



# The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

₹7.00 (₹8 RAIPUR, ₹15 SRINAGAR) • www.indianexpress.com

DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PATNA, PUNE, VADODARA

## Happening today

● **DAYS AFTER THE NDA** swept the Assam polls, Himanta Biswa Sarma will take oath as Chief Minister for a second consecutive term. PM Narendra Modi and other top NDA leaders are expected to attend the event.

● **CHINESE VICE-PREMIER** He Lifeng and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent will begin the final round of negotiations in South Korea before US President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing.

● **A DELHI COURT** will continue to hear actor Jacqueline Fernandez's plea seeking to turn approver in a Rs 200-crore money laundering case involving alleged conman Suresh Chandrashekar.

TRACK THESE AND MORE ON [WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)

## Sujan Singh Park lease terms flouted, says Govt, asks firm to pay Rs 940 cr

Damini Nath  
New Delhi, May 11

THE UNION Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs last month issued a demand notice of around Rs 940 crore to Sir Sobha Singh and Sons — the real estate company that built, and still runs, the upscale Sujan Singh Park in Central Delhi in the 1940s — for breaching lease conditions. *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The notice seeking payment for alleged breaches found during inspections over the years came just days after the Supreme Court, on April 22, gave its judgment on the fundamental dispute between the government and the company. The court set aside a Delhi High Court verdict asking the Centre to vacate residential premises at Sujan Singh Park, near Khan Market, holding that the property was a "government grant" under the Government Grants Act, 1895, which did not attract provisions of the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958.

The Land and Development Office is learnt to have issued the demand notice on April 30, revising the amount from its earlier demand of over Rs 700 crore that was issued in March and April 2022. The two notices of 2022 had been challenged by the company and the matter was adjourned by the district court in view of the pending petition in the Supreme Court. After the Supreme Court's judgment last month, the Land and Development Office is learnt to have issued the revised demand notice.

The property includes apartments as well as the Ambassador Hotel nearby.

When reached for comment, Shaunak Kashyap, the advocate for Sir Sobha Singh and Sons, said: "The case is sub-judice, and we are pursuing our legal remedies, so it

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CALLS WEST ASIA CONFLICT 'BIGGEST CRISIS OF THIS DECADE'

## Second day, PM makes austerity push, invokes Covid-era habits



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Somnath temple in Gujarat, Monday. PTI RELATED REPORT, PAGE 7

### Hold online classes, work from home, cut gold purchase, foreign travel, fuel and cooking oil consumption: Modi

Aditi Raja  
Vadodara, May 11

WITH NO signs of an immediate end to the conflict in West Asia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday again urged government and private offices to revert to 'Covid-era' habits such as work-from-home and virtual meetings, and asked citizens to opt for car pooling and reduce fuel consumption.

"If the coronavirus pandemic was the biggest crisis of

## EDITORIAL PAGE

### PM FRAMES SEVERITY OF ENERGY CHALLENGE

### GOVT, OIL COMPANIES CAN'T ABSORB ENERGY SHOCK INDEFINITELY

PAGE 10

this century, then the conflict in West Asia is among the biggest crises of this decade," Modi said

addressing a gathering to inaugurate the Patidar community's Sardardham in Vadodara.

The sharp depletion of foreign exchange reserves since the beginning of the conflict, and the prospects of a worsening current account deficit are becoming big worry points for policymakers now. In Q3 last year i.e., October-December 2025, the deficit had increased to \$13.2 billion or 1.3 per cent of GDP compared with \$11.3 billion or

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Behind PM's call, dipping foreign exchange reserves, rising gold imports

### Gold import bill doubles in two years to \$72 billion, foreign travel spend under LRS \$15 billion in Apr-Feb 2026

George Mathew & Aanchal Magazine  
Mumbai, New Delhi, May 11

RISING PRESSURE on India's external sector with forex reserves plummeting by \$38 billion in just two months since the onset of the West Asia conflict, and crude oil prices continuing to hover over \$100 a barrel, have started to worry policy makers.

Behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for austerity measures by citizens are substantial foreign exchange outflows linked to higher gold imports and spending on overseas travel under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). While the gold import bill has almost doubled to \$72 billion in 2025-26 in two years, outflow under LRS

for foreign travel accounted for \$15 billion or 57 per cent of the total \$26.34 billion LRS in the first 11 months of 2025-26.

The fall in reserves to \$691 billion has also been driven by sustained capital outflows from foreign institutional investors (FIIs) amid heightened global uncertainty. FII outflows in January-May period were Rs 1.97 lakh crore as foreign investors continued their sell-off in the stock markets. The rupee also dropped below the 95 level to 95.21 against the US dollar.

### Unlock value through Gold Monetisation Scheme

Gold imports rose 24 per cent to a record \$71.98 billion in

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay with his predecessor and DMK chief M K Stalin at the latter's residence in Chennai, Monday. PTI

## AIADMK stares at split as rebel bloc of 30 pro-Vijay MLAs turns on Palaniswami

### 17 of party's 47 MLAs back EPS, rest for Velumani as floor leader

Arun Janardhanan  
Chennai, May 11

DAYS AFTER the collapse of backchannel discussions around a possible DMK-AIADMK understanding — an idea that ended in political embarrassment for Tamil Nadu's two Dravidian majors — the AIADMK now appears headed toward a potentially historic split, with a large section of party leaders and newly elected MLAs openly challenging the leadership of Edappadi K Palaniswami or EPS and pushing for

alignment with the Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) led by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay.

What "Delhi" had long hoped for after the death of J Jayalalithaa — a weakened and internally fractured AIADMK — now appears closer than ever, with powerful leaders within the party questioning EPS's political future after successive electoral setbacks and accusing him of isolating the party from emerging power equations.

At the centre of the crisis is the question of whether AIADMK should support Vijay's newly formed TVK government, which crossed the majority mark Saturday after intense post-poll negotiations and support from allies.

According to reliable sources in AIADMK, at least 30 MLAs and several senior

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Officer who oversaw Bengal SIR appointed Chief Secy in BJP govt

### TMC, Congress criticise move: 'Outrageous and brazen'



West Bengal CEO Manoj Agarwal

Ravik Bhattacharya & Atri Mitra  
Kolkata, May 11

THE BJP government in West Bengal on Monday appointed the state's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Agarwal as the next Chief Secretary. Agarwal succeeds Dushyant Nariyal, an IAS officer of the 1993 batch, who has been moved to New Delhi as the Principal Resident Commissioner.

Agarwal, who is set to retire in July, had faced criticism from the Trinamool Congress (TMC) during the Special Intensive

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



West Bengal CM Suwendu Adhikari with his Cabinet ministers at the Secretariat, Monday. PARTHA PAUL RELATED REPORT, PAGE 6

## ED arrests ex-minister in municipality jobs case

Sweety Kumari  
Kolkata, May 11

FORMER WEST Bengal minister and TMC leader Sujit Bose was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Kolkata on Monday after more than 10 hours of questioning in connection with alleged irregularities in municipality recruitment.

ED sources alleged Sujit Bose had "illegally recommended 150 candidates for different posts in the South Dum Dum Municipality."

"ED has traced direct pro-



Sujit Bose was Fire & Emergency Services Minister in the TMC govt

ceeds of crime in the form of flats acquired by him in lieu of providing municipality jobs to various persons. Further, ED has also traced huge deposits of

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Suwendu aide's killing: Toll plaza CCTV, UPI lead to 3 suspects in Bihar and UP

Sweety Kumari & Manish Sahu  
Kolkata, Lucknow, May 11

THE WEST Bengal CID and Madhyamgram police have arrested three suspects in connection with the murder of Chandranath Rath, the personal assistant of newly elected Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, following a pursuit across state lines that led investigators to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Acting on specific intelligence, a specialised team detained Mayank Raj Mishra and Vicky Maurya from Buxar, Bihar, while a third suspect, Raj Singh, was apprehended in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. After interrogation by CID officials on May 10, all three were formally arrested by the Madhyamgram police. Investigators suspect the trio were out-of-state hitmen hired to carry out the killing, though who commissioned the hit and why is still under investigation.

"All three have been remanded to police custody for 13 days," said DIG (Cyber) Ajay

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Business as Usual

By EP UNNY



## POLITICS PAGE 6

### SCTO TMC: FILE FRESH PLEA ON DELETIONS, ASSEMBLY POLLS

## WFI a dictatorship... they afraid I will win medals again: Vinesh in Gonda

Nihal Koshie  
Gonda (UP), May 11

VINESH PHOGAT credits her 10-month-old son Kridhav for bringing joy to her life after the 2024 Paris heartbreak, fuelling her with the energy to fight the system and giving her the courage to dream of watching him cheer her at the next Olympics.

She said this hours after a meeting with Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Sanjay Singh, who blocked her



Wrestler Vinesh Phogat speaks to reporters after meeting WFI chief Sanjay Singh in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, Monday. VIJAY KUMAR/IE HINDI

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

● BUILT IN 2001, ITS POOR CONDITION WAS RAISED AT LEAST SEVEN TIMES IN INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN AUGUST 2024 AND APRIL 2026

## Before Bihar bridge collapsed, multiple inspections, several red flags — all ignored

Santosh Singh  
Patna, May 11

IN THE two years leading up to the partial collapse of the Vikramshila bridge in Bihar last week, multiple inspection teams and officials raised red flags that were not acted upon, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

According to officials, the partial collapse happened in two stages, beginning with a structural failure in pillar 133 at around 11.55 pm on May 3, followed by a total span collapse at 1.07 am on May 4, which split the 4.7-kilometre-long bridge over the Ganga into two. No casualties were re-

ported. The collapse led to a major disruption of traffic between a large part of Jharkhand and south Bihar on one end, and north and northeastern Bihar, as well as West Bengal, on the other. Traffic from both sides has now been diverted to a much longer route, making the distance between Munger and Khagaria 161 km via the Ganga bridge, up from 14 km over the Vikramshila Setu.

Engineers and experts from the Border Road Organisation (BRO), the Indian Army and IIT Patna, as well as officers from the state Road Construction Department (RCD) and the

Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Limited (BRPNNL), have been at the site to plan the repair efforts, expected to take up to three months.

The BRPNN carries the onus of coordinating with the RCD to ensure the structural integrity of any bridge in the state. Both the BRPNN and the RCD had been made aware of the "precarious condition" of the bridge on multiple occasions over the past two months, sources said.

Following the collapse, RCD's NH division executive engineer, Saket Kumar Roshan, was suspended for alleged dereliction of duty.

His suspension letter, is-



A portion of the Vikramshila bridge collapsed last week. EXPRESS

sued on May 4, said, "The responsibility of maintenance of the bridge rested with RCD's NH division (Bhagalpur) execu-

tive engineer Saket Kumar Roshan. Prima facie, he has been found guilty of being lax and disinterested about his duty

and is being suspended with immediate effect."

RCD sources told *The Indian Express* that between August 2024 and April 2026, there had been at least seven internal correspondences regarding the poor condition of the bridge, which was built in 2001. Over the years, the passage of overloaded trucks and the resultant weakening of the bearings at the joints have been the main reasons for its deteriorating condition, according to officials.

An RCD source said: "In August 2024, an inspection of the bridge by RCD superintending engineer showed gaps in six out of 60-odd expansion joints. In January 2025, RCD head-

quarters were reminded about the inspection. In March 2025, Bhagalpur District Magistrate Nawal Kishore Choudhary reminded visiting state government officials about widening cracks in the bridge. However, later that month, a joint team from IIT Patna and BRPNN inspected the bridge and said the structure was safe."

"In April 2025, the National Highways division, Bhagalpur, reported to RCD headquarters about four new cracks in the bridge. In April 2026, visiting RCD officials were told about the damage to the bearings in the bridge. That same month, a detailed report on the bridge's poor condition was sent to RCD

headquarters," the source said. Less than a month later, the partial collapse occurred.

Before these red flags were raised, there had been two major repairs of the bridge between 2020 and 2024, with officials saying this suggested that it needed overall better maintenance. An RCD official said, "Between 2020 and 2022, several expansion joints had been repaired with partial closure of the bridge. In 2024, surface and structural reinforcement was done with new bituminous layers to cover the cracks appearing near the pillars. This was completed with limited success."

An expert, who visited the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Wreckage of a sports bike and a car that collided in Telangana's Mahbubnagar district, Sunday. PTI

## Speeding Hayabusa superbike rams car in Telangana, 5 dead

Sreenivas Janyala  
Hyderabad, May 11

FIVE PEOPLE, including a woman, a toddler and another child, were killed when a speeding superbike rammed into a car in Telangana's Mahbubnagar in the early hours of Monday, police said.

The rider and pillion rider on the Hayabusa motorcycle also died on the spot.

Police said that M Basit, his wife Arshia (20), their one-and-a-half-year-old son, and another boy aged nine, were returning to Indiranagar in the Palakonda area after a late night event when the motorcycle crashed into their car from behind.

"Basit was driving the car and had slowed down to take a right turn on the highway. The bike, which was probably going at a very high speed, rammed into the car at its rear left door. The woman and the two children, who were sitting in the back seat, were seriously injured and died while being moved to a hospital," Addi-

tional SP N B Ratnam said.

The accident occurred on a five-km stretch known as Palakonda Bypass, which is a spot known for bike racing, police said.

According to Additional SP Ratnam, 15 persons from Hyderabad on 13 superbikes had gone to Mahbubnagar to attend a friend's family function. "These are very expensive motorcycles known as superbikes. The group was returning to Hyderabad late at night and they were probably racing at very high speeds. The Hayabusa was being driven by M Aziz, and the pillion rider was Yakub Afzal. Both died on the spot," the officer said.

From CCTV footage, police determined the number of the bikes and are trying to identify riders to record their statements. After the crash, the other riders did not wait for an ambulance or for police to arrive and fled from the spot. The impact was such that the rear portion of the car was boxed in. The motorcycle broke into pieces and was mangled.

## Kota maternal deaths: Crisis widens, state health department intensifies probe

Parul Kulshrestha  
Jaipur, May 11

DAYS AFTER the death of two women who gave birth in Kota's New Medical College Hospital prompted a probe by the Rajasthan health department, another government hospital in the city has come under scanner following the death of a woman following postpartum complications after a caesarean delivery.

Pinky Mahawar (31) underwent the C-section procedure at JK Lone Hospital on May 7. Her health began to worsen the following day, when her urine output stopped, and her blood pressure dropped significantly. She died around 12.30 am on Monday at the Super Speciality Block (SSB) of the New Medical College, where she had been referred late Sunday night from JK Lone Hospital.

Another woman had died on May 9 at JK Lone Hospital after giving birth, and doctors attributed her death to heart failure. Sources said she was already suffering from health issues when she was brought to JK Lone, and it remained unclear if the death was linked to postpartum complications seen in the case of Pinky and the two women who died last week at New Medical College Hospital.

Two other women, who also gave birth at JK Lone, developed complications after their deliveries and remain in critical condition. The health department has now widened its probe into the crisis at New Medical College Hospital to include the postpartum deaths and complications at JK Lone Hospital.

Earlier, six women who underwent C-section at New Medical College Hospital on May 4 had developed serious complications, including kidney-related issues, leading to the death of two of them. The four others remain under treatment, with two still in the ICU.

Many of the women have reportedly developed complications such as kidney failure, inability to pass urine, low blood pressure, and liver dysfunction after delivery.

Pinky's family on Monday refused to allow a postmortem and staged a sit-in protest outside the SSB, holding her four-day-old infant. The family has alleged negligence on the part of



Two deaths have been reported at JK Lone Hospital

authorities at JK Lone, and demanded a clear explanation for her death.

Her husband, Chandraprakash, claimed that despite similar cases of kidney-related issues being reported, she was neither referred in time nor was the family properly informed about the situation.

Nilesh Jain, the principal and controller of Kota Government Medical College and associated hospitals, under which both the New Medical College Hospital and the JK Lone Hospital come, said it was not yet clear what had caused these deaths. "We are investigating this. A team from Jaipur's SMS Hospital is also working day and night, and we will find a result soon," he said. Ajay Phatak, Drug Controller under Rajasthan's Department of Health, told *The Indian Express* that authorities collected 24 samples from the medical college hospital, including 20 medicines and other medical equipment. "We have sent the samples to the lab, and it will take at least 15 days to get a report. We are doing our part, and the medicines used have been barred for use all over the state," he said.

Giving updates on the women under treatment, the health department said in a statement, "Among the four postpartum women admitted to the Super Speciality Kota Government Hospital, one patient has shown significant improvement, with adequate urine output observed. Another patient has also improved compared to her earlier condition and has started taking food. Both of these patients have now been moved from the ICU to the General Ward. The third patient has shown improvement relative to her previous state, while the fourth patient remains stable."

[ FROM PAGE 1 | FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM ]

## PM's austerity push

1.1 per cent of GDP.

But since the onset of the conflict, forex reserves have plummeted by \$38 billion, and the rupee has breached the 95 to a US dollar mark. A sharply lower rupee can potentially erode investor confidence, and further exacerbate the capital account, fear government officials.

It is in this backdrop that the Prime Minister seems to be advocating a series of harsh measures such as avoiding overseas travel and destination weddings, postponing gold purchases, preference for local products, domestic tourism, and use of metros and electric vehicles — all of which are aimed at reducing imports and foreign exchange outgo.

Modi warned that the econ-

omic aftereffects of the ongoing tensions could impact India through soaring import prices, disrupted supply chains and mounting pressure on foreign exchange reserves. He asked people to prepare for a period of global uncertainty and repeatedly stressed on "small sacrifices" and "collective responsibility".

Reiterating the appeals made in Karnataka and Telangana, he said he had "the right over Gujarat" to make "more emphasising points". Pointing out that gold imports put pressure on foreign exchange reserves, he asked people to "postpone the purchase of gold" until conditions normalise. "Gold is not necessary," Modi said. He also urged them to reduce cooking oil consumption.

## Forex, gold

2025-26. In two years, the gold import bill has almost doubled from \$35 billion in 2022-23. The import bill stood at \$45.54 billion in 2023-24, indicating a consistent upward trend in value over the last two years.

Rajesh Rokde, Chairman of All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) has proposed a monetisation scheme to unlock value in gold. India already possesses thousands of tonnes of idle household gold. "The solution may not lie only in reducing demand, but also in unlocking the immense value of existing gold through a transparent and regulated Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS)," he said.

Instead of idle gold remaining locked in households and lockers, GMS can channel it into the formal economy — reducing imports, easing current account deficit (CAD) pressure and strengthening India's financial ecosystem. The answer lies not only in consuming less gold, but in utilising existing gold more efficiently, transparently and productively, Avinash Gupta of the Council said.

According to an AngelOne report, India is the world's sec-

ond-largest gold consumer after China, with imports largely meeting jewellery sector demand. Higher gold imports have implications for the current account deficit, which rose to \$13.2 billion, or 1.3 per cent of GDP, in the December quarter, according to RBI data released on March 2, 2026. Switzerland remained the largest source of India's gold imports, accounting for around 40 per cent of the total, followed by the UAE with over 16 per cent and South Africa with nearly 10 per cent. Imports from Switzerland increased by 11.36 per cent to \$24.27 billion in 2025-26.

### Outward remittances remain high

Under LRS, outward remittances were at \$29.56 billion in FY25. Of this, travel accounted for more than 50 per cent outgo at \$16.96 billion. In the first 11 months of FY26, the LRS remittances stood at \$24.68 billion; January and February outward LRS were \$2.68 billion and \$2.33 billion, respectively.

### Crude impact high

Crude oil is likely to remain elevated and volatile, even with a temporary ceasefire. The geopolitical risk premium — particularly around the Strait of

Stating that prices of imported goods are soaring, and global supply chains have been severely disrupted, the Prime Minister stressed on reducing burden on country's resources and said, "The government is continuously making efforts to ensure that ordinary citizens are affected as little as possible by these adverse situations... A major portion of India's imports consists of crude oil, and unfortunately, the regions supplying much of the world's oil are currently caught in crisis and conflict," he said.

"Until the situation returns to normal, all of us must together take small but meaningful pledges. I appeal to every citizen: wherever possible, reduce the use of petrol and diesel. Use the metro, electric buses, and public transport more frequently. Promote carpooling. Those who own cars should travel together with

more people, and those who own EVs should help others as well... Digital technology has made many things easier today. It is important that both government and private offices prioritise virtual meetings and work-from-home arrangements... I would also request schools to focus more on online classes for some time," the Prime Minister said.

Modi urged citizens to adopt local products and support entrepreneurs from villages, towns and cities instead of relying on foreign goods. He also criticised the growing trend of foreign vacations and overseas destination weddings, asking, "Are there not enough beautiful places in India where we can celebrate our vacations?" Modi encouraged families to explore India's own history and heritage, while describing India as the most "beautiful and sacred" place for weddings.

Horzum — is unlikely to dissipate quickly. "For India, this is a critical vulnerability. Sustained high crude prices would widen the current account deficit and feed directly into inflation," former RBI Governor D Subbarao said.

Even without an actual supply disruption, uncertainty alone can keep prices elevated. The more realistic scenario is one of moderately high and volatile oil prices, rather than a return to earlier benign levels. State-owned oil marketing companies — Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum — are estimated to be piling up under-recoveries, which is the difference between the retail price and the import price, of about Rs 30,000 crore a month on petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

The ongoing conflict in West Asia could drive up diesel and petrol prices in India, which may, in turn, add to inflationary pressures. In its latest monthly economic review released April, the Ministry of Finance had said while some countries are yet to pass on higher prices of energy products and other commodities to households and businesses, it is "inevitable" they will have to do so. The Prime Minister has encouraged citizens to

adopt electric vehicles, use carpooling, and rely more on public transport.

### Foreign travel, overseas weddings

Foreign travel by Indians has surged post-pandemic even as tourist arrivals into India from other countries have lagged behind. As per the Ministry of Tourism data, India saw a record departure of 32.71 million nationals during 2025, a 5.9 per cent growth over the previous year. In 2024, the departure of Indian nationals was recorded at 30.89 million. Except for the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, which saw a sharp dip, Indians have increasingly opted to travel abroad.

Meanwhile, foreign tourist arrivals in India in 2025 were 9.02 million, 9.4 per cent lower than the previous year. Foreign exchange earnings during 2025 stood at Rs 2.74 lakh crore, down 6.6 per cent from the previous year. Tourism plays an important role in the country's GDP and is as well an employment-providing sector. In 2023-24, tourism is estimated to have contributed 5.22 per cent to the country's GDP, while 3.69 crore people were employed directly in tourism, the Ministry data showed.

## AIADMK

functionaries are now aligned with a rebel bloc led by former ministers SP Velumani, C Vijaya-baskar and senior leader C Ve Shanmugham. The group is pushing for the party to formally back the TVK and join the government. EPS, however, remains unwilling to do so. The AIADMK won 47 seats in the Assembly elections.

Sources in the rebel camp said the numbers have already left EPS politically weakened within the party. "He (EPS) may still be AIADMK general secretary officially, but the majority of power centres inside the party are no longer with him," said a senior leader familiar with the negotiations. The dissident faction is now understood to be preparing for a formal break if negotiations fail. Sources said several leaders in the camp believe they could align with TVK within a week.

The crisis gripping the AIADMK came to surface Monday when the party MLAs arrived at the Assembly on the opening day of the new House in separate groups. A larger bloc of AIADMK MLAs is rallying behind Shanmugham, while a smaller group remains with EPS.

Seventeen MLAs have submitted a letter to the Assembly Secretary backing EPS as the AIADMK Legislature Party leader, while around 30 MLAs from the Shanmugham faction have done the same favouring Velumani as their floor leader.

The immediate trigger for the escalation came after the collapse of last week's alleged DMK-AIADMK power-sharing discussions — a development that had briefly united factions within AIADMK. According to sources, the proposed arrangement involved an AIADMK-led coalition government backed by all smaller allies from the DMK and AIADMK alliances, with outside support from the DMK and EPS projected as Chief Minister. But the plan reportedly unravelled after disagreements over leadership and power-shar-

ing formulas.

Sources said Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) leader Thol Thirumavalavan, who considered the idea, objected to EPS becoming CM. When Thirumavalavan's own name was floated in discussions, EPS was unwilling to accept the proposal.

Once the idea collapsed and TVK demonstrated majority support on Saturday, with VCK's promise of support, old fault lines inside AIADMK resurfaced rapidly.

Party insiders said EPS spent Sunday meeting district secretaries in an effort to consolidate control. But even there, the signals were troubling for him. More than half the district secretaries are believed to be leaning toward Velumani, the influential Coimbatore-based leader long considered one of EPS's closest organisational and financial pillars.

"There is now a serious question inside the party about how many people around EPS are actually loyal to him," said a former AIADMK minister. The rebel camp has reportedly placed two demands before EPS: that he step down as general secretary and allow the party to negotiate politically with TVK.

Tensions are also emerging within the dissident bloc itself over succession. Sources said there is no consensus yet on whether Velumani or Shanmugham should eventually take charge of the party if EPS is removed. Even among AIADMK cadres, doubts persist over whether the rebel leadership represents genuine renewal or merely a rearrangement of existing power structures.

"People are asking: if they take over, how different are they from the current leadership?" said a senior functionary from western Tamil Nadu.

Sources in TVK said discussions on cabinet allocation are already underway informally. According to them, one or two births may go to VCK, two to Congress, while AIADMK could receive anywhere between eight and twelve ministries, depending on the number of MLAs eventually joining the coalition.

## Lease terms

would not be appropriate to comment on the merits of the case. We have full faith in the legal process and, in our view, the Supreme Court judgment and the law as it stands, only further substantiate and support our stand. We have full faith in the courts, and in due process of law, and we are confident that our legal standing will be vindicated in due course."

The 7.58-acre property, divided into Sujan Singh Park North and South, was given on perpetual lease to the company on April 26, 1945, the Supreme Court judgment notes. As per the lease, the company was to construct 100 residential flats that were to be used by the government during World War II, after which 50% of the flats were to be retained by the government for a fair rent and the other 50% were to go to the company.

Over the years, the number of units retained by the government dropped to 14 flats, 39 servant quarters and 25 garages. These flats were allotted to senior government officials.

In 1991, the company moved

the Additional Rent Controller, alleging that the government had defaulted on the Rs 2,400 monthly rent, and sought eviction. The government argued that it was not a "landlord-tenant relationship", as per the judgment. The matter went through the Rent Control Tribunal, Delhi High Court, and finally the Supreme Court.

Both the tribunal and the HC ruled in favour of the company in 2007 and 2008 respectively. The government appealed in the Supreme Court, which, on April 22, set aside the High Court's judgment, and quashed the eviction. Since then, MoHUA sources said, the Directorate of Estates, under the ministry, has taken possession of the flats, quarters and garages.

After the then British government decided to move the capital from then Calcutta to Delhi in 1911, Sobha Singh, along with his father Sujan Singh, were the builders who were contracted to construct some of the key projects designed by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker, including Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate. His descendants, including grandson Preminder Singh, continue to run Sir Sobha Singh and Sons today.

## Bihar

bridge to inspect it after the partial collapse, said, "The repair budget that stood at Rs 26 crore before the collapse has now shot up to Rs 75 crore, with 13 new points of cracks being identified."

BRPNNL chairman Chandrashekhar Singh said, "Our primary goal is to repair the bridge and restore traffic even as a parallel internal probe is on to assess the conditions that led to the partial collapse."

"BRO experts and structural specialists from IIT are tasked with the delicate job of stabilising the ageing pillars and slabs. While these emergency repairs are underway, the ultimate solution to the region's transport woes remains on the horizon. A parallel four-lane bridge is under construction and is scheduled to open by December 2026. This new infrastructure is expected to permanently offload traffic from the Vikramshila Setu, finally retiring the burdened bridge from heavy-duty service and preventing a repeat of the current gridlock," Singh said.

A senior RCD official said Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has ordered a safety audit of all major bridges after this partial collapse. "The CM gave the instructions after he conducted an aerial survey of the bridge on May 5," the official said.

After 10 bridge collapse incidents in 2024 itself, the state government took a host of corrective measures, suspending over a dozen engineers for negligence and blacklisting about a half dozen contractors. It implemented a new "Bridge Maintenance Policy" to ensure regular health audits of existing structures, and new SOPs were established for quality management.

## Ex-minister

cash in the bank accounts under his control. He will be produced tomorrow (Tuesday) morning before the Hon'ble Special Court," ED sources said.

Bose, who has been summoned multiple times in connection with the ED probe into the case, had reached the ED office at the CGO Complex in Salt Lake around 10.30 am on Monday, accompanied by his son,

## Chief Secy

Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The move comes days after the government appointed the Election Commission's special observer for West Bengal, Subrata Gupta, as an advisor to Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari. "The Governor is pleased to appoint Shri Manoj Kumar Agarwal, IAS (WB:1990), Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal and ex-officio Additional Chief Secretary, Home and Hill Affairs (Election) Department, Govt. of West Bengal as Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal," read an order dated May 11.

On Monday, Agarwal accompanied Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari in his meetings with administrative officials at the state secretariat, Nabanna. "Unlike Mamata Banerjee, who had subverted the bureaucracy by blatantly flouting the rules governing the IAS by superseding dozens of officers, the BJP Government of West Bengal has appointed the senior-most IAS officer working in the state, Shri Manoj Agarwal, as the Chief Secretary of West Bengal in keeping with its promise to restore the dignity of the laws of the land," the BJP posted on X.

TMC's Leader in the Rajya Sabha, Derek O'Brien, quipped sarcastically that it was a "purely a coincidence". The party's Deputy Leader in the Rajya Sabha, Sagarika Ghose, called it a "brazen proof" of Agarwal having unfairly conducted the elections. "The so-called 'neutral umpire' is rewarded with the post of top bureaucrat of the BJP government in Bengal. Does anyone still seriously believe the elections in the state were free and fair? This is outrageous and brazen," she said.

ments owned by Bose and his son in connection with the case, and investigators claimed that they recovered incriminating documents related to the alleged scam during the searches. According to sources, Bose had received multiple ED notices during the Assembly election period, including one on April 6, the day nomination papers were filed. He had then moved the Calcutta High Court seeking exemption from appearance, citing election campaign commitments.

Samudra.

He had been the Fire and Emergency Services minister in the previous Mamata Banerjee government. In the recent Assembly election, in which the TMC suffered a heavy defeat to the BJP, he lost his Bidhanagar seat. Previously, he has also served as the vice-chairman of the South Dum Dum Municipality.

Bose had earlier appeared before the ED on May 1 for questioning. The agency has previously searched establish-

Referring to the appointments of Agarwal and Gupta, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said, "These appointments reflect the brazen collusion and connivance between ECI and BJP. There is no longer even an attempt to keep the collusion discrete or concealed. An entire state went to the election with 27 lakh people being debarred from voting. This was tactfully executed by the ECI to create an electoral advantage for the BJP."

A former IITian, Agarwal was appointed the West Bengal CEO in March 2025 after the EC rejected the state's first shortlist of candidates and sought a revised panel of three IAS officers who would retire shortly after May 2026. The poll panel wanted a CEO who would retire after overseeing the 2026 Assembly polls and, therefore, could "not be put under any kind of pressure by Bengal's ruling dispensation (the TMC) during the elections", a senior bureaucrat said.

TMC chairperson Mamata Banerjee has criticised Agarwal several times over alleged partisanship. Last month, the TMC lodged a complaint with the EC, accusing Agarwal of bias and "partisan conduct" favouring the BJP. The face-off escalated when senior minister Chandrima Bhattacharya raised a 2009 CBI probe into Agarwal's alleged disproportionate assets in a violation of the Prevention of Corruption Act. However, in 2018, a Delhi court acquitted Agarwal, a decision that the CBI challenged. Agarwal has claimed that the chargesheet "ultimately resulted in an honourable acquittal by the learned Special Judge". — WITH HASAD REHMAN IN NEW DELHI

## Vinesh

attempt to return to the mat at the Open National Ranking tournament in Gonda — the home turf of former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, whom she had accused of sexually harassing her.

"My son has fixed my heart. After being ineligible to compete in the final at the Paris Olympics, I had run out of emotions. But my son has brought back joy into my life. The energy I have discovered to fight against the system is coming from my son," Vinesh told *The Indian Express*.

"I am feeling good about my comeback because I know Kridhah is seeing me. I dream of going to the Olympics and seeing my son cheer for me."

This came two days after she was issued a show-cause notice over a range of charges and barred from competition till June 26. Vinesh said the federation was determined to stop her from participating in this year's Asian Games. "The WFI is a dictatorship. They are afraid that I will win medals again. Basically, the WFI wants to stop me from participating in the Asian Games and they want me to retire," she alleged.

Vinesh, along with husband Somvir and a group of wrestlers, reached the Nandimnagar Mahavidyalaya in Nawabganj, Gonda, past 4 pm for the official verification for the women's freestyle competition. A Congress MLA from Julana, she was accompanied by security personnel. "I told the WFI president (Sanjay Singh) that I got the notice on Friday night and was given 14 days to reply. I have a son to take care of... I gave a short reply because of lack of time... but let me compete now. After 14 days, if you are not satisfied with my reply, you can take action," Vinesh said.

"But the WFI president said, 'No, you have to give a detailed reply and after that we will form a committee after 14-15 days and it will decide'. I told them, 'I hope the committee will meet before the 2028 Olympics,'" she said.

The WFI, meanwhile, issued a statement reiterating that Vinesh was ineligible to participate in the competition in Gonda. Later in the evening, Vinesh posted on X that the International Testing Agency had given her the green signal to compete from January 1, 2026.

## 3 suspects

Thakur, a member of the SIT. They were produced before the Barasat ACJM Court.

The breakthrough came from a series of technical blunders by the perpetrators. The silver hatchback used in the attack carried a fake number plate that carried the same registration as a vehicle registered in Siliguri. As per the investigators, the suspects appeared to have lifted photos from an online sales portal to replicate the registration.

The car crossed West Bengal's Bally toll plaza shortly before the attack — this was captured on CCTV — and one of the occupants attempted a UPI payment that didn't go through. A second suspect then used his own mobile to complete the transaction, an error that allowed investigators to trace bank details and KYC records. This led them to the suspects' phone numbers and eventually their locations.

Following their arrest, one of the accused disclosed the involvement of a third alleged accomplice, Raj Singh, who was apprehended. "In cases of

this nature, we often find that contract killers are hired from different states," a police officer said.

Senior investigators noted striking similarities with the April 1, 2023, murder of Raju Jha, a businessman and BJP leader shot dead by assailants while he and two associates had parked their vehicle at a confectionery shop in West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman. In that case, too, the state police and an SIT tracked suspected professional hitmen across Bihar and Jharkhand over several months. "While the execution suggests high-profile hired killers, there is likely a mastermind. However, the probe is in its infancy, and it is too early to draw definitive conclusions," an officer said.

The families of the three accused have alleged they were being falsely implicated.

Jamwanti Singh, mother of Raj Singh, who hails from Chilkhar block in UP's Ballia district, said her son was innocent and demanded a CBI probe.

Ballia SP Omveer Singh said the district police had not been informed by their West Bengal counterparts about the arrest.

Dust barriers at construction sites a must: Govt tightens control norms

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 11

DELHI HAS mandated the use of high-density dust barriers at construction and demolition (C&D) sites, with at least 100-GSM green nets now compulsory, the Environment Minister's office said on Monday.

The direction, issued by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) with immediate effect, requires all project proponents to install high-density green nets to cover scaffolding, exposed construction zones and stored C&D materials to better contain dust emissions. Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the move is aimed at strengthening on-ground dust control and plugging gaps in compliance. "Delhi is acting at every level to control dust pollution, from strict regulations and scientific planning to stronger compliance and enforcement on the ground," he said.

Officials said construction activity remains a significant contributor to particulate pollution in the city, and the new specification ensures that dust barriers are not merely symbolic but effective in containing PM2.5 and PM10 at source. The order follows directions from the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on dust control norms and inspection protocols for C&D projects.

## SUB-CITIES LIKE NARELA, ROHINI ALSO IN FOCUS

# Hub for data centres, semiconductor plants in Dwarka: LG seeks plan

Devansh Mittal  
New Delhi, May 11

IN A significant move that aims to turn Dwarka, Rohini, Narela and other sub-cities in the Capital into decentralised economic hubs, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is exploring the possibility of attracting industry players linked to semiconductor plants, data centres, warehousing and global capability centres (GCCs), said officials.

Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, who is also the chairman of DDA, at a recent meeting reviewed development initiatives for Dwarka and other sub-cities. He directed officials to draw up a plan and examine the feasibility of attracting non-polluting industries such as IT and IT-enabled services, health-care institutions, digital infrastructure companies and GCCs to these areas.

"Such transformation will not only bring in hitherto absent investment opportunities, which had off late shifted to other cities, but also create employment and generate finances, even as the city developed in a sustainable manner," Sandhu said at the meeting, according to officials.

At the heart of the proposal discussed at the meeting are



LG Taranjit Singh Sandhu

several factors — improved connectivity, availability of land parcels and upcoming infrastructure projects in these areas. For instance, proximity to the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), presence of Yashobhoomi Convention Centre and investment-ready DDA land parcels are factors that favour development on these lines in Dwarka, according to officials.

Last month, the Delhi government announced that it has started drafting a semiconductor policy aimed at positioning the Capital as a hub for chip design, research and advanced packaging.

Sandhu directed DDA to come up with a concrete time-bound plan of action to attract non-polluting industries in consultation with all stakeholders at the earliest, said officials.

The DDA will also examine the possibility of promoting data centres, warehousing and

semiconductor plants, particularly in view of the improved road connectivity in these parts, officials said.

Various developments like operationalisation of the Urban Extension Road-II, extensive network of Metro lines, DDA's new transit-oriented development (TOD) policy, which was unveiled last month, upcoming education hubs and evolution of these sub-cities into major residential areas, have also made these localities fit for being developed as decentralised economic hubs, Sandhu is said to have told the officials.

Officials said the proposal is aimed at strengthening economic activity outside Central Delhi and creating new commercial and institutional clusters in planned urban extensions developed by the DDA.

Sub-cities are planned, self-contained urban extensions developed on the periphery of major cities to reduce congestion and promote mixed land use.

The push for attracting data centres and semiconductor plants comes amid a concerted effort by the Centre to attract such investments to the country. States like Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh have already rolled out SOPs like cheaper land, electricity and water to compete for these industries.

## FOUR MEN DETAINED, SAY POLICE

# 'Clothes torn, hit with bamboo sticks, passersby looked on': Two women allege molestation at Nehru Place

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 11

A USUAL hangout at Nehru Place in South Delhi on Sunday allegedly turned into a nightmare for two women when a group of men molested and assaulted them even as passersby looked on. All four suspects identified have been detained and are being questioned, police said on Monday.

One of the women, who is from Assam, recalling the horror, told *The Indian Express*, "We just had tea at a stall near Eros Hotel and crossed over to get a bottle of water from another stall. Four men came on two bikes. One of them opened his shirt and started passing objectionable comments at us. Then, the others followed."

As she protested, she added, a car arrived at the spot and the driver opened his gate. "The man (in the car) kept looking at my friend. When she asked him to move, he didn't listen. So she started recording him using her phone camera. Then the other men who were passing objectionable comments earlier also came there, and slapped my friend. They also tore her clothes and when she shouted at them, they chased her with a bamboo stick. They molested her and used derogatory terms for us." The other woman is from Bihar.

**As per the FIR, when the women were trying to escape from the area, the accused tried to stop them and threatened them of dire consequences**

Most bystanders, the women claimed, stood around them and were busy recording the incident, instead of trying to stop the alleged assault and abuse. "We had to call the North-East Special Cell of Delhi Police for help," she said. The Delhi Police Special Police Unit for North Eastern Region (SPUNER), formerly known as the Northeast Special Cell, is a dedicated unit designed to ensure the safety and address grievances of people from the Northeast living in Delhi.

The four accused, who have been apprehended, have been identified as Md Fahad (28), Md Savej (28), Mohd Faheem (21), and Md Arif (33), said officers.

According to the Delhi Police, a PCR call regarding the incident was received at Kalkaji police station around 7 am on Sunday. A police team immediately rushed to the spot — a tea stall at the Eros Hotel — and found the two women.

"The victims claimed that when they objected to the slurs, the men continued to make derogatory remarks and verbally abused them. A couple of more men joined the argument," said a senior police officer.

The argument soon turned violent, said police. The women, they said, claimed they were abused, molested, and hit with bamboo sticks when they tried to get away.

Police said the women were taken to AIIMS Hospital, where their medical examination was conducted.

Based on the complaint and preliminary findings, a case was registered at Kalkaji police station under sections 115(2), 74, 126(2), 351(2), 78 and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and investigation was initiated.

During the probe, police said they examined CCTV footage from nearby areas and identified eight witnesses and passersby who were present at the time of the incident. Officials said all eight persons were called for questioning.

As per the FIR, when the women were trying to escape from the area, the accused tried to stop them and threatened them of dire consequences. Mohd. Faheem, one of the accused, works as a cab driver, said DCP (South east) Hemant Tiwari, adding that he was the one in the car who harassed them.

Traffic personnel to send OTPs while imposing on-the-spot fines

Alok Singh  
New Delhi, May 11

THE DELHI Traffic Police have added a procedural layer to the system by which on-the-spot challans are issued to alleged offenders. A one-time password (OTP) will be sent to the number provided by the driver to verify it really belongs to the right recipient.

A senior Traffic Police officer said junk mobile phone numbers in the challan database have become a major problem for the department. It also causes needless anxiety to those who receive the challans based on the junk numbers.

The Delhi Traffic Police receive around 60,000 challan-related updates every day, and traffic personnel issue almost 20,000 challans daily to the correct recipients.

An officer said that when drivers are stopped by traffic personnel over violations, officers ask the driver for their driving licence. But many have not linked their driving licences with their current mobile number. In such cases, some offenders intentionally provide incorrect numbers. Under the new system, traffic personnel will verify the number through an OTP. Then they will not only issue the challan through the OTP-based process but will also update the offender's current mobile number on the government's VAHAN portal.



PRAVEEN KHANNA

## Yamuna cruise set to sail

'NAMO YAMUNA' CRUISE vessel is docked at Sonia Vihar Boat Club on Monday. Services between Wazirabad and Sonia Vihar are likely to begin this month. On April 24, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had said at the Idea Exchange event of *The Indian Express*: "... in May, you will be happy to see the movement of vessels in the Yamuna for the first time."

AIM IS TO PROMOTE TOURISM, Sonowal had said. The vessel can take 40 passengers for an hour-long ride. Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra had said earlier that the cruise will offer a premium experience at an affordable price. Facilities such as food, entertainment, and music will be available on the cruise.

## RWAs, NGOs LIKELY TO RECEIVE UP TO 100% FUNDING

# Govt plans higher financial aid for parks, gardens

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 11

THE DELHI government is considering a substantial increase in the financial assistance for the maintenance and development of parks and gardens across the Capital, with Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), NGOs and registered societies likely to receive up to 100% funding for eligible projects.

"Building a robust and sustainable green network remains a key priority for the government. Long-term upkeep of public spaces is only possible with active community involvement. The proposed measures are designed to empower RWAs and local organisations to take greater responsibility in maintaining neighbourhood parks," Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said.

Acknowledging rising costs and higher labour wages, the government has proposed increasing the annual maintenance assistance from Rs 2.55

lakh per acre to Rs 3.8 lakh per acre. This, officials said, will help ensure better cleanliness, irrigation and preservation of greenery.

At present, financial support for maintenance of parks is provided through the Delhi Parks and Gardens Society under a 90:10 cost-sharing model, where participating organisations contribute 10% of the total cost. Officials said the government is now consider-

ing scrapping this model. The move is aimed at encouraging wider participation from RWAs and smaller organisations that may not have the financial resources to contribute under the existing system.

The proposal also includes a significant increase in one-time assistance for the development of new parks. Officials said the financial support for new parks may be raised from

Rs 1 lakh per acre to Rs 2.9 lakh per acre, particularly to support green spaces in newly developed colonies and densely populated areas where parks are limited.

In addition, the government is considering one-time grants of up to Rs 2.5 lakh per acre for upgrading existing parks. This assistance could be used on facilities like display boards, dustbins and UPVC irrigation pipelines.

**पंजीकरण**  
पीएम श्री केंद्रीय विद्यालय सेक्टर - 4, आर के पुरम नई दिल्ली, से संबंधित विभिन्न सेवाओं, मुद्रण एवं खेल-कूद सामग्री की खरीद आपूर्ति एवं विद्यालय भवन, फर्नीचर एवं सेनेटरी की मरम्मत, सफेदी तथा एमसी कार्यों हेतु पंजीकरण कराने हेतु दिल्ली की इच्छुक फर्म एवं एजेंसियां अपने आवेदन पत्र 14 दिनों के अंतर्गत जी. एस. टी. चैन न. लाइसेंस की कॉपी लगाकर पंजीकरण करवा सकते हैं।  
**प्राचार्य**

**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF RAJASTHAN**  
nirf  
A+ NAAC  
ASIA  
2026  
Advt. No. CURAJ/Tender/F174/2026/5187 Date: 11.05.2026  
**Appointment of PR Agency**  
Sealed quotations are invited from PR AGENCIES to act as Public Relations Agency at Central University of Rajasthan.  
Tender notice and detailed information are available on [www.curaj.ac.in](http://www.curaj.ac.in) and the CPP Portal (<https://eprocure.gov.in>)  
Registrar

**AIR FORCE SCHOOL NARAINA**  
AIR FORCE STATION, NEW DELHI  
(An English Medium Co-Education School)  
RECRUITMENT OF PRT SPORTS (CONTRACTUAL - 01)  
1. Air Force School Naraina, Delhi Cantt invites application against the post of PRT Sports (Contractual - 01)  
2. Eligibility for the posts and other relevant details are available on website of the school [www.racecourseschools.in](http://www.racecourseschools.in). Applicants must be received either by mail ([afsnldelhi@gmail.com](mailto:afsnldelhi@gmail.com)) or drop box at Main Guard Room, Air Force Station, Race Course, New Delhi-03 on or before 20 May, 2026.  
3. Chairman, School Management Committee reserves the right of cancelling the selection process at any stage even after the advertisement without any notice or assigning any reason.  
Chairman  
School Management Committee

**WAPCOS Limited**  
(A Government of India Undertaking)  
ENGAGEMENT OF EXPERIENCED ENGINEERS ON PROJECT TERM BASIS  
WAPCOS Limited invites applications from experienced Engineers for various projects under RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme) for engagement on Project Term Basis for various positions.  
Interested candidates may send their applications in the prescribed format at [rdss@wapcos.co.in](http://rdss@wapcos.co.in) on or before 26.05.2026  
For detailed information regarding qualifications, experience & other terms & conditions, candidates may visit the official website: [www.wapcos.co.in](http://www.wapcos.co.in)  
Any further amendments / updates shall be notified only on the official website.

**EXPRESS Careers**  
Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd.  
(CIN U45203MH2002SGC136979)  
**RECRUITMENT**  
MADC invites applications from eligible candidates for various positions (on contractual basis) in the company.  
For more Details visit [www.madcindia.org](http://www.madcindia.org). Details will be available on the website from 12/05/2026 from 13.00 hours.  
Sd/-  
Vice Chairman and Managing Director

INDIA'S LARGEST CONTAINER PORT  
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT AUTHORITY  
ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT (Personnel Section)  
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 45001:2018, ISO 27001:2013 CERTIFIED  
Advt. No. AJPE/A-12/2026  
JNPA invites applications for the post of Deputy General Manager (P&R) and Deputy General Manager (Finance)  
Name of post No. of posts & Reservations  
Deputy General Manager (P&R) 1 (One): Unreserved  
Pay Scale: 80000 - 220000  
(Pre-revised Scale 32900-58000)  
Deputy General Manager (Finance) 1 (One): Unreserved  
Pay Scale: 80000 - 220000  
(Pre-revised Scale 32900-58000)  
For details, please visit JNPA web-site [www.jnport.gov.in](http://www.jnport.gov.in)  
Deputy General Manager (P&R)/c

**Step Into Travel. Step Into Veena World.**  
At Veena World, a 1200+ strong team makes lakhs of travel dreams come true every year. As our world of guests expands, so does our need for passionate people who believe in human connections, not just transactions. If you speak with warmth, think with clarity and serve with joy, we are ready to welcome you.

**Join Us! We are Growing.**  
If you are ready to be part of a team that loves travel as much as making it seamless for others, explore our career opportunities across departments and locations.  
Openings across existing & upcoming locations  
Delhi | Noida | Gurugram | Chandigarh | Indore  
Kolkata | Siliguri | Malda | Durgapur | Kharagpur | Asansol  
Jaipur | Jodhpur | Udaipur | Kota

Role	Designation	CTC p.a (₹)
Sales Office - Branch Operations	Manager/ Assistant Manager/ Incharge	6L to 10L
Sales - Counter	Sr Consultant/ Consultant	3L to 7L
Visa - Counter	Sr Consultant/ Consultant	3L to 5L
Cashier	Sr Accountant/ Accountant	3L to 5L

Designation and salary range mentioned above are indicative and may vary based on the candidate's experience, skills & suitability for the role.

**How to Apply:**  
Scan the QR code or email your resume to [careers@veenaworld.com](mailto:careers@veenaworld.com)  
For detailed job descriptions, visit the 'careers' page on [www.veenaworld.com](http://www.veenaworld.com)

Scan to apply

**VEENA WORLD**  
Travel. Explore. Celebrate Life.



Bhai Ram Camp is one of the three slum settlements at the site. FILE

## HC nod to eviction of slum dwellers near PM's residence

Geopolitical events, national security cited, says 'not eager to interfere...'

Sohini Ghosh  
New Delhi, May 11

THE DELHI High Court on Monday gave a nod to civic authorities to evict slum dwellers near the Prime Minister's residence on Race Course Road in Delhi while directing that they be provided education, travel, water and sanitation facilities at Savda Ghevra — the resettlement colony, about 45 km away — where they are being rehabilitated. The bench of Justice Purushendra Kaurav gave two weeks to slum dwellers to vacate the area.

Earlier, the Centre had told the court that the eviction is necessary as "the location of the present camps is adjoining military installations" and strengthening of defence infrastructure is required.

In an apparent reference to the ongoing Iran-US war, it had told the court in March, "... In the current global security situation, which involves increased threats and the risk of conflict or war-like conditions, the presence of unauthorised structures in this sensitive area creates serious risks to national security, public safety, and the protection of vital installations."

Even as the HC noted that it is imperative for the authorities to "ensure minimal impact of the rehabilitation on the lives of the persons who are rehabilitated", Justice Kaurav held that the slum dwellers are "unauthorised occupants" of the land where the camps are situated.

The HC also observed,

"...Considering contemporary geopolitical events, national security concerns of the respondents satisfy as specific reasons for eviction of the petitioners. The Court ought not to be too eager to interfere with such executive policy decisions."

According to the Centre, 192 of the over 700 dwellers had accepted allotment letters for rehabilitation at Savda Ghevra. Of these, 136 have already taken possession of the flats.

In October 2025, and then in February this year, the Land and Development Office under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs had issued notices to residents of Bhai Ram Camp, Masjid Camp, and DID Camp on Race Course Road, situated adjacent to the Delhi Race Club and Jaipur Polo Ground, to vacate the premises or face legal action.

A petition moved in February by over 300 residents of the Bhai Ram camp, and another petition filed last year by residents of the other two camps, sought quashing of the eviction notice or allotment of alternative accommodation at a "nearby place".

The slum dwellers had flagged that basic amenities were lacking at the proposed site and the alternative accommodation being provided, comprises "poor construction" and is in "extremely poor condition".

Some of them refused to accept the allotment letters or refused to take possession of the flats being allotted by Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB).

The slum dwellers, many of whom work as drivers, or domestic help in the vicinity of the camps, had highlighted before the HC that as per the applicable policy, rehabilitation ought to be in-situ and only in exceptional circumstances, it may be beyond a 5-km radius of the present camps.

## DELHI SCHOOL RAPE CASE

# Grave safety lapses flagged, govt warns of strict action

Sophiya Mathew  
New Delhi, May 11

DAYS AFTER a child was allegedly raped at a private school in Capital, the Delhi government's Directorate of Education (DoE) flagged "grave lapses" in child safety in a show-cause notice issued to the institution. The DoE pointed to gaps in CCTV surveillance, the pre-primary classes being run from unauthorised premises, and alleged failure in implementing child safety safeguards.

The child had been allegedly raped by a caretaker who was granted bail by a court on May 7. Police said an FIR was lodged on May 1 after the girl's mother filed a complaint alleging her daughter was sexually assaulted during school hours by an unknown male staff member.

In the notice issued on May 8, the Directorate said the alleged incident "reflects grave lapses on the part of the school administration, supervisory staff and management in discharging their statutory and moral responsibilities towards protection of children".

It flagged several issues, including "unauthorised use of premises not covered under the recognition granted to the school," violation of DDA land allotment conditions, non-compliance with structural stability, fire safety and health-related norms, and operating educational activities from an unrecognised or unapproved prem-

### DoE's Minimum Standards for School Safety

- School Safety Committee mandatory in all schools
- Police verification of all staff
- Monthly safety walks to identify loopholes in security in the premises
- Securing boundary walls with grills, CCTV surveillance
- Register maintained for all visitor entries
- Prior written consent from parents for allowing children to stayback post school hours
- Record of student entry and exit beyond school hours is maintained
- Upto Class 2, children are dispersed by school staff only
- All toilets for primary classes have female staff for cleaning/maintenance and no male staff is deployed there
- Duly certified building plan and structural stability certificate from a govt certified agency
- CONSTRUCTION IN SCHOOL: Labourer's/Contractor's access to the school area is restricted

ises. The notice, issued by the Deputy Director of Education of the district concerned, underlined that a preliminary inquiry revealed shortcomings in the school's surveillance and monitoring systems.

The department has also alleged that the school administration had failed to put in place "proper safeguards, monitoring mechanisms, and preventive measures for protection of children studying in the school."

The Department said several complaints and sensitive issues related to the school's administration, safety and functioning had reportedly continued for a considerable period without adequate corrective steps being taken by the management.

According to the Directorate, these acts and omissions prima facie constitute serious viol-

ations of the Delhi School Education Act and Rules.

Apart from the alleged assault, the Directorate also raised concerns over the functioning of nursery and pre-primary classes from a separate private premises other than the land allotted/leased to the school by the Delhi Development Authority for the purpose of running the recognised school."

It further said the said premises is located approximately 1 km away from the main campus and that students were allegedly being shifted and accommodated there "without any approval/permission from the competent authority". The department has directed the school management to submit a complete incident report along with a timeline of events, details of staff on duty at the rel-

## Delhi Police to challenge bail to suspect in HC

New Delhi: The Delhi Police is set to file an appeal in the High Court to challenge the bail granted to the accused last week, officers said on Monday.

Officers privy to the investigation said the case has been registered under Section 6 of POCSO, which calls for rigorous punishment and highlights the gravity of the case. On challenge to the bail, a source said, "The gravity of the offence is also a reason. Moreover, the family of the girl has no ulterior motive."

ENS

evant time, child safety policy and compliance records, CCTV installation details and surveillance records, and a copy of the FIR or police complaint.

The school has also been asked to submit details of action proposed against responsible persons and measures planned to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The notice warned that recognition may be withdrawn or management taken over under the provisions of the Delhi School Education Act and Rules, 1973, if a reply is not submitted. The Directorate has also warned that it may recommend to the DDA to cancel the school's lease or land allotment.



## CUET (UG) 2026 begins

Applicants for the Common University Entrance Test (UG) at an examination centre on Mathura Road on Monday, the first day of the entrance exams conducted by the National Testing Agency for admission to UG courses in Central universities across India. TASHI TOBGYAL

## Skywatch



Forecast: May 12, 2026

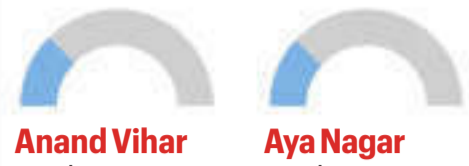
Cloudy sky. Very light to light rain with thunderstorm, lightning

MAX: 34-36  
3.5°C below normal

MIN: 26-28  
1.4°C above normal

- Sunrise: 5:32 AM (May 13)
- Sunset: 7:03 PM (May 12)
- Moonrise: 2:48 AM (May 13)
- Moonset: 2:21 PM (May 12)

## AQI Tracker



Anand Vihar Moderate AQI: 152

Aya Nagar Moderate AQI: 123



ITO Moderate AQI: 102

Shadipur Moderate AQI: 129

- Good (0-50)
- Satisfactory (51-100)
- Moderate (101-200)
- Poor (201-300)
- Very Poor (301-400)
- Severe (401-500)

## Rain, thunderstorms likely as IMD issues yellow alert for today

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 11

A YELLOW alert has been issued for Delhi on Tuesday with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting rain with thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds through the day.

According to the IMD, the Capital is likely to witness a generally cloudy sky with spells of very light to light rain accompanied by thunderstorms or lightning and strong winds of up to 60 kmph in the morning on Tuesday.

Another spell of rain with winds reaching up to 50 kmph is expected later in the afternoon or evening.

The yellow alert comes even as Delhi has recorded two rainy days so far in May, with 11.61 mm of rainfall logged.

Temperatures have also remained relatively moderate, with the maximum settling at 37.5°C — around two degrees below normal — while the minimum stood at 27.1°C, slightly above normal.

According to the weather department, the Safdarjung station, considered the official marker for the capital, recorded

a maximum of 37.5 degrees Celsius, two degrees Celsius below normal. Delhi witnessed a stable heat curve and no rainfall activity during the day. The weather office recorded zero rainfall in the 24 hours ending 8.30 am, as well as in the subsequent nine-hour period till 5.30 pm on Monday.

According to IMD officials, the current conditions are influenced by a western disturbance seen as an upper air cyclonic circulation over north Pakistan, along with another circulation over west Rajasthan.

A fresh western disturbance is likely to affect northwest India from May 15.

The IMD has also forecast a slight dip of 1-2°C in maximum temperatures over the next three days, with a gradual rise thereafter. Meanwhile, partly cloudy skies are expected to persist in the city till Thursday.

According to data from the pollution watchdog—Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)—Delhi's 24-hour average air quality was recorded in the 'moderate' category with an average air quality index (AQI) being clocked at 131.

(WITH PTI INPUTS)

## BRIEFLY

### Reward to MCG plumbers who report violation

PLUMBERS LICENSED with the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) will get a reward of Rs 1,000 for every illegal or unauthorised water connection they bring to the attention of the civic body, the MCG House has decided. At a general sitting on Monday, the House passed this agenda point, which officials said was necessary to ensure safe and billed water supply across the city. The proposal read: "... An incentive may be given to plumbers for reporting illegal/unauthorised connections post verification by MCG, @1000/ connection to ensure illegal connections are tapped and converted." Section 214(5) of the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994, says that "The Corporation may, from time to time, prescribe the charges to be paid to licensed plumbers for any work done by them under or for any of the purposes of this Chapter," the proposal noted.

### New 13-km Metro corridor for East Delhi

A NEW corridor connecting Shastri Park to Mayur Vihar Phase III is expected to improve travel across densely populated residential and commercial areas in the trans-Yamuna region. The new corridor was announced by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta earlier this month during DMRC's 32nd Foundation Day event. It is among seven new metro corridors approved under Phase V (B) by the government, which together will add 97.158 km and 65 stations to the Delhi Metro network at an estimated cost of Rs 48,204.56 crore. The proposed Shastri Park-Mayur Vihar Phase III corridor will span 13.197 km and include eight stations. As per details shared by the Delhi government, the East Delhi corridor will consist of both underground and elevated stretches. The line will function as an independent corridor and is expected to connect areas such as Geeta Colony and Gandhi Nagar market. ENS

## 600 duped of Rs 99 cr via fake trading app: Techie among 3 held

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 11

IN 2023, WHEN Ravi Rathore, a software engineer, was working at an MNC with a salary of Rs 30 lakh per annum, he was allegedly approached by a man named Sudama, a cricket coach who knew one of his family members. He allegedly asked Rathore if he could develop an 'algo-trading' platform for him.

Three years after that meeting, Rathore, Sudama and a call center operator, Vikas Rathod, have been arrested by the Delhi Police for allegedly scamming over 600 people into investing more than Rs 90 crore into their fraudulent trading platform, of-

ficers said on Monday. Over the last two years, the men allegedly scammed people by promising that their software could generate consistent returns from the stock market, police said.

An 'algo-trading' app is different from other fintech apps in a way that it uses pre-set algorithms to determine patterns in the markets. The patterns determine price fluctuation, market sentiment and volume of the trade and the sell and buy stocks, cryptos and forex in bulk.

The fraud came to light after a resident of Paharganj in Central Delhi filed a complaint on the cyber crime portal alleging he had been scammed through



The accused in police custody.

a fake trading app, police said. Looking to make quick gains in the stock market, the complainant was recently added to a WhatsApp group operated by the accused, which guaranteed

profits with 'zero risk'. The callers introduced themselves as representatives of an "Algo-Trading" company, police said.

"Soon after, the man was persuaded to download 'Trade-maker' through a Google Play Store link. The app looked professional, displayed live trading dashboards, and even showed daily profits accumulating in his account. Encouraged by the apparent gains, he began depositing money through QR codes generated within the application," said DCP (Central) Rohit Rajbir Singh.

Officers said that initially, the amounts were small — around Rs 10,000 transferred through multiple PhonePe

transactions. But every time he attempted to withdraw the profits displayed on the app, fresh deposits were demanded under various pretexts such as "processing charges", "tax clearance", and "account activation". Suspicious of the repeated demands, the complainant reported the matter on Cyber Helpline 1930.

As the money flowed in, it was allegedly routed through a network of mule bank accounts and distributed among different handlers involved in the operation, police said.

The first breakthrough in the case came in Bengaluru, where a police team traced and arrested 31-year-old Rathore on

May 3. Investigators say Rathore was the technical brain behind the operation.

According to the police, Rathore developed and maintained both the fake mobile application and the fraudulent investment website. The other two men were arrested on May 5 from Madhya Pradesh. Investigators identified nearly 636 victim accounts and over 14,232 transactions amounting to approximately Rs 99.77 crore routed through the platform. "Sudama wanted to buy a cricket team in Madhya Pradesh. He also ended up buying a stake in 'Sawariya Kings Khandwa', a tennis cricket league in MP," said an officer.

## THIS IS INDIA'S SECOND MULTI-LANE FREE FLOW BARRIER-LESS TOLLING SYSTEM

# 'Continue driving...': Delhi gets its first barrier-free toll plaza on UER-II

Dheeraj Mishra  
New Delhi, May 11

ON MONDAY, all 24 boom barriers at Mundka-Bakrawala toll plaza on Urban Extension Road (UER)-II went up. The fare displays, line cameras, signal light and FASTag readers were turned off. A rectangular structure mounted on each lane gantry with three high-tech cameras and high-performance FASTag readers went live instead.

A new board read: "Continue driving". Replacing the old system with a new one, thus, also marked the beginning of Delhi-NCR's first and India's second Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF)

barrier-less tolling system.

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the system at Mundka Monday. This is a major milestone in the electronic toll collection infrastructure of India, which was started in 2014, replacing the manual tolling system.

Now, vehicles will not have to stop at the toll plaza for user fee or toll payment. The toll amount will be deducted with the help of high-performance Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) readers and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras mounted over the gantry. The RFID and ANPR cameras work and read FASTag

and Vehicle registration Number (VRN) even when vehicles being driven at a speed of 80-100 kmph cross the gate.

UER-II, officially called NH-344M, is a 75.7-km-long six-lane highway, which starts from Mahipalpur and ends at Alipur.

Commuters crossing the toll gate on Monday morning were surprised and ended up stopping hesitantly even as boom barriers were up. Meanwhile, at lane number 14, toll supervisor Vikas Shukla continuously waved hand, asking drivers not to stop. "Aage badhiye, toll apne aap hi kat jaayega (Move ahead, the toll will be deducted automatically)," Shukla was heard saying. He said the new system



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the system at Mundka.

is expected to end fights reported at the toll gate.

"The work at a toll booth is very difficult. People say all

kinds of things to you. Even when they are at fault. Everyday, there was something or the other," said Puneet Mishra,

another employee at the plaza.

The MLFF system will reduce the operational cost since it will require limited human intervention. "Of course, this is a good thing. Our only hope is that we do not lose our jobs," said Mishra.

Gadkari said that the barrier-free tolling system will help in increasing toll collection. "The operational cost of running a toll gate is around 15% of its collection. With the new system, this will reduce to around 4%. Besides, it will prevent leakages and add to user fees. People used to complain that they have to wait at toll gates, sometimes for even an hour — leading to more fuel consumption. The

MLFF system will not only save commuters' time, but fuel too," said Gadkari after the inauguration.

According to the Economic Survey 2025-26, the MLFF is projected to be implemented across national highways and expressways with four or more lanes, by March 2029.

On May 1, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) operationalised India's first MLFF barrier-less tolling system at Choryasi toll plaza on the Surat-Bharuch section on NH-48 in Gujarat.

Before this, the government took a series of decisions to create a platform to back the MLFF rollout. This was done to create

a robust system so that the people do not find loopholes to avoid toll charges as MLFF has minimum human intervention. One of these measures was issuance of e-notice in case of unpaid user fees. In case of insufficient FASTag balance, invalid or non-functional FASTag, users will be issued e-notice for non-payment of fee, following which commuters are required to make the payment within 72 hours — failing which double the amount will be charged.

NHAI Chairman Santosh Kumar Yadav said that since the operationalisation of MLFF at Choryasi, around 50% of payment was made within 72 hour of the e-notices.



WHO'LL BE KERALA CM?

## Unable to break deadlock, Congress to meet again today

Manoj CG  
New Delhi, May 11

**No politics in PM's comment, clarifies Revanth day after Modi's 'join me' remark**

Nikhila Henry  
Hyderabad, May 11

ADAY after Prime Minister Narendra Modi jokingly asked Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to "join" him, the latter has said that there was no hint of "politics" in the exchange.

"This was not a political invitation, but one which went beyond politics. We were both speaking about the development of the country and Telangana... As the Prime Minister of the country, PM Modi asked me, in my capacity as Chief Minister of Telangana, to join him in development work. Any other interpretation is not warranted," CM Reddy said, while interacting with media persons.

On Sunday, during an event attended by both leaders in Hyderabad, Modi addressed Reddy during his speech and said: "Whatever the central government (under former prime minister Manmohan Singh) gave Gujarat in 10 years (when Modi was Gujarat CM), I am also ready to give you... But the state will then be left with half of what it is securing from the Centre now, and you will not be able to achieve your goals. That's why it is better you join me."

Modi was referring to a request made by Reddy in the latter's speech earlier that the Modi government should support Telangana like the Manmohan Singh government supported Gujarat.

Reddy pointed out that the event in which the exchange took place was one in which Modi was inaugurating several development projects in Telangana upon the request of the Telangana CM's Office. "This was not a political event," Reddy clarified, adding that he would like a "good relationship between the Centre and the state, as far as development goes". The exchange was merely about development and not about politics, he stressed.

UNABLE TO resolve the tussle over who will be the Chief Minister of Kerala, a week after the Assembly election results were announced, the Congress high command has summoned former state Congress presidents, some senior leaders, and working presidents of the state unit to Delhi for a meeting on Tuesday. The attempt seems to be to dress up the decision as a collective one to ensure that blame does not land at the leadership's doorstep.

With V D Satheesan, who was the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the previous Assembly, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, and former state Congress chief Ramesh Chennithala refusing to give up their claim for the post, the high command has found itself in a fix, especially since Venugopal, who is not an MLA and is part of the central leadership, is the choice of a majority of newly elected MLAs and MPs.

The AICC general secretary in charge of Kerala, Deepa Dasgupta, has telephoned many of the former state Congress presidents — among them, Mullanpally Ramachandran, V M Sudheeran and K Muraleedharan — senior leader Thiruvanchoor



VD Satheesan, Ramesh Chennithala and KC Venugopal with other Congress leaders in New Delhi last week. GAJENDRA YADAV/FILK

Radhakrishnan, and working presidents Shafi Parambil, P C Vishnunath and A P Anil Kumar, asking them to reach Delhi for consultations. Ramachandran has expressed his inability to travel to Delhi. He was told that Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi would speak to him to know his mind. The Congress leadership has also reached out to veteran leader and former Chief Minister A K Antony.

Source said Congress parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi would also be consulted before a final decision is taken. The decision to go for wider consultations came on Monday after the central party leadership failed to arrive at a consensus candidate, even after

three hours of intense discussions with Satheesan, Venugopal, and Chennithala, besides state party chief Sunny Joseph, on Saturday.

With a factional show of strength in favour and against the three contenders spilling onto the streets, the high command decided to buy time while asking the three to issue a joint appeal against street protests. After the joint appeal, the protests and flex board politics have more or less stopped, which signals that they were not organic and were being done with the blessings of the leaders, according to party insiders. Those favouring Satheesan had argued that the public sentiment was behind him.

With Venugopal, who is considered close to Rahul Gandhi, emerging as the preferred choice of the MLAs, a section of the AICC leaders believes that the Gandhi family as an impartial arbiter could be at stake. AICC leaders say Venugopal is still the frontrunner for the CM post, given the support he has among the legislators. In the recent past, the Congress high command has largely gone by the views of the MLAs in selecting CMs.

The leadership departed from that tradition in Punjab in 2021 when it picked Charanjit Singh Channi as CM after the resignation of Captain Amarinder Singh though Sunil Jhakar, not an MLA at the time, secured the support of a majority of the MLAs. In Channi, Punjab got its first Dalit CM.

"If the AICC picks Venugopal, there will surely be a murmur that a non-MLA was selected because he is close to Rahul Gandhi. The argument will be that Congress could have rewarded Satheesan, who led the fight, or gone by seniority. If the AICC goes with Satheesan, the question of support of MLAs would come up... It is better to go for wider consultations involving everyone so that a consensus formula, which is acceptable to all, emerges, and Rahul and the high command alone are not blamed," said a senior leader.

## Opp slams timing of Modi's austerity appeal to people: 'A proof of his failure'

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 11

ADAY after Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed for collective participation of the people to help the country face global disruptions and challenges, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Monday said running the country is "no longer within the reach of a compromised PM" and that it was a step to "escape accountability" by the government. Other Opposition parties, including the Trinamool Congress and the Samajwadi Party, also questioned the timing of the appeal by the PM, linking it to the recently concluded state elections.

Gandhi said the PM has demanded sacrifices from the public — "don't buy gold, don't go abroad, use less petrol, cut down on fertilizers and cooking oil, use the Metro to commute and work from home".

"These aren't sermons, these are proofs of failure. In 12 years, he's brought the country to such a pass that the public has to be told what to buy, what not to buy, where to go, where not to go," Gandhi said in a post on X. "Every time, they shift the responsibility onto the people so they can escape accountability themselves. Running the country is no longer within the reach of a compromised PM."

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said at a time when people are struggling under the weight of adversity, the PM is busy lecturing the country on the virtues of savings. "When the conflict in West Asia erupted on February 28, the Congress party highlighted every critical aspect of the crisis — the devastation of the economy; the continuous depreciation of Rupee; soaring prices and shortages of petrol, diesel and LPG; scarcity of fertilizers for farmers; the looming threat to food security; the rising cost of medicines; the crisis facing MSMEs; and much more," Kharge said.



Congress's Rahul Gandhi termed it a step to 'escape accountability'; SP's Akhilesh Yadav asked how India would become a \$5 trillion economy with such curbs

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav echoed Gandhi. He said the Prime Minister's appeals are an "admission of failure". "As soon as elections are over, the government suddenly remembers the 'crisis'. In reality, there is only one crisis for the country and its name is BJP," he said in a post on X. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister questioned how India would become a \$5 trillion economy if the Centre was forced to impose curbs.

TMC Deputy Leader in Rajya Sabha Sagarika Ghose told The Indian Express that the PM's and BJP's "hypocrisy isn't hidden anymore". "When elections were on, the BJP used helicopters, did roadshows, and ran mega campaigns. Now that votes are counted, the PM on the eve of a five-nation luxury tour instructs citizens to stop going abroad for vacations," she said.

AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh said the PM himself should "stop doing roadshows, holding public rallies and going on foreign trips to save fuel".

## 'J&K statehood not possible in a single meeting': Omar before talks with Shah

Naveed Iqbal  
Srinagar, May 11

JAMMU AND Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi. Before leaving for the meeting, the chief minister said that issues concerning J&K such as the delay in approval of business rules, rationalisation of reservation, and the appointment of advocate general, were among the key concerns he would bring up with the Home Minister.

Regarding the possibility of a discussion on restoration of statehood of Jammu and Kashmir, which was declared a Union Territory in 2019, Omar said, "If it was possible in one meeting, we would have achieved that by now."

The approval of the Transaction of Business Rules — which clarify the role, responsibilities and powers of the chief minister, cabinet ministers and officers in J&K vis-a-vis the Lieutenant Governor — has been pending in the UT since Omar took over as the chief minister. These rules are essential for ensuring the smooth functioning of the UT government with dual structures of power. The rules, as per government sources, had been finalised last year but are yet to be officially notified.

With regard to a recent order by the Centre granting the control of telecom to the LG's office, Omar said, "This should be under his (LG Manoj Sinha's) control in any case... This is in accordance with the J&K Reorganisation Act..."



Union Home Minister Amit Shah meets J&K CM Omar Abdullah, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

## VB-G RAM G to replace MGNREGA on July 1

Harikishan Sharma  
New Delhi, May 11

THE VIKSIT Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB—GRAM G Act 2025, which aims to repeal the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005 and provides for a new rural job guarantee programme, will become effective on July 1, 2026.

The Union Ministry of Rural Development issued a notification to this effect on Monday. The more than two-decade-old MGNREGA, enacted by the UPA government, will thus cease to exist from July 1.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin):

VB—GRAM G...Act, 2025 (36 of 2025), the Central Government hereby appoints the 1st day of July, 2026 as the date on and from which the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (42 of 2005) together with all rules, notifications, schemes, orders and guidelines made thereunder, shall stand repealed," states a notification issued by Rohini R Bhajibhakare, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development.

Meanwhile, the Congress called the notification another

"lazy headline-grabbing exercise", adding the "only guarantee" that the legislation offers is that of "extreme centralisation and weakening of the bargaining power of rural labour". In a statement on Monday, Congress communication in charge and MP Jairam Ramesh said, "It is yet another lazy headline-grabbing exercise by a Govt that specialises in such exercises. No details have been revealed except to say that they will be released soon. If this replacement for MGNREGA is to be implemented from July 1,

2026, then all operational details should have been available by now."

The government enacted the VB-G RAM G Act 2025 in December last year. VB-G RAM G aims to provide a statutory guarantee of 125 days of wage employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work, with the "objective to promote empowerment, growth, convergence and saturation for a prosperous and resilient rural Bharat".

**भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान**  
**Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology**  
(वि. अ. अधिनियम अधिनियम 1956 को धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय चर्चित)  
(Declared as Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)  
भारत सरकार, अंतरिक्ष विभाग के तहत स्वायत्त संस्थान  
(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Space, Govt. of India)  
संस्थान, तिरुवनंतपुरम 695 547, केरल / Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram 695 547, Kerala

**शैक्षिक वर्ष 2026 - 2027 के लिए स्नातकोत्तर कार्यक्रमों में प्रवेश**  
**ADMISSION TO PG PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 - 27**

**केवल ऑनलाइन आवेदन ही स्वीकार किया जाएगा**  
**Online Application only will be accepted**

आईआईएसटी में स्नातकोत्तर कार्यक्रमों में प्रवेश दो तरीकों से होगा  
**Admission to PG programmes in IIST will be through two modes**

(क) मशीन लर्निंग एवं कंप्यूटिंग में एम.टेक: आईआईएसटी वेब पोर्टल के द्वारा  
**(A) M.Tech in Machine Learning and Computing:**  
 through IIST webportal <https://admission.iist.ac.in/>  
 आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि / Last date to apply: 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026

(ख) सभी अन्य शाखाएं : सी सी एम टी - 2026 के द्वारा  
**(B) All other branches: through CCMT - 2026.**

कृपया वेबसाइट देखिए / Please visit <https://ccmt.admissions.nic.in/>  
 जानकारी के लिए / For Queries: [admissions@iist.ac.in](mailto:admissions@iist.ac.in)  
 संपर्क सूत्र / Contact 0471-2568477/ 618 (on working days 0900 - 1700 hrs)

डीन (शैक्षणिक) / Dean (Academics)

**DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI 110006**

**MISSING CHILDREN**

Sl. No.	Description	Photograph
1	<b>Name:</b> Nandani, <b>Father's Name:</b> Surender, <b>Mother's Name:</b> Rajni <b>Age:</b> 16years 8 month 29 days, <b>Complexion:</b> Wheatish, <b>Gender:</b> Female, <b>DD no:</b> 0098A, <b>P.S:</b> Fatehpur Bendi. Nandani's mother Rajni known to be passed away when she was very young. As her father was unwell, he placed her in Ram Rajya Foundation, Ghaziabad, in June 2015. After some time, her father Surender also known to be passed away due to illness. Nandani continued living in the orphanage until June 2020, after which she was transferred to Udayan Care Home, Ghaziabad. She remained there until April 2023. On 26th April 2023, she was transferred to Raha Home for Girls by the order of Child Welfare Committee-II, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.	
2	<b>Name:</b> Simran, <b>Father's Name:</b> Unknown, <b>Mother's Name:</b> Sarita, <b>Age:</b> 15years 00 month 30 days, <b>Complexion:</b> Wheatish, <b>Gender:</b> Female, <b>DD no:</b> 0056A, <b>P.S:</b> Fatehpur Bendi. Simran's mother was abandoned by her husband when she was ill, and it is unknown whether she is dead or alive as he was an alcoholic. Simran's mother passed away when Simran was very young. Simran and her sister Pari were staying with their great-grandmother, Ram Kumari. However, Ram Kumari was unable to take care of the children, so they were placed in different shelter homes. On 28th May 2014, Simran was placed in Raha Home for Girls by the order of the Child Welfare Committee-II, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.	
<b>Note:</b> Parents/Guardian/Relatives of above mentioned children (Sr. no. 1,2) may contact at address/phone number given below:-		
1.	Raha Home for Girls, Mustil no.25, Killa no.21, Jonapur New Delhi 110047 Ph.no. 9811590244/7838165854, email-rafahome2014@gmail.com.	
2.	Office of the District Child Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit-III, Block No. H, Kurir No-5, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024, Ph. No. 011-29825411 Email-depu3southdelhi@gmail.com	
3	<b>Name:</b> Unknown, <b>Pari</b> (Name given by illegal custodian), <b>Age:</b> 2 years, <b>Complexion:</b> Wheatish, <b>Gender:</b> Female, Child was rescued from illegal custody from Agra U.P. by PS Saket, Delhi. On 23.02.2026, Child was produced before the Child Welfare Committee, Kalkaji and by their order placed in the Welfare Home for Children for care and protection.	
4	<b>Name:</b> Unknown, <b>Kanchi</b> (Name given by illegal custodian), <b>Age:</b> 2 years, <b>Complexion:</b> Wheatish, <b>Gender:</b> Female, Child was rescued from illegal custody from Agra U.P. by PS Saket, Delhi. On 23.02.2026, Child was produced before the Child Welfare Committee, Kalkaji and by their order placed in the Welfare Home for Children for care and protection.	
<b>Note:</b> Parents/Guardians/Relatives of above mentioned children (Sr. no. 3,4) may contact at address/phone number given below:-		
1.	<b>Welfare Home for Children</b> , I-B, Institutional Area, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110044, Contact no.: 8860835349/ 011-26954150/269747023, email: welfare2007@gmail.com.	
2.	<b>District Child Protection Unit-VIII (South-East)</b> , Kasturba Niketan Complex, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024, Ph. No.: 011-20887340 email: depusoutheast00@gmail.com	
5	Child <b>Priya</b> (name given by CWC), aged about 2 months, wheatish in complexion, was found abandoned on 04/01/2026, at DDA Flat Park, Near Mata Mansa Devi Apartment, Narela, Delhi. She was covered with a pink shawl. On 05/01/2026, the child was produced by the Police before CWC X, Alipur and on the same day placed in SAA-Holy Cross Social Service Centre, Dheerpur, Delhi for care and protection. FIR No. 0009, dated 04/01/2026, P.S Narela, Outer North Delhi	
6	As per the records, child <b>Pari (Sibling-1)</b> , D/o late Raju, aged about four years, complexion wheatish, has no father and her mother abandoned her and her brother Shivam (Sibling-2). Since she and her brother had no one to take care of them, they were living with their neighbor at Prahlad Vihar, Rohini, Sector 25, Delhi. She was produced before CWC X, Alipur, on 23/12/2025 by Alipur Child Helpline staff and on the same day placed in SAA Holy Cross Social Service Centre, Dheerpur, Delhi for care and protection. GD No. 0128A, Dated - 24/12/2025, P.S Shahbad Diary, Outer North, Delhi.	
7	As per the records, Name of child <b>Shivam (Sibling-2)</b> , S/o late Raju, aged about three years, complexion wheatish, has no father and his mother abandoned him and his sister Pari (Sibling-1). Since he and his sister had no one to take care of them, they were living with their neighbor at Prahlad Vihar, Rohini, Sector 25, Delhi. He was produced before CWC X, Alipur, on 23/12/2025 by Alipur Child Helpline staff and on the same day placed in SAA Holy Cross Social Service Centre, Dheerpur, Delhi for care and protection. GD No. 0128A, Dated - 24/12/2025, P.S Shahbad Diary, Outer North, Delhi.	
<b>Note:</b> Parents/Guardians/Relatives of above-mentioned children (Sr. no. 5,6,7) may contact at address/phone numbers given below:-		
1.	Secretary, Holy Cross Social Service Centre, Near Nirankari Park, Tara Chowk, Dheerpur, Delhi-110009/Contact Nos. 9711464755 & 8130915367; Email Id: hesscdelhi@gmail.com	
2.	DCPU- Unit VI, CHB-II, Alipur, North Delhi-110036, Phone no. 011-27708338 / email Id: depuialipur@gmail.com	
8	<b>Name:</b> Pratham, <b>Gender:</b> Male, <b>Age:</b> 2 year approx., <b>Face:</b> square, <b>Height:</b> 76cm, <b>Weight:</b> 9 kg, <b>Eyes:</b> Black, <b>Hair:</b> small, <b>Complexion:</b> wheatish, <b>Body built:</b> Normal. Child was found in near Janakpuri west metro station Gali No. 2, Krishna Park Delhi 26/04/2025 GD No. 0077A is lodged in Vikashpuri Police Station, as abandoned on dated 26/04/2025. The child has been kept in Sewa Bharti Matrichhaya, Unit -2, B/2, Mianwali Nagar, New Delhi -87 for Care and Protection by the order of CWC-VII dated 28/04/2025. (Nirmal Chhaya), West, Hari Nagar, New Delhi.-110064	
<b>Note:</b> Parents/Guardians/Relatives of above mentioned child (Sr. no. 8) may contact at address/phone numbers given below:-		
1.	Org Secretary, Sewa Bharti Matrichhaya, Unit-2, Shri Daulat Ram Ahuja Kendra, B-2/2, Mianwali Nagar, New Delhi-87, Contact No. 011-45088544/8826055800	
2.	DCPO, District Child protection Unit- IX (Distt South West) Nirmal Chhaya Complex, Hari Nagar, New Delhi contact No 011-28522407	

Sd/-  
Director

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0047/26-27

Department of Women & Child Development

Please give information to CHILDLINE 1098 about Children who need care and protection.

**Central Power Research Institute**  
 (A Govt. of India Society, Ministry of Power)  
 Bangalore-560 080

**ADVERTISEMENT NO. CPRI/04/2026**

CPRI invites applications for one (1) Project Manager on purely temporary basis.. Interested candidates may refer website <https://cpri.res.in/> for details regarding eligibility criteria, educational qualification etc.

CBC-34104/11/0001/2627 Chief Administrative Officer

**DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar,  
 New Delhi-110017. Telefax: 41080416, 41080417

**ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANT (ELECTRICAL-ENGG.) & (TARIFF-ENGG.), CONSULTANT (CIVIL-ENGG.), CONSULTANT (TARIFF-FINANCE), CONSULTANT (HR) AND CONSULTANT (LAW) IN DERC.**

DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION invites applications for Engagement of following Consultants: -

Sl. No.	Consultant (Electrical Engineering) & (Tariff- Engineering)	Number of post(s)
1.	Consultant (Electrical Engineering) & (Tariff- Engineering)	03
2.	Consultant (Civil Engineering)	01
3.	Consultant (Tariff-Finance)	03
4.	Consultant (HR)	01
5.	Consultant (Law)	02

For details such as eligibility, qualifications, experience and other terms & conditions of engagement, application format etc, please refer to DERC website [www.derc.gov.in](http://www.derc.gov.in). The last date for receipt of ONLINE application is and hard copy of application is 15.06.2026.

Secretary  
DERC

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0050/26-27

**No. A-35020/04/2026-Admn.II**

**Union Public Service Commission**

**Dholpur House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi-110069**

**Date: 17.04.2026**

It is proposed to fill up one vacancy in the grade of Protocol Assistant to Hon'ble Chairman [General Central Service, Group 'B', Non-Gazetted, Non Ministerial] in Pay Level-6 of the Pay Matrix of 7th CPC on Deputation/Re-employment (for Armed Forces personnel) basis in the office of UPSC.

2. The details like General conditions, Eligibility Criteria, Age limit, proforma of application form etc. are available on the website of UPSC, i.e. <http://www.upsc.gov.in/vacancy-circulars>.

Sd/-  
(Aparna Srivastava)  
Under Secretary (Admn.II)  
Union Public Service Commission  
Tel. No.: 011-23388476  
CBC-55103/11/0004/2627

epaper.indianexpress.com New Delhi



AGE LIMIT FOR GOVT JOBS RAISED

# Suvendu's first Cabinet meet fast-tracks BSF land transfer

Ravik Bhattacharya  
Kolkata, May 11

THE NEWLY formed BJP government in West Bengal on Monday announced key administrative decisions, including fast-tracking land transfer for border fencing to the BSF, raising the upper age limit for job recruitment and implementing Ayushman Bharat and other Central schemes, following its first Cabinet meeting at the state secretariat in Kolkata.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, flanked by senior Cabinet colleagues, including Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Khudiram Tudu and Nishith Pramanik, said the new administration is committed to "susashan" (good governance) and "suraksha" (security).

In a move described as "crucial for national security", the state government decided to hand over all pending land states are doing rounds in Delhi circles to replace Venugopal, if he gets the top job in Kerala.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, flanked by senior Cabinet colleagues, including Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Khudiram Tudu and Nishith Pramanik, said the new administration is committed to "susashan" (good governance) and "suraksha" (security).

In a move described as "crucial for national security", the state government decided to hand over all pending land states are doing rounds in Delhi circles to replace Venugopal, if he gets the top job in Kerala.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, flanked by senior Cabinet colleagues, including Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Khudiram Tudu and Nishith Pramanik, said the new administration is committed to "susashan" (good governance) and "suraksha" (security).

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, flanked by senior Cabinet colleagues, including Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Khudiram Tudu and Nishith Pramanik, said the new administration is committed to "susashan" (good governance) and "suraksha" (security).

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, flanked by senior Cabinet colleagues, including Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Khudiram Tudu and Nishith Pramanik, said the new administration is committed to "susashan" (good governance) and "suraksha" (security).



West Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari inspects a Guard of Honour at Nabanna, the state secretariat, on Monday. PARTHA PAUL

Adhikari said: "The previous government stalled these projects to protect illegal infiltrators. We have removed those roadblocks. The transfer process will begin immediately, and the Cabinet has empowered the chief secretary and the secretary of the land and land revenue department to complete the process within the next 45 days."

Adhikari also said that to boost employment opportunities, the Cabinet officially increased the upper age limit for government job applications by five years. The announcement would now allow applicants in the general category a relaxation till 45 years from the current age cap of 40, and those in the SC, ST and OBC categories to apply for jobs till 48 years of age from the current limit of 43, officials said.

CM Adhikari displayed a letter dated June 16, 2025 alleging that the Banerjee-led government had ignored Central circulars regarding the Census for 11 months. "The TMC government had betrayed not just the people of Bengal, but also the Constitution by deliberately keeping the Census exercise on hold in Bengal so that the women's bill reservation could be stopped in Parliament. The Cabinet has granted immediate sanction for the circular to take effect in the state," Adhikari said.

The Cabinet also officially moved to integrate West Bengal with several flagship Central schemes that had previously been stalled. The state officially joined the Ayushman Bharat health assurance scheme, and the health secretary has been di-

rected to finalise the agreement with the Centre immediately.

Adhikari said that schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, PM Jan Arogya Yojana, and PM Krishak Bima Yojana will now be fully implemented in the state.

Portfolios allocated

Adhikari on Monday allocated portfolios among the first five members of his council of ministers. The CM will keep a majority of key departments with him, including Home and Hill Affairs, Health, Law, and Finance. A government order said senior BJP leader Dilip Ghosh was given charge of Panchayat and Rural Development Department, along with Animal Resource Development and Agricultural Marketing.

Agnimitra Paul was given Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Department and Municipal Affairs portfolios, while Ashok Kirtania was assigned Food and Supplies and Co-operation departments.

Khudiram Tudu was made minister for Tribal Development, Backward Classes Welfare and Minority Affairs and Madras Education. Nishith Pramanik was entrusted with the North Bengal Development Department along with Youth Services and Sports. "The rest of the departments will be looked after by CM Suvendu Adhikari," the notification said.

# SC to TMC: File fresh plea on SIR deletions, Bengal results

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 11

THE SUPREME Court Monday suggested that the TMC may file a separate interlocutory application (IA) if it wishes to argue that voter deletions during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) materially affected the outcome of the West Bengal Assembly elections.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said it would examine the Election Commission's objections, including those on the maintainability of such a plea, once the formal application is submitted.

Senior Advocate Kalyan Bandopadhyay, appearing for the TMC, argued that in 31 constituencies, the margin of defeat was smaller than the total number of voter deletion cases currently under adjudication before appellate tribunals.

"In one constituency, the margin of loss is a mere 862 votes, while 5,432 votes are still under adjudication," he contended. He said the total margin of loss across the state was 32 lakh votes, while approximately 35 lakh appeals regarding voter deletions remain pending. Bandopadhyay also referred to a remark by Justice Bagchi at an earlier hearing of petitions against the SIR, that if the loss margin is less than the deletions, the court would look into it. Justice Bagchi said: "Whatever you want to say

## Judicial officers' 'gherao': SC asks NIA to complete probe in 2 months

THE SUPREME Court on Monday asked the NIA to complete within two months its probe into the April 1 violence in West Bengal's Malda district in which a mob confined seven judicial officers for nine hours. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said the NIA should file its report before the court of competent jurisdiction after completing the investigation. "What is the position of investigation? Is it complete?" the bench asked. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the NIA, said he would file a detailed status report. "We are, however, of the view that let the NIA complete the investigation at the earliest, preferably within a period of two months..." the bench said. PTI

about, as you said, with regard to results which may have materially affected because of the deletions which are under adjudication, that requires an independent interlocutory application (IA) to be taken out."

The CJ said, "We can only improve the mechanism for adjudication of the appeals", adding that those aggrieved can pursue whatever remedies are

available under the law. "Therefore, the appeals are to be decided in a time-bound manner," he said.

Bandopadhyay also brought to the bench's notice the resignation of Justice (retired) TS Sivagnanam from the appellate tribunal. The CJ, however, said, "What can we do? We can't compel a judge..."

Senior Advocate Menaka Guruswamy, also appearing for the petitioners, said there is a sense that adjudication could take over four years.

Senior Advocate DS Naidu, appearing for the Election Commission, said the Commission had also come across news reports that the chairperson of a particular tribunal had resigned on "personal grounds". He added that the law is clear: if parties have complaints regarding the election, their remedy is an election petition. "If there are any lapses in SIR, let them bring it to Your Lordship's notice. We will answer them."

Bandopadhyay urged the bench to pass an order that deletions during the SIR can be a ground for filing an election petition, but the CJ questioned how that could be done. Justice Bagchi said: "We indicated to you, subsequent event, you are at liberty to take out an appropriate IA. The opposition, which Mr Naidu may have, will come as a counter, either to its maintainability, or to its factual correctness, etc. We will look into it and we will pass appropriate orders."

## Capital Contest

THOUGH THE Congress is yet to decide whether senior leader KC Venugopal will become Kerala Chief Minister or not, many in the party have already started lobbying for his position in Delhi. Venugopal, who is currently general secretary (organisation), is the closest leader to Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and the Congress will have a tough time replacing him. Names of very senior leaders from the party from different states are doing rounds in Delhi circles to replace Venugopal, if he gets the top job in Kerala.

## Special Birthday

FORMER BJP leader K N Govindacharya was accorded a special honour on Monday at an event organised at the Constitution Club to celebrate his birthday. Govindacharya, a former pracharak of the RSS, turned 82 on May 2. Union minister Nitin Gadkari and RSS leader Krishna Gopal were present on the occasion.

Veteran journalist Ram Bahadur Rai credited Govindacharya for his ground work in the 1990s to pave the way for the BJP to become the political force it is today. Govindacharya himself addressed the gathering of several hundreds for a brief while.

## Bhajans & More

THOUGH NATURE retreat and early morning yoga sessions found several takers, "bhajan clubbing" remained the highlight of a two-day training camp organised for the BJP's New Delhi organisational district at the PUSA institute in the Capital over the weekend. In addition to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, party state president Virendra Sachdeva and New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj, the camp, organised as part of the nationwide Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Prashikshan Mahaabhiyan 2026, saw several prominent party leaders stay overnight at the venue and take part in the training, said insiders.

## Invaders such as Ghori, Mughals could not crush India's soul: UPCM

Maulshree Seth  
Lucknow, May 11

UTTAR PRADESH CM Yogi Adityanath Monday said repeated attempts were made by invaders "from Mohammad Ghori to the Mughals" to destroy India's spiritual and cultural identity but "they could not break India's soul".

The CM was addressing a gathering at Kashi Vishwanath Dham complex in Varanasi during the "Somnath Sankalp Mahotsav".

PM Modi was in Gujarat to mark 75 years since the inauguration of the restored shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, and the programme was screened live.

Referring to the destruction of the original Kashi Vishwanath temple during Aurangzeb's rule, Adityanath said: "They could not understand that Sanatan does not reside only within temple walls, but in India's consciousness... Those who tried to erase Sanatan have themselves disappeared into dust. Today, no one even remembers those invaders but Kashi Vishwanath Dham and Somnath Mahadev continue to carry forward the story of India's self-respect."

BOTH DRAVIDIAN ALLIANCES NOW PUSHED TOGETHER INTO SAME OPPOSITION CORNER

# Stalin's 'successor' in a new role: AIADMK on his side, Udhayanidhi faces LoP test — Vijay his target

Arun Janardhanan  
Chennai, May 11

ON MONDAY morning, as the 17th Tamil Nadu Assembly convened for the first time, Udhayanidhi Stalin walked into a chamber that suddenly looked unfamiliar even to the leaders who once controlled it. Across the aisle sat Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay in a suit.

Behind Vijay, 51, sat a legion of the TVK's young, first-time MLAs: political debutants, booth workers, digital creators, fan club organisers, meme-makers, and ex-YouTubers, many of them under 40 and apparently more comfortable with Instagram algorithms than the Assembly conventions. Led by Vijay, they have just broken six decades of the Dravidian majors' dominance.

On the other side was the old order, compressed together for the first time, with legislators of the arch rivals DMK and AIADMK — parties that spent half a century taking on each other — sitting together in the newly elected House.

The sight was stark. Tamil Nadu politics has always operated like a rotating inheritance system: one Dravidian giant ruled, the other one sat in the Opposition. Now both parties have been pushed into the same Opposition corner by the film superstar-turned-politician whom they had once dismissed as politically "unserious".

Among them sat Udhayanidhi, 48, the son of DMK su-



DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin takes oath as MLA, at the Tamil Nadu Secretariat in Chennai on Monday. PTI

premo and ex-CM M K Stalin, who has been named the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly by the party MLAs.

For years, Tamil Nadu political circles believed that Udhayanidhi and Vijay represented the future of politics and cinema, respectively, in the state. The election reversed the script. The contrast between the two men had always been striking.

Vijay entered politics after acting in nearly 70 films over three decades, becoming perhaps the biggest superstar of his generation. Udhayanidhi acted in around 20 films, mostly urban comedies and mid-scale dramas produced under the banner of the DMK first family-controlled Red Giant. Vijay built fandom into political capital. Udhayanidhi inherited political capital before attempting to build on it.

Even their filmographies tell different stories about Tamil ambition and masculinity. Vijay's career was built through

repetition, reinvention and survival across decades of intense film competition. Udhayanidhi's movies remained lighter, safer, often self-conscious — the charming man rather than the mythic hero carrying fandom on his shoulders.

During the campaign for the recent Assembly elections, their differences turned political. While Stalin and Udhayanidhi crisscrossed the state holding rally after rally, the DMK's attacks were not directed at the TVK. Udhayanidhi repeatedly targeted AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami or EPS and the BJP. Vijay was criticised occasionally, but he was never treated as a principal threat. Inside the DMK ecosystem, the assumption lingered that the TVK's rise was atmospheric rather than structural.

This misreading would now define this election. Stalin's defeat did more than reduce the DMK numerically. It dealt a psy-

chological blow to the party. The shock was so deep that sections within both the DMK and the AIADMK briefly entertained one of the strangest ideas in the state's modern political history: a possible arrangement between the two Dravidian adversaries to prevent Vijay from taking office.

Fear does strange things to political systems. Part of that fear was based on practical ground: power, investigations, targeting of the old dispensation, bureaucratic networks, money, influence. But its another part was historical. Inside Tamil Nadu's entrenched political class, there seems to be a deep worry that Vijay might become another MGR — a populist actor-politician capable of ruling for a decade or more while reducing older parties to resentful survivors. The irony was hard to miss.

Udhayanidhi's arc

Now, Udhayanidhi sits inside the Assembly facing the consequences of the DMK's miscalculations. For years, he was projected as Stalin's political heir. Unlike his father, who spent decades waiting under Karunanidhi's shadow, faced arrest during Emergency and fought prolonged internal battles, Udhayanidhi's rise was remarkably smooth. From the DMK's youth wing chief to MLA from a safe constituency Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni, to minister and deputy CM — all achieved within nearly half-a-decade. He managed to retain his seat this time too, albeit with a reduced margin.

# Four ministers to take oath today along with Himanta, 2 from allies

Express News Service  
Guwahati, May 11

ONLY four other leaders — two senior leaders from the BJP and one each from its allies Asom Gana Parishad and Bodoland People's Front — will be sworn in as ministers along with CM-designate Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday.

Following the NDA sweep in Assam Assembly polls, Sarma has been elected the leader of the NDA legislature and is set to take oath as Chief Minister for a second consecutive term.

On Monday night, he announced that four other leaders will be sworn in as ministers — Rameswar Teli and Ajanta Neog from the BJP, Atul Bora

from the AGP and Charan Boro from the BPF.

Teli is a senior tea-tribe leader who has served as Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and then for Petroleum and Natural Gas in the second term of the Narendra Modi government. After a decade in the Assam Assembly, and then another decade in the Lok Sabha, he was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2024. He has now been elected from the Duliyan constituency.

Ajanta Neog is one of Sarma's longest standing colleagues and has been re-elected from the Golaghat constituency for a sixth consecutive term.

Atul Bora is the president of

BJP's long-time regional ally AGP, with his roots as a student leader in the Assam Agitation. He has been a Cabinet minister in both the previous BJP-led governments in the state. BPF leader Charan Boro — now elected for the third time from the Majbat constituency — had been inducted into the ministry in the last Sarma government in October last year to seal the BJP's alliance with the BPF ahead of the elections.

Along with these four leaders, Sarma also announced that Ranjeet Dass, former Assam BJP president and a minister in the last Sarma government, will be their candidate for the position of Speaker in the Assembly.

# India taking concrete measures to shield supply chains amid West Asia crisis: Rajnath

Press Trust of India  
New Delhi, May 11

INDIA HAS implemented concrete measures to shield supply chains and ensure uninterrupted energy flows amid the escalating West Asia crisis, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Monday.

Singh, while chairing a high-level meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) set-up to monitor the situation in West Asia, emphasised that the government is prioritising maritime security and economic stability to offset global volatility.

The defence minister directed officials to take concrete steps to implement the Prime



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chairs a Group of Ministers' meeting in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

Minister Narendra Modi's appeal that included cutting fuel consumption as part of efforts to help conserve India's foreign exchange reserves.

The meeting was attended by Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Railways and In-

formation and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammoan Naidu, and Ports and Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, among others.

The IGoM was informed that the country is secure, and there is no shortage of any petroleum product, even as most other nations have taken emergency measures to dramatically reduce domestic fuel consumption, the defence ministry said.

"India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of natural gas and 45 days of LPG rolling stock. The foreign exchange reserves stand at a comfortable USD 703 billion," it said.



Irregularities alleged in purchase of transformers when Senthil Balaji was Tamil Nadu's electricity minister

# SC junks pleas against HC order on probe into Rs 397-cr 'scam' during ex-minister Balaji's term

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 11

THE SUPREME Court on Monday dismissed appeals challenging the Madras High Court order directing a CBI investigation into an alleged Rs 397 crore scam in the purchase of transformers by the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) between 2021 and 2023 when V Senthil Balaji was the electricity minister.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta refused to entertain the appeals challenging the April 29, 2026 High Court order transferring the probe from the TN Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) to the CBI.

Though the appellants contended that there was no prayer before the HC seeking a CBI investigation, the SC said courts can order CBI probe even without any such prayer. "We don't need a prayer. It depends upon how the court feels," the court said. The bench clarified that the investigation shall not be influenced by the observations made by the High Court.

The Madras HC order came on a plea by NGO Arappor Iyakam and some AIADMK members. The HC said though the NGO had sought criminal investigation against public servants of TANGEDCO, including Financial Controller V Kasi, Chairman and Managing Director Rajesh Lakhoni, firms alleg-

edly involved in the corruption, Balaji and other public servants, the government accorded prior approval for conducting enquiry only against Kasi.

It said the state authorities "have failed to provide any explanation or justification for their decision to refrain from taking action against the other individuals. Despite the allegations levelled against these parties, the specific reasoning or evidence that influenced the authorities' choice to exclude them from the current proceedings remains entirely undisclosed."

The HC said though DVAC asked for approval to conduct a detailed enquiry, the government granted approval only for preliminary enquiry.

"We find that the timeline for providing prior approval as per Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act is only three months with provision of extension by a maximum of one month. The huge delay in providing prior approval is unexplained," said the HC.

SOMNATH AMRUT MAHOTSAV



PM Narendra Modi participates in a roadshow with Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel and Deputy CM Harsh Sanghavi in Somnath on Monday. CHIRAG CHOTALIYA

# In Somnath, PM invokes Pokhran: 'No power can make India bow'

Express News Service Ahmedabad, May 11

MARKING THE day India conducted nuclear tests at Pokhran in 1998, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday invoked the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the "political will under his leadership" and said that the country will hold firm amid global pressures and "no power on earth" can make it "bow down".

Speaking at the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav, to mark the 75th anniversary of the reconstruction of the Somnath temple, he also spoke about the politics of "appeasement over national self-respect" during the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. "We must remain alert against such a mindset," he said.

"Today holds special significance for yet another reason. On May 11, 1998, precisely on this day, the nation conducted its nuclear tests at Pokhran. On May 11, the country carried out the first three of these nuclear tests. Our scientists demonstrated India's prowess and capabilities to the world, an achievement that created a global stir," he said.

"Global powers mobilised to corner India. Various restrictions were imposed. Every avenue to avert potential economic crises was completely blocked. Anyone else would have crumbled. When the world's major powers launch such a massive offensive, the path forward often appears invisible. But we are forged from a different mettle," Modi said.

On May 13 that year, he said, two more nuclear tests were conducted. "It was then that the world realised just how unwavering India's political will truly is. At that time, India faced immense global pressure, yet under the leadership of Atalji (Atal Bihari Vajpayee), the BJP government demonstrated that for us, the nation comes first. No power on earth can make India bow down, nor can it force us to yield under pressure," Modi said.

Referring to the 75th anniversary of the "Pran Pratishtha" (consecration ceremony) of the Somnath temple, Modi said he does not merely see a glimpse of the past 75 years or a celebration of the past, but a festival of inspiration for India for the next

thousand years. History is a witness to how the temple has withstood countless invasions, he said. "Yet, time and again, it was rebuilt; it rose again every single time -- for the act of destruction," he said.

Modi also targeted what he said were forces that believe in the politics of appeasement, in the context of the Ram temple. "Unfortunately, certain forces remain dominant in the country even today -- forces that prioritise appeasement over national self-respect. We have witnessed this even during occasions such as the construction of the Ram Temple, observing how even that noble endeavour faced opposition. We must remain alert against such a mindset. We must leave this brand of parochial politics behind us. We must move forward by embracing both development and heritage in tandem," he said.

Linking the issue to national self-respect, Modi said: "For thousands of years, our cultural sites have served as the very identity of India. We have inherited a heritage of immense richness. Yet, the irony is for decades, we failed to fully grasp its significance. There are countless examples across the world where foreign invaders have destroyed sites intrinsically linked to a nation's identity. However, whenever the people of such nations got an opportunity, they united to reclaim, restore, and re-establish their identity with renewed glory. Here in our country, politics has often been played even on issues linked to national self-respect."

Citing Somnath as the "greatest example", he said: "One of the primary responsibilities following independence was the restoration of the Somnath Temple. Consequently, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Dr Rajendra Prasad invested immense effort into this endeavour. But they had to face significant opposition from Nehru-ji in the process. I will not delve into the details of this today; suffice it to say that it was Sardar Sahab's sheer willpower that ensured he remained unwavering, despite such intense opposition. The Somnath Temple was indeed reconstructed, and in doing so, the nation washed away a stigma that had persisted for centuries."

MODI TO VISIT UAE, ATTEND NORDIC SUMMIT; ECONOMY & ENERGY TOP AGENDA

# Amid Gulf conflict, PM on a five-nation trip from May 15

Shubhajit Roy New Delhi, May 11

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will go on a five-nation trip from May 15 to 20, during which he will visit the United Arab Emirates, The Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Monday.

Modi will begin his visit from the UAE on May 15. Thereafter, he will visit The Netherlands (May 15-17), Sweden (May 17-18), Norway (May 18-19) and Italy (May 19-20).

In Norway, he will attend the India-Nordic Summit on May 19, which will be attended by leaders from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway. PM's visit to Norway for the Summit was scheduled in May last year, but was cancelled after Op Sindoor.

About the UAE leg, the MEA said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay an official visit to the United Arab Emirates on May 15, 2026, where he will meet the President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The two leaders will have the opportunity to exchange views on bilateral issues, in particular energy cooperation, as well as re-

## E. EXPLAINED

### Critical timing

PM Modi's UAE and Europe trip comes at a time when the war in West Asia and US President Donald Trump's actions have disrupted the world order. The visits are expected to boost cooperation with each of these countries in sectors including technology, energy, defence and the Arctic region. The UAE leg will be key for India's energy security.

gional and international issues of mutual interest. They will also discuss ways to advance the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership underpinned by strong political, cultural, economic and people-to-people links. "The visit will serve to promote the significant trade and investment linkages between the two countries," it said.

At a time when India is navigating security and economic challenges amidst the instability in West Asia, the last-minute addition of the UAE is significant.

For the second leg of his visit, PM Modi will be visiting The Netherlands from May 15-17, where he will meet Dutch PM Rob Jetten.

During the visit, he will call on Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima as well.

In his talks with Prime Minister Jetten, Modi will discuss cooperation in "defence, security, innovation, green hydrogen, semiconductors and a strategic partnership on water".

The MEA said, "Prime Minister's visit early in the tenure of the new (Dutch) government will provide an opportunity to further deepen and expand the multifaceted partnership."

For the third leg of the visit, PM Modi will meet Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson on May 17-18 at Gothenburg, Sweden.

The MEA said, "PM Modi will hold bilateral talks with PM Kristersson to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations and explore new avenues of cooperation to enhance bilateral trade, which has reached \$775 billion (2025), and Swedish FDI into India which has reached \$2.825 billion (2000 - 2025), as well as collaboration in green transition, AI, emerging technologies,

startups, resilient supply chains, defence, space, climate action and people-to-people ties."

The two prime ministers will also address the European Round Table for Industry, a leading pan-European business leaders forum, along with Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission.

In the fourth leg of his visit, Prime Minister Modi will visit Norway from May 18 to 19 for the Third India-Nordic Summit and bilateral engagements. This will be Modi's first visit to Norway, and the first visit by an Indian PM in 43 years.

He will also call on King Harald V and Queen Sonja, and hold bilateral talks with Norwegian PM Jonas Gahr Støre.

The 3rd India-Nordic Summit will take place in Oslo on May 19. Here, PM Modi will be joined by Norwegian PM Støre, Denmark's PM Mette Frederiksen, Finland PM Petteri Orpo, Iceland PM Kristrún Fróstdóttir and Swedish PM Kristersson.

In the final leg, Modi will visit Italy on May 19-20 and meet Italian PM Giorgia Meloni. He will also call on Italy's President Sergio Mattarella.

• BRIEFLY



Belongings of the victims salvaged from the ill-fated vehicle. EXPRESS

HIMACHAL PRADESH

## Five from Gujarat among 6 dead as SUV plunges into a gorge in Chamba

SIX PEOPLE, including five tourists from Gujarat, were killed and four others sustained injuries when the SUV they were travelling in plunged into a deep gorge at Kakira in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district on Monday, police said. The Toyota Innova vehicle, with 10 people onboard, was on its way from Manali to Dalhousie when the incident occurred on the Lahru-Tunnuhatti road at around 3 am, police said, adding so severe was the impact that parts of the vehicle were scattered all around. The deceased were identified as Lalit Bhai Fatnani, Mamta Ben Fatnani, Priyank Kanhiya Lal Bhopani, Kajal Bhopani, and Divyansh Bhopani. All were residents of Sindhi Colony in Bhavnagar, Gujarat. The other deceased was driver Jaswant Kumar from Himachal. ENS

## Man murdered, 'hand chopped off' in Odisha

A YOUTH was brutally murdered following tussle with alleged stone quarry mafias, who chopped off his one hand in Odisha's Nayagarh district on early Monday morning. According to police, the deceased has been identified as Ajit Kumar Sahoo, 38. As per the complaint lodged by Sadasiv Sahoo, father of the deceased, six people came in a vehicle at around 1:30 am on Sunday night and suddenly attacked them by a sword causing severe injuries that resulted in Ajit's death. After the incident the accused fled the spot, alleged the complainant. ENS

## Man dragged out of hotel, beaten up in Bhopal

A MAN from the minority community was allegedly assaulted, stripped and smeared with cow dung and black ink by a group of people after he was purportedly found with a woman from another community in a hotel in Bhopal on Sunday evening, police said. "No written complaint has been submitted by any side. Everyone was warned against engaging in activities that could disturb social harmony or law and order in the future. The couple was counselled to file a case, but they refused. If they return, we will file a case," said police. ENS

BEHIND Rs 1.5-CRORE LPG THEFT RACKET

# West Asia war, summer heat, and a saga of 6 gas tankers stolen in Chhattisgarh

Jayprakash S Naidu Raipur, May 11

AMID A global cooking gas crisis fuelled by the West Asia conflict, police in Chhattisgarh have busted a racket which allegedly stole over 90 metric tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) worth around Rs 1.5 crore and sold it off in black market.

As per Mahasamund district police, the gas was allegedly stolen from tanker trucks which were earlier seized by the police in another gas theft case last year. The sequence of the events dates back to December 2025, when police in Mahasamund's Singhora area seized six LPG tankers from the forest area. Police claimed a gang had taken the tankers there to steal the gas.

Additional SP Pratibha Pandey said a team of officials had spotted the trucks and alerted police, after which an FIR was filed, and the tankers were seized and kept in police custody till March.

However, due to the rising summer heat in March and a lack of adequate safety arrangements, police requested the District Collector to take custody of the tankers. According to officials, the tankers were handed over to the food department on March 30 and eventually came into the custody of one of the accused, who runs an LPG distribution company based in the state capital, Rai-

## Police bust ring involving govt officials & distribution companies which siphoned off 90 metric tonnes of LPG



Police had first seized the six tankers in December 2025; (right) the gang sold the stolen LPG cylinders in the black market

pur. It has been alleged that the weight of LPG in the tankers was not checked before they were entrusted to the company. After the handover, the tankers were taken to premises owned by the distribution company at Urla village in Raipur.

Police alleged that gas was stolen between March 30 and April 5. On April 6 and April 8, the tankers were taken for weighing at the Mahasamund food officer's office.

The theft came to light in April when the original transporters of the tankers reached the Singhora police station to take the trucks back. They checked the tankers and realised gas had been stolen and

complained to police.

Police said they confirmed the theft based on a GPS device installed in the tankers, which showed that they were taken inside the accused's plant. Further, the sale receipts of the accused's distribution company showed that only 47 tonnes of LPG was purchased in April, and there was zero opening stock. However, 107 tonnes of gas was sold.

Mahasamund district Superintendent of Police Prabhat Kumar said, "The main accused are food department officer Ajay Yadav, the gas dealer Pankaj Chandrakar and their aide in Raipur, Manish Chaudhary, and San-



tosh Thakur (the owner of the distribution company)." Yadav, Chandrakar, and Chaudhary have been arrested so far.

As per police, the food department officer and the gas agency owner allegedly ensured that Thakur got custody of the tankers, after which they roped in Chaudhary to get in touch with gas agencies across Raipur to arrange the sale of the stolen LPG.

At least eight gas agencies, which allegedly bought the gas illegally, are now under the scanner. The accused had claimed that the gas leaked from the tankers, but a technical team denied any leakage, said police.

# Ex-serviceman, who shot dead woman at hospital & two men, killed in encounter

Manish Sahu Lucknow, May 11

HOURS AFTER he allegedly shot a woman patient dead at a hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Chandauli, a former serviceman was killed in an encounter, said police. According to police, the accused, Gurpreet Singh, 42, had been involved in three killings, including two murders on trains, in 48 hours.

Police on Monday morning said, Gurpreet entered Jeevak Hospital under the pretext of seeking treatment. After registration and obtaining a prescription, he walked through the facility and approached the bed of 55-year-old Lachmina Devi, a resident of Bhabua in Bihar.

Police said he shot her in the temple at close range before attempting to flee. He was overpowered by people at the spot and handed over to police.

Police said after questioning, the accused was taken to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction railway station as part of crime scene reconstruction. Police later took him to a site in the Sakaldaha police station area where the first victim's body had been recovered.

During the operation, officers claimed the accused suddenly snatched a pistol from one of the officers, opened fire at the police team and fled. Additional forces were rushed to the area, and a joint search operation was launched.

Police said Gurpreet fired again at officers during the combing operation. Police said they retaliated in self-defence, shooting him in the chest. Two police officers were injured in the gunfire.

Vaibhav Krishna, DGP, Varanasi Range, said the injured officers and the accused were taken to hospital immediately, where doctors declared the accused dead. The two injured policemen are currently undergoing treatment.



Gurpreet Singh was from Taran in Amritsar

Police said before the hospital shooting, Gurpreet allegedly killed Dinesh Shah (55) from Bihar's Gaya inside the Jammu Tavi Express on Monday before escaping from the moving carriage.

On Sunday morning, police said, the accused allegedly shot dead Mangru Chaudhary (34), a resident of Ghazipur district, aboard the Tarighat Express before throwing the victim's body from the moving train.

Police believe Gurpreet used his licenced weapon in the attacks and had no connection to any of the three victims. All three killings appear to have been random acts of violence, police added.

Chandauli SP Akash Patel said police have so far found no clear motive behind the three killings. According to police, Gurpreet was from Tarn Taran in Amritsar, Punjab.

On April 29, he claimed he left Punjab for Arrah district in Bihar for a security guard job. But he was fired within a few days over his alcoholism," said police.

"On May 9, he left Arrah by train, travelled to Prayagraj, and then stopped at PDDU railway station in Chandauli," said a police officer. He carried out his first two crimes then, said police.

"He boarded the Tarighat Express on May 10 and shot at Mangru randomly. On May 11, around 1.30, Gurpreet boarded the Jammu Tavi Express and fired at Dinesh Shah," said police.

# SC halts conviction of senior Gujarat lawyer Oza with stern warning

Express News Service New Delhi, May 11

THE SUPREME Court on Monday kept in abeyance the conviction and sentence of GHCAA president and Senior Advocate Yatin Oza on criminal contempt charges for making objectionable remarks against the state judiciary, invoking powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Atul S Chandurkar said, though it did not find any reason to interfere with the October 2020 Gujarat HC order convicting and sentencing him, but warned that if he repeats his actions, the punishment would be revived. "The reasons assigned in the impugned order by the HC do not warrant any

interference by this Court. Yet, extending a final act of forgiveness, we are inclined to exercise our plenary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India to suspend and keep in abeyance conviction as well as sentence of the appellant in consequence of this judgment indefinitely," the bench said.

"The full court of the HC shall undertake periodic review of the appellant's conduct at an interval of every 2 years... If the appellant is found to have carried out any further act of a similar nature, the HC shall be at liberty to file an application in the instant disposed of appeal seeking to give immediate effect to the appellant's conviction and sentence as directed by the HC".

# 120 of 410 questions from NEET-UG exam appeared in 'guess paper', investigation on

Hamza Khan Jaipur, May 11

RAJASTHAN'S SPECIAL Operations Group (SOG) has said that it is investigating the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) 2026, for an alleged leak after it found a 'guess paper' with as many as 120 questions, which appeared in the actual examination.

Addressing journalists in Jaipur, Vishal Bansal, ADGP, SOG, said, "There are various misconceptions regarding the NEET exam. There is a 'guess paper' with 410 questions. Of those, it is said that about 120 questions appeared in chemistry. And this guess paper was with students weeks before the examination, as far back as a month."

He said that the inquiry so far hasn't revealed where the ques-



Students undergo security checks before the NEET exam. EXPRESS

tion paper originated from, and added that it has been found on WhatsApp on the phones of students appearing for the examination. "It is a PDF file of about 150 pages with over 400 questions. We are moving step by step - it is a laborious and painful process. All (SOG) officials are involved in this." He said that since it was in the public domain, it isn't easy

to zero in on the source. "For example, if someone got it photocopied at an e-mitra, then the e-mitra owner shared it with someone else, and so on. So, our investigation is centered on whether there was cheating or if a crime was committed," Bansal said.

The National Testing Agency, meanwhile, said that it

"remains committed to fair, secure, and credible examinations and to working closely with all investigating agencies in support of the integrity of the examination system".

Meanwhile, several opposition leaders attacked the BJP government, with Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge saying that, "The examination system under the Modi government has become a complete symbol of disorder, distrust, and chaos. At least 4 NEET papers have leaked so far - 2026, 2024, 2021, 2016."

"In Sikar, Rajasthan, a handwritten 'guess paper' is available before the exam, out of which 135 questions directly match the actual NEET paper. This was being sold openly and rampantly, and the central government had no inkling of it?" he asked.

# Judges must exhibit patience, says SC; refuses to pass further order in HC junior lawyer row

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 11

NOTING THAT the recent controversy over a courtroom outburst by an Andhra Pradesh High Court judge against a young advocate was resolved amicably with the involvement of the HC Chief Justice and the Bar Association, the Supreme Court on Monday refused to pass any further orders in the matter even as it advised judges to be patient and compassionate towards junior lawyers and

encourage them. Taking up the representations submitted in this regard by lawyers' bodies, which were registered as petitions, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant (CJ) said on Monday that the report from the High Court CJ indicated that during the hearing, the judge gathered the impression that the lawyer had slammed a file when he failed to get relief, whereas, according to the lawyer, the file had slipped from his hand. Though the clip showed the judge directing police custody of the accused, the two-judge SC bench said it did not translate into an executable order. Stating that no further

orders were needed in the matter, the bench, also comprising Justice Jyomalya Bagchi, said, "Members of the judiciary at all levels must exhibit patience, compassion and spirit of encouragement towards all, especially young members of the bar."

The top court said, "While it is certainly a solemn duty of senior members of the bar to inculcate discipline, professional ethics and continuous learning, the responsibility does not lie with the bar alone, but with the bench as well, to nurture a sense of duty, integrity, so that every lawyer sees themselves as an officer of the court first."

said that the video clip, which got widely circulated, was bereft of the context behind the developments.

Taking note of this, the SC said, "We make an unequivocal observation that media has a vital role in this regard. Dissemination of decontextualised videos can cause unwarranted prejudice. We, therefore, expect that media will play a proactive role with a heightened sense of responsibility."

A video of the May 4 incident that had gone viral had shown Justice T Rajasekhara Rao "calling the police" to take custody of an advocate who behaved "indolently" even as the young counsel kept "begging for grace" with folded hands.

Following the incident, CJI Justice Kant had sought a report from the HC CJ into the matter. Representations were received from the Bar Council of India and Supreme Court Bar Association seeking the top court's intervention in the matter.

The SC bench also called upon HCs to constitute Grievance Redressal Committees (GRCs) to address issues between the bar and the bench. "We deem it apt to impress upon High Courts to constitute GRC, which must associate members of Bar Councils/Associations. Such committees to be constituted at the district/taluka level also," the court said.

# 'Amid uncertainty, important to invest in ties with partners having same values, interests'

ON HIS first visit to India as the new CEO of the Centre for Australian-India Relations (CAIR), former Australian diplomat **Ryan Neelam**, who has earlier served in Hong Kong, and the UN Security Council in New York, talks to **Divya A** about the need for New Delhi and Canberra to come together amid geopolitical tensions, and towards a free Indo-Pacific, and the collaboration on energy security.



**RYAN NEELAM**  
CEO, CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN-INDIA RELATIONS

going to be a central strand of our relationship. We are a quality provider of education and we want Indians to think of Australia when they think of studying abroad.

**But India is already among the top source countries for Australian universities**

One area that could grow more is vocational education and skills. India is moving towards Net Zero by 2070, while Australia has a nearer timeline of 2050. So, we're both pushing in the same direction. But this energy transition is not only about policy goals and investment, you actually need the people to lay the wires. Australia certainly doesn't have enough of those people who will be able to supply what's needed, while India has a huge population of skilled labour.

**In this complicated geopolitical scenario, how does Australia view India as being indispensable?**

The rules-based international order that we've come to rely on, seems like it's changing very rapidly. And we're both working out how we can preserve aspects of that. The relationship has never been more consequential. So, we recognise the value of partners that share the same interests to navigate some of the uncertainty that we're seeing in the world.

We're moving towards a great power competition and at this time, the more you can invest in relations with partners having the same interests and values, the more resilience you build to deal with whatever might come.

**Is the place for Indian-Australians changing in Australia?**

One of our strengths as a society is that it's diverse and that we have migration from across the world. A million Australians who have that Indian connection like me exist, and it's only growing. We actually harness the diaspora to help with economic engagement. While there was some pushback last year, the Prime Minister of Australia has made it clear that there's no place for intolerance or racism in Australia.

what that means for Australia.

It is also about celebrating the contribution of Indian-Australians to society. There are one-million Australians of Indian descent, I'm one of them, but the contribution of the diaspora goes across all sectors - C-suite executives, business leaders, sporting and cultural leaders.

**There are also discussions about India and Australia collaborating on the energy landscape...**

There's a lot of complementarity in our economies naturally. We're a big resource and energy exporter. India has a huge demand for the kind of products we export. We have strengths relevant to India - agri products would work towards India's food security landscape, while clean energy is another space as India aims to decarbonise and become more self-sufficient on energy.

**Do you think there could be newer areas of collaboration considering conflicts, tariff issues and navigation issues?**

Our economy is geared towards certain industries and those are relevant for the current context. For instance, clean energy and critical minerals. India has a huge interest in how it works with other countries, including Australia, on diversifying supply chains and building a bit more resilience into that and sourcing the raw materials as well as processing technologies. Also, education is always

## Revanth asks DGP to form special teams in POCOSO case against minister's son

Express News Service  
Hyderabad, May 11

TELANGANA CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday directed DGP C V Anand to constitute special teams and intensify the investigation into the POCOSO case registered against Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son, following allegations of sexual harassment of a minor girl.

The CM sought an explanation from the DGP on why "no action" had been taken despite the complaint being registered on May 8, according to a release from the CMO. Reddy directed DGP Anand to immediately begin the investigation into the case registered at the Pet Basheerabad Police Station against the accused.

The case was registered following allegations of sexual harassment of a minor girl, a charge denied by the accused,

who in turn has alleged extortion and criminal intimidation by the teenager's parents. The girl's mother accused Kumar's son, Bhageerath, who was allegedly in a relationship with her daughter, of "sexually harassing" her.

Meanwhile, Bhageerath lodged a complaint with police in Karimnagar, alleging that the girl's parents pressured him to marry her. When he rejected the proposal, the girl's parents allegedly sought money and threatened to file false complaints against him, he claimed in the complaint.

TELANGANA Minister for BC Welfare Ponnamm Prabhakar made a controversial suggestion, saying that elders should either intervene and get the two married or let the law take its course. He denied that the Congress government in the state was acting out of any vendetta against the BJP leader's son.

WITHPTI/INPUT

## Sukesh case: ED opposes Jacqueline plea to turn approver

Nirbhay Thakur  
New Delhi, May 11

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate Monday opposed a plea filed by actor Jacqueline Fernandez to turn approver in a Rs 200-crore money laundering case involving alleged common Sukesh Chandrasekhar.

"... (Fernandez) remained in regular and sustained contact with Sukesh even after having knowledge of his criminal antecedents, who carefully arranged all benefits, gifts and articles for the Applicant out of the 'proceeds of crime' involved in the offence of money laundering. This consistent interaction through numerous ways... and receipt of benefits negate any claim of being an 'unwitting victim', as underlined by the Applicant in the present application, and instead highlights her conscious association with the main perpetrator and with the illicit gains," the ED said in its plea.

Fernandez had been named as a co-accused by the ED for enjoying the 'proceeds of crime' allegedly given to her as gifts by Sukesh from the Rs 200 crore. Sukesh allegedly extorted this money from Aditi Singh, wife of former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Singh.

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
No.10 of 2026-27 (Open)-Engg/DDU  
On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings:-  
**Tender No.06-DDU-DEN-HQ-26-27**  
(i) Name of work with its location : Improvement of service buildings and staff quarters by leaky roof repair etc at DDU under ADEN/HQ/DDU,  
(ii) Advertised Value: Rs. 37125875.72,  
(iii) Earnest Money: Rs. 742500.00,  
(vii) Closing Date & time for submission of e-tender: 02.06.2026, Up-to 12.00 hrs., (viii) Website particulars of e-tendering: www.ireps.gov.in  
Divisional Railway Manager  
East Central Railway,  
Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Division  
PR/0203/DDU/ENGG/T/26-27/36

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE, U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN), OPP. CAR SCAN CENTRE, RAMGHAT ROAD, ALIGARH-202002**  
Letter No.: 447/NIVIDA/49  
Date : 11.05.2026  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) online E-tenders for execution of Investigation and survey (on GIS basis) of the project area including soil investigation if required, Engineering Design (hydraulic and structural) as required, Procurement of all labour & material, T&P etc. and construction of various components complete for Interception and Diversion Works of tapping drain "USED WATER MANAGEMENT AT JATTARI, DISTRICT-ALIGARH" including successful testing and commissioning of said work on percentage rate "Turn-key basis" under SBM (U) - 2.0 Programme. Bids are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible reputed and experienced bidder. E-tender documents will be available for download from Date- 20.05.2026 at 17:00 Hrs. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on date- 29.05.2026 at 12:30 Hrs. in the office of under signed. E-bid can be submitted till Date- 11.06.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 12.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. in the office of The Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Aligarh in presence of contractor or their authorized representative. E-tender Cost is Rs 10000.00+GST @18%. Details are available On U.P. Govt. <http://etender.up.nic.in> & U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website <http://www.jn.uspde.gov.in>.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE, U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN), OPP. CAR SCAN CENTRE, RAMGHAT ROAD, ALIGARH-202002**  
Letter No.: 449/NIVIDA/51  
Date : 11.05.2026  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) online E-tenders for execution of Investigation and survey (on GIS basis) of the project area including soil investigation if required, Engineering Design (hydraulic and structural) as required, Procurement of all labour & material, T&P etc. and construction of various components complete for Interception and Diversion Works of tapping drain "USED WATER MANAGEMENT AT PISAWA, DISTRICT-ALIGARH" including successful testing and commissioning of said work on percentage rate "Turn-key basis" under SBM (U) - 2.0 Programme. Bids are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible reputed and experienced bidder. E-tender documents will be available for download from Date- 20.05.2026 at 17:00 Hrs. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on date- 29.05.2026 at 12:30 Hrs. in the office of under signed. E-bid can be submitted till Date- 11.06.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 12.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. in the office of The Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Aligarh in presence of contractor or their authorized representative. E-tender Cost is Rs 10000.00+GST @18%. Details are available On U.P. Govt. <http://etender.up.nic.in> & U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website <http://www.jn.uspde.gov.in>.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE, U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN), OPP. CAR SCAN CENTRE, RAMGHAT ROAD, ALIGARH-202002**  
Letter No.: 448/NIVIDA/50  
Date : 11.05.2026  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) online E-tenders for execution of Investigation and survey (on GIS basis) of the project area including soil investigation if required, Engineering Design (hydraulic and structural) as required, Procurement of all labour & material, T&P etc. and construction of various components complete for Interception and Diversion Works of tapping drain "USED WATER MANAGEMENT AT KAURIAGANJ, DISTRICT-ALIGARH" including successful testing and commissioning of said work on percentage rate "Turn-key basis" under SBM (U) - 2.0 Programme. Bids are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible reputed and experienced bidder. E-tender documents will be available for download from Date- 20.05.2026 at 17:00 Hrs. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on date- 29.05.2026 at 12:30 Hrs. in the office of under signed. E-bid can be submitted till Date- 11.06.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 12.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. in the office of The Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Aligarh in presence of contractor or their authorized representative. E-tender Cost is Rs 10000.00+GST @18%. Details are available On U.P. Govt. <http://etender.up.nic.in> & U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website <http://www.jn.uspde.gov.in>.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE, U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN), OPP. CAR SCAN CENTRE, RAMGHAT ROAD, ALIGARH-202002**  
Letter No.: 445/NIVIDA/47  
Date : 11.05.2026  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) online E-tenders for execution of Investigation and survey (on GIS basis) of the project area including soil investigation if required, Engineering Design (hydraulic and structural) as required, Procurement of all labour & material, T&P etc. and construction of various components complete for Interception and Diversion Works of tapping drain "USED WATER MANAGEMENT AT BESWAN, DISTRICT-ALIGARH" including successful testing and commissioning of said work on percentage rate "Turn-key basis" under SBM (U) - 2.0 Programme. Bids are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible reputed and experienced bidder. E-tender documents will be available for download from Date- 20.05.2026 at 17:00 Hrs. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on date- 29.05.2026 at 12:30 Hrs. in the office of under signed. E-bid can be submitted till Date- 11.06.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 12.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. in the office of The Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Aligarh in presence of contractor or their authorized representative. E-tender Cost is Rs 10000.00+GST @18%. Details are available On U.P. Govt. <http://etender.up.nic.in> & U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website <http://www.jn.uspde.gov.in>.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE, U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN), OPP. CAR SCAN CENTRE, RAMGHAT ROAD, ALIGARH-202002**  
Letter No.: 448/NIVIDA/50  
Date : 11.05.2026  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) online E-tenders for execution of Investigation and survey (on GIS basis) of the project area including soil investigation if required, Engineering Design (hydraulic and structural) as required, Procurement of all labour & material, T&P etc. and construction of various components complete for Interception and Diversion Works of tapping drain "USED WATER MANAGEMENT AT KAURIAGANJ, DISTRICT-ALIGARH" including successful testing and commissioning of said work on percentage rate "Turn-key basis" under SBM (U) - 2.0 Programme. Bids are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible reputed and experienced bidder. E-tender documents will be available for download from Date- 20.05.2026 at 17:00 Hrs. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on date- 29.05.2026 at 12:30 Hrs. in the office of under signed. E-bid can be submitted till Date- 11.06.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 12.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. in the office of The Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Aligarh in presence of contractor or their authorized representative. E-tender Cost is Rs 10000.00+GST @18%. Details are available On U.P. Govt. <http://etender.up.nic.in> & U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website <http://www.jn.uspde.gov.in>.

**कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबंधक, युनिट-02 कस्तूरबाई एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) (30 प्रो सरकारी का उपकरण) आईएसओ 9001:2015 प्रमाणित संस्था 7- सरकारी इन्फ्लेव, बदरीपुर रोड, जोगीबाग, देहरादून-248005 प्रमुख कार्यालय: टी.सी.-38-वी, विद्युत् अण्ड, नोएडा, हरियाणा-226010 Visit us at www.cdsupjn.org Mob- 9897591777 e-mail: pmunit2@cdsupjn.org**

**NIT No.- 331/Karya-79/44 Date: 11/05/2026 ई-निविदा सूचना**  
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय), की ओर से अयोधहासारी द्वारा जिला विद्यालय निरीक्षक पोलीभौत के कार्यालय कैम्पस में सॉल्वेरी के नोवेबल का कार्य अनुमानित लागत ₹ 8.82 लाख (लेबर सेस सहित एवं जी.एस.टी. रहित) हेतु दिनांक 10.06.2026 अपराह्न 15:00 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 12.05.2026 से दिनांक 10.06.2026 को 15:00 बजे के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 11.06.2026 को 14:00 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबंधक युनिट-02, सी. एण्ड डी.एस., उ.प्र. जल निगम (नगरीय), देहरादून में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 3540.00/- (₹ 3000.00+ GST (18%)) देय होगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट [www.cdsupjn.org](http://www.cdsupjn.org) एवं प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्ध पत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका प्रपत्र से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE, U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN), OPP. CAR SCAN CENTRE, RAMGHAT ROAD, ALIGARH-202002**  
Letter No.: 446/NIVIDA/48  
Date : 11.05.2026  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) online E-tenders for execution of Investigation and survey (on GIS basis) of the project area including soil investigation if required, Engineering Design (hydraulic and structural) as required, Procurement of all labour & material, T&P etc. and construction of various components complete for Interception and Diversion Works of tapping drain "USED WATER MANAGEMENT AT CHANDAUS, DISTRICT-ALIGARH" including successful testing and commissioning of said work on percentage rate "Turn-key basis" under SBM (U) - 2.0 Programme. Bids are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible reputed and experienced bidder. E-tender documents will be available for download from Date- 20.05.2026 at 17:00 Hrs. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on date- 29.05.2026 at 12:30 Hrs. in the office of under signed. E-bid can be submitted till Date- 11.06.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 12.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. in the office of The Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Aligarh in presence of contractor or their authorized representative. E-tender Cost is Rs 10000.00+GST @18%. Details are available On U.P. Govt. <http://etender.up.nic.in> & U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website <http://www.jn.uspde.gov.in>.

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
The Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./V.E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Tender from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways:-  
**Sl. No.: 1, Tender Notice No: TC-40-2026-SPJ. Name of Work: Construction of 2 units officer transit house at Samastipur, Tender Value (in Rs.): 12408771.41, Earnest Money (in Rs.): 248200.00, Completion period of the work: 12 Months**  
**Sl. No.: 2, Tender Notice No: TC-41-2026-SPJ. Name of Work: At Samastipur, Balance work of Staff Quarter Type-II (12 units), Type-III (08 units) works in jurisdiction of SSE/WS/SPJ under the ADEN/Land/SPJ. Tender Value (in Rs.): 13687688.82, Earnest Money (in Rs.): 273800.00, Completion period of the work: 06 Months**  
**1. Last Date & time for receiving of Tender in E-Tender mode on IREPS web portal: 02.06.2026 upto 12.00 hours.**  
**2. Opening Date & time for E-Tender: 02.06.2026 after 12.00 hours.**  
**3. Website particulars where complete details of tender & tender document can be seen on Website: www.ireps.gov.in. Amendments / modifications if any shall not be published in the newspapers but the same shall be uploaded in the website.**  
**Sr. Divisional Engineer / Co-ord E.C. Railway/Samastipur PR/0201/SPJ/ENGG/T/26-27/14**

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
**"PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"**  
Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25000 Volt 50 Hz AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all the times and no un-authorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead lines.  

Section	Date
At Delhi Kishanganj Yard • Extension of Lines 7, 8 and 9 • 6 New Cross-overs • Modification of OHE	13.05.2026

  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD-Cord, Northern Railway, New Delhi  
Dated: 08.05.2026  
1573/2026  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**GOVT. OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR**  
AT-CHANDIKHOL, PO-SUNGUDA, JAJPUR-752496  
Email-[serw\\_kpd@yahoo.com](mailto:serw_kpd@yahoo.com)  
25001/1102627  
No. Tender Online RCK- 08/26 Letter No.- 2592 Date:-29.04.2026  
**e-Procurement NOTICE**  
1. Name of the work : Tender for the Bridge works under SBY in the Dist. of Kendrapara & Jajpur.  
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure.  
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the Column-8 of the Annexure.  
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached  
5. 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	14.05.2026 to 29.05.2026	29.05.2026 up to 01.00 P.M.	30.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	6	7

  
Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)  
Sd/-  
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur  
OIPR- 25001/25129/1/26-27/0004

**Man stabbed in Nagpur road rage**  
A 20-YEAR-OLD labourer, Tushar Chute, was stabbed to death in a road rage incident in Nagpur's Dharampath area early on Monday, said police. A vehicle brushed past his foot, which led to an argument and one of those in the vehicle stabbed him. Two minors have been detained. PTI

**KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)  
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: [www.kiadb.in](http://www.kiadb.in)  
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-02/180-2/2026-27 Date: 11.05.2026  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)  
Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid License issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:  
**Name of the Work :** Formation of industrial layout including formation of 30m wide roads of flexible pavement, construction of RCC side drains, RCC box culverts, RCC utility ducts, HDPE water supply pipelines etc at Ittagatti (Sector-2) Industrial Area in Dharwad Taluk & District.  
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **04.06.2026 upto 4.00 pm.**  
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.  
Sd/-  
Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru  
DIPR/CP/602/Zen/2026-27

**कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता गाँधी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय भोपाल**  
क्रमांक 16632/ एम.सी/10/2026 भोपाल, दिनांक 05/5/2026  
**ई-निविदा**  
गाँधी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय भोपाल के रेडियेशन आंकोलाजी विभाग में स्थापित निष्क्रिय घोषित" टेलीकोबाल्ट मशीन (थैरेट्रान-780) के साथ रेडियोएक्टिव सोर्स कोबाल्ट -60 एवं डिप्लीटेड यूरेनियम के डीकमिशनिंग एवं डिस्पोजल कार्य हेतु निमार्ता / उनके द्वारा अधिकृत विक्रेताओं से ई-निविदायें वेबसाइट [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) पर दिनांक 08/5/2026 1.00 बजे से आमंत्रित की जाती है।  

क्रमांक	विवरण	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	धरोहर राशि
1	निष्क्रिय घोषित टेलीकोबाल्ट मशीन (थैरेट्रान-780) के साथ रेडियोएक्टिव सोर्स कोबाल्ट -60 एवं डिप्लीटेड यूरेनियम के डीकमिशनिंग एवं डिस्पोजल कार्य	रू० 5,000/-	25,000/- (रू०पच्चीस हजार)

  
निविदा में किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन की स्थिति में उक्त वेबसाइट पर ही संशोधन देखा जा सकेगा। विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना व अन्य शर्तों से संबंधित वेबसाइट [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) पर दिनांक 08/05/2026 से देखी जा सकती है।  
हस्ता/-  
अधिष्ठाता  
NO-G12724/26  
गाँधी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय भोपाल



#ExpressExplained  
If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## • ECONOMICS

# Why saving forex could hamper India's growth



UDIT MISRA

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi has urged Indians to save foreign exchange (forex) by any means necessary.

In a recent speech, he called on Indians to stop buying gold for a year. Gold imports are a huge source of forex demand.

He also urged people to work from home to reduce consumption of imported crude oil: another big drain on forex.

Modi asked people to cut down on use of edible oil in their food, saying this will not just reduce imports but also improve health. He appealed to farmers to halve the use of chemical fertilisers, suggesting a shift to natural farming. He also underscored the need for buying "made in India" products instead of imported ones for everyday use. He also called on other organisations — from courts to labour unions to media — to help work towards this goal.

### Link between forex and Modi's demand

This call comes in the wake of the war in Iran, and the associated supply and price shocks of goods like fuel and fertiliser.

When Indians buy imported goods — be it gold or a toothbrush or fertiliser or edible oil — India ends up exhausting its pile of forex held with the Reserve Bank of India. That's because imports involve Indians using their rupees to buy dollars and then using those dollars to buy imported goods.

Usually, foreigners worldwide also buy Indian goods: they use dollars to buy rupees, adding to Indian forex reserves.

But the situation can go off-balance if India's imports far outstrip exports: here, India will keep spending dollars without getting as many in return.

If this sustains, it has two effects: one, India runs down its forex pile, and two, the rupee's exchange rate weakens against the dollar (or any other currency India uses to trade).

Another way through which forex comes in and out of India is foreign investments. While foreigners invest in India by either creating new businesses (foreign direct investment) or buying shares in listed Indian companies (foreign portfolio investment), Indians similarly invest abroad.

Since the economic reforms in 1991, Indians generally import more than they export — this is called running a "current account deficit" (CAD). Whereas foreigners invest in India more than Indians invest outside India — called a "capital account surplus" (CAS).

Typically, CAS is bigger than CAD, implying more dollars are coming in than going out and India adds to its forex reserves. This is technically called a "Balance of Payment (BoP) surplus".

### BoP and rupee's exchange rate

As long as BoP is in surplus, RBI can either let the rupee's exchange rate strengthen or it can simply accumulate forex reserves. Often, RBI accumulates forex reserves for various reasons, one of them being that letting the rupee strengthen may not help Indian exports. Moreover, healthy reserves help in times of crisis.

When BoP goes into a deficit, either the rupee weakens or forex reserves fall — the latter happens if RBI defends the rupee's exchange rate by selling dollars in the market. Roughly since mid-2024, India's BoP surplus has taken a hit. While CAD hasn't worsened, CAS has shrunk — often, it has become a deficit itself.

Chart 1 shows that India's current BoP situation appears as weak as it was in 2013, when Morgan Stanley designated India as one of the "fragile five" economies.

Thus, both ill-effects of a BoP deficit are happening. One, the rupee is weakening against the dollar (Chart 2) and second, RBI has been drawing down its forex reserves to defend the rupee's exchange rate (Chart 3).

The more the rupee weakens — thanks to India's heavy dependence on crude oil imports — the more the imports become costlier.

### Will Modi's mantra help?

India can deal with the forex situation in two ways: one, either reduce demand for dollars by cutting domestic consumption, or two, boosting India's ability to earn more forex by improving domestic production. Modi's suggestions are focused on cutting consumption while none focus on boosting production.

This has several implications. If all Indians were to suddenly stop using gold in all ceremonies and substitute it with fresh flowers plucked from the nearby garden, and if all Indians stopped stepping out from home for any reason (or just cycled,

### PM Modi's solutions focus on cutting back consumption, but it will slow down India's growth. What is required is boosting India's production and productivity

the capital account. After all, why would foreign investors return to an economy they are already shunning, if that economy chooses to further roll back consumption?

Arguably, there can be another medium-term scenario: that consumption doesn't get reduced but gets diverted to Indian firms, and Indian businesses invest because Indians only prefer "swadeshi" goods. This would turn around the Indian economy by redirecting all demand towards Indian businesses.

By itself, the idea of becoming self-reliant sounds intuitively appealing. While it is an understandable goal, not every country can become self-reliant in everything.

For instance, while India is now self-reliant in food production, this depends on imported fertilisers. Even if India intends to make all its fertilisers at home, it is still reliant on imported feedstock (fuels such as natural gas or naphtha, etc.) that account for over 80% of the total domestic production cost of fertilisers. So, if India cannot be self-reliant in fertilisers, it can't really consider itself to be self-reliant in food production.

Similarly, India cannot replace imported crude oil with any domestic alternatives in a hurry; moreover, any shift will cause the economy to slow down. So, crashing India's overall imports doesn't necessarily make the economy stronger; if anything, a forced reduction will slow down the economy.

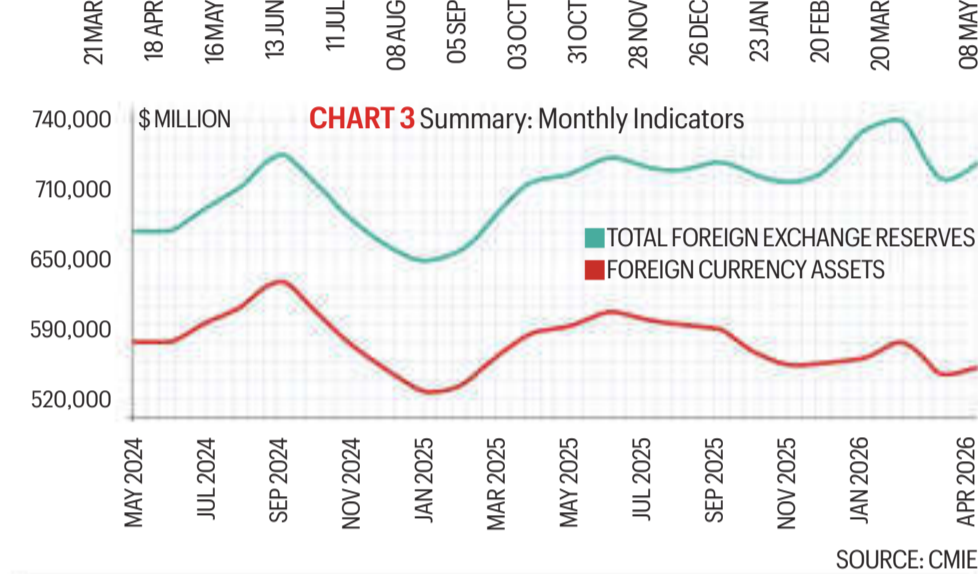
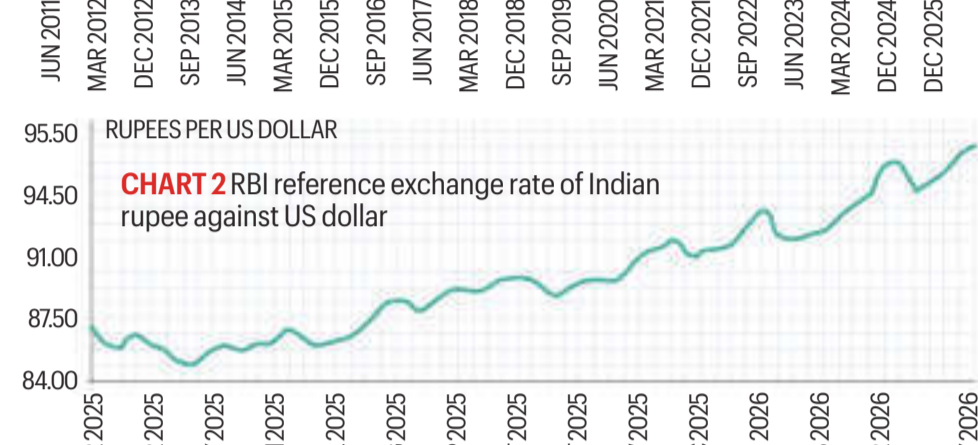
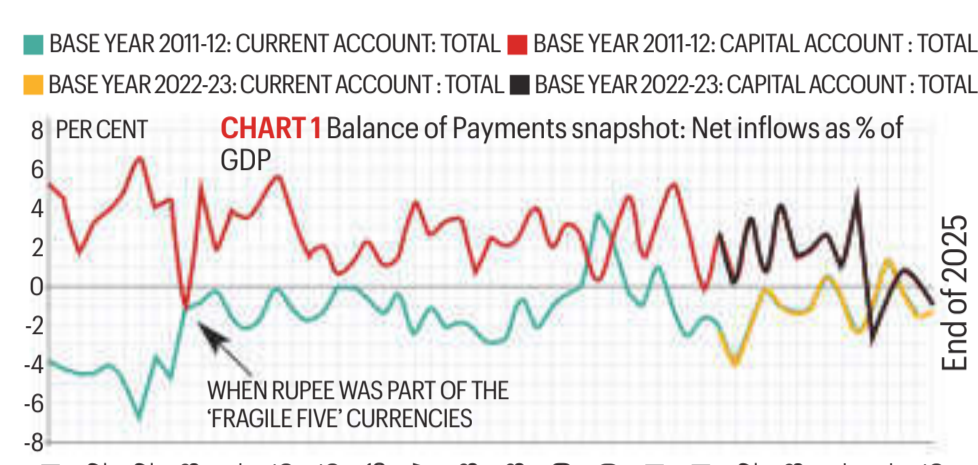
Further, that too much use of chemical fertilisers is hurting India's soil is incorrect: actually, it is an imbalanced use. The sole reason for this is the domestic subsidy regime that over-subsidises urea, nudging farmers to overuse it. Reducing use of chemical fertilisers and shifting to natural farming can only help to some extent.

### Dealing with the forex issue

Cutting consumption in such a stark manner cannot be a sustainable solution. India needs to boost both its domestic production and productivity. Only when India becomes more efficient as a producer — regardless of what machines we import — will it be able to grow its share in the global exports market.

Similarly, only when India reforms its ease of doing business will it attract fresh investments either from within the country or from outside. Higher levels of exports and/or improved attractiveness in terms of starting and running a business is the actual recipe for dealing with the forex issue in a sustainable manner.

### • Balance of Payment



### Boosting forex

RBI accumulates forex reserves for various reasons, one being that letting the rupee strengthen may not help Indian exports.

Healthy reserves help in times of crisis.

then India's imports will fall since imports of gold and crude oil are majorly why imports exceed exports. This will reduce demand for dollars by reducing or even eliminating CAD.

But this will likely come at the cost of overall economic growth because all businesses using these commodities will likely suffer lower sales, not to mention inefficiency due to cutbacks.

Weaker consumption will drag down growth in the immediate time period of the current year. Further, weak consumption levels are why businesses have not increased their investments into the Indian economy despite the government's best efforts. So, a strict adherence of Modi's call could further disincentivise businesses.

Moreover, while consumption cuts help the current account, it may further worsen

## • POLITICS

# Before Vijay: Recalling India's first hung Assembly, also in Madras

Jatin Anand  
New Delhi, May 11

C. JOSEPH Vijay took oath as the Chief Minister on Sunday after high political drama in Tamil Nadu, despite his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam emerging as the largest party.

A similar crisis played out nearly 75 years ago in the same region. The 1952 Assembly election in the erstwhile Madras state — comprising present-day Tamil Nadu and parts of Kerala, Karnataka, and undivided Andhra Pradesh — threw up India's very first fractured verdict.

### Madras's 1951 election

The election to the 375-seat Madras Assembly was held in January, with no party securing an outright majority. The Congress won 152 seats. The Communist Party of India (CPI) came second, followed by the J B Kripalani-founded Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party. There were 63 independent members.

Historian Rajmohan Gandhi, in *Rajaji: A Life*, attributed the Congress's lacklustre performance to many factors — a foodgrain crisis, the appeal of the Communists, and

strong support for a former Congress leader in the Telugu-speaking region.

This leader was T. Prakasam, the ex-premier (equivalent to CM) of the Madras presidency. Gandhi wrote: "Though he had lost his own seat, Prakasam claimed the support, not proved, of a front of 166 MLAs..."

This left the Madras Governor, Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji of Bhavnagar, in a quandary. On one side was Prakasam's claim. On the other was the Congress, and its leader K. Kamaraj's assertion that "only the Congress is going to rule". Krishnakumarsinhji referred the question to the President.

Meanwhile, Jawaharlal Nehru was clear in his preference for an elected government over President's Rule, and was keen that the party "avoid any appearance of hankering after office".

### Consensus around Rajaji

Rajaji, or CR, was one of the most important figures of the freedom movement. In 1948, he became Governor-General, and independent India's first Indian head of state.

As the situation continued to fester, the Congress was internally forming a consen-

### History repeats

Vijay, taking the support of smaller parties to keep the DMK and the AIADMK out of power, bears striking similarity with the events of 1952.

Rajaji took the support of several independents and other parties to keep the Communist-led opposition from power.

sus on nudging the leader. The thinking was that the prestige he commanded would ensure support for his government.

Rajaji's elevation was also backed by the new Governor of Madras state, Sri Prakasa. According to Rajmohan Gandhi, he wrote to President Rajendra Prasad: "After endless parleys, everybody came to one and only one solution — that the only person who could save the situation was Rajaji."

Later in March, Madras Congress leader Kumaraswami Raja conveyed to him the state legislature party's resolution backing Rajaji. Nehru accepted that decision, but hesitated about effectively parachuting in a non-elected person to the chief minister's post. However, Rajaji was also clear that he would not stand for election.

Following discussions among Governor Sri Prakasa, Kumaraswami Raja and Rajaji, a solution was found — Rajaji would be nominated to the Upper House of the state legislature. President Prasad was informed about this on April 1. Kumaraswami Raja, with the Governor's cooperation, moved swiftly to swear Rajaji in as Chief Minister, "before Nehru could come to know of CR's

inflexible condition."

Nehru was clearly unhappy with being blindsided, and expressed this in a letter to the Governor on April 3. But he also acknowledged: "At the same time, I could suggest no other and better alternative to all this and so I left it to our friends in Madras..."

Vijay, taking the support of smaller parties, bears striking similarity with the events of that time. Rajaji took the support of several independents and parties to keep the Communist-led opposition from power.

### Nehru's displeasure

According to Nehru, President Prasad had termed Rajaji's nomination to the Legislative Council as "a wrong step, wrong not only in the spirit of the Constitution but also the letter of it".

Nehru's key concern, as expressed in a letter to Governor Sri Prakasa, was that it could set a bad precedent. Interestingly, other prolific political figures from what is now Tamil Nadu took a similar route to the CM's chair, including CM C. N. Annadurai and five-time CM and DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi.

## When the British 'brought back Somnath gates' from Afghanistan

Yashee  
New Delhi, May 11

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi visited Gujarat on Monday to mark 75 years of the inauguration of the restored Somnath temple. He posted on social media, "...while the attackers have faded into the dust of history, the soul of Bharat endures. Somnath stands tall and eternal."

### The Somnath temple

Located in Prabhas Patan, Veraval, Somnath is an important Hindu pilgrimage. According to the temple's website, it is "the holy place of the First Aadi Jyotirling Shree Somnath Mahadev and the sacred soil where Lord Shri Krishna took his last journey..."

By most historical accounts, the temple faced several attacks from raiders, with the most damaging by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1026 CE. This history of Somnath has often been used to divide Hindus and Muslims. The British attempted this as far back as 1842, when an official claimed to have "avenged the insult of Hindus" by bringing back the "sandalwood gates of Somnath" from Afghanistan. The gates later turned out to be neither of Somnath nor of sandalwood.

### Lord Ellenborough's proclamation

In 1842, the British Army suffered losses in its Afghanistan expedition. A retaliatory strike was carried out, and it is during this time that the "gates of Somnath" carried away by Mahmud of Ghazni surfaced in a big way. The British brought back a pair of wooden gates from Ghazni, claiming they were the original gates of Somnath taken by the invader.

On November 16, 1842, British Governor General Lord Ellenborough issued a proclamation "to all the Princes and Chiefs, and people of India", which read: "Our victorious army bears the gates of the temple of Somnath in triumph from Afghanistan... That insult of eight hundred years is at last avenged." He added: "I have ever relied with confidence upon your attachment to the British Government. You see how worthy it proves itself of your love, when, regarding your honour as its own, it exerts the power of its arms to restore to you the gates of the temple of Somnath, so long the memorial of your subjection to the Afghans."

Upon examination, the gates were found to be made of deal, an inexpensive pinewood, and not of Indian design. The UK's National Army Museum says the gates "turned out to have been made in Ghazni".

**• FACED FLAK**  
Ellenborough's actions were criticised in England.  
In March 1843, a motion was moved in the House of Commons that the letter "to all the chiefs, princes, and people of India, respecting the restoration of the gates of a temple to Somnath, is unwise, indecorous, and reprehensible."

Controversy persisted

The theory of the gates persisted, and resurfaced in 1951 ahead of the restored temple's inauguration. In April 1951, Radio Pakistan (Peshawar), carried a broadcast that gates from Afghanistan were being carried to India for the ceremony.

On April 21, 1951, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru wrote to his Pakistani counterpart, Liaquat Ali Khan: "The story of the gates of Somnath temple being brought back to India from Afghanistan is completely false... nothing of the kind is being sent from Afghanistan to India. Nevertheless, the Pakistan Press has been full of this story."

Centre	हिंदी माध्यम	English Medium
Korla Bugh	17 मई   शाम 6:00 बजे	13 May   8:00 AM
Noida	19 मई   दोपहर 3:00 बजे	22 May   6:00 PM
Indore	20 मई   शाम 5:30 बजे	18 May   8:00 AM
Lucknow	29 मई   सुबह 8:00 बजे	25 May   8:00 AM
Prayagraj	14 मई   सुबह 11:15 बजे	1 June   5:30 PM
Ranchi	एडमिशन आरंभ	Admissions Open
Patna	एडमिशन आरंभ	Admissions Open
Jaipur	26 मई   शाम 5:00 बजे	4 June   11:00 AM

## • CLIMATE

# From Western Disturbances to El Niño: Brief guide to climate terms this summer

Anagha Jayakumar  
New Delhi, May 11

INDIA IS headed into a summer of compounding extremes. Western Disturbances brought unseasonal rain to the north, El Niño threatens a weak monsoon and intensified heatwaves, and the humidity is already making temperatures feel worse than the thermometer reads.

Here is a simple guide to the terms dominating the weather conversation.

**WESTERN DISTURBANCES:** These are east-moving rain-bearing wind systems that originate beyond Afghanistan and Iran, and pick up moisture from bodies like the Mediterranean Sea. These are typically extra-tropical cyclones resulting from low-pressure areas, formed by interactions between polar and tropical winds.

Western Disturbances are embedded within the subtropical westerly jet stream, which is a high-altitude, fast-moving air current that flows from west to east. It is found over the Himalayan and Tibetan

highlands and is most common between December and March, influencing the weather over India as well.

**EL NIÑO:** The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a climate phenomenon marked by changes in sea temperatures along the eastern Pacific Ocean, coupled with fluctuations in the overlying atmosphere. It can interfere with the global atmospheric circulation, influencing the weather.

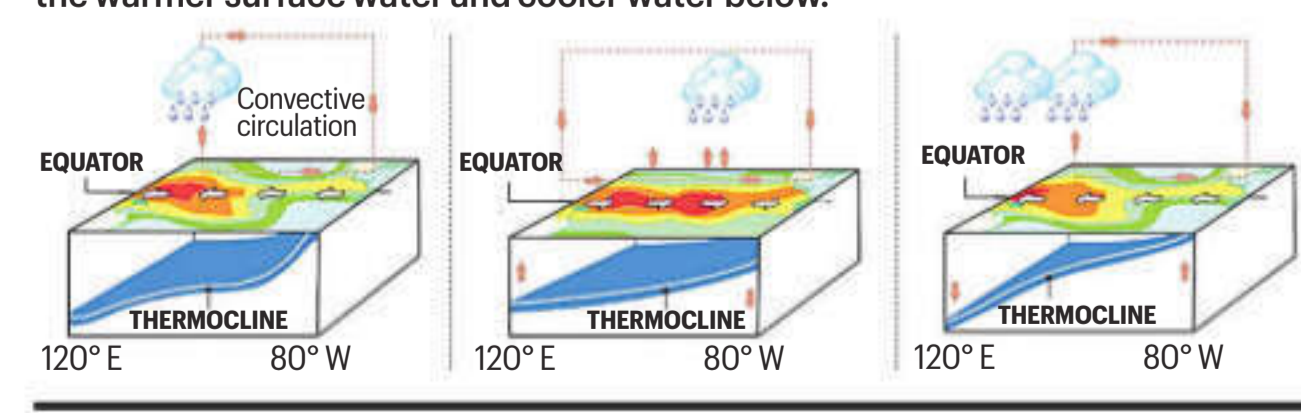
It has three phases: warm (El Niño, Spanish for "little boy"), cool (La Niña, Spanish for "little girl"), and neutral, occurring in irregular cycles of two to seven years (graphic shows neutral, El Niño and La Niña, respectively).

In the neutral phase, the eastern side of the Pacific Ocean (near the northwestern coast of South America) is cooler than the western side (near Indonesia). This is due to the prevailing wind systems that move from east to west, sweeping the warmer surface waters towards the Indonesian coast. The relatively cooler waters from below come up to replace the displaced water.

During El Niño, the surface waters of

### • THREE PHASES OF EL NIÑO SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO)

The illustrations show the Pacific Ocean around the equator and trade winds. The heat map shows water temperature. Thermocline is the layer of water separating the warmer surface water and cooler water below.



this region of the Pacific get unusually warm, disrupting the flow of moist winds in India. The result is a weak or delayed monsoon for India, as well as dry spells in major agricultural states. There is also evidence that the frequency and severity of heat waves India experiences are linked with the phenomenon.

The opposite happens when La Niña is underway: cooling of the surface waters of the eastern Pacific. India thus gets stronger, moisture-bearing winds, and typically experiences a boost in its southwest monsoon, at times causing flooding and crop damage.

**HEAT WAVE:** A period of unusually high temperatures departing from the normal,

and varies regionally. It may be exacerbated by factors like humidity, wind speed and the duration of a heat wave event.

A heat wave may be considered if the maximum temperature of a station reaches 40°C in plains or 30°C in hilly areas. Once this threshold is reached, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) may declare a heat wave (i) based on departure from the usual temperature, if the temperature ranges 4.5°C to 6.4°C above normal, and (ii) based on the actual maximum temperature (more than 45°C).

IMD uses slightly different criteria for coastal stations to account for humidity. These criteria must be met in at least two stations within a meteorological subdivision and must persist for two consecutive days.

**WET BULB TEMPERATURE:** The temperature typically measured by a regular thermometer is Dry Bulb Temperature, but this does not account for moisture. Wet Bulb Temperature is the lowest temperature that can be realised by evaporating water into the air to measure how effectively hu-

midity allows for evaporative cooling. Simply, it tells you the maximum temperature your body can cool down to.

Why this distinction? Besides heat, humidity has a major role to play in the physiological stress that the human body experiences during extreme heat. With increasing humidity, the sweat that humans generate to dispel heat from their bodies does not evaporate, making it difficult for a person to regulate their body temperature.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated that sustained exposure to wet bulb temperatures exceeding 35°C could prove fatal.

**"FEELS LIKE" TEMPERATURE:** It refers to apparent temperature, which accounts for wind and humidity conditions to determine what outdoor air temperature will feel like in relation to body temperature.

For instance, a 40°C day in Delhi will not feel like a 40°C day in Palakkad, Kerala. Delhi experiences dry blistering heat, while Palakkad sees sticky, sultry heat with high humidity, making it feel much hotter.

# The Editorial Page

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

● **WEB EXCLUSIVE**  
 'Why the CDS appointment procedure demands scrutiny.'  
 — By C Uday Bhaskar  
 Log on to [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

● **WORDLY WISE**  
 Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.  
 — T S Eliot

**The Indian EXPRESS**  
 ~ FOUNDED BY ~  
**RAMNATH GOENKA**  
 IN 1932

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## PM frames severity of energy challenge

**P**RIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's appeal to the people, to cut back on the consumption of petroleum products and conserve foreign exchange, underlines the severity of the energy supply shock for the Indian economy. India is now far removed from its recent Goldilocks phase, buffeted by high energy prices and continuing disruptions in supplies, the exit of foreign portfolio investors and a falling currency. PM Modi's plea, asking people to use public transport and electric vehicles, avoid purchasing gold, and postpone travel abroad, is directed towards curbing the demand for energy, gold and forex. To put this in perspective — in 2025-26, India's imports of petroleum, crude and products stood at \$173 billion and gold imports were at \$71.9 billion, while the rupee is now around 95.2 against the dollar. Alongside, the invocation of Covid-era measures such as work from home and virtual meetings — to prevent the spread of the virus then, to reduce fuel consumption now — underscores the gravity of the situation.

The Iran war has disrupted energy supplies the world over. Countries have responded by raising energy prices and a combination of measures designed to limit demand. For instance, Asian economies like South Korea, Indonesia and Bangladesh have imposed fuel restrictions in order to curtail domestic consumption. In the US, gas prices are inching upwards, touching \$4.52 a gallon, up from \$3.135 a year ago. In Europe, the average price (Eurosuper 95) is reported to have increased from €1.64 to €1.83 per litre between February 23 and April 20, with a marked variation across countries. Fuel prices have also been raised in countries like the UAE.

Over the last few months, the Indian government has taken steps to shield consumers. For instance, it prioritised gas supply to domestic consumers, while cutting back supply to commercial and industrial users. It raised export levies on diesel and aviation fuel to ensure supplies in the domestic market. Indian refiners have also raised their LPG production — in March, LPG production was up 30.8 per cent as per S&P Global. However, till now retail prices of petrol and diesel have remained unchanged, with oil companies and the government absorbing the shock. But there are limits to their ability to soak up the losses — the under-recoveries of Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petrol are estimated to be Rs 30,000 crore per month on petrol, diesel and cooking oil. The process of internal price adjustments must begin. Prices at the pump should reflect the global reality.

## CM Vijay begins well, hard part comes now

**T**HE VICTORY of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) marks one of the most dramatic electoral breakthroughs in recent history, riding on a powerful anti-incumbency wave and an appeal that cut across sections of the youth and the politically disillusioned. The message from the electorate was unmistakable: Tamil Nadu wants change. Delivering on the promise of a departure from the same-old will also be Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay's biggest challenge. The euphoria that surrounded his swearing-in ceremony — with the crowds and the emotional fervour — has set the stage. By visiting his rivals in victory's aftermath, the new CM has made a heartening beginning.

His second challenge comes from his inexperience, his own, as well as the two-year-old TVK's. Stardom and charisma can carry a leader to office, but running a state will require more. One of CM Vijay's first acts has been to announce a White Paper to show how the DMK government damaged the state economy, leaving it with "a debt of Rs 10 lakh crore". Yet, TN is home to one of India's strongest-performing economies, posting double-digit growth on the back of a conducive business environment for both labour and capital. For the new administration, the task will be to sustain this momentum, even as the state enters the "ageing category", with over 15 per cent of its population over the age of 60.

The new CM's third challenge will be managing the coalition he now heads: Falling 10 seats short of the majority mark, the TVK relies on support from Congress, CPI(M), CPI, VCK and IUML. Vijay's assurance that he will be the sole centre of power in the government will be tested, even as the TVK leadership demonstrates that it possesses both ideological clarity and the ability to carry allies along. The question of ideology is especially important. Vijay has repeatedly attacked the traditional Dravidian parties while invoking Periyar as his guiding light. He has spoken of inaugurating a "new era of real, secular social justice", signalling continuity with the state's long social justice tradition while simultaneously recasting its politics in a more aspirational mould. His ability to strike the right balance will shape the identity of his government. For now, Tamil Nadu has chosen hope and novelty over the familiar. The aspirations that propelled Vijay to power must now be met with governance, delivery and stability.

## The selfie is the political message

**T**HE POINT of the social-media age, marketers told the world at its inception two decades ago, was to give voice to the voiceless, a platform to those who couldn't get past the traditional gatekeepers of TV, radio and the humble newspaper. The smartphone, its camera and the internet were going to usher in a new wave of creative endeavours. As it turns out, the smartphone mostly takes selfies. Take the newly minted Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, C. Joseph Vijay. The matinee idol-turned-politician's spectacular victory ensured that every media outlet in the country was broadcasting his oath-taking ceremony. Yet, in the sea of cameras, Vijay brought his own, taking a series of selfies with party leaders, allies like Rahul Gandhi, and the massive crowd.

Long before Marshall McLuhan became the most-quoted by-too-clever-by-half MBAs and PR types in PowerPoint presentations, politicians have been made and unmade by the fact that, all too often, the "medium is the message". In a democracy, a politician must be of the people, as well as rule over them, both everyman and larger-than-life. Hence the curated candid photos of world leaders at official events, the guffaws at each other's jokes for a tweet or a reel. And the public often consumes an image of a politician capturing an image.

The selfie, in this context, becomes not just an image but also a way to control the message. After all, the frame leaves out as much as it admits in. The one who wields the camera determines what the public can see. And then there is the simpler explanation: Perhaps politicians just want a photo where they can tag their friends on an Instagram story.

# Government, oil companies can't absorb energy shock indefinitely

**F**OR DECADES, the global energy economy has functioned on the tacit assumption that the Strait of Hormuz would always remain open. That assumption has been fundamentally shaken this year.

The disruption has been without precedent. The 1973 Arab oil embargo endured for five months but never resulted in the closure of the strait. During the tanker war phase of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq conflict, shipping traffic was constrained, though not completely interrupted. Likewise, the 2019 drone attacks on Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq facility caused only a temporary disruption before supplies stabilised. In all these earlier episodes, the shock to global energy markets lasted only a short time. The present crisis, however, has extended well beyond two months and increasingly appears to be a disruption with no immediate resolution.

For India, the exposure has been severe, with a significant share of crude oil imports and LPG and LNG volumes transiting through the strait. Within eight days of the disruption, the government issued the LPG Control Order. Refineries were directed to maximise LPG yields to meet domestic demand, despite such production being uneconomical under normal circumstances. LPG production was increased from 36,000 MT to 54,000 MT per day. On the demand side, priority was accorded to protecting supplies for domestic consumers. Similarly, in the natural gas sector, domestic PNG and transportation CNG were prioritised. Export duties were imposed to protect supplies to the domestic market.

Over the past two months, global crude

oil prices have risen by 80-100 per cent, topping \$120 at times, with product prices also increasing sharply. Yet on petrol and diesel sold through retail outlets, these increases have not, so far, been passed on to domestic consumers. Instead, the exchequer has absorbed the burden through reductions in duties and through oil marketing companies (OMCs) bearing losses. The depreciation in the rupee-dollar exchange rate has only aggravated the challenge.

The crisis could have been far more crippling had India not significantly expanded its energy infrastructure over the past decade. LPG import terminals have increased from 11 to 22, LPG pipeline infrastructure from 2,311 km to 6,242 km, strategic crude reserves from zero to 5.33 MMT, and refining capacity from 215 MMT to 258 MMT. Ethanol blending, too, has risen from 1.53 per cent to 20 per cent, reportedly saving the exchequer more than Rs 1.5 lakh crore. In addition, the refineries are operating above 100 per cent capacity utilisation to meet the increased demand.

The surge in energy prices has affected consumers worldwide. Most European and East Asian economies have increased retail fuel prices by 25-35 per cent. Several countries in India's neighbourhood have resorted to fuel rationing, reduced work weeks, austerity measures, or have faced severe shortages. In contrast, Indian consumers have, by and large, been shielded from steep price increases, while supplies have been largely uninterrupted and free from major restrictions.



B ASHOK

**If the conflict persists, difficult decisions may become unavoidable, with every stakeholder required to bear a part of the burden until the crisis passes: The GoI, state governments, and consumers**

This protection for consumers has been real, but it has not come without a cost. The obvious question is whether such a model is sustainable. The answer is clearly no. Neither the government nor the oil companies can indefinitely absorb such financial stress.

Fifteen major oil and gas companies together contribute approximately Rs 7,40,765 crore to the government by way of taxes, duties, and other levies. Of this, Rs 3,25,504 crore accrues to state governments, largely through VAT on petrol, diesel and ATF. Based on excise duty reductions alone, the government is estimated to lose nearly Rs 460 crore per day — translating to almost Rs 1,68,000 crore annually.

There is also a widespread perception that oil companies make windfall profits whenever crude prices decline, while retail fuel prices remain unchanged. However, data published by PPAC shows that the three major OMCs together earned a post-tax profit of Rs 33,602 crore on revenues of Rs 18,20,477 crore in 2024-25 — a return of only 1.85 per cent, when the Indian basket of crude averaged \$78.6 per barrel. By comparison, returns during 2022-23 (average crude price of \$93.2 per barrel) and 2023-24 (\$82.6 per barrel) were 0.06 per cent and 4.4 per cent respectively, the latter being an exceptional year. Even in 2019-20, prior to the pandemic, when crude averaged \$60.5 per barrel, returns stood at just 0.56 per cent.

The capital expenditure of the three OMCs stood at Rs 72,000 crore in 2024-25, compared to Rs 68,350 crore and Rs 63,491 crore in the preceding two years. The indus-

try operates on the principle of creating and enhancing supply infrastructure ahead of demand. This approach has largely ensured the uninterrupted availability of petroleum products even during periods of severe disruption, including times of natural calamities. LPG supplies during Covid are a recent example. The trend has to continue if the energy needs of a growing economy are to be met in the years ahead. These investments also extend to emerging energy options in the ongoing energy transition, besides planned expansion of storage capacities in view of evolving geopolitical realities.

Between March 16 and April 30, the total loss suffered due to prices being maintained is estimated at around Rs 62,000 crore. Of this, the GoI has suffered a loss of around Rs 30,000 crore due to excise duty reduction and the OMCs have borne the rest.

Given the strategic importance of this sector, the companies must continue to function efficiently and generate adequate resources. The sector cannot afford to bleed indefinitely or with companies ending up with weak balance sheets. If the conflict persists, difficult decisions may become unavoidable, with every stakeholder required to bear a part of the burden until the crisis passes: The GoI through duty reductions, state governments through rationalisation of VAT on fuels, and consumers through higher prices at the pump.

It is undoubtedly a difficult proposition, but perhaps the only viable path to endure a prolonged crisis.

The writer is former chairman, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd

## When women enter the legislature, the agenda changes



SHWETA BANSAL

**T**HE NARI Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, and the legislative moves now associated with it, ask India: Who gets to sit in the rooms where the country makes its most consequential decisions?

The proposal is simple: Reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women. This is a structural intervention in a political order that has treated male dominance as natural. Women form nearly half the population, yet they have hovered around 14 per cent in the Lok Sabha, with even weaker representation in many states. They largely remain outside the institutions that decide on labour, violence, health, land, welfare, and economic policy.

The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 has not passed muster in Parliament. But the Prime Minister's renewed push has reopened a central question: Should India continue to wait for perfect conditions before correcting a deep democratic imbalance?

The answer is a firm no. Concerns around delimitation and federal balance deserve attention. Any redrawing of seats can sharpen anxieties between regions. These risks should be managed, not used as excuses for indefinite delay. A country of 1.4 billion people cannot keep treating women's political exclusion as a technical inconvenience. Delimitation may carry costs, but so does postponement. India has already paid the price for generations.

The pandemic exposed how unevenly crisis falls on women. Women lost jobs disproportionately, absorbed more unpaid care work, and faced rising violence behind closed doors. Climate stress, agrarian distress, education gaps, public health, nutrition, migration, and informal labour all demand perspectives that male-dominated legislatures have too often ignored.

India already has experience with women's reservation in panchayats, where one-third, and in many states nearly half, of the seats have been reserved for women since the 1990s. Women sarpanchs have often prioritised water, sanitation, schools, nutrition, roads, and local accountability. Their presence has not solved every problem. Proxy politics, caste hierarchies,

and patriarchal control persist. But it shows that when women enter institutions in meaningful numbers, the agenda changes.

International experiences show both the promise and the limits of quotas. Rwanda, after the 1994 genocide, used constitutional quotas to increase women's representation dramatically. Women legislators helped advance laws on gender-based violence and land rights. Yet questions remained about party control, elite networks, and whether all women, especially the most marginalised, gained meaningful power. Many Nordic countries used voluntary party measures to drive up women's representation. Their parliaments have shaped policies on parental leave, work-life balance, and equity. Still, even these countries have not escaped sexist political cultures, harassment, informal exclusion, etc. New Zealand and Germany tell a similar story. Representation did not dilute merit. It expanded the understanding of merit. But numbers alone did not dissolve imbalances.

India should learn from these. Quotas must come with stronger inner-party democracy, fairer candidate selection, campaign finance reform, and pathways for women from marginalised communities.

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam's 15-year sunset clause also invites review. This is appropriate. Any major democratic reform should be judged by what it achieves, who it includes, and how it changes political practice. A critical mass of women can change the culture of Parliament, the priorities of parties, and the expectations of voters. Their voices may not be heard clearly at first. There may be familial, party, and institutional constraints. But over time, it can shift the boundaries of the possible.

India should debate delimitation, federal balance, sub-quotas, rotation, and implementation. But it should also recognise that women have waited for decades. It's time they entered legislatures as co-authors of the republic. A Parliament that looks more like India will make democracy more honest.

The writer is an IFS officer. Views are personal

## Most important AI lesson must be taught at home



SUTIRTH DEY

**O**N APRIL 1, the Union Education Minister launched the new CBSE curriculum on computational thinking and artificial intelligence for students of Classes III to VIII. The rollout is among the most ambitious school AI programmes anywhere in the world. There is no plan, however, for how those children will use AI. Consider the chatbot on a child's phone at nine in the evening, sitting beside a half-finished assignment. No syllabus reaches that.

A recent study by the Salaam Bombay Foundation and NMIMS surveyed 1,050 Class IX students across 20 Mumbai municipal schools. More than 70 per cent reported using ChatGPT, mostly for maths problems, translations, and homework. The study also found early signs of cognitive offloading: Letting a tool do our mental tasks. We all do this; the worry is when a child does it before learning how to think. In a 2025 study, researchers from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School tracked nearly 1,000 Turkish high-school maths students who were given AI tools during practice. They found that those given unrestricted AI access scored 48 per cent better than peers who studied without it. But when AI was withdrawn, those who had used it did 17 per cent worse than peers who had never used it.

The case against AI in education is narrower than these numbers suggest. A college student of mine struggles with English. He uses AI to re-explain the class notes in the language he thinks in. The same tool that hollows out one student's learning can open another's. Which way it goes depends on the student's judgement. No policy can teach that. Whether a child reaches for the chatbot to understand or to outsource depends on what the school demands and what the household rewards. The former is outside a parent's control. The latter is not. If the expectation at home is highest-marks-in-every-subject, an overloaded child will likely search for shortcuts. Schools that reward high marks share the blame. But parents have a larger stake in how their children turn out, and must move first. What does that mean in practice?

Take the child into confidence. The cost of letting the chatbot do their thinking is real, and most children can absorb this if an adult explains it. They would love to think for themselves; they outsource because, in the moment, the alternative is harder. Then recalibrate. When your child reports a mark, ask how they got it. If the work was their own, praise it and let the mark be whatever it is. If the work was the chatbot's, say so, and withhold praise. None of this works without your own AI literacy. The point is not catching the chatbot in your child's homework but knowing these tools well enough to ask sharp questions about their process.

The new curriculum will teach Indian children how AI works. Knowing when to set the chatbot aside is a lesson the school cannot give. That lesson is given at home, in a hundred small conversations about what learning is, and what is beneficial in the long run. The parent who asks the child, after every assignment, to explain the work back, or try it once with the screen closed, is giving them something AI cannot: The slow muscle of working things out, and the joy of arriving there themselves.

The writer is chair, AI committee, and professor of Biology, IISER Pune. Views are personal

## 40 YEARS AGO

May 12, 1986



### Akali groups clash near Temple

THE POLICE fired tear gas shells to disperse supporters of the two Akali Dal factions when they clashed outside the Golden Temple complex. Curfew was imposed around the complex following the incident. In other developments in Punjab, curfew was imposed in Tarn Taran and terrorist violence left three people dead, report agencies.

### Repoll for 32 Bangladesh seats

THE PRO-government Jatiya Party of Bangladesh needed 19 of the 36 seats yet to be announced to win an absolute majority in the country's 300-member parliament. The Jatiya Party had won 132 of the 264 results unof-

ficially declared so far, while the Awami League-led opposition alliance was way behind with 90 seats. The League had bagged 70 seats. Meanwhile, opposition parties have demanded re-elections, objecting to the holding of fresh polls in some constituencies.

### BJP on national unity

THE THREE-DAY plenary session of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) concluded with the party pledging itself to work for and to protect national integrity under all circumstances. In a detailed resolution on national integration, the BJP gave a call for raising politics to a moral pedestal without caring for petty personal, group or regional gains. The party committed itself to subordinating all

petty loyalties and considerations of caste, creed and region to the overriding ideal of India's unity and the social cohesion of its people.

### Sri Lanka seeks arms from West

SRI LANKA will be partitioned unless the Government receives Western aid to fight Tamil guerrillas, President Junius Jayawardene was quoted as telling a London newspaper. "The outside world must help now, because this is now an international problem," he told the Sunday Times. "Ours is a democratic country, and it is being destroyed by these people. Another few years of this and we will have bled to death, or we will be partitioned like Cyprus," the president said.



● **WHAT THE OTHERS SAY**  
Trump's war has given China an economic opening.  
— *Financial Times*

# India has demonstrated strategic autonomy, but its record is not perfect



KANTI BAJPAI

**S**INCE THE Russian invasion of Ukraine, Indian officials and commentators have increasingly suggested that India is and should be guided by the concept of strategic autonomy. What exactly is strategic autonomy? How would we know it when we see it? And has it been good for India?

Former foreign secretary Shyam Saran, the originator of the term "strategic autonomy" in Indian discourse, defined it as "the capacity of a state to take relatively autonomous decisions on matters of vital interest". The words "vital" and "relatively" are important because "not all interests are of a vital nature, and in a multi-state landscape, one cannot ascribe absolute value to every interest". Put differently, trade-offs and concessions are inevitable in foreign policy, but not on vital interests.

How would we know what strategic autonomy actually means for India? As things stand, official pronouncements on it are largely non-falsifiable — almost any decision can be ascribed to strategic autonomy.

Outside of government, can we assess India's strategic autonomy? Where has India made crucial decisions in external and internal policy that run counter to the demands or expectations of China, the European Union (EU), Russia, and the US?

China has made three key demands on India, historically — abide by the One China policy (stop sheltering the Dalai Lama and Tibetans, no recognition of Taiwan); settle the border by conceding Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh; and reject a US-led containment structure in Asia.

India has largely refused to give in to Chinese demands. It has continued to shelter the Dalai Lama and Tibetans. While it does not recognise Taiwan diplo-

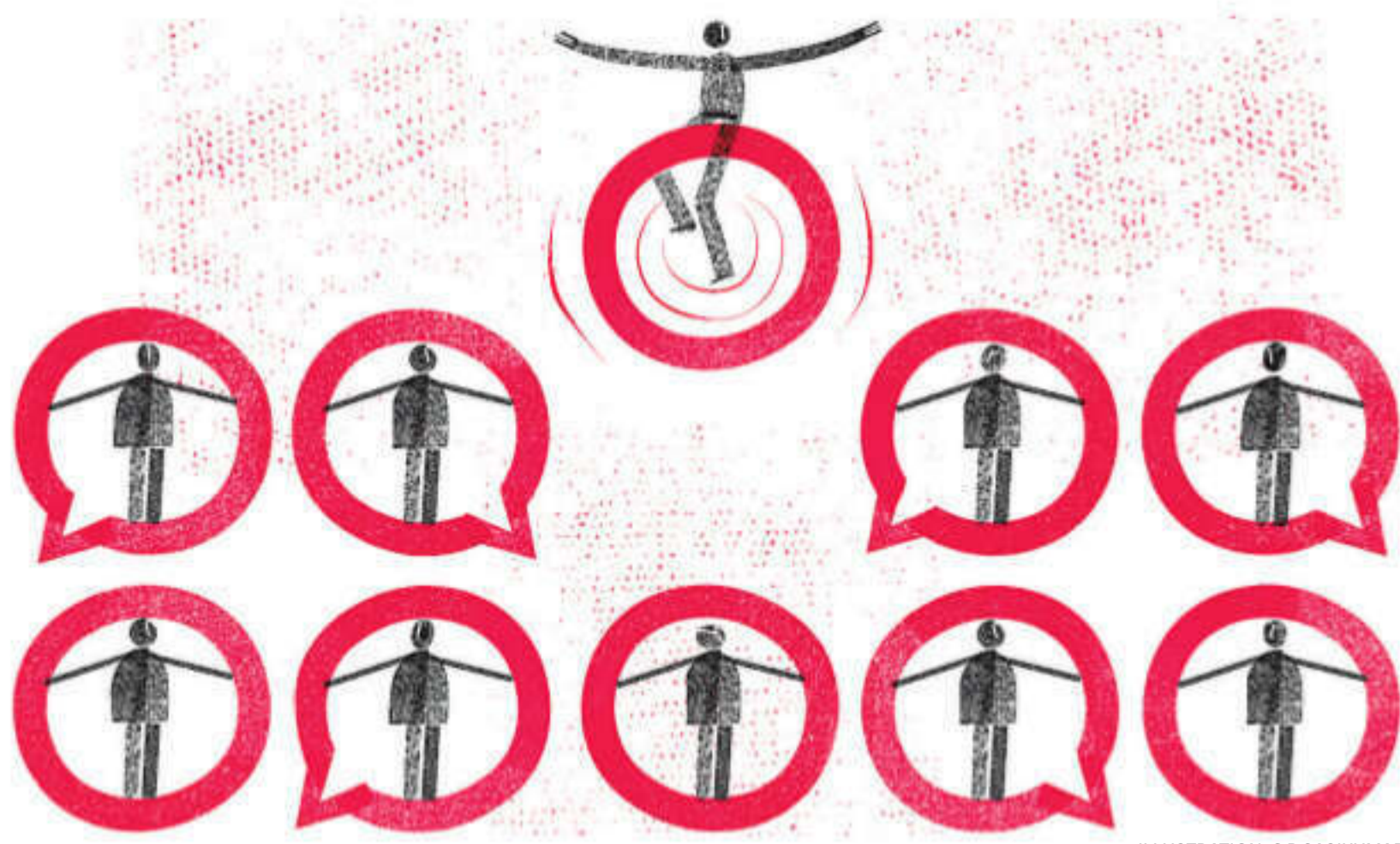


ILLUSTRATION: CR SASIKUMAR

matically, it has trade and other relations with the island. Despite Chinese blandishments and coercion, it has rejected any deal on the border that concedes Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh. On containment, India's record is more mixed. While it has rejected any US-led containment of China, it has partnered the US, Japan, and Australia in the Free and Open Indo-Pacific and the Quad, both of which initiatives are a response to a rising, more assertive China.

The EU seemingly has had no very high-stakes demands on India except perhaps on trade and human rights, which India has resisted. More importantly, since 2022, it has badgered India on the war in Ukraine. It has repeatedly asked India to condemn Russia's invasion, mediate between Ukraine and Russia more actively, reduce its dependence on Russian oil, and honour international sanctions on Russia.

Here again, India has resisted. It has never condemned Russia for the February 2022 invasion. It

**For some critics, being stiff-necked has resulted in rigid diplomacy and no big-power friends. Others maintain that while India has resisted the bigger powers, it no longer voices criticisms of them on behalf of others. It has thereby lost influence globally**

has modestly mediated between Russia and Ukraine, but not because of EU pressures. It has continued to buy Russian oil, even if its purchases have been reduced in recent months. And some Indian businesses may be evading international sanctions against Russia — with or without the government's knowledge.

Russia's demands on India are not publicly known, but we can assume it has strongly urged India to reject Western demands on the Ukraine war, oil, and sanctions. Has Russia threatened to punish India in this regard, for instance by withholding arms sales? It is hard to say, but Russia probably needs the sales as much as India. Russian leverage is therefore limited. On oil purchases, a desire to diversify supplies and to take advantage of affordable prices over external pressures accounts for India continuing to buy Russian oil.

The US is the most stringent test case for Indian strategic autonomy. Over the past decade, the US has demanded that India

eliminate high tariffs on US goods and strengthen intellectual property rights, stop buying Russian oil and reduce arms purchases from Russia, commit to buying US energy, technology, and agriculture products, and prevent BRICS from anti-American actions such as "de-dollarisation". It has also asked India to curtail relations with Iran (oil purchases and cooperation, trade and investment, the development of Chabahar port and the Chabahar-Zahedan rail link).

Overall, in relation to the US, India has stuck to its guns. The exceptions are BRICS and Iran policy. India has opposed BRICS abandoning the dollar — though it is unclear if its opposition was under US pressure or for its own reasons. And on Iran, it has curtailed relations and, most recently, avoided condemning the US war and Israeli actions in Iran and Lebanon.

In sum, India has shown a willingness to defy bigger powers, though its record is not perfect. For some critics, being stiff-necked has resulted in rigid diplomacy and no big-power friends. Other critics maintain that while India has resisted the bigger powers, it no longer voices criticisms of them on behalf of others (as it used to do in the heyday of its internationalist diplomacy). It has thereby lost influence globally. Supporters of India's diplomacy argue that it wisely practises "multi-alignment", which means balanced relations with bigger powers and not giving offence to them except when its security and welfare are directly threatened. As a result, India is free to focus on its internal economic development.

Who is right? The answer depends on a rigorous assessment of whether India is strategically friendless and whether that matters, whether it has lost global influence and whether that matters, and whether multi-alignment plus stubborn resistance when it counts has indeed left India free to focus on the home front to the benefit of security and welfare.

*The writer is visiting professor, International Relations, Ashoka University, and emeritus professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore*

## A question for Israel: How much retribution before you say enough?



NAVDEEP SURI

**I**SRAEL, OF late, has been occupying a disproportionate amount of my mind space. It isn't just this illegal, pointless aggression on Iran that will be remembered as Benjamin Netanyahu's war and Donald Trump's folly. It is also the barely concealed ambition of a Greater Israel, involving the occupation of the Golan Heights in Syria, a chunk of southern Lebanon, over half of Gaza and the ever-spreading cancer of illegal settlements in the Occupied West Bank. There are days when my disappointment with Israel is deeply personal, tinged almost with a sense of betrayal.

Israel was the country that captured my imagination as a teenager growing up in Amritsar in the mid-1970s. The historical novel *Mila 18* by Leon Uris was probably the first one to leave a profound imprint, followed by *Exodus*. I was enchanted by the tales of heroism, along with the accompanying narrative about the establishment of the State of Israel against all odds in 1948. I was enamoured with the prodigious intellect of a small community that produced Einstein and Marx, Freud and Spinoza, Proust and Bohr, Kafka and Spielberg.

As a 16-year-old, I wrote to the Israeli consulate in Mumbai, and they responded promptly, sending me reams of material — books, pamphlets, slick brochures, elegant maps. About the great victories of 1948, the brilliant pre-emptive strikes in the Six-Day War of 1967, the Yom Kippur attack in 1973, and the case for "secure borders". I admired the idealism of the Zionists building a nation from their kibbutzim, an oasis of liberal democracy.

The infatuation lasted for over a year, but popped up again after seven years when I joined the foreign service in 1983. I chose Arabic over other language options and landed up in Cairo, disappointed that my first diplomatic passport had a stamp proclaiming "Not Valid for Israel and South Africa". I made it a point to visit Rafah and Taba in Sinai, Allenby Bridge in Jordan and Quneitra in Syria's Golan Heights, and saw the Star of David fluttering in the distance. Meanwhile, conversations with Egyptian and Syrian friends and with a range of Palestinians in Cairo and Damascus gave me the other side of the story. Access to Arabic-language media started to change my perspective, as did the still visible evidence of Israel's destructive and eventually disastrous invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Admiration of Israel's many strengths was now tinged with a concern over its growing belligerence.

But nothing prepared me for the revulsion with which I watched the unfolding genocide in Gaza. Of course, Israel had the right to respond to the brutal terrorist attack by Hamas on October 7, 2023. But how much retribution is to be extracted before you say enough? 72,000 dead Palestinians, over half of them women and children? How do you see the images from brave films like *Doctors Under Attack* and *The Voice of Hind Rajab*? How do you ignore the ongoing crimes of the IDF in Lebanon? And there is this unanswered question that haunts me. How could a people who have suffered so much pain and persecution over the centuries bring themselves to inflict the same on the hapless Palestinians and the Lebanese?

Others, too, are agonising over this. Omer Bartov, a Holocaust scholar who was raised in a kibbutz and served four years in the Israeli Defence Forces, poses similar questions in his recent book *Israel: What Went Wrong?* He outlines Zionism's shift from a movement for Jewish emancipation to an ideology that is increasingly based around ethno-nationalism, settler colonialism and the exclusion of Palestinians. The signs were always there, he says; we chose not to see them.

The International Court of Justice ruled in July 2024 that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories since 1967 is illegal; the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Prime Minister Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for crimes against humanity in Gaza; Jewish historian Avi Shlaim's newest book *Genocide in Gaza* sets out the legal basis for holding Israel to account; Jewish survivors and descendants of survivors of the Holocaust have published an open letter condemning the massacres in Gaza. A reappraisal of Israel is also visible in European nations that have traditionally over-compensated for their guilt over the Holocaust. Starting with Ireland, Norway and Spain, most European states are hardening their stance on Israeli transgressions, and there is a growing chorus to suspend the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

The Europeans, the ICC and ICJ don't really matter. Israel's security, for at least the last five decades, has been underwritten by ironclad, bipartisan and virtually unconditional US support. But a slew of recent polls reveal the speed with which that consensus is unravelling. A Pew survey released in April 2026 showed that 60 per cent of US adults now hold an unfavourable view of Israel, including a staggering 80 per cent of Democrat voters.

Israel has its own moment of reckoning during elections later this year. Will it try to advance lasting security through peace with its neighbours and by addressing legitimate Palestinian aspirations? Is there a Yitzhak Rabin or Shimon Peres waiting to be discovered? I am not holding my breath.

*The writer is a retired diplomat*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Adhikari's challenge

THE EDITORIAL rightly urges the new Suvendu Adhikari government to heal divisions, but it misses the deeper malady: For nearly 50 years, West Bengal has confused the party with the state ("Bengal CM's first task: Take everyone along", *IE*, May 11). The Bharatiya Janata Party government now inherits an economy drained of industry and a people who have learned to seek survival through loyalty rather than law. Welfare schemes, however well meant, will simply become new chains of dependency unless the bureaucracy is freed from political captivity.

*Babu Crishna, Bengaluru*

BENGAL'S CRISIS is no longer merely electoral, but cultural ("Bengal CM's first task: Take everyone along", *IE*, May 11). The editorial itself notes how the boundaries between party and state gradually blurred across governments, normalising intimidation and political violence over decades. The real challenge before the new leadership is whether it can dismantle this inherited political culture.

*Havya Garg, Chandigarh*

### Pendency crisis

THE EDITORIAL rightly argues that increasing the Supreme Court's strength, by itself, cannot resolve the deeper crisis of pendency ("Judicial reform shouldn't stop at SC", *IE*, May 11). An equally important reform lies in reducing the everyday burden that compels citizens to approach courts in the first place. A significant share of litigation arises from routine administrative failures, delayed government decisions, unclear regulations and poor grievance-redress mechanisms. When citizens must move courts for pensions, land records, tax refunds or service matters, the justice system ends up compensating for deficiencies in governance. As the editorial notes, the state remains the country's largest litigant; judicial reform must therefore include administrative reform.

*Ritika, Hyderabad*



KAMALRAM SAJEEV

HAMLET DID not ask to be remembered. He asked to be understood — and knew, in his final breath, that the two are never the same. There is something of that sorrow in the twilight of Pinarayi Vijayan. A leader who built roads through mountains and broadband amidst poverty. Who governed with the cold precision of someone who had never once confused sentiment with strategy. He is, in the grand Shakespearean tradition, both architect and ruin — the strong hand that steadied the ship, and the fist that, gripped too long, forgot how to open. And like Horatio on that blood-soaked Danish stage, it falls to the rest of us to tell the story.

Vijayan's journey started in 1964, at the bottom of a ladder he would spend the next five decades climbing. By 1998, when the incumbent state secretary died, he was the only man the party could imagine stepping forward. He would hold the secretaryship for 17 years. While communist parties across India were collapsing, Kerala held. Vijayan overhauled the party's culture, purging factional rot, binding together a coalition that, by every political logic, should have long since splintered. His rivalry with VS Achuthanandan was the most visible crack in the edifice — yet the edifice stood. He was the proof, and Kerala was the argument: That the Left could still govern, still win, still matter.

He became chief minister in May 2016, carrying the same

## Pinarayi changed Kerala, his virtues became his undoing

faith that had sustained him through five decades — not in promises, but in execution. Through KIIFB, highways merged into hillsides and coastlines. Through Aardram, hospitals stopped being places people went to die. LIFE raised 5 lakh roofs over the roofless. When floods and landslides tore into Kerala, the government did not scramble. Years of quiet institutional investment meant Nipah was strangled at its root, Covid turned Kerala into a global case study in statecraft, and floodwaters receded into the Rebuild Kerala Initiative. His 2021 victory was a verdict that said at the ballot box what he had spent decades arguing in committees: The Left, when it governs seriously, earns the right to govern again.

Power, held long enough, begins to leave its bruises on the hand that holds it. Vijayan's command instinct, so effective in an emergency, hardened into something less flexible and more personal. Voices within the CPI(M) itself noted his distance from the rank and file, his imperviousness to internal criticism, a departure from the party's culture of self-scrutiny. Corruption allegations involving his daughter Veena Vijayan and the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited controversy were never judicially proved, but his silence had its own costs. The 2024 controversy in which a fabricated quote hostile to Malappuram, a Muslim-

**Vijayan's command instinct, so effective in an emergency, hardened. Voices within the CPI(M) noted his distance from the rank and file**

majority district, was planted in a major newspaper through a PR agency with alleged BJP links, raised questions about political judgement.

By 2025, the Opposition's sweep through local body elections confirmed what many had sensed. Then came the assembly verdict — the LDF collapsing to 35 seats in a 140-seat House. Remarkably, the sharpest accusations flew not from the Opposition but from within the Left's own house, pointing toward Vijayan's high-handedness. Anti-incumbency may have set the wind blowing, but it was the force of a single, centralised, unaccountable authority that filled the sails.

Vijayan changed Kerala. He held a party together through national collapse, governed through catastrophe with rare competence, and made Kerala — for a decade — the most serious case the Indian Left had to offer. He is also the man around whom power gathered and hardened, whose late years dimmed what his early years had built, whose greatest virtues — discipline, control, single-mindedness — carried, as all great virtues do, the quiet seed of their own excess.

Pinarayi Vijayan is not asking to be remembered. He asks, through every road built and fibre cable laid, to be understood. Whether the story others now tell will honour that distinction — that, finally, is not his to decide.

*The writer is chief editor, truecopythink.media*



HIMANSHU JAISWAL AND SHIFALI GOYAL

INDIA'S ACHIEVEMENT of 20 per cent ethanol blending (E20) in petrol ahead of its original 2030 target marks a significant milestone in its energy transition, with E20 fuel being sold across the country from April 1. What began as a modest pilot in 2001, followed by the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme in 2003 and further policy support measures, has evolved into one of the world's most ambitious biofuel initiatives, making India the third-largest ethanol producer after the US and Brazil.

Ethanol blending reduces carbon emissions and creates additional income

## India is making ethanol leap, but there are trade-offs

streams for farmers and distillers. EBP was also expected to reduce India's dependence on imported crude oil. However, this has only been partially realised. During 2014-24, EBP resulted in crude oil substitution of about 193 lakh metric tonnes, yet despite achieving the 20 per cent blending rate last year, the crude import bill declined by only 3 per cent due to blending. At the same time, total crude imports continue to rise. Recent calls to push ethanol blending to 30 per cent or higher need a comprehensive evaluation.

A NITI Aayog report estimated the ethanol requirement for E20 at 1,016 crore litres. Achieving E30 by 2030 would require around 1,735 crore litres. A crude estimate for ethanol demand for E30 may range between 1,700 and 1,800 crore litres for petrol blending only. Higher blending through domestic production could provide India with a

stronger strategic lever against global shocks, but with several trade-offs.

The first is environmental. Ethanol production from sugarcane and rice is highly water-intensive. Intensified sugar production and diversion toward fuel have exacerbated groundwater depletion in already water-stressed regions, such as parts of UP, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. While maize offers a relatively less water-intensive alternative, scaling it up carries its own implications for land-use, cropping patterns, and diversion of produce away from existing uses.

**The priority must be scaling second-generation (2G) ethanol, and addressing environmental and food concerns**

Second is the question of food security. India has increased ethanol production from surplus food grains, including broken rice. A lower output of the same may pose risks of diversion, as occurred in 2023, restricting these feedstocks to distilleries. Uneven monsoon patterns, associated with a high probability of El Niño this year, could adversely affect output and intensify pressure on food availability. Third, moving to higher blends would necessitate not only new distillery investments but also expansion of existing facilities. Storage and transportation infrastructure for ethanol would need to be scaled up significantly. These capital-intensive adjustments require huge investments, careful planning, and policy coordination.

Fourth, the automotive ecosystem may not be fully prepared for higher blending. Since 2023, new vehicles sold in India have

been made E20-compliant. With the majority of vehicles running in India not being E20-compliant, moving to higher blends would require further engine modifications and higher adoption of flex-fuel vehicles.

India's next phase of biofuel expansion needs a more calibrated strategy. Shifting to less water-intensive feedstocks, prioritising plant-specific incentives in ethanol-deficient states, and importing ethanol may offer complementary pathways. The priority must be scaling second-generation (2G) ethanol, produced from agricultural residues and non-food biomass, and addressing environmental and food concerns. Else, higher ethanol blends risk substituting one set of vulnerabilities with another.

*Jaiswal is consultant, CSEF, and Goyal is research associate, CSEF. Views are personal*

Netanyahu says he wants to wean Israel off US military support

Reuters  
May 11

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hopes to wean Israel off US military support within a decade as his country pushes to strengthen ties with Gulf states, he said in an interview that aired on Sunday.

"I want to draw down to zero the American financial support, the financial component of the military cooperation that we have," Netanyahu told CBS News' "60 Minutes" program.

Netanyahu said Israel receives about \$3.8 billion of US military aid a year. The US has agreed to provide a total of \$38 billion in military aid to Israel from 2018 to 2028.

But it is "absolutely" the right time to possibly reset the US-Israeli financial relationship, Netanyahu said. "I don't want to wait for the next Congress," he told CBS. "I want to start now."

Israel has long had bipartisan consensus within the US Congress for military aid, but support from lawmakers and the public has frayed since the war in Gaza in October 2023.

Sixty percent of US adults have an unfavorable view, opens new tab of Israel, and 59% had little or no confidence in Netanyahu to do the right thing regarding war affairs, according to a Pew survey conducted in March. Both percentages were up seven percentage points from a year earlier.

TEHRAN DEMANDS END TO BLOCKADE, COMPENSATION AND SOVEREIGNTY OVER STRAIT OF HORMUZ

## Trump says Iran truce is 'on life support' after he rejects response

US faces domestic and international pressure as energy prices rise

Reuters  
Washington, Dubai, May 11

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump said on Monday that a ceasefire with Iran was "on life support" after he rejected Tehran's response to a US peace proposal, fuelling concerns of a resumption of hostilities in the 10-week-old conflict that has killed thousands and halted vital energy flows.

Days after Washington floated a proposal aimed at reopening negotiations, Iran on Sunday released a response focused on ending the war on all fronts, including Lebanon, where US ally Israel is fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah militants. The response had been swiftly rejected by Trump.

Asked where the ceasefire stands, Trump told reporters on Monday. "I would call it the weakest right now, after reading that piece of garbage they sent us. I didn't even finish reading it," he said.

In its response, Tehran also demanded compensation for



A busy intersection with a billboard featuring an image of the late Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in Tehran on Monday. REUTERS

war damage, emphasised its sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, and called on the U.S. to end its naval blockade, guarantee no further attacks, lift sanctions and remove a ban on Iranian oil sales. The US had proposed an end to fighting before starting talks on more contentious issues, including Iran's nuclear programme.

Tehran defended its stance on Monday. "Our demand is legitimate: demanding an end to the war, lifting the (US) blockade

and piracy, and releasing Iranian assets that have been unjustly frozen in banks due to US pressure," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said.

"Safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz and establishing security in the region and Lebanon were other demands of Iran, which are considered a generous and responsible offer," he said.

Traffic through the Strait of Hormuz is at a trickle compared with before the war.

Shipping data on Kpler and LSEG showed that three tankers laden with crude exited the waterway last week, with trackers switched off to avoid Iranian attack.

A second Qatari LNG tanker was attempting to transit the strait, the data showed, days after the first such cargo crossed under an arrangement involving Iran and Pakistan.

Sporadic flare-ups around the strait in recent days have tested a ceasefire that has

paused all-out warfare since it took effect in early April.

In the United States, surveys show the war is unpopular with voters facing sharply higher gasoline prices less than six months before nationwide elections that will determine if Trump's Republican Party retains control of Congress.

Washington has also struggled to build international support, with NATO allies refusing to send ships to reopen the waterway without a full peace deal and an internationally mandated mission.

Hakan Fidan, the foreign minister of Turkey, which has been liaising closely with the US, Iran and mediator Pakistan since the start of the war, will hold talks in Qatar on Tuesday on the conflict and on ensuring navigational safety in the strait, a Turkish diplomatic source said.

The next diplomatic or military steps remain unclear. Trump is expected to arrive in Beijing on Wednesday, where Iran is set to be among the topics discussed with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Trump has been leaning on China to use its influence to push Tehran toward a deal with Washington.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Baghaei suggested China could instead use the visit to push back against US objectives in the Gulf.

## Last six passengers depart Hantavirus-hit cruise ship as captain hails their 'patience'

Reuters  
Tenerife, May 11

THE LAST six passengers and some crew members of the hantavirus-hit *MV Hondius* left the ship on the Spanish island of Tenerife on Monday as its captain praised their patience and discipline during an "extremely challenging" few weeks.

Strong winds forced the polar expedition ship carrying the remaining passengers - four Australians, one Briton who lives in Australia and a New Zealander - to dock briefly at the port of Granadilla de Abona to allow them to disembark safely and board a flight to the Netherlands, where they will spend time in quarantine, Spain's health ministry said.

Nineteen crew members from the ship and three doctors who treated them were due to take off for the Netherlands on a separate flight, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said.

The *MV Hondius* was then due to continue its journey with 26 crew members to the Netherlands - its flag state - where it would be disinfected, health authorities said.

"I could not imagine sailing through these circumstances with a better group of people, guests and crew alike," Captain Jan Dobrogowski, from the Netherlands, said in a video posted on Oceanwide Expeditions' website.



The cruise ship *MV Hondius* at the port of Granadilla de Abona, Tenerife, Spain, on Monday. AP

The disembarkation caps a complex operation that has so far resulted in 94 people being evacuated and repatriated to their countries of residence, 41 days after the *MV Hondius* set off from southern Argentina and nine days after the first positive test result for the respiratory viral infection.

Three people, a Dutch couple and a German national, have died since the start of the outbreak of the virus, which is usually spread by wild rodents but also transmissible person-to-person in rare cases of close contact.

The WHO said on Monday there were now seven confirmed cases of the Andes strain of hantavirus, and two other suspected cases - one who died before being tested, and one on Tristan da Cunha, a remote South Atlantic island where there were no tests available.

## What global middle powers fear about the Trump-Xi summit

Damien Cave  
Ho Chi Minh City, May 11

POLAND WILL soon host production lines for South Korean tanks. Australia is buying warships from Japan. Canada will send uranium to India, while India offers cruise missiles to Vietnam, and Brazil builds military transport planes for the United Arab Emirates.

All of these deals were sealed in the past few weeks. Each one represents an attempt by middle powers to protect themselves as the conflict in Iran throttles global energy supplies, and as a high-stakes summit between President Donald Trump and Xi

Jinping of China looms.

Global polls show the world has little trust in the United States and China. Trump and Xi have both used their enormous leverage over trade and security to coerce or punish. And in response, smaller nations are behaving as if they are stuck in "Godzilla" or "Dune" - moving quietly in small groups, trying not to provoke the wrath of petulant giants.

"It's fifty shades of hedging," said Richard Heydarian, a Filipino political scientist at Oxford University. Or, as Ja Ian Chong, a security analyst in Singapore put it, "No party wants to cross Beijing and now

Washington, too."

For countries watching from afar, dread and hope hover over the Trump-Xi meeting in Beijing, which is scheduled for this week. In Asia, which has been hit hardest and fastest by oil shortages caused by the war and China's tight control of oil-product exports, the mood is particularly grim.

Interviews with officials, and statements from leaders traveling the globe to secure trade and defense deals, suggest that most middle powers feel overwhelmed by the deteriorating world order.

Many believe the summit

carries more potential for harm than help. And Trump's gut-driven approach to complex issues is the main source of anxiety. For months, officials in Asia have worried that the president might be too eager to make a deal with Xi, ending weapons sales to Taiwan or agreeing to softened policy language that could make it easier for China to undermine the democratic island.

"That would be the biggest nightmare," said one Taiwanese official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal government matters. He insisted that reduced support from

the US was unlikely.

But any concession on Taiwan could lead other American partners to fear abandonment. Beijing's push for compliance on contested territory elsewhere would be bolstered, from the border with India to the South China Sea.

Vietnamese officials said that if Trump makes a conciliatory gesture or flatters Xi, even without bigger compromises, China will gain leeway to press harder on smaller countries. Another concern being discussed across the region: Trump might alter long-term security plans in exchange for better economic terms with China. NYT

## Musk and Cook to travel with Trump, Huang left out

Washington: Elon Musk, Apple's Tim Cook, GE Aerospace's Larry Culp and Boeing's Kelly Ortberg will join US President Donald Trump on his visit to China this week, a White House official said.

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang is not going to Beijing with Trump, a source said, adding that Huang was not invited. REUTERS

## Russia & Ukraine trade blame as US-brokered truce nears its end

Associated Press  
Kyiv, May 11

A US-BROKERED ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine was due to expire on Monday with both sides accusing each other of breaching the 72-hour arrangement, as American and European officials considered how they might steer the warring countries into further talks.

Ukrainian authorities said on Monday that Russian drones, bombs and artillery shelling struck civilian areas of the Kharkiv and southern Kherson regions, killing at least two people and wounding seven others.

Russia's Defence Ministry on Sunday accused Kyiv of committing more than 1,000 ceasefire violations, state media reported.

Similar ceasefires announced since Russia invaded



Firefighters work at the site of a residential building damaged during Russian missile strikes, in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Sunday. AP

its neighbour more than four years ago have also failed to stop the fighting, and US-led diplomatic efforts over the past year have come to nothing.

The Washington-based Institute for the Study of War said data from NASA observations indicated military activities decreased but did not stop after

Trump announced last Friday that Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy had accepted his request for a ceasefire running Saturday through Monday.

The move was meant to mark Victory Day, the Russian celebration marking the defeat of Nazi Germany.

## Thailand's ex-PM Thaksin out of prison, on parole

Reuters  
Bangkok, May 11

THAILAND'S BILLIONAIRE former premier Thaksin Shinawatra was released from jail on parole and met by cheering crowds on Monday, eight months after a court ordered him to do the prison time he tried to dodge with a prolonged stay in hospital.

The 76-year-old tycoon remained and dominated Thai politics for a quarter-century, but his influence has waned of late following his jailing and his once formidable Pheu Thai Party's worst election performance on record earlier this year.

Hundreds of supporters, many wearing his party's signature red colour, who had gathered to greet him on his release chanted: "We love Thaksin".

## Suspect in White House correspondents' dinner attack pleads 'not guilty'

Reuters  
Washington, May 11

THE MAN accused of attempting to assassinate US President Donald Trump at a White House reporters' gala last month pleaded not guilty to all charges on Monday.

Cole Allen, 31, of California, did not speak in court as his attorney Tezira Abe entered the plea on his behalf.

The charges include attempted assassination of the president, assault on a federal officer and firearms offenses.

Prosecutors allege Allen fired a shotgun at a US Secret Service agent and stormed a security checkpoint in a foiled attack on Trump and other members of his administration at the White



Suspect Cole Allen. FILE

House Correspondents' Dinner. Allen allegedly traveled to Washington by train, carrying a shotgun, pistol and knives, and booked a room in the Washington Hilton where the April 25 dinner took place.

He wore an orange jumpsuit and was shackled at the waist during the brief court proceeding. It was his first appearance in Washington federal court.

### • BRIEFLY

#### UNITED STATES

### Indian-origin philanthropist pays off college students' loans



Philanthropist Anil Kochhar

INDIAN-ORIGIN philanthropist Anil Kochhar surprised graduating students at North Carolina State University Wilson College of Textiles by announcing that he and his wife, Marilyn Kochhar, would pay off all final-year student loans for the college's class of 2026, reported the *New York Post*. "It is my privilege to announce today that, in honor of my father Prakash Chand Kochhar, Marilyn and I are providing a graduation gift to cover all the final-year education loans incurred by Wilson College graduates during

the 2025-26 academic year," Kochhar announced, as per the *New York Post* report. Kochhar's late father, Prakash Chand Kochhar, traveled from Punjab to Raleigh in 1946 to study textile manufacturing at NC State.

#### GERMANY

### 17-yr-old arrested over 'extremist' attack conspiracy

A 17-YEAR-old boy has been arrested in the German city of Hamburg on suspicion of planning an attack on a shopping mall, a bar or a police station, prosecutors said Monday. The Syrian national was arrested in Hamburg on Thursday, prosecutors in Germany's second-biggest city said in a statement. They added the Islamic State extremist group apparently was the inspiration for his alleged plans to kill an under-terminated number of "infidels" using explosives, Molotov cocktails or a knife. AP

#### THE PHILIPPINES

### V-P impeached amid escalating political rift

AN OVERWHELMING majority of the House of Representatives of the Philippines voted to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte Monday over alleged unexplained wealth and threats to have the president assassinated, as the rift between the camps of the country's top two officials escalated. The House, which is dominated by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s allies, voted 257-25 with nine abstentions. The two impeachment complaints mark an initial setback to her plan to seek presidency. AP

• NARGES MOHAMMADI, A PROMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST WHO HAS SPENT MUCH OF HER ADULT LIFE IN AND OUT OF PRISON, WILL UNDERGO TREATMENT IN TEHRAN AFTER COLLAPSING EARLIER THIS MONTH

## Jailed Iranian Nobel Peace Prize winner fighting for her life at Tehran hospital

Amelia Nierenberg  
May 11

NARGES MOHAMMADI, the jailed Iranian Nobel Peace Prize laureate and prominent human rights activist who collapsed earlier this month, has been transferred to a hospital in Tehran for treatment by her own medical team, a foundation run by her family said in a statement on Sunday.

Mohammadi, 54, has spent much of her adult life in and out of prison in Iran's authoritarian theocracy, and her health has deteriorated in recent months. She was hospitalized on May 1 in Zanjan, where she had been held, after col-

lapsing and losing consciousness. At the time, requests to move her to Tehran for treatment were denied.

She spent 10 days in that hospital before being transferred to another hospital in Tehran on Sunday, the Narges Mohammadi Foundation said.

Mostafa Nili, a lawyer for Mohammadi, said on social media on Sunday that she had been moved to Tehran "following an order halting her sentence for medical treatment."

The foundation called for "her unconditional freedom and the dismissal of all charges." "Narges Mohammadi's life hangs in the balance," her husband, Taghni Rahmani, said ac-

ording to the foundation's statement. "Narges must never be returned to the conditions that broke her health."

Earlier this month, Rahmani said Mohammadi suffers from chronic heart problems and had faced rough treatment in prison, including beatings by prison guards.

Mohammadi, known for her tireless pro-democracy activism, has spent much of her adult life in and out of prison in Iran's authoritarian system. She had been sentenced to 10 years on charges of threatening national security.

But in February, a court sentenced her to an additional seven and a half years because



Narges Mohammadi, an Iranian human rights activist, last year. NYT

of her continued opposition to the government.

She was arrested again in

December, while on a yearlong furlough from prison because of her health, after she de-

livered a fiery speech critical of the government at the funeral of a fellow activist.

The judicial authorities jailed her in Zanjan, a city northwest of Tehran, where she has no family and where prison conditions are far worse than in the capital.

In late March, she had a heart attack and lost consciousness in prison, but was refused proper medical care at a hospital.

In 2023, while she was imprisoned, the Nobel Committee awarded her the Peace Prize, noting "her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all."

Mohammadi was arrested

again in December after she delivered a speech critical of the government while on a year-long furlough from prison because of her health. Shortly after her arrest, she told her family that she had been so badly beaten she had to be briefly hospitalized.

In early February, she went on a hunger strike to protest her detention and lack of access to medical care.

That same month, an Iranian court sentenced her to an additional seven and a half years in jail for her opposition to the government.

In a report accompanying an excerpt from Mohammadi's upcoming memoir published

by *The Guardian* on Sunday, Mohammadi said there was "no hardship worse than illness combined with imprisonment." "Authoritarian regimes do not always need an executioner's rope. Sometimes, they simply wait for the human body to fail," she wrote.

The transfer came after days of growing concern over her condition, as supporters pressed authorities to allow proper care.

Her family and legal team say the move to Tehran will make treatment safer and more effective, but they continue to demand that she be released permanently from detention at once. NYT

DAILY LOSSES ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT RS 1,000 CRORE TO RS 1,200 CRORE

## No price hike yet, OMCs' Q1 loss can wipe out last year's profits

Sukalp Sharma  
New Delhi, May 11

PUBLIC SECTOR oil marketing companies (OMCs) are incurring heavy losses on fuel sales amid the global price surge due to the West Asia war, but the government's endeavour continues to be to keep prices stable for the common consumer, according to a top government source. It is also not considering any proposal to ration fuels like petrol and diesel as there is no shortage of these fuels in the country, the source added.

The OMCs' combined losses in April-June quarter could wipe out their cumulative profits for the entire 2025-26 financial year (FY26) if the global prices continue to remain high, the source said.

"We have not increased prices in four years. Everyone wants prices to be stable. The government by default doesn't want the prices to change," said the source, but declined to comment on how long the OMCs can continue to hold prices as there is no end in sight to the Strait of Hormuz crisis.

"A primary function of the OMCs is to maintain price and supply stability. It is a sovereign function that they perform," said the source, who didn't want to be identified.

On whether fuel rationing may be considered, the source said that there is "no rationing in the play" as it is done when



Despite a Rs 10 per litre excise duty cut on petrol and diesel in late March, OMC fuel sale losses persist.

there is shortage of fuel, which is not the case in India as it is a net exporter of major fuels such as diesel and petrol.

The crisis led to retail fuel price surges in many countries, with some forced to ration fuel supplies. There has been no rationing of petrol and diesel in India, although it was done for commercial and industrial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to prioritise cooking gas supplies.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had appealed for conservation of petroleum products among other measures aimed at conserving the country's valuable forex reserves amid the ongoing crisis. India depends on imports to meet close to 90% of its crude oil requirement, making the economy and forex reserves vulnerable to oil price shocks.

The three OMCs — Indian

Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum — have not hiked regular petrol and diesel prices despite the global oil and fuel price surge. In fact, their prices have not been hiked for over four years, since April 2022. For LPG sold to households as a cooking fuel, the last price hike in early March reflected only a fraction of the actual price escalation in the global market.

The OMCs are estimated to be incurring daily losses worth about Rs 1,000-Rs 1,200 crore, the source said, which means that if the status quo on prices persists, they could be starting at combined losses of over Rs 90,000 crore for Q1 FY27. While the OMCs have not announced their FY26 earnings yet, the source said their cumulative profit for the year could be about Rs 76,000 crore.

According to the sources,

### 'India an oasis of comfort on fuel supplies, rationing won't happen'

New Delhi: Despite the global oil and fuel supply disruption due to the West Asia war, the country has more than adequate stocks of major fuels like petrol and diesel to ensure stable supplies for the foreseeable future and there is no plan to ration supplies, Petroleum Secretary Neeraj Mittal said Monday.

According to the secretary, petrol and diesel stocks worth 60 days and LPG stocks for households worth about 45 days are being maintained on an ongoing basis since the onset of the West Asia war.

the OMCs are losing Rs 14 per litre on sale of petrol, Rs 42 per litre on diesel, and Rs 674 per 14.2-kg cylinder on LPG. They are also seeing losses on sale of jet fuel for domestic flights as only a partial pass-through of global prices was effected.

Talks around potential fuel price hikes have picked up pace within the government recently, it is learnt. The government has no plan to compensate the OMCs for losses on sale of petrol, diesel and jet fuel below market prices, which was seen as an indication of a possible price hike. In the case of LPG, the Centre had stepped

"Many countries have done rationing, they have done different kind of things. India has been a kind of an oasis of comfort. No rationing has been done. Albeit, the government has appealed to citizens not to panic, and we are doing the same today. There is no need to panic. There are sufficient supplies. There is no rationing in place. It's not going to happen. We have 60 days of stocks (of petrol and diesel)," Mittal said at the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) Annual Business Summit 2026 in New Delhi. ENS

in to cushion the impact, and it cannot be ruled out even this time around, sources indicated.

While the Centre had cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs10 per litre late March to blunt the impact of high global prices on the OMCs, they continue to bleed heavily on sales. It resulted in the Centre foregoing revenue of about Rs 14,000 crore a month, Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma had said Friday. Had the Centre not intervened with the excise duty reduction, this loss would also have been borne by the three OMCs. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

INDIA INC SHOULD STRENGTHEN BALANCE SHEETS: DAS

## 'Build organisational resilience, reskill, set up new supply chains'

Aanchal Magazine  
New Delhi, May 11

AMID THE global economic landscape being in a "state of flux", Shaktikanta Das, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister urged Indian industry to undertake strategic reorientation of their businesses.

Hespeled out seven strategies for India Inc — build organisational resilience in operating models; strengthen balance sheets; build new supply chains; reskill available manpower as technology, automation and AI reshape industries; market diversification; invest strategically for future readiness and capitalising on new opportunities; and increase expenditure on research and development.

Stating that India is taking "bold and forward-looking" measures, Das also hinted towards "several other initiatives which are in the pipeline". "...they will follow in the coming months and years to strengthen the long-term resilience of our economy," he said while speaking at the Confederation of Indian Industry's Annual Business Summit 2026.

Detailing the steps that the industry needs to take, Das said resilience maximisation is increasingly replacing cost minimisation as a priority for corporates. He said building "organisational resilience" will enable firms to absorb shocks, adapt quickly, emerge stronger and turn uncertainty into opportunity. "The message that we must give to the international community is that India is ready, ready to do business, ready to innovate and ready to contribute to global prosperity," Das said.

As the second strategy, firms



The message that we must give to the international community is that India is ready, ready to do business, ready to innovate and ready to contribute to global prosperity"

SHAKTIKANTA DAS  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE PM

should strengthen balance sheets. "Periods of global stress inevitably test the financial strength of companies, strong balance sheets provide the flexibility to withstand external shocks, manage cash flow pressures and invest when opportunities arise," he said, adding that they should prioritise prudent leverage, robust liquidity buffers and forward-looking capital allocation.

The focus should also be on building new supply chains, he said, adding that companies and firms should proactively diversify sourcing localised critical inputs to the extent feasible and integrate into the multiple global value chains. "By doing so, firms can reduce exposure to external shocks while positioning themselves as reliable partners in the evolving global trading system," he said.

As the fourth strategy, Das talked about reskilling the available manpower. "The future competitiveness of Indian firms will depend heavily on workforce readiness. Continuous reskilling and upskilling through vocational training and industry-academia collaboration, particularly in digital manufacturing and advanced technical domains must become an organisational priority," he said. Das also emphasised on market

diversification, stating that overdependence on a narrow set of markets or geographies increases vulnerability during global slowdowns, especially for exporters. "Indian businesses should actively explore, and engage with new export markets and leverage on India's growing economic and diplomatic footprint. Market diversification would spread the risks, stabilise revenue streams and allow for firms to tap into new growth corridors and demand patterns," he said.

As the sixth strategy, Das highlighted the importance of thinking strategically and investing strategically by businesses. "Indian businesses that invest with a long-term perspective today will be the best place to lead tomorrow," he said. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, he said: "the future depends on what we do in the present". Das further said moments of global disruption often sow the seeds of future business leadership.

As the last measure, he stressed on the need to increase expenditure on R&D. He said India's innovation ecosystem is at an important inflection point and there's a need for greater and active collaboration between government and the private sector in this area. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

## West Asia truce far away, citizens should save forex: Vaishnav

Press Trust of India  
New Delhi, May 11

THE CENTRE doesn't see a truce in the West Asia war anytime soon, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnav said Monday, as he appealed to citizens to make their best efforts to help preserve forex reserves.

"We are living in very turbulent times. For no fault of ours, for a war which is there between two different countries in our neighbourhood, the entire world is getting affected by it. But since the war is now still going on, and yesterday's developments, we all know that a truce is still far away, looking kind of difficult," he said at the CII Annual Business Summit.

He said that citizens have to

### India weighs emergency steps to protect forex

Bengaluru: India is considering emergency steps to shore up foreign-exchange reserves, including curbing non-essential imports such as gold and electronic goods, and hiking fuel prices, as West Asia tension persists, Bloomberg News reported on Monday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Reuters could not immediately verify the report. REUTERS

play an important role in the current crisis.

## 'Energy, digital security twin foundation of national power'

Akash Mandal  
Mumbai, May 11

COUNTRIES NEED to be self-sufficient in meeting their energy needs and to develop their digital infrastructure independently in today's volatile geopolitical environment, according to Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group.

Labelling energy and digital security as the "twin foundation of national power", he added that supply chains across industries are now being redesigned around national interest.

Earmarking AI as an important tool for future development, he said firms need to harness the new technology and use it to their benefit. "...not surprisingly, compute will now become the next control layer. Chips, clouds, and AI models are no longer just commercial assets. They are fac-

“Compute will now become the next control layer. Chips, clouds, and AI models are no longer just commercial assets. They are factors of national intelligence”

GAUTAM ADANI  
CHAIRMAN, ADANI GROUP

tors of national intelligence," Adani said at the CII Annual Business Summit in New Delhi.

"The next battle will not be fought only at our borders. It will be fought on our grids, our data centers, our factories, our classrooms, our laboratories, and our minds. And freedom will mean capability, he added.

For example, he said that while the Indian IT services sector built massive businesses and generated massive employment by serving intelligence rather than owning it and writing code for other people, the new AI age instead rewards those who own the data and have the computational capabilities.

"The old IT model wrote code for the world, the new model must build intelligence." While the US and China have already made progress in staking their control over the new technology, India would need to build capacity fast enough to match demand. "India's advantage is simple. Everything we build will already have demand waiting for it. The task before us is to build the capacity that can keep pace with the demand," he said. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

## Monthly inflows in debt mutual funds reach all-time high in April

Kushan Shah  
Mumbai, May 11

ASSOCIATION OF mutual Fund in India (AMFI) shared that mutual funds recorded net monthly inflows of Rs 3.27 lakh crore in April 2026.

The number was owed primarily to monthly inflows in debt schemes reaching their all-time high of Rs 2.47 lakh crore, beating their previous high of Rs 2.19 lakh crore achieved in April 2025. The record number was

owed primarily to high inflows in liquid and money market schemes, which contributed over 75% to the total inflows in debt schemes.

Nehal Meshram, senior analyst, Morningstar Investment Research India said that the inflows in April were largely driven by normalization of quarter-end liquidity conditions with redeployment of cash by institutional and corporate investors.

The overall assets of the mutual fund industry rose

sharply by 11.2% following the ceasefire in the West Asia war to reach Rs 81.92 lakh crore in April 2026.

Equity funds recorded net inflows of Rs 38,440 crore, marking a 5% drop from their net inflows in March.

The highest drop of 27.8% was seen in net inflows of sectoral and thematic funds while large cap and large and mid cap schemes also saw a drop in their net inflows of 15.8% and 18.2%, respectively. FE

## HSBC slashes FY27 growth estimate sharply to 6%, expects two RBI rate hikes

Press Trust of India  
New Delhi, May 11

TWIN SHOCKS of energy crisis and deficient rainfall will lead to the real GDP growth falling to 6% in FY27 from 7.4% in FY26, a foreign brokerage said on Monday. The shocks will also stoke inflation, and may prod the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to hike key lending rates twice in the current fiscal, HSBC said in a report.

"Bringing together both the shocks, and factoring in some fiscal slippage, we forecast GDP to grow 6% in FY27, lower than our previous year's forecast of 7.4%," the report said.

It warned that the emerging crises will be a major blow to the formal sector, including rural households and small firms.

The central bank expects GDP growth to come in at 6.9% for 2026-27, as per an estimate released last month.

The conflict in West Asia has led to a sharp surge in oil prices with crude continuing to trade above \$100 per barrel.

HSBC economists argued that the twin crises and deficient rainfall due to El Nino warrants a closer attention on the FY27 outlook, and added that higher temperatures will also dent activity.

## Renewable energy curtailment critical issue: MNRE Secy

Pratyush Deep  
New Delhi, May 11

CURTAILMENT OF renewable energy has emerged as a critical challenge for India's clean energy transition, amid growing instances of solar power being backed down due to transmission constraints and excess daytime generation.

Speaking at the Confederation of Indian Industry Annual Business Summit 2026, Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary at the Ministry of New and Renewable

Energy (MNRE), said the issue needs to be addressed on a very urgent and priority basis, stressing that the grid's ability to absorb the renewable energy being injected into the system is "extremely crucial."

His remarks come at a time when the country is witnessing large-scale curtailment of solar power as the grid struggles to absorb excess supply during the daytime. In April, on average 23 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of solar power were curtailed every day — enough to serve one-fourth

of Delhi for a day, *The Indian Express* has earlier reported.

"More deployment of battery energy storage systems, more of grid forming inverters, more of synchronous condensers will actually provide that pathway for better integration of RE into our grid system," he said.

"And to that extent, grid modernization and ensuring that it is able to absorb more RE and dispatch more RE is extremely critical to India's RE growth story. We have been working with the Ministry of

Power, Chairman of Central Electricity Authority and the Central Transmission Utility to address the issue," he added.

Sarangi further said the ministry is proposing a substantially bigger outlay for our Green Energy Corridor scheme to ensure that states have the right kind of equipment, the right kind of storage system and the right kind of evacuation infrastructure under the intrastate network to handle RE evacuation.

As renewable energy deploy-

ment increasingly concentrated in states like Rajasthan and Gujarat, he said the ministry is considering incentive mechanisms for agri-photovoltaic and floating solar projects to encourage more geographically diversified clean energy development.

According to Sarangi, India would eventually require a large-scale transmission network similar to the "super grid" model being developed by China.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

● CYBERSECURITY EXPERTS WARNED OF THIS MOMENT FOR YEARS; ERA OF AI-LED VULNERABILITY IS ALREADY HERE

## Google disrupts hackers exploiting security gaps with AI

Associated Press  
New York, May 11

GOOGLE SAID Monday that it disrupted a criminal group's attempt to use artificial intelligence (AI) to exploit another firm's previously unknown digital vulnerability, adding to heightened worries across government and private industry about AI's risks for cybersecurity.

Google shared limited information about the attackers and the target, but John Hultquist, Chief Analyst at its threat intelligence arm, said it represents a moment cybersecurity experts have warned about for years: malicious hackers arming themselves with AI to

supercharge their ability to break into the world's computers.

"It's here," Hultquist said. "The era of AI-driven vulnerability and exploitation is already here." It comes at a time of leaps in AI's abilities to find vulnerabilities, including the Mythos model announced a month ago by Anthropic.

Evidence of AI found in cyberattack

Google said it observed a group of prominent "threat actors" planning a big operation relying on a bug they had found. The vulnerability allowed them to bypass two-factor authentication to access



Hackers take advantage of AI's speed to weaponise bugs. REUTERS

a popular online system administration tool, which Google declined to name.

The company called it a zero-day exploit, a cyberattack that takes advantage of a previously unknown security vulnerability.

"Zero-day" refers to the fact that the security engineers have had zero days to develop a fix for the vulnerability.

Google said it notified the affected company and was able to disrupt the operation before it caused any damage.

But as it traced the hackers' footprints, it found evidence that they had used an AI large language model — the same technology that powers popular chatbots — in order to discover the vulnerability.

Google didn't reveal which

AI model was used in the cyberattack, only that it was most likely not Google's own Gemini or Anthropic's Claude Mythos.

Google also didn't reveal which group it suspected in the attack but said there was no evidence it was tied to an adversarial government, though the company said groups tied to China and North Korea have been exploring similar techniques.

Hultquist said compared with government spies who typically work slowly and quietly, criminal hackers have some of the most to gain from AI's "tremendous capability for speed" in finding and weaponising security bugs.

### ● BRIEFLY

#### Canara Bank Q4 profit down 10% to Rs 4,506 cr

New Delhi: Canara Bank Monday reported a 10% year-on-year decline in standalone net profit to Rs 4,506 crore during the March quarter. The bank had posted a net profit of Rs 5,002.66 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Its total income dropped 1.85% for the January-March period of 2026 fell to Rs 36,662 crore from Rs 37,353 crore in the same period of the preceding fiscal year, it said. PTI

#### Need to utilise, leverage FTAs: Commerce Secy

New Delhi: The Indian industry needs to leverage

and utilise the FTAs that India is finalising, as they provide huge opportunities for both trade and investments, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said Monday. He said the track record of the country fully utilising and leveraging FTAs is "not great". PTI

#### Shares, rupee fall on Modi's call for austerity

Bengaluru: Indian shares fell Monday and the rupee declined after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged a spate of measures, including fuel conservation, fewer imports and gold purchases, as surging energy prices pressure forex reserves. Thirteen of the 16 major sectors logged losses. The broader small-caps and mid-caps declined about 1.5% each. REUTERS

### ● MARKETS

Sensex 5798990 -1,312.91 -1.70%	NIFTY 23,815.85 -360.30 -1.49%	Gold ₹1,55,300	US Dollar ₹95.31
		Silver ₹2,65,000	Oil \$102.52

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER ALL INDIA SARAFI ASSOCIATION DATA GOLD PER 100, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF MAY 8, 2026

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Vishva Nath, S/o-Bhola Nath, R/o-A-455, Bunker Colony, Ashok Vihar, Phase-4, Delhi-110052, have changed my name from Vishva Nath to Vishva Nath, for all future purposes.

It is for general information that I, SADAF PARVEEN, D/o-Mohd Faimuddin, R/o-H.N.-495, Gali No.-2, Kardampuri, Delhi-110094, declared that name of my father has been wrongly-written as Modh Faimuddin in my-12th class Education Certificate. The actual name of my father is Mohd Faimuddin respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

I, mohd anas Qureshi, S/o-khalid qureshi R/O Flat no-1059, church street, kaila bhatta Ghaziabad UTTAR PRADESH-201001, changed my name to anas qureshi.

I, hitherto known as VICKY alias BHAVNESH KUMAR, S/O-LATE RAMESH KUMAR SHARMA, R/O-RZ-235/19, TUGHLAKABAD-EXTENSION, KALKAJI, NEW DELHI-110019, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BHAVNESH KUMAR.

I, Vandaz Nellikulam Jothi Prakash S/O K Narayana Menon R/O 1824, Arun Vihar, Sector-37 Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Vandaz Nellikulam Jothi Prakash for all future purposes.

I, VIPUL AGARWAL, S/O-VED PRAKASH AGARWAL, R/O-A-506 AMRAPALI GREEN, VAIBHAV-KHAND, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIA BAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201014, have changed the name of my minor son ARIHAN AGARWAL aged-13 years and he shall hereafter be known as ARIHAN AGARWAL.

I, VIPIN KUMAR MIGLANI, S/O-SHAM SUNDER, R/O, 467 JOSHI-ROAD KAROL-BAGH DELHI, CENTRAL DELHI-110005, INDIA, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME VIPIN KUMAR MIGLANI TO VIPIN KUMAR, FOR ALL PURPOSE.

I, Urooj Fatima W/o Salim Husain R/O Ganj Sadat, Shikarpur, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh-202395, have changed my name to Urooj Fatima Naqvi.

I, UMESH PAHAL, S/O CHANDA SINGH PAHAL, R/O-897/28 BHARAT-COLONY ROHTAK HARYANA-124001, have changed my name to UMESH PEHAL, for all future purpose

I, Sarfaraz Ahmed S/o Rahim Bux R/o H.No.75, Gali No.1A, Wazirabad New Delhi, Ramghat, Jagatpur ilaqa, Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Sarfaraz.

I, Santosh, D/O Gyan Chand W/O Brij Mohan Goyal, R/O-532/19, Sector-19, Faridabad, Haryana-121002, have changed my name to Santosh Goyal for all future purposes.

I, SUMAN, W/O UMESH PEHAL, R/O 897/28 BHARAT COLONY ROHTAK HARYANA 124001, have changed my name to SUMAN PEHAL, for all future purpose

I, SAURABH GUPTA, S/O-RAKESH GUPTA, R/O-House-NO-1378, Sector-19, Faridabad, PO: Kheri Kalan, DIST: Faridabad, Haryana -121002, have changed name of my minor son CHAITANYA, aged-7 years and he shall hereafter be known as ESHANSH KUMAR GUPTA.

I, SALTANAT SABNAM URF SULTNAT SHABNAM W/O MOHD IMRAN KHAN R/O C-21 4TH FLOOR, JAITPUR EXTN, PART-2, BADARPUR DELHI-110044 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME SALTNAT SHABNAM FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

I, Rita Mishra, W/O-Late Tribhuvan Nath Mishra, R/O-B1/005, Supertech Ecovillage-2, Greater Noida-West, sector 16-B, Near Gaur Chowk, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201318, Have changed my name to Rita Misra, for all future purposes.

I, Rajinder Singh Yadav, S/o Mehar Chand Yadav, R/o 3733 B Gali.No.1, Kanhaiya Nagar, Onkar Nagar S.O. North West Delhi, Delhi-110035, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly-written as Rajinder Singh and Mehar Chand in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and my father are Rajinder Singh Yadav and Mehar Chand Yadav.

I, Raj Kumar Dinodia, S/o-Sh. Ram Avtar Dinodia, R/O-A-803, Mapsko Paradise, Vatika-Road, Sikanderpur Badha, Sector-83, Gurugram, Haryana-122004, inform that Raj Kumar and Raj Kumar Dinodia are one and the same person.

I, RAJIV AGRAWAL, S/O-KRISHAN AITAR AGRAWAL, R/O-C-104, 1ST FLOOR, JIM, ORCHID APARTMENT, SECTOR-76, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar, UTTAR PRADESH-201001, changed my name to RAJEEV AGRAWAL.

I, Parul Pandey, W/o-Divesh Bajpai, R/O-Flat.No.213, Tower-2, Golf-Vista Apartments, Sector Alpha-2, Greater-Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201308, Have Changed My Name to Parul Bajpai, for All, Future Purposes.

I, PAYAL PADNEY W/o Mohit Sharma R/o BM-684 East Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088 have changed my name to PAYAL SHARMA

I, Niti Verma D/o Ashwani R/o H.No.683, Street No.3, Punjabi Basti, Anand Parbat, New Delhi-110005, have changed my name to Niti.

I, Nilam Anilkumar Gupta, W/o Anilkumar Ramkumar Gupta, R/O-363 HEWO Apartment-2, Mor Market, Sector-56, Tower-10, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011, changed my name to Nilam Gupta.

I, Megha W/o Gauri Shankar Tripathi, R/O T-446/5A 3rd Floor, Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi-110008, have changed my name to Megha Babbar for all purposes.

I, MANJIT SINGH KHOKHAR, S/O Virendra Singh, R/O-12/678 Delhi Saharanpur-Road Baraut Baghatpat uttar Pradesh-250611, have changed my name to MANJEET SINGH KHOKHAR permanently.

I, Laxmi Varshney, W/o-Amit Kumar Gupta, R/O-5598, Gali No.0 New Chandrawal Malka Ganj North Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Laxmi Gupta.

I, LEKHA RANI W/o Sanjeev Kumar R/o-235-C, DDA LIG Flats Pocket-12, Jasola Vihar New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to LATA GUPTA

I, LAKSHAY GYANENDER, S/O-G P MADHUR resident of, 241, GANPATI APARTMENT PLOT.NO.6, SEC.9, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075, have changed my name to LAKSHAY KUMAR, for all, future purpose.

I, KRUMUN LATA SACHDEVAR, O/L-25, 2ND FLOOR, LAJPAT-NAGAR-2, NEW DELHI-110024, INDIA, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME KRUMUN LATA SACHDEVA TO KUSUM SACHDEVA, FOR ALL PURPOSE.

I, Subhash Chand Juneja S/o Khem Chand Juneja R/O 195P, Sector 21 D, Faridabad have changed my name to Subhash Juneja.

I, Jaggo @ Jagwati @ Jagwati W/o Brahm Chand R/O H.No.145, Bhopura-1, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P.-210011, have changed my name from JAGVATI @ JAGWATI to JAGGO for all future purposes.

I, IPSA W/O VIPUL AGARWAL, R/O-A-506 AMRAPALI GREEN, VAIBHAV-KHAND, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201014 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO IPSA BISHT, FOR ALL FUTURE, PURPOSES.

I, GURDEEP KAUR, W/O KARAMPREET PAL SINGH GHOTRA, R/O, WARD NO.-14, ADVOCATE COLONY, CHEEK, KAITHAL HARYANA-136034, have changed my name to GURDEEP KAUR GHOTRA.

I, Dhananjay, S/o-Jai Prakash Yadav, R/O-5163, Sector-3, 36-Yds, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, have changed my name to Dhananjay Yadav.

I, CHOKEYSI PIYUSH HARISH, S/O-HARIPRASAD CHOUKESY, R/O-H.NO.-4141, GALLI.NO.-108, B-BLOCK, SANT NAGAR, BURARI, DELHI-110084, have changed my name to PIYUSH HARIPRASAD CHOUKESY

I, Brij Mohan, S/o-Kishori Lal Goyal, R/O-532/19, Sector-19, Faridabad, Haryana-121002, Have changed my name to Brij Mohan Goyal for all future purposes

I, ARCHANA VERMA, D/O-ROSHAN BHARTI, resident of, C-147/A, PANDAV NAGAR-LAXMI NAGAR, DELHI-110092, have changed my minor son name from SHAURYA VEDI to SHAURYA VERMA, for all, future purpose.

ssi Nandani sharma D/o Ashwani Kumar sharma R/o uttar pradesh, noida - gautam buddh nagar- 201301, have changed my name to Nandini sharma

I, BHARTI GAUTAM, W/O-NITIN SHARMA, R/O, FLAT. NO. LH-503, AMRAPALI VILLAGE, NYAY KHAND-2, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, UP 201014 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BHARTI SHARMA, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSES.

I, Ayush Kumar S/o Ravinder Singh R/o H.No.711, Krishna Apartment, K2 Block Gurgaon-Road, Mahipal Pur, Delhi-110037 have changed my name to Aayush.

I, Ankita Anilkumar Gupta, D/o Anilkumar Ramkumar Gupta R/o 363 HEWO Apartment-2, Mor Market, Sector-56, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011, changed my name to Ankita Gupta.

I, Anju Soni W/o- Suresh Prasad Soni Address-792, 2nd floor, Gali no.7 Govindpuri Kalkaji, South East, Delhi-110019, changed my name to Anju Devi Soni.

I, ATUL alias RAVI, S/O-Khushi Lal, R/o-H.No.-1/734, Village Kheda, GT-Road, Delhi-110095, declare that ATUL and RAVI both names are same and one person.

I, ARCHANA VEDI, D/O-ROSHAN BHARTI, resident of, C-147/A PANDAV NAGAR LAXMI NAGAR DELHI-110092, have changed my name to ARCHANA VERMA, for all future purpose.

I, Yash S/o Sudhir Pahuja, J4/56F, SF, Khirki Extension, Malviya Nagar Delhi-17 have changed my name to Yash Pahuja.

I, S Meenalakshmi W/o Sh.K Sridharan R/O 1710, Sector 37, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201303 have changed my name to Meenalakshmi Sridharan for all purposes.

I, SYED QAMAR ABBAS S/O SYED MEHDI HAIDER R/O RZ F-15, 3rd Floor, Gali No.4, Mahavir Enclave, Palam Village, Delhi-110045 have changed the name of my minor son SYED NOMAN MAHDI to SYED HAMZA MAHDI aged 15 years.

I, Surinder Singh s/o Pritam Singh R/o B-147, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to SURENDER SINGH.

I, SUNIL AGARWAL S/O PURUSHOTTAM AGRAWAL R/O S-204, Greater Kailash Part-2, South Delhi - 110048, Delhi have changed my name from SUNIL AGRAWAL to SUNIL PURUSHOTTANM AGRAWAL for all intents and purposes.

I, Priyanka Nagpal C/o Puneet Arora, C2C-121, Pocket-12, Janakpuri, Janakpuri B-1, Delhi-58 have changed my name to PRIYANKA ARORA.

I, Narender Sharma S/O-Parkash Chand R/O H.No.-427, Patla Road, Nangal, Kalan (43), Sonipat (Haryana)- 131023, have changed my name to Narender Kumar.

I, Mohd Yamin Ansari, S/o Mohd Ilyas, R/o H.No.1, Street No.3, West Kamal Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Mohd Yamin, permanently.

I, Mohammad Farman, Son of Mohammad Jamil, residing at B-9/23, Sector-4 Rohini, Delhi-110085, do hereby declare that in my 10th Class certificate, my name is mistakenly recorded as Mohd Farman, whereas in all my other documents, it is Mohammad Farman. I state that Mohammad Farman and Mohd Farman are both names of one and the same person.

I, Mahesh Chand Dwivedi S/o Suraj Prasad R/o Gram Kheda Kanar, Shekhpur Ahir, Jalaun, UP have changed my name to Mahesh Chndra.

I, Kailash Nath Kalia, S/o Manohar Lal Kalia R/O C-7/9, Top-Floor, Mianwali-Nagar, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Kailash Kalia, Permanently

I, K.G. Aggarwal, S/o Prem Chand Aggarwal, R/o D-26, Hakikat Rai Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033, have changed my name from K.G. Aggarwal to Krishan Gopal Aggarwal permanently

I, Sunil Gupta S/o Shri Ram Saran Gupta R/O C-350, New Sanjay, Amar Colony, Shahdara Delhi North East, Delhi-110032, have changed my son name Nikku To Naman Gupta for all future purposes.

I, Neha Singh D/o Ashok Kumar R/o House No. D-1404, Express Greens, Vaishali, Sector-1, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201019, have changed my name to Neha Kumari for all future purposes.

I, HARISH KUMAR, S/O DESRAJ SINGH, R/O 51, Mapcha, Maicha, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201310, have changed my name to HARISH BHATI.

I, Goransh Bajaj S/o Anurag Bajaj R/o B-29, Upper Ground Park, Radhey Shyam Park, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Maya Bajaj.

I, DEVENDRA, S/O-SHAM DASS MONGA, R/O R-1410 VVIP ADDRESSES, RAJ NAGAR EXTENSION, Ghaziabad UTTAR PRADESH-201017, changed my name to DEVENDER KUMAR MONGA

I, Bindulata Biswal W/o Debanand Biswal R/O-74, Om Rakha Kunj, Dabri, GB Nagar have changed my name to Bidulata Biswal.

I, Ashish S/o Rajender Singh R/o AL-101, Shalimar bagh north west Delhi-110088 have changed my name to Ashish Kohar for all future purposes

I, Neeru Sawhney W/o-Puneet Sawhney R/O-H.No.251, Second Floor, Pocket-1, Green Hill Apartment, Sector-23, Rohini, New Delhi-110085 have changed the name of minor daughter from Kashi to Kyra Sawhney for all purposes.

I, Vipin Koli, S/O-Late Attar Singh, Have Lost My Property Paper Chain Of Previous-Owner (Old-Chain) Rakesh Bedi Of B-2/63, KH.No.11/22, Sewak-Park, Uttam-Nagar, New Delhi-110059, Finder Contact: 9211930619

I, Vipin Koli, S/O-Late Attar Singh, Have Lost My Property Paper Chain Of Previous-Owner (Old-Chain) Rakesh Bedi Of B-2/63, KH.No.11/22, Sewak-Park, Uttam-Nagar, New Delhi-110059, Finder Contact: 9211930619

PUBLIC NOTICE: This Public notice is served on behalf of my clients Sh. Sahan Lal, Sh. Sri Siroman Singh & Smt. Indu Devi W/o Sh. Sahan Lal Both R/O Plot No-311, Block A Sahibabad Daulatpur Delhi-110042 disowning their son namely Sh. Krishan Kumar from their all movable and immovable property due to certain issues, personal differences and irregular behaviour. Any act done by them which even include money, property, emotional activity is not related to use. They will not be legally responsible for any claim made by them of any kind.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice is hereby given to the owners of the following units in the EWS Block of NRIGHVPC (Celebrity Homes), Palam Vihar, Gurugram, regarding chronic default in maintenance utility dues and structural neglect. Despite formal legal notices dated April 27, 2025, the following arrears remain unpaid: Unit (Owner): EWS-001 (P.R. Arora) ₹1,51,626; EWS-004 ₹2,83,300; EWS-016 (U. Sethi) ₹1,51,045; EWS-019 (A. Shetty) ₹40,190; EWS-020 (K. Shetty) ₹42,259; EWS-109 (V. Thakur) ₹3,24,601; EWS-113 (S. Devi) ₹5,656; EWS-214 (M. Bajaj) ₹2,22,970; EWS-215 (K. Kapoor) ₹39,626; EWS-302 (U. Sethi) ₹1,05,575; EWS-318 ₹2,80,582; EWS-321 ₹2,65,019; ₹2,46,271. Failure to clear dues and provide access for structural safety repairs within 7 days will compel the FWA to initiate Civil Recovery Suits, property attachment, and emergency intervention via the District Magistrate under BNSB. Adv: Praveen Singh, Tradewinds Legal Services, Chamber 25, District Courts, Gurgaon. 9899300094.

PUBLIC NOTICE: General Public is hereby informed that under instructions from and on behalf of my client BALBIR SINGH S/O GURJEET SINGH, R/O WZ-III-A-37, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018, have disowned/debarred/discard his Younger Son KIRAT SINGH S/o BALBIR SINGH from all his immovable properties & movable assets, and severed all relations with him due to his dis-obedience and misbehavior. Any body dealing with him, will do at his/her own risks, costs and responsibility and my clients and all of their family members shall not be responsible for any acts done by him. J.C. Trikha (Advocate) Ch.No.144, The Hazrat Courts, Delhi-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Be it known to all public that my client Mr. Harichand S/O Late Sh. Tarachand & Smt. Rajkumari W/o Sh. Harichand R/O A-33, Krishna Park, Khanpur, New Delhi-110062 have disowned/debarred his own son namely Rakish & his son's wife (daughter-in-Law) Namely Vaishali Gera from all movable and immovable properties/assets and severed all relations due to their disobedience and bad behavior. My client's shall not be responsible for their any acts and deeds in any manner whatsoever.

Sd/- JITENDRA SINGH Advocate Ch. No: 714, Lawyers Block Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE: It is hereby notified for the information of the general public at large that my client MR. BHANU PRASAD SINGH S/O SH. MADHUKAR SINGH MAHAR RO PLOT NO. 497, SECTOR-1, VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD, has lost/missing the original documents i.e. Reservation Letter dated 04.07.1992, Information of the Letter dated 28.02.1995, Demarcation Letter dated 08.12.1998, GPA (Doc. No. 11267), ATS, Will dated 30.10.1998 & Freehold Deed dated 30.10.1998 (Doc. No. 54015462) in respect of Plot No. 497, Sector-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, those documents are not traceable, for which Mr. Bhanu Prasad Singh has also lodged an FIR/LAR dated 11.02.2025 for the same. Any person having any claim, right or interest by way of agreement, sale, contract, encumbrance or otherwise may require to give notice of the same to the undersigned within 21 days from the date of publication, failing which any such right, title, interest, or claim, if any, will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on our Clients, and they proceed to conclude the transaction of sale without reference to the same, if any.

PUBLIC NOTICE: My client Sh. Sita Ram (aged around 54 Years) S/o Sh. Boma Ram and his wife Bhurvi Devi (aged around 50 Years) both are resident of RZ-39A, Gali No.-7, B-block Kailash Puri, South West Delhi, Delhi - 110045 have severed all their relations and connections consequently have also disowned, dis-inherited & debarred their daughter Roshni from all their movable and immovable properties and she is out of control and my above said clients have serious temperamental issues with her. In case any body dealing with her in any manner, he/she do so at his/her own risk & responsibility.

ANURAG (Advocate) Reg. No. D/1097/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE: IT IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT I, SANJAY, S/O NAFE SINGH R/O D-109, BUCH VIHAR PHASE-1, DELHI-110086 HAVE LOST MY MISPLACED MY PROPERTY ORIGINAL CHAIN OF SHOP NO.6, PART OF PLOT NO.-E-136, KHASRA NO 62/14 BUCH VIHAR PHASE-1 DELHI-110086 TWO CHAIN (1) IN MY FAVOUR AND (2) IN FAVOUR OF SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HAVE LODGED A FIR/NCR VIDE LR No.LR No 155483/2025 Dated: 10.05.2026 WITH POLICE STATION, CRIME BRANCH, DELHI. IF ANY BODY FIND THE SAID CHAIN, PLZ INFORM ME MOBILE No 9691833674

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD: NOTICE INVITING BID: 02/2026-27. Bid for 1. Landscape and Horticulture work including Maintenance of 2 years after Completion at Jan Sunwai Kendra of Hon'ble Chief Minister Rajasthan at Circle-II Building, Mansarovar, Jaipur. 2. Replacing Fluorescent Fixtures by LED Street light and Operation & Maintenance of old LED Street light for 2 years in Panchsheel Naka Madar Daurai Scheme at Ajmer. 3. Providing Integrated Facility Management Service Including Security Service at Jaipur Chaupati Mansarovar at Dwarakdas Marg, Mansarovar Jaipur for One year. 4. Repair Maintenance and Miscellaneous work at Shiv Singhpura Sikar. 5. Maintenance & Operation of Street light at New RHB Colony Shvingsinghpura Sikar (Online/Offline) invited from interested bidders from 13.05.2026 to 23.05.2026 upto 6.00 PM. One particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement portal https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & https://rhb.rajasthan.gov.in department website.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH ANDHRA PRADESH MARITIME BOARD (e-Procurement). Online Tender Notice No: 8/SE(S)/ENV/G-PORTS/APMB/2025-26, Dated: 4.3.2026 (2nd Call Date: 13.05.2026). Online tenders are invited for the work of "Request for Proposal for Providing Consultancy services for the amendment to the existing Environmental Clearances and securing approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for the development of the three Greenfield Ports at Machilipatnam, Krishna District, Mulapeta, Srikakulam District and Ramayapatnam, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh, by Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board".

E-AUCTION FOR INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER VENDING MACHINES. E-Auction for installation, operation and maintenance of Water Vending machines at New Tinsukia, Mariani Jn., North Lakhimpur and Dibrughar over Tinsukia Division. Rate Unit: Annual Licensing fee, Trips/Days. 1826.

Table with 3 columns: Seq No., Lot No./Category, Description. Contains details for water vending machines at various locations like Tinsukia, Mariani Jn., and Dibrughar.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA, HOME DEPARTMENT (PORTS & TRANSPORT). MAHARASHTRA MARITIME BOARD. Indian Mercantile Chambers, 2nd Floor, Ramjibhai Kamani Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai-400001. Tel: 022-69041777, Fax: 022-69041740. Website: https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in

E-Tender Notice- (Year 2026-27). Main Portal: https://mahatenders.gov.in. DIGITALLY signed E-Tender for following work is invited by Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai, from Registered with Government of Maharashtra in appropriate class and having experience in Environment works, for following work in B1 Tender Form.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. Office of the Executive Engineer. Transmission Line Maintenance Division-I (TLM-D-I), Bemina, Srinagar. Ph. No. 0194-2492427, e-Mail ID: tlm1d-bemina@jk.gov.in

Table with 4 columns: e-NIT No, Tender Ref ID, Work Description, No of Bids received. Lists tender details for transmission line maintenance.

Due to inadequate response, the last date for submission of e-bids and opening of Techno-Commercial bids for the above mentioned e-NITs is hereby extended as under: 1. Last date for submission of e-Bid 21.05.2026 (02:00 PM) 2. Last date for submission of Hard Copy of e-Bid in the office of the Executive Engineer TLM-D-I, Bemina, Srinagar 22.05.2026 (04:00 PM) 3. Date for online opening of Techno-Commercial e-Bid 23.05.2026 (02:00 PM) Further, the NIT under discussion may be treated dispatched from the undersigned office vide Letter No.: TLM-D-I/TS/01A/26-27/195-200; Dated: 18.04.2026.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER. SEP SANGAT SINGH, SC. With profound grief and sorrow, we mourn the supreme sacrifice of 4579271X Sep Sangat Singh, SC who laid down his life in the line of duty on 11 May 2010. A valiant soldier of exceptional courage and devotion to duty, he will always be remembered by entire family of 14 MAHAR for his supreme sacrifice. Commanding Officer and entire 14 MAHAR Family. GORKHA RIFLES. NK Bhakta Bahadur Rai, L/NK Sher Bahadur Rai & L/NK Jai Prasad Chhetri of 2/11 Gorkha Rifles (Shingo) Made the supreme sacrifice in Eastern Sector on 12 May 1966.

BORDER SECURITY FORCE. Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Head Constable Bhagwan Singh on his Balidan Divas. CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE. Veer Balidani Naik/Radio Operator Hussain Beig 5 Sig /49 Bn 01-06-1966 To 12-05-1993. Veer Balidani Constable Dharman Singh 49 Bn 07-08-1950 To 12-05-1993. DG and all Ranks of CRPF pay solemn tribute to three bravehearts of 49 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice after being grievously injured in a rocket attack on their camp at Rambagh, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir on 12 May 1993. CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.

VEER BALIDANI Constable Bayyrapur Prasad 113 Bn 18-05-1969 To 12-05-2003. VEER BALIDANI Constable/SK B. Khondana Ramaiah 113 Bn 10-04-1968 To 12-05-2003. DG and all Ranks of CRPF pay solemn tribute to two valiant troopers of 113 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating a terrorist attack at the State Bank of India complex in Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir on 12 May 2003. CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.

VEER BALIDANI Constable Mandeep Kumar 182 Bn 06-04-1991 To 12-05-2018. DG and all Ranks of CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Mandeep Kumar of 182 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice after being grievously injured in a fierce encounter with militants during a cordon and search operation at Chinarnag, Pulwama, Jammu & Kashmir on 12 May 2018. For his gallant action, he was posthumously awarded the Police Medal for Gallantry. CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED. E-TENDER NOTICE NO.-CPC-20/2026-27. Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), Bhubaneswar, invites bids from eligible bidders for "IT Facility Management Service". The last date & time of Submission of Bid Dt. 25.05.2026 up to 12:00 Hrs. The interested bidders may visit OPTCL's official website http://www.optcl.co.in and www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL for detail specification. Sd/- Chief General Manager (C.P.C) optcl.odisha

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE. Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work: 1. Tender Notice No. : 232-Elect-EMU-WC-06-25-26 2. Name of the work : Rehabilitation/Repair of Traction Motor of 700 HP Make-CGL fitted in Tower wagon at EMU Car Shed, Ghaziabad 3. Tender cost : NIL 4. Approximate cost : Rs. 82,54,017.48 inclusive of GST 5. Earnest Money : Rs. 1,65,100.00 (online payment mode through IREPS website) 6. Completion period : 24 Months 7. Validity of offer : 60 days 8. Date & Time from tender advertised on IREPS website : 11.05.2026, 15:29 9. Date & Time from tender submission start and end : 01.06.2026 to 15.06.2026, 15:00 10. Tender closing Date & Time : 15.06.2026, 15:00 Hrs. 11. Date & Time of tender opening (immediately when tender submission ends) : 15.06.2026, 15:00 Hrs. 12. Publication cost allocation : 07041132 Note 1: All participant Tenderer/Tenders will submit their requisite documents along with their tender. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offer. Even so-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void". Note 2: Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/up loaded. Tender Notice is available on website of www.ireps.gov.in No. : 232-Elect-EMU-WC-06-25-26 Dated: 11.05.2026 1576/2026 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS KATHUA. E-mail: spskathua@jkpolice.gov.in Fax/Phone No.: 0192-234010. LOOK OUT NOTICE. On 03-05-2026, one Sudesh Kumar S/O Krishan Chand R/O Village Dhar Dugnoo Tehsil Billawar District Kathua lodged a written report at P/S Billawar stating therein that his daughter namely Sunita Devi, age 20 years is missing from Home. The complainant tried his best to search his daughter but all in vain. On this, missing report vide DD No. 18 dated 04-05-2026 has been entered at Police Station Billawar. During the course of investigation, best efforts were made to locate missing individual, whereas she is still un-traced. As such Description Roll/Photograph of said missing individual is being shared with the appeal that anybody having clue/information about her whereabouts may inform us accordingly. The informer will be rewarded suitably.

Table with 7 columns: SR. No., NAME OF BOARD/CORP/ AUTH, NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME), AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/ AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No- 45025/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Table with 7 columns: SR. No., NAME OF BOARD/CORP/ AUTH, NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME), AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/ AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No- 45028/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Table with 7 columns: SR. No., NAME OF BOARD/CORP/ AUTH, NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME), AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/ AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No- 45041/HRY

NPCL TENDER NOTICE

Table with 4 columns: NIT No., Tender Description, EMD (Rs.), Start & Due Date & Time of Submission

Cost of Individual Tender Document (Incl. GST) Rs 1180/- For other tender details and further amendment/corrigendum, please visit our website www.noidapower.com->Procurement->Tenders

झारखण्ड सरकार आदिवासी कल्याण आयुक्त का कार्यालय, झारखण्ड मंत्रालय, कल्याण कॉम्प्लेक्स, मोरबादी, राँची।

शुद्धि-पत्र PR No.-379275

मरुड गोमके जयपाल सिंह मुण्डा पारदेशीय छात्रवृत्ति योजना अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची के संकल्प संख्या-1591, दिनांक-06.05.2026 के आलोक में झारखण्ड राज्य के अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग के छात्र-छात्राओं के लिए वित्तीय वर्ष-2026-27 हेतु मरुड गोमके जयपाल सिंह मुण्डा पारदेशीय छात्रवृत्ति योजना, 2020 (संशोधित, 2026) अन्तर्गत आवेदन करने के लिए दिनांक-14.05.2026 से 20.06.2026 तक आमंत्रित किया जाता है...

PR.NO.379510 Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department(26-27):D

KOLHAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, CITY WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

E Tender (mahaetenders.gov.in) Extension

Table with 5 columns: Tender Notice No, Work no, Publish date, News paper name, Extension no.

Due to no Response for the above work, date Extension is being given From Date 12/05/2026 to Date 19/05/2026. The Terms & Conditions of Earlier Tender will be same.

sd/- Hydraulic Engineer Kolhapur Municipal Corporation.

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

E-TENDER NOTICE (NIT)

Table with 10 columns: Sl. No., Name of work, Tender Specifications No., Estimated Cost (in ₹), MAAT for best three years out of last five financial years (₹ in lac), Earnest Money (in ₹), Cost of tender document including GST (in ₹), Date & time of Prebid conference in online mode, Last Date & time of online request for Tender and Submission of tender in online & Offline mode, Date of opening of bid Part-I in online and offline mode

For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in. No.: 337/1/EE(cm)/UP/LA-A-2, Date: 11/05/2026

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATIONS Use LED Bulb to Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912) "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24 x 7 from www.upcl.org" (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 1804185 0405 /Fax No. 0135-2760911)

MADHUSUDAN LAW UNIVERSITY CUTTACK

No: MLU/Estt./1736/2026, Date: 08/05/2026

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

In supersession to this University Advertisement No. MLU/Estt./492/2026, dated: 13.02.2026, the applications in online mode are invited from eligible Indian citizens as per UGC eligibility criteria Notification dated: 18th July, 2018 to fill up the Various Regular Faculty Positions of this University. Please refer website: www.mlu.ac.in for detailed vacancy notification wise:

- Professor: (Notification no. MLU/Estt./1733/2026, dated: 08.05.2026)
● Associate Professor: (Notification no. MLU/Estt./1734/2026, dated: 08.05.2026)
● Assistant Professor: (Notification no. MLU/Estt./1735/2026, dated: 08.05.2026)

The filled applications must be submitted online through the HIMS Portal (https://hims.odisha.gov.in), which will be available from 15.05.2026 onwards. Candidates are required to complete the application in all respect and upload all necessary supporting documents on or before 15.06.2026.

After submitting the application online, a printout of the same along with all supporting documents duly self-attested by the applicant, must be sent only via Speed Post to the Registrar, Madhusudan Law University, Station Road, Cuttack, Odisha-753 003 so to reach on or before 30.06.2026 at 06:00 PM.

For detailed information, please visit University website www.mlu.ac.in. Sd/- By the order of the Vice-Chancellor Registrar Madhusudan Law University Cuttack

Moradabad Development Authority

Reference Number: 84/MDA/Property/2026. Dated: 11-05-26. RFP for Selection of an Agency for Transaction Advisory Services for Sale of Built-Up Residential Properties of Moradabad Development Authority. Proposals are invited in response to the above RFP. Detailed RFP document is available on the E-Procurement Portal of Government of Uttar Pradesh (http://etender.up.nic.in) and Moradabad Development Authority's website (http://www.mdamoradabad.up.gov.in) from 12/05/2026.

Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (SMART) Project(www.smart-mh.org)

E-TENDER NOTICE No (2026 DOAWB 1300636\_1) Constructions Of Warehouse 1000MT

The Government of Maharashtra is implementing the World Bank-funded SMART Project. Hanuman Sangavi Vividh Karyakrisahakari Vikas Seva Sansthas Limited, Sangavi Tq, Baramati Dist. Pune is one of the beneficiaries under the project and inviting online bids on https://mahatenders.gov.in for above mentioned works. The estimated cost of work is Rs. 119.00 lakhs (Including GST). The last date for submission of online bid is 10/06/2026 up to 02:00 PM. Any updates or notices shall be published on aforementioned websites only.

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode Only) Online tenders in Single Bid system are invited for following work. The bid document can only be downloaded after paying Rs. 1000/- through online from the website (www.tenderwizard.com/CCL). E-Tender No.: CONA/ITE/INWB/MMLP-SALAWAS/2026.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE FOR VARIOUS WORKS

Sr. No. (1) E-Tender No.: 94A-S-25 TENDER-2026, Date: 06.05.2026. Work: "S&T work in connection with: (1) Development/upgradation of Vande Bharat chair car maintenance depot at Bilaspur & (2) Upgrade of rolling in examination facility for coaching maintenance, (3) Upgrade of Freight Activities Monitoring Centre at HQ's office & (4) Setting up of Mechanized Laundry of Capacity 10 tons per Day (i.e. 5 tons per shift) at Bilaspur". Tender Value: ₹ 1,87,85,905.19 (One Crore Eighty-Seven Lakh Eighty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Five and Nineteen Paise Only). Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 3,75,700/- (₹ Three Lakhs Seventy-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Only).

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

No.09 of 2026-27 (Open)-Engg/DDU On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings- Tender No. 05-DDU-SR-DEEN-II-26-27

(i) Name of work with its location : Upgradation of RGM/Machine siding facilities at Gaya, GRRU, RFJ, PES and DOS under ADEN/DOS and ADEN/GAYA. (ii) Advertised Value: Rs. 22048530.26, (iii) Earnest Money: Rs. 441000.00 Tender No. 06-DDU-SR-DEEN-II-26-27 (i) Name of work with its location : Replacement of Deep tubewell at SSM station against deep tubewell coming under the alignment of new developing circulating area (South side) along with pump house and water supply pipeline with other ancillary work under ADEN/DOS. (ii) Advertised Value: Rs. 7403654.75, (iii) Earnest Money: Rs. 148100.00 Tender No. 04-DDU-SR-DEEN-II-26-27 (iv) Name of work with its location : Casual Renewal of Rail including Glued joints and through sleeper Renewal for TTR in MPO-DDU under ADEN/2/DDU, (vi) Advertised Value: Rs. 7278737.01, (vii) Earnest Money: Rs. 145600.00 (viii) Closing Date & time for submission of e-tender: 29.05.2026, Up-to 12:00 hrs., (viii) Website particulars of e-tendering: www.reps.gov.in

उ० प्र० प्रदूषण नियन्त्रण बोर्ड क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय

सन्दिप संख्या: 168/लोक सुनवाई- मेसर्स में शीतल चेन्नई लि., पीलीभीत-26 दिनांक- 11-5-26

पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई के लिये आम सूचना

सर्व-साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उद्योग मेसर्स में शीतल चेन्नई लि., ग्राम-कटैया पट्टी, तराई-अमरिया, जिला-पीलीभीत द्वारा हेतु प्राप्त नई आवसानी इकाई की स्थापना क्षमता 200 के० एलपीडी तथा सह-ऊर्जा उत्पादन क्षमता 4.5 मेगावाट पावर प्लांट की स्थापना हेतु भारत सरकार के पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय से पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति प्राप्त करने से पूर्व लोक सुनवाई हेतु प्रस्ताव उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया गया है, जिसके सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार के पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु द्वारा जारी अधिसूचना संख्या-एएओ३०-1533 दिनांक-14.09.2006 यथासंशोधित ए०ओ-3067 (ई) दिनांक 01.12.2009 के अनुप्रान्त में पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति जारी करने से पूर्व लोक सुनवाई किया जाना आवश्यक है तथा इस सूचना के अन्तर्गत क्षेत्रीय आम जनता को किसी भी आर्पित / सुनवाई हेतु 30 दिन का नोटिस दिया जाना सुनिश्चित है। लोक सुनवाई फल की संरचना पर्यावरणीय अधिसूचना संख्या-एएओ३०-1533 दिनांक-14.09.2006 यथासंशोधित ए०ओ-3067 (ई) दिनांक 01.12.2009 के अनुप्रान्त में पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु के अन्तर्गत लोक सुनवाई हेतु 30 दिनों के अन्दर लिखित रूप से दे सकने हैं। कार्यालय जिलाधिकारी, पीलीभीत।

UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharami Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006. Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508. CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CORRIGENDUM

Tenders called online mode vide this office letter No. PWF/CB/II-C/ Tender Publication/2026- 249-275 dated 10.04.2026 and further Corrigendum No. 541-47 dated 20.04.2026 for the work Construction of additional accommodation (50 bedded) Civil Hospital at Fatehpur Tehsil Fatehpur Distt. Kangra (HP) Deposit work (SH- Construction of building portion including water supply and sanitary installation site development boundary wall, gate rain water harvesting system approach road, etcetera). The starting for Downloading of Bid on dated 30.04.2026 and Deadline for submission of Bid 08.05.2026 & Technical Bid to be opened on dated 11.05.2026. Now the starting for Downloading of Bid on dated 15.05.2026 at 11.00 AM and Deadline for submission of Bid 22.05.2026 at 5.00 PM & Technical Bid to be opened on dated 23.05.2026 at 11.00 AM.

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग हरिद्वार

संख्या: 23/17/अधी०(गठिक०वि०)/G-2/2025-26 दिनांक: 11 मई, 2026 विज्ञापित अधीक्षिका (महिला कल्याण विभाग) स्कोनिंग परीक्षा-2025 एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि अधीक्षिका (महिला कल्याण विभाग) चयन-2025 के लिये विज्ञापन संख्या: A-1/DR/S-1/2025 दिनांक: 11 जून 2025 द्वारा प्रकाशित की गयी है। विज्ञापन में उल्लिखित किया गया था कि ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र अधिक संख्या में प्राप्त होने पर सप्ताहवार हेतु चैटनी के लिए स्कोनिंग (वस्तुनिष्ठ) परीक्षा आयोजित की जायेगी। उक्त के क्रम में दिनांक 22 मार्च, 2026 को स्कोनिंग (वस्तुनिष्ठ) परीक्षा आयोजित की गयी। स्कोनिंग (वस्तुनिष्ठ) परीक्षा के प्रश्नपत्र को प्रकाशित करने के आधार पर अधीक्षिका (महिला कल्याण विभाग) स्कोनिंग परीक्षा-2025 का परिणाम दिनांक: 11.05.2026 को घोषित कर दिया गया है। अन्यथा स्कोनिंग (वस्तुनिष्ठ) परीक्षा का परिणाम, कट ऑफ मार्क्स, अंतिम उत्तर-पुत्री आयोग की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित कर दी गयी है तथा परीक्षा में सम्मिलित अभ्यर्थियों के प्रश्नपत्र-इन के माध्यम से दिनांक 12.05.2026 से आयोग की वेबसाइट psc.uk.gov.in पर प्रकाशित किया जायेगा। स्कोनिंग (वस्तुनिष्ठ) परीक्षा में सफल अभ्यर्थियों की सप्ताहवार परीक्षा दिनांक 16 जून, 2026 को आयोजित की जानी प्रस्तावित है। इस सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत दिशा-निर्देश आयोग की वेबसाइट पर पृथक से प्रकाशित किये जायेंगे।

क्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-35

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) कन्दनपुराण एण्ड डिमंड सर्विसेज

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग हरिद्वार

संख्या: 23/17/अधी०(गठिक०वि०)/G-2/2025-26 दिनांक: 11 मई, 2026 विज्ञापित अधीक्षिका (महिला कल्याण विभाग) स्कोनिंग परीक्षा-2025 एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि अधीक्षिका (महिला कल्याण विभाग) चयन-2025 के लिये विज्ञापन संख्या: A-1/DR/S-1/2025 दिनांक: 11 जून 2025 द्वारा प्रकाशित की गयी है। विज्ञापन में उल्लिखित किया गया था कि ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र अधिक संख्या में प्राप्त होने पर सप्ताहवार हेतु चैटनी के लिए स्कोनिंग (वस्तुनिष्ठ) परीक्षा आयोजित की जायेगी। उक्त के क्रम में दिनांक 22 मार्च, 2026 को स्कोनिंग (वस्तुनिष्ठ) परीक्षा आयोजित की गयी। स्कोनिंग (वस्तुनिष्ठ) परीक्षा के प्रश्नपत्र को प्रकाशित करने के आधार पर अधीक्षिका (महिला कल्याण विभाग) स्कोनिंग परीक्षा-2025 का परिणाम दिनांक: 11.05.2026 को घोषित कर दिया गया है। अन्यथा स्कोनिंग (वस्तुनिष्ठ) परीक्षा का परिणाम, कट ऑफ मार्क्स, अंतिम उत्तर-पुत्री आयोग की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित कर दी गयी है तथा परीक्षा में सम्मिलित अभ्यर्थियों के प्रश्नपत्र-इन के माध्यम से दिनांक 12.05.2026 से आयोग की वेबसाइट psc.uk.gov.in पर प्रकाशित किया जायेगा। स्कोनिंग (वस्तुनिष्ठ) परीक्षा में सफल अभ्यर्थियों की सप्ताहवार परीक्षा दिनांक 16 जून, 2026 को आयोजित की जानी प्रस्तावित है। इस सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत दिशा-निर्देश आयोग की वेबसाइट पर पृथक से प्रकाशित किये जायेंगे।

झारखण्ड सरकार ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, तृतीय तल्ला, नया समाहरणालय भवन, पपरवाटाड़, गिरिडीह, झारखण्ड - 815301

ई-पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

Table with 4 columns: क्रम, आई/टेन्डर/फिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या, कार्य का नाम, प्राकल्पित राशि (रुपया में) अंक में, कार्य समाप्ति/टेंडर कोल संख्या

PR 379452 REO(26-27).D

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank e-AUCTION NOTICE

ARM BRANCH, VIPIN KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW-226010

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/Movable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 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/Movable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank, will be sold through e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is without recourse" basis as per following details.

LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF EMD : 27.05.2026 UPTO 11:59 PM DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 28.05.2026, 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

Table with 4 columns: SL, NAME & ADDRESS OF BORROWER(S), MORTGAGOR(S) & GUARANTOR(S), DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES, RESERVE PRICE/EMD DEPOSIT, TOTAL LIABILITIES

LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF EMD : 29.05.2026 UPTO 11:59 PM DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 30.05.2026, 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

Table with 4 columns: SL, NAME & ADDRESS OF BORROWER(S), MORTGAGOR(S) & GUARANTOR(S), DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES, RESERVE PRICE/EMD DEPOSIT, TOTAL LIABILITIES

LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF EMD : 19.06.2026 UPTO 11:59 PM DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 20.06.2026, 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

Table with 4 columns: SL, NAME & ADDRESS OF BORROWER(S), MORTGAGOR(S) & GUARANTOR(S), DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES, RESERVE PRICE/EMD DEPOSIT, TOTAL LIABILITIES

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Canara Bank, ARM Branch, Ph. No-0522 2307898/8173004792/ 8218881233/ 6387225284/ 7972690456/9634016436, Email ID: cb5248@canarabank.com or the service provider M/S PSB Alliance (BAANKNET) Contact No. 7046612345 / 6354910172 / 8291220220 / 9892219848 / 8160205051, for more information visit https://baanknet.com/, Email ID: support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com / support.ebkray@procure247.com

Place : Lucknow Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

## 'Asia, Europe need coordinated strategy to survive US or will be eaten for lunch'



SANKHADEEP BANERJEE

Global investor and author Ruchir Sharma (right) with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, in Mumbai

**Anant Goenka: You were the first to speak about Poland's rise, you spoke about China four years ago, and provided deep analysis of the 'Modi versus Modi' dynamic in 2024. We were in Kolkata together recently. Beyond just the local politics of Bengal, why should people in south Bombay — an island that often doesn't care about what happens around the world — care about these four state elections?**

You don't have to care but you might want to if you want to understand the country. This was our 34th election trip. I started this practice nearly 30 years ago with the idea that every single year, I want to do at least one election trip that serves as a journey of India. Elections are the time when India truly comes alive. You get to see the 'real' India when you are out in these election cycles, and it is by far the most fascinating journey. I may live in New York or elsewhere but this one week is my favourite week of the year.

Unfortunately, election coverage often gets reduced to a single number: Who is winning and what is the forecast? But for me, it is not about the result but the journey of India. In Bengal, for instance, you have different photos and data points in your head. This was my fourth trip to the state — 2011, 2016, 2019 — and the fact is that the state is still stuck in a time warp.

When we landed in Bagdogra and travelled down through Siliguri, we were struck by places like Murshidabad. In the 1750s, this was one of the richest places in the world, with some estimates suggesting it accounted for 5 per cent of global GDP. Today, seeing the disrepair in that district, it felt as though we were back in the Bihar we travelled to last year. The worst-performing states in terms of per capita income growth this century are Bengal and Punjab.

And the contrast is striking when you look at the southern states. We travelled to Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and those states are rising up the rankings quickly. They are among the few relatively rich states in the country. This highlights the many 'Indias' that exist. In America, the gap between the poorest and the richest state in per capita income terms is about two to three times. In Brazil, it's maybe three to four times. But in India, it is six times.

There is also a conflict in how we perceive this. On one hand, you see the poor development in Bengal and feel sorry. On the other hand, you have to admire how Mamata Banerjee is fighting this battle with so many forces aligned against her. Even the BJP would privately admit that in any healthy democracy, you want political competition. However, during our travel, there was almost no focus on development. We saw some roads but nothing else. At Presidency College, we met young students who were still thinking in idealistic terms about Communism. One of the more right-wing members of our group commented that 'you don't eat ideology for breakfast.'

**Fascinatingly, most of these states have been Opposition-ruled. In**

At the Adda held on April 27, global investor and author Ruchir Sharma spoke on how India is grappling with a 'monomaniacal' shift toward AI, the West Asia energy crisis, and why he wouldn't bet on China. He was in conversation with Anant Goenka



Co-presented by



Associate Partner



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE ADDA

**'IT'S VERY TOUGH TO MAKE MONEY IN CHINA'**

**'IRAN HAS BEEN ABLE TO STAND UP BETTER THAN EXPECTED... BUT LET'S NOT CONFUSE THAT WITH SUCCESS'**

**Bengal, intellectuals and commentators want the TMC to make it, although there has been little development in the last 15 years.**

Yes, the argument is if political competition is more important than development. In India, development is, at best, only one of six or seven factors that win elections. My research for *Democracy on the Road* (2019) showed that in states recording an average growth rate of more than 8 per cent over a five-year term, the chances of the incumbent being re-elected were still only 50 per cent. It is a shocking number.

The idea that you can fight an election on development alone was smashed when Chandrababu Naidu lost in 2004. In Bengal, development wasn't on the table for either party. When we asked the BJP leadership why they weren't talking about it more, they said they wanted to address people's basic concerns about security first.

**Another major trend was the money being spent on welfare schemes. In Andhra Pradesh, it was Rs 15,000 per family and still there was a sense of entitlement for more. But in Bihar, people were grateful for Rs 2,500. How do you process that?**

It sounds cruel to say people shouldn't be given handouts when you see the level of poverty. However, one huge improvement in India is that delivery has improved significantly because of digitisation. The 'leakage' has been stopped; the old Rajiv

Gandhi coinage that only 15 paise of a rupee reaches the recipient is gone. Now, it is likely well over 90 paise to the rupee.

But there is a deep cynicism in this. These schemes are often announced just before elections to buy votes. From an economic standpoint, when people ask why India can't grow like the East Asian miracle economies — China, Korea, or Taiwan — the answer is that those countries followed brutal capitalism. They provided no handouts until they reached a certain per capita income. They spent every penny on building infrastructure. In the 1990s, China fired 90 million people from bloated state-owned enterprises without a support system. This forced a massive migration to the coastal export zones. These countries ensured that the government's role in handouts was minimal in the early stages of development. You can't have massive handouts and still expect to grow at 9-10 per cent. No economic model in the world has achieved that. In Bihar, we were told that road contractors aren't getting paid because government funds are being diverted to handouts. In Bengal, there is no real revenue because there is no industrialisation or manufacturing.

**You have said that foreign capital wants stability in government. Is the current exit of foreign capital because it is looking for more political competition?**

What I have written is that the maximum reforms usually happen in the first 6-18 months of a new government coming to power, often following a crisis. The longer a government stays in power, the more there are diminishing returns to power.

Capital is leaving now because the world today has a monomaniacal focus on AI. Investors are obsessed with the AI race, in which India is viewed as a loser. We are in the 'picks and shovels' phase — semiconductors, memory and compute — and India structurally lacks these. The government may take strong objection to this, as the IT minister did at Davos, but the data does the talking. In the last couple of years, foreigners have sold \$50 billion in the stock market and net FDI is zero. In my 30 years of investing, I have never seen such indifference toward India. In 2013, during the 'Fragile Five' era, there was hate; today, it is indifference, which is worse. Investors are focused on AI, and India's structural weaknesses are showing. We spend only 0.6 per cent of GDP on R&D, while Korea and Taiwan spend 4-5 per cent. Israel is number one. Our IT sector has long been an arbitrage business rather than an innovative one, and that is coming back to haunt us.

**But the government and private sector are supporting all five layers of**

**the AI cake — energy, data centres, chips, applications and models. Are you saying capital is leaving every country except the US?**

The concentration is heavily in the US and Japan, and in emerging markets, Korea and Taiwan have won the race. One company — Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) — now has weight in the MSCI index greater than all of India put together. Samsung's profits this year will likely exceed every American tech company except Nvidia.

We are currently in an AI bubble similar to 1999. Back then, India benefited from the TMT boom through IT services. This time, we don't have that. The financial crowd is calling India the 'anti-AI play', meaning we may only get attention again when the bubble bursts. Currently, domestic consumption and government spending are counting for little with foreign investors.

**What about China? You became bearish four years ago.**

This should be a golden moment for China to fill the void left by the US but they can't. The US dollar accounts for 90 per cent of global transactions, while America's share of the global economy is only 25-30 per cent. The Chinese currency barely registers at 2-4 per cent. China's growth model is brittle and debt-dependent. They can't make the yuan freely convertible. They fear a massive capital flight. People are more comfortable holding Swiss currency than Chinese. Because of this, the US can still weaponise its currency through sanctions.

**Is the US winning the conflict with Iran?**

I wouldn't say winning but they are 'losing less' than the rest of the world. The US is energy independent and at the centre of the AI mania, so they don't feel the impact. Meanwhile, Asia and Europe suffer. Iran's economy is a basket case but their leadership seems unbothered by economic devastation because they have been off the economic map for so long. Iran has been able to stand up much better than expected but let's not confuse that with success.

**If the war continues and oil hits \$150, what happens?**

Global oil production is about 100 million barrels a day and we are currently short 5 to 7 million barrels every day as the war continues. If the Strait (of Hormuz) remains closed, oil has only one way to go: up. You would need to hit \$150 to achieve demand destruction. The world has entered this crisis with record levels of debt and no fiscal buffers. The US is running a 6 per cent budget deficit. Normally, interest rates fall in a crisis as people rush to safety but this time, they are rising because people are

**'IN MY 30 YEARS OF INVESTING, I HAVE NOT SEEN SUCH INDIFFERENCE TOWARDS INDIA'**

**'YOU CAN DISAGREE WITH ME, BUT THE FOREIGN INVESTOR'S PERCEPTION IS THAT INDIA IS A LOSER IN THE AI RACE'**

**'CURRENTLY I HAVE NO MONEY IN INDIAN IT STOCKS'**

**'IN BENGAL, DEVELOPMENT WASN'T ON THE TABLE FOR EITHER PARTY'**

concerned about government borrowing. In the two months since this escalation, interest rates everywhere have gone up.

**And you think countries are helpless?**

The only way to survive the 'king of the jungle' (the US) is to move in a herd. If countries like India, the Philippines, or those in Europe deal with the US individually on tariffs or energy, they will be 'eaten for lunch.' They need a coordinated strategy. Every day this lasts, the biggest casualties are in Europe and Asia.

**Is India playing its cards well?**

It's just all accumulating together. We have frayed relations with the US over tariffs, we are on the wrong side of the AI mania, we are a big energy importer during an Iran conflict, and we have El Niño to deal with. The government needs to think as passionately about getting foreign capital back — perhaps through tax cuts — as they do about elections. Private investment is stagnant because the ground-level business environment remains difficult due to regulation and investigative agencies. India consistently disappoints both the optimist and the pessimist. We still have the second or third most expensive stock market in the world, which is a note of caution.

**The domestic capital being deployed in India has been a concern as well. Publicly, government has been talking about it for years. Why do you think that's not happening?**

There are two things here. What you are referring to is private capex... that is taking a long time to pick up because it's still a difficult place to do business, be it the regulatory framework, the investigative agencies or the daily toll. Having said that, I don't want to get too bearish also on India because it consistently disappoints the optimist and the pessimist. Two years ago, it was disappointing that the pessimism by the stock market kept going up. That was a note of caution. I sounded that all these guys are putting money in this market. But it was all being led by domestic investors. Foreign investors even then were hardly there. The domestic investors were buying the most expensive stocks in the world and now two years later, unfortunately, the market hasn't done well but it still ranks as the second most important, the most expensive market in the world or maybe the third now. The US, and maybe Taiwan has got in there now. So we are still so expensive to begin with. That's part of the reason.

**And you still wouldn't bet on China even though it's cheap?**

Maybe selectively. China is very cheap but it's hard to make money in that country. They like to over invest, so they don't care about your returns. One of my colleagues went to China recently and was dazzled because of the technology... look at the number of EVs on the road, but then we looked at that sector and the conclusion was that as far as competitive intensity is concerned, this is like Beirut — just so competitive that everyone's killing each other.



Hiren Ved, Director and CIO, Alchemy Capital Management, with Ruchir Sharma



Manjeet Kripalani, ED, Gateway House, India Council on Global Relations



Uday Shankar, Co-founder, Asia Initiatives; Founder, Marigold Park; Director, Bodhi Tree Capital



(Left) Rashesh Shah, Co-founder, Edelweiss Group, with Aditya Mishra, COO and Head, Wealth Management, ASK Private Wealth



(From left) Actor, filmmaker and social activist Nandita Das with Harsh Goenka, Chairman, RPG Group



Audience at Express Adda in Mumbai



Alex Kuruville, Member, Board of Director, Girl Effect



Sheela Kulkarni, Head of Market Development and Institutional Investor Relationships, India, World Gold Council



(From left) Aniket Dey, Co-founder and MD, Generational; Aditya Mehta, Director, FRR Immigration; Anant Goenka, Vice-Chairman, RPG Group, President, FICCI



Manisha Girotra, CEO, Moelis India, with husband Sanjay Agarwal



Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Centre Mumbai



**ARUN KUMAR NANDA**  
MANAGING TRUSTEE, ADHATA TRUST AND FOUNDER & FORMER CHAIRMAN, MAHINDRA HOLIDAYS & RESORTS LTD



**NAVED AL RAZEE**  
THIRD SECY AND HEAD OF CHANCERY, BANGLADESH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION, MUMBAI

**The EU doesn't want to fight the US. Why then aren't they stopping Israel, because Israel has a small economy.**

BECAUSE ISRAEL'S in alliance with the US. So I don't think they have any pressure from the EU and I don't see that the EU has put any pressure on Israel. But today Israel will do what America is going to ask them to do. Now you can argue that it was the other way around at the start. But that's my reading.

**What is your take on crypto? Will it become mainstream in the future? What portion should I invest in it?**

CRYPTO IS here to stay. Again there's competition... There's Bitcoin. That gold was better than crypto was my analysis, so I would say it's part of that alternative 20 per cent bucket that I spoke about in my 100 per cent allocation. It depends on your comfort level. I personally don't have any crypto in there.



**HARSH GOENKA**  
CHAIRMAN, RPG GROUP



**ADITYA MISHRA**  
COO & HEAD, WEALTH MANAGEMENT, ASK PRIVATE WEALTH

**India acts best when there is a crisis. What do you think we should be doing to sprint ahead in terms of getting FDI?**

SECURING FDI requires a combination of active state-level involvement and attractive, stable central tax regime. CMs have significant power to improve conditions on the ground. Meanwhile, the Centre must address investor concerns regarding retroactive taxation. Additionally, India's taxes on foreign capital remain higher than global averages and must be cut to remain competitive.

**With all the talk about rate cuts in the US, what will be the impact and where does India stand?**

TODAY, THE scope for rate cuts in the US is close to zero. Inflation has been quite sticky. It's at 3 per cent. The underlying headline is it will be closer to 4 as the gasoline prices stay up and the Fed has missed its inflation target for five years in a row every month. So it's running behind on credibility. Flows are all being driven by AI. If rates go down, more flows will go to AI. Once that bubble bursts, people can look at how all this settles.



**ANANT GOENKA**  
VICE CHAIRMAN, RPG GROUP, PRESIDENT, FICCI



**NILESH SHAH**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, KOTAK MAHINDRA ASSET MANAGEMENT

**If China doesn't play by the rules, how can India compete?**

I AGREE with you. It is unusual for a country at that stage of development to be such an export powerhouse. China has an ambitious growth target of 4 to 5 per cent. Given their declining population, it is just not feasible. So therefore, they have decided that we're just going to do what it takes.

**Do appeals urging NRI Indians' gharwapsi over pressures from the US's ideologies resonate?**

UNFORTUNATELY PEOPLE think more from their pocketbook rather than political ideology anywhere. But a lot of Indians in America are feeling a bit angry about putting too much capital there so it is an opportunity to capitalise on that.



**VIDULA WARAWDEKAR**  
EX-INDIA ECONOMIST, JARDINE FLEMING



**ARTI YARGOP**  
INVESTMENT PROFESSIONAL, RARE ENTERPRISES

**What would be the reason for the rest of the world to look for another currency? ?**

THE DOLLAR'S role will gradually decline. But the biggest shortcoming today is not just the currency. It's the Iran war, the tariffs, and the lack of complete coordination between different powers. That is the biggest tragedy of the global economy.

**Pakistan is now in Trump's back pocket. How does that play out long-term for India?**

I WISH India would be a bit more broad-minded. We got carried away with Operation Sindoor and didn't quite think about its strategic consequences. I have said previously, we need to obsess over China instead. It would lift our game.

## RAPID FIRE

**You have \$1 million to invest. Where would you put it in a rapid fire way?**

You begin with America and then you figure out the rest of the world. We typically put 60 per cent in global equities, 20 per cent in inflation hedges and 20 per cent in deflation hedges. The worst returns in the next few years, it seems, is going to be from bonds and fixed income.

**Amid deglobalisation, which country stands to gain the most?**

Currently it's difficult because until this energy crisis subsides, some middle powers are getting badly hurt. But a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is coming to invest in some of these. The countries with quality stocks — good brands trading at cheap valuations — will do well.

**And they're not too expensive right now?**

They are cheap historically, especially outside the US.

**You've done a lot of forecasting. I'll give you a topic and you tell us what you think its future is.**

**Indian IT companies.**

The big ones can reinvent but currently I have no money there, because to quote a colleague, it's like 'Beirut.'

**Gold.**

I've always liked gold but it has been everyone's favourite for a while. And, I'm naturally not inclined to buy more when everyone is saying the same thing. So, I wouldn't put more than 4 to 5 per cent of my portfolio in gold at this stage.

**India's billionaires today.**

The odds are greater to bet on new and upcoming billionaires than to side too much with the existing.

**Private credit.**

The private credit lending in the US hasn't been stress tested, so when in a downcycle, some of it will be zero. India may be a bit better because we haven't had such a private credit cycle.

**Indian stock market.**

Unless AI really kills India's growth story, the stock market here will give you decent returns.

**The anthropic-Gemini-OpenAI fight.**

In 2000, the internet revolution was real but all the big winners died, except Microsoft. In these big tech revolutions, you get over-investment, which is great for the consumer but only few of these companies actually make money.

**The BJP.**

What makes the BJP so powerful is that there is no competition. Anybody who has a rightwing ideology has one party. On the other side, there's so much competition and that vote gets split.

**The Indian National Congress.**

They will keep fighting with the regional parties for space.

**The US dollar.**

The natural path of the dollar is down.

**React to the following headlines: Ambani, Adani, Tata, Birla... who is a safer bet for a foreign investor?**

First let the foreign investors come back to India.

**Who among these is a safer bet for domestic investors?**

Each has an asset which is remarkable. Foreign investors generally like individual companies because conglomerates usually trade at discounts.

**Meta, Google, Apple, US Congress or the office of the President: Which of these institutions do the US citizens trust more today?**

It's a race to the bottom but if people have to work somewhere, they'd still rather work for a big tech company than the US government.

**Who has a tougher job in India today: the RBI governor or the SEBI chair?**

The RBI governor at this stage because you're dealing with a big hole that you have to fill every day.

**React to the following trends, how they have changed or haven't.**

**Quality of roads.**

The roads look great but the last few miles remain so crowded.

**The transparency of the voter.**

Every time you ask a voter which way they're voting, they will smile almost as if you've asked them how their sex life was. Unless they're a hardcore activist or from the party, they're not going to reveal their vote preference easily.

**In Bengal, what do you think is the biggest threat to Mamata's chances of winning?**

Anti-incumbency. The state is in a state of disrepair. That catches up.



(Left) Film director and writer Shonali Bose with Amrita Pandey, CEO, Junglee Picture



(Left) Ramesh Narayan, Founder, Canco Advertising Pvt Ltd, and Shashi Sinha, CEO, Interpublic Group of Companies



Pankaj Surana, CEO, Surana Gem and Jewellery Industries



(Right) Pashupati Advani, Founder and Principal Advisor, Advani Advisory Group, with Pushkar Chauhan, Regional Head, ICICI Bank Limited



Arti Yargop, Investment Professional, Rare Enterprises, with Ruchir Sharma



Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management



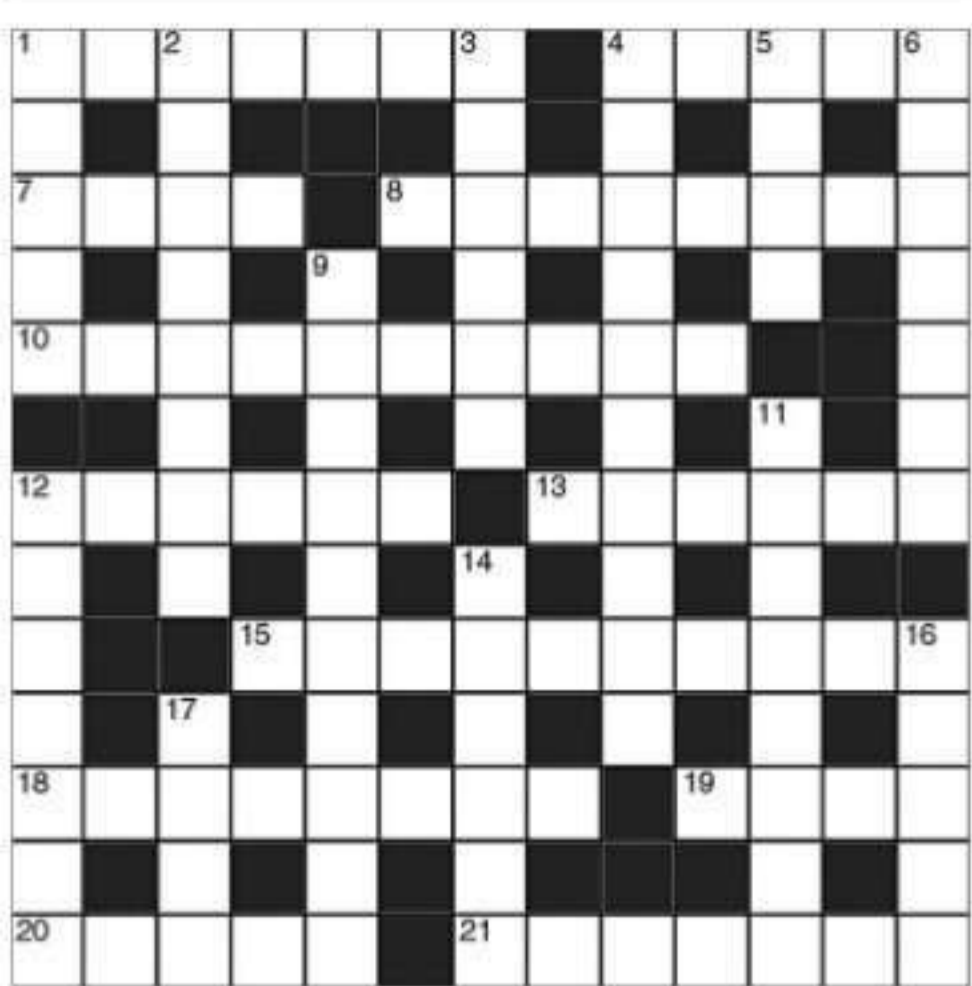
Jayashree Patil-Dake, Assistant Professor, KP B Hinduja College of Commerce



Vivek Kamath, Co-founder, Matrix IEC Pvt Ltd

## CROSSWORD

5986



**ACROSS**  
 1 Do away with Basil? Oh that's wrong! (7)  
 4 Rowed about an endowment (5)  
 7 The boy's in a whirl (4)  
 8 Entrance qualification for Yale? (8)  
 10 Though possibly original it is less than novel (5,5)  
 12 About eleven the ship moves off (6)  
 13 Sandy hair? (6)  
 15 Robust shoes may be (4,2,4)  
 18 It may be hard pressed to gain an admission (8)  
 19 Capital punishment (4)  
 20 Woman unaffected by reversal (5)  
 21 Storm created by Shakespeare (7)

**DOWN**  
 1 Declares a piece of poetry lacks point (5)  
 2 Godly foe disposed to be reactionary (3,5)  
 3 They beat a complete suit (6)  
 4 Road notice perhaps a job for a painter (10)  
 5 Come to some backwater (4)  
 6 He's right to take Monday off (7)  
 9 Its owner will have impressions of many countries (5,5)  
 11 Periodical may include explosive material (8)  
 12 Dreams of working without a life of slavery (7)  
 14 Not a big shot in the gunnery world (6)  
 16 Negotiate for free entertainment (5)  
 17 Utterly rude and cross (4)

**SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 5985 ACROSS:** 1 Considerate, 9 Garbage, 10 Cupid, 11 Inst, 12 Traverse, 14 Sector, 16 Brides, 18 Thespian, 19 Star, 22 Mores, 23 Hirsute, 24 Sports clubs  
**DOWN:** 2 Ogres, 3 Soap, 4 Dreary, 5 Recovery, 6 Tapered, 7 Against time, 8 Adversaries, 13 Composer, 15 Clear up, 17 Pathos, 20 Thumb, 21 Oral

## JUMBLER WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective circles below. Select the letters in the shaded circles and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

The most \_\_\_\_\_ thing in the world, I think, is the inability of the human mind to correlate all its contents - H P Lovecraft (8)

**EGRET** ○●●○○○  
**BORIL** ○○○●●●

**OTTUCU** ●○○○○○  
**AERRFM** ●○○○○○

**SOLUTIONS:** EGRET: Great; BORIL: Curator; OTTUCU: Frame/Farmer; AERRFM: Meticulous

## OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS



## CALVIN & HOBBS

BY BILL WATTERSON



## MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



## DIFFICULTY LEVEL 1s INSTRUCTIONS

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## DIFFICULTY LEVEL

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

**SUDOKU 6316**

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

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 6316**

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

## AUCTION NOTICE

It is submitted that Hon'b/e MACT Courts has directed initiation of steps for public auction of the offending vehicle bearing registration No. DL3SCX-2791 (Platina) Motorcycle in involved in FIR No. 93/2019, dated 10.04.2019, U/s 279/337 IPC, PS Vasant Kunj North, Delhi.

It is therefore requested that the information regarding auction is scheduled to be held on 13.05.2026 at 10:00 AM at Police Station Vasant Kunj North, Delhi.

For further details, the contact number of the SHO, Vasant Kunj North is : 7065036224

By Order - Sh. Shirish Aggarwal  
 PO-MACT-01  
 Room No. 04, Main Building  
 Patiala House Courts, New Delhi  
 DP/6205/SW/2026

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person(s) Vishal, S/o: Roop Kishore R/o: 35A/36, Gali No. 14, Vipin Garden Uttam Nagar Dwarka Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 494/19, U/s: 279/337 IPC, PS: Raj Park, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Vishal, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Vishal, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Vishal, of FIR No. 494/19, U/s: 279/337 IPC, PS: Raj Park, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 25.06.2026.

By Order  
 Ebbani Aggarwal  
 Judicial Magistrate First Class-03  
 North West Room No. 107, 1st Floor  
 Rohini Court, Delhi  
 DP/5734/OD/2026  
 (Court Matter)

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C./84 BNSS  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person Namely Suraj S/o Devender R/o H. No. 70/66, Indra Camp No.-2 Vikaspuri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 602/23 U/S 25/54/59 Arms Act PS: Vikaspuri, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Suraj cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Suraj has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Suraj accused of (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 602/23 U/S 25/54/59 Arms Act PS: Vikaspuri, Delhi, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 24.07.2026.

By Order  
 Sh. Vinod Kumar  
 JMFC-05, Room No. 09  
 Dwarka Court, new Delhi  
 DP/6103/WD/2026  
 (Court Matter)

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPC  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Deepak @ Amit S/o Sannu Kumar R/o House No. E-757, Gali No. 22, East Gokulpur, Shakti Graden, Delhi & Raj Nagar, Parshuram Wali Gali, Gali No. 3, Loni Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (Mobile No. 7289041143) has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide FIR No. 875/2022, U/S 25/54/59 Arms Act, PS Jyoti Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Deepak @ Amit can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Deepak @ Amit has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Deepak @ Amit of FIR No. 875/2022, U/S 25/54/59 Arms Act, PS Jyoti Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of 12.06.2026

By Order,  
 Sh. Rahul Saini  
 Judicial Magistrate First Class-08  
 Court No. 06, Ground Floor, New Building  
 DP/5985/NE/2026(Court Matter) Karkardooma Courts, Shahdara, Delhi

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82(2) (ii) Cr. P.C./84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita  
 Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Ibrahim Ansari S/o Hatim Miya R/o J-187, Sec-5, Bawana, Delhi have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under FIR No. 161/2021 U/s 379/411 IPC., has been registered at P.S. Bawana, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, Ibrahim Ansari cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, Ibrahim Ansari has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, Ibrahim Ansari of FIR No. 161/2021 U/s 379/411 IPC., registered at P.S. Bawana, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 03.07.2026.

By Order  
 Sh. Sarthak Panwar  
 LD, MM-05, Room No. 114  
 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi  
 DP/6158/ON/2026  
 (Court Notice)

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Rahul Pathak, S/o Sh. Lalan Pathak, R/o Matke Wali Gali Near Holi Chowk Chetan Ka Makan Dundaheera Gurgaon, Haryana has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No: 142/2023, U/s: 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, P.S.: Sarojini Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Rahul Pathak, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Rahul Pathak, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Rahul Pathak, of FIR No: 142/2023, U/s: 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, P.S.: Sarojini Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.06.2026.

By Order  
 Ms. Vijayshree Rathore  
 Judicial Magistrate First Class-05  
 13, First Floor, Main Building  
 Patiala House Court, New Delhi  
 DP/6056/SW/2026  
 (Court Matter)

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C / 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person Namely: Mohd. Farman, S/o. Nanhe @ Naseem, R/o.: H.No.605, Gali No.08, Bajrang Mohalla Maujpur, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No.450/2025 U/S 174 A IPC registered at P.S. Jafraabad, North East District, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Mohd. Farman cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused Mohd. Farman is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Mohd. Farman, accused of Case FIR No. 450/2025 U/S 174 A IPC registered at P.S. Jafraabad, North East District, Delhi is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 08.07.2026.

By Order, Ms. Anushtha Srivastava  
 Judicial Magistrate First Class-05  
 Room No.07, Second Floor  
 Karkardooma Courts, Delhi  
 DP/6059/NE/2026  
 (Court Matter)

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Harjit Singh, S/o Baldev Singh (M/S New Waraich Trading Co. Thr. Prop.), R/o H.No. 208 Ward No. 10 Ellenabad Amritsar (129) Amritsar Kalan Distt. Sirdsa, Haryana, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Ct. Case/CC NI Act: 370/2018, U/s: 138 NI Act, P.S.: Paschim Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Harjit Singh, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Harjit Singh, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Harjit Singh, of Ct. Case/CC NI Act: 370/2018, U/s: 138 NI Act, P.S.: Paschim Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 12.06.2026.

By Order  
 Poonam Singh  
 Judicial Magistrate First Class (West) (NI Act)-04  
 Room No. 04 Annex-I  
 Tis Hazari Court, Delhi  
 DP/5896/OD/2026  
 (Court Matter)

## अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गुवाहाटी ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, GUWAHATI

(A statutory body under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Assam, Kamrup, Assam-781101, Website: www.aiimsguwahati.ac.in  
 No: Eng/23/2026-ENGINEERING-AIIMS GHY Dated: 11.05.2026

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Superintending Engineer (i/c), AIIMS Guwahati invites bids from eligible bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria as stipulated in the bid document for "Operation & Maintenance of 33/11 kV Electrical Substation at AIIMS Guwahati." The Bid document is published in www.tenderwizard.com/AIIMSG and (aiimsguwahati.ac.in). The bids shall be submitted online. Hard Copy of technical bid including all forms and supporting documents to be submitted to the office of the Superintending Engineer (i/c), AIIMS Guwahati, Changsari, Kamrup (R) Guwahati: 781101, Assam.  
 Date of issue of bid document 11.05.2026.  
 Last date of submission of bids 01/06/2026 till 1700 hr.  
 Sd/-  
 Supdt. Engineer (i/c)  
 AIIMS, Guwahati

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Jitender S/o Mahadev R/o Footpath, Jamna Bazar, Kashmir Gate, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence case FIR No. 136/2021 u/s 392/411/34 IPC at P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Jitender cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Jitender has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said Jitender accused of FIR No. 136/2021 u/s 392/411/34 IPC at P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on 30.06.2026.

By Order: Sh. Vaibhav Garg,  
 Judicial Magistrate First Class-11 (Central)  
 Room No. 138, 1st Floor,  
 Tis Hazari Court, Delhi  
 DP/6210/N/2026

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Bhim Singh S/o Bhagwan Dass R/o H. No. B4/323, Sultanpuri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 378/2024 u/s 318(4)/3(5) Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita at P.S. Shahdara, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Bhim Singh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Bhim Singh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said Bhim Singh accused of FIR No. 378/2024 u/s 318(4)/3(5) Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita at P.S. Shahdara, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on 27.06.2026

By Order: Sh. Rahul Saini,  
 Judicial Magistrate First Class-08,  
 Room No. 06, (New Building),  
 Karkardooma Courts, Delhi  
 DP/5208/SHD/2026

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C / 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused Arjun, S/o.: Sh. Badrinath, R/o.: 181-C, DDA Flat Shahpur Jat, Fatehpur Beri, South Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide e-FIR No.80076641/2024 U/S 379/411 IPC registered at P.S. Sarojini Nagar, South West District, New Delhi and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said Arjun could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused Arjun is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Arjun, accused of e-FIR No.80076641/2024 U/S 379/411 IPC, P.S. Sarojini Nagar, South West District, New Delhi is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.06.2026.

By Order, Ms. Vijayshree Rathore  
 Judicial Magistrate First Class-05  
 13, First Floor, Main Building  
 Patiala House Courts, New Delhi  
 DP/6043/SW/2026  
 (Court Matter)

**Star Aussie trio to sit out Pak, B'desh tours after IPL**



Josh Hazlewood has been one of the best bowlers of this season while his compatriots Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins have faced injury issues. CREIMAS

Associated Press  
Sydney, May 11

AUSTRALIA HAS left fast bowlers Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood out of its limited overs squads for upcoming tours of Pakistan and Bangladesh later this month.

The trio will miss the three-match series against Pakistan starting May 30, with uncapped all-rounder Liam Scott and Australia Under-19 World Cup captain Ollie Peake earning their first senior international call-ups in a new-look Australian squad.

Young batter Joel Davies is another new face after he was selected for the T20 series against Bangladesh in June.

Travis Head, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis and Xavier Bartlett will travel to Bangladesh once their Indian Premier League commitments are completed, while veteran all-rounder Glenn Maxwell was omitted altogether.

Mitchell Marsh will be the captain across both tours as Australia begins its preparations for the Cricket World Cup to be held in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe in October next year.

Selection chairman George Bailey said the tours presented opportunities for emerging players.

"It's always exciting to see new players get an opportunity to play international cricket and be a part of the national team," Bailey said. "The blend of experienced players coupled with new or returning players will provide a nice mix for these subcontinent tours."

"Continuing to provide opportunities for players to develop across a broad range of conditions and experiences is important and will continue to be a focus over the next 18 months to two years." Cummins, Starc and Hazlewood are expected to use the break to prepare for Australia's World Test Championship campaign, which resumes in August in a two-test home series against Bangladesh.

Australia plays Pakistan in three ODIs in Rawalpindi (May 30) and Lahore (June 2 and 4) before travelling to Bangladesh for three ODI games in Dhaka (June 9, 11 and 14) and three T20 Internationals in Chattogram (June 17, 19 and 21).

**INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE**

**Axar shines with the bat as Delhi live to fight another day**

**Skipper comes good after top-order stumble in crucial partnership with Miller before youngsters seal the win**

**SYNOPSIS:** All-round effort from Madhav Tiwari and Axar-Miller's 64-run stand help DC beat PBKS by three wickets.

Shankar Narayan  
Mumbai, May 11

DELHI CAPITALS wouldn't have had good memories of facing Punjab Kings in IPL 2026, having failed to defend 264 runs earlier in the season. But in a must-win match on Monday, they extracted revenge, chasing down 210 to inflict a fourth straight loss on the 2025 runners-up and keep their season alive.

**Madhav's day out**

Less than a year after his last IPL appearance, Madhav Tiwari found himself back on the big stage on Monday, drafted into the DC playing XI for a must-win clash against PBKS. By the end of the night, the youngster had made an impact with both bat and ball. Tiwari first made his mark with the ball when PBKS were flying through Priyansh Arya. The opener had raced to 56 off 33 balls and looked set for a bigger score before Tiwari broke through in the ninth over, forcing the left-hander into a mis-timed loft to deep point, earning his maiden IPL wicket.

He continued to impress through the middle overs with hard lengths and slower balls that held slightly in the sur-

**● IPL table**

Teams	M	W	L	PTS
RCB	11	7	4	14
SRH	11	7	4	14
GT	11	7	4	14
PBKS	11	6	4	13
CSK	11	6	5	12
RR	11	6	5	12
DC	12	5	7	10
KKR	10	4	5	9
MI	11	3	8	6
LSG	11	3	8	6

M: MATCH; W: WIN; L: LOSS; PTS: POINTS

face. But his bigger contribution was still to come.

Walking in during the 17th over with Delhi needing 41 runs, Tiwari showed composure far beyond his top-level experience. He stayed calm under pressure, using the pace of the bowlers cleverly rather than swinging wildly. Tiwari remained unbeaten on 18 off just eight balls and, along with Ashutosh Sharma, took DC home with an over to spare.

**Captain's knock**

Axar Patel's IPL 2026 as DC captain has hardly gone the way he would have imagined.

He watched his side fail to defend 264 runs against PBKS earlier in the tournament. He has also seen them collapse for 75 against RCB. By the time DC arrived in Dharamshala on Monday for the must-win clash, the skipper and his team knew there was no room for



Skipper Axar Patel's 30-ball 56 was crucial to Delhi Capitals' fifth win in 12 games. CREIMAS FOR BCCI

error. That pressure only increased by the time he walked in with DC placed at 33/3 in the fifth over. For a few overs, he looked scratchy against the short ball and was beaten a couple of times outside off. But slowly, he began to settle into the chase.

The turning point came when he stepped down the track and smashed Marco Jansen straight back over his head for six. From there, Axar mixed aggression with smart placement. He picked up boundaries behind square, used the pace of the bowlers cleverly and targeted anything drifting onto his pads. Against Ben Dwarshuis, he lofted one cleanly over mid-off before adding another boundary fine down the legside.

His strongest phase came against Marcus Stoinis in the

14th over. Axar hit three consecutive fours to bring up his fifty off 29 balls. Just when Delhi seemed to be building momentum again, Axar fell trying to clear long-on off Stoinis. But his 56 off 30 balls kept Delhi alive in the chase.

**Miller's fireworks**

David Miller's primary role in IPL 2026 for DC has been that of a finisher, but his job on Monday was different as he walked in with his side 74/4 in the ninth over. The required rate was climbing quickly, wickets had fallen in a heap, and the chase needed someone to change the mood. For some time, Miller did exactly that.

The South African started carefully, getting used to the pace of the surface before opening up. A flicked boundary off Jansen got him going,

and soon the confidence started showing in his stroke-play.

The moment that really lifted DC came against Stoinis. Miller stepped down the track and smashed a flat six over deep midwicket, a shot hit with the kind of power and certainty that has made him one of T20 cricket's most dangerous finishers.

In the 16th over, Miller took on Jansen with a flat six behind square before pulling another boundary in front of square. A few balls later, he reached his half-century off just 28 balls with back-to-back sixes off Ben Dwarshuis.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Punjab Kings 210/5 in 20 overs (Priyansh Arya 56, Shreyas Iyer 59 not out; Madhav Tiwari 2/40) lost to Delhi Capitals 216/7 in 19 overs (Axar Patel 56, David Miller 51) by three wickets.

**How CSK's 6ft-5in enforcer became 'Ondra-ton'**

Venkata Krishna B  
Chennai, May 11

A COUPLE of deliveries before his second over against Lucknow Super Giants, Jamie Overton walked to the boundary and gestured to the Chepauk crowd to get louder. They obliged. They had been chanting his name all evening — Over-ton, Over-ton — even as Josh Inglis was taking CSK apart. Overton stood there, 6 feet 5 inches of him, and asked for more.

Two deliveries later, he ran in and did what he has been doing all season. Hit the deck hard. Generate the bounce. Inglis went for a ramp and the extra bounce took the edge straight to Sanju Samson. Overton pumped his fists, cleared his throat. Three deliveries after that, Rishabh Pant chopped on and Overton ran towards the crowd. Beyond the whistles, you could hear it again — Over-ton, Over-ton.

Or rather, as Chepauk has made it their own: Ondra-ton. A tone-and-a-half.

This is new territory for him. Back home, he has not been able to nail down a place in England's setup. "No, not quite like it," he said when asked if fans in England chant his name. "The fact the fans have got behind me, feeling the love off them — it's amazing." The Chennai crowd, the Chepauk crowd, it's phenomenal. They're very intelligent, very knowledgeable about cricket."

A year ago, the Chepauk story looked very different. CSK bought him at the auction and appeared to confuse him with his twin brother Craig — who is also a professional cricketer, also a seamer, which makes the mix-up, if it was one, at least understandable — used as a powerplay bowler, he went at 13.83 in three matches and disappeared. This season, the role was defined from the start: use the hard Che-



Jamie Overton has 14 wickets in 10 matches this season. ANI

pauk surface, make the hard lengths talk in the middle overs. The result: 14 wickets in 10 matches at an economy of 8.89 — still a touch on the expensive side, but ten of those 14 have come in the middle overs at 8.05. Beyond Noor Ahmad, he is the bowler Rutturaj Gaikwad reaches for when he needs a wicket.

The method is simple. Deliberately so. "For me, it's just to

do the simple things really well — hit the top of the stumps, the odd short ball, the odd slow ball. Done a lot of work with Eric Simons, trying to focus on my lines. Mainly the lines," Overton said.

Watch him in the nets and watch him in the match — the intensity is the same, the length he tries to hit is the same. What he has added to the pace is control, and to the control, a slower ball that arrives at under 120kph after a delivery at 150. The gap is the point. "He's worked on an off-pace delivery, which, when you're bowling 150kph and you've got an off-pace delivery that's under 120kph then it's really effective," Simons said.

Overton knows pace alone isn't enough. "Pace can be good and bad at the same time. If you don't get it right, it does go a long way. And batters aren't scared of pace anymore. Bowling in India is very different to anywhere else in the world. I feel like I've

got to bowl a bit fuller. The Indian players are very good at hitting behind square on the off side. So you've got to be really accurate with the line," he said.

There is a month's worth of detail behind that simple description. When CSK were yet to win a game, Overton threw his helmet in Bengaluru after his dismissal — fans read it not as petulance but as a player wanting to play for the shirt. A day after he turned 32, with Chepauk singing Happy Birthday to him, he took four wickets against Delhi Capitals. Each time he has given the crowd something to chant about. On Sunday, he gave them two more. Inglis and Pant, the two most dangerous batters in the Lucknow lineup, both gone in the space of three deliveries. CSK won three in a row for the first time this season.

Over-ton, Over-ton. Ondra-ton. He asked for the noise. He earned it.

**Krunal's sweep: The six months spent behind one shot**



Krunal Pandya used the sweep effectively against MI. CREIMAS

Shankar Narayan  
Mumbai, May 11

JITENDRA SINGH, Krunal Pandya's childhood coach, watched his player go down on one knee against Will Jacks in the ninth over on Sunday and pick up a boundary through deep square leg. He had seen that shot hundreds of times in the nets. He had built it, piece by piece, over six months.

"Grip, head, and a lot of mechanics, alignment, and many other things," Singh said. "It was not just one thing. Everything was sequenced into one process."

That process was on display at Raipur, where Pandya's 73 off 46 balls played a central role in RCB's two-wicket win over Mumbai Indians. The innings was built, largely, on one shot.

The sweep is not a new weapon for Pandya. But at 35, with specific work put into its mechanics before this IPL season, it has become something more deliberate — a way to take control of a middle-overs innings without needing to manufacture power from scratch each time.

"We had worked for the last six months on this aspect of his batting," Singh said. "Especially a week to 10 days before he left for this season. We worked at the Reliance IPL ground and at the Kotabmi stadium."

What they worked on was the head. "We tried to make sure his head stays a little more over the ball when he is about to play the sweep shot," Singh said. "So that is helping him to generate more power and get into a better position to execute the shots." He was specific about what that meant in practice.

"Grip, head position, how the hand has to move — technical aspects were all there. We worked on how the positioning of the head has to be so he can generate more power. Everything was sequenced into one process and that is helping him get into a better position to execute."

The head is everything on the sweep. Get across early, go down with intent, read the length quickly — and the lbw risk dissolves. The hands free up. The shot cleans itself. Part of why it keeps working is the strong bottom hand behind it — even a mistimed sweep often

**The sweep is not a new weapon for Pandya. But at 35, with specific work put into its mechanics before this IPL season, it has become something more deliberate.**

finds a gap or clears an infielder, which keeps the bowler second-guessing.

On Sunday, Pandya used it to good effect against Jacks. Against Delhi Capitals earlier in IPL 2025, he did the same against Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel — sometimes getting into position early to attack, sometimes waiting a fraction longer to find the timing. The 2016 innings against Delhi Daredevils in Visakhapatnam showed a more aggressive version: reverse sweeps, slog sweeps over midwicket, even mistimed shots still finding gaps because of the intent behind them. That innings had an edge to it, less about control, more about domination. What has changed since is the precision underneath the power.

The pattern holds across all three. Spinners brought on to tighten the middle overs, Pandya using the sweep to take back the initiative. Once it starts working, it forces captains to push boundary riders deeper and wider. That opens space straight and through the covers. Bowling plans shift. The game changes shape.

Much of Pandya's IPL career has been spent in brief cameos — a consequence of playing in teams built around dominant top orders. These innings tell a different story. When he gets time in the middle, he knows how to build, how to rotate, how to keep the innings moving without forcing. On Sunday he did exactly that — singles when boundaries were hard to come by, ensuring the asking rate never climbed away from RCB.

Singh put it simply: "If you look at his overall game, he is now generating more power compared to earlier." Six months of work. Head over the ball. Everything sequenced into one process.

**● SANJU OPENS UP ON DAYS BEFORE T20 WORLD CUP**

**'Pressure was too high, never felt that before in life'**

Express News Service  
Chennai, May 11

SANJU SAMSON, who played three successive match-winning knocks in the T20 World Cup triumph to walk away with the man of the tournament award, has admitted that in the days leading up to the event, he had let the weight of expectations get the better of him.

Samson, who was India's first-choice opener since the completion of the 2024 T20 World Cup, ended up losing his spot closer to the 2026 edition to Ishan Kishan. Though he did play the game against Namibia in Delhi because Abhishek Sharma was ill, Samson went back to warming the bench before making a comeback to the XI in the Super 8 fixture at Chennai in Zimbabwe.

Post that match, he scored an unbeaten 97 vs West Indies and followed it up with 89 off 42 vs England in the semifinals and another 89 in the



Sanju Samson played a pivotal role in India's World Cup victory in March, scoring fifties in three successive crunch matches. FILE

final against New Zealand at Ahmedabad.

Speaking of the bilateral series against New Zealand where he struggled to own the spot and ended up losing to Ishan, Samson revealed how it all unfolded.

"You set a goal, you set a standard as you all also might have done," Samson told Abhinav Mukund in the CSK podcast. "So when we reach

very close to that dream, so you get a bit excited, you get a bit like you get out of your normal skin. That's what I felt like New Zealand. I was very calm, relaxed. South Africa, I played one game, I scored my runs and I know what to do. I've done this for so many years. But something inside me was telling me the dream is very close. 'Okay, you have to push hard now. Now this is the time.

Now you have to do something special.

"This is the moment you have been waiting for so many years. So let's do something special". So that special took me out of my normal Sanju Samson," the opener added.

Samson revealed that the weight of expectation from within was so huge that he didn't know how to come out of pressure and rather just deal with it. "I just felt 'okay, I need to push a bit more extra hard to do well in the New Zealand series and then mark my place in the World Cup squad'. So that actually made me a bit desperate. It's like I was batting for two-three hours a day and I was doing morning, evening, afternoon sessions like you must have also felt like we put in so much effort and then expectations also went a bit high.

"So I felt that expectations went a bit too high but after I got out two games I was under too much pressure. I never felt that kind of pressure ever in

my life. I just went through it I couldn't get out of it to be honest.

**Making peace**

Samson also revealed revealed how he made peace with Ishan Kishan taking his spot in the XI at the start of the tournament.

"Honestly Ishan Kishan, he came in the squad out of nowhere. He had a great Mustaq Ali, he won the championship for Jharkhand and he has also had a great story boss," Samson told CSK podcast with Abhinav Mukund. "We only look at ourselves right. I think I have worked day in and day out, but lately I felt like Ishan has also done the same."

"After what has happened to him from last two years -- he was out of the system, he worked so hard in the domestic cricket and he came to where he came and he was starting to score runs and I can admit it on camera that I could feel that he is coming for my spot," Samson said.

**● BRIEFLY**



Pritika Barman scored a brace in India's only win of the campaign. AIFF

**India miss out on U-17 Women's World Cup with 0-3 loss to China**

INDIA'S CREDITABLE run in the AFC Women's U17 Asian Cup came to an end after a 0-3 defeat against hosts China in the quarter-finals here on Monday. The defeat dashed the Young Tigresses' hopes of securing a historic qualification for the 2026 FIFA U17 Women's World Cup, though the campaign still marked the

country's best-ever performance in the competition with a first appearance in the knockout stage. Backed by a vocal home crowd, China started aggressively and immediately looked to impose themselves through quick passing combinations and movement in the final third. PTI

**Komal wins bronze at Asian lifting C'ship**

KOMAL KOHAR opened hosts India's medal count, winning a bronze in the women's 48kg weight class at the Asian Weightlifting Championships on Monday. Competing in place of Tokyo silver medalist Mirabai Chanu, the 23-year-old rose to the occasion with a composed performance, finishing with a combined lift of 177kg -- 78kg in snatch and 99kg in clean and jerk. Her effort in clean and jerk also earned her a bronze medal in the discipline. In a field missing several traditional heavyweights of Asian weightlifting, Chinese Taipei stamped its authority with a commanding one-two finish. Huang Yi Chen secured gold with a best effort of 193kg (81kg+112kg), while compatriot Fang Wan-Ling followed closely with 192kg (84kg+108kg) to take silver. PTI

## INTERVIEW: VINESH PHOGAT

## ‘If I give up, I won’t be able to look at myself in the mirror’

Wrestler alleges that the federation is out to stop her from making a comeback even as she aspires to compete at the 2028 Olympics

Nihal Koshie  
Gonda, May 11

VINESH PHOGAT met Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Sanjay Singh in Gonda on Monday but was unable to get an entry into the Open National Ranking tournament after the federation issued a show-cause notice to her on Saturday.

The wrestler spoke to *The Indian Express* on why she thinks the WFI is dictatorial, why they are afraid of her returning to the mat, how her 10-month-old son gives her the motivation to take on the system, and why she is ready for a long fight in her quest to be at the 2028 Olympics.

## Excerpts:

## How did the meeting with the WFI go today?

I told the WFI president that I received the show-cause notice on Friday night and was given 14 days to reply. I have a son to take care of, I have to make the weight cut, and I'm preparing for the competition. So I gave a short reply to the WFI because of lack of time. I told them that I would submit a detailed reply in 14 days. So let me compete now. After 14 days, if they are not satisfied with my detailed reply, you can take action.

But the WFI president said 'No, you have to give a detailed reply'. After that, they said they will form a committee after 14-15 days and it will decide. I told them 'hope the committee will meet before the 2028 Olympics'. Basically, the WFI wants to stop me from participating in the Asian Games. The WFI wants me to retire.

## What was in your written reply submitted today?

I stated that I had briefed the ITA (International Testing Agency) earlier (about the reason for the missed test in December 2025) and that they had allowed me to participate in international and national events from January 1, 2026. I told the WFI that when I give the detailed reply, if there is any deviation of facts from the reply I submitted today, they can take action against me. I accepted that there was a missed test and it was my mistake.

After the missed test, I have been tested again. On De-

ember 12 (2025), I had intimidated the WFI and the international federation that I would like to compete again. There was a five-month gap between then and now, but the WFI didn't react. They accepted my registration (for the Open National Ranking tournament), took the fees but after 10 days, they thought 'how do we stop her?' So they issued a show-cause notice. The WFI is a dictatorship. They are afraid that I will win medals again.

**Two years ago, there was heartbreak at the Paris Olympics. A year later, you and Somvir became parents. Talk about the contrasting emotions?**

*Mere bete ne jod diya* heart (My son has fixed my broken heart). After being ineligible to compete in the final, I felt I had run out of emotions. But my son has brought back joy in my life. The energy I have discovered to fight against the system is coming from my son. They say a child is God's gift. In my fight, I am not taking away anyone's else's rights. Let everything be decided on the mat.

**The motherhood experience is very different from what you experienced as a wrestler...**

When I returned from the Olympics, *mera* family *se bhī man bhar gaya tha, sach batao toh* (I didn't want to be with my family too). I just wanted to stay alone. Then Kridhav came into our lives. Before the baby was born, there was talk of whether it will be a boy or a girl. We were expecting a girl. Now, I do everything for Kridhav. If I eat something, I am doing it for him. If I train, I am doing it for him. He observes me every day. I think about how Kridhav will feel if I do this. When he becomes older, what he will learn from me. That is motivating me. I want him to be hard-working and learn to fight the right battles. When he becomes about five years old, I still want to be on the wrestling mat. If he sees me fight, he will learn.

**When did you take the decision to make a comeback and why?**

I was not confident if I could make a comeback because emotionally, I was drained. I



Vinesh Phogat addresses the media gathered in Gonda, home turf of former MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, on Monday. Nihal Koshie

felt I could not give more to wrestling. Like *uske baad toh maunt hai, aage kua pichhe khai* (Only death was next... like being between the devil and the deep blue sea). My first aim was to get fit. Once you become a mother, you become a different person. But now I am feeling good about my comeback because I know Kridhav is seeing me. I dream of going to the Olympics and seeing my son cheer for me. That thought is a big motivation.

**How was it balancing being a mother and being a wrestler?**

I am a politician too. From where I have won (Julana), the people are very kind and they have treated me like their daughter. I want them to feel proud of me to know they have elected a person who is capable of winning. There is a lot of support at home, my husband Somvir, my mother... Everyone is there to help. It can get difficult because there are recovery issues as the baby does not let you sleep well at night. But then you are motivated to do it for the child despite the challenges.

**What were the challenges of getting fit after becoming a mother?**

It was very difficult. I had a C-Section and not a normal delivery. One month after giving birth, I started training in Kharkhoda. I couldn't do push-ups, my body felt so heavy and I had not seen my weight so high.

I couldn't complete pull-ups. My core was finished. But I had the motivation to get my body back in shape. First three to four months were very tough because I was breastfeeding my son, he was not sleeping too well. He was waking up early. I could not recover properly between training sessions but had to still train. There is a saying that in sports, more than chasing perfection, one must chase consistency. Even if I did a little less workout, I ensured that I was consistent with my routine. In four months, I started to see results.

**You had protested at Jantar Mantar in 2023, but now it is a new fight. Are you prepared for the long haul again?**

“People have seen me fight on the streets and fight in the Olympics, so I don't want people to think the system can destroy me. I want to be the person who fights till her last breath.”

ON PREPARING FOR A LONG BATTLE AGAINST THE FEDERATION

Sometimes, I do feel enough is enough and maybe I should stop my fight. But from my childhood till now, I have never liked giving up. Either I don't start or once I start, I go till the finish. If I give up, I won't be able to look at myself in the mirror.

People have seen me fight on the streets and fight in the Olympics, so I don't want people to think the system can destroy me. I want to be the person who fights till her last breath even if the system is against me. I don't want anyone else to decide my fate. I want Kridhav also to know that however powerful a force he is up against, he must be ready to fight till the end. Nobody remembers those who don't speak up. Jhansi Ki Rani is remembered for dying on the battlefield.

**Recently you said that you were one of the victims who has accused Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of sexual harassment. What made you speak up?**

I took the decision because the system was turning a blind eye. A girl who has gone through the trauma has had to travel to a place (Gonda) where everyone is related to him (Singh), everyone is powerful and supports him. Anything could have happened to me in Gonda. And of all places, the WFI only found Gonda which is Brij Bhushan's stronghold, to conduct the competition. If I didn't say it now (that I was one of the victims) then when would I say it. I have the influence that if I post on social media, people will watch and listen. There are girls who even if they post on social media, nobody will listen to them.

**The Asian Games is your aim for this year but are you also targeting the Olympics?**

The target is definitely the Olympics (2028) but I also want to participate in major competitions before the Olympics. I will compete for five to six years.

## Big Asian markets still playing hardball on FIFA World Cup broadcast deals

Shivani Naik  
Mumbai, May 11

THIRTY-TWO days before the start of the 2026 World Cup in the USA, Mexico and Canada, as many as three billion people have no idea whether they will be able to watch the biggest single sport event on the planet in their home. FIFA still doesn't have a broadcast deal in place for China and India, as prospective bidders continue to play hardball.

The stalemate has forced a FIFA delegation - comprising secretary general Mattias Grafstrom and director of media rights Jean-Christophe Petit - to camp out in Beijing this week, trying to woo the country's state broadcaster to buy broadcast rights to the tournament starting June 11.

According to *South China Morning Post* (SCMP), FIFA's original demand for US\$300 million had proved to be way above the US\$80 million that China Central Television (CCTV) was willing to shell out. Negotiations had reportedly stalled at the US\$120 million-150 million range.

Reuters had reported that in India, the Reliance-Disney joint venture proposed \$20 million for the 2026 edition, which was a fraction of FIFA's ask, as they rejected the deal last week.

SCMP speculated that FIFA was offering to slash the asking price by more than 50 per cent, but had maintained a deal would be thrashed out and announced by May-end in China.

Both sides were said to be optimistic about reaching a deal and an announcement could be made in the second half of May, with FIFA willing to make "significant concessions" for the tournament, SCMP wrote. CCTV, the publication reported, was willing to go up on the offer but the talks were to deliberate on packaging the 2026 and 2030 World Cups, the second one to be held in six countries - Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Odd viewing hours - 3 am in China - was quoted as the chief reason for Far East Asian broadcasters balking at the big sums demanded, knowing that China did not qualify for the tournament, leading to a 'What's in it for us?' question looming.

It's not just India and China, things have not been smooth in the other Asian markets either. Thailand's Prime Minister was forced to intervene and assure fans that they would not miss out, after the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) removed the FIFA World Cup from what's called a 'Must Have' list last June. This meant it would no



FIFA chief Gianni Infantino with the 2026 World Cup trophy during last year's draw ceremony in Washington. AP

**It's not just India and China, things have not been smooth in the other Asian markets either. Thailand's Prime Minister was forced to intervene and assure fans that they would not miss out.**

longer be shown on free-to-air television.

The outrage last month, as no deal was forthcoming, PM Anutin Charnvirakul had to step in.

"Previous governments ensured free access to the World Cup, and my administration should not be an exception," he was quoted as saying by *Thailand Enquirer*.

Ahead of the 2022 edition too, the football-mad country had struggled to secure the rights before the Sports Authority of Thailand finalised a last-minute reported USD 33 million deal with FIFA, funded by the NBTC and private partners, including telecom giant *True Corp*, the *Enquirer* noted.

## Fallout from no-show

Populations could get restive in case of a blackout once the tournament begins, James Walton, sports business leader at *Deloitte Asia Pacific*, told the *Enquirer*.

"One way or another, a deal will be reached. Realistically, fans in all these countries will definitely get to watch as their governments will realise the potential for unrest," Walton was quoted as saying.

Four days ago in Malaysia, Communications minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil had to pledge an upper cap of USD 6.2 million government share so that *Radio Televisyen Malaysia* (RTM) and *Unifi TV* could snap up the rights, for an undisclosed final amount, according to *The Sun* newspaper.

ASTRO, a pay-TV operator, which had held the rights the last half a dozen times, told *The Sun* that in recent years, inflation and escalating international sports broadcasting rights prices had driven up costs, making it difficult for them to win bids.

The Asian markets have also been hit by widespread piracy, particularly during the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups, which reduced the value of legitimate broadcasting rights, ASTRO - who lost the race this time - told *The Sun*.

While FIFA has maintained tight confidentiality on the negotiations in China, SCMP said a diagram had done the rounds of social media platform Weibo, with purported amounts of deals with FIFA: Thailand (USD 14 million), Japan (USD 200 million), Hong Kong (USD 25 million), Germany (USD 120 million), England (USD 350 million for two World Cups) and Italy (USD 80 million). A team incapable of qualifying was blessing in disguise as it brought down the broadcast payouts, it was joked on Chinese socials.

FIFA, who had concluded agreements with broadcasters in over 175 territories globally, said in a statement to Reuters, "Discussions in China and India regarding the sale of media rights for FIFA World Cup 2026 are ongoing and must remain confidential at this stage."

As per *Reuters*, China made up 177 percent of the global linear TV reach of the 2022 tournament, while India was at 2.9 percent, as the two countries accounted for 22.6 percent of total global digital streaming reach.

While nostalgia and a sense of wry amusement hung in the air in India as unconfirmed news of Doordarshan salvaging FIFA World Cup broadcast rights swirled, India was only echoing other football watching markets in Asia; markets that are too big for FIFA to ignore.

## ● SECOND SUCCESSIVE LIGA TITLE AS RIVALS FLIUNDER

## Grieving Flick leads Barcelona to league title in Clasico win

Associated Press  
Barcelona, May 11

WATCHED BY its grieving coach, Barcelona won its second straight Spanish league title and 29th overall with a comfortable 2-0 win over Real Madrid at Camp Nou on Sunday, adding to its rival's troubled season.

Goals by Marcus Rashford in the ninth minute and Ferran Torres in the 18th gave Barcelona the victory and an insurmountable 14-point advantage over its fierce rival with three rounds remaining in La Liga.

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick was in the dugout for Sunday's clasico following the death of his father, which Barcelona announced hours before kickoff. Players from both teams wore black armbands and there was a moment of silence before kickoff.

A draw would also have been enough for the Catalan club to seal its third league title in four seasons.

Madrid, which remains the most successful club in the league with 36 trophies, is ending a second consecutive season without a major title. Sunday's defeat at Barcelona capped an embarrassing week

for Madrid, marked by altercations between players in training that led the club to fine Federico Valverde and Aurelien Tchouameni 500,000 euros (\$589,000) each.

Rashford opened the scoring for the hosts with a wonderfully taken free kick, curling the ball over the wall and into the top corner. Torres added to the lead from inside the area after a flick from Dani Olmo.

## ‘Will never forget’

Flick's father reportedly died overnight. The coach celebrated Barcelona's goals and looked emotional after the final whistle.

"I will never forget this day. It was a tough day for me. It starts with this (news that) my father passed away, but here, my team is fantastic," Flick said. "I really love it, this is like a family and they gave everything today and I'm really proud. It's amazing, in this stadium, and also in the clasico against Real Madrid, to win La Liga." There was a brief scuffle between players in the 51st minute after Olmo confronted a Madrid player. Olmo was shown a yellow card.

Madrid's Jude Bellingham had a goal disallowed for off-



Barcelona players lift their coach Hansi Flick on the day the German found out his father had passed away. AP

side in the 63rd.

Brazil forward Raphinha replaced Rashford in the 64th to return from a long injury layoff.

Barcelona has been playing the final league games without the injured Lamine Yamal, its biggest star. Yamal was on the field lifting the trophy along with his teammates.

## Madrid left reeling

Reuters adds: Alvaro Arbeloa offered no sugar-coating after Real Madrid's stormy season culminated with Barcelona celebrating the

LaLiga title in front of them, saying the club understood the fury of supporters after Sunday's 2-0 Clasico defeat at Camp Nou.

The loss handed Barcelona their 29th LaLiga crown with three matches to go and condemned Real to a trophyless campaign, capping a miserable year in which Xabi Alonso was sacked midway through the season and Arbeloa failed to halt the slide.

"There isn't much we can say; we understand their frustration, their disappointment, and just how dissatisfied they

“I will never forget this day. It was a tough day for me. It starts with this (news that) my father passed away, but here, my team is fantastic. I really love it, this is like a family and they gave everything today and I'm really proud.”

HANSI FLICK,  
BARCELONA COACH

must be with this season, all we can do is work hard and look to the future, learn from everything we've got wrong this year," Arbeloa told reporters.

"Real Madrid always bounce back, we've fallen many times and got back up many times, but I understand the anger any Real Madrid fan might feel; we have to work to turn the situation around."

Madrid's campaign unravelled on several fronts, including a Champions League quarter-final exit against Bayern Munich, while ten-

sions rose further on Thursday when captain Federico Valverde went to hospital after a changing-room fight with teammate Aurelien Tchouameni.

Arbeloa said there could be no easing off despite the title race being over, urging his players to be professional and honour the badge in the final three games left in their schedule.

"With even greater responsibility, knowing that our season is over, we cannot let ourselves down; far from it, we have to go out there to win," Arbeloa said.

"We are defending something greater than ourselves, which is the Real Madrid badge. We have to play three great matches and secure three great victories."

Asked whether Madrid needed a rebuild, he backed his players.

"We have a great squad; we can get a lot out of them. It hasn't been easy at all with everything that's happened over the last few months - many key players out. The club will always look to improve, but we have a squad of very good players that any team in Europe would want," Arbeloa said.

## Arteta praises VAR for decisive call

Reuters  
London, May 11

ARSENAL MANAGER Mikel Arteta praised the courage of referee Chris Kavanagh for disallowing a West Ham United equaliser as his side snatched a 1-0 victory to move closer to securing the Premier League title on Sunday.

Yet his crestfallen opposite number Nuno Espirito Santo called for an end to the confusion over incidents at corners as Callum Wilson's stoppage-time goal was ruled out for interference on keeper David Raya after a lengthy VAR check.

Arsenal were protecting the lead given to them by Leandro Trossard's first goal since December when West Ham won a corner.

As the ball was swung over into a jam-packed area, Raya pushed the ball away under pressure from West Ham substitute Pablo before Wilson drove a shot home to spark wild celebrations among the home fans and despair at the Arsenal end.

But after a near three-minute VAR check, Kavanagh was invited to look at the incident on the pitch-side monitor and

after many replays he disallowed the goal -- arguably correctly as Raya did appear to be impeded by Pablo's arm.

There was huge relief at the final whistle as Arsenal restored their five-point lead over Manchester City with games against Burnley and Crystal Palace left.

"The referee and the VAR today had a lot of courage to stop and analyse the action and give the opportunity to the referee to make the call," Arteta said.

"I think nobody would disagree that it is a clear foul because David has the ball almost in his hands and they don't allow him to do that and they take advantage to score the goal."

"It was an obvious error, it is a free kick and the goal has to be disallowed. Today I have realised how difficult and how big the referee's job is."

Should City fail to beat Crystal Palace on Wednesday, Arsenal can win their first title for 22 years by beating relegated Burnley next weekend.

"The only thing that matters is now, the present. Today we've done it. There are two more to go. The only focus now is Burnley," Arteta said.