But just when Punjab

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS
Priyansh Arya b Chahar 22 (17b, 4x4), Prabhsimran Singh c Bosch b Shardul 57 (32b, 6x4, 4x6), Cooper Connolly b Bawa 21 (22b, 2x4, 1x6), Shreyas Iyer b Shardul 4 (2b, 1x4), Suryansh Shedge c Bawa b Shardul 8 (5b, 1x6), Shashank Singh lbw b Bosch 2 (3b), Azmatullah Omarzai c Jacks b Chahar 38 (17b, 2x4, 4x6), Marco Jansen b Shardul 2 (7b), Vishnu Vinod (Impact Player for Prabhsimran) (not out) 15 (8b, 1x4, 1x6), Xavier Bartlett (not out) 18 (7b, 2x4, 1x6); Extras (b-5, lb-1, w-7); 13; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 200.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-50 (Priyansh, 5.3 overs), 2-107 (Prabhsimran, 11.2), 3-111 (Shreyas, 11.4), 4-111 (Connolly, 12.3), 5-123 (Shedge, 13.2), 6-135 (Shashank, 14.4), 7-140 (Jansen, 16.2), 8-166 (Omarzai, 17.6).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Chahar 4-0-36-2, Bumrah 4-0-35-0, Shardul 4-0-39-4, Bosch 4-0-42-1, Raghun 2-0-22-0, Jacks 1-0-9-0, Bawa 1-0-11-1.

Toss: Mumbai Indians.

MI 89/3 in 10 overs

Tilak (5) and Rutherford (1) were batting. Rohit (25), Rickelton (48) and Naman (9) were dismissed

Next assignment

PBKS: May 17 vs. RCB
DHaramshala, 3.30 p.m.

MI: May 20 vs. KKR
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

seemed to be meeting a flat end, Omarzai sparked life into the contest and kept his team in the hunt.

Raghuvanshi — repaying the faith shown by Knight Riders

Anish Pathiyil
RAIPUR

On the eve of Kolkata Knight Riders' IPL 2026 encounter against Royal Challengers Bengaluru here, assistant coach Shane Watson waxed lyrical about Angkrish Raghuvanshi in the pre-match press conference.

"I've been so fortunate over the years in the IPL to see some ridiculously talented young cricketers," the Australian said. "I remember seeing Sanju Samson for the first time. I'd never seen a 17-year-old with that skill development. I continue to see that with Vaibhav Soorayavanshi in the pre-match press conference.

"I know we haven't seen a consistent explosion of skill, but we will. It's mind-blowing for me to be able to see his ability to adapt to different conditions, different bowlers and have all the skill options and shot options to be able to navigate that as well as he possibly can," he added.

On Wednesday, against



Raghuvanshi. EMMANUAL YOGINI

RCB, the 21-year-old gave a clear account of what his coach had explained the day before. Coming in to bat after the fall of an early

wicket and seeing his skipper depart soon after, the young Mumbai batter had his back against the wall.

But during a knock in which he displayed immense maturity and exceptional reading of the conditions on offer, the lanky batter tallied his highest score in the IPL to lead the way with the bat for his side.

"I was very impressed with the way he batted because the ball was really nipping around initially. [Josh] Hazlewood and Bhuv [Bhuvneshwar Kumar] were hitting the length. I felt he was tactically very astute," KKR head coach Abhishek Nayar said after the game.

"I thought he paced his innings well. Played square of the wicket, used the angles really well, picked his bowlers. I didn't really feel that he was uncomfortable at any point. He belonged there, and that really stood out to me," he added.

The scores: KKR 192/4 in 20 overs lost to RCB 194/4 in 19.1 overs (Kohli 105 n.o., Padikkal 39, Tyagi 3/32). **PoM:** Kohli.

Heavy metal at the top: the openers rule striking chart

Srinivas Sriram
CHENNAI

The ongoing IPL season has not been short of explosiveness.

Chennai Super Kings dasher Urvil Patel's 65 off just 23 balls against Lucknow Super Giants, at a strike rate of 282.61, was a microcosm of the hard hitting that has been on display in the 19th edition.

The league-wide Power-Play run rate has gone past 10, an improvement from 9.51 last year. Teams are taking more risks, and the bold approach is allowing high-intent talent to shine. Rajasthan Royals prodigy Vaibhav Soorayavanshi is one such player who has lit up the tournament.

The 15-year-old has amassed 440 runs in 11 matches at 236.55, the highest strike rate in the league so far (minimum five innings). Among his standout performances was an impressive 103 off just 37 deliveries against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Jaipur, a knock which could not prevent SRH from

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Royal Challengers	12	8	4	0	16	1.053
Gujarat Titans	12	8	4	0	16	0.551
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	7	5	0	14	0.331
Punjab Kings	11	6	4	1	13	0.428
Chennai Super Kings	11	6	5	0	12	0.185
Rajasthan Royals	11	6	5	0	12	0.082
Delhi Capitals	12	5	7	0	10	-0.993
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	4	6	1	9	-0.198
Mumbai Indians (E)	11	3	8	0	6	-0.585
Lucknow Super Giants (E)	11	3	8	0	6	-0.907

E: Eliminated | Till the RCB-KKR match on May 13

winning.

Punjab Kings' Priyansh Arya (364 runs in 11 innings), Soorayavanshi's closest challenger, has a strike rate of 216.66.

The southpaw was at his belligerent best when he took only 37 balls to smack 93 against LSG in New Chandigarh.

It is the openers who dominate the 'super strikers' chart, with six of the best 10 batting at the top of the order. The stats show that top-order batters continue to have a huge say, and the numbers are only

improving: there were five openers in the top 10 in 2025, four in 2024 and two in 2023.

The current list also includes SRH's Abhishek Sharma (481 runs, 12 matches, strike rate of 209.13), Finn Allen (228, 8, 207.27) of Kolkata Knight Riders, Ryan Rickelton (430, 10, 190.26) from Mumbai Indians, and Delhi Capitals' KL Rahul (477, 12, 177.98).

The game is now all about the top-order going for broke from the get-go and soaring up the charts.

We've been unlucky with injuries: Fleming

S. Dipak Ragav
LUCKNOW

Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming felt that the team has been unlucky with injuries so far after Jamie Overton became the fourth player to be ruled out of the tournament this season.

Overton joined Khaleel Ahmed, Ayush Mhatre, and Ramakrishna Ghosh, all of whom picked up injuries during a match this year.

"It is unlucky. A couple of the boys came into the competition with niggles. Ghosh was one of those that we were nursing through, and then he had a fall, so that was unfortunate," said Fleming.

The former New Zealand skipper said the team is aware of the pattern of injuries and is looking into it. "We're not doing anything to put strain on these guys. They've all been playing a lot of cricket; it's just one of those things. But we're certainly not turning a blind eye to it. We are working very hard on recovery, and we have a very professional staff who

Today's match

vs.

Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 7

LSG 3 | CSK 3 | NR 1

PREVIOUS MEETING

CSK won by five wickets, 2026

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) | JIOHOTSTAR

have been with us for a number of years, so that area is well looked after," he added.

Despite the injuries and a slow start, CSK has come back strongly, winning six out of its last eight matches, and Fleming said he was pleased with how the youngsters have stepped up.

"We are really pleased with the way the players have improved. To be in this position now is something many thought we wouldn't be, but the group's been really strong. Given the core of young players, going forward, I think it's quite exciting," said Fleming.

INBRIEF



Bronze for Ajith in Asian weightlifting championships

Ajith Narayana secured a bronze medal each in both clean & jerk and overall in the men's 71kg category at the Asian senior weightlifting championships in Gandhinagar on Thursday. Ajith registered a total lift of 314kg, including 174kg in clean & jerk, to earn India a place on the podium. The gold was won by Korean Won Ju Ri with a total of 351kg, while China's Jian Chen claimed silver with 335kg.

SNAPSHOTS

Man City sees off Palace to keep pressure on Arsenal

MANCHESTER: Manchester City's second string eased past Crystal Palace 3-0 on Wednesday to climb just two points behind Premier League leader Arsenal with two games remaining of a captivating title race. The three-goal win takes City to 77 points, two behind Arsenal. City now has superior goal difference of +1 and has scored seven more goals. Newly-crowned Spanish champion Barcelona suffered a 1-0 defeat by Alaves on Wednesday, ending its bid to match the all-time LaLiga record points total of 100. **The results: Premier League:** Manchester City 3 (Semenyo 32, Marmoush 40, Savinho 84) bt Crystal Palace 3 (Oso 36, Salas 45+2, Adams 72); Alaves 1 (Diabate 45+1) bt Barcelona 0; Getafe 3 (Satriano 14, 41, Romero 63) bt Mallorca 1 (Mascarell 65).

Inter clinches the Italian Cup

ROME: Inter Milan won the Italian Cup on Wednesday after beating Lazio 2-0 and completing a domestic double alongside its 21st Serie A title. An Adam Marusic own goal and Lautaro Martinez's tap-in, both in the first half, gave Inter both a victory and 10th Cup triumph.

Sooryavanshi in India-A squad for SL tri-series

NEW DELHI: Teenage batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was on Thursday named in the 15-member India-A squad for the tri-nation 50-over series in Sri Lanka, starting on June 9. Apart from the hosts, the other team in the tournament is Afghanistan-A. The matches will be played in Dambulla. India-A will also play two multi-day (four-day) "Tests" in Galle but the squad for that will be announced later. India A will play Sri Lanka-A (June 9 and 15) and Afghanistan-A (June 11 and 17) twice and the top two teams will meet in the final slated on June 21. **India-A squad:** Tilak Varma (Capt.), Rryan Parag (Vice-capt.), Priyansh Arya, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ayush Badoni, Nishant Sindhu, Harsh Dubey, Suryansh Shedge, Prabhsimran Singh (wk), Kumar Kushagra (wk), Vipraj

Nigam, Yash Thakur, Yudhvir Singh, Anshul Kamboj, and Arshad Khan.

India's schedule:

June 9: vs Sri Lanka-A, 11: vs Afghanistan-A, 15: vs Sri Lanka-A, 17: vs Afghanistan-A. (All matches in Dambulla).

HI names Soyez as Sreejesh's successor

A day after confirming the end of P.R. Sreejesh's tenure as head coach of the junior men's team, Hockey India (HI) named former France and Spain coach Frederic Soyez as his successor. The 48-year-old Frenchman pipped compatriot and former colleague Aymeric Bergamo to the job, thanks to his vast experience which includes his stint as high performance director for France Hockey. Soyez earned 196 caps for France, scoring 195 goals, and later coached France and Spain at the Olympics – Spain in 2016 and 2020 and France in 2024.

Muddappa crowned champion after IMSAC verdict

CHENNAI: Hemanth Muddappa of Mantra Racing has officially been declared the 2025 National champion in the premier unrestricted class after the Indian Motor Sports Appeals Court (IMSAC) restored his title from the final round of the MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship held last December. The controversy stemmed from an alleged jump start during the final run of the Unrestricted category. Muddappa immediately contested the decision, maintaining that there was no forward or backward movement of the motorcycle. The ruling not only restores Muddappa's victory in the championship-deciding round at the Madras International Circuit, but also gives him a historic 18th National title, making him the most decorated two-wheeler National champion in Indian motorsport history.

LIVE TELECAST

IFL: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 6.30 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHot-star, 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

High-flying Royal Challengers feel at home in unfamiliar conditions

Though the defending champion has won only two of its five away games this season, Patidar's men have come out on top in both their fixtures at Raipur, which is their second home venue; talisman Kohli's remarkable run has been a key feature of RCB being on the verge of a playoff spot



Still going strong: Seasoned campaigners Bhuvneshwar and Kohli have been instrumental in RCB's surge to the top of the table. EMMANUAL YOGINI

IPL-19

Natalia Hannah Rice

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's title-winning campaign in IPL 2025 was defined by its away form. RCB became the first team in IPL history to win all seven away league matches, recording victories at Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai, Jaipur, New Chandigarh, New Delhi and Lucknow. That consistency across varied conditions proved central to its run to the title, culminating in a six-run victory over Punjab Kings in the final at Ahmedabad that ended an 18-year long wait.

The question entering IPL 2026 was whether that away success was a one-season wonder.

With three matches remaining in the league phase, Royal Challengers sit atop the table with 16 points, having once again

relied heavily on performances away from the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Unlike last season, the side has managed victories in only two of its first five away fixtures this year, though its adaptability outside Bengaluru continues to remain central to its campaign. Rajat Patidar's men have won both their games at their second home venue Raipur.

Virat Kohli's unbeaten 105 against Kolkata Knight Riders at Raipur also carried a significant personal milestone. The innings took him past 14,000 runs in T20 cricket. Kohli became the fastest batter to reach the mark, getting there in 409 innings and surpassing the previous record held by Chris Gayle (423).

Terrific record

Of those runs, 4,188 have come in T20 Internationals for the Men in Blue, while 9,145 have been scored in

the IPL for Royal Challengers across nearly two decades with the franchise. He also became the first Indian batter to cross the 14,000-run mark in the format, underlining a career built as much on consistency and longevity as on strokeplay and run-scoring volume.

Royal Challengers face Punjab Kings at Dharamshala on Sunday with a playoff berth nearly secured and another strong away performance potentially decisive in shaping its route through the knock-out stage.

Ability to adapt

The side's ability to adapt quickly to unfamiliar conditions has increasingly become one of its defining characteristics across the last two IPL seasons.

That consistency has once again placed the franchise among the tournament's strongest playoff contenders.

Tyagi takes out Stewart, advances to the semifinals

TENNIS

Ashwin Achal

BENGALURU

Kriish Tyagi stunned second seed Hamish Stewart 7-6(7), 5-7, 6-4, to scalp the biggest win of his fledgling career, and advance to the semifinals of the Karnataka Open ATP Challenger at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium here on Thursday. The 19-year-old saved three break points in the ninth game to force a tie-breaker in the first set before winning it. Stewart (World No. 328) won the second before Tyagi broke serve to take a 5-4 lead in the decider.

The World No. 1332 soon sealed the encounter which lasted two hours and 40 minutes.

Tyagi did well to counter Stewart's big serves. "I have played big servers before and learnt that if I can make two good returns, they suddenly don't know what to do.

"I just tried to stay solid and keep putting the ball



Cutting short: Ivashka ended Manish's run with a straight-set win. K. MURALI KUMAR

back in play," Tyagi said on countering Stewart's big serves.

Tyagi will face fourth seed Philip Sekulic of Australia in the last-four on Friday.

Fellow Indian Manish Sureshkumar went down 3-6, 3-6 to former World No. 40 Ilya Ivashka, while American Keegan Smith got the better of the Serb Ognjen Milic 7-6(5), 6-3.

The results (quarterfinals):

Ilya Ivashka bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-3, 6-3; Keegan

Smith (USA) bt Ognjen Milic (Srb) 7-6(5), 6-3; Philip Sekulic (Aus) bt Maximus Jones (Tha) 6-7(6), 6-3, 6-1; Kriish Tyagi bt Hamish Stewart (GBr) 7-6(7), 5-7, 6-4.

Doubles: Petr Bar Biryukov & Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) bt Sergey Betov & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 4-6, 7-5, [10-8]; Prajwal Dev & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Jeffrey Chuan (Tpe) & Christopher Papa (USA) 6-4, 7-5.

Niki Poonacha & Saketh Myneni bt Sidharth Rawat & Manish Sureshkumar 6-3, 7-6(3); Adil Kalyanpur & Mukund Sasikumar bt Dominik Palan (Cze) & Digvijaypratap Singh 7-6(5), 6-3.

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India

BANGKOK

Indian shuttlers P.V. Sindhu and Lakshya Sen, along with the top-seeded men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, advanced to the quarterfinals of the \$500,000 Thailand Open Super 500 bdminton tournament with straight-game wins in their respective matches here on Thursday.

Sixth seed Sindhu needed just 28 minutes to outclass Denmark's Amalie Schulz 21-13, 21-15 in the women's singles second round, while seventh seed Lakshya defeated China's Zhu Xuan Chen 21-12, 21-13 in a men's singles clash that lasted 39 minutes.

Sindhu will next face top seed and World No. 3 Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, while Lakshya will take on Thailand's second seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn.

Satwiksairaj and Chirag posted a 21-12, 21-19 win over Malaysia's Bryan Jeremy



Easing through: Lakshya had the measure of Zhu in straight games. INSTAGRAM/BAI_MEDIA

Goonting and Muhammad Haikal in 44 minutes to set up a meeting with the sixth-seeded Japanese combination of Takumi Nomura and Yuichi Shimogami.

However, K. Srikanth crashed out after going down 16-21, 21-11, 18-21 to Taiwan's Su Li Yang in a hard-fought contest lasting 70 minutes.

It was also the end of the road for young Devika Sihag as she lost 21-23, 11-21 to Thailand's Pitchamon Opatniputh. Malvika Ba-

nod also exited, losing to second seed Chen Yu Fei of China 21-12, 21-7.

The results (round-of-16):

Men: Lakshya Sen bt Zhu Xuan Chen (Chn) 21-12, 21-13; Su Li Yang (Tpe) bt K. Srikanth 21-16, 11-21, 21-18.

Doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Bryan Jeremy Goonting & Muhammad Haikal (Mas) 21-12, 21-19.

Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Amalie Schulz (Den) 21-13, 21-15; Pitchamon Opatniputh (Tha) bt Devika Sihag 23-21, 21-11; Chen Yu Fei (Chn) bt Malvika Bansod 21-12, 21-7.

Indian pugilists win nine gold in Asian under-15 boxing

Press Trust of India

TASHKENT

India finished with an impressive 27 medals, including nine gold, six silver and 12 bronze, with the girls accounted for seven gold, two silver and five bronze, at the Asian boxing under-15 championships in Tashkent on Thursday.

Dominant

Among the girls, Anzee (37kg), Soniya (40kg), Tanvi (43kg), Hanshika Attri (46kg), Sunaina (58kg), Bhumika (61kg) and Angel (70kg) clinched gold with dominant performances, while Akshita (33kg) and Tannvi (64kg) took silver after losing closely-fought finals.

In the boys' section, Yash Kumar (33kg) and Mohd. Yasser (58kg) triumphed while Sashta Vasanth Ashok Kumar (37kg), Samir Bohra (43kg), Sudar-



Packing a punch: Top: Anzee (37kg); Soniya (40kg); Tanvi (43kg); Hansika (46kg); Sunaina (58kg); Bottom: Bhumika (61kg); Angel (70kg); Yash (33kg); Mohd. Yasser (58kg). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

san Vasudeva Chandak (52kg) and Ronak Parag Lokhande (67kg) secured silver.

The results (finals):

Girls: 33kg: Odina Yusupova (Uzb) bt Akshita 3-2; **37kg:** Anzee bt Nurzhanat Beknazar (Kaz) 5-0; **40kg:** Soniya bt Bominakhon (Uzb) 5-0; **43kg:** Tanvi bt Han-Hsi Chen (Tpe) ABD. **46kg:** Hanshika Attri bt Sabrina Adilkhanova (Kaz) RSC; **58kg:** Sunaina bt Mukaddas Zokirova (Uzb) RSC. **61kg:** Bhumika bt Airu

Faizullayeva (Kaz) RSC; **64kg:** Malika Ulugbekova (Uzb) bt Tannvi 5-0.

70kg: Angel bt Khonzodabegim Baratova 4-1.

Boys: 33kg: Yash Kumar bt Sayat Rakhymberdi (Kaz) 3-2.

37kg: Fayozbek Noraliev (Uzb) bt Sashta Vasanth Ashok Kumar 5-0; **43kg:** Beibarys Koishybay (Kaz) bt Samir Bohra 4-1.

52kg: Javohir Nematjonov (Uzb) bt Sudarsan Vasudeva Chandak 5-0; **58kg:** Mohd. Yasser bt Abdulloh Karimjonov (Uzb) 3-2; **67kg:** Amanzhan Zhanay (Kaz) bt Ronak Parag Lokhande RSC.

Ravi-Vikas combination makes the last-four stage

DOUBLES SQUASH

K. Keerthivasan

CHENNAI

Ravi Dixit reached his second straight men's semifinal at the HCL National doubles squash championships, combining with Vikas Mehra to battle past Mathew Godwin and Navaneeth Prabhu 11-7, 10-12, 11-7 in a gripping clash at the Indian Squash & Triathlon Academy on Thursday.

The higher-ranked duo of Ravi and Vikas was on the cusp of victory when it earned a match point at 10-9 in the second game. However, two backhand errors from Ravi allowed Mathew and Navaneeth to push the contest into the decider. Fittingly, it was Ravi who delivered the final punch, producing a backhand cross-court winner.



Fighting it out: Vikas and Ravi, both in red, were made to work hard for the win. R. RAGU

Top seeds Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar began their title defence with a 11-4, 11-2 win over Shubham and Vedant Patel to seal a last-four berth.

The results: Men:

Quarterfinals: Abhay Singh & Velavan Senthilkumar bt Shubham & Vedant Patel 11-4, 11-2; Ravi Dixit & Vikas Mehra bt Mathew Godwin & Navaneeth Prabhu 11-7, 10-12, 11-7; Guhan Senthilkumar & Sandesh bt Harinderpal Singh Sandhu & Om Semwal 11-7, 2-11, 11-8; Rahul

Baitha & Suraj Chand bt R. Dinesh & L. Meyappan 11-6, 11-6.

Women: Group A: Joshna Chinappa & Rathika Seelan bt Sahana Kalaivanan & Sangamitra Shanmugham 11-2, 11-7; Ananya Narayan & Anika Dubey bt Sahana & Sangamitra 11-2, 11-1.

Mixed: Quarterfinals: Velavan & Joshna bt Roshan Rajkumar & Sahana 11-4, 11-5; Suraj & Nirupama Dubey bt Navaneeth & Pooja Arthi 11-9, 12-10; Abhay & Rathika bt Ravi & Janet Vidhi 10-12, 11-8, 11-9; Rahul & Anika bt Sandesh & Shameena Riaz 10-12, 11-6, 11-8.