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EXAM CANCELLED BECAUSE PROCESS WAS FOUND TO HAVE BEEN VITIATED: NTA CHIEF

NEET-UG scrapped over paper leak, Govt orders fresh exam, CBI probe

Over 22 lakh affected; NTA says new exam date soon; one held in Nashik

Abhinaya Harigovind & Mahender Singh Manral
New Delhi, May 12

IN A move affecting over 22 lakh candidates, the National Testing Agency (NTA) Tuesday cancelled the NEET-UG exam for admission to undergraduate medical courses, nine days after it was held on May 3, following an alleged paper leak—the first time such a decision has been taken by the agency since the exam was introduced in 2016.

The NTA said the exam, which is the largest it conducts in terms of students appearing in a single session, will be held again on dates to be notified separately even as the Centre handed over the paper-leak probe to the CBI.

The cancellation triggered protests by student organisations, mainly in Delhi and Kerala, and drew sharp criticism from the Opposition, which accused the Government of crushing the “hard work, sacrifices, and dreams of more than 22 lakh students”. Around 22.7 lakh candidates had registered



Accused Shubham Khairnar being taken into custody by CBI officials in Nashik, Tuesday. ANI

A ‘whistleblower’, a paid WhatsApp group, ‘guess paper’ that did rounds

Hamza Khan
Jaipur, May 12

THE UNRAVELLING of a suspected leak in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG), 2026, in Rajasthan began with an automated fine print on a WhatsApp message: “Forwarded many times.” When investigators following the trail of a “guess paper” stumbled upon this WhatsApp message, they realised that what they hoped was an isolated leak was

INSIDE STUDENTS DEJECTED: ‘FEELS LIKE GOD KEEPS TESTING ME’
PAGES 4, 9

much larger in scale. Officials of the Rajasthan Special Operations Group (SOG), which had been investigating the case before the CBI took charge on Tuesday, said

that they found a WhatsApp group named ‘Private Mafia’, where the said paper was being circulated and had members who had paid various amounts, beginning from around Rs 5,000, to join the group. However, despite strict “instructions” from the group administrators not to share the paper, it was circulated far and wide. Officials said that preliminary investigation had indicated that the paper may have

After last leak, ex-ISRO chief panel had called for reforms; all gather dust

Abhinaya Harigovind & Anonna Dutt
New Delhi, May 12

WHILE THIS is the first time that the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG), for admission to undergraduate medical education, is being cancelled over an alleged paper leak, there have been claims of malpractices and breaches before.

Under fire over an alleged NEET-UG paper leak in 2024, the BJP-led government, which had just returned to power then for a third term, had constituted a high-level committee of experts led by former ISRO Chairman K Radhakrishnan to recommend reforms in the examination process, and improve security protocol.

In its October 2024 report submitted to the Education Ministry, the committee had presented a detailed set of recommendations. But, nearly two years after a CBI probe found that candidates allegedly

DOWN ALMOST 5% SINCE START OF WEST ASIA WAR

As rupee falls to record low of 95.63, CEA flags: Stopping further fall a key imperative

Says structural shifts in global economic order not going to reverse



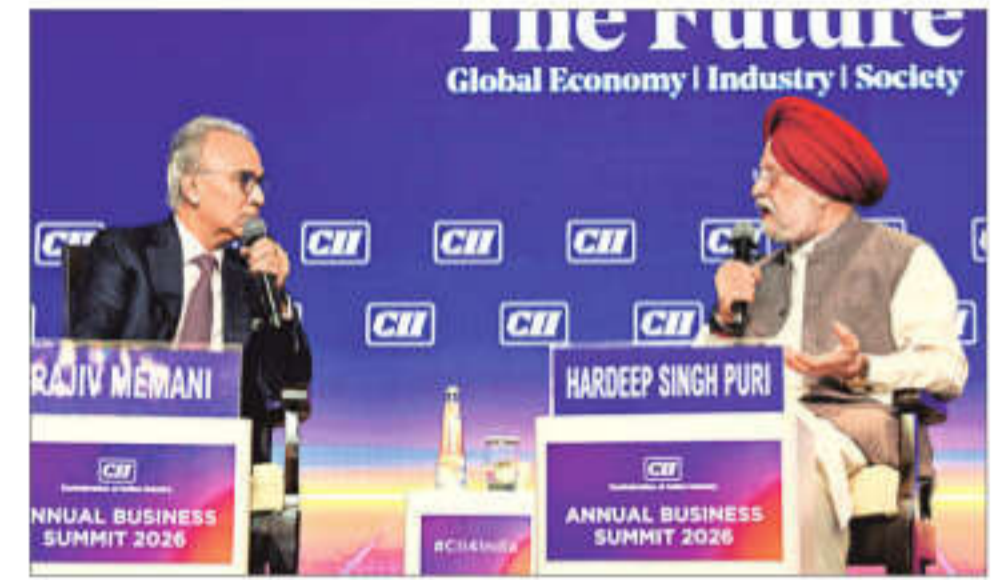
CEA V Anantha Nageswaran at a CII event in New Delhi. PTI

Siddharth Upasani
New Delhi, May 12

ON THE day the rupee hit an all-time low of 95.75 per dollar before closing at 95.63, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran, while warning that ongoing structural shifts in the global economic order were not going to reverse, said Tuesday that stopping the rupee from falling further was one of the “central macroeconomic imperatives” of the current fiscal.

Speaking at the Confederation of Indian Industry’s (CII) annual business summit in New Delhi, Nageswaran said,

ECONOMY
MARKETS SLUMP FOR SECOND DAY
PAGE 13



Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with CII president Rajiv Memani at the CII Annual Business Summit in New Delhi, Tuesday. ANI

Puri: Govt will have to weigh how long oil firms can suffer losses

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, May 12

THE GOVERNMENT will have to “take a view” at some point on how long public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) can continue to suffer losses by selling major fuels below market price, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Tuesday, but did not comment on whether a fuel price hike is on the cards.

While he assured that there are adequate stocks of petrol, diesel and cooking gas for regular supplies, Puri said the global energy crisis due to the West Asia war and the consequent closure of the Strait of Hormuz is leading to significant financial strain for



the OMCs, with combined losses of the three refiners-cum-fuel

Happening today

● **THREE DAYS AFTER** taking oath following dramatic efforts to secure a majority, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay’s government is scheduled for a crucial floor test in the state Assembly.

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THE BIG PICTURE



THE GOALAND GRAB CASE

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POLITICS

HIMANTA TAKES OATH AS ASSAM CM, 4 MINISTERS SWORN IN

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SIR-deleted can’t avail govt schemes: Bengal; Bihar to cancel passbooks

Bengal govt starts process of checking ration cards to weed out names

Ravik Bhattacharya & Santosh Singh
Kolkata, Patna, May 12

TRIGGERING FRESH apprehension among those deleted from electoral rolls under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, the BJP governments

in West Bengal and Bihar have said that they will not be able to avail government schemes in their states.

However, those whose cases are under consideration before tribunals in West Bengal will continue to receive the same till their matter is decided, the newly elected government in the state said.

The BJP government in West Bengal held its first Cabinet meeting Monday, where it announced that all social schemes of the previous governments in the state would continue, while Central pro-

grammes that the Trinamool Congress regime had blocked would now be available.

Holding a press conference after the meeting, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said: “All social programmes of the government, which may have been started 30 years or 10 years back, will continue. However, all such schemes will now function through a transparent process. No deceased person, illegal infiltrator, or non-Indian individual will be allowed to avail benefits meant for citizens of the state.”

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Won’t be part of biased exercise: Rahul dissents on selection of next CBI chief

Asad Rehman
New Delhi, May 12

SOON AFTER the Prime Minister-led three-member committee met Tuesday to select the next CBI Director, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recorded his dissent over the proceedings, saying the “Leader of Opposition is not a rubber stamp” and he will not participate in “a biased exercise”.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant is the third member of the committee.

The committee members met at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg in the evening to decide who should succeed Praveen Sood as the CBI Director. Sood’s two-year tenure, extended by a year in 2025, is due to end on May 24.

Releasing his dissent note to the Prime Minister on X, Rahul Gandhi said, “Despite repeated written requests, I was not provided with the self-appraisal reports or 360-degree reports of the eligible candidates. Instead, I was expected to examine the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Bhojshala never a mosque... no right to offer namaz there: MP govt to court

Anand Mohan J
Bhopal, May 12

THE MADHYA Pradesh government, in its written submissions before the High Court, has claimed that the disputed Bhojshala site in Dhar “was never a mosque and the Muslim community has no right to offer namaz.” The Indian Express has learnt.

The replies were filed on behalf of the respondents, including the State of Madhya Pradesh, the Dhar Archaeological Officer, the District Magistrate, and the Superintendent of Police. There are five petitions filed in connection with the disputed site, and the court is currently hearing rebuttal arguments before it passes the judgment.

The state government said

in its reply that the “permission to the Muslim community” to offer namaz at the disputed site “was granted just to defuse the communal situation”.

“The structure in question was never a mosque, and as such, the Muslim community has no right to offer namaz at Bhojshala and claim title over it. The entire Bhojshala premises

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TRUMP BEGINS CHINA VISIT TODAY

THE WORLD
STUNG BY IRAN WAR AND IN NEED OF WINS, TRUMP HEADS TO BEIJING
PAGE 14

EXPLAINED
TRUMP-XI MEETING: MANAGING RIVALRY, NOT RESTORING TRUST
PAGE 15

Iran’s Araghchi, Russia’s Lavrov to be in Delhi for BRICS huddle

Grouping’s foreign ministers gather tomorrow for talks over two days

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, May 12

IRANIAN FOREIGN Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov have confirmed that they will be attending the meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers in New Delhi on May 14-15.

However, Chinese Foreign



Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi

Minister Wang Yi will not be at the meeting since he has to be in Beijing for the high-stakes talks between visiting US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping. China’s Ambassador to India, Xu Fei-

hong, is likely to represent his country at the BRICS meeting.

Announcing the meeting, the Ministry of External Affairs said, “India will host the BRICS Foreign Ministers’ Meeting on 14-15 May 2026. The meeting will be chaired by S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister... BRICS Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation from Member and Partner Countries will participate in the meeting.”

The Foreign Ministers of BRICS member countries, the MEA said, will exchange views on “global and regional issues of mutual interest”. On the second day, member and partner

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

● AS HE SPEAKS ABOUT WALKING TO THE BANK WITH SISTER KALARA’S BODY, JITU MUNDA KEEPS LOOKING AT HER GRAVE AND FOLDING HIS HANDS IN APOLOGY

Money in account, sister grave secure, man who carried skeleton remains haunted

Sujit Bisoyi
Dianali (Keonjhar), May 12

NEAR THE doorway of his modest one-room concrete house at Dianali village in Odisha’s Keonjhar district, Jitu Munda sits surrounded by relatives, who have been visiting him daily. Jitu, who is in his 60s, has got tired telling the story, but every fresh group of visitors wants to know how he carried the skeleton of his sister to a local bank branch—and became a national headline. Every time that he does so, Jitu turns to his sister’s grave, located barely a few metres away, and folds his hand in apology.

Much has changed since April 27 when Jitu walked around 3.5 km barefoot to the Malliposi branch of Odisha Gramteen Bank, carrying sister Kalara Munda’s skeleton. He wanted to prove to the bank officials that she was indeed dead, and they should let him withdraw the Rs 19,300 in her account.

With the incident, from the home district of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, triggering outrage, action followed swiftly. While Kalara’s death certificate was issued by the Patna Community Health Centre (CHC) within two days, the bank handed

back over Rs 19,400 (including interest), and the district administration extended Rs 30,000 from the Red Cross Fund. The family home, allotted to Jitu’s elder brother Raibu under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana got electrical connection almost overnight, while Jitu’s name was enrolled for subsidised rice under the PDS and for the Rs 1,000 monthly social security pension of the state government, of which the first instalment has already come. His Aadhaar card has been updated.

Jitu who had struggled to receive Rs 19,300 now has an account at the Patna branch of Bank of India with a deposit of



Jitu Munda at his sister’s grave in Odisha’s Dianali village. SUJIT BISOIYI

Rs 10.95 lakh—all donated. Having never worn any footwear in his life, he now has multiple donated pairs. Other

donations also stand out: an iron-framed cot, a pedestal fan, a cycle, and sacks and sacks of rice and potatoes, enough to

last him six months, says Jitu. Kalara’s grave is also changed; it’s cemented.

The siblings

After losing her husband and only child some four decades ago, Kalara had come back to her maternal home. Since Jitu was not married, the siblings lived together.

The family says the two mostly survived on government schemes which Kalara was a beneficiary of: 35-kg rice monthly under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, and Rs 1,000 monthly each as part of social security pension and the Madhu Babu Pension Scheme, a state programme for the poor

who are 60 years and above. With no official documents in his name, Jitu was not a beneficiary of any scheme. He says he lost his Aadhaar card in January 2015.

The money in Kalara’s account was from the pair of buffaloes they sold around two years ago, says Jitu. Since he did not have a bank account, they put the money in hers.

Then, Kalara fell ill late last year. For two months, she was bedridden. Jitu says he first went to the bank around that time, anticipating money issues should anything happen to her. “Each time the bank staff sent me back, saying the account holder needed to be physically

present,” he says. “When I said Kalara could not walk, they said to carry her or bring her in a vehicle... They never explained what else I could do.”

On January 26 this year, Kalara passed away. Jitu says he kept trying to get a death certificate till February, but the red tape overwhelmed him. “The panchayat officials said it would take at least five years.”

A senior district administration official admits lapses on the part of the CHC in issuing Kalara’s death certificate. “They should have completed the process by March.”

In the absence of a death certificate, his visits to the bank

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Complaint to SC panel on 'illegal construction' in wildlife corridors around Kaziranga park

Nikhil Ghanekar
New Delhi, May 12

A COMPLAINT has been sent to the Supreme Court-mandated Central Empowered Committee (CEC) on alleged illegal construction in identified wildlife corridors which help wildlife move from Kaziranga National Park to the Karbi Anglong Hills in Assam.

In a letter sent to the CEC in Delhi on May 11, environmental activist Rohit Choudhury from Bokakhat in Golaghat district has alleged that construction is underway for a school and a residential building on Haldhibari and Panbari wildlife corridors, respectively, in violation of a 2019 Supreme Court order.

The CEC advises the SC on writ petitions related to environment and forest matters, and assists in compliance of landmark orders such as TN Godavarman vs Union of India on forest conservation.

Responding to a query by *The Indian Express*, Sonali Ghosh, Field Director, Kaziranga National Park, said, "We are examining the issue (listed in the complaint) and we will verify if these structures fall in the area delineated for the corridors."

In an order dated April 12, 2019, the Supreme Court had directed that all kind of mining and related activities along "aforesaid Kaziranga National Park area in the entire catchment area of river/streams and rivulets originating in Karbi Anglong Hill ranges and flowing into Kaziranga, including tiger

reserve, are restrained".

Crucially, it had also ruled that "no new construction shall be permitted on private lands which form a part of the nine identified animal corridors" — Amguri, Panbari, Haldhibari, Bagori, Harmati, Kanchanjuri, Hatidandi, Deosur and Chirang. These corridors are used by animals, including elephants, rhinos, tigers, wild buffalo and swamp deer, to seek refuge on elevated lands during floods, by crossing the NH-37.

The 2019 order was based on a complaint by Choudhury originally made to the CEC on illegal constructions in wildlife corridors. Based on the SC's order, the Assam government delineated nine animal corridors — Amguri, Panbari, Haldhibari, Bagori, Harmati, Kanchanjuri, Hatidandi, Deosur and Chirang, on April 1, 2022.

The Karbi-Anglong Hills were once contiguous on the southern side of the national park, but the NH-37 fragments the Kaziranga landscape in two regions.

In his complaint, Choudhury has pointed out that construction is ongoing for a "new school building" along the National Highway-37 on the Haldhibari wildlife corridor adjacent to the park boundary. "The massive construction on the wildlife corridor which is visible from the National Highway-37 shows the blatant disregard of government of Assam to the Supreme Court," Choudhury said in his complaint. The Haldhibari corridor is spread over 8.10 sqkm.

Telangana police search for MoS son in POCSO case, he moves court

Nikhila Henry
Hyderabad, May 12

THE TELANGANA police are looking for BJP MP and Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son Bandi Sai Bhageerath, who is accused of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl and was booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on May 8, the Cyberabad Commissioner of Police has said.

"We have started the manhunt today, and the accused was not found in any of his usual places of being," Commissioner of Police M Ramesh said.

Bhageerath, meanwhile, moved the Telangana HC for interim bail. The vacation bench of the court posted the matter for hearing on May 14.

Bhageerath was booked by the Pet Basheerabad police based on a complaint from the girl's family, alleging that he sexually assaulted her at a farmhouse last year. He was booked under BNS sections pertaining to assault or criminal force with intent to outrage a woman's modesty and sexual harassment, as well as the POCSO Act.

"We are tracking the accused. We are sure to nab him

soon," Ritiraj, the supervising officer and DCP, Kukatpally, told the media on Tuesday.

On the day that he was booked, Bhageerath had lodged a complaint against the girl for allegedly harassing and blackmailing him. An FIR to this effect was registered by the Karimnagar 1 Town police.

According to the FIR, Bhageerath claimed to have met the girl through a common friend. He claimed he "went to family functions, gatherings and temple visits with her family on their invitation". "The family coerced and intimidated me to marry her," the complaint reads. The girl's family threatened to file a harassment complaint against him and demanded Rs 5 crore, and Bhageerath paid them Rs 50,000, the complaint reads.

Bandi Sanjay Kumar has not responded to these allegations. The state's opposition, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), meanwhile, mounted an attack on the Congress government under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for "shielding" the accused.

The CM has asked a senior woman IPS officer to supervise the investigation.

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NEET-UG

for the exam, and 22.05 appeared for it.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, NTA DG Abhishek Singh said the decision to cancel the test was taken after the process was found to have been "vitiated". The NTA cannot "continue to allow miscreants" to operate "even in an isolated way, even in one sector, one subject", he said. According to Singh, the NTA received information about alleged malpractices on May 7, which was then flagged to law enforcement agencies. The Rajasthan Special Operations Group subsequently found a NEET-UG "guess paper" with 410 questions, of which 120 appeared in the exam. On Tuesday, following a request from Rajasthan Police, police in Nashik detained a medical student, identified as Shubham Khairnar (27), in connection with the alleged leak.

Meanwhile, following the Centre's directive, and a com-

plaint from the Department of Higher Education, the CBI registered a FIR in connection with alleged irregularities while forming multiple teams to conduct searches at various locations.

The NTA said in an official statement that the "present examination process could not be allowed to stand". "On the basis of the inputs subsequently examined by NTA in coordination with the Central agencies, and the investigative findings shared by the law enforcement agencies, and in order to ensure that there is transparency in the system, the National Testing Agency, with the approval of the Government of India, has decided to cancel the NEET (UG) 2026 examination conducted on 3 May 2026, and to re-conduct the examination on dates that will be notified separately," the NTA said.

"The registration data, candidature, and examination centres opted for in the May 2026 cycle will be carried forward to the re-conducted examination. No fresh registration will

be required, and no additional examination fee will be levied. In addition, fees already paid, will be refunded to the students and the exam will be re-conducted using NTA's internal resources," the agency said.

"This decision has been taken in the interest of students and in recognition of the trust on which the national examination system rests. The Agency is conscious that re-conduct will cause real and significant inconvenience to candidates and their families. NTA does not take that consequence lightly. The decision has been taken because the alternative would have caused greater and more lasting damage to that trust," it said.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said the "paper mafia gets away scot-free", and that lakhs of students would have to endure mental stress, financial burden, and uncertainty again. "The hard work, sacrifices, and dreams of more than 22 lakh students have been crushed by this corrupt BJP regime," he wrote on X.

Last leak

paid to get solved NEET-UG papers before the exam, with a centre superintendent in Jharkhand aiding the paper leak, the committee's key recommendations remain on paper.

The committee had noted that there is a "strong case for the transition from PPT (pen-and-paper testing) to CBT (computer-based testing) as the preferred methodology". It called for a robust CBT model with an examination in multiple shifts as a "sure way forward". While some exams like the JEE(Main) — which is held in two sessions each year, in January and April — are conducted as a computer-based test, NEET-UG is yet to switch to computer mode.

On Tuesday, National Testing Agency (NTA) Director General Abhishek Singh told *The Indian Express* that a call on computer-based testing would have to be taken by the Ministry

of Health and Family Welfare, on behalf of which the NTA conducts NEET-UG. The health ministry did not respond to questions on why it had not agreed to a computer-based test.

However, officials said, on condition of anonymity, that the main hurdle has been the process for normalising question papers across an estimated 15 shifts in which the NEET-UG would have to be conducted.

"While there exists a process to normalise question papers across several shifts, as is done with exams such as JEE, it will be very difficult to do so across multiple shifts and will lead to litigations and delay the admission process," an official said.

Another official said the ministry decided against shifting to computer-based tests as it had tried to conduct the NEET-PG in two shifts last year, but the Supreme Court had directed it not to do so. "The NTA can conduct a computer-based test for 2 lakh students in one shift at most, meaning there would be a need

for over 15 shifts for nearly 25 lakh students who appear for NEET-UG," the official said.

"There is no way to conduct the pen-and-paper test fairly. This is because NEET is a high-stakes examination and there are always people who are willing to pay for the question paper. With the papers being physically transported, there are several levels at which it can be leaked," said the first official.

The committee had recommended multi-session testing "spread over typically a few days to a couple of weeks", especially when the number of registered participants exceeds 2 lakh. It had also suggested multi-stage testing as a "viable possibility that needs to be followed up". The NEET-UG continues to be held in a single session and shift.

So far, the NTA has implemented only a couple of the committee's recommendations — collaborating with authorities at the state and district levels, and an Aadhaar-based biometric authentication system.

A 'whistleblower'

leaked from Nashik, Maharashtra.

Nashik police officials said they have picked up a medical student, identified as Shubham Khairnar (30), who allegedly managed to obtain the question paper days before the exam and shared it further.

Kishor Kale, DCP, Nashik City, said Shubham's questioning indicates that he "got the question paper from one of his associates in Pune". "He received a physical copy of the question paper and transferred it to others as a soft copy," Kale said, adding that it is being investigated whether this soft copy was the "guess paper" or the actual question paper.

Kirankumar Chauhan, DCP, Nashik, said, "The accused had changed his appearance by cutting his hair, making identification difficult. However, based on technical analysis and police investigation, the Crime Branch team managed to trace and detain him." Officials suspect he purchased the paper for Rs 10 lakh and later sold it for Rs 15 lakh.

Shubham is alleged to have

shared the paper with people in Gurgaon and elsewhere, with copies eventually reaching Rajasthan, Kerala, Bihar, Uttarakhand, J&K, and possibly other states. Those who received it included students and career counsellors.

Rajasthan SOG officials also reached Sikar on Tuesday as part of their investigation, putting the spotlight on the district that has recently emerged as an alternative to Kota, especially for NEET coaching. They said their investigation also indicated that an MBBS student from Rajasthan's Shekhawati, who is studying in Kerala, allegedly shared the paper with their father, who runs a paying-guest accommodation in Shekhawati, before the examination. This was shared further, spreading the leaked paper.

Ajay Pal Lamba, the SOG Inspector General, said that more than 150 candidates, their friends and parents have been questioned so far. The SOG has also submitted a list of 150 students and about 70 parents, who allegedly received the paper, to the CBI. Additionally, two dozen

key suspects have been handed over to the CBI, Lamba said.

He said that the investigation has revealed that the accused allegedly conspired to sell the genuine question paper as "guess papers". "Questioning several persons has pointed to an organised group. All these suspicious persons are being questioned by the CBI now. It is wrong to say that Rajasthan is the epicentre; it reached the state via other states. Before Rajasthan, it had reached a person near Gurgaon. It did not originate in Rajasthan," he claimed, adding that so far, there is no link to gangs in Rajasthan that had earlier been linked to other paper leaks in the state.

Before the messages circulating on WhatsApp blew the lid off the lead, sources said that a whistleblower in Rajasthan had approached the local police but did not get a positive response. He then wrote to the NTA, which verified the complaint, and the Rajasthan SOG eventually initiated a probe.

Sources said that the whistleblower himself is now under scrutiny for allegedly receiving and sharing the question paper, and that he may have complained to avoid arrest once the leak became widespread.

Araghchi

countries will participate in a session themed 'BRICS@20: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'. This will be followed by a session on 'Reforms of Global Governance and Multilateral System'.

The meeting is taking place

at a time when the 11-member BRICS grouping has not been able to come to a consensus on the war in West Asia — the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Iran are part of the grouping and have not been able to agree on a common language on the conflict.

With consensus eluding the grouping, Delhi issued a Chair's summary on April 24 stating that "members expressed deep concern on the recent conflict in

the Middle East (West Asia) and offered views and assessments on the matter".

In early March, *The Indian Express* reported that Tehran had reached out to Delhi to take the lead in issuing a statement on behalf of BRICS, currently chaired by India, condemning the US and Israeli strikes against Iran. This put Delhi in a diplomatic pickle given that it had not taken sides in the conflict.

SIR-deleted

Speaking to *The Indian Express* in Patna, Bihar CM Samrat Choudhary told *The Indian Express*: "People whose names have been deleted from the Bihar electoral roll will not be entitled to any government benefits, including ration and other welfare schemes."

As per Choudhary, "Bank passbooks of those deleted would also be cancelled in due course of time." Asked whether his government had issued any orders in this regard, Choudhary said there were no doubts about the course of action.

Bihar Food and Consumer Protection Minister Ashok

Choudhary told *The Indian Express*: "Names of about five lakh people have been deleted from among ration-card holders post-SIR in the state."

Clarifying what Adhikari meant by "non-Indians", Bengal Minister for Food and Supplies Ashok Kirtania told *The Indian Express*: "It is clear that those names which are being looked into by the tribunals will be able to avail government schemes. Those who have applied under the CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) for citizenship can also avail all government schemes... But those whose names have been deleted via the SIR cannot avail government schemes."

Kirtania said he had already held a meeting with his depart-

ment officials "to conduct a drive to check ration cards" to weed out those deleted under the SIR. "Many ration cards are held under names of those dead or people who are not Indians."

Describing those deleted as "illegal infiltrators", Kirtania, a Matua leader, emphasised that those who qualify under the CAA are being told to apply for citizenship. (Most of the CAA applicants in Bengal are Matuas, who came to India from Bangladesh).

Speaking with media persons Monday, Bengal Minister for Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Agnimitra Paul said: "We will analyse... Those whose names have been deleted are not citizens of the country or are dead... They cannot get the

Puri

retailers projected at Rs 1 lakh crore in the April-June quarter at the current price levels.

"How long will the oil companies be able to take it? Frankly, that's something that worries me. There have been times when the oil companies have done exceptionally well, (like) till recently. But the rate at which we are going, this one quarter of losses may wipe out the entire profit after tax of last year... Coming back to your question, how long can this happen? At some stage, government will have to take a view on that," Puri said at the CII Annual Business Summit.

Puri also said that PM Narendra Modi's recent appeals for conservation of petroleum fuels, among other measures, suggests a long-term approach to ease the fiscal strain induced by the West Asia war, and is in no way indicative of any restriction on fuel consumption. He said the country has maintained adequate fuel stocks on an ongoing basis — about 60 days worth of petrol and diesel, and 45 days of LPG for households. The PM's appeals have been interpreted by some as an indication of fuel rationing.

"He (Modi) has made a visionary statement saying that look, if this continues, you have to start thinking in terms of measures required to be taken to lessen the fiscal strain. That is the point," Puri said, adding that there was "no cause for anxiety".

Rahul

appraisal records of sixty-nine candidates for the first time during the Committee meeting. The 360-degree reports were denied to me outright. A detailed review of these records is crucial to assess each candidate's history and performance. This deliberate denial of information, without any legal basis, makes a mockery of the selection process and ensures that only your pre-decided candidate is selected."

"Your government has repeatedly misused CBI... to target political opponents, journalists, and critics. It is to prevent such institutional capture that the Leader of Opposition is included in the Selection Committee. Regrettably, you have continued to deny me any meaningful role in the process," he wrote.

He pointed out that he had recorded his dissent in the previous meeting on May 5, 2025. "I had also written to you on 21st October 2025, suggesting measures for a fair and transparent process, to which I have not even received a response," his letter stated. "By denying the Selection Committee crucial information, the government has reduced it to a mere formality. The Leader of Opposition is not a rubber stamp. I cannot abdicate my constitutional duty by participating in this biased exercise. I therefore dissent..."

Haunted

were again unfruitful, Jitu says. In desperation, he decided to dig up Kalara's skeleton to prove "she was dead".

"With her death, everything stopped — subsidised rice, pension money... I hoped to get some money to buy a pair of bullocks and work in others' fields... How could I survive?" Jitu says.

Mangal Giri, 53, who works as a driver and is a native of Malliposi, says Jitu reached the bank around 12.45 pm. "I was at the branch to withdraw money. There was commotion as he put the body outside. The bank staff immediately locked the grille door, to prevent him from entering the branch."

Police came and it was only

Rupee

"Managing the current account credibly, financing it, and preventing further currency depreciation are the central macroeconomic imperatives of FY27." He said India's exposure to the West Asia crisis was "structural" and presented a "live Balance of Payments stress test, with direct consequences for inflation, the current account, and the exchange rate."

The remarks by the government's top economist came on the day the rupee hit another all-time low, falling to as much as 95.75 per dollar during the day before closing at 95.63 — the lowest it has ever ended a session. Since the war in West Asia began, the rupee has slumped by almost 5% against the US dollar and has been Asia's worst performing currency so far in 2026 — a period in which it has fallen by 6%.

The war has sent shockwaves through energy importing nations, especially those in Asia, with currencies weakening as foreign investors pull out money — although some countries have benefited due to sectors, particularly those related to Artificial Intelligence, performing well.

India, which is widely considered to have low exposure to AI, has seen Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) exit domestic financial markets to the tune of \$23 billion since the start of the war, putting pressure on the Balance of Payments.

The Balance of Payments is

the difference between the money Indians send abroad to pay for various things such as imports and investments and the money India receives from overseas for exports and in the form of remittances and capital flows.

With the import bill widening due to sharply high crude oil and gold prices, exports affected by weak global demand, FDI inflows muted, and remittances from West Asia under threat, economists are warning that India's Balance of Payments could be in the negative zone for a third straight year in FY27.

BoFA Securities economists Rahul Bajoria and Smriti Mehra, in a report Tuesday, said, "India's current account deficit appears set to exceed -2% of GDP — which the RBI has historically identified as the threshold level that India can finance sustainably over the long term. However, in recent years, even a 1% of GDP has been difficult to finance due to a confluence of factors in the capital and financial account leading to persistent weakness in the exchange rate."

And Nageswaran, while pointing out that since the start of the US and Israel's attack on Iran, Brent crude futures prices were up 51%, urea and ammonia prices 65%, and butane 51%, said these numbers were not of a "temporary shock that will self-correct when the situation stabilises" and that it would be a "strategic error" for emerging economies to make plans for the future on the assumption that the pre-2020 global economic architecture will re-assert itself.

Bhojshala

belong to the state government and are under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India even prior to Independence," the reply stated.

The respondents have stated that since the site was "the school of the most celebrated King of Parmar Dynasty, King Bhoj" and "not a mosque", the "question of violation of fundamental rights of the Muslim community does not arise".

The structure "does not fulfil the essentials of a mosque," the reply stated, adding, "It is most humbly submitted that the structure of Bhojshala as it exists today also has the visible impression of Hindu deities on it."

Prior to 1935, there was "no regular offering of namaz, and the official correspondence of the then princely State of Dhar reveals that a very few Muslims started to offer namaz, that too irregularly at the said place."

"In 1935, a dispute occurred between two communities, and the communal situation got out of control and, just to defuse the situation, the then princely State of Dhar allowed the Muslim community to offer prayers at the said place," the respondents submitted.

The ASI, which submitted a

separate reply in the case, stated that the "remnants of this Bhojshala or the temple of Goddess Saraswati are still seen in this monument, which was turned into a mosque by the subsequent Muslim ruler of Dhar in circa 14th century CE by using the architectural members of the pre-existing building belonging to Bhojshala."

The respondents submitted that the orders passed by the ASI and the Collector were "with the intention to maintain communal peace in the region."

"Considering the nature of the structure, the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India, by order dated 07-04-2003, allowed the Hindu community to access the premises on every Tuesday from sunrise to sunset," the respondents stated.

The petition filed by Maulana Kamaluddin stated that the Bhojshala-Kamal Maulana Masjid is "essentially a mosque", and as per the tenets of Muslim Law, "any activity except offering namaz in the mosque is not permitted".

The petitioner highlighted the alleged failure of the state government in "restricting the aarti and offering of puja, etc at the mosque", which it claimed is "a gross violation of fundamental right guaranteed to Muslims under... the Constitution of India."

on their reassurance that Jitu agreed to leave, with the remains. As he carried the body back, again on foot, local police trailed him to ensure he reburied the skeleton.

Odisha Gramteen Bank officials initially claimed that Jitu had not approached the Malliposi branch earlier as well as that he was drunk the day he arrived with Kalara's skeleton.

However, a preliminary probe found "negligence on the part of the bank officials". It said that the April 27 CCTV footage from the Malliposi branch showed Jitu was there for about half-an-hour trying to convince officials. And that he and Kalara had come to the branch several times, and officials knew them.

The days after

The Ho community, to which Jitu belongs, asked him

after adjudication could be added back to the electoral roll, while 14 more names were deleted.

Md Yasin Mahaladar, a resident of Mahiram Kabirajolla in Malda and an advocate, is among those whose case is before the tribunals. "If my name gets deleted, will I no longer be an Indian citizen?" he said. "What the government is doing is illegal... A voter card is not proof of citizenship. Will I lose my ration card, Aadhar card and other documents as well?"

What was the government's plan for those deleted from the electoral roll, he asked. "Will they put such people in detention camps? Will they throw us into the sea or push us into Bangladesh or Pakistan?"

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(M): 9212665841, 9212008155

'Mahabharat will look small': SC on Sunjay Kapur family feud case

Express News Service
New Delhi, May 12

AGREEING TO hear a fresh plea seeking its intervention in the affairs of the R K Family Trust over which late businessman Sunjay Kapur's mother Rani Kapur and his third wife Priya Kapur are locked in a dispute, the Supreme Court on Tuesday remarked that the high-stakes family saga would make even the Mahabharat look small.

The court said it will hear the matter on May 14.

"We have entered into an arena. The Mahabharat will look very small," Justice J B Pardiwala presiding over a two-judge bench remarked while agreeing to look into the fresh plea by Rani Kapur.

"We will look into it," the judge said as counsel appearing for Rani Kapur, contended that attempts were being made to circumvent the top court's May 7 order by which the parties to the dispute were referred to mediation in an attempt to find out an amicable settlement.

The SC had appointed former Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud as mediator in the matter. Tuesday, Rani Kapur's counsel told the bench also comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan that on May 8, a day after the SC order, Raghuvanshi Investment Private Limited (RIPL), which holds a major part of the estate in question, issued a notice for convening a Board of Directors meeting on May 18.

The counsel contended that the agenda for the May 18 meet includes appointment of two new Independent Directors and tweaks to its authorised bank



Sunjay Kapur

signatories and added this goes against the spirit of the SC's attempt to resolve differences through mediation.

Countering this, RIPL's counsel said it was only in keeping with RBI guidelines for Non-Banking Financial Companies. Rani Kapur's counsel, however, termed it an attempt to control the company's investment decisions by appointing new Independent Directors and authorised signers for RIPL's bank accounts.

The SC had on April 27 sought Priya Kapur's response on Rani Kapur's plea which alleged that the RK Family Trust was constituted in her name in October 2017 using "forged, fabricated and fraudulent" documents and that family properties were transferred in its name.

She claimed that she was the sole beneficiary of the entire estate of her late husband, Surinder Kapur, who was the promoter of various businesses, including the 'Sona Group of Companies' but these were transferred to the Family Trust.

She urged the court to declare the Trust "null and void". Sunjay died of cardiac arrest during a polo match in the UK on June 12, 2025.

Delhi-Alwar RRTS: Land for casting yard cleared

Abhimanyu Hazarika
Gurgaon, May 12

THE MUNICIPAL Corporation of Gurugram (GMC) has accelerated preparations for the roll-out of the Delhi-Alwar rapid railway, which will pass through the city and is expected to significantly boost connectivity in this part of the NCR.

While the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor connecting Delhi with Gurgaon and Rajasthan still awaits final clearance from the Centre, the GMC in its sitting on Monday approved the transfer of 0.12 hectare (1,200 sq m) of land for

a casting yard for the project.

The aim, officials said, is to speed up readiness to begin construction work as soon as approval for the 164-km corridor, one of the three corridors planned in Phase 1 of Namoo Bharat semi-high-speed RRTS rail service for the NCR, comes through.

The land for the Delhi-Alwar RRTS casting yard has been identified in Dundahera village adjacent to Gurgaon's Sector 21 close to the Delhi-Haryana border, and will be transferred to the NCRRTC for five years, pending final approval from the Haryana Urban Local Bodies Department, officials said.

RAPE AND MURDER OF IRS OFFICER'S DAUGHTER

'Accused waited for victim's parents to step out before entering house'

Murder investigation is in final stages and chargesheet is likely soon: Sources

Alok Singh
New Delhi, May 12

TWENTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD RAHUL Meena, accused of killing the daughter of an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer in Southeast Delhi last month, deliberately chose a time when the victim was alone. This is among a key detail investigators are treating as central to establishing his criminal intent, official sources said.

On April 22, the 22-year-old victim was allegedly strangled with a mobile phone charger at their home by Meena, a former domestic help, who is facing charges of rape and murder.

"As part of the probe, we have to establish whether there was criminal intent or a guilty mind. If someone waits outside a house and commits the crime when the victim is alone, it clearly shows there was an intention to kill," a source said.

"The CCTV evidence and disclosure statements show that the timing of the crime was between 6:30 am and 7:30 am. The probe and disclosure statement of Meena has now revealed that he waited for the IRS officer and his wife to leave for their morning walk before entering the house," the source also said.

Sources further said that the



Accused Rahul Meena

murder investigation is in its final stages.

"We are aiming to file the chargesheet at the earliest. It may be filed within a week," a source said.

Sources also said that the statements of other domestic workers living in the building have also been recorded. This,

they said, was done to corroborate his addiction and mental state in the run-up to the crime.

"They have disclosed that he was addicted to online gaming. When he would win money, he would call women and spend it on them. We are also preparing a detailed report on his medical condition," the source said.

Police sources earlier had said that the crime was driven primarily by financial distress due to losses incurred during online gambling sessions — with the situation escalating into a brutal assault inside the victim's home.

According to investigators, the accused had a debt of around Rs 7 lakh due to his habit of gambling, and the deadline to repay the amount was nearing. In an attempt to

arrange money, he first mortgaged his mobile phone and obtained Rs 10,000, which he subsequently lost during another gaming session. With the pressure mounting, he then decided to target the residence of the IRS officer.

Sources said that the forensic examination, which forms crucial scientific evidence to support the allegations of murder and rape, is in its final stage. "The key findings include blood clots found on Meena's clothes as well as on the victim, along with fingerprints lifted from the doors and the charger allegedly used to strangle the victim. In addition, we are examining electronic evidence from the accused's mobile phone, including call detail records," a source added.

Woman found dead in bed box days after wedding; husband at large

Express News Service
New Delhi, May 12

DAYS AFTER a 28-year-old woman got married, she was found dead inside a bed box at a rented accommodation in Central Delhi's Nabi Karim, police said Tuesday. Her husband, the prime suspect in the case, is absconding, officers said.

"We have some leads and are confident of apprehending the accused soon," DCP (Central) Rohit Rajbir Singh said.

The incident came to light on the night of May 8 after the homeowner alerted police about a foul smell emanating from the tenant's room in Laxmanpuri. Soon, a team rushed to the spot and discovered the decomposed body of the woman. Police identified the deceased as a native of Haldwani in Uttarakhand. She had married Mohammad Ejaz, a resident of Vaishali district in Bihar, on April 26.

"The husband's absence and the circumstances of the recovery, has made him the prime suspect," a senior police officer said. Based on a complaint by the woman's father, allegations of dowry harassment have surfaced against Ejaz and his brother, Sarfaraz. Police have arrested Sarfaraz. An FIR was filed and a probe is on, police said.

Anti-Narcotics Cell Inspector held in corruption case

Express News Service
New Delhi, May 12

THE CBI has arrested a Delhi Police officer, posted as an inspector in the Anti-Narcotics Cell of the Dwarka district, for allegedly demanding a bribe from a woman "to avoid implicating her in a fake narcotics possession case".

According to police sources, Inspector Subhash Yadav was called for questioning in connection with the corruption case registered on April 21. He was arrested on Monday.

In this case, sources added, Constable Ajay, who was also posted in the same cell, had earlier been arrested following the complaint, and some cash was recovered from him. The FIR was registered against Ajay and unidentified persons under BNS Section 61(2), read with Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 at the CBI.

According to the FIR against Ajay, a woman from Uttam Nagar alleged that on April 20, a team from the Anti-Narcotics Cell arrived at her house and planted narcotic substances while searching the premises, and threatened to register a case against her. They allegedly demanded Rs 25 lakh and finally Rs 5 lakh. During probe, it was found that constable Ajay was acting on the instructions of Yadav, said police.

Fraudulent KYC calls, credit card access via fake apps: Cyber racket busted in Noida with 2 arrests

Drishhti Jain
Noida, May 12

TRICKING PEOPLE into downloading files on the pretext of helping them complete their credit card KYC process or redeem reward points, fraudulently gaining access to their credit cards, using the cards to buy gold or silver coins. A racket was thus operating in Noida until Tuesday — when police unearthed it by arresting two men from the fourth floor of a building in Sector 2.

Noida Phase 1 police said they acted on a tip-off and busted the fake call centre for what they described as alleged APK-based cyber fraud.

The arrested accused, identified as Vikas Kumar (31) and Suraj (20), were booked under BNS Section 318(2) for cheating by deceiving a person, 318(4) for dishonestly inducing delivery of property, and Section 66D of the Information Technology Act, 2000, that deals with cheating by personation.

During questioning, the accused allegedly told police that

Accused called customers posing as bank officials, offered to help them with KYC process and asked them to download APK files to gain access to their credit cards

they worked for commission at companies which used to manufacture credit cards for banks. They used to steal details of customers of banks like AU Small Finance Bank, Axis Bank, etc. Police said the accused posed as employees of credit card departments of these banks and called customers of-

fering to help them with their KYC process or lured them with reward points.

Police said the accused would ask customers to install APK files on their phones that looked like genuine banking apps, and make them enter their credit card details.

According to the police, the accused, after getting access to the cards' details, would buy gold and silver coins on quick commerce platforms like Blinkit and Zepto. They would allegedly get those delivered on random addresses, and later sell them. The accused allegedly

also told officers that they would frequently destroy and discard the SIM cards they used.

Accused Vikas hails from Hapur district and a resident of Ghaziabad, while Suraj hails from Hathras and stays in Delhi's New Ashok Nagar. A case under relevant IPC sections and under the IT Act had been filed against Vikas for fraud and forgery at Sector 63 police station in 2023, officers said.

Three mobile phones used in the crime, and four coins purchased with the proceeds of crime have been recovered from them, police said.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL DATTOPANGI THENGADI NATIONAL BOARD FOR WORKERS EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India
PUBLIC NOTICE

No. D-11011/GAD/Publicity(Admn-Vig)/2026-27/815 Date: 06/05/2026

Shri Sushant Kumar Biswas, Former Lower Division Clerk (LDC) last Known Addresses:
1. A-2/1A, Aya Nagar, Phase-5, Mandir Marg, New Delhi-110047
2. C/o Poojash Barop, Kharkatta, P.V-3, Post-Kapsi, District-Kanker, Thana-Pakhangore, Chhatisgarh-494771

It is hereby notified that vide Order No. D-11011/GAD/Publicity(Admn-Vig)/2026-27/815 dated 06/05/2026, Shri Sushant Kumar Biswas has been declared as 'deemed to have resigned from the service of the Board under Rule 12(2) of CCS (Leave) Rules, 1972 due to his continuous unauthorized absence/absconding from duty w.e.f. 1.21.06.2007. This order has been issued after providing him reasonable opportunity through Show Cause Notice dated 20/02/2026 (delivered on 23/02/2026 & 25/02/2026) to which no reply was received, subsequently, vide letter No. DTNBWED/Vig/2025/SKB-LDC/168-169 dated 10/03/2026 final opportunity was provided by extending the date for submission of his reply (delivered on 19/03/26 & 12/03/2026) for which again no reply was received. All concerned are requested to bring this notice to the knowledge of Shri Sushant Kumar Biswas. (Col. Neeraj Sharma) Director General

Dattopangi Thengadi National Board for Workers Education and Development, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India.

TATA TATA POWER
The Tata Power Company Limited
Bombay House, 24 Homi Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001
CIN : L28920MH1919PLC000567; Tel: (91 22) 6665 8282; e-mail : tatapower@tatapower.com; Website: www.tatapower.com

EXTRACT OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2026

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended		
		31-Mar-26	31-Dec-25	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-26	31-Mar-25
		(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
a.	Total Income from Operations	14,900.20	13,948.41	17,095.88	62,428.59	65,478.24
b.	Profit / (Loss) Before Exceptional Items and Tax	1,891.17	1,539.63	1,581.74	6,730.16	6,441.67
c.	Profit / (Loss) Before Tax	1,797.00	1,539.63	1,599.69	6,635.99	6,319.62
d.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period / year	1,415.52	1,194.33	1,306.09	5,117.56	4,775.37
e.	Total Comprehensive Income	1,593.23	1,046.00	1,246.95	5,717.62	4,910.21
f.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value: ₹ 1/- per share)	319.56	319.56	319.56	319.56	319.56
g.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	38,920.62	37,776.20	35,294.08	38,920.62	35,294.08
h.	Securities Premium Account	3,107.54	3,107.54	3,107.54	3,107.54	3,107.54
i.	Net worth	42,153.39	40,447.18	37,842.96	42,153.39	37,842.96
j.	Capital Redemption Reserve	514.47	514.47	514.47	514.47	514.47
k.	Debt Redemption Reserve	145.14	146.25	198.78	145.14	198.78
l.	Outstanding Debt	76,869.50	74,214.65	63,461.09	76,869.50	63,461.09
m.	Earnings Per Equity Share (of ₹ 1/- each) (₹) (not annualised)					
(i)	Before Net Movement in Regulatory Deferral Balances:					
	Basic	1.77	1.97	3.17	10.72	14.64
	Diluted	1.77	1.96	3.17	10.71	14.63
(ii)	After Net Movement in Regulatory Deferral Balances:					
	Basic	3.12	2.41	3.26	11.72	12.42
	Diluted	3.11	2.41	3.26	11.71	12.41
n.	Debt Equity Ratio (in times)	1.62	1.63	1.49	1.62	1.49
o.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (in times) (not annualised)	2.09	1.71	1.03	1.78	1.29
p.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (in times)	2.52	2.21	2.39	2.37	2.48
q.	Current Ratio (in times)	0.87	0.82	0.72	0.87	0.72
r.	Long Term Debt to Working Capital (in times)	37.86	59.36	(26.14)	37.86	(26.14)
s.	Bad Debts to Account Receivable Ratio (%) (not annualised)	0.08%	0.27%	0.83%	2.48%	6.42%
t.	Current Liability Ratio (in times)	0.31	0.33	0.40	0.31	0.40
u.	Total Debts to Total Assets (in times)	0.44	0.45	0.40	0.44	0.40
v.	Debtors' Turnover Ratio (in number of days)	86	96	67	78	69
w.	Inventory Turnover Ratio (in number of days)	113	128	61	95	69
x.	Operating Margin (%)	16%	18%	14%	16%	15%
y.	Net Profit Margin (%) including exceptional item	9%	8%	8%	8%	7%

Notes:
1. The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 12th May, 2026.
2. Standalone Financial Information of the Company, pursuant to Regulation 47(1)(b) of SEBI (LODR):

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended		
		31-Mar-26	31-Dec-25	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-26	31-Mar-25
		(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
a.	Total Income from Operations	2,832.76	2,482.53	5,964.88	13,225.50	22,359.44
b.	Profit / (Loss) Before Tax	141.19	(213.55)	408.86	1,178.39	3,615.32
c.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period / year	333.79	(160.32)	409.11	1,124.66	3,132.68

3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Consolidated Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Consolidated and Standalone Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange websites www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.tatapower.com. The same can be accessed by scanning the QR code provided below.
4. The figures of the quarter ended 31st March, 2026 and 31st March, 2025 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year ended and the unaudited published year-to-date figures upto 31st December for respective years which were subjected to limited review.



Date: 12th May, 2026
Place: Mumbai

For and on behalf of the Board of THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED
PRAVEER SINHA
CEO & MANAGING DIRECTOR
DIN 01785164

Government of India MINISTRY OF POWER
Vacancy for the Post of Whole-Time Members, namely Member (Irrigation) and Member (Power) in Bhakra Beas Management Board
It is proposed to fill up the posts of Whole-Time Members, namely Member (Irrigation) and Member (Power), Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), a statutory organization under provision contained in Section 79 of Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966.

262-PR-Bd. Sectt.-6 FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW SAVE ENERGY TODAY
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PUBLIC NOTICE
User Fee rates for Phase-I of Delhi Saharanpur National Highway (NH 709B) for FY 2026-27

Loni Toll Plaza at Km 16+340 (LHS) at Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Phase-I to Kathua Toll Plaza at 3+520 at Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Phase-II

Category of vehicle	Fee for Single Trip	Return Trip (Maximum 2 nos. of One-Way Journey Allowed within 24 Hrs)	Monthly Pass (Valid for 50 Single Trips)
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	240	360	7960
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	385	580	12855
Bus or Truck (Two Axes)	810	1210	26940
Three axle commercial vehicles	880	1320	29390
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment (EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (Four to Six Axes)	1265	1900	42245
Oversized Vehicles (Seven or more axes)	1545	2315	51430

Katha Toll Plaza at 3+520 at Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Phase-II to Loni Toll Plaza at Km 16+670 (RHS) at Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Phase-I

Category of vehicle	Fee for Single Trip	Return Trip (Maximum 2 nos. of One-Way Journey Allowed within 24 Hrs)	Monthly Pass (Valid for 50 Single Trips)
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	240	360	7960
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	385	580	12855
Bus or Truck (Two Axes)	810	1210	26940
Three axle commercial vehicles	880	1320	29390
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment (EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (Four to Six Axes)	1265	1900	42245
Oversized Vehicles (Seven or more axes)	1545	2315	51430

2. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the amendment to Fee Rule Notified vide GSR No. 950 (E) dated 03.12.2010. The website <https://tis.nhai.gov.in> may be visited.
3. For any enquiry and for giving complaints/suggestions, please contact Project Implementation Unit, Ghaziabad, Under CWG Flyover, at Km 2+000 of NH-9 (Old NH-24), Near Akshardham Temple, Delhi-110092, E-mail: gha@nhai.org
Project Director, NHAI, PIU Ghaziabad

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB
RECRUITMENT NOTICE
(Advt. No. CUPB/26-27/06 Dated 12.05.2026)

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All are Welcome.
Those wishing to have their names added to the email list may please email us at: rajnishpmml@gmail.com CBC 09142/11/0011/2627

Last villages set to turn 'urban': What will change?

Devansh Mittal
New Delhi, May 12

THE MCD Standing Committee has decided to declare the last remaining 48 villages in Delhi as 'urban villages'.

According to the MCD, this will lead to systematic implementation of development works and improve delivery of civic amenities.

Critics feel this is easier said than done.

How many villages are there in Delhi?

The Delhi government's Revenue Department records 357 villages in the city.

They are concentrated in the South, South West, and Outer North districts.

While most have acquired urban characteristics over the decades, they remain islands of unplanned growth. "They have similar issues to unauthorised colonies... Many of the urban villages are also of heritage importance," says the Delhi Master Plan 2041.

How are villages declared 'urban'?

The Delhi government identifies the village, after which the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) approves a proposal to declare it 'urban'. The proposal moves through the MCD Standing Committee and House, and is finally sanctioned by the Centre.

"Details of the identification process aren't disclosed," Paras Tyagi, who has studied these villages and runs the nonprofit Centre for Youth Culture Law and Environment (CYCLE), said.

Tyagi pointed out that while Bijwasan remains a rural village, Rajokri next door was declared urban in 2019.

Batches of villages were declared urban from the 1960s to 1994, Tyagi said. Thereafter, 174 villages got the urban tag in 2018 and 2019.

Once the ongoing process is

complete, these 48 villages will be the last batch of villages to be declared urban in Delhi.

What changes after a village becomes urban?

First, the villages are no longer governed by the agricultural land-use norms of the Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954 (DLR Act) which prohibits landowners from using agricultural land for housing, commercial and industrial activity. Rural groups have long demanded changes in the Act, arguing that farming is not viable.

Second, the village comes under the purview of the DMC Act and DDA Act.

Gram Sabha land is transferred to DDA.

This is also the first step towards implementing the Green Development Area (GDA) policy, which seeks to permit commercial development in the outermost villages of Delhi, said Bhupender Bazard, leader of the Dilli Dehat Vikas Manch.

What has happened in villages declared urban before?

The promise that rural areas will benefit from municipal governance has largely remained on paper, experts and rural groups complained.

"Nothing really changes. The situation has remained the same on the ground," Surrender Solanki, head of Palam 360, a group that claims to have the support of "all 360 villages and 36 biradaris (communities)" of Delhi, said.

Tyagi said villages that were declared urban in 2018 and 2019 have not got any of the promised benefits so far.

Another major issue in urban villages is the stalled process of land mutation - changing the ownership title in land documents. This process has been at a standstill. This has caused problems for villagers and should be resolved by the government, says Bazard.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

ANGER & FRUSTRATION: STUDENT GROUPS PROTEST PAPER LEAK



NSUI members protest against the paper leak outside the National Testing Agency office in New Delhi, Tuesday. PRAVEEN KHANNA

Both despair, resolve: NEET aspirants seek ways to cope

Express News Service
New Delhi, May 12

WHEN THE notification of reports of cancellation of the NEET-UG 2026 over paper leak flashed across his phone on Tuesday morning, over a week after he had appeared for his second attempt, 20-year-old Shubh Vardhan tried to stay calm.

After months in Kota, Rajasthan, where he was enrolled at ALLEN Career Institute preparing for India's fiercely competitive medical entrance examination, he had recently returned to his home in Ghaziabad.

More than 22 lakh aspirants across the country like him had appeared for the entrance test this year. Unlike many devastated by the announcement, Shubh said, "It's valid. If the people have cheated then the exam will be cancelled," he said, adding, "There will be an opportunity for people who

earlier had zero chances as they get more time."

In this attempt, Shubh, who is the son of a government officer and a homemaker, was expecting a score of 400. He said he has been working hard to become the first doctor in his family. For nearly two years, his life had narrowed into the rhythms familiar to lakhs of NEET aspirants with continuous test series, life in hostel rooms.

Across Delhi-NCR on Tuesday, scenes of despair and determination could be witnessed following the announcement. An 18-year-old student of Sardar Patel Vidyalaya in South Delhi said, "My honest reaction was a mixture of frustration and resolve. I was disappointed that this uncertainty and administrative incompetency has revived the stress I had finally overcome."

She added, "It is especially difficult for those who were expecting high scores. It's a shock beyond comprehension. Nevertheless, I'm hopeful that this unexpected opportunity will allow me to improve and return better prepared. Even as the situation is far from ideal, we have to navigate through it with steady preparation."

Soon after the announcement, student organisations staged demonstrations outside Shastri Bhawan in Delhi, where heavy police deployment was seen and several protesters were detained.

In a statement, the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) described the government's decision to cancel the examination and order a CBI inquiry as "a victory of student power and the voice of lakhs of aspirants across the country".

"If the examination system was fair, the Government would not have been forced to cancel the exam and order a CBI probe," NSUI National

President Vinod Jakhar said in the statement. "This clearly exposes the failure of the Education Ministry and NTA."

The Students' Federation of India (SFI) condemned the detention of its activists during protests against the alleged paper leak, saying the controversy had exposed a "nexus between the coaching mafia and the government agencies".

"The National Testing Agency, which has been infamous for the mismanagement of exams since its inception, once again continues to prove its inability in the management of exams," it said in a statement.

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (AVP) also demanded a fair and time-bound probe by central agencies into the alleged paper leak and examination irregularities, saying any compromise with the sanctity of entrance examinations was unacceptable.

I'm actually a Malayali, but I was born and brought up in Chennai because my parents and grandparents moved there in the 1950s and 1960s. My husband is also a Malayali Christian from Thiruvananthapuram, but he too was born and brought up in Chennai. He's an architect practicing there. So my entire life has really been in Chennai. But from January till April this year, I was Pro Vice-Chancellor at Chandigarh University's Lucknow campus. That gave me good exposure to North India, and I simply loved it. That experience gave me confidence that moving to Delhi would not be a problem at all.

ST STEPHEN'S GETS FIRST WOMAN PRINCIPAL IN 145-YEAR HISTORY

'Liberal arts institutions need to engage more deeply with AI..'

Vidheesha Kuntamalla
New Delhi, May 12

EXPRESS
interview



PROF SUSAN ELIAS
PRINCIPAL, ST STEPHEN'S COLLEGE

IN A first in its 145-year history, St Stephen's College has appointed a woman principal for the first time. Professor Susan Elias, a computer scientist, will take charge from June 1. She succeeds Professor John Varghese. Her appointment comes after years of uncertainty surrounding the office of the principal at St Stephen's.

The college administration and DU had sparred over the continuation of Professor Varghese beyond his original five-year term, which ended in March 2021. DU had repeatedly termed it as "illegal", arguing that it violated UGC regulations.

Unlike many of her predecessors at Stephen's — an institution historically associated with humanities, theology, politics and the liberal arts — Elias comes from a markedly different academic tradition, with nearly three decades in engineering education, interdisciplinary research and university administration. In an interview with *The Indian Express*, she speaks about becoming the first woman principal, bringing AI into liberal arts education, and the future she imagines for the college.

What did you feel when you first heard about the appointment?

More than being a woman bringing value into the institution, I feel the real difference will come from my strengths in research, entrepreneurship, computer science and AI. I've been working in AI for many years. I think those are the strengths that are going to make the real difference. But yes, I'm happy I could achieve this milestone.

Tell us a little about your journey.

I'm actually a Malayali, but I was born and brought up in Chennai because my parents and grandparents moved there in the 1950s and 1960s. My husband is also a Malayali Christian from Thiruvananthapuram, but he too was born and brought up in Chennai. He's an architect practicing there. So my entire life has really been in Chennai. But from January till April this year, I was Pro Vice-Chancellor at Chandigarh University's Lucknow campus. That gave me good exposure to North India, and I simply loved it. That experience gave me confidence that moving to Delhi would not be a problem at all.

Historically, St Stephen's has been associated with humanities, politics and theology. How do you see yourself fitting into that legacy?

I believe liberal arts institutions need to engage more deeply with AI and technology today.

Early in my career, if you had asked me what I wanted to study, my answer would have been "computer science". I spent almost 20 years at Sri Ven-

kateswara College of Engineering, where I was Head of the Computer Science department. But when I moved to VIT, I was made Dean of the School of Electronics, I began working across disciplines — mixing electronics and computer science. Later, as Director of Research at Hindustan University, I had to work across aeronautics, aerospace, biotech, humanities, liberal arts and social sciences.

That's where I realised India was opening up funding opportunities even for humanities and social sciences research. We worked on projects studying tribal communities, sustainability models and digital documentation.

That experience gave me confidence that I could handle institution-level leadership irrespective of discipline.

Even at Chandigarh University, I interacted extensively with people from liberal arts.

You are taking over after years of friction between St Stephen's and DU. Can your appointment help bridge the gap?

My policy throughout my career has been: govern with your mind, but lead with your heart. Leadership is about balancing both your head and your heart. Ultimately they have to come together in decision-making. The second thing is that leadership is about bringing accountability and transparency into a system. I have to look at every aspect carefully and slowly introduce accountability and transparency. It cannot happen suddenly.

What will your immediate priorities be once you take charge?

The immediate priority will be ensuring a smooth admissions process for incoming students. I also want to make sure the National Education Policy-related research components are streamlined because those are relatively new.

Beyond that, I want to first observe and understand the institution's systems before attempting changes.

At the same time, I strongly believe everybody today needs to be AI-ready. I don't think AI will take away jobs. But people using AI will replace people who are not using AI. Even in my own case, I believe my long experience working with AI gave me an edge in this appointment process.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

HOMEBUYERS IN GHAZIABAD PROTEST DELAYED FLATS

'Paying rent & EMI... it is double the pain'

Drishti Jain
Noida, May 12

MOHIT SHARMA and his wife think twice before setting foot in their balcony as they dread the sight that awaits them across — towering unfinished buildings, parts of them covered in green mesh.

These towers, Fortune and Advantage, are part of the Mahagun Group's residential project, Mahagun Montage, located in Crossings Republik in Ghaziabad. One of the flats in the tower, a 1120 sq ft 2BHK plus study apartment, belongs to the Sharma family.

Mohit, 39, who works in the finance sector, had booked the flat in November 2021. "My wife and I were expecting our second daughter in 2022 and we had planned her homecoming in the new house. She will be turning five next year," he says. Their flat, however, is nowhere close

to being finished.

On Saturday, he and 50 homebuyers protested against the delay outside the builder's office in Noida's Sector 63. The builder's office did not respond to calls or emails from *The Indian Express*.

Mohit lives 2-3 km away, in Gaur City, paying Rs 20,000 rent. "I'm paying rent for this flat and for a structure that isn't even complete... it's double the pain," he says.

According to Paras Gaba (31), another homebuyer and president of the Montage Unity Association, the project started in 2016, with a promise to be delivered by 2021.

He booked his flat in 2021. "The builder has now started demanding that we first complete the full payments, saying construction will be done then. If we don't pay, they said they'll cancel the flat," alleged Paras.

He said they have filed a



At the Mahagun Montage in Crossing Republik, Ghaziabad on Tuesday. GAJENDRA YADAV

complaint with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA).

"We are going to file a complaint with the Economic Offences

Wing as well... Out of a total of 930 plus flats, around 800 buyers are suffering," he added.

On April 18, the Montage Unity Association wrote to the Uttar Pradesh RERA stating their concerns. "This project has obtained four extensions from UP RERA and registration end date has been extended to June 2028... which is six years [beyond] the original registration end date... Buyers... are suffering [paying] rent and EMI..." the letter stated.

Most buyers are in the age group of 30-45 years, who have shifted to Ghaziabad from nearby smaller cities.

Deepak Sadhwani (47), another homebuyer, says he and his sister, who is a single parent, had bought two flats. "... We bought flats in the Fortune tower so we could be neighbours... and depend on each other for support in our old age," says Sadhwani.

"She saw this as a ray of hope — that she could earn from the rental amount. Thankfully, she found a job that pays her decently," he adds.

Mridul Mishra (32) says purchasing a flat in the Fortune tower in 2022 was the first investment he made after he got a job. "Unfortunately, now I'm paying rent and EMI... I'm worried about how I'll pay the remaining installments."

He claims the builder had promised that if he did not get possession by December 2023, he would be given a monthly penalty amount. "It never materialised... Only 40% of the work is completed so far," he claimed. Anand Singh Rathore (38), who hails from Orai, in UP's Jalaun district, says his dream house was booked pre-Covid. "... My possession date was in September 2020. I had booked pre-Covid as the builder had a very good name..." he says.

FROM BIHAR TO DELHI'S ALIPUR, POLICE TRACKED AND ARRESTED 1986 MURDER CASE SUSPECT

Cops pose as Census officials, arrest man who killed wife & evaded arrest for 40 yrs

Alok Singh
New Delhi, May 12

A SUSPECT, and a misspelt name of a village in Bihar's Nalanda district: this was all a Delhi Police Crime Branch team had when they reopened a 40-year-old murder case in March and pulled out a copy of the FIR from the records. From its damaged pages, they managed to piece together the events on October 19, 1986.

The man they were looking for — Chander Shekhar Prasad — was 44 back then and ran a cardboard business in Delhi.

With his wife, two sons aged 10 and 8, a three-year-old daughter, and a full-time domestic help, Luv Kumar, he

lived in East Delhi's Shakarpur School Block.

On the evening of October 19, 1986, Prasad, along with two aides, allegedly smashed his wife's head and face with a brick as he suspected she was having an affair, said officers. His three children were sleeping in another room, Kumar was confined to the house at gunpoint.

Prasad escaped. He was declared a proclaimed offender the next year. Efforts to trace him continued until 1990 before the case went cold, said officers.

However, the probe resumed this year. "We knew the motive and the key suspect. But we had no photograph or any

other details except the name of his village, Bhikhani Bigha, in Nalanda," a police officer involved in the investigation said, adding that the starting point was the misspelt name of the village in the records — Bikani Bigha.

A team was formed by DCP (Crime) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav and led by Inspector Sunil Kumar Kalkhande, under the supervision of ACP (Central Range) Satendra Mohan. It comprised SI Birpal Singh and Head Constables Vijay Singh, Jai Singh, Praveen, Rahul, Samander and Anoop. HC Rausan, one of the head constables, who is also from Bihar, was sent to the village as he knew the area but hit a wall in



The accused in custody. EXPRESS

initially. "Relatives and locals told us Prasad no longer lived there and they didn't know where his children were," an officer said.

Despite the lack of leads, the Head Constable continued to camp in the village. "A person may migrate anywhere but he rarely cuts off all ties with his hometown," added the officer. After a week, came a breakthrough. Someone known to the family told the Head Constable that Prasad's children were placed in an orphanage in Bihar by maternal relatives.

The team then traced the maternal side of the family and obtained the details. Police then tracked down one of Prasad's sons in Delhi. The other son was also living in Delhi with his family, while the daughter was married and living in Bihar.

Investigators discovered that Prasad remained in touch with

his sons. "Their mobile numbers were discreetly obtained and placed under surveillance. While analysing their call detail records, a number appeared repeatedly. We called the number multiple times but it was switched off," another officer said.

Officers grew suspicious after noticing that its location frequently coincided with a factory in Delhi's Alipur where one of the sons worked. Police also learnt that the user of the number was an elderly man who periodically travelled from an ashram in Haryana to stay at the factory.

A trap was laid on April 22. The team members spent at least two hours scouting the

factory to ascertain that Prakash was inside.

"We decided to pose as officials conducting a survey for the 2027 Census, since census-related fieldwork had already begun in parts of the city..." said an officer part of the team.

The policemen began asking workers their names and other details for the staged survey. Among them, an 84-year-old man said he was called 'Chandu Chacha' by other workers. "We insisted he tell his full name and other details... he managed to call his son..." the officer said. By now, the team was suspicious and took Prasad in for questioning — and he eventually admitted to the 1986 crime. He was later produced

before a court and handed over to Shakarpur police station.

Police said Prasad's son later told investigators that his father had long claimed he had served time for the murder. Although the family believed him initially, they continued to harbour doubts.

Police said Prasad told them that after killing his wife, he fled to Patiala in Punjab, where he worked as a daily wage labourer, before shifting to Moga and later moving across Haryana.

He reportedly stayed at different ashrams in Kurukshetra, Panipat and Sonapat over the years. "He admitted that he had become confident he would never be caught," an officer said.



SHRAMEV JAYATE HONOURING LABOUR, EMPOWERING LIVES

Under the visionary guidance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh is redefining labour welfare through a comprehensive, future-ready ecosystem that integrates employment generation, social security, skill development and strong governance. From connecting youth to global opportunities and ensuring dignity for workers, to enforcing labour rights and empowering families, the state is advancing a model where growth is inclusive and opportunity-driven. Anchored in innovation, transparency, and large-scale investments in skills and infrastructure, this approach is shaping a new Uttar Pradesh where every worker is protected, every skill is valued and every aspiration finds direction.



CM Yogi Adityanath felicitates meritorious students with tablets and certificates during the Shramveer Gaurav Samaroh 2026 at Lucknow

Support for a Strong Workforce

- The Digital Labour Chowk App is designed to connect workers with employment opportunities in a modern and transparent way.
- The BOCW Board aims to improve accessibility to labour welfare services.
- ESIC dispensaries in Noida and Greater Noida
- 300-bed ESIC Hospital in Greater Noida on 7.2 acres land
- 12.26 lakh+ construction workers provided with Ayushman Card health coverage
- Labour facilitation centres and expanded residential facilities
- Improved living arrangements for workers
- Tablets for Meritorious students from labour families to support digital learning.
- 93 lakh+ beneficiaries covered under the Atal Pension Yojana
- 116 ESIC dispensaries are successfully operational across 41 districts, with expansion planned soon in the remaining 34 districts

Leader State in Worker Registration & Inclusion

Uttar Pradesh ranks No. 1 in India in worker registration on the e-Shram Portal

Over 8.42 crore unorganised workers registered, ensuring access to welfare, insurance and social security



Comprehensive Labour Welfare & Employment Ecosystem Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh is strengthening its labour ecosystem through the Rozgar Mission
- Connecting youth with employment opportunities in India and abroad
- 5,978+ workers facilitated for overseas employment
- Continuous job creation through skill training, self-employment and apprenticeship programmes

Mega Skill Boost for a Future-Ready Uttar Pradesh

- 12 Mega Skill Hubs and 63 district centres to be developed across key cities
- Rs. 14,760 crore investment to build a large-scale skill ecosystem
- Target to train 10 lakh+ youth annually in industry-aligned skills



Empowering Workers' Families

- Atal Awasiya Vidyalaya provides free quality education for underprivileged children across 18 divisions
- 7 crore+ unorganized workers linked to welfare schemes through ration cards and Family IDs

Empowering Workforce that Build the Nation

Fair Wages & Strong Legal Protection

- 21% wage hike across 74 scheduled employments from April 2026
- Benefits extended to both contractual and permanent workers
- Only EPF & ESI deductions permitted

Social Security & Pension Coverage

- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana: 7 Lakh+ workers benefitted
- 16,457 small traders enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maandhan Yojana
- UP Nirman Kamgar Mrityu Va Divyangta Sahayata Yojana: provides Rs. 25,000 funeral aid, Rs. 5 lakh for accidental death, and Rs. 2-4 lakh support in case of disability

Support for Vulnerable Children



- Under Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana Rs. 1,000 per month for boys, Rs. 1,200/month for girls and support for destitute and seriously ill working children

Dignity & Welfare Measures

- Free housing for sanitation workers
- Implementation of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Shramik Technical Education Assistance Scheme for workers' children

Digital Empowerment of Skilled Workforce

- 59,602 workers registered on Sevamitra Portal, boosting livelihoods through digital opportunities



Seamless Skill-Industry Integration



- Employment-linked industrial zones to be developed in every district
- Focus on training, job creation, and self-employment together
- Plug-and-play infrastructure to attract investment

Future-Ready Skill Ecosystem

- Training in technical, digital and soft skills
- Focus on emerging sectors like robotics, data analytics, industrial automation and digital marketing
- Emphasis on language skills and digital literacy



Boost to Local Economy & ODOP

- Skill mapping based on local industry needs
- Strengthening of One District One Product (ODOP) initiative
- Promotion of district-level employment and entrepreneurship

Public-Private Partnership for Skill Development

- Government to provide infrastructure and capital support
- Private partners to manage operations and training delivery
- Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support for first 5 years to ensure sustainability

Holistic Infrastructure & Employment Support



- Modern infrastructure with electricity, water, roads, internet, security, and housing
- Integrated ecosystem with startup support, placement agencies, and R&D centres
- Sports and recreational facilities for overall development

Historic Surge in Women's Workforce Participation in Uttar Pradesh



FOUR MLAs ALSO SWORN IN AS MINISTERS

Himanta takes oath as Assam CM

Express News Service
Guwahati, May 12

HIMANTA BISWA Sarma was sworn in as the Assam Chief Minister for the second consecutive term on Tuesday, the first non-Congress Chief Minister to do so in the state. Four other MLAs were also sworn in as ministers.

This will be BJP-led NDA's third successive government in the state. Himanta was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at a grand ceremony in Guwahati in the presence of a host of BJP and NDA leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP national president Nitin Nambin and the chief ministers of 22 NDA-ruled states.

Along with him, four MLAs were sworn in as ministers — Rameswar Teji and Ajanta Neog from the BJP; and Atul Bora and



PM Narendra Modi with newly sworn-in Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma in Guwahati on Tuesday. PTI

Charan Boro from NDA partners, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the Bodoland People's Front (BPF), respectively. The Council of Ministers is expected to be expanded later this month.

Teli is a senior tea-tribe leader who has previously served as Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and then for Petroleum and

Natural Gas in the second stint of the Modi government. Ajanta Neog is one of Sarma's longest standing colleagues who served as Finance Minister in the outgoing government, the first woman to hold that post in Assam.

Atul Bora is the president of BJP's long-time regional ally AGP and has been a Cabinet minister in both the previous

BJP-led governments in the state. BPF leader Charan Boro had been inducted into the ministry in October last year to seal the BJP's alliance with the BPF ahead of this election.

The Prime Minister congratulated the CM and each of the ministers after they took the oath.

After the swearing-in ceremony was over, the PM greeted the people with folded hands and also all present on the dais, before leaving the venue. Modi said that the NDA government assuming office for the third consecutive term was a "great day for Assam" and congratulated Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on taking oath for the second time. In a post on X, the PM said that Sarma has made a mark as a "wonderful administrator and has done pioneering work for the state. My best wishes to him for the tenure ahead".

Sarma said that it was an extremely emotional moment for

him as he took oath as the CM for the second consecutive term and "with all humility I bow down to the people of Assam".

With 102 seats (BJP 82, AGP 10, and BPF 10) in the 126-member Assam assembly, the BJP-led NDA received its biggest mandate so far since it came to power in the state for the first time in 2016. Among opposition parties, the Congress has won 19 seats, the Rajiv Dal and AIUDF two each, and the Trinamool Congress one.

The BJP has returned to power in the state again with promises that include the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code in Assam, laws against "land jihad" and "love jihad", more evictions, more "push-backs" of declared foreigners, and a ramp-up of existing welfare schemes, including increasing the amount transferred under the government's monthly financial assistance scheme for women from Rs 1,250 to Rs 3,000.

IMPACT OF PM'S CALL FOR AUSTERITY MEASURES

BJP leader's massive convoy sparks a row

Anand Mohan J
Bhopal, May 12

A DAY after Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked citizens to reduce fuel consumption, videos of a large convoy of vehicles accompanying newly appointed Madhya Pradesh Textbook Corporation chairman Saubhagya Singh Thakur from Ujjain to Bhopal have triggered criticism from the Opposition and an appeal from the state BJP chief.

The convoy, consisting of dozens of SUVs and cars carrying supporters, accompanied Thakur as he headed to the state capital on Monday to formally assume charge of his new post. Videos from the highway showed a long line of vehicles stretching across roads, with supporters stopping repeatedly to welcome the BJP leader

along the route.

This came under severe criticism from the Congress, with MLA and former minister Umang Singh asking if restraint was only expected from ordinary citizens. "Prime Minister Modi appeals to the country to save petrol and diesel... and leaders from his own party arrive in Bhopal with a convoy of 700 vehicles. What is the public supposed to make of this?" he asked. The official X handle of the MP Congress also criticised the move.

MP BJP president Hemant Khandelwal stepped in with a public appeal asking party workers and office-bearers to follow the PM's message seriously. "Sometimes, newly appointed office-bearers get carried away with enthusiasm..." Khandelwal said.

BJP-ruled states respond with online meetings, slimmer fleets

Express News Service
Lucknow, Mumbai, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, May 12

IN RESPONSE to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for austerity measures, there was a slew of public appeals, initiatives and orders in support of the PM's call in several BJP-ruled states.

In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a meeting with top officials and directed them to effect measures to save fuel and cut on edible oil, while the Maharashtra government made it compulsory for ministers to obtain CM's approval before using aircraft during official travels. Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma's office said instructions have been issued to keep the number of vehicles in the CM's convoy "to a minimum". UP CM Yogi Adityanath



LEADING BY EXAMPLE: Justice Dwarka Dhis Bansal of the Madhya Pradesh High Court seen cycling to court after PM Modi's appeal for fuel conservation. Justice Bansal said his decision was intended to spread awareness about using bicycles for short-distance commutes

in a high-level meeting ordered to immediately remove at least half the vehicles from his convoy and also those of his ministers.

He also stressed that official meetings, seminars and conferences should be held virtually. "Ministers, MPs, MLAs and public representatives should use public transport at least one day a week. A 'No Vehicle Day' should also be observed once a week. A state-level advisory should be issued recommending work-from-home for two days a week. 50% of internal meetings at the State Secretariat and Directorates should also be held virtually," Yogi said.

Speaking with reporters in Mumbai, Maharashtra Revenue Minister Chandrashekar Bawankule said that all ministers would now require clearance from the CMO before using aircraft unless it was an emergency.

Bawankule also said that most meetings of his departments are now being conducted online. Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar cancelled the MLAs' scheduled study tour to Japan from May 23. Tourism Minister Shambhuraaj Desai also cancelled his pro-

posed London-Paris trip, while Culture Minister Ashish Shelar cancelled his visit to France.

In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav reduced the number of vehicles in his cavalcade until further orders. In a Cabinet meeting, Yadav appealed to ministers to reduce petrol and diesel consumption in the national interest and batted for the use of public transport, an official said. In Gwalior, state Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar rode an electric bike to the Secretariat. MP Small Industries Corporation Chairman Satyendra Bhushan Singh arrived at the BJP office in an e-rickshaw while taking charge of his post.

Gujarat Health Minister Praful Pansheriya also announced that he would no longer use escort vehicles.

Meanwhile, NCP(SP) leader Sharad Pawar said the PM's statement has instilled uncertainty among the industrial sectors and global investors while seeking an all-party meeting to discuss the situation. "On matters of national importance, it is prudent to take into confidence leaders of all political parties," Pawar said.

Cong allies express concern as Kerala CM impasse continues

Shaju Philip
Thiruvananthapuram, May 12

THE STALEMATE over the selection of a chief minister in Kerala, now in its second week, has snowballed into a crisis for the Congress in the state as well as the United Democratic Front (UDF), the alliance which it heads.

Though the UDF secured 102 of the 140 seats in the Assembly elections, with the Congress winning 63, the party high command has failed to finalise a chief ministerial candidate despite several rounds of discussions and headcounts among elected MLAs.

The contenders for the CM post are AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, outgoing Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly V D Sathesan and former Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala.

On Tuesday, the high command held discussions with three KPCC vice-presidents and four former state unit chiefs. While a majority of the Congress MLAs are seen to be backing Venugopal, the leadership is also concerned about the overwhelming support Sathesan enjoys among the party's rank and file. "If the support of MLAs was the only criterion (in deciding the CM), the party could have decided in favour of Venugopal last week itself. But party workers, UDF allies and a section of civil society are backing Sathesan. Hence, the leadership could not arrive at a decision," a senior party leader said.

Senior Congress leader K Muraleedharan said the CM would not be decided based only on the opinion of MLAs; instead, views of the UDF partners and the general public would also be taken into consideration. If the decision had to be taken



Kerala Congress leaders after meeting Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANIL SHARMA

just on the views of the MLAs, it would already be done by now, Muraleedharan told a Malayalam TV channel.

Last week, Congress workers took to the streets across Kerala demanding that Sathesan be made Chief Minister. Though the protests subsided following intervention by the high command, MLAs continue to face public anger over their stand. Several Congress MLAs were forced to cancel constituency visits after being questioned over the delay in selecting the CM.

Vatakara MP and KPCC vice-president Shafi Pambill, popular among the youth, has come under attack from Congress social media handles for reportedly backing Venugopal. Several netizens accused him of reviving groupism within the party. The prevailing sentiment among party workers is that the emphatic mandate was for the UDF under Sathesan's leadership and his uncompromising stand on various issues.

Key UDF allies, including the Indian Union Muslim League (IUMU) — which won 22 seats — and the Kerala Congress (Joseph), have already rallied behind Sathesan, who has

been the face of the alliance. The IUMU is learnt to be unhappy with the prospect of Venugopal, who did not contest the Assembly elections, being considered for the top post. Senior IUMU legislator TV Ibrahim on Tuesday voiced the growing discontent within the party over the deadlock. "We cannot go out and meet the people who voted for the UDF. People are asking where the Chief Minister is. The crisis has taken the sheen off the massive victory," he told reporters.

A section of Congress leaders has questioned the IUMU, publicly endorsing Sathesan as its preferred Chief Minister. While supporters of Venugopal maintain that the Congress should not allow allies to influence an internal decision, the rival camp argues that the issue concerns the UDF chief ministership and is not merely an internal party matter.

The Congress central leadership can ill afford to ignore the IUMU's views, given the key role the party played in Priyanka Gandhi's victory from the Wayanad seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha bypoll.

'Must reflect': India on China's support for Pak in Op Sindoer

Express News Service
New Delhi, May 12

A YEAR after Operation Sindoer, India on Tuesday called out China on its support to Pakistan during the counter-terror offensive and underlined that "responsible nations must reflect" on how supporting efforts to protect terrorist infrastructure would affect their "reputation".

The comments came days after Chinese media reports confirmed that China provided on-site technical support to Pakistan during its four-day military conflict with India.

The Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, responding to questions, said, "We have seen these reports that corroborate what was known earlier. Operation Sindoer was a precise, targeted and calibrated response to the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, aimed at destroying state-sponsored terrorist infrastructure operating out of Pakistan and at its behest," he said at his weekly media briefing.

"It is for nations who consider themselves responsible to reflect whether supporting



MEAs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal in New Delhi Tuesday. ANI

attempts to protect terrorist infrastructure affects their reputation and standing," he added.

Last week, China's state broadcaster CCTV aired an interview with Zhang Heng, an engineer from the Aviation Industry Corporation of China's (AVIC) Chengdu Aircraft Design and Research Institute that develops China's advanced fighter aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicle design. Zhang had provided technical support to Pakistan during the four-day war last May. Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported, quoting CCTV, Pakistan's air force operates a fleet of China-made J-10CE jets, produced by an AVIC subsidiary.

5% reservation in govt housing for people with disabilities in Karnataka

Mustafa Plumber
Bengaluru, May 12

PEOPLE WITH disabilities in Karnataka will now be able to avail 5% reservation in allotment of sites across all urban development authorities in the state. Besides, they will get 25% concession on the allotment value.

The state government recently informed the Karnataka High Court that it has amended the Urban Development Authority (Allotment of Sites) Rules to enhance affordability and housing security, aligning state law with Section 37 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. This mandate requires local authorities to provide land at concessional rates for housing, business, and recreation for those with benchmark disabilities.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj, in an order dated April 27, took on record the government's memo and the amended rules dated April 18, 2026.

Senior Advocate Jayna Kothari, representing the respondent Chandrashekar Puttappa, said, "There is no other state in which such an amendment has been carried out and such a benefit has been provided to persons with disabilities."

The court has granted the Mandya Urban Development Authority four weeks to review the notification and submit its response regarding the next steps for implementation. The case is scheduled for further hearing on June 10.

TENDER NOTICE

CO, HQ WAC (U) invites sealed tenders for running of SI Regimental Shops (Category-I) from War Widows/Widows of Defense Personnel martyred while on duty/Disabled Soldiers/ Ex-Servicemen and Spouses/Widows of Ex-servicemen for, Biryani & Kebab, *Café (for peoples with disabilities PwD), Shopping Mart, Provision Store, CSD Vehicle Assistance Services, Electronic repair & items, Café & (Category-II) from Civilians & Government Agencies for Fast Food Corner at Subroto Park, New Delhi-10. Tender Forms will be available from 13 May 26 @ Rs. 100/- from SI Office HQ WAC (U), AF.

Sealed Tenders with earnest money of Rs. 10,000/- (Refundable) to be paid as DD/FDR/Bankers Cheque/Bank Guarantee in favor of OIC SI Fund HQ WAC(U), AF be dropped in Tender Box kept at Auditorium Gate of Subroto Park latest by 0900 hrs on 28 May 26. Tenders will be opened at 1000 hrs on 28 May 26. The CO reserves the right to accept/reject any tender without assigning any reason. Contact Tele 25687197/25687194 Extn 7622/5622, Mob: 7984631345 for any query.

***Café (for peoples with disabilities PwD) - Terms & Conditions**

- The following terms and conditions shall be applicable for allotment and operation of Café:
- 1.1 It is to be run and managed by PwD (People with disabilities)
- 1.2 The café should be FSSAI certified and ISO compliant.
- 1.3 The café should be run and managed with 80% employee staffs who are PwDs with preference to children of service personnel/ ex-servicemen residing in Delhi area.
- 1.4 The firm should provide opportunity for on job training to PwDs at no cost. Provide pre-vocational and vocational linked training for PwDs of children of service personnel/ ex-servicemen.

संचालनालय खेल और युवा कल्याण
टी.टी. नगर स्टेडियम, भोपाल, मध्य प्रदेश
ई-निविदा सूचना

संचालनालय खेल और युवा कल्याण, मध्य प्रदेश, द्वारा *म.प्र.राज्य वाटर स्पोर्ट्स रोडिंग अकादमी हेतु, बोट्स, जीपीएम एवं अर्गोमीटर प्रदाय हेतु* निर्माता अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र व निविदा की विस्तृत शर्तें www.mptenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध हैं। ई-निविदा प्रकाशन उपरांत निविदा में कोई संशोधन व परिवर्तन किया जाता है तो वह मात्र उपरोक्त उल्लेखित ई-टेंडर पोर्टल पर ही उपलब्ध रहेगा।

म.प्र. माध्यम/125726/2026 **संचालक**

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबंधक, युनिट-18
कन्सल्टेशन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
(उपरोक्त सरकारी का उपकरण)

मकान सं-7वीं/108, बौद्ध विहार मंडोला योजना सं-4, भाग-2 (निकट सविधान साहित्य वाटिका, चन्द्रशेखर आजाद पार्क के सामने), दिल्ली रोड, मुरादाबाद-244103
E-mail: pm18mbd@gmail.com

पत्रांक- 1086/एम-18 / 255
दिनांक: 12.05.2026

ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय), की ओर से अधोस्तरीय द्वारा Construction of IPD and OPD Block at K.G.K. Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital, District-Moradabad अनुमानित लागत ₹ 1124.90 लाख, हेतु निविदा 11.06.2026 की अपरान्ह 16:30 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 14.05.2026 से दिनांक 11.06.2026 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement की वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 12.06.2026 को अपरान्ह 13:30 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबंधक युनिट-18, सी. एण्ड डी.एस., उ.प्र. जल निगम (नगरीय), मुरादाबाद में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 20000.00+GST (18%) अतिरिक्त देय होगा। निविदा की किसी भी शर्तों को परिवर्तित करने तथा निविदा को बिना कोई कारण बताये अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। निविदा से सम्बंधित विस्तृत विवरण निगम की वेबसाइट www.cdsupjn.org एवं प्रोक्वोरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही उपलब्ध किये जायेगे, इन्का पुब्लिक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबंधक, युनिट-18
कन्सल्टेशन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
(उपरोक्त सरकारी का उपकरण)

मकान सं-7वीं/108, बौद्ध विहार मंडोला योजना सं-4, भाग-2 (निकट सविधान साहित्य वाटिका, चन्द्रशेखर आजाद पार्क के सामने), दिल्ली रोड, मुरादाबाद-244103
E-mail: pm18mbd@gmail.com

पत्रांक- 1088/एम-18 / 257
दिनांक: 12.05.2026

ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय), की ओर से अधोस्तरीय द्वारा Construction of Govt. Inter College, Rehar, Bijnor (02 No. Additional Rooms & 01 No-Library Room) अनुमानित लागत ₹ 41.66 लाख, हेतु निविदा 11.06.2026 की अपरान्ह 16:30 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 14.05.2026 से दिनांक 11.06.2026 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement की वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 12.06.2026 को अपरान्ह 13:30 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबंधक युनिट-18, सी. एण्ड डी.एस., उ.प्र. जल निगम (नगरीय), मुरादाबाद में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 5000.00+GST (18%) अतिरिक्त देय होगा। निविदा की किसी भी शर्तों को परिवर्तित करने तथा निविदा को बिना कोई कारण बताये अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। निविदा से सम्बंधित विस्तृत विवरण निगम की वेबसाइट www.cdsupjn.org एवं प्रोक्वोरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही उपलब्ध किये जायेगे, इन्का पुब्लिक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबंधक, युनिट-18
कन्सल्टेशन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
(उपरोक्त सरकारी का उपकरण)

मकान सं-7वीं/108, बौद्ध विहार मंडोला योजना सं-4, भाग-2 (निकट सविधान साहित्य वाटिका, चन्द्रशेखर आजाद पार्क के सामने), दिल्ली रोड, मुरादाबाद-244103
E-mail: pm18mbd@gmail.com

पत्रांक- 1087/एम-18 / 256
दिनांक: 12.05.2026

ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय), की ओर से अधोस्तरीय द्वारा Construction of Govt. Highschool Prathivpur, Bijnor (Multipurpose Hall) अनुमानित लागत ₹ 36.43 लाख, हेतु निविदा 11.06.2026 की अपरान्ह 16:30 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 14.05.2026 से दिनांक 11.06.2026 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement की वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 12.06.2026 को अपरान्ह 13:30 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबंधक युनिट-18, सी. एण्ड डी.एस., उ.प्र. जल निगम (नगरीय), मुरादाबाद में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 3000.00+GST (18%) अतिरिक्त देय होगा। निविदा की किसी भी शर्तों को परिवर्तित करने तथा निविदा को बिना कोई कारण बताये अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। निविदा से सम्बंधित विस्तृत विवरण निगम की वेबसाइट www.cdsupjn.org एवं प्रोक्वोरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही उपलब्ध किये जायेगे, इन्का पुब्लिक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
EDUCATION & WELFARE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, VIJAYAWADA**

e-procurement Tender Notice
NIT No: 038&04/MD/APEWIDC/VJA/2026-27, Dated: 12.05.2026, downloading commencement on 14.05.2026 and closing date may be viewed in e-procurement.gov.in

Tenders are invited for 1) Providing CC Roads and Drain to Hostels and Sports Complex in College of Engineering JNTUK, Narsaraopeta, Palnadu District from Registered Civil Contractors and 2) Procurement of Equipment and Machinery for Establishment of Footwear Manufacturing Unit at Yadavilli (V), Racherla (M) of Prakasam District and at Vellaturu (V), G.Konduru (M) of NTR District from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM)/ Original Equipment Manufacturing Firms / Companies/authorised dealers of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM).

Further details may be viewed at <http://tender.approcurement.gov.in> Contact No. 08645295750
Note: 1. Changes / amendment if any will only be communicated through above e-procurement platform. Sd/- Managing Director, APEWIDC, Vijayawada

म.प्र. मत्स्य महासंघ (सह.) मर्यादित, भोपाल
दूरभाष : 0755-2765026, 2771403, ई-मेल : mpfishfed@gmail.com
GSTIN-23AAAM0348JIZW

क्रमांक/296/ दिनांक : 12.05.2026

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना
(गांधीसागर जलाशय से आर्खेटित मछली के विक्रय हेतु)

म.प्र. मत्स्य महासंघ के अधीन गांधीसागर जलाशय से आर्खेटित मछली के विक्रय हेतु 7 वर्षों की अवधि के लिए ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जा रही हैं, जिसका विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट www.mptenders.gov.in में M.P. Fisheries Federation पर देखा जाकर, तदनुसार वॉरिंट राशि भुगतान कर (सर्विस प्रोवाइडर की निर्धारित शुल्क अतिरिक्त) क्रय/डाऊनलोड किया जा सकता है। निविदा संबंधी संक्षिप्त विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

क्र.	जलाशय	जिला	थरोहर राशि (रु. लाख)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु.)	ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रपत्र क्रयकरण एवं दर अपलोड करने की तिथि	निविदा खोलने की तिथि
1.	गांधीसागर	मंडसौर/नीमच	221.60	15,000/-	दिनांक 13.05.2026 को दोपहर 03:00 बजे से दिनांक 19.05.2026 को दोपहर 03:00 बजे तक	दिनांक 20.05.2026 को शाम 05:00 बजे

निविदा में बही व्यक्ति/फर्म/संस्था/मत्स्य समिति/कम्पनी भाग ले सकते हैं जिनका पंजीयन, उक्त वेबसाइट पर हो तथा जिनके पास प्रचलित डिजिटल सर्टिफिकेट क्लास-3 उक्त निविदा में परिवर्तन/संशोधन की सूचना उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर ही दी जावेगी।

म.प्र. माध्यम/125734/2026 **मुख्य महाप्रबंधक**

LOTTERY BARON SANTIAGO'S WIFE LEEMA ROSE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS: INSIDERS

AIADMK rebels extend support to Vijay, cite EPS bid to align with DMK

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, May 12

THE SPLIT that had haunted the AIADMK since the death of J Jayalalithaa finally turned real on Tuesday morning and with brutal symbolism. A large faction led by senior leaders S P Velumani and C Ve Shanmugham moved decisively toward extending support to Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government and joining the Cabinet, effectively reducing AIADMK general secretary and former CM Edappadi K Palaniswami, or EPS as he is known, to a shrinking minority within the party he fought for nearly a decade to hold together.

Announcing the split in Chennai on Tuesday morning, C Ve Shanmugham accused EPS of attempting to align with the DMK despite AIADMK's decades-long political opposition to the party. "The AIADMK was founded to oppose the DMK. For five decades, we fought against them politically. But EPS proposed forming a government with the DMK's support and sought our backing to make him Chief Minister. None of the MLAs agreed to that idea. We were shocked," Shanmugham said.

He said the dissident MLAs rejected the proposal and decided instead to extend support to Vijay's TVK government "in the larger interest of saving the AIADMK and Amma's movement". Shanmugham said the rebel



Tamil Nadu CM Vijay meets AIADMK MLA C Ve Shanmugham in Chennai on Tuesday. ANI

camp had elected former minister SP Velumani as its legislature party leader and submitted letters to the Assembly Secretary informing him of the decision. "We faced defeat collectively and we take collective responsibility for it. We are not blaming any individual. But the party founded by MGR and strengthened by Amma must now be protected," he said.

The DMK, however, dismissed the claim as baseless, saying Shanmugham was "searching for a reason" to split his party.

"It is probably the most vulnerable day in EPS's political life," said a senior leader still with the EPS camp. "The unfortunate thing is that the official split of AIADMK is happening on his birthday itself. "Slowly, even MLAs still with

EPS will move. EPS may become the new OPS," he added, referring to O Panneerselvam, another former CM and AIADMK leader, now in the DMK, whom he had sidelined.

In the evening, Chief Minister Vijay visited Shanmugham's home here, where other MLAs were also present, to hold discussions. About 30 of the AIADMK MLAs are said to be in the rebel group.

This comes a day before the floor test in Tamil Nadu Assembly is set to take place on Wednesday. While Shanmugham publicly framed the split as a revolt against EPS's alleged willingness to form a government with DMK support, The Indian Express had earlier reported a far more layered sequence of events. Sources familiar with the negotiations said

EPS had initially reacted negatively to the proposal to make VCK leader Thol Thirumavalavan the CM and delayed his response for crucial hours. By the time EPS appeared willing to reconsider the arrangement on Saturday afternoon, TVK leader and state minister Aadhav Arjuna had already met Thirumavalavan and secured his letter of support for Vijay.

The collapse of that formula intensified frustration within the Velumani-Shanmugham camp that itself had been pushing for some form of power-sharing arrangement to keep the AIADMK politically relevant after the defeat.

Simultaneously, party insiders said a powerful corporate-political lobby, allegedly operating with encouragement from sections close to Delhi, worked aggressively behind the scenes to accelerate the split and move legislators toward the TVK camp.

If Velumani is widely seen as the organisational and financial centre of the rebellion, and C Ve Shanmugham its political face, party insiders repeatedly pointed to another figure who quietly accelerated the collapse from behind the scenes: Leema Rose Martin, the wife of lottery baron Santiago Martin and a recent entrant into the AIADMK before the elections.

Reliable sources in the rebel camp said Leema played a central role in building communication channels between the factions

and the TVK. "Without Leema, this would not have happened this fast," one insider said. Her son-in-law, Aadhav Arjuna, is among Vijay's closest political associates, a minister, and one of the key strategists within the TVK.

It was also Leema who first publicly revealed that talks were underway between the AIADMK and the TVK. On the night of May 5, then still considered a junior-most MLA in the party, she stunned political circles by declaring that negotiations were ongoing and carefully placing it before the public — "I hope EPS will lead the government" — a statement that appeared bizarre then, but now reads like the first public sign of a vertical rupture underway inside the party.

Insiders said the crisis also shows the growing role of corporate influence in Tamil Nadu politics, with a powerful business network emerging as a key force behind the realignment.

Multiple leaders in the EPS group alleged that the legislators who had revolted had received money, something at the top source in the rebel group also admitted, saying an initial tranche had been delivered and the rest would be paid by the weekend.

Unlike earlier, when AIADMK crises were shaped heavily by caste blocs — Thevar, Gounder, or Vanniyar power struggles — senior leaders said this rupture was driven less by community arithmetic and more by survival, power, and access to government.



An illuminated West Bengal Assembly building on Tuesday. PARTHA PAUL

Bengal activist held for 'spreading EVM misinformation'

Sweety Kumari
Kolkata, May 12

THE KOLKATA Police on Tuesday arrested Garga Chatterjee, founder of the Bangla Pokkho ethno-linguistic rights organisation, for allegedly making provocative statements in the run-up to the West Bengal Assembly elections, officials said, adding that Chatterjee was also accused of spreading misinformation relating to the electoral process and EVMs.

According to cybercrime division officials, Chatterjee would be produced before a court on Wednesday.

Kolkata Police Commissioner Ajay Kumar Nand said, "The complaint against Chatterjee was lodged by the District Election Officer (DEO) of Kolkata North, following which the cyber cell initiated action. He was summoned twice in connection with the matter, but he did not appear, and that is the reason why he was arrested."

A Harvard-educated scholar and neuroscientist, Chatterjee pivoted into political activism with his stance on "Bengal for Bengalis". Chatterjee had raised questions over alleged EVM malfunctioning on April 23, the



Garga Chatterjee is founder of the Bangla Pokkho, an ethno-linguistic rights organisation

day of the first phase of polling. In a Facebook post, Chatterjee had questioned why EVMs developed problems in the morning despite having undergone checks the previous night. On May 4, the day of counting, he again targeted the Election Commission through a social media post alleging that the poll panel was carrying out a "secret plan", the officer said, adding, "He was arrested on the basis of specific complaints related to spreading misinformation and creating confusion regarding the electoral process."

Dipankar Bhattacharya of CPIML said, "(We) demand immediate release of this well-known campaigner for Bengali identity and electoral transparency."

SC to hear TVK MLA's plea today after HC bars him from floor test

Express News Service
New Delhi, May 12

THE SUPREME Court will hear Wednesday an appeal filed by Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) MLA R Seenivasa Sethupathi challenging the Madras High Court order restraining him from voting or taking part in the floor test of the Tamil Nadu Assembly. The appeal has been listed before a three-judge bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and Vijay Bishnoi.

Appearing for Sethupathi, Senior Advocate A M Singhvi submitted before Chief Justice of India Surya Kant that the MLA had filed an appeal challenging the high court order passed earlier in the day.

As Singhvi urged the bench to take it up urgently, the CJ said he would list it for Wednesday. Earlier in the day, a Madras High Court bench of Justices L Victoria Gowri and N Senthil Kumar restrained Sethupathi, who had won from Tirupattur district by one vote, from voting.

The order came on a plea by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader K R Periakaruppan, who had lost the election to Sethupathi by one vote. Periakaruppan had alleged irregularities and discrepancies in vote counting.

"There shall be an order of interim injunction restraining the sixth respondent/returned candidate from voting or otherwise taking part in any floor test, including confidence motion, no-confidence motion, trust vote or any voting proceeding in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly where the numerical strength of the House is tested, until further orders of this Court," the high court said.

The HC remarked that if Sethupathi participates in such proceedings and his vote becomes decisive, the consequence may travel far beyond the constituency and affect the constitutional governance of the state. It, however, clarified that the order would not deem his election as void. "We are not, at this stage, declaring the election of the sixth respondent void. Nor is this Court seating the petitioner in his place. We are only considering whether, pending prima facie scrutiny of serious electoral anomalies in a one-vote result, the returned candidate should be permitted to participate in a proceeding where his vote may alter the balance of power in the House," it said.

According to the petitioner, postal votes belonging to No. 185 were wrongly sent to No. 50 in the Tirupattur constituency.

HAD ADVISED TVK CHIEF ON CONSTITUENCY CHOICE

Vijay appoints astrologer Vetrivel, who predicted his political rise, as OSD

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, May 12

WITH ACTOR-POLITICIAN Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) formally appointing astrologer Rickey Radhan Pandit Vetrivel the Chief Minister's Officer on Special Duty (OSD), the party has brought into its inner structure a figure long associated with political astrology, numerology and high-profile predictions in Tamil Nadu's power circles.

Born Vetrivel in Erode, the astrologer once counted former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa among his prominent clients. Their relationship, however, reportedly soured after one of his most high-stakes predictions failed dramatically.

Vetrivel had reportedly assured Jayalalithaa that she would avoid imprisonment in the disproportionate assets case. But in September 2014, she was jailed following the verdict, prompting a rupture between the two. Soon after, according to sources familiar with the episode, Jayalalithaa stopped consulting him, and



Radhan Pandit Vetrivel had earlier advised former CM Jayalalithaa but fell out with her after wrongly predicting that she would not be jailed

Vetrivel moved to Singapore. It was during this phase that Vetrivel underwent a reinvention. Adopting the name "Radhan Pandit Vetrivel" — one carrying a distinctly North Indian resonance — he attempted to broaden both his visibility and appeal among a larger Indian diaspora clientele. Though Tamil and rooted in Erode, with an apartment in Chennai, the astrologer spent

time in Singapore and later Delhi, where associates say the transformation was driven partly by astrological considerations and partly by aspiration for wider legitimacy.

According to sources, it was after his return from Delhi that Vetrivel was introduced into Vijay's political circle through an intermediary. His influence within the actor's emerging political ecosystem soon became visible. Pandit was the astrologer who advised Vijay to contest from a constituency beginning with the letter "V", a detail earlier reported by *The Indian Express*. During the election season, he also appeared in multiple YouTube interviews predicting a favourable political rise for Vijay and the TVK.

Tamil Nadu politics has historically maintained a complicated relationship with astrology and numerology, with leaders across party lines often consulting astrologers privately. But Vetrivel's elevation marks a rare, perhaps unprecedented, institutionalisation of that relationship.

In Tamil Nadu flux, BJP spots an opening: Flexible DMK, weaker Opp

DMK may bolster it in Parliament with "issue-based" support on key Bills

Liz Mathew
New Delhi, May 12

THE RECENT Assembly election results have not only weakened regional parties and smaller anti-BJP players, but also recalibrated the power balance in the Lok Sabha, where the ruling party lacks a majority on its own.

While the BJP continues to rely on its NDA allies to cross the halfway mark in the Lower House, the electoral setback suffered by regional heavyweights has handed the party a significant strategic cushion. With the DMK distancing itself from former ally Congress, it is keeping open the option of extending issue-based support to the BJP,

sources said. In the Lok Sabha, where the BJP has 240 MPs and depends on allies to pass Bills, potential support from the 22-member DMK — the two parties were allies from 1999 to 2003 — on issues they can find common ground on could prove crucial for its legislative and reform agenda. Recently, however, the Constitutional Amendment Bills to expand the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies with the objective of implementing the women's reservation law was defeated as the NDA failed to secure the required two-thirds majority, with the DMK leading the pushback.

After actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) emerged as the single-largest party in Tamil Nadu, the



Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin speaks at the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, in Chennai on Tuesday. ANI

Congress, followed by the Left, IUML and VCK, backed it.

Sources said the DMK's openness to issue-based support marks a significant shift in national politics and could benefit the BJP, which won only 1 seat in Tamil Nadu. "The developments in Tamil Nadu are ultimately good for the BJP. They have not only exposed the Congress, weakened the INDIA bloc, and cautioned other Op-

position parties against the Congress, but also opened the door for a favourable political realignment. One cannot rule out the possibility of a DMK-AIADMK-BJP coalition emerging before the 2029 Lok Sabha polls," a senior BJP leader said.

Sources within the DMK also confirmed that its "options are open" and that the new political situation has "pushed

the party back to the negotiation table". "The Tamil Nadu government is surviving on a razor-thin majority, so our options remain open. The DMK remains intact as a party and we can negotiate with the BJP in Parliament as well," a DMK MP said.

Asked whether the DMK would consider supporting the Narendra Modi-led government on key Bills and issues, the MP said: "The probability is very high. We have so far maintained a hostile stand, but now we can negotiate with the BJP. Having lost basic trust in the Congress, there is nothing stopping us from moving closer to the BJP."

Sources said the DMK could consider supporting the BJP on issues such as "One Nation, One Election" — the proposal to synchronise Lok Sabha and Assembly polls. The Bill, formally titled the 129th Constitution Amendment Bill, is currently under examination by a Joint Parliamentary Committee

headed by BJP leader P P Chaudhary.

DMK leaders argued that closer coordination with the Centre could help the party secure favourable decisions on infrastructure projects and policy matters such as NEET, allowing it to claim credit for development initiatives in Tamil Nadu. "We can bring in projects and policies that aid Tamil Nadu's development," the MP added.

Tamil Nadu has consistently opposed NEET, arguing that the national entrance examination disadvantages students from rural areas and the State Board system.

What may work for DMK For the DMK, there are several reasons to lean towards the BJP, the most immediate being political relevance at the national level. The party has suffered a major defeat; its leader and former Chief Minister M K Stalin lost his own seat and a strong faction within the DMK was keen to prevent Vijay from forming the government. In an

attempt to stop him, the party even held talks with arch-rival AIADMK. However, its coalition partners abandoned it to back the TVK, including the Congress, its ally for more than two decades. Last week, in a move signalling a formal rupture in the decades-long partnership, DMK parliamentary leader Kanimozhi Karunanidhi wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking separate seating arrangements for DMK MPs.

"The Congress has now become a party that Opposition parties can no longer trust. The TMC (Trinamool Congress) already had issues with the Congress, the RJD (Rashtriya Janata Dal) is unhappy, and now even the SP (Samajwadi Party) will be cautious," another DMK MP said.

The DMK also has the option of building a formidable non-Congress, non-BJP "Third Front" with parties such as the RJD, the TMC, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), and the YSR Congress Party.

RIGHT TO SPEEDY TRIAL

'No court bothers to follow guidelines': SC quashes criminal case pending trial for 35 yrs

Ananthkrishnan G
New Delhi, May 12

QUASHING A criminal case pending trial in Prayagraj since 1991, the Supreme Court, while emphasising that "quick justice is sine qua non of Article 21 of the Constitution", said that courts do not bother to follow guidelines laid down by it repeatedly on the right to speedy trial.

Citing nearly 20 cases in which the right to speedy trial was emphasised, a bench of Justices J B Pardiwalla and Ujjal Bhuyan said in its April 29 order: "We wonder how many such guidelines as referred to above may have been issued by this court over a period of at least two decades. Guidelines just remain on paper; guidelines do not work fully. The reason for the same is also very simple. No court bothers to follow the guidelines... because there is no accountability. No one is made answerable for the same."

The court order was made available on Tuesday.

The SC was hearing an appeal filed by accused Kailash Chandra Kapri, who was a constable with the Uttar Pradesh police in 1991, challenging a February 23, 2026 Allahabad High Court order refusing to quash a case against him. Kapri faced charges under IPC and the Railways Act. The FIR registered with GRP, Rambagh Police Station, Allahabad, in 1989, was pending in the court of Additional CJM (Railway), Prayagraj, since 1991.

Kapri's counsel Advocates Rajesh G Inamdar and Shashwat Anand said of the five accused charged in the case, two had died and the other two were acquitted in February 2023 as the prosecution was unable to present any evidence.

The SC said, "It appears on plain reading of the FIR and the

other materials on record that on the date of the alleged incident five police constables posted with the GRP Rambagh fought with each other on a very trivial issue. This incident occurred in the police mess relating to food."

The bench noted that Kapri was 22 years old when the FIR was registered in 1991 and is now 59. He is currently a Head Constable with the Local Intelligence Unit in Uttarakhand Police.

The UP government said summons could not be served on Kapri as he was transferred to Uttar Pradesh after bifurcation of the state in 2000.

The SC said, "The case at hand is one of causing simple hurt and criminal intimidation. It is, as such, neither a heinous offence nor an offence against the community as such, though all criminal offences are crimes against society. Having regard to the nature of offence, there is enormous delay in proceeding with the criminal prosecution."

"Quick justice is sine qua non of Article 21 of the Constitution. Keeping a person in suspended animation for 35 years and that too a public servant without any cause at all — and none was indicted before the High court or before us — gone by with the spirit of procedure established by law. In that view of the matter it is just unfair and in accordance with equity to direct that the trial or prosecution of the appellant to proceed no further. We do so accordingly," the court said.

Though it quashed the case against Kapri, the SC decided to keep the matter pending saying: "We firmly believe we should carry this matter further to make this right of an accused to have a speedy trial... more meaningful and real." It asked the Registrar General of the Allahabad HC to furnish information including on the criminal cases pending before the courts.

Unchanged since 2012, old age pension of Rs 200 eroded due to inflation: Study

Harikishan Sharma
New Delhi, May 12

WITH THE Centre's contribution to monthly old age pensions unchanged at Rs 200-500 per beneficiary since 2012 under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), the real value of these fixed cash transfers has "significantly eroded" due to inflation, an evaluation commissioned by the Union Ministry of Rural Development has found.

According to the report, inflation has reduced the real value of these cash transfers by around 45% and adjusted to the current Consumer Price Index (CPI); a pension of Rs 200 would now need to be about Rs 353 to retain its original purchasing power.

The findings are part of a report titled "Impact Assessment and Evaluation of the National Social Assistance Program (NSAP)", which was submitted to the ministry recently. The evaluation study was conducted across Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, J&K,

• Revision awaited

Schemes	Age Group (yrs)	Monthly assistance since 2012	Projected amount in 2024 (after adjusting to inflation)
IGNOAPS (for senior citizens)	60-79	₹200	₹382
	Above 80	₹500	₹955
GNWPS (widows)	40-79	₹300	
	Above 80	₹500	₹955
IGNDPS (disability)	18-79	₹300	
	Above 80	₹500	₹955
NFBS*	18-59	₹20,000**	₹40,000
	Above 60	10 kg of foodgrains	

NFBS: death of breadwinner; **One-time assistance; Annapurna: for those not getting old-age pension; Source: Study commissioned by Rural Development Ministry

Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh.

The study points out that the monthly pension amount was revised to Rs 200 for old age people between 60 and 79 years of age, to Rs 300 for widows (40-79 years) and persons with disability (18-79 years), and Rs 500 for beneficiaries of 80 years of age and above in 2012.

"Since then, there has been no upward revision in this

amount, although consumption expenditure has grown substantially over the years and in the context of India making rapid strides on the economic front and recently becoming the 4th largest economy of the world," states the study conducted by the Academy of Management Studies (AMS), a Delhi-based research and consulting firm.

"Considering 2012 as the base with CPI at 100, it rose to 191 in 2024, reflecting a 91% cumulative increase... Based on this increase, the pension amount should have proportionately risen from Rs 200 and Rs 500 to Rs 382 and Rs 955, respectively."

"Further, average inflation of about 5% annually (2010-2024) has significantly eroded the real value of fixed cash transfers... Adjusted with the current CPI, the value of Rs 200 would now need to be Rs 353 merely to preserve its earlier purchasing power. Thus, in effect, the real benefit has fallen by nearly 45%," it says. The study has recommended a National Floor Pension (NFP) on the lines of the National Floor Level Minimum Wage set by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

"This would ensure a minimum level of financial assistance uniformly across all states. The NFP should be linked to the CPI to automatically adjust with inflation, with annual revisions based on the cost of living. Additionally, states should be encouraged to provide top-ups to the central

share in a uniform and transparent manner to reduce regional disparities in benefit levels," states the report.

Launched in 1995, NSAP is a key social welfare scheme that provides pensions to vulnerable groups, including the elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities. Currently, NSAP covers five schemes — Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) with more than 221 lakh beneficiaries, Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) with over 67 lakh beneficiaries, Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) 8.8 lakh beneficiaries, National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and the Annapurna Scheme.

"States providing higher top-ups, such as Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Haryana, showed better outcomes in income stability and well-being. Revising the pension amount would therefore help ensure that NSAP continues to uphold its objective of providing dignity, security, and meaningful support to vulnerable citizens," the study says.

Son of Chhota Shakeel aide shot in South Mumbai

Manish Kumar Pathak
Mumbai, May 12

A 40-YEAR-OLD man identified as Sameer Asif Khan, son of Mohammed Asif Khan alias "Asif Dadi", who was earlier linked to underworld don Chhota Shakeel, was allegedly shot at by unidentified bike-borne assailants near South Mumbai's Dockyard Road railway station on Tuesday evening.

According to police, the incident took place around 6.05 pm when Sameer had gone to meet a hotelier friend at his office. Police said two men on a motorcycle allegedly followed Khan before one of them opened fire. The bullet struck Khan in the right thigh, leaving him injured.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Krishnakant Upadhyay confirmed the incident and said efforts were underway to trace the attackers.

"Several teams have been formed to identify and apprehend the suspects," an officer involved in the probe said. Police are in the process of registering a case of attempt to murder against unidentified persons.

Man held for Suwendu PA's killing flaunted political links online

Manish Sahu
Lucknow, May 12

RAJ SINGH, one of three men arrested in connection with the murder of West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari's personal assistant Chandranath Rath, frequently projected his links with political figures on social media and harboured political ambitions himself.

On his Facebook page, for instance, he described himself as the state general secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Kshatriya Mahasabha and shared photographs with several politicians, including one purportedly with Uttar Pradesh Transport Minister Daya Shankar Singh on

October 4 last year.

On Monday, the 25-year-old from Uttar Pradesh's Ballia was arrested in connection with the murder of Rath, Adhikari's PA, by the West Bengal CID and Madhyamgram police. Investigators suspect he and two others were out-of-state hitmen hired to carry out the killing, though who commissioned the hit and why is still under investigation.

UP minister Daya Shankar Singh, who is from Ballia, said Raj was not associated with the BJP. Another politician, who figures in a photograph with Raj, acknowledged knowing him but said his acquaintance was limited to his role as an of-

fice-bearer of the Akhil Bharatiya Kshatriya Mahasabha.

BJP district president Sanjay Mishra said Raj has no association with the party, and that photographs of Raj with party leaders should not be interpreted as any kind of association with them.

The youngest of three siblings, Raj is from the Chilkahar block of Ballia district. According to local sources, he got into politics while pursuing his graduation at the Murlu Manohar Town Post Graduate College.

His family said he was active in student politics during his college years and that he had been preparing to contest

panchayat elections.

"He initially hoped to contest the corporator elections, but when the seat was reserved for the backward class category, he shifted his focus to the block pramukh race," said Yashwant Singh, Raj's elder brother and a businessman.

"Raj had decided to build his career in politics and was actively cultivating connections with political leaders," he claimed. Yashwant claimed his brother was being wrongly accused in the case. "Raj is a political worker," he said, adding that they plan to move court. He also claimed they have CCTV footage from the family residence showing Raj at

home at the time of the murder. Two other accused arrested from Bihar had pointed investigators in Raj's direction, leading to his arrest.

Yashwant said the family has long identified with the BJP and that their father, Keshav Singh, who died in 2018, was a staunch supporter. "I do not know which political party Raj may have formally joined, but our entire family supports the BJP," he said.

Yashwant said his brother's photographs with multiple leaders reflected his "active role" in public life. "But after his arrest, not a single political leader has called to ask about our well-being," he claimed.

7-member SIT formed to probe murder case

THE CBI has taken over the probe into the murder of Chandranath Rath, who was targeted and killed in a brutal ambush on May 6.

A seven-member SIT led by DIG Pankaj Kumar Singh, has been formed to probe the Rath murder case. The central agency has registered a regular case, taking over FIR No. 353/2026 registered at the Madhyamgram Police Station. ENS

IFCI Limited has launched ESG PRAKRIT, an advanced ESG technology platform aimed at strengthening sustainability integration and climate risk preparedness among banks, financial institutions, and corporates. The platform offers comprehensive ESG assessment, reporting, analytics, and advisory solutions to support organisations in improving sustainability performance and regulatory compliance. The launch ceremony was attended by M. Nagaraju and Manoj Muttathil Ayyappan. Addressing the gathering, Nagaraju emphasised the growing importance of climate risk management and sustainable business practices aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Rahul Bhawe reaffirmed IFCI's commitment to promoting sustainable and responsible institutional growth in India.

MOU SASTRA Deemed University signed an MoU with Tata Advanced Systems to promote research, training, capacity building and academic collaboration during its 25th University Day celebrations. Tata Advanced Systems Executive Director Masood Hussainy assured long-term cooperation with the university. Commissioner of Income Tax J. Premanand praised SASTRA's social initiatives and urged students to solve societal challenges creatively. Vice-Chancellor S. Vaidhyasubramaniam highlighted achievements including Rs. 120 crore research projects, 1,200 research papers, 3,900 job offers, and Rs. 160 crore infrastructure expansion during 2025-26.

Sarla Chopra D.A.V. Public School celebrated Gratitude Day with enthusiasm to encourage students to value and respect people who contribute to their lives. The programme began with a morning assembly, followed by poetry recitations and speeches highlighting the importance of the working class as the backbone of society. Staff members and workers were honoured with small tokens of appreciation for their dedicated service. Principal Upasana Sharma emphasized that gratitude reflects strong values and helps in personality development. The event promoted humility, thankfulness and social respect among students through meaningful activities and interactions.

SCOPE K. M. Prashanth, former GM (Corporate Communications) of NTPC Limited, was honoured with the prestigious "Indian Public Sector Enterprise Doyen of the Decade (Public Sector)" Award for his outstanding contribution to communications and public relations in the power and renewable energy sectors. The award was presented by Anil Razdan at the SCOPE Convention Centre on April 30, 2026, in the presence of senior PSU leaders. During the event, J. P. Sharma received the IPSE Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence for his lifelong contribution to corporate communications. The IPSE Awards are instituted by PSE Journal in association with ENERTIA Foundation.

UJVN Ltd. A World Bank delegation led by Suroj Kumar Jha inspected the Ichari Dam project of UJVN Limited under the World Bank-funded Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP). The delegation appreciated the quality, timely execution and safety standards of works carried out under Phases I and II, including slope treatment and disaster management SOPs. Mr. Jha specially praised the leadership of Ajay Kumar Singh, noting that the organisation has gained renewed momentum and efficiency under his guidance. The delegation also commended UJVN's technical expertise, work culture and dedicated team spirit during the review meeting held at the project site.

Public Relations Society Delhi announced its new Governing Board for the 2026-2028 term during National Public Relations Day celebrations at the Press Club of India. The Executive Committee was elected unopposed, with G. S. Bawa taking charge as Chairman and Jyoti Kumar appointed as Secretary. The new leadership team also includes Rama Vijay, Akshat Chopra and Vipin Kharbanda. The board pledged to focus on AI-driven communication, professional excellence, industry engagement and skill development for young communication professionals.

HURL Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited organised a capability-building programme titled "Enhancing Capabilities: Turning Capability into Meaningful Impact" at Jim Corbett National Park. The programme brought together Managing Director Siba Prasad Mohanty, senior leadership and employees for sessions focused on effective communication skills and the use of artificial intelligence in the workplace. Addressing participants, Dr. Mohanty highlighted the importance of continuous learning, adaptability and teamwork in creating measurable impact. Senior officials encouraged employees to embrace innovation and collaboration in a rapidly evolving work environment. The initiative reflected HURL's commitment to capability building, organisational development and nurturing a future-ready workforce.

Inauguration The inaugural reefer rack carrying pharmaceutical products, Aushadi Express, was flagged off from ICD Sanathnagar to Jawaharalal Nehru Port on May 2, 2026, by Sanjay Kumar Srivastava and Sanjay Swarup. The initiative marks a major step in strengthening rail-port logistics for faster and safer transportation of temperature-sensitive pharmaceutical cargo. Senior officials from South Central Railway, Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and Maersk attended the event. Hyderabad, known as India's "Pharma Capital," is expected to benefit significantly from the enhanced cold-chain connectivity to international trade gateways.

Recognition Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management has received accreditation from AACSB International, a prestigious global recognition held by only around 6% of business schools worldwide. Achieved after a rigorous multi-year peer review, the accreditation acknowledges LBSIM's excellence in curriculum, faculty quality, research and societal impact. With this achievement, LBSIM joins an elite group of nearly 30 Indian institutions accredited by AACSB, alongside premier institutes such as Indian Institute of Management Lucknow and Indian School of Business. The accreditation strengthens the institute's global credibility, industry relevance, international collaboration opportunities and long-term career prospects for students.

CORPORATE BRIEFS

BECL Rajiv Kumar Sahni visited Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECL) and held discussions with CMD D. K. Murali and senior officials on potential collaboration for Indian Army projects. A detailed presentation on BECL's capabilities and ongoing initiatives was made during the interaction. CMD Commodore Murali reaffirmed BECL's commitment to supporting the Indian Army through its technical expertise and future collaborative initiatives. The visit highlighted opportunities for cooperation in areas such as ICT, surveillance systems, cyber security, counter-drone solutions and digital infrastructure projects.

FDDI Footwear Design and Development Institute organised a two-day Academic Fest on the theme "Learning New Things, Learning in New Ways" to encourage innovation and practical learning among students. The fest featured activities such as AI-assisted design ideation, portfolio presentations, material board preparation and product photography demonstrations, giving students hands-on exposure to modern design techniques and emerging technologies. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Shalini Raj visited the campus and appreciated the institute's advanced laboratories, Centre of Excellence and industry-oriented curriculum. Executive Director Anil Kumar said the festival aimed to develop innovation, teamwork and practical understanding among students. Students and faculty members from Government Polytechnic College also participated in the programme.

NBCC (India) Limited laid the foundation stone for the new campus of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade at Maidangarhi, New Delhi, on May 5, 2026. The Rs. 350-crore project will be executed on an EPC basis and aims to create a modern academic and residential hub spread across 7.55 acres in South Delhi. The ceremony was led by K. P. Mahadevaswamy, who said the project would strengthen IIFT's global academic competitiveness. The campus will feature smart classrooms, a 1,000-seat auditorium, hostel facilities for over 600 students, faculty residences and sustainable infrastructure including solar energy systems, rainwater harvesting and energy-efficient design.

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University organised a "Yuva Kumbh" programme at its Dwarka campus to mark 100 years of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Jointly organised by RSS West Delhi Province and the university's NSS Cell, the event focused on youth participation in nation-building, character development and social responsibility. A. K. Nagawat highlighted the importance of leadership, morality and civic responsibility among youth. Keynote speaker Prafulla Ketkar spoke about India's cultural and spiritual heritage. Over 200 students participated in the programme, which also featured an interactive session on national service and social work.

RIICO has taken a significant step to ease the growing traffic congestion in and around Mahindra World City. The Rajasthan Government aims not only to attract investments and establish industries, but also to provide world-class connectivity and infrastructure facilities in industrial areas. In line with this vision, RIICO has decided to widen and develop the 4-kilometre-long, 200-foot-wide approach road connecting Ajmer Road to Mahindra SEZ into a modern eight-lane road. A recent meeting between RIICO and Jaipur Development Authority resulted in mutual agreement on the project. The estimated cost of the project is around Rs. 18.50 crore, which will be shared equally by both organizations. RIICO has already approved its contribution of approximately Rs. 9.25 crore and directed that the work begin on a priority basis. The project will include road widening, divider construction, plantation work, fencing, street lighting, and other electrical infrastructure. Developed according to modern standards, the upgraded road will ensure smoother, safer, and faster transportation, benefiting industries, employees, logistics operations, and local residents in the rapidly growing region.

Bharat Taxi has partnered with Delhi Capitals as the official mobility partner for the 2026 T20 cricket season. The partnership focuses on providing convenient and reliable transportation for cricket fans during match days across Delhi NCR. Bharat Taxi CEO Himanshu Sharma said Delhi is a key market for the company and the collaboration will help address increased travel demand during the tournament. Sunil Gupta stated that the partnership would enhance the overall fan experience by ensuring smooth travel arrangements. Bharat Taxi will also run digital campaigns, on-ground activations and fan engagement initiatives throughout the season. The company currently operates with a network of over 3.76 lakh registered drivers across multiple cities.

Petronet LNG Limited reported strong financial performance for the quarter ended March 31, 2026, with its Dahej LNG Terminal processing 201 TBTU of LNG, compared to 189 TBTU in the corresponding quarter last year. The company achieved overall LNG processing of 219 TBTU during the quarter despite challenges arising from the Gulf region crisis. Capacity utilisation at the Dahej terminal stood at 90.1%. The company posted its highest-ever quarterly profit, reporting Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs. 1,795 crore and Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 1,338 crore. For FY 2025-26, Petronet LNG recorded PBT of Rs. 5,158 crore and PAT of Rs. 3,843 crore. The Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend of Rs. 3 per share, citing operational efficiency and strong financial performance.

The National Bank Limited reported a strong financial performance for FY 2025-26, with operating profit rising 30.66% to Rs. 116.33 crore and net profit increasing 24.98% to Rs. 63.24 crore. The bank's total business crossed Rs. 14,118 crore, reflecting a 6.75% growth over the previous year. Gross advances grew 10.55%, while retail advances registered an impressive 22.65% rise. The bank also achieved a significant improvement in asset quality, with Gross NPA declining to 4.95% from 7.78% and Net NPA reducing sharply to 0.27%. The Provision Coverage Ratio improved to 94.01%. The bank reaffirmed its commitment to customer-centric growth through innovation and technology adoption.

RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. reported strong financial performance in the fourth quarter of FY 2025-26, recording an operating income of Rs. 1,669 crore, marking an 83% sequential growth over Q3. During its 160th Board Meeting held on April 30, 2026, the company announced a total income of Rs. 1,680 crore and a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs. 142 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2026, reflecting growth of 82% in turnover and 127% in profits over the previous quarter. For the full financial year 2025-26, RailTel achieved a turnover of Rs. 4,328 crore and PAT of Rs. 346 crore, registering year-on-year growth of 22% and 16% respectively. CMD Sanjay Kumar credited the consistent growth to the dedication of Team RailTel and highlighted the company's healthy order book of Rs. 11,466 crore, which is expected to drive substantial business growth in the coming quarters.

Indian Coast Guard hosted a senior delegation from Fincantieri, Italy, at Coast Guard Headquarters in New Delhi on April 30, 2026, to strengthen cooperation in shipbuilding and maritime technology. The delegation included Anna Ruffino and Eugenio Santagata, who met Director General Paramesh Sivamani. Discussions focused on advanced ship design, hybrid propulsion, AI-enabled systems, anti-drone technologies and indigenous development under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Both sides agreed to continue structured engagement for future maritime collaboration and technology partnerships.

Motor Show At the Beijing Motor Show, Shailesh Chandra said the global automotive industry is adapting to technological changes, geopolitical pressures and evolving public policies. Launching annual sales data of Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles, he noted that global vehicle production increased from 92.7 million units in 2024 to 96.4 million in 2025, while sales rose to 99.8 million units. Asia-Oceania recorded strong growth, whereas Europe and the Americas witnessed declines in automobile production during 2025.

Workshop Department of Women and Child Development organised a multi-stakeholder workshop titled "Small Spaces, Big Futures" to reimagine Anganwadi centres as child-friendly and community-driven spaces. Addressing the event, Rashmi Singh highlighted the importance of Anganwadis in early childhood development, nutrition and community engagement, especially in Delhi's space-constrained urban environment. The workshop featured discussions on child-centric design, sustainable infrastructure and resource mobilisation under the Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan framework. Students from University of Design Innovation and Technology showcased innovative Anganwadi design concepts, while organisations including HFC Foundation and Steepwell Foundation expressed interest in supporting implementation initiatives.

Exhibition Banani Sarkar showcased her self-made venture, "BS Handmade Creations," at the vibrant event "The Grand Carnival," organized by Hardik at GH-7 Apartment. Her stall featured a wide range of handmade and hand-painted products, including tote bags, jute bags, multi-purpose pouches, canvas and standard paintings, matkas, bottle art, fridge magnets, bookmarks, and jewellery. The carnival also hosted several other stalls and entertaining activities such as dance performances and drawing competitions for children, creating a lively and engaging atmosphere for visitors.

NHPC Limited, a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Power, has commissioned the fourth 250 MW unit of the 2000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project located in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The unit began commercial operations on May 8, 2026, adding 250 MW of clean energy to the national grid. With this achievement, the project's total operational capacity has reached 1000 MW out of the planned 2000 MW. CMD Bhupendra Gupta thanked the Ministry of Power and the state governments for their support and praised the project team led by Rajendra Prasad. He said the successful commissioning highlights NHPC's technical expertise and commitment to strengthening India's energy security. The Subansiri Lower Project is expected to improve grid stability, meet peak demand and support renewable energy integration across the country.

SAIL Steel Authority of India Limited has appointed Ashok Kumar Panda as its Chairman and Managing Director with effect from May 9, 2026. Earlier, he served as Director (Finance) and also held additional charge as Director (Commercial). Dr. Panda joined SAIL in 1992 as a Management Trainee (Technical) after completing his Electrical Engineering degree. During his tenure, he led several strategic initiatives to improve operational efficiency, profitability and sales performance. He said SAIL is progressing towards its next expansion phase of 35 MTPA while focusing on safety, raw material security, value-added products and sustainable growth.

PNB Punjab National Bank organised the Mega Agriculture Outreach Programme "PNB Krishi Aarambh" across more than 240 locations nationwide to strengthen financial inclusion in agriculture and allied sectors. The initiative focused on providing customised credit solutions to farmers, SHGs, agri-entrepreneurs and rural women entrepreneurs. Ashok Chandra said the programme reflects PNB's commitment to supporting India's rural economy through inclusive financial solutions and sustainable agriculture financing. The outreach witnessed participation from farmers, FPOs, dairy and fisheries stakeholders, and rural customers. Awareness camps and customer interaction sessions were organised to promote financing opportunities, digital banking services and agriculture-focused schemes offered by the bank.

Month after their birth, 4 cheetah cubs found dead at Kuno park

Anand Mohan J Bhopal, May 12

THE DEATHS of four one-month-old cheetah cubs in the wild at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park on Tuesday marked a setback for India's ambitious cheetah reintroduction programme, which had recently witnessed a sharp rise in births and expanding populations inside and outside protected enclosures.

Officials said the cubs, born on April 11 to female cheetah, KGP12, in the Sheopur/Territorial Division adjoining Kuno, were found dead around 6.30 am by monitoring teams near the den site. The bodies were partially eaten. According to the Field Director of the Cheetah Project, the cubs had been seen alive on Monday evening.

"Prima facie, the incident appears to be predation by another animal," said a senior wildlife official, adding that the mother cheetah was safe and healthy. Postmortem examinations and a detailed investigation are underway to determine the exact cause of death.

The deaths come at a time when the Cheetah Project had been seeing signs of stabilisation after a difficult initial phase marked by deaths of the big cats.

Just days ago, Madhya Pradesh authorities were celebrating the success of Project Cheetah at Kuno National Park. On May 10, coinciding with Mother's Day celebrations, park authorities released a short film featuring female cheetahs and their cubs. A day later, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav released two female cheetahs brought from Botswana from their enclosures into the open forest.

Mundhwa land deal: Rs 21 crore penalty for Parth Pawar's firm upheld

Express News Service Pune, May 12

THE CHIEF Controlling Revenue Authority, Pune, in an order passed on April 28, has dismissed the appeal by Amadea Enterprises — in which NCP MP Parth Pawar holds a majority stake — against the order to pay Rs 21 crore in stamp duty and penalties with the regard to the Mundhwa land deal.

In his order, state Inspector General of Registration (IGR) Ravindra Binwade upheld the previous decision of District Joint Registrar Santosh Hingane in December.

"Amadea Enterprises LLP, associated with NCP MP Parth Pawar, purchased approximately 40 acres of government land in Mundhwa, Pune, for nearly Rs 300 crore. It had sought an exemption under the IT/ITES policy 2023. The company paid a stamp duty of only Rs 500. To support this claim, the company presented a LOI obtained from the District Industries Centre (DIC), Pune. It is alleged that the entire land sale transaction was fundamentally illegal," said activist Vijay Kumbhar.

NO FEE FROM CANDIDATES FOR RE-TEST

We have to call their bluff, says NTA chief after NEET-UG cancellation

Abhinaya Harigovind New Delhi, May 12

AFTER THE National Testing Agency (NTA) on Tuesday cancelled the NEET-UG exam for the first time, its Director General Abhishek Singh said the process was found to have been "vitiated" and they cannot "continue to allow miscreants" to operate "even in an isolated way, even in one sector, one subject".

Singh told *The Indian Express*: "There was an allegation and there was found to be something which would have vitiated the process... otherwise why would we take such a big decision. This time around, we declared that there would be zero tolerance towards any malpractice. So, anything that vitiates the process... we can't encourage the scamsters or people trying to do this again and again."

"We have to call their bluff, even if it is a tough decision. It is not easy for NTA, for the students, or for the parents. But if we continue to allow these mis-

creants to do...even in an isolated way, even in one sector, one subject, anything... It's not acceptable. Our philosophy was zero tolerance, and we're sticking to that," Singh said.

NTA had received information about alleged malpractices on May 7, and the matter was then flagged to law enforcement agencies. The Rajasthan Special Operations Group said it found a 'guess paper' with 410 questions, of which 120 appeared in the exam, and that it was investigating the matter.

Talking about the stage at which NEET may have been compromised, Singh said: "We're not investigators. We're an exam-conducting body. CBI is the body which will do that. It has been given that task to inquire into it, and whosoever it is will be punished."

Asked about where things may have gone wrong, he said: "All that is subject to inquiry. The examination was conducted smoothly. There was no issue on May 3. No issues were reported before the exam or im-



“It is not easy for NTA, for the students, or for the parents. But if we continue to allow these miscreants to do...even in an isolated way, even in one sector, one subject, anything... It's not acceptable.”

ABHISHEK SINGH, DIRECTOR GENERAL, NTA

mediately after. We started evaluating the OMR sheets, and everything had returned. There were no issues with transporta-

tion or the conduct of the examination".

"Everything went smoothly. But we did get a tip-off... on May 7 we got a mail that something was circulating before the examination. We took it with a pinch of salt, but we still went ahead and verified it."

"When we found that part of the complaint was true, we had to take this call of cancelling the examination, and doing a re-exam at a huge cost, but in the interest of the larger majority of students, and to tell the criminals and scamsters that we will not accept this," he added.

NTA has announced that the re-test will be conducted without taking any exam fees from candidates.

"Whatever it takes... The government is committed towards conducting an exam which is scam-free, which doesn't allow any malpractice, and we will have to ensure this," Singh said.

Asked about the need for additional security measures for the re-test, he said that com-

plete guidelines will be issued.

The Centre constituted a seven-member committee headed by former Isro chief K Radhakrishnan to recommend measures to ensure the smooth conduct of public exams in the wake of the 2024 NEET-UG paper leak.

The committee had recommended computer-based testing with exams across multiple shifts as the preferred mode of examination.

Asked about whether the switch to computer-based testing for NEET is feasible, Singh said: "NTA is an exam conducting body; we conduct exams as per the requirements of the departments concerned, which want us to conduct the exam. NEET is conducted for medical entrance... for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the National Medical Commission. So, it is their call, not ours. Our role is to conduct the examinations. This (computer-based testing) is not for the NTA to speculate. This is a call for the concerned Ministry to take."

'Feels like God keeps testing me': NEET cancellation leaves candidates crushed

Vidheesha Kuntamalla New Delhi, May 12

FOR TWO months leading up to NEET-UG, 24-year-old Arthik Gangwar rarely stepped out of his paying-guest room in Kota, Rajasthan — where he lived with test series and sleepless revisions, discussing cut-offs and ranks, and calculating whether one more chapter could mean one more mark.

By the time he returned home in Rudrapur, Uttarakhand after the May 3 exam, he was exhausted.

Arthik was asleep when his phone started buzzing on Tuesday morning — and he ignored it initially. But the calls kept coming — and his phone kept pinging with notifications. The exam had been cancelled.

"I sat up in bed, shocked. I couldn't understand what was happening," he recalled.

Days earlier, he had calculated his expected score using the answer key: around 550. Enough, he believed, to get a seat in a government medical college in Uttarakhand in the OBC quota.

This was his fifth attempt at NEET, the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to undergraduate medical education programs. After the exam on May 3, he believed that he may have finally made it. "I am still thinking... from where do I even start preparing again?" he said.

More than 22 lakh candidates took the exam around the country. There have been allegations of malpractice and paper leaks in NEET earlier, but this is the first time that the National Testing Agency (NTA) has cancelled it entirely. The exam will be reconducted with-



A CBI team arrives at the Special Operations Group office in connection with its probe into alleged irregularities and paper leak in the conduct of NEET-UG 2026 exam, in Jaipur on Tuesday. ROHIT JAIN PARAS

out fresh registrations or examination fees.

The cancellation has sent lakhs of aspirants back to the drawing board and renewed the crushing physical and emotional pressure of preparations.

In Arthik's village, there are no coaching centres or online tests. Aspirants prepare using unstable Internet connections, photocopied notes, borrowed guidebooks, and improvised schedules that are built around scheduled electricity cuts and unavoidable household responsibilities.

His "biggest problem", Arthik said, was that he had come back to his village. "There is no system here. No test series. No coaching environment. If the exam happens again, I may have to go back to Kota."

Arthik had taken the exam in 2024 as well — when the Supreme Court had acknowl-

edged paper leaks in parts of Jharkhand and Bihar, but had turned down demands for a re-test saying that there was no "systemic leak" serious enough to compromise the integrity of the entire examination.

He had scored 595 marks that year, and narrowly missed the cut-off for Government Medical College, Haldwani, the college he dreams of attending, where his sister now works as a doctor. "I missed selection by around 10 marks," Arthik said.

In Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, 25-year-old Mohammad Parvez saw the messages in student WhatsApp groups and on Instagram. "I was stunned," he told *The Indian Express*.

Parvez said he had spent six years balancing his preparation for NEET with pursuing a B.Sc degree in Chemistry at Aligarh Muslim University. This year, after graduating, he moved to

Kota for full-time preparation. He had expected to score around 551 marks.

"My dream college was AMU," he said. "I really wanted to study there... I want to be the first doctor in my family. This is my dream. But it feels like God keeps testing me."

In UP's Etah district, 17-year-old Adarsh Chauhan appeared for NEET for the first time. The cancellation, he told *The Indian Express*, has left him more confused than angry.

"It was my first attempt," he said. "But think about the students who appeared for the third or the fourth time. How will they gather the courage to sit for the exam again?"

Some of his friends, he said, had already spent years preparing in Kota. He had been unable to speak to several of them after the news broke. "They are in depression," he said.

ABVP seeks NTA DG's resignation, raises questions on NEET process

Express News Service New Delhi, May 12

RSS STUDENT wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) on Tuesday raised questions on the functioning of the National Testing Agency (NTA), demanding the resignation of the agency's Director General and a comprehensive review of its structure and role.

The ABVP attack came in the backdrop of cancellation of the NEET exams held on May 3 following allegations of paper leak. The CBI is now probing the case. The student organisation said the decision to transfer the investigation to the central agency was an "appropriate and necessary step" and claimed it had been demanding a fair and high-level inquiry from the very beginning of the controversy.

ABVP said all evidence, networks and individuals identified during the CBI probe should be made public so that the "education mafia and corrupt system" allegedly active in national examinations for years could be fully exposed. "No person responsible for playing with the future of lakhs of students should receive protection at any level, and strict action must be ensured against all those found guilty," said the organisation.

Raising broader concerns over repeated controversies surrounding competitive exams, the organisation said recurring irregularities in several national-level tests had raised "serious questions" over the functioning of the NTA. It described repeated incidents affecting students who prepare throughout the year as "deeply unfortunate" and a "betrayal of trust".

BRIEFLY



The fire was doused with the help of four fire engines. EXPRESS

WEST BENGAL

Two dead in Kolkata factory fire, CM Suwendu seeks probe report

TWO PERSONS died and five others were injured in a fire at a factory in Tiljala, Kolkata on Monday afternoon, police said and four fire engines were pressed into service to douse the blaze. The blaze erupted around 1.45 pm at the building on GJ Khan Road under the jurisdiction of the Tiljala police station, they added. Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari has directed Kolkata Police to lodge an FIR and asked officials to submit an enquiry report by 11 am on Wednesday. "As directed by Hon'ble CM, in reference to the fire incident at Tiljala in which 2 persons lost their lives and 5 persons sustained serious burn injuries...Kolkata Police is hereby directed to lodge a specific FIR in the matter immediately," the order stated. ENS

1 killed near LoC as Army foils infiltration bid

AN INFILTRATOR was killed along the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday as Army troops foiled an infiltration bid from the side of Pakistan occupied Kashmir. "Acting on persistent surveillance, a suspicious movement was detected approximately 300 metres inside own territory in the general area of #KrishnaGhati Sector, #Poonch, along the #LoC at around 4 PM today," said Nagrota based White Knight Corps at its X handle. ENS

Four die due to lightning strike in Kerala

FOUR PEOPLE died after being struck by lightning at a hilltop near Mankada in this district on Tuesday evening, police said. All four, aged between 18 and 20 years, were part of a group of seven youths who went to the hill, which is a popular viewpoint in the area, an officer of Mankada police station said. The incident occurred around 6 pm. Police said that seven people were taken to the hospital following the lightning strike, and four of them died by the time they reached there. PTI

WANTED TO CONVERT PIO CARD

HC sets aside MHA communication denying OCI request by Wire's Varadarajan

Sohini Ghosh New Delhi, May 12

NOTING THAT "reasons are heart and soul" in an order, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday set aside a communication by the Ministry of Home Affairs in which journalist Siddharth Varadarajan's request to convert his Person of Indian Origin (PIO) card to Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card was turned down.

Addressing the authorities, Justice Purushendra Kaurav, noting that no reasons had been assigned for denying Varadarajan's request, remarked, "What is this? Can this order be sustained?... This order cannot be sustained, you'll have to reconsider the petitioner's entitlements by way of some speaking order (reasoned order). Let me set aside this order, I will grant you liberty to reconsider it, and pass a speaking order."

The HC said, "Thereafter, the petitioner can take some remedy; otherwise, he cannot even challenge this order. What will the appellate authority do or adjudicate unless there are some reasons given?"

Recording in the order that "there are no reasons assigned in the impugned communication as to why the application could not be considered favourably", and that "unless respondents assign the reason, the appellate court may not be able to appreciate the veracity thereto," the court set aside the April 2 communication, adding that the "reasons are heart and soul" in an order.

While Varadarajan, who is one of the founding editors of digital news platform *The Wire*, had applied for conversion of his PIO card to OCI card in 2022, the MHA, after keeping the application pending for more than four years, refused it in a one-line email on April 2 without ascribing any reasons for the denial. Varadarajan, an American

Recording that there were no reasons assigned as to why the journalist's application "could not be considered favourably", the HC set aside the April 2 communication, adding that the "reasons are heart and soul" in an order

citizen with roots in India and living continuously here since 1995, was issued a PIO card in October 2002.

In 2015, following a notification under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955, all existing PIO cardholders stood deemed to be OCI cardholders by operation of law. Varadarajan had then applied for physical conversion of his PIO card into OCI documentation, after his existing card stopped being machine readable, before FRRO (Foreigners Regional Registration Office) in New Delhi in January 2022.

In the email rejecting his request, the authorities had further told Varadarajan "to avail appropriate visa services from authority for stay and travel as the PIO card is not valid for stay and travel wef 01.01.2026."

The court said that Varadarajan's earlier 2022 application, seeking conversion of PIO to OCI, stands restored, and that the same be reconsidered and an order in this regard be passed by the authorities.

Meanwhile, the court kept Varadarajan's application, seeking permission to travel to Estonia for a conference scheduled from May 15 to 17, pending. Issuing notice to the authorities, the court will hear the matter on Wednesday.

ANJALI SIVARAMAN LEADS THE CAST AS THE ICONIC ARTIST, ALONGSIDE EMILY WATSON, JAIDEEP AHLAWAT AND OTHERS

Mira Nair unveils Amri, a movie inspired by Amrita Sher-Gil's life

Alaka Sahani Mumbai, May 12

FILMMAKER MIRA Nair, who has self-admittedly been deeply inspired by the art of Amrita Sher-Gil, announced her next feature *Amri*, which is based on the life and art of the iconic artist. Set across Hungary, France and India in the early 20th Century, the film traces the worlds of Europe and India that shaped Sher-Gil's imagination and her artistic vision. The film is currently completing production across India and Hungary.

The ensemble cast is led by Anjali Sivaraman (of *Bad Girl* fame) as Amrita Sher-Gil. The movie will feature Emily Watson as her mother, Marie-Antoinette Gottesman, Jaideep Ahlawat as her father, Umrao Singh Sher-Gil, Krisztián Csák-

vári as Victor Egan, Anjana Vasan as Indira Sher-Gil, Jim Sarbh as Karl Khandalavala and Priyanka Chopra-Jonas as Madame Azurie. Chopra-Jonas also serves as an executive producer on the film.

Sher-Gil's work has been impactful on Nair's visual imagination and the filmmaker has been trying to put together the project for nearly four years. Talking about *Amri*, the *Salaam Bombay!* (1988) director said: "Every film I've made in the last several decades has been inspired by the art of Amrita Sher-Gil. She taught me how to see. She absorbed the best European training to distill the soul of India in a way that no one ever had — it is this distillation that has informed my own cinema from the beginning. The bravery of her palette,



Anjali Sivaraman. MIRA NAIR

color and framing of the ordinary people of India has eternally moved me." Known for making acclaimed movies like *Mississippi Masala* (1991), *Monsoon Wedding* (2001) and *The Namesake* (2006), Nair has co-written *Amri* with French screenwriter Clara Royer.

Major exhibitions of Amrita Sher-Gil's works are planned across the world for 2027 starting in Paris, moving to Los Angeles, Doha, and finally in New Delhi where a permanent exhibition is planned

Amri explores Amrita Sher-Gil's coming of age as both an artist and a woman, her restless search for selfhood, her defiance of convention even to the point of scandal in her love life, and her determination to create a visual language en-

tirely her own. The youngest student to ever be admitted in the Académie des Beaux-Arts de Paris, educated and trained in the conventions of European tradition, Amrita evolved a personal aesthetic that highlighted the everyday life of ordinary women and men in India. This was a radical aesthetic breakthrough that later shaped Mira's own sensibility.

Speaking about *Amri*, producer Samudrika Arora shared, "Amrita Sher-Gil's life and oeuvre reflect the aspirations of the modern generation, where identity and unapologetic self-expression meet." Producer Michael Nozik added, "While the film is set between the two World Wars, Amrita is a character out of time and before her time... With Mira's direction, Anjali's performance of Amrita

seizes that spirit of youthful curiosity and rebellion."

Commenting on the upcoming movie, Yashodhara Dalmia, author of *Amrita Sher-Gil: A Life*, said: "Amrita Sher-Gil's story is especially heroic because to be a woman and to become the propagator of modernism in Indian art is no ordinary achievement. The fact that she continues to inspire generations of artists long after her time shows that she could have an spiraling effect on art in India. That apart, her own life is very dramatic and full of struggles which she had to overcome."

Major exhibitions of Amrita Sher-Gil's works are planned across the world for 2027 starting in Paris, moving to Los Angeles, Doha and finally in New Delhi where a permanent exhibition is planned.

● **WEB EXCLUSIVE**
 'PM Modi wants you to work from home. Will your bosses let you?'
 — By Srinath Sridharan
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 Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship.
 — Benjamin Franklin

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RAMNATH GOENKA
 IN 1932
 BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

In a shifting world order, five principles should guide India's diplomacy



RAJA MANDALA
 BY C RAJA MOHAN

P RIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's brief stop in the United Arab Emirates en route to Europe this week comes amid growing uncertainty over the fragile ceasefire between the United States and Iran and the danger of an intensifying regional war. Modi's presence in Abu Dhabi underlines an enduring principle of sound diplomacy: Stand by your partners when they need you.

Cynics will argue that no relationship is permanent. But when two countries are bound by deep economic interests, share stakes in regional stability, and support each other's core interests, there is no room for Indian hesitation in demonstrating solidarity. The UAE has emerged as one of India's most important partners. It is a major supplier of energy, a growing source of investment, and home to millions of Indians whose contributions bind the two countries in ways that go far beyond formal agreements. Over the last decade, the relationship has expanded from trade and remittances to encompass security cooperation, logistics, food security, new technologies, and coordination on regional issues.

The lesson is straightforward. In foreign policy, there is no substitute for nurturing trusted partnerships even while seeking new opportunities. Modi's Gulf visit will be

followed by a tour of Europe, including the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and Italy, as well as a Nordic summit in Oslo.

Meanwhile, the world's attention will be riveted this week on the encounter between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping in Beijing — the US president's first trip to China in nine years. India will also host meetings of the BRICS and Quad foreign ministers in New Delhi and convene an India-Africa summit at the end of the month. Each of these events reflects a different strand of Indian diplomacy. Together, they illuminate five principles that should guide India in a period of extraordinary international turbulence.

The first principle is reciprocity. The UAE has been a consistent partner on issues of central importance to India, including Kashmir and cross-border terrorism. Modi's visit signals that India, in turn, stands with the Emirates at a time of heightened threat to its security.

The second principle is diversification. Modi's European tour underlines how far India's engagement with Europe has evolved. During the Cold War, India's view of Europe was often filtered through its close ties with the Soviet Union. In the decades after the Cold War, India was slow to recognise Europe's strategic significance.

That is no longer true in Delhi. Europe is now central to India's search for export markets, capital, advanced technology, and green-energy partnerships. It has also become a major destination for Indian students, professionals, and tourists. Even Europe's smaller states possess capabilities of direct relevance to India's economic, industrial, and technological modernisation.

The conclusion of trade agree-

ments with the European Union and the European Free Trade Association was a reflection of Delhi's new strategic appreciation of Europe.

The third principle is strategic flexibility. India's outreach to Europe unfolds amid the return of great-power politics and a rapid restructuring of relations among the United States, Europe, Russia, and China. The Donald Trump-Xi Jinping summit in Beijing may not resolve the structural rivalry between the US and China, but it could alter the terms on which they manage competition.

For India, the challenge is not to predict every turn in great-power relations. It is to secure its own interests, limit the negative fallout, and seize new possibilities.

The BRICS and the Quad are often portrayed as ideologically opposed formations — the former as a vehicle for the East to dethrone the Western hegemony, the latter as a strategic bulwark against China. Such descriptions exaggerate the coherence of both groups.

The BRICS includes countries with divergent interests and direct conflicts. The Quad, for all its growing practical cooperation, is not a formal alliance. Delhi, in particular, argued against turning the Quad into a forum for deeper and structured security cooperation.

For India, the emphasis must remain on pragmatic pursuit of interests rather than vacuous ideological slogans. It is also important to note that India's interests in the two forums are not symmetrical. At a time when even longstanding institutions such as NATO and the transatlantic partnership are under strain, and the famed Anglo-Saxon unity looks shaky, it would be unwise to as-

sume that newer coalitions are immune to internal differences.

The fourth principle is strategic expansion. The India-Africa summit at the end of the month highlights a region whose importance to India will grow steadily in the decades ahead.

Africa is central to the future of the global economy. Its youthful population, expanding markets, and rich endowment of critical minerals are attracting increasing attention from all major powers. Parts of the continent are also emerging as important theatres of geopolitical competition.

India's ties with Africa are rooted in anti-colonial solidarity. But the relationship now requires greater strategic focus on trade, investment, connectivity, and security cooperation. Delhi can't forget for a moment that Africa has many powerful suitors who promise more and deliver faster than India.

The fifth and most important principle is domestic renewal. No amount of diplomatic activism can compensate for the economic sclerosis at home. Managing the consequences of geopolitical turbulence, the restructuring of global trade, and the rise of disruptive technologies requires rapid internal reform. That will not be easy. Bureaucratic resistance to change and the political comfort with the status quo remain formidable obstacles. But world history reminds us that only those countries that continually reinvent themselves at home are the ones that leverage the world for the peace and prosperity of their citizens.

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The lesson is straightforward. In foreign policy, there is no substitute for nurturing trusted partnerships even while seeking new opportunities

UP's One District, One Cuisine list leaves out people's kitchens



SADAF HUSSAIN

T HE SEEDS soak overnight. By morning, the pumpkin, watermelon, melon and cucumber kernels — *char magaz* — have softened enough to grind into a pale paste. It goes into yogurt-marinated chicken, the gravy finished with ghee and a little kewra. The dish is *char magaz ka murga*, cooked in Kayastha homes across Lucknow and western UP, the kind of recipe a grandmother adjusts without writing down. It is missing from Uttar Pradesh's new One District, One Cuisine list.

So are Tunday's galawati kebabs, Moradabadi biryani, kakori kebab, Agra's nihari, Aligarh chana dal gosht, and the Awadhi biryani that Raheem and Idrees have cooked for generations. Out of 208 dishes identified under the scheme, not one is non-vegetarian. For a state where meat is eaten across caste, class and religion, this is not a small omission. It changes the shape of the cuisine itself.

Last year, I wrote in these pages that the idea of reducing a district to one dish was flawed to begin with. Cuisines are built from overlap, migration, trade, caste kitchens, religious festivals, market streets and household improvisations. You cannot reduce a district to a single dish without flattening the kitchens that it is made up of. The final list sharpens that argument. It is not only that the list is too small. It also pretends to be a shape the kitchens never had.

UP's food history was never neatly divided into vegetarian and non-vegetarian traditions. The *thali* and the *dastarkhwan* borrowed from each other for centuries. Tehri, assigned to Azamgarh on the list, sits close to biryani in both method and memory. Galawati may have been created for a nawab, but the line outside Tunday belongs to everyone now. In Banaras, *halwais* and *kababchis* have worked the same neighbourhoods for generations. In Rampur, *taar gosht* travelled from Rohilla kitchens into Hindu homes and wedding feasts.

The divide between vegetarian and non-vegetarian cuisine in UP has never been as rigid as policy documents now make it appear. I keep thinking about older state banquets. In 1990, weeks after Nelson Mandela walked free, India hosted him at

Rashtrapati Bhavan with a menu that moved across regions and traditions: Saffron maas, mushroom jalfrezi, idlis, vadas and biryani on the same table. In 2001, when President K R Narayanan hosted General Pervez Musharraf after Kargil, the menu carried Goan prawns, Kashmiri kebabs and Gujarati dal dokhli together. The idea was representation: Many regions, many traditions, many kinds of food on the same table. Last week, when President Droupadi Murmu hosted Vietnamese President To Lam, the banquet was entirely vegetarian for a guest from a country where pho bò is a national dish. Three state tables across three decades tell their own story. The shift is difficult to miss.

Food cultures are rarely as cleanly separated as policy frameworks want them to be. What troubles me most is what this kind of curation does over time. Food survives through repetition and exchange. Through neighbourhoods where the same cook prepares *sevaiyan* during Eid and *kheer* during Diwali because his customers celebrate both. Through dishes like the Allahabadi Christmas cake, made with petha, fennel and rum-soaked fruit, where local Muslim bakers, ingredients and colonial histories settle into something distinctly north Indian. Through markets where vegetarian and meat dishes share ingredients, utensils, vocabulary and memory.

A clean policy document cannot contain that kind of kitchen. Rakesh Sachan, the cabinet minister overseeing the scheme, said this week that the omissions were "not intentional" and that dishes could still be added later. That matters. But the problem is larger than missing kebabs or biryani. The real question is whether one district can ever truthfully speak through one dish.

Meanwhile, the kitchens continue unaffected. Nihari still simmers before dawn in old city lanes. Moradabad still eats biryani the way it always has. Tunday still sells galawati by the thousands. And *char magaz ka murga* will continue to be cooked whether the state recognises it or not. A cuisine is not what appears on a government list. It is what people keep making.

Hussain is a chef and author

Time is ripe for a long-term Russia-Ukraine ceasefire



RAJAN KUMAR

L AST WEEK, Russia and Ukraine agreed to a three-day ceasefire and the exchange of prisoners. The request for the temporary ceasefire came from Russia to commemorate the Allied victory over Nazi Germany in World War II. Ukraine was initially hesitant to honour the request, but US President Donald Trump persuaded it to accept the deal. Ukraine demands a permanent ceasefire, which Russia refuses without a formal peace agreement.

Vladimir Putin announced the ceasefire ahead of Victory Day (May 9). Out of the 75 million people who died in World War II, a staggering 26 million were from the USSR. The Great Patriotic War, the term used in Russia for World War II, occupies a foundational place in its historical memory. Ukraine is an equal inheritor of this legacy. However, in its attempt to distinguish itself from the Soviet Union and Russia, it focuses on its own sacrifices in the fight against the Nazis.

The US-brokered 72-hour ceasefire has ended and hostilities have resumed, but a long-term ceasefire remains possible for three reasons. First, the war is caught in a deadlock. Both sides claim to be making incremental territorial gains, but neither is in a position to achieve its ultimate objective. Russia cannot push Volodymyr Zelenskyy out of power and install a favourable regime, nor does Ukraine have the military capability to push Russian forces out of the territories occupied by Moscow. Russia will not cede land it controls in Crimea, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk. Both sides are incurring heavy casualties.

Second, Trump is unwilling to commit more resources to Ukraine, given the preoccupation with West Asia. Ever since his reelection, he has pressured Ukraine to accept an unfavourable deal. He has also stalled the supply of weapons and financial support to Kyiv. Without US support, Ukraine cannot expect to win. Instead, it risks losing more territory if the war continues. Therefore, Ukraine may ultimately be forced to accept a peace deal.

Third, European economies are faltering due to Trump's tariffs and the wars in Ukraine and Iran. Though the EU has committed \$100 billion in loans to Ukraine, signs of fatigue are emerging. The rising cost of living, growing unemployment and Trump's threats to abandon NATO have created doubts about long-term European support for Ukraine. Therefore, Europe too has compelling reasons to pursue a peace deal. Finally, Russia has begun responding positively to European overtures. Putin has expressed willingness to begin talks over Ukraine and the broader European security architecture. Russia wants Europe to recognise its security concerns, abandon the idea of Ukraine joining NATO, and acknowledge the territories it currently occupies.

Europe and Ukraine are unlikely to accept these demands readily. Nonetheless, the time appears ripe for a ceasefire, provided European leaders initiate direct negotiations with Russia. Europe must take pragmatic steps to secure a long-term ceasefire so that negotiations can begin on territorial disputes, security guarantees and sanctions relief.

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The war is caught in a deadlock. Both sides claim to be making incremental territorial gains, but neither is in a position to achieve its ultimate objective

40 YEARS AGO

May 13, 1986



Buta Singh is home minister

THE PRIME MINISTER, Rajiv Gandhi, expanded his Council of Ministers by inducting 12 new members, including two of cabinet rank, nine ministers of state and one deputy minister. With this expansion, the strength of the Council of Ministers goes up to 58 with all states, particularly Punjab, Assam and Jammu and Kashmir, getting due representation. Gandhi dropped the Minister of External Affairs, Bali Ram Bhagat.

SAD reaffirms faith in Barnala

THE AKALI Dal working committee reaffirmed its "total" faith in the leadership of the CM and

party president, Surjit Singh Barnala. It reiterated its satisfaction with the liberation of the Golden Temple complex from "extremists and separatists" in accordance with the directive of the "Sarbat Khalsa". The SGPC executive, which held a separate meeting to call for Akali unity in the interest of the "Panth", joined the meeting to endorse its resolution reaffirming faith in Barnala.

Advani reorganises BJP

THE BHARATIYA Janata Party president, L K Advani, drastically reorganised the party's national executive, bringing in a younger set of leaders in place of old office-bearers. Advani, who announced the reorganisation at a

press conference, dropped three vice-presidents, four general secretaries, five secretaries and three treasurers. Fifteen new members, a record number, were inducted.

Poll boycott unheeded in Nepal

THE NEPALESE went to the polls to choose a new national assembly, despite a call from most of the Himalayan kingdom's outlawed political parties that the elections be boycotted. Men and women moved enthusiastically to stamp the symbol of their candidates on their ballot. A total of 1,548 people are running for 112 seats of the 140-member unicameral legislature. The other 28 members will be nominated by King Birendra.

West Asia crisis is nudge for fertiliser reform

P RIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's call to Indian farmers to cut chemical fertiliser consumption by half and move towards "natural farming" may not be practical or desirable. The underlying intent, though, may only be to curtail demand and push farmers to use fertilisers judiciously — which is sensible and necessary. Fertilisers supply essential nutrients to crops like nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and sulphur (S) for them to yield harvestable produce. Unfortunately, India has very little natural gas and hardly any rock phosphate, potash or elemental sulphur reserves to produce fertilisers, forcing heavy reliance on imports. That's being tested now by the conflict in West Asia and closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which up to 30 per cent of global fertiliser trade passed till recently.

Successive governments have erred by not just subsidising fertilisers — which entails outflow of scarce foreign exchange — but also encouraging the overuse of high-analysis products, especially urea and di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), causing severe soil nutrient imbalances. Farmers were initially applying fertilisers such as ammonium sulphate (containing 20.5 per cent N and 23 per cent S) and single super phosphate (16 per cent P and 11 per cent S). These gave way to urea and DAP, having very high (46 per cent) content of N and P respectively, with no other macro or micro nutrients. The nutrient use efficiency of the latter fertilisers is low; only around a third of the N in urea is absorbed by the plants, with the rest lost through volatilisation as ammonia gas or leaching underground after conversion into nitrate. Farmers require products that deliver nutrients more efficiently.

The government should simply free or raise the retail prices of fertilisers to their import parity levels. It can replace the existing product-wise subsidy regime with a per-acre payment of, say, Rs 5,000 for all cultivating farmers. The monies from both the fertiliser subsidy savings and PM-Kisan could be redirected towards a direct income support scheme. The West Asia crisis has made the present system of subsidy and price controls on fertilisers unsustainable both fiscally and physically: When product availability is itself a problem, how much can one subsidise? Either way, it opens up space for reform that cannot wait any longer.

Beatles on the roof, for all time

A T LUNCHTIME on January 30, 1969, the Beatles trudged up to the rooftop of Apple Corps, and put on an unannounced concert of material they had cobbled together for a new album. It was, until cops responded to the neighbours' complaints and pulled the plug, magical — a demonstration of the spontaneity that The Beatles, who would never again perform together, were capable of at their best.

The site of the concert, 3 Savile Row in London, is now set to become the first official Beatles museum, complete with never-seen-before memorabilia and archival material. Perhaps this "museumisation" was only to be expected. Time has a way of absorbing even the most radical acts of art into the establishment. The works by Banksy, the guerilla street artist whose murals have targeted consumer culture and corporate greed, now sell for millions of dollars. The Grateful Dead, whose music and "travelling circus" experience were emblematic of the 1960s counterculture movement, became pioneers of merchandising and branding.

The Beatles have long ceased to belong only to the moment that produced them. Their songs are now streamed in the millions, studied by musicologists and enshrined as cultural artefacts. Yet, there is something moving about 3 Savile Row being turned into a museum. The concert lasted less than an hour, interrupted by policemen running up the stairs. Those same stairs will now be climbed by fans looking for a connection to one of the unforgettable "you had to be there" moments of music history.



● **WHAT THE OTHERS SAY**
World Cup ticket prices: \$33,000?
You're having a laugh...
— *The Guardian*

PM's appeal for gold restraint could mark a powerful inflection point



NILESH SHAH

IN 1933, amid the Great Depression, President Franklin D Roosevelt issued Executive Order 6102, effectively confiscating most gold privately held by American citizens to bolster US Fed reserves and reflate the economy at below market prices. Americans largely complied — partly out of patriotism, partly out of fear of stiff penalties. The result? The US Federal Reserve became (and remains) the world's largest official holder of gold, a cornerstone of US national financial strength.

Contrast that with India in 1968. Finance Minister Morarji Desai, a staunch Gandhian, enacted the Gold Control Act to stem a crippling foreign-exchange drain after the 1962 China war and the 1965 Pakistan war. Private ownership of gold bars and coins was banned; holdings had to be converted into jewellery and declared. Goldsmiths and dealers faced strict limits. Desai believed Indians would respond as they had during the freedom struggle to the call given by Mahatma Gandhi — by embracing *swadeshi* restraint and recycling existing gold.

Instead, demand stayed rock-solid. Smuggling exploded. Hawala networks financed it. A vast black economy took root, feeding tax evasion, corruption, and smuggling, eventually leading to crime and terrorism. The Act was repealed in 1990, but the cultural obsession with physical gold endured. Post-colonial India, historically a superpower alongside China, slipped in global rankings while the US consolidated its position as numero uno and China surged ahead from the 1980s onwards.

Fast-forward to May 10, 2026. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing a public rally in Hyderabad, made a direct appeal to



ILLUSTRATION: CR SASIKUMAR

Indians: Postpone non-essential gold purchases — especially jewellery for weddings and functions — for at least one year. He also urged restraint on foreign travel, fuel consumption (revive work-from-home, use public transport), and unnecessary imports. The context? Record gold imports hitting nearly \$72 billion in FY 2025-26, widening the trade deficit, and fresh pressures from West Asia tensions pushing up oil prices. India's forex reserves, while robust at over \$690 billion, face strain from multiple fronts. Modi framed it as a call for national discipline and Atmanirbhar Bharat in action: "We have to save foreign exchange by all means."

This is not a coercive Gold Control Act redux. It is a voluntary, patriotic request — echoing Gandhi and Desai, but in a vastly different India: Liberalised since 1991, digitally connected, and with financial alternatives unimaginable in the 1960s.

The early market reaction was telling — jewellery stocks tumbled on Monday as investors priced in demand moderation voluntarily or otherwise. Yet, history suggests cul-

Record gold imports hitting nearly \$72 billion in FY 2025-26, widening the trade deficit, and fresh pressures from West Asia tensions pushing up oil prices. India's forex reserves face strain from multiple fronts

tural pull runs deep. Physical gold remains a preferred store of value, inflation hedge, and wedding essential for millions. In FY 2025-26 alone, imports surged in value despite some volume moderation, reflecting steady domestic appetite even in the face of higher global prices. Retail savings, especially below the tax radar, still tilt heavily toward physical assets like gold and real estate.

The gold savings route has evolved over the years. Sovereign Gold Bonds (offering 2.5 per cent annual interest plus gold price appreciation, with capital gains tax-free on maturity), Gold ETFs, and digital gold have provided alternatives to physical gold. Financial inclusion via Jan Dhan, UPI, and mutual funds has grown. Yet, physical gold's share in total demand remains dominant, especially during festivals and weddings.

What will determine success this time? Not just fear of social pressure or patriotism, but practical enablers that Desai's era lacked: First, the education and messaging, which has meant framing gold restraint as a contribution to rupee

stability, job creation, and poverty reduction — not a sacrifice. Second, innovation and structuring such as through the Gold Monetisation Scheme, gold recycling scheme, gold lending and borrowing scheme, can be implemented to provide an alternative to reduce gold imports. Third, governance and enforcement: While this is voluntary, cracking down on smuggling (still an issue) and ensuring transparent and well-regulated markets will build trust. Finally, a long-term structural shift will require creating a level playing field across various avenues of household savings from financial to non-financial options across KYC, taxation, and distribution incentives. Accelerating productive investment — manufacturing, infrastructure, skills — so household savings naturally flow into growth-generating assets rather than precious metal.

India today is not the India of 1968. We have a \$4-trillion-plus economy, world-class digital public infrastructure, and a young, aspirational population. Global influence is rising — through G20 leadership, tech exports, and defence indigenisation. Yet, the current account remains vulnerable to commodity shocks.

Prime Minister Modi's appeal is a timely stress test of collective resolve. If Indians respond as Americans did in 1933 — prioritising national interest over immediate personal desire — it could mark a quiet but powerful inflection point. Reduced non-essential gold imports would ease forex pressure, stabilise/strengthen the rupee, free up capital for investment, and accelerate job creation. Millions could be lifted from lower income to higher levels faster.

A small island nation once built an empire on seafaring discipline and determination. A young republic can surely channel its ancient civilisational strength into modern economic prudence.

The choice is ours. In 2026, will we "backstab" the call as in 1968, or rise to it as a mature, self-reliant superpower in the making? History is watching — and so is the world.

The writer is MD, Kotak Mahindra AMC

At 100, David Attenborough has a message we cannot ignore



MANVENDRA SINGH

THE BLEAK grey of the outer wall gave away the socialist pedigree of the flats well before the camera rose further up to capture the hammer and sickle that once dominated more than just this forsaken building. There was nothing visible through the broken windows. The plaster on the walls inside was scaling, as untouched school books fluttered in the breeze.

A hesitant shadow walked through this urban desolation. The screen then showed the sad face of a 94-year-old David Attenborough bringing yet another riveting story to viewers, except this time he was on Netflix. It was yet another documentary, *A Life on Our Planet* (2020), a genre of reportage over which he has reigned across the world, in any language. But this location was different.

"Pripyat in the Ukraine is a place unlike anywhere else I have been. It is a place of utter despair. On the face of it, it seems a pleasant town... It has all the amenities we humans have brought into existence to give us a content and comfortable life — all the elements of our homemade habitat."

Unlike the jungles he covered (*Seven Worlds, One Planet*), the oceans he brought into the living room (*Blue Planet I, II and III*), and polar life (*Frozen Planet I and II*), here he faced the camera from the grimness of a post-nuclear Ukrainian city. "Many people regarded it as the most costly disaster in the history of mankind. But Chernobyl was a single event.

The true tragedy of our time is still unfolding across the globe... I'm talking about the loss of our planet... Its biodiversity... It's happening in my lifetime. I've seen it with my own eyes."

Attenborough has seen more of this planet than any living being. From the middle of the 20th century to well into the 21st, he has travelled to the remotest parts of Earth to bring the natural world to viewers everywhere. He has witnessed the destruction of our natural world. Pripyat is a microcosm for a deeper global contagion. Attenborough likely sees that contagion as part of a larger issue since he describes himself as a "standard boring left-wing liberal". And in an era where science is being challenged by political authority across the world, he will see it as "misery really, the market economy".

Soon after national service in the Royal Navy, Attenborough found himself with a job at the BBC, and he remained there for most of his employed life. He was not in front of the camera in the early years, working as a producer for various projects. It was *Zoo Quest* that launched him as a presenter, albeit with a voiceover from the studio. That was the show which made him a household name in Britain, khaki attire vivid despite the black-and-white footage, whether in West Africa or Indonesia, his Britishness conspicuous.

His most striking feature was his accent, of course — BBC posh, but not pompous. And it has remained that way, almost as a statement of his political philosophy. Even as he turned to greater climate advocacy in later years, Attenborough's contribution to television broadcasting was not limited to the natural wonders of the world. In fact, as director of programming at BBC, Attenborough introduced, as a 1998 interview in *The New Statesman* noted, "along with one-day cricket, Pot Black, floodlit rugby league and Match of the Day — a package designed as sport for the masses and now reinvented as fodder for Murdoch."

Over the years, as he made his way to the front of the camera, Attenborough's self-identification also altered, and he clearly selected the messenger role rather than that of the authority. "Because I appear on TV, people think I'm one of the great naturalists. That's rubbish. Really, I'm a journalist," he once said.

In an era of climate denial and the pursuit of rampant profit over natural resources, Attenborough's message resonates globally.

The writer is a former MP from Rajasthan



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Austerity appeal

THERE HAS been a mixed reaction to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to curb fuel use, shun buying gold, avoid foreign travel, reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and "to buy local" at a time when things are looking unsettled on the economic front globally ('PM frames severity of energy challenge', *IE*, May 12). In any case, it is a belated admission of the impact of the West Asian conflict on India's overall economy and has given rise to the question of why India has not played a geopolitical role strong enough to dissuade the US from launching a wholly unnecessary war on Iran and causing serious damage to the global economy.

C David Milton, Maruthancode

THE PM'S appeal sounds like a ticking time bomb if the Iran crisis persists longer than expected ('PM frames severity of energy challenge', *IE*, May 12). Though India has curated country-specific measures, higher import bills for fuel, fertiliser and food widen trade deficits, putting pressure on the currency and making it difficult to absorb shocks beyond a point. Moody's has already slashed India's GDP growth forecast to 6 per cent due to muted private consumption and higher energy costs. The flight of workers to their home regions also fuels apprehensions of a repeat of the Covid episode.

Madhusree Guha, Kolkata

New CM's tasks

THE RISE of Vijay as Tamil Nadu's chief minister marks a seismic shift from Dravidian hegemony to celebrity-led populism ('CM Vijay begins well, hard part comes now', *IE*, May 12). His first-day orders of 200 free electricity units and enhanced safety squads resonate with welfare ideals, but the economic undercurrents are alarming. Inheriting a staggering debt of Rs 10 lakh crore, Vijay faces a fiscal deficit that threatens to stifle his manifesto. Governance needs more than charisma — it demands resource mobilisation. Vijay must balance distributive justice with fiscal discipline.

SS Paul, Nadia



JUAN CARLOS

IN 2015, Colombia was at a breaking point. The peace talks between the government and the FARC guerrillas had been going on for four long years, yet progress felt painfully slow. Then came the tragedy that nearly ended it all: The FARC killed a group of young, unarmed soldiers. The country was outraged, and President Juan Manuel Santos, who had invested so much in the peace process, announced that he was freezing negotiations. It felt as if decades of efforts toward peace were collapsing before our eyes.

It was during this tense moment that Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar arrived in Colombia. I had approached the government before his visit, sharing Gurudev's work around the world and suggesting that perhaps a new perspective, a spiritual one, might break the deadlock. Even President Santos's daughter, who followed Gurudev on social media, offered to help arrange a meeting. Initially, the President agreed to see him for only 10-15 minutes, but when they finally sat down together, the conversation flowed so deeply and naturally that it continued for over an hour. By the end, President Santos had invited Gurudev to Havana, Cuba, where the FARC leadership was gathered for peace negotiations.

When Gurudev arrived in Havana, there was understandable scepticism. After all, the FARC had been at war for over 50 years. Gurudev did not lecture or argue. He spoke to them with warmth and positivity, appealing not to their politics but to their humanity. Over

What set the Art of Living apart from other organisations involved in the Colombian peace process was the level of trust and personal connection it established with the FARC leadership

the course of three days, he met with their top negotiators, including Iván Márquez, the chief of the FARC delegation.

What set the Art of Living apart from other organisations involved in the Colombian peace process was the level of trust and personal connection it established with the FARC leadership. Unlike many groups that worked with them from a distance, Gurudev engaged directly, showing genuine interest in their concerns and offering concrete help, even connecting them to the wider world. For example, in Havana, the FARC leaders met the Art of Living president from Colombia, a former Minister of Environment from the extreme right-wing government that had been in power before Santos's administration, and a sworn enemy of the FARC.

It was the first time they were speaking to someone from the opposite side, yet the dialogue unfolded with openness and mutual respect. This closeness, both personal and sustained, was something they said they had not experienced with other organisations. I believe that, through this, the Colombian government began to realise they had found something extraordinary because they had earned the trust of the FARC. In any negotiation, the hardest part is finding a mediator whom both parties trust.

At first, it seemed as if nothing was changing. From the outside, you would not have thought these conversations were moving mountains. But then, something extraordinary happened. Már-

From Colombia, a thank you to Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Vijay's challenge: Managing India-Tamil Nadu-Sri Lanka



N MANOHARAN AND SAANVI BANYANA

TAKING INTO consideration the Tamila Vetti Kazhagam's (TVK) election manifesto and party leader Vijay's statements, two issues are expected to be the friction points in the India-Tamil Nadu-Sri Lanka triangulation: Ethnic Tamils and fishermen. In its manifesto, the TVK emphasised citizenship for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees settled in Tamil Nadu and that it would also press the Union government to safeguard the rights of Tamils living in Sri Lanka. The TVK understands that foreign policy is the domain of the Union and any steps on the ethnic issue have to go through the Centre. Thus, the

TVK is unlikely to cross swords with New Delhi and will act as a pressure group.

In the party's very name, "Tamilagam" is interpreted as "the inner homeland of Tamils, and also the land where Tamils live" connected by an "umbilical-cord". In a speech delivered in September last year, Vijay lamented that Sri Lankan Tamils "are suffering after losing a leader who showed them motherly affection", which was widely seen as a reference to Velupillai Prabhakaran of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). At the same time, depending on who its coalition partners are, the TVK will have to maintain a balance.

The TVK has paid considerable attention to the issue of fishermen. Of the many coastal assembly constituencies in which the fishermen community have significant electoral clout, the TVK won

15 of them. In its resolutions, the TVK blamed the governments of Sri Lanka and India for failing "to adhere to or enforce the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)". In particular, it pointed fingers at the Sri Lankan government, which "has already been acting beyond limits against our (Tamil Nadu) fishermen" and "now arrests them monthly and yearly, accusing them of crossing the border to fish".

As an interim solution, the TVK emphasised that "India should demand the

Of the two issues — ethnic Tamils and fishermen — the latter is expected to be more crucial from the electoral mileage perspective

return of our lost Kachchatheevu island" and has promised to "press New Delhi truthfully and sincerely to safeguard traditional rights of Indian fishermen in the Gulf of Mannar as per the maritime agreement between India and Sri Lanka". Practically speaking, the fishermen issue goes beyond Kachchatheevu and is rooted in bottom trawling, unsustainable exploitation of fisheries, and the crossing of the maritime boundary. Unless these are addressed, there is little hope of a resolution.

The TVK manifesto lists more than a dozen promises for fishermen: A fishing ban allowance, insurance, fuel, a minimum support price for certain fish varieties, housing, skill development, separate outlets to sell fish products, fishing harbours, cold storage, and help to procure deep-sea fishing boats. If imple-

mented diligently, the fishing community's problems may be ameliorated over time. But it has to be seen in an interconnected and holistic manner. In the larger context, Vijay suggested that India's "foreign policy must be formulated in consultation with the Tamil Nadu government. A Tamil representative should be appointed as the Indian envoy to Sri Lanka."

In sum, of the two issues — ethnic Tamils and fishermen — the latter is expected to be more crucial from the electoral mileage perspective. The best way forward for the TVK is to avoid a confrontational approach, both with New Delhi and Colombo.

Manoharan is professor and director, and Banyana is researcher at Centre for East Asian Studies, Christ University, Bengaluru

SABARIMALA REFERENCE

SC: Need to ensure social reform conforms to 'Lakshman rekha', doesn't hollow out religion

Express News Service
New Delhi, May 12

UNDERLINING THE need to ensure that social reform measures conform to the "Lakshman rekha" set by the legislature and do not hollow out a religion, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said courts may be compelled to interfere if any such reform is thrust upon people against their wish.

"If the people of this country, through their elected representatives, raise a common voice that this issue requires social reform, probably the court will accept it as a social reform. But if it is against the wish and will of the people — something is thrust upon them or, as a rule of gagging them, maybe the court will interfere," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, presiding over a nine-judge bench, said.

The bench also comprising Justices B V Nagarathna, M M

Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi, is considering questions arising from petitions seeking review of the SC's September 28, 2018, judgment striking down age restrictions on entry of women to the Sabarimala temple in Kerala.

One of the key questions before the bench is "the interplay between the rights of persons under Article 25 of the Constitution and the rights of religious denominations under Article 26".

Article 25(1) guarantees the freedom of conscience, while Article 25(2) (b) empowers the state to make laws for social reform or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus. Article 26 (a) gives religious denominations, and any section thereof, right to establish and maintain

institutions for religious and charitable purposes, while Article 26(b) gives them the right to manage their own affairs in matters of religion.

Appearing for the state of Kerala, Senior Advocate Jai-deep Gupta asserted that Article 25(2)(b) makes it clear that steps taken for social reforms will not be a trespass on religious rights.

Gupta said, "...many social rules and practices historically came to be sanctified as religious customs. Therefore, if the State wishes to undertake social reform, it may inevitably have to engage with religion itself. That is why the Constitution expressly grants that power to the State ... The Constitution itself creates a separate compartment for such legislative intervention, thereby making it clear that when the State acts for social welfare and reform under Article 25(2)(b), it is not necessarily trespassing upon

protected religious rights."

Justice Nagarathna said that under Article 25(2)(b), "in the name of reform, you cannot violate what is guaranteed under Article 25(1) ... No doubt it is empowering the state, social reform ... cannot hollow out religion".

Gupta said "you cannot hollow out the entirety of the religion, but social reform if it requires change, in that event, and if you do it, somebody will not be able to use Article 25(1) against you".

Justice Kumar asked, "Suppose there is a religious practise in Guruvayur temple, they close the temple for 8-10 times a day for some rituals. Then there will be heavy rush, number of people will be waiting. Under the guise of saying that it is causing public nuisance, under the guise of social reform, can they say no you stop it, restrict it to only 3, 5...?"

Gupta said, "Speaking for myself, I am sure Your Lord-

ships will not accept that kind of reform."

"But the framers were most conscious of what should be protected, that the civilisation must continue, and therefore, they have come to certain ... articles are framed in a particular way. Today, are we as a nine-judge bench going to upset the civilisation is the question," Justice Nagarathna said.

Senior Advocate Menaka Guruswamy appearing for Swami Agnivesh said that the words "sections of Hindus" in Article 25(2)(b) includes women of all age groups within Hinduism and therefore, should be given a broad interpretation. She contended that a restrictive interpretation would effectively wipe out the rights of Hindu women to practice their religious beliefs and customs.

Senior Advocate Shadan Farasat appearing for two academics said the expression morality in Articles 25 and 26

includes both public and constitutional morality. He said though the two largely go hand in hand, there may be instances where public morality "reflects the prejudices of the time".

To buttress his argument, he cited a 2025 survey according to which more than 50 per cent Indians were against inter-caste marriage and more than 60 per cent were against inter-religious marriages. "That's the public morality of 2025. Your Lordships will not enforce it," Farasat said.

The CJI, however, questioned how such surveys can be trusted.

"The question is how to rely on these kind of surveys. Everybody knows how these are tailored ...," the CJI said, adding that to reflect the reality, "there has to be some very authenticated data ... it can't be only because some people are sitting in air-conditioned rooms writing some articles with some particular pre-judge agenda..."



Security personnel display weapons recovered from Maoist dumps during an operation in Narayanpur district, Chhattisgarh, Tuesday. PTI

HIDDEN IN BASTAR'S JUNGLES

Security forces recover Rs 1 crore cash, AK-47 rifles and explosives

Jayprakash S Naidu
Raipur, May 12

IN CHHATTISGARH'S Bastar division, which had been a stronghold of the Maoists for several years before intensified security operations led to the killing and surrender of hundreds of cadres over the last two years, security forces have in recent days recovered a total of Rs 1 crore in cash and a large cache of weapons that had been hidden in the jungle by the rebels.

Many of these operations have been taking place in Abujhmad, a large unsurveyed area in the Bastar region, which was once known as the headquarters of Maoist leadership. More than 100 Maoists were gunned down in Abujhmad since 2024, including the general secretary of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), Nambala Keshava Rao alias Basavaraju. Following this hundreds of Maoist cadres from the area have surrendered.

As part of operations to recover hidden Maoist weapons, four jawans had found explosive material that suddenly blew up while they were trying to defuse them, leading to the deaths of the jawans in the Chottebathiya in Kanker district, from where Abujhmad begins. On Saturday, during one such operation in Nelangur village near Chhattisgarh-Maharashtra border, forces found Rs 84 lakh in cash concealed in a bag buried in the ground along with a couple of AK47 rifles buried nearby.

"In another operation in north Bastar, we found Rs 14 lakh cash. In all, we found Rs 1 crore cash. The operations were undertaken based on information provided by some surrendered Naxals," said Narayanpur district Superintendent of Police Robinson Guria.

"There is a possibility of more weapons, explosives, and daily-use materials hidden in the forests of Abujhmad by slain Maoists being recovered. A total of 270 weapons has been recovered in the district during the year 2025-26," said Guria.

Over the past month, Narayanpur police in a joint operation with the District Reserve Guard (DRG), the Special Task Force (STF), the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Border Security Force (BSF) carried out intensive search and area domination operations in remote and sensitive regions.

Apart from the cash, forces recovered three AK-47 rifles, three SLR rifles, two .303 rifles, one .315 rifle, two 12-bore guns, two country-made pistols and one air gun, along with five AK-47 magazines, 13 SLR magazines, one INSAS rifle magazine, two .303 rifle magazines, one .315 rifle magazine, 113 live AK-47 cartridges, 182 live SLR cartridges, 45 live .303 cartridges, 41 live .315 cartridges, 19 live 12-bore cartridges and 12 SMG cartridges.

The seizures also included 132 BGL shells, two BGL launchers, 14 BGL cartridges, eight electronic detonators, six bundles of cordex wire, around 5 kg of Sora explosive material, 3 kg of white powder, four sets of radio cells, two bundles of electric wire, six walkie-talkies, and other daily-use materials.

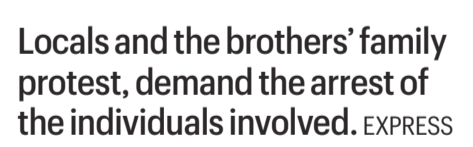
TWO DALIT men, who are brothers, were allegedly assaulted and called casteist slurs over a dispute while drinking water from a pot at a wedding in Uttarakhand's Haldwani.

A complaint has been filed by one of the brothers, but an FIR is yet to be registered, with police saying that they are probing the matter.

According to the complaint filed by Umesh Tamta, his brother Shubham and relatives Rakesh Arya and Ajay Arya were at a wedding in Deval Malla village to operate the DJ system on Sunday night. At one point, Rakesh Arya went to drink water from a pot when the family of the groom allegedly targeted him.

"They asked him why he was there and slapped him. After he informed my brother that he had been assaulted by the family, Shubham went to the house to confront them. He slapped one of the youths there, and in retribution, the man gathered his uncle and friends and started attacking Shubham and hurling casteist abuses," Tamta told *The Indian Express*.

Shubham was allegedly kicked in the face and body, and is currently hospitalised. When Tamta was informed of the incident, he went to the spot and was allegedly hit on the head with a sharp weapon. "I asked them why they were beating up my brother. They claimed that Shubham had hit their brother and struck me with a rod. While my head was bleeding, another man tried to strangle me. I was begging them to stop, and it seemed like I was taking in my last breath



Locals and the brothers' family protest, demand the arrest of the individuals involved. EXPRESS

when someone intervened and made them stop. They also called us slurs during the altercation," Tamta alleged.

While Tamta has a head injury, his brother has a fracture in his spine, the family claimed. The duo has been admitted to a private hospital in the city. The complaint has sought action under sections of attempted murder and the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Following the incident, locals and Tamta's family protested in front of the police station, demanding the arrest of the individuals involved.

Police said they are undertaking an inquiry into the events and have received a counter-complaint from the other party, alleging that their mother was injured in the attack. Kathgodam police station personnel said that four men were detained under section 172 of the BNSS. "We are probing the incident and have collected the statements of both parties. We are enquiring what caused the incident and if the violence was caste-based," he said.

50 paise a kg: Onion price crash leaves Maharashtra farmers drowning in debt

Shubham Kurale
Pune, May 12

WHEN JITENDRA Solanke drove his tractor loaded with onions to the Satana Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) in Nashik's Satana taluka on May 8, he was hoping to at least recover his input costs. What he got instead was a rate of 50 paise per kilogram — half a rupee for produce he had spent over a lakh of rupees growing.

"I had medium-sized onions — not the small 'golti' (small-sized) variety that usually fetches lower rates. Waiting a full day, only one trader showed up, and this is what he offered," said Solanke, a marginal farmer from Karegaon village who cultivates 1.5 acres, all of it under onion. "When I approached the APMC officials to flag the low rates, they said they couldn't intervene. I had no choice but to sell."

The numbers are stark. Solanke invested over Rs 1 lakh this season — money borrowed from a local moneylender. His entire harvest of roughly 100 quintals, much of it damaged by unseasonal rain, earned him Rs 15,000. He is now staring at an unpaid debt of Rs 85,000 — principal and mounting interest.

What makes his situation particularly bitter is the timing. Just six days earlier, on May 2, onions from the same field fetched Rs 3.50 per kg. "The government must step in and fix a rate of at least Rs 20 per kg. How are we supposed to survive otherwise? If this goes on, farmer suicides will keep rising," Solanke said.

A Re (-1) invoice

While Solanke's ordeal reflects the broader distress across Maharashtra's onion belt, it was a crumpled pay-



Prakash Galadhar shows the receipt of his harvest. He got Re 1 per kilogram for his produce.

ment invoice from Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar that captured the crisis most viscerally — and went viral on social media.

Prakash Galadhar, 45, a farmer from Varudi village in Paithan taluka, carried 25 sacks of onions — totalling 1,262 kg — to the Paithan APMC on May 3. After the auction, his total earnings came to Rs 1,262. That's Re 1 per kilogram.

But the actual blow came after deductions. Transport, weighing, storage, and handling charges wiped out even that meagre amount — and Galadhar was told he owed the trader Re 1 more than he had earned.

"I sold around 12 quintals and got a rate of Re 1/kg. Once they subtracted all the charges, I was left with nothing — in fact, I had a due of Re 1 to pay back," Galadhar said. "I threw away the remaining stock. There was no point bringing it in."

The receipt — showing a net

payable of Re 1 by a farmer to the trader who had toiled through a full season — spread rapidly across WhatsApp groups and Instagram, becoming a symbol of just how broken the economics of onion farming have become.

Galadhar's troubles do not end in the fields. A couple of years ago, he married off his daughter, and the financial strain of that occasion still lingers. "I still owe over Rs 5 lakh to lenders. This onion crisis has left me completely shattered," he said.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Ibrahim Bagwan, a trader at the Paithan APMC who purchased Galadhar's harvest, pointed to two compounding factors. "Onion arrivals have surged in Karnataka, Telangana, and other states. That's why local supply, which used to be sold there, is now taken to APMCs within Maharashtra, so over supply, and it has driven

prices down," he said. "Galadhar's produce was also of below-average quality, which affected what it could fetch. Better-quality onions in the same market are currently getting Rs 7 to Rs 10 per kg."

Damaged harvests and a war abroad

Traders say the price crash is the result of several forces converging at once. Shivam Dhumal, owner of Agro Indi Exim Pvt Ltd and a trader at Pune's Gultekdi wholesale market, explained that the unseasonal rain across Maharashtra has hurt the shelf life of the current stock. "Quality has taken a hit, which is why prices are low. In the Gultekdi market right now, wholesale rates range between Rs 5 and Rs 12 per kg depending on quality," he said.

He also pointed to the impact of the ongoing conflict in West Asia on export demand. "With exports down, domestic

supply has gone up. But prices should recover — we're expecting rates to cross Rs 20-25 per kg by June, and potentially Rs 35-40 around Diwali," Dhumal added.

What farmers' representatives are demanding

Bharat Dighole, President of the Maharashtra State Onion Growers' Association, has written to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis seeking immediate intervention.

"We have asked the government to provide a subsidy of Rs 1,500 per quintal as a short-term relief measure. We also demand that the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (Nafed) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) begin procurement. They should purchase only from APMC mandis, so it can omit proxies, and the benefit actually reaches the farmer," Dighole said.

On structural reform, he said, "Given the rising cost of inputs — fertilisers, seeds, labour, irrigation, storage, transport — the minimum floor price for onion procurement must be fixed at Rs 3,000 per quintal (Rs 30 per kg). Without that kind of protection, farmers will remain at the mercy of the market every single season."

NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule also weighed in, calling on the state government to act. "It is deeply disheartening that farmers — most of them marginal landholders who work incredibly hard — are being paid just Rs 1 per kilo. They deserve justice. The government must intervene and focus on the efficient implementation of the beneficiary schemes," she said.

CBI arrests 3 men after chase, Punjab Vigilance chief's aide absconding

Man Aman Singh Chhina & Jagpreet Singh Sandhu
Chandigarh, May 12

THE CBI arrested three individuals, including two middlemen, in connection with an alleged Rs 13-lakh bribery case involving senior Punjab Vigilance Bureau officers, the agency on Tuesday said. The CBI, which also carried out late night raids at the Vigilance headquarters in Mohali, said the middlemen were arrested following a high-speed chase while the Reader to the Directors General (Vigilance) remains at large.

DG (Vigilance) Sharad Satya Chauhan said he was in office during the raids and added that "the Bureau will cooperate with CBI in whatever action they are taking". The arrested middlemen have been identified as Vikas Goyal, alias Vicky Goyal, and his son Raghav Goyal, and the third individual is their associate Ankit Wadhwa. A Special CBI Court in

Chandigarh remanded Vikas and Raghav in three day police custody.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Bhawna Jain also sent co-accused Wadhwa to 14 days judicial custody.

The CBI action stems from an FIR it had registered under Section 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Sections 7 and 7A of the Prevention of Corruption Act on a complaint of Punjab state tax officer Amit Kumar, who had accused Goyals of demanding Rs 20 lakh for securing the closure of a complaint against him in the office of DG (Vigilance).

"It was alleged that both the accused were acting as intermediaries for senior Vigilance officials and were using their influence to assure the complainant that his matter could be settled. OP Rana, the reader to DG (Vigilance) assured the complainant of closure of the complaint once illegal gratification is paid," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

PCOS is now PMOS — to help with correct diagnosis and treatment

Anuradha Mascarenhas
Pune, May 12

INDIA HAS been closely involved in the global consensus-building process that has led to the renaming of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) to Polycystic Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS), a change, experts say, corrects decades of misunderstanding that reduced the disorder to just "ovarian cysts". The renaming, published in *The Lancet*, follows 14 years of global collaboration involving clinicians, researchers, patient groups and women living with the condition.

Dr Madhuri Patil, president-elect of the Indian Society for Assisted Reproduction and one of the clinicians involved in pushing the global collaboration, said the renaming reflects the condition's broader impact across the endocrine, metabolic and reproductive systems and could improve how it is diagnosed, explained and treated.

"We did over 22,000 survey responses, multiple workshops,

E. EXPLAINED

Not just ovarian cysts, depression too

PMOS affects around one in eight women globally, or more than 170 million women, and is associated with a wide spectrum of symptoms including irregular or absent menstrual cycles, infertility, pregnancy complications, excess hair growth, acne, anxiety, depression, weight gain, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

women with lived experience, health professionals and 56 patient and professional societies," she said.

On the need for renaming the PCOS, Professor Helena Teede, Director of the Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation and president

of the International Society of Endocrinology, said: "For too long, the name reduced a complex, long-term endocrine disorder to a misunderstanding about 'cysts' and a narrow focus on the ovaries. This contributed to delayed diagnosis and inadequate treatment."

Normally, during each menstrual cycle, several follicles start growing in the ovary. One becomes the dominant follicle. It matures fully and releases an egg (ovulation). The remaining follicles naturally regress. In what was traditionally called PCOS, that maturation process gets disrupted. Instead of one follicle fully developing, many follicles stall midway. They remain small and immature rather than progressing to ovulation. These are called arrested follicles. On an ultrasound, these immature follicles often appear as multiple small round fluid-filled structures around the ovary. For years, they were mistaken for "cysts", which is one reason the term PCOS was misleading.

The change carries particular

significance for India, where the prevalence of the condition formerly known as PCOS is between 16% and 18%.

Dr Patil said the inclusion of "metabolic" in the new name is especially relevant given India's high rates of metabolic syndrome and insulin resistance. "Even adolescents with PCOS can show metabolic abnormalities, though the incidence rises with age," she said.

She pointed to the "thrifty genotype" hypothesis — the idea that populations historically exposed to cycles of food scarcity evolved to store energy more efficiently, increasing susceptibility to obesity and Type 2 diabetes in modern environments of calorie abundance.

Dr Patil said the term polycystic better captures the condition's effects beyond the ovaries, including disruptions involving the hypothalamus and pituitary gland, insulin regulation and pancreatic function, adipose tissue and obesity-related inflammation and adrenal hormone production.

Moody's slashes India's growth forecast for 2026 to 6%

ENS Economic Bureau
New Delhi, May 12

MOODY'S RATINGS on Tuesday downgraded its gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection for India to 6% from a previous estimate of 6.8% for 2026, citing the economic fallout from the ongoing West Asia conflict.

The revision highlights risks from elevated energy prices, subdued private consumption, softer industrial activity, and potential supply chain disruptions.

Moody's Global Macro Outlook May update predicts that the impact of higher energy prices and fuel and fertilizer shortages will differ significantly across countries over the next six months. This disparity arises from varying levels of exposure and resilience.

"The global outlook remains highly uncertain amid an increasingly prolonged confrontation and fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran. We estimate growth losses ranging from around 0.8 percentage points for India," Moody's said.

India relies heavily on West Asian oil and gas imports, making it vulnerable to spikes in global crude prices triggered by regional instability.

Higher energy and input costs are likely to widen the trade deficit, strain government finances through increased fuel and fertiliser subsidies, and dampen momentum in gross fixed capital formation. While strategic petroleum reserves may buffer short-term shocks, prolonged disruptions could elevate inflation and weigh on agricultural output and food security.

Moody's revised its GDP growth estimates for India for the calendar year 2027, down from 6.5% to 6%. FE

CORE INFLATION UNCHANGED AT 3.7% FOR FOURTH STRAIGHT MONTH

April inflation at 3.48%, dining out gets dearer

Siddharth Upasani
New Delhi, May 12

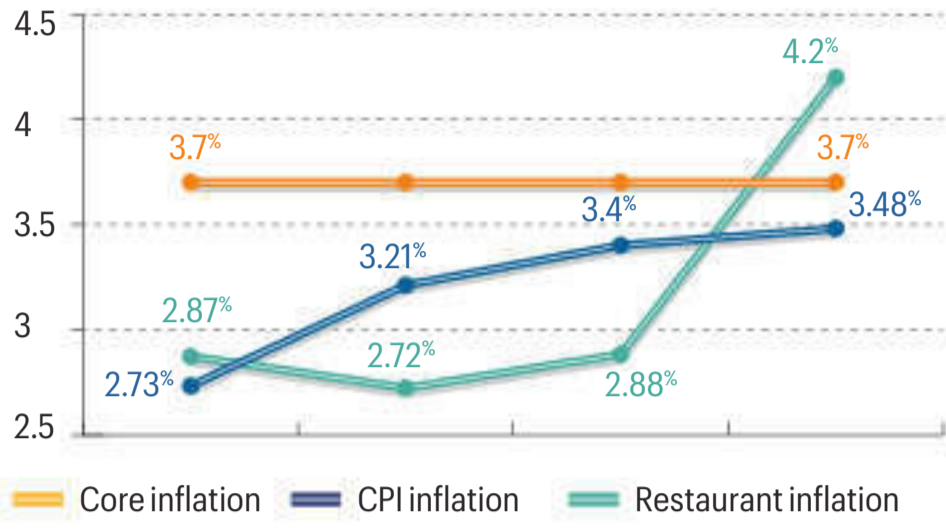
RETAIL PRICES rose 3.48% year-on-year in April, slightly higher than the 3.4% increase recorded in March, as the government's efforts to shield consumers from the West Asia energy shock continued to bear fruits. However, certain categories are increasingly seeing prices rising at a faster pace, with eating out in particular becoming more expensive, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Tuesday.

"After 74 days of the West Asia conflict, the upside risks... seem to be materialising at a snail's pace. That indicates the consumer remains largely protected so far," Dharmakirti Joshi, Chief Economist at ratings agency Crisil, said.

In April, the 'restaurant and accommodation services' category saw prices rise 4.2% year-on-year, sharply higher than the 2.9% increase seen in March, "reflecting the impact of higher commercial LPG prices and shortages impacting menu prices at eateries", ANZ economists Dhiraj Nim and Sanjay Mathur said.

The price index for the 'restaurant and accommodation services' category jumped 1.5% month-on-month in April as against sequential increases of a mere 0.4% in March and 0.2% in February. In comparison, the headline CPI was up 0.3% month-on-month in April, with the Consumer Food Price Index 0.2% higher, indicating subdued overall price momentum. Retail prices, on the whole, have yet to show any impact of the

• EATERIES ARE PASSING ON HIGHER LPG PRICES TO DINERS



RESTAURANT INFLATION REFERS TO INFLATION FOR 'RESTAURANTS AND ACCOMMODATION SERVICES' CATEGORY; SOURCE: MOSPI, THE INDIAN EXPRESS CALCULATIONS

West Asia war, with core inflation — an indicator of underlying price pressures — unchanged at 3.7% for the fourth month in a row, according to calculations by *The Indian Express*. This suggests, according to Piramal Finance Chief Economist Debopam Chaudhuri, that manufacturers across affected sectors such as plastics, pharmaceuticals, and personal care products "continue to absorb a significant part of the increase in input costs".

While inflation remains within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tolerance band of 2-6%, the data shows higher input costs are being passed on to households.

In February, prices of 236 of the 358 items in the CPI basket were higher compared to January. This number rose to 286 in March and was broadly similar at 282 in April. Meanwhile, the number of items whose prices have fallen compared to the previous month decreased from 106 in February to 57 in

March and 60 in April. "Rural inflation at 3.74% is at 15-month high and with around 90% year-on-year increase in the price of Indian crude basket in April, some spillover to the domestic price pressure is imminent in the coming months," warned Rajni Thakur, Chief Economist at L&T Finance. Urban inflation stood at 3.16% in April.

Interest rate hikes on the horizon?

At 3.48%, the April headline retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was lower than what economists had expected and remains below the RBI target of 4%. However, the central bank as well as other economists are predicting prices will rise at a faster rate in the coming months. The RBI has forecast CPI inflation to average 4.6% in FY27: 4% in April-June, 4.4% in July-September, 5.2% in October-December, and 4.7% in the first three months of 2027.

Q4 & FY26 GDP data release pushed to June 5

New Delhi: GDP figures for financial year 2026 and the January-March quarter will now be released on June 5 instead of May 29, the statistics ministry said Tuesday, to ensure better coverage of data, namely audited financial results of listed companies — deadline for which is May 31 — and the central government's finances.

The new date will apply to all future Q4 and full-year provisional estimates. Released together, the two data have so far been published on the last working day of May. Now, they will be released on June 7 or the previous working day should it be a holiday. ENS

"Persistently elevated energy prices due to the West Asia conflict and possible El Niño conditions (which could have a negative impact on southwest monsoon) pose upside risks to inflation," the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee had said last month while leaving the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%.

According to Upasna Bhardwaj, Chief Economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank, the inflation outlook "remains clouded". And while the RBI is seen staying on "wait and watch mode" to assess the pass-through of higher global energy prices to consumers, "the risks for early rate hikes, probably from October onwards, are building up."

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Key indices fall 2% amid IT rout as rupee hits new low

Akash Mandal
Mumbai, May 12

KEY STOCK indices fell nearly 2% on Tuesday, largely driven by a selloff in IT stocks on AI-related fears, with investor sentiment remaining downbeat on account of the ongoing West Asia crisis showing no sign of abating and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's austerity advisory to citizens.

The rupee too continued its downward spiral, hitting a fresh low of 95.75 against the US dollar before closing at 95.63 — the lowest it has ever ended a session.

The Nifty IT sectoral index fell 3.7% to its lowest level since May 2023 after AI giant OpenAI said on Monday that it is setting up a company to help organisations deploy AI systems. The IT sector has already been hit by concerns of 'AI-deflation' to its order books and loss of future business due to Anthropic's success with its Claude suite of models.

The Nifty 50 ended 1.8% lower at 23,379.55. Meanwhile, crude oil prices rose past \$105 a barrel, exerting pressure on the rupee, after US President Donald Trump on Monday called Iran's response to the US' latest offer "garbage".

"The market has been cold due to Trump's and our PM's comments, as the conflict is expected to stretch on now. Geopolitical developments will continue to drive the market direction, and volatility is expected to remain high," a research head at a domestic broking firm said. The India VIX, a measure of market volatility, gained nearly 4% Tuesday.

"Stalled US-Iran negotiations, continued disruption around the Strait of Hormuz driving a fresh surge in energy prices, a rupee slipping to record lows, persistent FII outflows, and broad-based weakness across sectors including IT, defence and realty collectively triggered a decisive sell-off through the session," said Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money.

Many other global markets also fell after Trump's comments, with hopes of a longer-term ceasefire in West Asia looking bleak. The US markets had lost up to 1%. The South Korean market ended over 2% lower. European shares also remained lower in early trade Tuesday.

While the Centre has so far shielded consumers from elevated global energy prices — data released Tuesday showed retail inflation edged up only



Indian currency fell to 95.75 against the greenback. REUTERS

• IT stocks drive losses on OpenAI new plan

STOCK	% CHANGE
TCS	-3.74
Wipro	-3.24
HCL Tech	-4.01
Tech Mahindra	-4.21
LTM	-4.76

SOURCE: NSE

political developments will continue to drive the market direction, and volatility is expected to remain high," a research head at a domestic broking firm said. The India VIX, a measure of market volatility, gained nearly 4% Tuesday.

"Stalled US-Iran negotiations, continued disruption around the Strait of Hormuz driving a fresh surge in energy prices, a rupee slipping to record lows, persistent FII outflows, and broad-based weakness across sectors including IT, defence and realty collectively triggered a decisive sell-off through the session," said Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money.

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While the Centre has so far shielded consumers from elevated global energy prices — data released Tuesday showed retail inflation edged up only

slightly to 3.48% in April from 3.4% in March — speculation is rife that the pump price of petrol and diesel may be increased, considering the losses oil marketing companies are having to bear. Speaking at the CII Annual Business Summit on Tuesday, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the government will have to take a view at some point on how long public sector OMCs can continue to suffer losses by selling fuel below market price, with total losses of the three refiners-cum-fuel retailers projected at Rs 1 lakh crore in the April-June quarter at current price levels.

IT apart, the NSE's other sectoral indices also ended lower, with consumer durables, real estate, and financial services some of the worst hit. Shares of jewellery retailers slumped for the second straight day following Modi's call on Sunday and Monday to avoid buying gold for a year. The request for austerity has rattled markets, with analysts cautioning that Modi's appeal is a sign of "potential policy shift ahead". FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

States' capex loans to be linked to renewable energy adoption

Pratyush Deep
New Delhi, May 12

THE GOVERNMENT is set to link the adoption of renewable energy to the long-term, interest-free loans states get from the Centre for capital expenditure in its push for greater clean energy adoption.

Speaking at the Confederation of Indian Industry's Annual Business Summit 2026 on Tuesday, Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said the policy tweak has been approved by the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Power. "RE (renewable energy) adoption is now being linked with fiscal incentives for the states. The new policy has been accepted by the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Power," Joshi said, adding that consumption of greater renewable energy will be one of the conditions for availing loans under the said scheme.

The 2026-27 Union Budget allocated Rs 2 lakh crore as 50-

year, interest-free capex loans for states called Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI).

Under this programme, while Rs 75,000 crore is 'untied' — or provided without any conditions — the majority is tied to the reform performance of each state across a variety of spheres ranging from power, mining, agriculture, and public finance, among others.

The better a state performs on these reform criteria, the more they can avail from the 'tied' component of the programme. The loans availed under the SASCI programme count over and above each state's net borrowing ceiling, which is capped at 3% of their Gross State Domestic Product, as per the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act. Without revealing further details of the policy, the Minister maintained it would encourage states to further adopt renewable energy. FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• AI drives new-age entrepreneurship

Nearly three out of four Gen Z entrepreneurs are pursuing multiple income streams, marking a shift away from traditional linear careers to a flexible 'portfolio career' model, said a report by LinkedIn. India is emerging as a leading indicator of global entrepreneurial evolution.

75% Gen Zs (1997-2012) are opting for flexible ways to work as opposed to 62% of Gen X (1965-1980)

80% Indian founders say entrepreneurship is accessible regardless of background, while 81% say it is more achievable today than ever before

104% Year-on-year increase in members adding 'Founder' to their profile in the country, highest across markets

AI: The game-changer

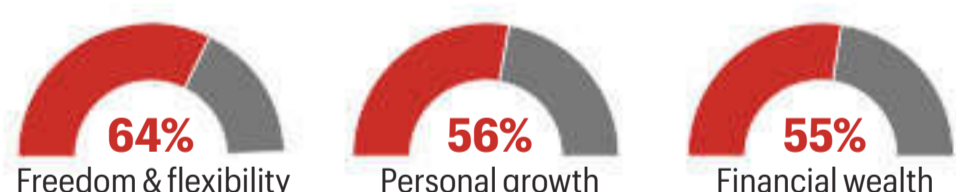
• As AI lowers traditional entry-barriers like cost, connections, and expertise, more entrepreneurs are emerging.

85% of young entrepreneurs stress the importance of digital tools and AI for businesses.



How Gen Z defines success

• Young entrepreneurs value the following parameters of success:



• They are more experimental, with the Gen Z founders more likely to test and explore entrepreneurial paths as compared to the previous generations.

"AI is lowering barriers that once made starting a business feel out of reach, enabling a new generation of founders to experiment, adapt, and build with greater confidence." KUMARESH PATTABIRAMAN, LINKEDIN INDIA COUNTRY MANAGER

SOURCE: LINKEDIN/PTI

Global economy becoming increasingly tribal: Kotak

Akash Mandal
Mumbai, May 12

AT A time when the global economy is shifting from globalisation to an increasingly "tribal" order, countries need to be prepared for structural changes to the global economic order even if the conflict between the US and Iran is resolved, Uday Kotak, founder and former CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank said.

He added that Indian companies must also focus on the long-term betterment of the nation instead of just quarterly profits. While the world economy has historically boomed after major global crises, the past 80 years or so have not seen a structural shift, with economies instead reverting to a normalised "mean" in the wake of such crises during this period, Kotak said on Tuesday. However, there always remains a chance that the current US-Iran war may lead to a lasting structural shift, for which we need to be prepared. "...even if the probability of going back to mean is high, are we saying that a structural change probability is zero? I don't think so," said Kotak while speaking at the Confederation of Indian Industry's annual business summit in New Delhi.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• BRIEFLY

Centre cuts oil & gas royalty; ONGC, OIL, Vedanta gain

New Delhi: The Centre has reduced effective royalty rates on crude oil and natural gas production in a move aimed at boosting domestic exploration. Following this, the stocks of state-run oil producers ONGC and OIL closed 6.74% and 7.52% higher on Tuesday, respectively, on expectations of an earnings boost, while Vedanta shares also rose 2.23%. The effective royalty on onshore crude oil production has been reduced to 10% from 16.66%, while offshore crude royalty has been lowered to 8% from 9.09%. Royalty on natural gas has also been cut to 8% from 10%. FE

Maruti selects 6 start-ups to co-create new-age biz solutions

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday said it has selected six startups from the 10th cohort of its flagship accelerator program to co-create new-age technology-based business solutions. These solutions aim to improve safety and efficiency in plant operations, reduce product development time, strengthen material-level traceability, and enhance customer experience, the company said in a statement. The selected startups are Goat Robotics, SheerDrive, Schjinnenn Digital, GenbaNEXT, Swayatt Dristigochar, and Swiftex, it said. PTI

• MARKETS

Sensex 74,559.24 -1,456.04 -1.92%	NIFTY 23,379.55 -436.30 -1.83%	Gold ▲ ₹1,56,800	US Dollar ▲ ₹95.63
		Silver ▲ ₹2,77,000	Oil ▲ \$104.18

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER ALL INDIA SARAFI ASSOCIATION DATA GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF MAY 11, 2026

• INDIA AND UAE SIGNED COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (CEPA) IN FEBRUARY, 2022

India's gold import problem: How a UAE treaty may have exacerbated it

Ravi Dutta Mishra
New Delhi, May 12

WITH THE West Asia crisis entering third month, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has begun asking citizens to take measures, including postponing non-essential gold purchases and reducing the consumption of petroleum products, to help conserve foreign exchange reserves. Prime Minister Modi's caution on gold purchases comes amid heightened risk of weakening macro fundamentals if the West Asia crisis drags on.

The domestic currency has also been reeling under pressure for a while and crude oil prices are hovering above \$100 a barrel due to a standstill in traffic via the Strait of Hormuz.

Rising gold imports

Gold imports are increas-

ingly swelling the country's import bill.

Economists point out that India's heavy reliance on imported gold, close to 750 tonnes every year, with negligible export offsets, has repeatedly emerged as a macroeconomic concern, especially during external shocks. Since gold accounts for a substantial share of the import bill, any sharp rise in purchases tends to widen the Current Account Deficit (CAD), put pressure on forex reserves and complicate the management of the rupee and inflation, especially during periods of external uncertainty.

The country's gold import in FY26 had jumped by nearly 25% to \$71.97 billion, compared to \$58 billion in the previous financial year. This was largely due to the value of gold prices, with gold imports in FY26 falling to 721.04 tonnes

• Surging value of gold imports



SOURCE: COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY

Gold import in FY26 had jumped by nearly 25% to \$71.97 billion. REUTERS

compared to 757.09 tonnes in the previous financial year, data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry showed.

Gold prices have surged over 40% in the last year, inflating the import bill.

The treaty with UAE, and challenges

In February, 2022, India and UAE signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). As part of the deal, India offered conces-

sions to the UAE — which seems to have catalysed a spurt in imports of gold from that country, according to experts.

A working paper by IIM Ahmedabad titled 'Strategic Acquisition and Value Addition of Gold Resources for India' pointed out that the fundamental supply-demand imbalance necessitates massive imports, chiefly as finished bullion and doré (essentially the semi-pure alloy of gold and silver created at mine sites; approximately 250 tonnes), though these proportions remain somewhat fluid. The import structure is heavily skewed toward finished products, significantly limiting domestic value addition opportunities.

"Policy initiatives have sometimes exacerbated this challenge, as evidenced by the

UAE trade deal agreement that inadvertently incentivised bullion imports over doré by creating a more favourable tariff structure for the former... The deal with the UAE has created unintended consequences by inverting the intended duty differential between bullion and doré," the report said.

Giving concessions to the UAE for importing gold from the country under the deal has inflated the import bill, as India does not source gold from countries that offer prices cheaper than market value and lacks refining capacity.

Certain countries, such as Argentina, Peru, and the Dominican Republic, supply gold at below-average import costs. But these countries collectively represent only 15% of India's total gold imports.

"Alternative gold sources show promising development, with imports of gold ores and concentrates increasing (primarily from Colombia, with emerging volumes from Taiwan and Peru) and gold colloidal and compounds growing substantially (with Japan emerging as the dominant supplier)," the paper said.

Several countries, such as Switzerland, that do not produce gold have become gold trading hubs on the back of refining infrastructure. Using world-class London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) refineries, they have transformed low-cost gold doré into high-purity bullion for global distribution. This refining process generates approximately 40% value addition, neutralising trade deficit concerns through substantial high-value exports, the report pointed out.

Weak refining ecosystem hurts India

While global gold trading hubs have used refining capacity to close vulnerabilities around gold imports, India's gold refineries remain underutilised.

A NITI Aayog report found that, unlike established global hubs like Switzerland and the UAE, which benefit from favourable policy regimes, large-scale operations, and deep integration with global markets, India's gold-refining ecosystem still faces multiple bottlenecks.

Global integration is also constrained by limited international accreditation, with only one LBMA-accredited refinery, restricting access to global financial markets and reducing India's ability to position itself within international supply chains, it said. FULL REPORT ON
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

• GLOBAL

Trump-Xi meet: Managing rivalry, not restoring trust

Trump arrives in Beijing today amid tensions over Iran, tariffs and AI. The meet shows both sides recognise the need for engaging despite hostility



EXPERT EXPLAINS
G VENKAT RAMAN

PROFESSOR AT IIM INDORE, A FULBRIGHT AND INSTITUTE OF CHINESE STUDIES FELLOW



US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping after a meeting in Busan, South Korea, in October 2025. AP FILE

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump arrives today in Beijing to meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping. Their summit is set to be one of the most consequential diplomatic encounters in years.

The Trump-Xi meet is less about reconciliation than about managing an increasingly adversarial relationship in which economic interdependence survives despite collapsing strategic trust. Washington and Beijing are no longer negotiating the terms of partnership, but the boundaries of coexistence within an increasingly fragmented international order.

The Iran factor and strategic distrust

The summit takes place amid a widening technological divide, continuing trade tensions, and the destabilising effects of the conflict in West Asia. The prolonged disruption around the Strait of Hormuz has intensified inflationary pressures globally while creating fresh political pressures for President Trump ahead of the November midterm elections.

China has simultaneously used the crisis to position itself as a stabilising power with leverage over Tehran, particularly after hosting Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Beijing shortly before Trump's visit. For Washington, Chinese cooperation in restoring stability in the Gulf has become an important, if unstated, objective of the summit. Yet the challenges facing the summit extend far beyond immediate geopolitical bargaining.

The political situation within the US further complicates the summit. Trump will feel the need to project a diplomatic victory amid rising inflation, declining approval ratings and approaching elections. Yet, any overt attempt by Washington to frame the summit in triumphalist terms is unlikely to sit well with the Chinese leadership, which remains acutely sensitive to perceptions of strategic concession or "loss

of face." The problem is compounded by the clash of negotiating cultures themselves: Trump's transactional, headline-driven diplomacy against a Chinese negotiating culture rooted in strategic patience and incremental pressure.

This is where Harvard scholar Daniel Shapiro's idea of the "tribe effect" becomes relevant — an adversarial, self-righteous, and closed mindset that pushes rival powers to magnify differences, treat their own positions as morally superior and increasingly view compromise as weakness rather than strategy. These tensions are likely to shape the contentious agenda before both sides.

The '5 Bs' and the '3 Ts'

The competing priorities of both sides are reflected in what officials and analysts have described as Washington's "5 Bs" and Beijing's "3 Ts."

Washington's priorities revolve around Boeing aircraft, beef, beans (soybeans) and the proposed Board of Trade and Board of Investment, a framework aimed at stabilising commerce in "non-sensitive" sectors while insulating strategic industries such as semiconductors and artificial intelligence (AI) from deeper confrontation.

The approach reflects Washington's growing preference for negotiated reciprocity over multilateral trade mechan-

isms that many within the Trump administration view as inadequate in dealing with China's state-directed economic system.

China's priorities, meanwhile, revolve around Taiwan, tariffs and technology. Beijing seeks a longer-term trade truce while pushing back against tightening US export controls, investment restrictions and technology barriers.

US restrictions on advanced semiconductors and AI ecosystems have accelerated Beijing's push for technological self-reliance even as slowing growth increases pressure on the leadership to stabilise external economic conditions. At the same time, Beijing wants greater access for its electric vehicles and other clean-energy exports to global markets as it recalibrates its export strategy amid growing geopolitical fragmentation.

AI and advanced semiconductors have now become their new strategic battlegrounds.

If trade and tariffs once defined the US-China rivalry, AI and advanced semiconductors have now become the central battlegrounds of strategic competition. The summit may also see the first serious high-level discussions on the risks posed by increasingly powerful frontier AI systems — one of the few areas where Washington and Beijing still recognise the need for limited cooperation despite deepening mistrust.

The release of Anthropic's "Claude Mythos Preview" — an advanced AI system capable of autonomously identifying software vulnerabilities and executing complex cyber operations — has intensified global concerns over the risks posed by increasingly powerful AI agents.

While both sides have shown limited willingness to open communication channels on AI safety and misuse, deep mistrust continues to overshadow cooperation. That mistrust was evident in China's recent decision to block Meta's \$2-billion acquisition of Manus, an AI startup with Chinese roots, signalling Beijing's determination to retain frontier AI talent and intellectual property within its strategic ecosystem.

The episode underscored how technological competition is increasingly shifting from hardware access to the control of talent, data and innovation ecosystems. These developments are likely to further harden adversarial perceptions on both sides, bringing the underlying "tribe effect" into even sharper relief.

India and the challenge of multi-alignment

Whatever the immediate outcome of the Beijing summit, strategic and foreign policy circles in India will watch the developments closely. A prolonged phase of institutionalised rivalry between the US and China is likely to add new pressures to an already fragmenting global order. India's strategy of multi-alignment will increasingly be tested as trade networks, technological ecosystems, and geopolitical partnerships become more polarised. The challenge for New Delhi will lie in preserving strategic flexibility while continuing to build issue-based coalitions without becoming overly dependent on any single power bloc.

As Trump and Xi meet in the Great Hall of the People, the objective is no longer reconciliation, but stabilisation. The summit may produce temporary truces, symbolic gestures, and carefully negotiated bargains, but the larger reality is harder to obscure: The US and China are learning not how to restore strategic trust, but how to manage enduring rivalry without allowing it to spiral into systemic rupture. The summit's significance may lie less in what it resolves than in the fact that both sides still recognise the necessity of engagement despite deepening hostility.

The defining feature of the emerging order may not be a new Cold War, but a world in which rivalry itself becomes institutionalised.

• LEGAL

Why Madras HC barred TVK MLA from Assembly floor test

Amaal Sheikh
New Delhi, May 12

TAMILAGA VETTRI Kazhagam (TVK) MLA R Seenivasa Sethupathi, who won his election by a single vote, moved the Supreme Court Tuesday after the Madras High Court barred him from participating in the Tamil Nadu Assembly floor test slated for Wednesday.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant agreed to list it urgently on Wednesday before the floor test. The HC bench had restrained Sethupathi from voting or participating in any floor test in the Assembly "where the numerical strength of the House is tested, until further orders".

The dispute

Tamil Nadu has two constituencies by the name of Tiruppattur: one in Sivagangai (No.185) and the other in Tirupattur district (No.50). Sethupathi won the election in the former by one vote over the DMK's KR Periakaruppan.

Periakaruppan approached the Madras HC alleging a discrepancy of 18 electronic

voting machine (EVM) votes between two official records. According to the petition, a postal ballot belonging to No.185 was mistakenly sent to No.50 as both constituencies have the same name.

But instead of forwarding it to the correct constituency, the Returning Officer (RO) rejected the ballot.

In its affidavit before the HC, the Election Commission admitted there is no statutory mechanism under the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, for transferring a wrongly transmitted postal ballot from one constituency (or RO) to another. The Rules only deal with ballots received after the period of counting begins.

What Madras HC held

The HC said that it was not setting aside Sethupathi's election or directing a recount: its interim order intended to preserve the integrity of the electoral process until the dispute was examined. It found three factors significant: the one-vote margin, the alleged EVM discrepancy, and the disputed postal ballot.

The court criticised the handling of the

Legal lacuna

• The Election Commission admitted there is no statutory mechanism for transferring a wrongly transmitted postal ballot from one constituency to another.

• Rule 54 A (2) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, only deals with ballots received after the period of counting begins.

postal ballot, saying that the official respondents' position "itself reveals the existence of a procedural vacuum in the electoral framework".

Further, the court criticised the RO directly for not taking "prompt corrective steps" to restore and transmit the ballot to the competent RO.

How the court got around Article 329(b)

Article 329(b) of the Constitution bars courts from entertaining election disputes except through an election petition under the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Ordinarily, courts do not intervene in election disputes through writ proceedings under Article 226. The HC acknowledged this limitation.

The HC, however, relied on the SC's ruling in Election Commission of India v. Ashok Kumar (2000), which recognised a narrow exception permitting judicial intervention where it is necessary to preserve evidence or remove obstacles affecting the electoral process.

The HC held that the petition before it

was not a conventional challenge to the election result itself, but a plea arising from an "extraordinary factual situation" involving preservation of electoral material and a procedural vacuum concerning wrongly transmitted postal ballots.

The court said the remedy of the election petition itself would become "illusory" if foundational electoral material was lost before adjudication.

Why floor test changes the stakes

The proposed floor test altered what would otherwise have remained an ordinary election dispute. Election petitions typically take months or years to conclude. But the HC reasoned that if Sethupathi's vote proved decisive in the floor test and his election was later invalidated, the political consequences during that intervening period could not realistically be undone.

So, the court distinguished between a challenge to an election result and the immediate use of a disputed electoral mandate in proceedings affecting a government's stability.

• SPORT

Italian Open wants to be the 5th Grand Slam, but the road may not lead to Rome

Tushar Bhaduri
New Delhi, May 12

ITALIAN TENNIS has been on arguably its most successful run over the last few years. Leading the march is World No. 1 Jannik Sinner, with four Grand Slam titles and the last five Masters 1000 crowns. There are four Italians in the top 20 of the men's world rankings. On the women's side, Jasmine Paolini is ranked eighth, with a career-high of No. 4.

Italy has won the Davis Cup for the last three years and the women's equivalent, the Billie Jean King (BJK) Cup, for the last two years. This dominant run has prompted calls to recognise the Italian Open, already a prestigious clay tournament, as a fifth Grand Slam.

is often considered in debates over the greatest player of an era, or even of all time.

Why this special treatment?

In the initial decades of tennis' emergence as a global sport, Australia, France, Britain and the US were the dominant forces. These four countries had a stranglehold on the Davis Cup, a tournament that began in 1900. It was only as recently as 1974 that a fifth country got its hands on the silverware — when South Africa was declared the winner after India refused to play the final to protest apartheid.

This period of dominance, lasting three-quarters of a century, prompted the national championships of the four countries to be termed Grand Slam tournaments.

What's the origin of the term?

In the card game of bridge, winning all 13 tricks is considered a Grand Slam. It was first adopted in golf in the 1930s, when winning the US Open, US Amateur, Open Championship and British Amateur in the same calendar year was said to constitute the Grand Slam. Subsequently, the golfing majors were considered to be the Masters, US Open, Open



Rome's Foro Italico stadium, the venue of the Italian Open, on Tuesday. AP

Championship and the PGA Championship. The term made its way into tennis in 1933.

What's behind the demand for the Italian Open as the fifth Grand Slam?

Italian tennis and padel federation chief Angelo Binaghi says his country's current dominance — both on the tours as well as team events — warrants its biggest tournament being considered a Grand Slam.

There have been rumblings among top players about prize money and revenue sharing at the Grand Slams — especially the French Open — and potential boycotts have also been mentioned. The Italian Open is siding with the star players on these issues.

"It's shameful and creates competitive disparities too, because the four nations [that organize the Slams] have a huge amount of money to invest in their technical sectors that other nations don't have," Binaghi has been quoted as saying.

The Indian Wells tournament is also often referred to as the unofficial fifth Grand Slam and, along with the event in Miami,

enjoys great prestige. The Italian Open may wish to be treated on a par with these. It's even open to holding an Italian Grand Slam away from its traditional venue — Rome's Foro Italico — and on any surface.

Are the original 'big four' still dominant?

They have fallen away in recent times. Australia last won the Davis Cup in 2003 and the Federation Cup in 1974. Their last Grand Slam singles champion came in 2022 (Ashleigh Barty).

France last won the Davis Cup in 2017, their first title since 2001. They won the BJK Cup last in 2019. In Grand Slams, one has to go back to 1983 when a Frenchman (Yannik Noah) won a Major. Marion Bartoli won Wimbledon in 2013.

Britain's 2015 Davis Cup triumph was their first since 1936. Their women have never been team champions. Before Andy Murray's three Grand Slam titles — the last one being at 2016 Wimbledon — the fallow period stretched back to 1936. Emma Ra-

ducanu's success at the 2021 US Open was the first for a British woman since Virginia Wade triumphing at Wimbledon 1977.

The US's last Davis Cup triumph came in 2007 while their women were champions most recently in 2017. Andy Roddick is the last American to win a men's Grand Slam (2003) while Coco Gauff's last Grand Slam crown came at the 2023 US Open.

Is adding a fifth Grand Slam feasible?

This would change a century of tennis history. It would necessitate rewriting the record books and Grand Slam tallies. Novak Djokovic is now the male player with the most Grand Slam titles (24), but if the Italian Open gets that status, he will fall behind Rafael Nadal (30-32). Many players would argue that if it was a Grand Slam, they wouldn't have skipped it in the run-up to the French Open. Having two Grand Slams in such proximity in terms of scheduling and geography would be another issue.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Yash S/o Dinesh Kumar, R/o A-31/119-A, Gali No. C-2, Mata Mandir Marg, Maujpur, North-East Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Yash Sharma for all purposes. 0040853991-14

I, Yaseem Saifi, S/o Mohd Saddik, R/o H-10-586, Pooja Colony, Loni Dehat, Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201102, have changed my name to Mohd Yasin, for all purposes. 0040854000-3

I, Vikas Kumar Goel, S/o Sh. Roshan Lal, R/o H.No. C-73, Bhagat Singh Colony, P.O. Ballabgarh, Distt.-Faridabad, Haryana-121004, hereby declare that the names Vikas Goel and Vikas Kumar Goel both are one and the same person. The correct name is Vikas Kumar Goel, for all purposes. 0040853985-1

I, TAMANNA SACHDEVA W/o Sandeep fatwani R/o B-47, Pushpanjali Enclave Pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to ANU FATWANI. 0040854011-3

I, Surma W/O Bhasker Khandaytray R/O-E-344 Khasra no - 196, Anand Marg, East Babarpur Shahdara Delhi-110032, change my name to surama khandaytray. 0040854005-2

I, Suneel Kumar, S/O Shiv Shankar Lal, R/O Flat NO-2631, Anukampa Overseas Apartments, Sec-50, Noida, Gautam-Budha Nagar-UP-201301, Have changed my name to Sunil Kumar, for all future, purposes. 0040853995-4

I, Sukhdav Raj Kapoor, S/o-Hans Raj Kapoor, R/O-GH-6/389, Prachin-Apartment, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Sukhdev Raj Kapoor. 0040853995-5

I, Sudesh Rani, W/o Mohan Madan, R/O D-13/7, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Sudesh Rani to Sudesh Madan for all future purposes. 0040854011-1

I, Subodhini Karnani, w/o-Mahesh Karnani r/o-75, Ram Vihar surajmal vihar Delhi-110092, have changed my name Subodhini Mahesh Karnani. 0040854000-5

I, Subhash Chand Chhabra, s/o-Ram Pyara Chhabra, r/o-11/4, Gali no 1, chachi building, west Azad-Nagar, vtc-krishna-Nagar, delhi-110051, have changed my name Subhash Chand Chhabra to Subhash Chhabra, for all purpose. 0040853993-10

I, Sony Yadav, W/o-Tapan Kumar Yadav, R/o H-10-18, Second-Floor, Vrindavan Enclave Society Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, U.P-201012, have changed my minor son's name, from Aarav Kumar Yadav to Aarav Yadav. 0040853991-12

I, Santosh S/O Bhasker Khandaytray, R/O C-305, 3rd floor Mandir Marg Near Ramayan chowk Babarpur Shahdara Delhi-110032, change my name to Santosh Kumar Khandaytray. 0040854005-3

I, SUKHDEV SINGH S/O GURMUKH SINGH PARMAR R/O GH-4/30 SFS FLATS MEERA-APARTMENTS PASCHIM-VIHAR DELHI-110063, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUKHDEV SINGH PARMAR. 0040853991-5

I, SUDESH W/O BIJENDER SINGH R/O CHATIA DEVA, CHATIA DEVA(153), JYAN, SONIPAT, HARYANA-131024, have changed my name to SUDESH KUMARI. 0040853991-4

I, SONIA RALLI D/o-Harish Chander Chawla R/O-PKT-GH-14/1067, 2nd-Floor Paschim Vihar New Delhi-87, have changed my name to SONIA CHAWLA, for all purposes. 0040854011-4

I, SHILPI, D/o-Saranjeet Singh, R/o House No.C-55, Rosewood City, Sector-49, South City II, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018, have changed my name to SHILPI KAUR. 0040853995-12

I, SHAGUFTA KHAN, W/O MR. MOHD MUDASSIR KHAN, R/O-A-31, SHAHEEN BAGH, ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE, PART-II, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025, inform that my husband name MUDASSIR KHAN and MOHD MUDASSIR KHAN, both names are same person. 0040854005-9

I, SATPALI DEVI W/O NO. 2978837P RANK EC NJ KAGPAL R/O Q NO 369, POLICE COLONY, ASHOK VIHAR PHASE-1 DELHI-110052, have changed my name to SATPALI vide affidavit date 11-5-2026 before Delhi. 0071035014-1

I, Abadesh Kumar alias Abdesht Kumar S/O Subhash Chand Employed as ASI, Posted In Security Unit Delhi Police, PIS No.28030233 R/O K - 21/43, Gali No. 1, Gangotri Vihar, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi, Delhi - 110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Harsh Kumar. 0071035018-1

I, SANJEEEDA BEGUM, W/O-RIYASAT ALI R/O-A-60, Shaheed Nagar, Chikamberpur, Sahibabad, Gha zia bad, Uttar Pradesh-201006, has changed my name to SANJEEEDA, for all future purpose. 0040853993-7

I, Rukhasana W/o-Mohd Yasin R/o-H-10-586, Pooja Colony, Loni Dehat, Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201102, have changed my name to RUKSANA, for all purposes. 0040854000-7

I, Ritu Garg W/o Ajay Kumar Garg, R/O-E-90, Sector-27, Noida, Gautam-Buddha-Nagar, U.P.-201301, inform that before my marriage my name is Rekha and after marriage, I have changed my name from Rekha to Ritu Garg for all future purposes. That Rekha and Ritu Garg both are same and one person. 0040853995-8

I, RUKSANA BEGUM W/O-MOHD HALEEM, R/O-F-15/2A, SIR SYED ROAD, JOGA BAJ EXTN., JAMIA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110025, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME RUKSANA BEGUM TO RUKHSANA KHATOON. 0040854000-2

I, RAJ NARAYAN TIWARI, F/O-CHANDAN TIWARI, Colony-Anand Nagar, Distt-Ballia, State-UP, Pin-277001, hav e changed my name, from RAJ NARAYAN TIWARI to RAJNARAYAN TIWARI vide affidavit dated.09/05/2026. 0040853993-11

I, Piyyush Kandi S/O Anand Kumar, R/O Kh No. 389, 390, 680/1 UGF-A2 Unique Homes Appt, Baba Colony 60 Ft Rd., Burari, PO: Burarai, DIST: North Delhi, Delhi - 110084, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Piyyush Mittal. 0071035013-1

I, PUNAM DEVI, MOTHER OF, SANJAY KUMAR SINGH ADDRESS-W/O-RAM PUKAR SINGH GAURIYA SHAN KE PASS, VILL+ POST KHANPUR-PAKRI PS-BIDUPUR, DIST-VAISALI, BIHAR-844115, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, FROM PUNAM DEVI TO RAM PUKARI DEVI VIA AFFIDAVIT, DATE-12-MAY-26. 0040854005-12

I, PROMILA M RANDHEER, wife of, MANISH RANDHEER, R/O-SMQ.No.87/02, Safed-Sagar, Air-Force Station-Sohna-Road, Distt-Gurgaon-122001, Haryana, have changed My Name from PROMILA M RANDHEER * PROMILA RANDHEER + PROMILA RANDHEER + vide affidavit.12/05/2026. 0040854005-13

I, PRAMOD KUMAR GOUND, S/O-PARAS NATH GOUND VILLAGE-KONI, POST-OFFICE-SIHORIYA, TEHSIL-GORAKHPUR SADAR, DISTT-GORAKHPUR STATE, UTTAR PRADESH-273002, have changed my name PRAMOD KUMAR GOUND TO PRAMOD. 0040853995-2

I, RIYA KAKKAR W/o Bhriagu Arora R/o A-1/243, 1st Floor, Paschim Vihar, West Delhi-110063, have changed my name to RIYA ARORA. 0040854011-2

I, PHOOJ CHAND S/O BUDDHI, R/O VILL-BEHRAMPUR-08, SEC 59 GURGAON HARYANA-122101, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PHOOJ SINGH. 0040853991-11

I, PARVESH DHANKAR, W/O SUNIL KUMAR R/O A-78 RAMESH ENCLAVE STREET NO.6 KIRARI SULEMAN-NAGAR NITHARI DELHI-110086, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PARVESH THAKUR. 0040853993-1

I, PARAS NATH GOUND, S/O-CHANDRABALI, VILLAGE-KONI, POST OFFICE-SIHORIYA, T EHSIL-GORAKHPUR SADAR DISTT-GORAKHPUR STATE UTTAR PRADESH-273002, have changed my name PARAS NATH GOUND TO PARASNATH. 0040853995-3

I, NIKHIL AHUJA, S/O BHUSHAN AHUJA R/O I-3/92-93 SECOND-FLOOR SECTOR-16 ROHINI DELHI-110089, HAVE CHANGED MY CHILD NAME TARINI TO TARINI AHUJA. 0040853993-2

I, NAVEEN GUPTA S/O SANWAR LAL GUPTA, R/O A-46 DERAWAL NAGAR GUJRANWALA COLONY DELHI-110009, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NAVEEN KUMAR GUPTA. 0040853991-9

I, Munish Ahmad/ Md Ishmail Khan R/O-House, No.84, Village/Post-Patla Tehsil-Modinagar District-Ghaziabad (UP)-201204, have changed my Name, from Munish to Manish Ahmed, for all future purposes. 0040853995-14

I, Mohd Arifeen, F/o-Mirha (D.O.B 09/12/2015) R/O-F-3, DDA Flats, Turkman Gate, Delhi-110006, has changed my daughter's name to Hereem, for all purpose. 0040854000-4

I, Mahesh Upasani, S/O-Balwant Upasani, R/O E118, Sector 21, Jalavayu Vihar, Noida-201301, UP, have changed my name to Mahesh Balwant Upasani, for all purposes. 0040854005-8

I, ARUSH GANDOTRA S/O K. R. GANDOTRA R/O 06-1202 Oxirich, Niho Scottish Garden, Opp. Ashiana Uparvan, Ahinsa Khand-2, Indirapuram, Shipra Sun City, Distt: Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201014, have changed the name of my minor son AARAV GANDOTRA aged 14 Years and he shall hereafter be known as ARAV GANDOTRA. 0071035020-1

I, MONIKA D/O DARSHAN LAL BEHRANI, R/O, D-62, Front-Side, Ground-Floor, Block-D, Saraswati Garden, Ramesh-Nagar, New-Delhi-110015, have changed my name to MONIKA BEHRANI. 0040854005-4

I, MOHD MERAJ, S/O-MOHD RIYAZUL ISLAM, R/O-E-11/A-78, Near Raza-Masjid, Main-Road, Shastri Park-Extn, North East, Delhi, Delhi-110053, has changed my name to MOHD MERAJ AHMAD, for all future purpose. 0040853993-9

I, MOHAMMAD RIYAZ, S/O-SIRAJUL ISLAM, R/O-E-11/A-78, Near Raza-Masjid, Main-Road, Shastri Park Extn, North East, Delhi, Delhi-110053, has changed my name to MOHD RIYAZUL ISLAM, for all future purpose. 0040853993-8

I, Kumar Sourabh, S/O Shyam Bihari Singh, R/O-Flat No.706, SG Impressions Plus, Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, Pin-201003, U.P., have changed the name of my minor son from Atharva Singh to Atharv Kumar Singh all future purposes. 0040853992-1

I, Kishwar Jahan, W/O-MOHAMMAD ISMAIL, R/O-E-1/339 Madangir/Dr Ambedkar-Nagar South, Delhi-110062, My name in some documents is KISHWAR and in some is KISHWAR JAHAN. I declare both these names are of same person. 0040853995-10

I, Jull Poddar, D/o Nand Kishor Poddar, W/O-Manish Kumar R/O H.No.16, Vinoba Enclave, Jharoda Kalan, South West, Delhi-110072, have changed my name Jull, for all Purposes. 0040853995-11

I, Riya W/O Subham Goel R/O E-857, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Riya Goel. 0040854005-7

I, Japneet Kaur Monga D/o Surjeet Singh Monga, R/O-H.No.571, Second Floor, Shakti Khand-VI, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014, have changed my name from Japneet Kaur Monga to Japneet Kaur. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Japneet Kaur for all future purposes. 0040853998-1

I, Gagan Kumar, S/o-Ishwar Singh, House no-256, Street no-1 K Block DDA Park Mahipalpur, PO-Gurgaon Road Delhi-110037, have changed my name to Gagan Dahiya. 0040853991-6

I, ASHOK KUMAR, S/O-CHHAJU RAM R/O- BJ-111, WEST SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088 have changed my name to ASHOK GARG. 0040853991-3

I, CRISH SHIKH RANA, S/O-RAJ BAHADUR RANA, R/O-SI-001, GROUND FLOOR-LIFESTYLE HOMES, VATIKA SECTOR-83, Gurgaon, Haryana-122004, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHISH KUMAR RANA. 0040853993-6

I, ARUN KUMAR, S/O-PADAM PRAKASH, R/O KH.No.159, 2nd Floor, Samta-Vihar Village Mukandpur, PH-2, Near Badari Medicas, North West Delhi-110042, have changed my name to ARUN GOEL. 0040853991-13

I, AJAY KUMAR JHA, S/O-SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR JHA, R/O M-120, GALI, NO-6, LAXMI NAGAR, DELHI-110092, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AJAY KUMAR JHA TO AJAY JHA FOR, FUTURE. 0040853995-9

I, AFZAL AHMED, R/O-H.NO.C-87/5-B, GALI, NO.6, NEAR-BILAL MASJID, declare my name has been wrongly written as AFZAL in my daughter SADIYA'S 10th-Class Educational Documents. My actual name is AFZAL AHMED. 0040853995-13

I, GEETA DAVI, W/O-ASHOK GARG R/O-BJ-111, WEST SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088 have changed my name to GEETA DEVI. 0040853991-2

I, GAYKI SHANKAR SUKDEORA, S/O SUKHDEVRAO GAIKY, H.NO. 170, SECOND FLOOR, DDA FLATS, SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI-110029, have changed my name to SHANKAR GAIKY. 0040853991-8

I, Doppala Romya Sri, W/O-Vinay Kumar Doppala, R/O Flat No-1201, Obediencet Vatika Seven lanes, Sec-82, Sikanderpur Gurgaon Haryana-122004, have changed my name to Kosuri Ramyasri. 0040853995-1

I, Parvish Sharma, W/O Kunal Dev Sharma, R/O W-62 Greater Kailash-1 Delhi-110048, Have Changed My Name To Disha Sakhuja For Future. 0040853993-5

I, Dinbandhu Kumar, Son of Sh. Ramlakhan Mandal, R/O F-242, Unit No. F-1, First Floor, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016, declare that my name is written in my son Krishna Dev document as Dinbandhu Mandal and also Mentioned as Dinbandhu Kumar, I further declare that Dinbandhu Kumar and Dinbandhu Mandal both are the same person, my name also known as Dinbandhu Kumar for all future purpose. 0040854011-6

I, Dharmender Pal Dhankhar, S/O-Vijay Pal Dhankhar, R/O-B-3/417, Paschim-Vihar, New Delhi-110063, have changed my minor son's name from SHAURYA to SHAURYA DHANKHAR, All concerned please note. 0040854011-5

I, Deepak Chawla R/O 2290 Hudson lane Kingsway camp Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, DELHI-110099, confirm That My Daughter's Name is Mahi Chawla But written Name is Sanskriti Chawla. Both are one and the same person. 0040853992-2

I, Deeksha D/O Mangal, R/O-RZ-D-100 U/G/F R/S B/P Old No-76 Kh.No-78/24 Ngli-Vihar Nangloi New-Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Diksha for all purposes. 0040853991-7

I, Seema Karwal w/o Kamaljit Karwal R/O WZ-409-L, gali no. 2-3, Janak Park, hari nagar, ND-110064, have been changed my name from Seema Rani to Seema Karwal for all future purpose. 0050289242-1

I, Satish Kumar S/O Hira Lal Sharma, resident of House No. 426/3, Sheetha Mata Road, Prem Nagar, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122001, have changed my name to Siddharth Sharma. 0071035093-1

I, Bhaskar Khanditray S/O Hari bandhu R/O-E-344 Khasra no -196, Anand Marg, East Babarpur Shahdara Delhi-110032, change my name to Bhasker Khandaytray. 0040854005-1

I, BANEEET KAUR W/O GURBACHAN SINGH R/O B-8, Saraswati Garden, West Delhi-110015, have changed my name to BANEEET KAUR BHATIA permanently. 0040853993-3

I, Anand Kumar Dubej S/O-Vijay Kumar Dubej R/O, House-No. E-40, 2nd-Floor, Mansarovar-Garden, New Delhi-110015, have changed my minor son's name ADHRIT AANAND DEV to ADHRITRITRIVIKRAM. Aged-13 years. 0040854005-5

I, Ajay Kumar Garg S/O Shyam Sunder Garg, R/O-E-90, Sector-27, Noida, Gautam-Buddha-Nagar- U.P.-201301, inform that in my Sons's Birth Certificate named as Rishabh Garg my name wrongly written as Ajay Garg instead of Ajay Kumar Garg which is true. 0040853995-6

I, Jarawati Devi, wife of, Late Shri Murlidhar, DOB-07-09-1960, resident of Village Madanpur, P.O-Gopiganj, Dist-Sant Ravidas Nagar, UP, have changed my name to Jadavati Devi and corrected my date of birth to 01-01-1965. Both names refer to the same person. 0040853993-12

I, Ajay Kumar Garg S/O Shyam Sunder Garg, R/O-E-90, Sector-27, Noida, Gautam-Buddha-Nagar, U.P.-201301, inform that in my Daughter's Birth Certificate named as Kavya Garg my name wrongly written as Ajay Garg instead of Ajay Kumar Garg which is true. 0040853995-7

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I, Sat Paul Verma S/O Dalip Singh R/O-3/95, Sec-2, Rajendra Nagar, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Satjit Pal Verma. 0071035048-1

I, Sanjeev Kumar S/o Satjit Pal Verma R/O-3/95, Sec-2, Rajendra Nagar, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Sanjeev Kumar Duggal. 0071035047-1

I, Sanjee Duggal S/O Satjit Pal Verma R/O-3/95, Sec-2, Rajendra Nagar, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Sanjeev Kumar Duggal. 0071035044-1

I, Priti Saxena W/o Atul Kumar Saxena R/O-Villa 6, Apex Golfavenue, GH-03, Sportscity, Adjoining techzone-4, Sector-1, G.Noida have changed my name to Preeti Saxena. 0071035075-1

I, Priti Kumari W/o Rohit Kumar, R/O T-63, T-Huts, Near & Haryana Dharmshala, Moti Nagar, Karam-Pura, West Delhi, have changed my name to Preeti Chaudhary. 0071034914-1

I, Paarul Sangal, W/o Ankkit Kumar Sangal, R/O D-169/57, Sector-50, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201301, have changed my name from Parul Sangal to Paarul Sangal, for all future purposes. 0040853946-2

I, Nuruddin alias Haji Noordin Malik alias Noordin, RZ-3031/34, Tughlakabad Extension, Kalkaji, Delhi-19 have changed my name to Mohd Hazi Noor Deen Malik. 0071035077-1

I, Mukesh Bansal, R/O WZ-538, Gali No.1, Sri Nagar, Shakur Basti, Delhi-110034, have changed my minor Son name from Ishit Bansal to Ishan Bansal for all future purposes. 0040853976-1

I, Manish S/O Jaleswar Sah R/O H.No.-1083, Sector-9, Faridabad, Haryana-121006, have changed my name to Manish Kumar Sah. 0071035115-1

I, KM. SONAM D/o Suresh Pandey, 160, Om Sai Garden, Chhipiyana Bujurg-5, Bisrakh, GB Nagar, Dadril, UP-201009 have changed my name to SONAM KUMARI. 0071035084-1

I, Jarawati Devi, wife of Late Shri Murlidhar, DOB 07-09-1960, resident of Village Madanpur, P.O-Gopiganj, Dist-Sant Ravidas Nagar, UP, have changed my name to Jadavati Devi and corrected my date of birth to 01-01-1965. Both names refer to the same person. 0071035042-1

I, EZAZ AHAMAD S/O Abdul Rub Ansari, 1104/78, Shri Ram Colony, Ghurahupatti, Mirzapur, UP-231001 have changed my name to Ajaz Ahmad Ansari. 0071035076-1

I, Divraj Singh, son of Onkar Singh Maini, holder of Indian Passport No. Z4091521, issued at Delhi, India on 03 Feb 2017, permanent resident of B-15 F DDA MIG Flats, Mayapuri, Delhi, Pin: 110064, India, and presently residing at 343 Glenbrae AVE, Ottawa, K2W0C2, Canada, do hereby change my name from Divraj Singh to Divraj Singh Maini, with immediate effect. 0020513516-1

I, Avtar Singh, S/o Gurmel Singh, R/O-Gurudwara, Hargobind Sar, GT karnal-road, Alipur, North Delhi-110036, have changed my name Avtar Singh Hans to Avtar Singh, for all future purpose. 0040853893-1

I, Ankkit Kumar Sangal, S/O Alok Kumar Sangal, R/O D-169/57, Sec-50, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201301, have changed my name from Ankit Sangal to Ankkit Kumar Sangal for all future purposes. 0040853946-1

I, Aditya Bhise S/o Vijayendra Bhise R/O Tower 14, Flat- 003, Unitech Habitat, sector Pi-2, Greater Noida U.P. have changed my name from Aditya Vijayendra Bhise to Aditya Bhise for all future purposes. 0071035083-1

I, Seema Rana W/o Gulshan Kumar R/O-G-4/198, First Floor, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089 have changed my name to Seema for all purposes. 0040853972-1

ISHASHI KIRAN W/O RAMESH CHAND R/O C-22A AVANTIKA ENCLAVE SECTOR 2 ROHINI DELHI 110085 in some document my name wrongly mentioned as SHASHI KIRN, but my correct and actual name is SHASHI KIRAN or all purposes. 0040853690-1

Puran Mal S/O Payrag Raj R/O H.No.F-53, Sector-56, Noida, PO Noida, Distt Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201301, have changed my name from Puran Mal to Puran Mal Agarwal. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Puran Mal Agarwal for all future Purposes. 0071035019-1

I Muskaan Suhag D/o Gian Parkash Suhag R/O Flat No.319, DDA SFS Flats, G/F Pocket -1, Dwarka Sector-22, Delhi-110077 have changed my name to Muskaan Malik for all purposes. 0040853895-1

I Shyam Lal Devi W/o Laxmi Narayan Gupta R/O H No J-128, Road No-77, Mahatma Gandhi Camp, Punjabi Bagh, Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Sushila Devi. 0071035086-1

I, MANIKANT S/O SURENDER KUMAR R/O 81, NEAR L.S.R. COLLEGE, ZAMRUPUR, GREATER KAILASH PART-1, GREATER KAILASH S/O, DIST: SOUTH

THE TAMILNADU CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LTD
 JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR'S OFFICE,
 PLOT No.29 & 30, SIDCO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, AMBATTUR, CHENNAI - 600098.
 Tel. Ph. Nos.: 044 - 23464528, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, Fax No.: 044-23464536 e-mail - dgmpurchase@gmail.com
TENDER NOTICE
 A Two Part Open tender is invited from the Manufacturers for the Purchase of following items:

Sl. No.	Ref. No.	Description	Estimate Value	Pre-Bid meeting	Submission of bid tender document along with Sample	Opening of Technical Bids
1	6000/KC/2026	Purchase of 20,402 MT + 25% of Multilayer Co-extruded Poly End Film to Metro Dairies and all District Union Dairies for thirty six months requirement for the year 2026-2029.	490.37 Crores	22.05.2026 by 11.00 A.M.	15.06.2026 upto 3.00 P.M.	16.06.2026 by 3.00 P.M.

For pre-qualification criteria, specifications, EMD payable, place of tender opening, etc., please refer the website www.tntenders.gov.in and <http://avin.tn.gov.in>. Tender documents can also be downloaded at free of cost and the tenders should submit the tender offer only through the Website www.tntenders.gov.in.

JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR
 TAMILNADU CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LTD
 DIPR/1874/ TENDER /2026

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA
 EMAIL- SERWSBD2003@YAHOO.COM

25001/119/2627

Letter No. 2102 Date: 08/05/2026

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH GEPNC e Procurement Notice

- Name of the Work : Construction of Road Works - 10 Nos.
- Class of Contractor : "B" Class, "A" Class & Special of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
- Estimated Cost : Various from Rs.295.64 Lakhs to Rs.699.64 Lakhs (Approximately).
- Details Projects : As per Annexure attached

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD-Online - 05/2026-27	15.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	08.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	06.06.2026 up to 2.00 A.M.	09.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>
 6. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.

Sd/-
 Chief Construction Engineer
 Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda

OIPR- 25001/25182/126-27/0007

ALIGARH SMART CITY LTD

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

NIT No: /RFP-Pond/ASCL/2026-27/7415 Date: 11.05.2026

Aligarh Smart City Limited (ASCL) invites online bids through a two-bid system from eligible bidders for the Selection of Concessionaire for Operation, Maintenance and Management of Lal Diggi Pond at Kalyan Singh Habitat Centre, Aligarh on a concession basis for a period of 15 (Fifteen) years, further extendable by 5 (Five) years, subject to terms and conditions of the RFP as per following schedule:

Minimum Reserve Concession Fee	Tender Fee	EMD	RFP Download Start Date	Last Date for Submission	Opening of Technical Bids
Rs. 30,000,000/- per annum (excluding taxes)	Rs. 4,500/- + GST	Rs. 1,50,000/-	12.05.2026	19.05.2026 03:00 PM	19.05.2026 05:00 PM

The detailed RFP document shall be available on the e-procurement portal: <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Interested bidders are required to submit their bids online only on the above portal within the stipulated time.

ASCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
 Chief Executive Officer
 Aligarh Smart City Limited

UJVN LIMITED
 H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
 Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No: 403 Short Term e-TENDER NOTICE Date: 12/05/2026

Office of the Executive Engineer PCM Dhalipur, Dehradun invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of the tender is given below:
E-Tender No:12/EE/PCM/Dhalipur/2026-27
Name of work: Protection Work of TRC Bund (Asan River Side) Damaged Portion During Heavy Flood in Asan River at Dhalipur, Dehradun
Estimated value of Tender: Rs. 1,09,66,271.45(excluding GST)
Date & Time of availability of bid document on website: From 17:00 Hrs of 12.05.2026
Last Date & Time for submission of tender: Up to 15:00 Hrs 26.05.2026
 For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"

Executive Engineer PCM Dhalipur,
 "AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE, U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN), JHANSI
 Letter No.: 677/F-03/99
 Dated: 11.05.2026
E-TENDER NOTICE

Online percentage rate e-tender in Two Bid system under S.B.M.(U)-2.0 Programme are hereby invited by U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) for Investigation and survey (on GIS basis) of the project area including soil investigation, Engineering Design (hydraulic and structural) as required. Procurement of all labour & material, T&P etc. and construction of various components complete for "Used Water Management (WSP) For Nagar Panchayat Tondi Fatehpur Distt. Jhansi", U.P., India on Turnkey Basis, from eligible, reputed and experienced bidder. E-bid documents will be available for download from 18.05.2026 by 17:00 Hrs. E-bids can be submitted till 18.06.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 18.06.2026 at 17:30 Hrs. in Office of The Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Jhansi in presence of contractor or their authorized representative. E-tender Cost is Rs 10000.00+GST @ 18% for tender. Details are available on U.P. Govt. e-procurement portal <http://etender.up.nic.in> & U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website www.jn.upscd.gov.in.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE, U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN), JHANSI
 Letter No.: 679/F-03/101
 Dated: 11.05.2026
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RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
 Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
 Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. RWF/M/OT/AMS/2026-27/09 Dated 11.05.2026

E-Tender: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender in Two Packet System for the following work online through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (Works).
Tender No.: RWF/M/OT/AMS/2026-27/09
Dtd: 11.05.2026. **Name of the Work:** Outsourcing the work of complete machining operation (including Material & Man power) of 3" axle machining line at RWF for a quantity of 1,14,048 nos of axles for a period of Two years. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 33,86,08,512/- **EMD:** Rs. 67,72,200/- **Completion Period:** 24 Months. **Date of Closing of Tenders:** 02.06.2026 at 10:30 Hrs.
 The above Tender details can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in.
 Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/AP

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

निविदा संशोधन सूचना संख्या - 3
 No. NWR-HQ/COM-PA-2-2026 Date 12.05.2026

इस कार्यलय की निविदा सूचना समसंख्यक दिनांक 30.04.2026 के द्वारा Contract for Monetization and Facility Management of Jaipur Gandhi Nagar Railway Station के लिए निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है। इस निविदा में संशोधन किया गया है जिसका अवलोकन www.ireps.gov.in पर किया जा सकता है - Contract for Monetization and Facility Management of Jaipur Gandhi Nagar Railway Station के लिए निविदा खलने की दिनांक 06.05.2026 तक बढ़ाई गयी थी फिर उसे प्रशासनिक कारणों के कारण निविदा को दिनांक 12.05.2026 तक बढ़ाया गया था जिसे वापस प्रशासनिक कारणों के कारण निविदा को दिनांक 14.05.2026 तक बढ़ाया जाता है, साथ ही उक्त निविदा हेतु संशोधित किया गया निवेदन एवं शर्तों की निविदा बुकलेट www.ireps.gov.in पर अवलोकन कर डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। शेष नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।
 मंडल रेल प्रबंधक (वाणिज्य) जयपुर
 700-DJ/26
 Follow us on: www.facebook.com/NWRRailways www.instagram.com/NWRRailways www.youtube.com/NWRRailways

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE
 No. 19 to 24-26-27
 निविदा संशोधन सूचना संख्या: 19-26-27/2026 Date: 08.05.2026

Div. Rly. and Manager, N.W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-tender for the following works up to 14.05.2026 on 30.05.2026 as below:
Location No.: 19 Name of Work with its Location: Pre & post tamping track measurement survey using trolley-based system in the jurisdiction of Sr DEN/N/BKN under control of ADEN/HM-II (Total 456.925 Tkm). **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs. 14,72,65,541. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 29,45,30,851. **Tender No.:** 20 Name of Work with its Location: Pre & post tamping track measurement survey using trolley-based measurement system in the jurisdiction of Sr DEN-W/BKN (Total 444.130 Tkm). **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs. 14,83,38,793. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 29,67,00,000. **Tender No.:** 21 Name of Work with its Location: Pre & post tamping track measurement survey using trolley-based measurement system in the jurisdiction of Sr DEN/S/BKN under control of ADEN/Ratnagarh (Total 594.200 Tkm). **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs. 19,15,08,822. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 38,30,00,000. **Tender No.:** 22 Name of Work with its Location: Improvement to cess by widening, pitching and toe wall at km 111/600 - 112/800 in Rewari-Bathinda section under ADEN/BNW **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs. 24,36,39,956. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 48,73,00,000. **Tender No.:** 24 Name of Work with its Location: Improvement to road surface at high road traffic LCs with rubberized road surface at 18 LCs over Bikaner division under ADEN/BNW. **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs. 19,02,82,071. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 38,06,00,000. **Note:** Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.ireps.gov.in.
 685-CO/26
 Follow us on: www.facebook.com/NWRRailways www.instagram.com/NWRRailways www.youtube.com/NWRRailways

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
 (CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
 Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004.
 fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com / gmsp.jbvn@rediffmail.com

Corrigendum Notice

Last date of uploading of bid documents, last date of online submission of tender fee and bid opening date of following tender notice no. is hereby revised as below :-

Sl. No.	NITs No.	Revised online bid uploading/ submission end date	Revised Last date of online submission of tender fee and EMD	Revised Technical bid opening date and time
1	72/PR/JBVL/2026-27	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	29.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.
2	73/PR/JBVL/2026-27	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	29.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.

Further details against the above NITs can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9470378503/ 9430348596/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Only online payment mode of submission of Tender Fee & EMD will be accepted.

PR No. 379146
 सविज्ञापित एवं पंजीकृत निकायों पर निविदा सूचनाओं को टोल फ्री नं 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज कराया।
 PR.NO.379636 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(26-27):D

Sd/-
 Dy. General Manager
 Purchase

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
 (CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
 Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004.
 fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com / gmsp.jbvn@rediffmail.com

Corrigendum Notice

Last date of uploading of bid documents, last date of online submission of tender fee and bid opening date of following tender notice no. is hereby revised as below :-

Sl. No.	NITs No.	Tender ID	Revised online bid uploading/ submission end date	Revised Last date of online submission of tender fee and EMD	Revised Technical bid opening date and time
1	69/PR/JBVL/2026-27	2026_JSEB_113820_1	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	29.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.
2	70/PR/JBVL/2026-27	2026_JSEB_113833_1	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	29.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.
3	71/PR/JBVL/2026-27	2026_JSEB_113836_1	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs	28.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	29.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.

Bidders are requested to submit bid only against above mentioned tender ID of respective NIT.
 Further details against the above NITs can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9470378503/ 9430348596/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Only online payment mode of submission of Tender Fee & EMD will be accepted.

PR No. 379146
 सविज्ञापित एवं पंजीकृत निकायों पर निविदा सूचनाओं को टोल फ्री नं 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज कराया।
 PR 379632 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(26-27):D

Sd/-
 Dy. General Manager
 Purchase

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD, DURG CIRCLE DURG (C.G.)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
 (1st Call)

No. 01/Durg/2026-27 Durg, Dated. 07.05.2026

Public Works Department (PWD) invites proposal for Planning, Design, Estimation and related services for the work जिला दुर्ग में सभाग स्तरीय बहुदेशीय स्टेडियम निर्माण कार्य हेतु वास्तुविद् चयन करने बाबत।
 Situated at Durg
 Estimated cost of project Rs. 1322.30 Lakh
 Minimum eligibility for participants shall be as below :-

S. N.	Building project cost	The applicant firms, firms forming Joint venture/consortium shall be	Earnest Money (In shape as per annexure I) Favor of Executive Engineer, PWD Durg Division Durg
1	For project cost Between 10 to 25 Crore	Empanelled as architect in Class "C" & Above Class in C.G. PWD.	Rs. 17,000-00

General condition: All the documents & Information as per para 6.4, shall be submitted through speed post/Registered post, so as to reach the office of under signed on or before dated 28.05.2026 by 17.30 hour. Any documents received after the last date and time will not be entertained.
 The detailed RFP is available on the website www.cg.nic.in/pwdraipur & <http://cgstate.gov.in/> from where it can be downloaded for submission. CG.PWD reserves the right to reject all or any of the application without assigning any reason. Right to modify the process of Pre-qualification is reserved with CG.PWD.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
 Public Works Department Durg Circle Durg

RO. No.: 26270062/5, R.O. Date: 11/05/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
 AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT
 (Co-Operative Division)

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES JHARKHAND, RANCHI
 INTEGRATED CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (I.C.D.P.) CELL, RANCHI

Short e-Tender Notice
 DATE:- 12.05.2026

Sl. No.	Tender Notice Number	Name of work	No Of Unit	Estimated Value of Work (in Rs)	Cost Of BoQ (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Of Completion Of Work
01.	ICDP/RANCHI/03/2026-27	Repairing Work of 100 MT Capacity Godown at Different MPDS Of District RANCHI.	10	62,96,000.00	10,000.00	1,26,000.00	06 Months
02.	ICDP/RANCHI/04/2026-27	Repairing Work of 100 MT Capacity Godown at Different MPDS Of District Lohardaga.	5	28,40,500.00	5,000.00	57,000.00	
03.	ICDP/RANCHI/05/2026-27	Repairing Work of 100 MT Capacity Godown at Different MPDS Of District Gumla.	10	63,82,600.00	10,000.00	1,28,000.00	
04.	ICDP/RANCHI/06/2026-27	Repairing Work of 100 MT Capacity Godown at Different MPDS Of District SIMDEGA.	07	52,60,300.00	10,000.00	1,06,000.00	
05.	ICDP/RANCHI/07/2026-27	Repairing Work of 100 MT Capacity Godown at Different MPDS Of District Khunti.	09	93,63,200.00	10,000.00	1,88,000.00	
06.	Date Of Publication of on Website			19.05.2026 AT 11:00 AM			
07.	Last Date & Time of Submission of bids			28.05.2026 AT 05:00 PM			
08.	Name & Address of Office Inviting Tender			State Monitoring Officer, ICDP Cell, Ranchi, 4 th Floor Pasupalan-Sahakarita Bhawan Singh More, Hesag, Hatia, Ranchi. 834003			
09.	Contact No of Procurement Officer			7979780612, 7250895727			
10.	Bid document with details terms and conditions will be available online on e-tendering portal, http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in from 19.05.2026 at 11:00 AM to 28.05.2026 up to 05:00 PM. Bids must be Submitted online only at the e-tendering portal http://jharkhandtender.gov.in on or before 05:00 PM on 28.05.2026. Tender Fee and EMD will be received through online mode only. Bidders can use internet banking facility for faster processing of tender fee and EMD. Alternatively, bidders can use NEFT/RTGS challan generated for the tender from jharkhandtenders.gov.in portal. Technical Bid received online will be opened at 05:00 PM on 29.05.2026.						
11.	Estimate Cost May Vary.						

Corrigendum/Amendment if any will be published only on the above mentioned website.
 PR 379626 (Co-opretive) 26-27 (D)

Sd/-
 State monitoring Officer
 ICDP Cell, Ranchi

Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs
Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property for India
 1st 11000-Floor, Shivaji Stadium, Connaught Place, New Delhi

E- AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ENEMY PROPERTIES
 (Under Notification issued vide G.S.R. 258(E) dated 21st March, 2018 as amended)

Notice is hereby given for e-auction of 55 immovable enemy properties vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India through "Online Electronic Bidding" on MSTC India Ltd portal on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis. The e-auction will be conducted on 25.05.2026 from 11:00 Hrs to 16:00 Hrs through <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>. Interested bidders may visit the MSTC website for detailed terms & conditions, eligibility criteria, EMD requirements, property details and inspection schedule, or scan the QR Code provided in the advertisement for complete information.

Helpline Nos. & Email:
 E-auction Agency: 1. 9727700986, 2. 9990673698
 Email nroopn8@mstcindia.in
 O/o CEPI, Lucknow: 1. 8127189431, 2. 9479654348
 Email cepi.lkw@mha.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./ AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NET NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL	2026_HBC_519117_1 & E-TENDER No. 03/TSRNL/2026-27 DATED 01.05.2026	THE TENDER WAS TO BE OPENED ON DATED 11-05-2026. NOW DATE EXTENDED UPTO 18.05.2026, DUE TO NO PARTICIPATION OF BIDDERS (KARNAL)	www.hvgn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvgn.org.in
2	HVPNL	NIET NO. 03/TSRPNL/2026-27, DATE: 17.04.2026 FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF MANDATORY SPARES AND ESSENTIAL PARTS FOR 220 KV & 66 KV GIS MODULES (MAKE: ZHANGSU JINKE, CHINA), BEING PROPRIETARY IN NATURE, REQUIRED FOR COMPLETION OF THE BALANCE WORKS OF THE UNDER CONSTRUCTION 220 KV GIS SUBSTATION, 402-KA-HEHO UNDER TS DIVISION PALWAL (AS RISK & COST CASE PERTAINING TO CONTRACT NO. HDP-2394/RCT.241/XEN/VNB, DATED 05.03.2019 AWARDED TO M/S IEC ELECTRIC JV M/S DEESAN AGRO TECH).	THE DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 18.05.2026 (PALWAL)	www.hvgn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvgn.org.in
3	HVPNL	2026/488E-435 800B 4CRD 841A 9978C111A8401056HVP / TENDER ID: 2026_HBC_517830_1/E-TENDER ENQUIRY NO. 0427/202610-41-18/HARYANA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED DEPT./HRY, DATED 27.04.2026	Corrigendum No.01, The last date of online bid submission is extended upto 18.05.2026 (13:00 hrs) (ROHTAK)	www.hvgn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvgn.org.in
4	HVPNL	ENIT-01/TSYNR/2026-27 DATED 21.04.2026 (2026_HBC_517355_1)	The tender was to be opened on dated 12.05.2026. Now bid submission date extended to 20.05.2026 upto 12:00 Hrs due to non receipt of minimum bidders i.e. 3 No. Bidders (YAMUNANAGAR)	www.hvgn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvgn.org.in
5	HVPNL	ENIT-15/TSYNR/2025-26 DATED 05.03.2026 (2026_HBC_506441_1)	The tender was to be opened on dated 12.05.2026. Now bid submission date extended to 20.05.2026 upto 12:00 Hrs due to non receipt of minimum bidders i.e. 3 No. Bidders (YAMUNANAGAR)	www.hvgn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvgn.org.in
6	HVPNL	NET NO. 04/CWD-2/VOL-300/HVPN/2026-27, DATED 21.04.2026 (ONLINE TENDER ID NO. 2026_HBC_516584_1)	Date of opening Bid 12.05.2026 (11:00 hrs) Last date of online bid submission is extended upto 19.05.2026 (13:00 hrs) (Societies & Contractors) (HISAR)	www.hvgn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvgn.org.in
7	HVPNL	NET NO. 03/CWD-2/VOL-300/HVPN/2026-27, DATED 21.04.2026 (ONLINE TENDER ID NO. 2026_HBC_516541_1)	Date of opening Bid 12.05.2026 (11:00 hrs) Last date of online bid submission is extended upto 19.05.2026 (13:00 hrs) (Societies & Contractors) (HISAR)	www.hvgn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvgn.org.in
8	HVPNL	NET NO. 06/CWD-2/VOL-300/HVPN/2026-27, DATED 28.04.2026 (ONLINE TENDER ID NO. 2026_HBC_518042_1)	Date of opening Bid 12.05.2026 (11:00 hrs) Last date of online bid submission is extended upto 19.05.2026 (13:00 hrs) (Societies & Contractors) (HISAR)	www.hvgn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvgn.org.in
9	HVPNL	2026_HBC_519258_1 / 02/QE-50/2026-27, DATED 02.05.2026	The Tender was to be bid submission end on dated 11-05-2026. Now Date is extended upto 21-05-2026, Due to non receipt of any bids (KATHAL)	www.hvgn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvgn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 48655HRY

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, HISAR	SPECIAL REPAIR OF SUB TENSIL NARNAUND CONVERTED TO JUDICIAL COURTS AT NARNAUND IN HISAR DISTRICT. (POG, LAN, EPABX, INTERCOM, CCTV AND PA SYSTEM ONLY)	11.05.2026 18.05.2026	8.30 LACS		

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Officers on their Balidan Diwas.

	SI SOHAN LAL
09.05.1977-13.05.2011	02.04.1960-13.05.2011

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)
Constable Surender Singh
ITBP salutes its braveheart Constable Surender Singh of 4th Battalion, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Jammu & Kashmir in 2002.
VIII.- Kandote Distt.- Doda (Jammu & Kashmir)

CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty while fighting with the LWE outfits. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

	DG and all Ranks of CRPF pay solemn tribute to Naik Ishador Lakra of 13 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while countering an ambush by insurgents during an operation in Manipur on 13 May 1974. CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.
	DG and all Ranks of CRPF pay solemn tribute to two valiant troopers of 31 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice in a cowardly attack by terrorists during naka duty on Pakhowal-Raikot Road, Ludhiana, Punjab on 13 May 1984. CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.
	DG and all Ranks of CRPF pay solemn tribute to two valiant troopers of 166 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating militants during an operation in village Podder, Pulwama, Jammu & Kashmir on 13 May 2008. CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.

Andhra Pradesh BharatNet Infrastructure Limited
Proposals are invited from interested agencies for RIP for Creation, Upgradation and O&M of Bharat Net Middle-Mile Network on a DBOM Model and O&M of the APSFL Network. Details of the RIP and corrigenda may be downloaded from e-procurement platform tender.approcurement.gov.in
Ro.No: S077PPCL/ADVT/1/2021-22 Dt: 20/05/2026

U.P. Police Avas Nigam Ltd, HQ Lucknow
Vibhuti Khand
Vyavsayik Parisar Part-I Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, U.P. 226010
CIN-U 45201 UP 1987 SGC 008642
e-mail: mproject.tech@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice
TENDER HAS BEEN INVITED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AT THANA MEERGANJ DISTT BAREILLY U.P. FOR ALL DETAILS PLEASE. log on to <https://etender.up.nic.in/>

GM (PM)
U.P. Police Avas Nigam Ltd, HQ Lucknow

U.P. Police Avas Nigam Ltd, HQ Lucknow
Vibhuti Khand
Vyavsayik Parisar Part-I Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, U.P. 226010
CIN-U 45201 UP 1987 SGC 008642
e-mail: mproject.tech@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice
TENDER HAS BEEN INVITED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AT THANA BIRNO DISTT GHAZIAPUR U.P. FOR ALL DETAILS PLEASE, log on to <https://etender.up.nic.in/>

GM (PM)
U.P. Police Avas Nigam Ltd, HQ Lucknow

U.P. Police Avas Nigam Ltd, HQ Lucknow
Vibhuti Khand
Vyavsayik Parisar Part-I Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, U.P. 226010
CIN-U 45201 UP 1987 SGC 008642
e-mail: mproject.tech@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice
TENDER HAS BEEN INVITED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TYPE B-64 NOS RESIDENCES AT 4TH BN PAC GHAZIABAD U.P. FOR ALL DETAILS PLEASE, log on to <https://etender.up.nic.in/>

GM (PM)
U.P. Police Avas Nigam Ltd, HQ Lucknow

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि
अतिअल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (ई-निविदा)
दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि
अधीक्षक अभियन्ता, विद्युत जानपद मण्डल (वितरण) आगरा
ई-निविदा सूचना
पत्रांक 158/वि०जा०म०(वि०)/आ०टी-2 दिनांक 12.05.2026

निविदा सं० एवं कार्य का संक्षिप्त विवरण

02/ECC(D)A/2026-27-	प्रबन्ध निदेशक कार्यालय भवन एवं विद्युत कॉलोनी के अधिकारी/कर्मचारी आवासों के वार्षिक अनुक्षण कार्य। प्रपत्र शुल्क रू०: 3540.00 धरोहर राशि रू०: 26500.00
03/ECC(D)A/2026-27-	प्रबन्ध निदेशक दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निदेशक एवं निदेशकगण अधिकारी/कर्मचारी विद्युत कॉलोनी के आवासीय परिसर में बाह्य एजेंसी के माध्यम से नियोजित कार्यालयों को साफ-सफाई नालियों व शौचालयों को सफाई सैटिक टैंक व सड़कों की व्यवस्था का कार्य। प्रपत्र शुल्क रू०: 3540.00 धरोहर राशि रू०: 27000.00
04/ECC(D)A/2026-27-	220 के०वी० उपकेंद्र सिकन्दरा आगरा स्थित प्रबन्ध निदेशक दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निदेशक कार्यालय एवं विद्युत कॉलोनी के वार्षिक इंटीकरेटर एवं लैण्डस्केपिंग कार्य। प्रपत्र शुल्क रू० 3540.00 धरोहर राशि रू०: 15500.00
05/ECC(D)A/2026-27-	हाईडिल कॉलोनी लाल डिग्री अलीगढ़ में विभागीय आवासीय भवनों एवं अनावासीय भवनों / कार्यालयों के वार्षिक अनुक्षण कार्य। प्रपत्र शुल्क रू०: 3540.00/धरोहर राशि रू०: 16000.00
06/ECC(D)A/2026-27-	कमला नगर स्थित टाईप तृतीय आवासीय कॉलोनी के आवासों के वार्षिक जानपदीय अनुक्षण कार्य। प्रपत्र शुल्क रू०: 1180.00/धरोहर राशि रू०: 5000.00
07/ECC(D)A/2026-27-	मैलाना स्थित विद्युत कार्यालय के परिसर में कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता (वितरण) आगरा क्षेत्र आगरा एवं विभिन्न अनुभागों के कार्यालयों के वार्षिक अनुक्षण कार्य। प्रपत्र शुल्क रू०: 1180.00 धरोहर राशि रू०: 7500.00
08/ECC(D)A/2026-27-	33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेंद्र कैप्ट परिसर जानपद मधुरा स्थित मुख्य अभियन्ता (वि०) मधुरा क्षेत्र के अधीन समस्त कार्यालय भवनों के वार्षिक जानपदीय अनुक्षण कार्य। प्रपत्र शुल्क रू०: 1180.00/धरोहर राशि रू०: 9500.00
09/ECC(D)A/2026-27-	माताटीला हाईडिल कॉलोनी परिसर जानपद शहीरी स्थित मुख्य अभियन्ता (वि०) शहीरी क्षेत्र के अधीन समस्त कार्यालय भवनों के वार्षिक जानपदीय अनुक्षण कार्य। प्रपत्र शुल्क रू०: 1180.00/धरोहर राशि रू०: 8000.00
10/ECC(D)A/2026-27-	33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेंद्र एस०ए० हॉस्पिटल जानपद किराजवाड स्थित मुख्य अभियन्ता (वि०) किराजवाड क्षेत्र के अधीन समस्त कार्यालय भवनों के वार्षिक जानपदीय अनुक्षण कार्य। प्रपत्र शुल्क रू०: 1180.00 धरोहर राशि रू०: 2500.00
11/ECC(D)A/2026-27-	33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेंद्र क्वारसी जानपद अलीगढ़ स्थित मुख्य अभियन्ता (वि०) अलीगढ़ क्षेत्र के अधीन समस्त कार्यालय भवनों के वार्षिक जानपदीय अनुक्षण कार्य। प्रपत्र शुल्क रू०: 1180.00 धरोहर राशि रू०: 5000.00
12/ECC(D)A/2026-27-	मुख्य अभियन्ता (वि०) एटा क्षेत्र एटा के अधीन समस्त कार्यालय भवनों के वार्षिक जानपदीय अनुक्षण कार्य। प्रपत्र शुल्क रू०: 1180.00/धरोहर राशि रू०: 4000.00

ई-निविदा की अंतिम तिथि: 22.05.2026, 16:00 बजे
वित्तीय जानकारी एवं प्रपत्र वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। अंतर समस्त सूचनाएं वेबसाइट पर ही प्रदक्षित की जाएगी।
हस्ता-
अधीक्षक अभियन्ता
विद्युत जानपद मण्डल (वि०)
दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि आगरा

OFFICE CHIEF ENGINEER NAGAR NIGAM, BAREILLY

E-Procurement Tender Notice
NIT No - CMGRID/45/C.E./N.N.B./2026-27
Date:12.05.2026
Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam Bareilly invites percentage-rate bids on <http://etender.up.nic.in> from eligible bidders for the following package under the CM-GRID Scheme.

Sl. No.	Nagar Nigam	Package No.	Included Roads	Length of Road (Km)	Estimated Cost Excluding GST (Rs. Lakh)		Total Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakh)	Duration of Construction Work (in Months)	Tender Fee Including GST
					Construction Cost	Maintenance cost for 5 Years				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	NAGAR NIGAM BAREILLY	BLY/CMG 2025-26/ PKG-1	Integrated development and upgradation work from Shyamganj Bridge to Maharishi Kashyap Square.	1.50	2520.12	44.91	2565.02	51.30	15	41300.00

Sl. No	Events	Date/Time
1.	Availability of tender documents one-tender in e-tendering portal	Date-12/05/2026 Time-03:00 PM
2.	Pre-Bid meeting Date & Venue	18/05/2026, 03:00 PM at 3d floor URIDA, Sector-7, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow-226010
3.	Last date of Submission of e-Bids on E-tender Portal	21/05/2026, 03:00 PM
4.	Date of Opening of tender	21/05/2026, 04:00 PM
5.	Tender ID	CMGRIDS

The Bareilly Municipal Corporation reserves the right to issue addendums/corrigendum online as per ITV Clause 10, which will not be published in any newspaper.
All prospective bidders are advised to regularly monitor the e-tendering portal.
For more information, please log on to <https://etender.up.nic.in> and download the bid document.
The security deposit and tender form price for the said tender must be paid through the payment link available on the Bareilly Municipal Corporation website <https://bareillye-tender.com> and the receipt must be enclosed in an envelope.
Any questions regarding the tender may be sent to the following email address up to 24 hours prior to the scheduled pre-bid meeting, until 18.05.2026, so that relevant replies can be presented at the meeting to be held on that date. chiefengineernb@gmail.com AND urida.goup@gmail.com No question/complaint regarding the tender will be considered after 19.05.2026 Time 03:00 PM.

Sd/-
[CHIEF ENGINEER]
NAGAR NIGAM BAREILLY

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SRL 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	SOCIAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAIL/EMAIL
1	THE BALLABGARH COOP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD, BALLABGARH (NTA)	CONSTRUCTION/FABRICATION OF MILK BOOTH AS PER OUR DRAWING/DESIGN AND SPECIFICATION COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECT FOR MILK UNIONS OF HARYANA DAIRY I.E. MILK UNION, BALLABGARH	12.05.2026 25.05.2026	Rs. 80,000/- FOR L&C SOCIETIES	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	996804717 vash8@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No- 456573HRY

Government of Jharkhand Rural Works Department JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JSRRDA)
3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)
Re- eTender No.- 13/ 2026-27- Ranchi, Dated: 12.05.2026
PR No- 364457 dated 18.10.2025

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State/ Central Government Organization for construction and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes shall be displayed in the website pmsystendersjhr.gov.in) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna PM-JANMAN (Batch-1, 2025-26).

Sr. No.	District Name	Block Name	Tendering Package	Road Name / Bridge Name	Road Length (Kms)	Sanction Construction Cost (in lakhs)	Sanction Maintenance Cost (in lakhs)	Total Sanction Cost with Maint. (in lakhs)	Total Package Cost (in lakhs)	Earnest Money (in Lakh)	Time of Completion (in month)
1	Garhwa	Bhandaria	JH-07. PMJANMAN GAR-01 (2025-26) (7 th Call)	L021-Bathan Toll To Kochli (Barkol Kalan)	3.400	275.68	30.01	305.69	1288.48	25.77	18
				L023-Madgari Road To Totki	4.300	369.92	36.41	406.33			
				L023-Fmgay Uday More To Parsukhar Road	2.000	177.58	18.25	195.83			
2	Palamu	Chainpur	JH-17. PMJANMAN PAL-06 (2025-26) (2 nd Call)	L025-RCD Salatuwa to Kating korwa tola	0.600	52.51	32.68	85.19	615.9	12.32	15
				L035-Champur Barwadhi PWD Road to Margara via Chungra Bansdih	6.230	508.60	49.64	558.24			
Total					20.33	1732.24	172.14	1904.38	1904.38		

The bid should be submitted online in the website pmsystendersjhr.gov.in. The bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate for online submission of bid.
Details of bid submission is as under:

Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender (on-line) for bidding From	To	Last date & time of seeking clarification	Last date and time of bid submission	Date & time of opening (on-line) of tender	Technical bid	Financial bid
Engineer in Chief, JSRRDA, Ranchi	Engineer in Chief JSRRDA, Ranchi	15.05.2026 at 10.00 AM	25.05.2026 upto 5.00 PM	19.05.2026 upto 2.00 PM	25.05.2026 upto 5.00 PM	25.05.2026 at 05.30 PM	To be informed later	To be informed later

* Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.
** Cost may change.

Note:-

- Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document. Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) shall be deposited online in form as mentioned in Bid Data Sheet failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2 (d).
- In case, it is found, even after the award of work that the bidder has submitted/ uploaded any false/erroneous/fraudulent statement/document, he/she is liable for blacklisting and forfeiture of Bid Security.
- Bidders must submit GST registration certificate without which bid is liable to be rejected.
- Bidders whose names appear in the Debar/blacklist of RWD or any department of GoJ/GoI (including JSRRDA) shall not be allowed to participate in the above bids.
- Bids submitted by bidders, who have long pending ATR(s) made inordinate delay in execution of earlier allotted construction/ maintenance works of PMGSY, may be rejected summarily.
- In case of any discrepancy/dispute about units in BOQ, units as mentioned in Current/SOR on which BOQ has been prepared shall prevail.
- Participating bidders are free to submit one time grievances, if any, against the decision of technical evaluation within five days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation only through email at jh-ce@pmsy.nic.in. Grievance submitted after stipulated period shall not be considered.
- Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fund organization under EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 failing which the bid shall be rejected.
- Bidders must not quote rate for routine maintenance. The amount for routine maintenance as indicated in the Bill of Quantities must be acceptable to bidders.
- For unbalanced bids, extra security will be required to be deposited by the bidder at the time of Agreement.
- The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tender at any stage without giving prior notice/reason. All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in website pmsystendersjhr.gov.in as per schedule mentioned above.

Engineer-in- Chief
Rural Works Department- Cum-
JSRRDA, Ranchi
PR 379641 (Rural Work Department) 26-27 (D)

TORRENT POWER
CIN: L31200GJ2004PLC044068
Website: www.torrentpower.com
E-mail: cs@torrentpower.com

TORRENT POWER LIMITED
Registered Office: "Samanvay",
600 Tapovan, Ambawadi,
Ahmedabad - 380 015, Gujarat, India
Phone: +91 79 26628300
Fax: +91 79 26764159

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026
[₹ in Crore except per share data]

Particulars	Quarter ended	Year ended	Quarter ended
	31.03.2026	31.03.2026	31.03.2025
	Un-audited	Audited	Un-audited
Total income from operations	6,406.07	28,966.31	6,456.34
Net profit for the period before tax and exceptional items	547.36	3,316.77	619.35
Net profit for the period before tax and after exceptional items	547.36	3,316.77	619.35
Net profit for the period after tax and exceptional items	331.49	2,469.36	1,077.22
Total comprehensive income for the period (after tax) (attributable to owners of the Company)	394.43	2,461.00	1,067.51
Equity share capital	503.90	503.90	503.90
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve as shown in the balance sheet of previous year)		18,571.43 (as at 31.03.2026)	17,111.41 (as at 31.03.2025)
Earnings per share (of ₹ 10/- each)			
Basic (₹)	6.31	47.95	21.03
Diluted (₹)	6.31	47.95	21.03

EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS
[₹ in Crore]

Particulars	Quarter ended	Year ended	Quarter ended
	31.03.2026	31.03.2026	31.03.2025
	Un-audited	Audited	Un-audited
Total income from operations	4,480.02	21,850.03	4,692.34
Net profit for the period before tax and exceptional items	624.39	3,350.41	644.25
Net profit for the period before tax and after exceptional items	624.39	3,350.41	644.25
Net profit for the period after tax and exceptional items	431.90	2,575.11	1,089.80
Total comprehensive income for the period (after tax)	506.63	2,619.41	1,097.92

Notes:

- Interim dividend for FY 2025-26 of ₹ 15.00 per equity share was paid in March 2026. The Board of Directors has recommended final dividend of ₹ 5.00 per equity share for FY 2025-26. This final dividend along with interim dividend works out to total dividend of ₹ 20.00 per equity share for the FY 2025-26.
- The above is an extract of the detailed financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2026 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the same, along with the notes, are available on the websites of Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and also on the Company's website (URL: <https://www.torrentpower.com/index.php/investors/financial?fy=2025-26>). The same can be accessed by scanning the QR code provided below.

Place : Ahmedabad
Date : May 12, 2026

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CORRIGENDUM

The critical dates and time as called vide this office Tender Notice No. PW/SRJ/TA/Publication/2026-27-1140-43 dated 27.04.2026 for online Tenders and further this office corrigendum No- PW/SRJ/TA/Publication/2026-27-1344-46 dated 04-05-2026 are hereby extended as below due to some Administrative/Technical reasons.

Sr. No.	Description	May be read as under
1	Starting date for downloading bid	15.05.2026 at 11:00 AM instead of 12.05.2026 at 11:00 AM.
2	Deadline for submission of bid	22.05.2026 at 09:00 AM instead of 19.05.2026 at 09:00 AM.
3	Date of opening of bid	22.05.2026 at 11:00 AM instead of 19.05.2026 at 11:00 AM.

All other terms & conditions will remain un-changed.
Executive Engineer,
HPPWD Division
Seraj at Janjehli
No. 0747/HIP

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAYS
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 15/2026 Dated : 08.05.2026

E-Procurement Tender Notice

On behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj invites the E-procurement tenders:

Tender No. : 192581814A Qty. : 1141 Set
Description : 05 Watt VHF Digital Walkie Talkie Set.
EMD (Rs.) : 5,70,870/- Tender Opening Date : 02.06.2026

Note : 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender is available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against Above Tender, for this purpose, Vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Class III Digital Signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into financial ratio page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight away ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Documents being attached should be signed on their body. The above tender notice has been uploaded on <http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in>. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the IREPS website may be approached. 1050/26 (C)

North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPONCR

NORTHERN RAILWAY INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM
Tender Notice No. 11/2026-2027 Date: 12.05.2026

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01/19260899	SET OF AXLE BOX COMPLETE	31 SET	01.06.26
02/04260079	LIGHT DIESEL OIL	166 KLTR	02.06.26
03/77256427A	TUNGSTEN CARBIDE TAMPING TOOL (TCT) FOR - 09-3X/DIE MACHINE	27 SET	03.06.26
04/77256552A	TUNGSTEN CARBIDE TAMPING TOOLS (TCT) FOR OLD CSM	16 SET	03.06.26
05/09263052	ALUMINIUM PAINT FOR GENERAL PURPOSES IN DUAL CONTAINER.	39284 LTR	08.06.26
06/08260026	ROUTE SIGNAL LIGHTING	3147 NOS	09.06.26
07/77269062	RUNNING CONTRACT FOR HVN LINERS (T-8993 & T-8994)	33500 SET	09.06.26
08/77256261	MANUFACTURING AND SUPPLY OF LEAF SPRING TO RDSO DRG. NO. T-6310	50400 NOS	09.06.26
09/07265033	SET OF SEATS AND BERTHS FOR LHB AC 3T COACHES	11 SET	10.06.26
10/08260028	RED ASPECT MAIN LED SIGNAL	2307 NOS	11.06.26
11/02260080	MICROPROCESSOR CONTROLLER FOR ROOF MOUNTED	472 NOS	15.06.26
12/08265205	RGC TENDER FOR 12 CORE X 1.5 SQ. MM	11538 KM	16.06.26
13/02261855	HIGH CAPACITY INTER VEHICULAR COUPLERS ZS	114 SET	22.06.26
14/02262141	CONDENSER FAN MOTOR 0.75KW	1847 NOS	20.07.26

NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

1582/26

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

The Big Picture

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

PRIVATE PROPERTY
NOT FOR SALE
TRESPASSERS WILL
BE PROSECUTED



PHOTOS: PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA

GOA LAND GRAB CASE

‘HOW DID THE DEAD SIGN SALE DEEDS?’

Everything seemed in order: Portuguese-era archival records dating back to the 16th century, sale deeds and succession documents. Only, the records had been fabricated. PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA on how a Special Investigation Team uncovered one of Goa's biggest land grab cases

ON A Sunday morning in April 2022, a hurried meeting was called at Our Lady of Miracles, a church on a small hillock in Badem village, a close-knit community of 45 houses in Assagao, in North Goa's Bardez taluka. After Mass, the priest asked the parishioners to settle down. Christina Dias, 53, a lawyer and local resident, then laid bare an elaborate plot that had been quietly unfolding around them.

Badem was the target of a criminal conspiracy, she said, one of the many villages across North Goa where vast tracts of land had allegedly been grabbed by real-estate agents in connivance with government officials. But it was what Dias told them next that shook the gathering: the dead had been signing sale deeds in the village for years, and over half of its properties had already changed hands.

As complaints poured in from Calangute, Parra, Anjuna, Pilerne, Nerul and other villages in Bardez taluka, on June 15, 2022, the Goa government formed a seven-member Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by the Superintendent of Police (Crime).

According to land deeds, revenue documents and case and court records reviewed by *The Indian Express*, the land grab was part of a plot allegedly hatched by a group of real-estate brokers who used a trove of 500-year-old Portuguese-era land records to allegedly forge property titles.

Now, as parallel investigations by the SIT and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) continue, the scam has emerged as one of the largest land grabs in the state. At the heart of the investigation are 117 properties spanning nearly 1.5 lakh sqm across North Goa, an area equivalent to 21 football fields.

The scam was spun through three key loopholes: a largely Catholic population whose members had migrated over generations, leaving homes empty and unguarded; a real-estate boom that sent land prices in villages soaring; and an Archives department with poorly monitored and maintained records.

In 2022, constituting a SIT in the state "for the first time ever to investigate matters of illegal land grabbing", Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said, "This has been happening for the last 20 years and it's happening more over the last 15-20 years. Some people live abroad. Their properties are being illegally transferred to someone else... Goa, being one of the most sought-after destinations, has been the target of such criminals involved in illegal land grabbing."

The SIT is probing 52 cases and has made 91 arrests, including of six state government officials.

Dodgy surveys, bouncers

It was in early 2022 that residents in Badem started spotting "outsiders" surveying properties in the village: labourers fencing and clearing land, and contractors "threatening" owners.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Dias, the local lawyer, pointed to property 78/2, where, in 2022, bouncers had allegedly set up sheds on a 18,500 sqm plot. Case records show the property was originally owned by Domingos Vincente De Souza and Maria Quitera De Souza. After their deaths, it had passed on to their children.

The revenue records, however, told a different story. A sale deed purportedly executed on February 19, 1934, claimed the original owners sold the property to a couple, Antonio Martinho Diniz and Antonia Francisca Pereira. The document showed Domingos to be unmarried at the time. Except, in 1934, Domingos had been married for years. His youngest child Mary was born in June that year.

Another deed claimed the property was sold, bizarrely, to the same couple again in 1951.

Dias also spoke about property 39/6, co-owned by her relative Anacleto Vincent Monteiro. Revenue records, however, reflected a mutation proceeding with a new



SCAM IN ANUTSHELL

TARGET PROPERTIES: Identify vacant properties, mainly with absentee or foreign-based owners; collect title details from govt offices, surveyor registers

FORGE LAND DEEDS: Fabricate Portuguese-era sale deeds, showing original owners selling to accused's ancestors. Bribe Archives department staff to insert fake pages into notarial books, supply certified copies

ESTABLISH INHERITANCE: Use forged deeds to obtain fraudulent succession certificates from sub-registrar offices, impersonating legal heirs of fictional buyers

FUDGE & SELL: Bribe local revenue officials to delete original owners' names from revenue records and substitute the accused's associates. Execute nominal first sale deed to legalise the title, sell to unsuspecting buyers

set of owners. Dias filed an objection and obtained certified copies of the mutation proceedings through RTI. The documents claimed Dias's relative Monteiro, Miguel Arcaño de Souza and other co-owners had executed a sale deed on November 26, 1951, in favour of the ancestors of the new owners.

But, as Dias pointed out, Miguel had died in April 1951, nearly six months before "signing" the deed. Monteiro was 15 years old in 1951 and only became a co-owner through inventory proceedings in 2000, she said.

"It was shocking to learn that my dear relative Miguel returned from his grave to execute this deed of sale," Dias said.

Anacleto Monteiro's son Ashley, 50, remembers attending the church meeting. "Everyone was concerned. We were told that a set of people were trying to grab our ancestral properties through fraudulent means. The property was bequeathed to my father through inventory proceedings. It was shocking to hear that it had been sold by some third party, based on a forged sale deed. When the sale deed was supposedly executed, some co-owners were dead. How did the dead sign deeds?" he asked.

Then, there is the case of "Aframanto or Quinze Adicoes", a property in Badem spanning 2,942.5 square metres co-owned by Matilda Leopoldina Coutinho on the western portion and Eliterio Anthony Carvalho on the eastern portion. The western portion had been gifted to Matilda's husband Simon Paul Coutinho by Jose Pedro Coutinho and his wife Maria Anton D'Souza via a deed of gift in 1974. The eastern portion was recorded in the name of Maria Joaquina Carvalho and Pascoal Carvalho. Yet, a sale deed dated June 25, 1996, claimed the two women — Maria Anton D'Souza and Maria Joaquina Carvalho — were "married to each other" and had jointly sold the property to one Diago Roberto Rodrigues. Maria Joaquina Carvalho had died in 1991, five years before the purported transaction.

Advocate Augustus Monteiro, who was helping villagers compile the list of targeted

properties, learnt that his own family property in Anjuna was on the radar. A purported sale deed from 1951 showed his wife, mother-in-law and sister-in-law as joint owners of eight properties in Anjuna and that they had 'sold' them to one Antonio Pereira. His mother-in-law, Esperenca Oliveira, was 12 years old in 1951 and had been listed in the deed as the daughter of her father-in-law. His wife and sister-in-law were not even born that year.

Tucked in a valley between Anjuna and Siolim, Badem is a largely Catholic village with old houses bearing Goan *balcaos* (covered front porches), courtyards and laterite stone walls. Over the years, as many residents migrated abroad, their homes remained vacant. Paddy fields have given

"It was shocking to learn that my dear relative had returned from his grave to execute this deed of sale," Christina Dias, lawyer and a resident of Badem, said

way to large villas, driven partly by an urban elite relocating to Goa after the pandemic and the resulting real estate boom.

After the church meeting, Dias asked every resident of the village to check the occupants' column in Form I and XIV (documents with details of property ownership) in the revenue records on the Goa government's Directorate of Settlement and Land Records website. Her team of eight then began quietly conducting inquiries at the offices of the mamlatdar and sub-registrar. They rushed to the Department of Archives and Archaeology in Panaji and found that more than half of Badem's properties had allegedly been sold off by 'dead ancestors' to fictitious people using forged deeds and fraudulent mutation proceedings.

Soon, boards went up across Badem: "Private Property. Not For Sale. Trespassers

Will Be Prosecuted."

A conspiracy in the archives

According to Dias, inquiries at the Department of Archives and Archaeology revealed that records had been tampered with. Pages 13 to 19 in book number 551, volume 328 of 1951, had been inserted and loosely bound with string; they were also shorter than the rest of the pages. An internal inquiry by the Archives department found that two genuine sale deeds had been removed from the register and four fake ones inserted, through which 45 properties had been targeted across Bardez taluka.

"The dates of the deeds were not in chronological order, the pages of some deeds were shorter than the other pages in the books. There was a difference in handwriting. The paper quality, the shade of ink were different, there was a mismatch in the signature of the notary," Dias said.

With the scam exposed, the SIT made its first major arrest a week after it was formed in June 2022 — Vikrant Shetty, a 48-year-old real-estate broker. More arrests followed, including of Mohammed Suhail alias Michael, who is named in at least 13 FIRs and identified as the 'mastermind', and Rajkumar Maithi. While Suhail is in jail, Shetty and Maithi are out on bail.

The ED, meanwhile, initiated a money laundering probe in July 2022, filing a prosecution complaint against 36 accused in 2024 and attaching properties worth over Rs 535 crore. Subsequently, the ED has filed four more prosecution complaints.

In a disclosure statement, Suhail, the ED claimed, allegedly admitted to illegally acquiring more than 100 properties in Goa in the names of friends and associates over the last 15 years. Born in Chitradurga, Karnataka, the 49-year-old had dropped out after the third year of a BE programme in Honnavar and worked in his father's tailoring business before turning to real-estate brokerage.

Dismissing the ED's allegations, Advocate Ritesh Rawal, who is representing Suhail, the main accused, said, "The matter is

subjudice. Whether these statements [disclosures] are valid or not, or whether they can be corroborated, is a matter of trial. The ED proceedings are dependent on trial in the predicate offence. If the accused is proved to be innocent in the predicate offence, then there can be no PMLA conviction that can be attracted."

Advocate Vibhav Amonkar, who has represented Suhail's co-accused Shetty and Maithi, said, "The material at this juncture is highly insufficient to call anyone a mastermind. The investigation is ongoing and the trial will take its own course."

According to a senior police officer who was part of the SIT, the accused first identified vacant, unattended or dilapidated ancestral properties owned by people with common Goan surnames such as Fernandes, Rodrigues and D'Souza.

The gang then allegedly obtained ownership and title information of properties from government offices, websites and the Registo de Agrimensor, a register maintained by Portuguese-era land surveyors.

Next, they turned to the Archives.

During the Portuguese regime, and for some time after Goa's liberation in 1961, land deeds of all kinds were registered with notaries under the continental system of registration. In 1963, the powers of registration were transferred to sub-registrars and notary ex-officio under the Law Department, who took over the registers of deeds and wills from the old notaries. These books were subsequently handed over to the Department of Archives and Archaeology, which is today the custodian of archival records. The department holds over 3.2 lakh bound volumes, files and loose manuscripts containing approximately 3 crore folios, with the earliest record dating back to 1498.

Suhail allegedly told the ED that two sorters in the Archives department were paid Rs 15 lakh each to provide documents and pages of notarial books. The sorters would allegedly tear the original pages from the notarial books, and insert the new documents, showing forged sale deeds, in their place.

But the forgery required skill of a rare kind. The notarial deeds were typically in Portuguese and the forged pages, with details of the property changing hands, had to resemble the original script. According to the ED prosecution complaint, Suhail allegedly roped in his nephew Denver D'Souza, who was proficient in Portuguese, to reproduce the script. D'Souza also allegedly translated the Portuguese documents that were then used to draw succession deeds at sub-registrar offices, charging around Rs 15,000 per page. D'Souza is yet to be arrested.

According to the ED, the main accused allegedly approached three Goan residents — Roysan Rodrigues, Sandric Fernandes and Caetano Fernandes — and collected their personal documents, along with that of their ancestors, to forge succession records and land documents. The fabricated documents allegedly showed that the actual owners had long since sold the properties to the ancestors of the Goan residents. The mastermind then approached the sub-registrar offices at Canacona and Ponda to get succession certificates.

Suhail also told investigators that three mamlatdars assisted him and were paid Rs 8 lakh in cash per property mutation.

Advocate Anoop Gaoker, who is representing Roysan, Sandric and Caetano, said, "The matter is subjudice before the courts."

While the investigation continues, back in Badem, the ordeal is far from over for Ashley Monteiro and other residents. "Though the properties are attached, the names of the original owners are still not reflecting in the revenue records. We are now forced to run from pillar to post to restore ownership and possession of properties which were snatched from us. I lost my father in 2024. He was a heart patient and all this stress took a toll on him," he said.

Across the village, the boards are still up: "Private Property. Not For Sale. Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted."

(Top and above) As news of the scam spread, boards went up across Badem: 'Private Property, Not For Sale'; (above, left) the church in Badem where villagers were alerted of the scam in 2022

CRACKDOWN IN NUMBERS

52 FIRs probed by SIT

117 Properties targeted by accused

91 Arrested (including 6 officials)

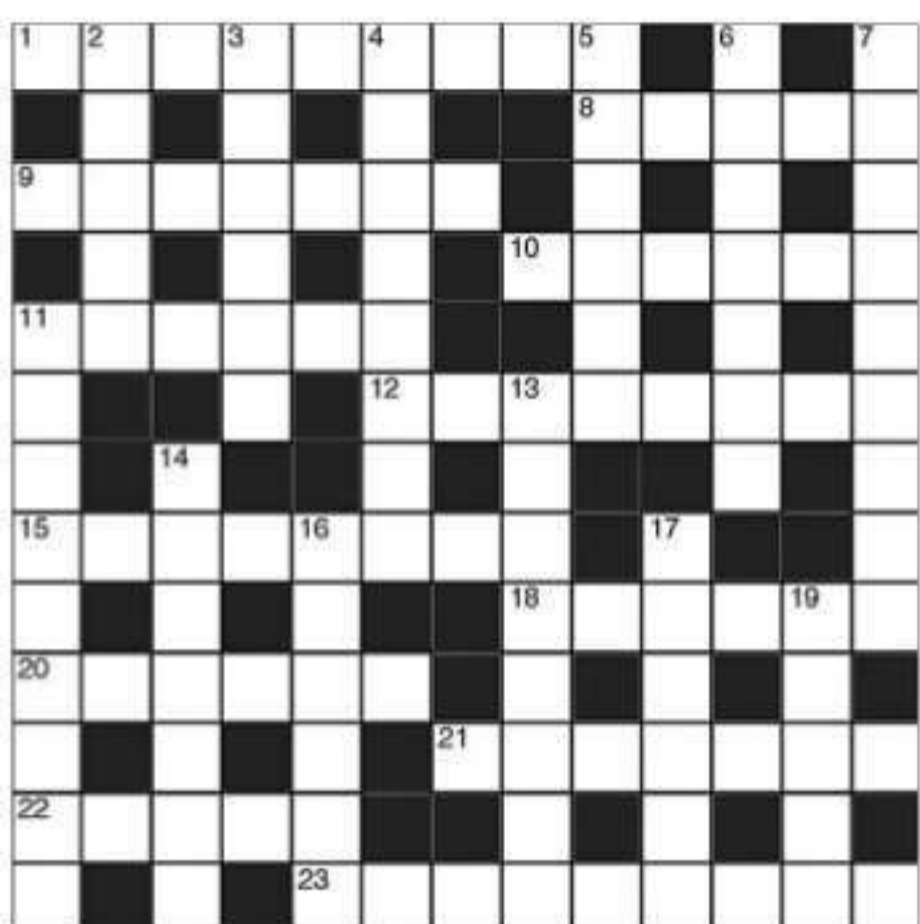
36 Accused in ED complaint

21 Chargesheets filed

Rs 1000 cr+ Properties attached by ED

CROSSWORD

5987



ACROSS: 1 Slightly damaged so withdrawn (9), 8 Not an all-American name for a girl (5), 9 Finally decline the use of a lift? (4,3), 10 Holy water in which an egg's cooked (6), 11 Remove from the side, let expert in (6), 12 Nice ruse turns out to be unsafe (8), 15 He daren't upset one who follows (8), 18 Things to be done in company (6), 20 It conceals the seamy side of our habits (6), 21 Current optical disorder (7), 22 Support the breaking of a lease (5), 23 Rational converse? (9). DOWN: 2 A flying machine? (5), 3 Joined forces (6), 4 Tearoom without unusually fine coffee ingredient (8), 5 Be up in time for the discussion (6), 6 Clearly sound touring organisation (4,3), 7 Service wrongly aimed at press and TV (4,5), 11 He fails to show up the detect in the return pipe (9), 13 Begin to fix a fight (3,5), 14 Language which is written down (7), 16 Cause irritation right on the joint (6), 17 About eleven come round in a state (6), 19 A doctor and a mother in an exciting story (5).

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 5986 ACROSS: 1 Abolish, 4 Dower, 7 Eddy, 8 Latchkey, 10 Short story, 12 Steams, 13 Strand, 15 Made to last, 18 Doorbell, 19 Fine, 20 Madam, 21 Tempest. DOWN: 1 Avers, 2 Old fogey, 3 Hearts, 4 Decoration, 5 Wake, 6 Raymond, 9 Stamp album, 11 Magazine, 12 Serfdom, 14 Pellet, 16 Treat, 17 Road.

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 quip.

When people talk, _____ completely. Most people never _____ Ernest Hemmingway (6,...,6) (same word twice)

ENSES: ●●●●○, LEDGES: ○●●●○, GHLIT: ○●●●○, GIRSTN: ○●●●○. SOLUTIONS: ENSES: Sense/Sense, Ledges: Sledge, Ghlit: Listen, Girstn: String.

OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS



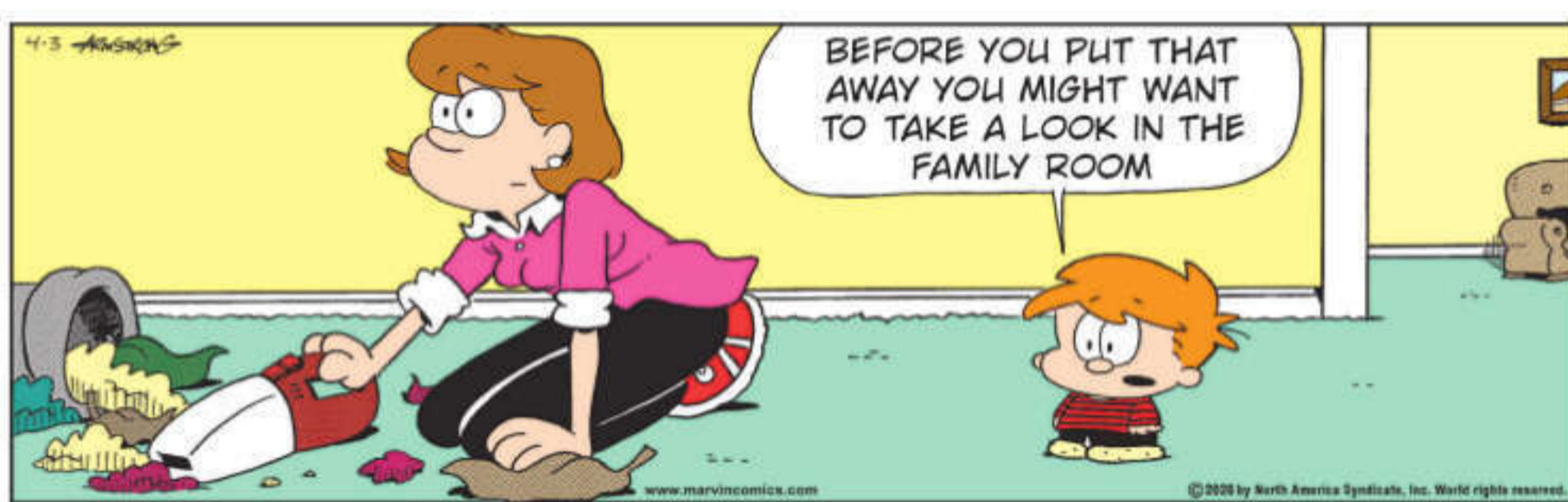
CALVIN & HOBBS

BY BILL WATTERSON



MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2s 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.

SUDOKU 6317

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius.

Sudoku grid with numbers 7, 1, 3, 5, 4, 6, 5, 8, 3, 2, 6, 5, 8, 7, 3, 4, 2, 9, 7, 4, 6, 5, 5, 8, 2, 6, 4, 3, 3, 4, 9, 8.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6316

Sudoku solution grid with numbers 8, 4, 2, 3, 6, 5, 9, 7, 1, 7, 5, 1, 2, 4, 9, 8, 6, 3, 9, 3, 6, 7, 8, 1, 2, 5, 4, 2, 8, 3, 9, 5, 4, 7, 1, 6, 5, 6, 4, 8, 1, 7, 3, 2, 9, 1, 7, 9, 6, 3, 2, 4, 8, 5, 6, 2, 8, 5, 9, 3, 1, 4, 7, 4, 9, 7, 1, 2, 6, 5, 3, 8, 3, 1, 5, 4, 7, 8, 6, 9, 2.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82(2) (ii) Cr. P.C./84 Bhattiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Jay Sharma S/o Pooram Lal Sharma R/o C-74, Gali No. 4, West Jyoti Nagar Enclave, Shadara, Delhi have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under FIR No. 60/2020 U/s 420 IPC., has been registered at P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereon issued that the said, Jay Sharma cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, Jay Sharma has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, Jay Sharma of FIR No. 60/2020 U/s 420 IPC., registered at P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 18.09.2026. By Order Mr. Sanyam Jain JMFC-04 (North-West), Room No.112 1st Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Vishva Jeet, S/o Adeer Haidhar, R/o: Yamuna Bank Khader Jhuggi, Mandawali Fazalpur, East Delhi has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 392/2020, U/s 454/380/411/34 IPC, P.S.: Mandawali, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Vishva Jeet cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Vishva Jeet has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Vishva Jeet accused of offence in case FIR No. 392/2020, U/s 454/380/411/34 IPC, P.S.: Mandawali, Delhi and are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 25.08.2026. By Order Sh. Sachin Judicial Magistrate First Class-03 (East) Room No. 16, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Rahimuddin, S/o: Shamim Ahmad, R/o: Gali No-2, Mandawali, East, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.: 91/2021, U/s: 25/54/59 A. Act, P.S. Mandawali, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Rahimuddin cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Rahimuddin has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Rahimuddin of P.S. Mandawali, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 29.07.2026. By Order Sh. Sachin JMFC-03, East Distt., Room No. 16, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

PUBLIC AUCTION/TENDER NOTICE DISPOSAL OF UNCLEARED/UNCLAIMED IMPORTED CARGO THROUGH E-AUCTION. Container Corporation of India Ltd. shall be auctioning scrap items, empty damage containers and unclaimed/uncleared imported cargo landed at the terminals of Area 1 those containers arrived on or before 31.12.2025 through e-auction on 28.05.2026 on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS".

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Monu, S/o: Subhash, R/o: H.No. 310-311, B-3, 12-1/2 Gaj, Raghuraj Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 143/2018, U/s: 33 Delhi Excise Act, Police Station Paschim Vihar East, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Monu cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Monu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Monu of Police Station Paschim Vihar East, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 27.06.2026. By Order Ms. Moksha Bains JMFC-11, West, Room No. 31, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

M.P. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking) Oil Fed Building, 01, Arera Hills, Bhopal URL : https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, Phone : 0755-2578915 Dated : 12.05.2026

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders for following item/Services floated on website and Portal from Dated 12.05.2026 to Next 30 days: 1. T-898/MPPHSCL/Pharma/RC/2026 Date : 08.05.2026, 2. T-900/MPPHSCL/Surgical and Consumables/RC/2026, Date : 12.05.2026, 3. T-899/MPPHSCL/HIGH END USG (3D/4D) MACHINE/ QC/2026, Dated : 09.05.2026, 4. T-895/MPPHSCL/PULSE OXIMETER AND OXYGEN HOOD/QC/2026, Dated : 29.04.2026, 5. Tender (s) for Various Drugs, 6. Tender (s) for Various Consumables, 7. Tender (s) for Various Equipment. All Prospective bidders are requested to visit "www.mptenders.gov.in/https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, https://gem.gov.in" for further details. M.P., Madhyam/125744/2026 CGM (TECHNICAL-I)

नगर विकास न्यास, पाली नगर विकास न्यास, पाली

नगर विकास न्यास, पाली की ई-निविदा संख्या 05/2026-27 एवं 06/2026-27 के क्रम में शुद्धिपत्र जारी किया गया है। उक्त शुद्धिपत्र का सम्पूर्ण विवरण https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, spps.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है तथा न्यास कार्यालय, पाली में कार्य दिवस के दौरान देखी जा सकती है। (UBN NO. - ITP2627WLOB00005, ITP2627WLOB00006, ITP2627WLOB00007) नगर विकास न्यास, पाली

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C. / 84 BNSS. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person 1. Seeta W/o Dharmendra 2. Babita W/o Prabhat 3. Dharmendra S/o Shivaji Prasad 4. Prabhat S/o Shivaji Prasad 5. Sunil S/o Jag Narayan Singh all R/o Jhuggi No. 555, Subhash Camp, Badarpur, New Delhi have Committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 278/2020 U/s 308/323/324/452/120B/34 IPC, P.S. Badarpur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that all the above said accused cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that all the above said accused have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that all the above said accused of case FIR No. 278/2020 U/s 308/323/324/452/120B/34 IPC, P.S. Badarpur, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 07.07.2026. By Order Sh. Vipin Kumar Rai Additional Session Judge-01/ Special Court (POCSO) South East District, Room No. 315 Saket Courts, Delhi

OFFICE OF THE MEDININAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

e-Procurement Tender Notice Tender Reference No.-UDHD/MMC/05/2026-27 Date :- 13/05/2026

Table with 13 columns: Name of Work, Estimated Cost (Rs.), Time of Completion, Bid Security*(Rs.), Cost of Document (Rs.), Date of Publication of Tender on Website, Date Start Of Submission Of Bids, Pre-bid meeting, Last Date/Time of Submission of Bids, Date Of Bid Opening, Name & Address Of Office Inviting Tender, Contact No. Of Procurement Officer, Helpline Number Of E-Procurement Cell.

ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Horoscope section for various zodiac signs: ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20), TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21), GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21), CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23), LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23), VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23), LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23), SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23), SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22), CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20), AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19), PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20).

INTERVIEW: TAMIM IQBAL

'An India series in Bangladesh would be a great step forward'

BCB interim president on the T20 World Cup pullout, his friendship with BCCI president Manhas, and why he wants India back in Dhaka

Sriram Veera
Mumbai, May 12

TAMIM IQBAL has had a sudden rise in Bangladesh cricket administration in the last little while. From being branded an "Indian agent" in the aftermath of Mustafizur Rahman being ousted from the IPL, the former national captain now finds himself as the interim president of the board at a time when the country is trying to restore its ties with the most powerful nation in the cricket world.

Bangladesh pulled out of the T20 World Cup when the ICC refused to accept its request of moving its games out of India. Now with a change in government in Dhaka, Iqbal tells *The Indian Express* how he plans to get the country's cricket back on track, both on and off the field.

Excerpts:

What have you done to repair BCB's relationship with BCCI — which had nearly broken down?

I was probably the first to speak out when the (T20) World Cup issue happened. What was done, how it was handled by the previous Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) administration, was not right. The ICC was lenient, there was room to find a solution. We should have found it.

Let me go back to 1996-97 — how much we fought to win that ICC trophy against Kenya just to qualify for the World Cup. My house was floating in coloured water.

People celebrated in the streets. That celebration brought kids into cricket — everybody wanted to be Minhajul Abedin Nannu, Khaled Mashud, Akram Khan. And we gave away a World Cup without even having a proper dialogue. There might be players in that squad who will never play in a World Cup again. That I did not take nicely.

Regarding BCCI — I have played a lot of cricket with (current BCCI president) Mithun Manhas. In the IPL, we were in the same team, he has come to Bangladesh many times to play in Dhaka leagues. Very good rapport. I haven't had the chance to sit with him in this

capacity yet, but I know him well. The country's security is absolutely brilliant at the moment. There is no issue, no security threat — and it has never been for the Indian cricket team.

When India comes here, the whole stadium is packed. People love that contest. I personally don't think BCB and BCCI have any real issues anymore. A series here would be a great way to take the next step forward.

Pakistan made noises about solidarity during the dispute — they threatened to boycott (the T20 World Cup) too. Was that genuine or politics?

That is difficult for me to comment on. I was not part of that core group. What I will say is: whatever happened, we lost the opportunity to play a World Cup. Some of our players may never get another chance. That, for me, is the biggest thing.

On (ICC chairman) Jay Shah — I haven't had the chance to meet him yet in this role, but I know a lot of Indian cricketers and I have only heard good things about him. I have always seen ICC as a family — when I was a player and now.

There are 12-15 countries all together. We need to look after each other. I genuinely don't think the teams we're talking about wish us bad.

Cricket should remain about cricket.

You've said — 'I don't need to know everything, whoever sits in this position thinks they know everything.' Was that the philosophy you came in with?

My background is cricket, and I will always understand that side better than most.

But there are people on this committee stronger in finance, in tenders, in procurement. You need to use those people. To run a cricket board, you need a mix — it isn't only about cricket. It's about finances, sponsorships, marketing, branding.

And for everything else, you have a CEO.

I've played the game long enough to understand what



India's and Bangladesh's senior men's teams last faced off in the 2025 Asia Cup. REUTERS/FILE



I have played a lot of cricket with (current BCCI president) Mithun Manhas. Very good rapport. Our security is absolutely brilliant at the moment. There is no issue, no security threat. I personally don't think BCB and BCCI have any real issues anymore.

ON REPAIRING THE CRICKETING TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

cricket needs in Bangladesh — it needs a lot of changes, a lot of development, a lot of mindset changes. I'm only focusing on that.

The BCB has 1,300 crore sitting in the bank. You've said that money shouldn't be sitting idle.

Absolutely. I want my players to compete with India, Pakistan, Australia. And in return — what have I given to my players? If I'm not giving them

the best facilities available, which we are clearly capable of getting, is it fair to ask them what we are asking? I don't think so.

The ICC is not funding us so we can park money in fixed deposits. Sponsors are not giving us money for that. It needs to go into development, infrastructure; real investment in the game. At least you create the pipeline and the infrastructure. Then it's up to the players.

Before you came in, you said you'd push for a law where anyone caught in sports betting should be jailed for 10 years. Now you're inside the system — do you still think it's possible?

I think it's possible. The Parliament Speaker came to watch the Test match — I raised it with him. I've spoken to the Sports Minister, the Home Minister. What I want is a law on sports corruption — not just betting.

Right now, corrupt people know that even if they get caught, the worst that happens is a ban. They need to understand: if they get caught, they are going to jail. The issue of corruption will not vanish completely, but it will come down massively.

When we grew up as kids, the only thing we knew was how to play the game, win, lose, score runs, take wickets. Now there are kids getting into this — all over the world, not only Bangladesh.

They need to understand -

the same way they've been taught that if you steal something you might get arrested - that if you get into betting, you might get jailed.

Why was an ad hoc committee needed at all? Many outside Bangladesh don't fully understand what happened.

The previous elections were deeply compromised — seven directors resigned. Bangladesh cricket depends heavily on the Dhaka leagues — 76 teams across four divisions. Of those, around 50 refused to participate. In the First Division, 8 of 20 teams didn't play. Second Division, 12 of 24 stayed out. Premier League, 9 of 12 opposed it. Third Division, 15 teams raised objections.

Cricketers were not getting paid. Players who'd built their lives around the game were back on the streets — rickshaw pullers, pani puri sellers. The National Sports Council stepped in, set up an investigation, directors testified.

There are directors from the previous board alleged to be involved in nefarious activities. The situation had become very nasty.

My mindset was simple: let's do it. It will either be a success or a failure. I'm ready to have that failure — because at least I'm trying it for the better. I was given 90 days to hold elections. I will complete them in 60. And we'll make absolutely sure that what happened during the World Cup does not happen again.

Titans pace too hot to handle, Gill & Co. thrash Sunrisers to go top of league table

SYNOPSIS: Roundhead Sudharsan revels in the festival of pace bowlers as GT leap to top of the table by thrashing SRH.

Sandip G
New Delhi, May 12

IN AN edition bossed by batsmen, seamers got a kiss of life at Ahmedabad on Tuesday. On a surface where the new ball swung and seamed, the older one stuck and stopped, Gujarat Titans' high-class retinue of seamers consigned Sunrisers Hyderabad to an 82-run defeat defending 168, and leapt to the top of the table, almost sealing a playoff spot. Fifteen wickets fell, runs trickled at 7.3 runs an over, just eight sixes were hit. But all these numbers merely underlined the significance of Sai Sudharsan's 44-ball 61.

Controlled Sudharsan

Amongst a deluge of cavalier openers, Sudharsan is an anomalous roundhead. Most of his brethren, especially his left-handed opening brethren, wield a strike rate in excess of 200. The 15-year-old wunderkind Vaibhav Sooryavanshi hits at 236; Abhishek Sharma blisters at 201.9; Priyansh Arya 226. Sudharsan's hitting rate is an old-worldly 155.1. But the Orange Cap (501 runs) sits snugly on his crown and more significantly, he is capping tournament-defining victories for the Titans.

There were times when he could have responded like a staple T20 opener. That is to go for his strokes, even if wickets were falling at the other end. Like Abhishek and Ishan Kishan later would in the face of calamity, Sudharsan, assured of his methods and the success they would reap, chose implacable patience in a format where the word is as obsolete as an earthen stove in a modular kitchen world.

Watching Pat Cummins and his cronies seam the ball, his colleagues Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler fumbling when trying to manufacture strokes that were not there, Sudharsan wisely chose circumspection. Titans' batting depth is shallow compared to this format's demands, with Jason Holder slated at No.6. The Bajan owns a Test double hundred, but his long levers have shown only sporadically in this format.

So, Sudharsan batted with purposeful calm, after Titans tumbled to 26/2. He went scoreless for five successive balls in the Powerplay; he went without a boundary for 10 deliveries. None of these ruffled him, as he



Kagiso Rabada took three crucial wickets on Tuesday. AP

IPL table

Teams	M	W	L	P	NRR
GT	12	8	4	14	0.551
RCB	11	7	4	14	1.103
SRH	12	7	5	14	0.331
PBKS	11	6	4	13	0.428
CSK	11	6	5	12	0.185
RR	11	6	5	12	0.082
DC	12	5	7	10	-0.993
KKR	10	4	5	9	-0.169
MI	11	3	8	6	-0.585
LSG	11	3	8	6	-0.907

quietly engineered the rescue act with Washington Sundar, with whom he stitched 69 runs from 41 balls. He waited for balls in his self-contained arc. When Eshan Malinga strayed a touch wide, he made room to cut square of deep backward point, harnessing his pace for momentum. He then uncorked a gorgeous lofted cover drive, on the rise, off Sakib Hussain. Sudharsan held the pose to emphasise his supreme balance and poise.

He spread the canvas for Washington to splash colourful strokes in the death overs. The tall all-rounder, in his batting enforcer avatar, creamed 16 runs in the 19th over and completed a 33-ball 50 to ensure Titans put up a competitive total on a teasing surface. In the end, the runs proved way too many for Sunrisers, who wished they had a composed roundhead like Sudharsan.

Festival of seam

The cast of Test-class bowlers in the game was enviable. Kagiso Rabada and Pat Cummins are two-thirds of the holy fast-bowling trinity (along with Jasprit Bumrah) of this era. Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Jason Holder are probably a rung below, but guileful seamers themselves. The Ahmedabad curator bestowed a surface with movement with the new ball

plus a bit of uneven bounce. They simply revelled.

Siraj's first over was pure theatre. He swung the ball both ways, had Travis Head poking and hopping before he snared him with an in-swinging on-leg-stump, which the Australian tried to work away fatally, managing only a chunky leading edge.

But Sunrisers were hell bent on repelling fire with fire. Abhishek skinned Radada into the stands on the first ball he faced. But the South African exacted revenge two balls later, by following him when he backed away to manufacture room to free his arms. The ball cannoned onto his glove and dribbled onto the stumps.

But Sunrisers did not learn. Kishan, tentative to Rabada's wiles, tried to glide him over the wicketkeeper. The ball was not only rapid but swung away a touch to fox Kishan. At 23 for 3, the lone ray of hope was Heinrich Klaasen. But Holder coaxed a leading edge off him to stub out Sunrisers' hopes.

Before them, Cummins had offered a glimpse of the challenges that awaited batsmen. His methods were spectacularly simple. The Aussie imprisoned batsmen with his suffocating lines, on the off-stump or thereabouts, angling a shade away, or straightening after pitching. He subtly modulated his lengths, oscillating from hard to full, blasting the yorker with as indecipherable disguise as a fiendish bouncer. His two-over burst for eight runs stifled Titans, and he ended the night with figures of 4-0-20-1. But he had neither the support cast of Rabada nor a batsman of Sudharsan's make in his side.

BRIEF SCORES: Gujarat Titans 168 for 5 in 20 overs (Sudharsan 61, Washington 50, Hinge 2/17) beat **Sunrisers Hyderabad** 86 all out in 14.5 overs (Holder 3/20, Rabada 3/28, Prasidh 2/23) by 82 runs.

With five-for, Nahid spearheads B'desh win over Pak in first Test

Express News Service
Chennai, May 12

NAHID RANA, the promising 23-year-old Bangladesh pacer, ran through Pakistan's middle-order in the final session, as the hosts posted a 104-run win in the first Test at Mirpur. The win was Bangladesh's third in a row against Pakistan as the likes of Taskin Ahmed and Mehidy Hasan Miraz were also amongst the wickets to lead them to a 104-run victory, their third Test win in a row against Pakistan.

After Bangladesh set a target of 268, Pakistan came out to bat just before lunch on Day 5, needing to bat two sessions out. While they lost Imam-ul-Haq in the first over, they seemed to be on track to hold out for a draw when they took tea at 116/3 with Rana removing captain Shan Masood just before the break. Post the tea break, Rana continued his fiery spell, accounting for the wickets of Saud Shakeel and Mohammad Rizwan and later removing Nomal Ali and Shaheen Shah Afridi to bowl Bangladesh to a famous win.

The star undoubtedly was Rana, who has been part of the Bangladesh pace revolution in recent years. Alongside Taskin and Shoriful Islam, he has been



23-year-old Bangladesh pacer Nahid Rana. AP/FILE

amongst the exciting crop of pacers to emerge.

33 wickets in 11 Tests

Capable of clocking in north of 145kmph, Rana has already breached the 150kmph mark. Since making his Test debut in 2024, he has already played 11 Tests and has 33 wickets including two five-wicket hauls.

Rana started playing serious cricket in his late teens, having grown up in Rajshahi, on the international border with India. He didn't really play in the age group teams of Bangladesh.

"The place is more famous for mangoes rather than cricket, or any sport for that matter," he said. "I was mainly playing taped tennis ball cricket (growing up) and could

feel I was way quicker than those around me. I could extract more natural bounce because of my height."

When Courtney Walsh was the bowling coach, Rana was among the talents that Bangladesh invested in. Thanks to his pace, he has had batsmen hop to his short deliveries and bouncers, a sight that was not common in Bangladesh cricket. "Pace is never a surprise for me because I have been working hard, maintaining myself and eating properly. Rather than being surprised, I feel that anything can happen at any time [pace-wise]. I don't want to be like anyone else or break someone's record. What I want is to create my own records. As far as a wish or an aspiration goes, there is nothing bigger than winning a major trophy for the team," Walsh told the *Daily Star*.

With a smooth run-up, Rana has all the elements that makes a fast-bowler. And like many Pakistan pacers, Rana had too started his career by playing taped tennis ball cricket in Bangladesh.

BRIEF SCORES: Bangladesh 413 and 240/9 dec (Shanto 87, Mominul 56, Hasan 3/52) beat **Pakistan** 386 and 163 all out (Fazal 66, Salman 26, Rana 5/40) by 104 runs

• FORMERLY AN X-FACTOR SPINNER, LEGGIE HAS 8 WICKETS IN 9 MATCHES

Middle-overs match-ups limiting use of Chahal

Shankar Narayan
Mumbai, May 12

FOR MUCH OF IPL 2026, Punjab Kings looked like a side sprinting ahead of the pack.

They chased down huge scores and played with a fearlessness that made them one of the most entertaining teams in the tournament. But things have taken a turn for the worse in recent weeks, with the Shreyas Iyer-led side suffering a fourth straight defeat, this time to Delhi Capitals (DC) in Dharamshala on Monday.

Defending 210 runs, PBKS watched DC chase the target down with an over to spare, but beyond the sloppy death bowling, one detail stood out: Yuzvendra Chahal not getting a single over. It was a decision rooted in match-ups. DC had two left-handers - Axar Patel and David Miller - controlling the chase through the middle overs, and PBKS seemingly felt Chahal was too risky an option against them.

More importantly, this was not the first time this season that Iyer seemed reluctant to use him in uncomfortable match-ups.

Against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad, Chahal bowled only one over while Sai Sudharsan and Washington Sundar were batting, with Iyer repeatedly backing his seamers in



Yuzvendra Chahal was not even called up to bowl on Monday. PTI

stead. That hesitation has become a pattern. The leggie is rarely trusted in the powerplay, almost never used at the death and seems increasingly restricted to favourable right-hand match-ups in the middle overs.

He has taken only eight wickets in the nine matches he's bowled in this season, with match-ups dictating his use more than his pedigree as a bowler.

The numbers explain part of that thinking.

Since IPL 2023, Chahal's record against left-handers has steadily declined. In 48 innings against them, he has conceded 750 runs at an economy of 10.56 while taking only 18 wickets at a strike rate of 23.7.

The fall has been particularly alarming over the last two

seasons. Since the start of IPL 2025, he has dismissed left-handers only five times, and those numbers seem to have affected PBKS' tactical thinking throughout this season.

Against SRH, he dismissed Travis Head for 38 with a cleverly disguised wrong'un and returned with 1/32 in four overs. Against RR, he accounted for Yashasvi Jaiswal for 51 and was seen pointing towards Iyer soon after the dismissal, as if to suggest a plan had worked.

Those performances have been sporadic, but they still suggest Chahal remains capable of finding breakthroughs even in difficult match-ups.

PBKS' handling of Chahal also raised broader questions about their bowling plans on Monday. After the match, Iyer explained that the team felt the conditions suited seam bowling.

"There was absolutely a thought in my mind (of giving Chahal an over), but the way ball was seaming and the way it was helping seamers, I think if we would have executed our line and length precisely, we could have been able to extract wickets, but unfortunately again, we didn't," he said.

Spin-bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule agreed. "There was a thought during the timeout, but I think the ball was seaming, and the conditions were suitable for the fast bowlers, so I think the decision was very

through the middle phase. Avoiding those match-ups entirely is difficult. Yet Chahal has found ways to fight back.

Against SRH, he dismissed Travis Head for 38 with a cleverly disguised wrong'un and returned with 1/32 in four overs. Against RR, he accounted for Yashasvi Jaiswal for 51 and was seen pointing towards Iyer soon after the dismissal, as if to suggest a plan had worked.

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Spin-bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule agreed. "There was a thought during the timeout, but I think the ball was seaming, and the conditions were suitable for the fast bowlers, so I think the decision was very

spontaneous to continue with the fast bowlers and see how we can get those wickets and which we did early on, but I think one partnership just took it away from us," he said.

But if seam movement was truly Punjab's biggest weapon, the execution of that plan still felt strange.

Arshdeep Singh, PBKS' best bowler on the night, completed his spell by the 15th over, having conceded just 21 runs. Once he bowled his quota, PBKS were left relying on Marcus Stoinis and other inexperienced options like Yash Thakur and Ben Dwarshuis at the death.

Perhaps the bigger issue now is not simply Chahal's numbers against left-handers, but what PBKS actually expect from him.

A wrist-spinner is usually picked because captains trust him to take risks, attack strong batsmen and survive difficult match-ups. But increasingly, PBKS seem to be treating Chahal like a bowler who can only operate under specific scenarios. And when a team starts protecting its strike bowler from pressure situations, it often reveals as much about the side's uncertainty as it does about the bowler himself.

(With inputs from Lalith Kalidas)

Satwik-Chirag start off with three game win in Thailand



Chirag Shetty (L) and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy were sluggish to open their campaign in the Thailand Super 500 on Tuesday. FILE

Express News Service
Mumbai, May 12

TOP SEEDS Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty got off to a slow start at the Thailand Open Super 500 at Patumwan, defeating Bagas Maulana and Muh Putra Erwiansyah 21-19, 21-23, 21-20 in 64 minutes on Tuesday.

Maulana, a former All England champion from Indonesia who has kicked off a new temporary partnership with Erwiansyah, has always been a formidable opponent.

The Indians fell 11-16 behind in the opener, before going off on a 7-point rally to take the opening game.

There was another dawdle up to 15-16 in the second, before it became 18-all and went into a decider.

In the final game, the Indonesians were nowhere in the frame after trailing 2-8, as the Indians coolly sauntered to a win.

Wednesday will see a bunch of Indians in action in the singles, with Unnati Hooda starting out against Pornpawee Chochuwong, while PV Sindhu meets Tung Ciou Tong of Taipei.

In men's singles, Tharun Mannepalli plays Koki Watanabe while Kidambi Srikanth takes on Loh Kean Yew.

Ayush Shetty begins his campaign against sixth seed Kodai Naraoka, while Lakshya Sen plays Jia Heh Jason Teh. In another interesting clash, Anmol Kharb gets to cross swords with Chen Yufei. Devika Sihag takes on Natsuki Nidaira, and Tanvi Sharma is up against another Japanese in Hina Akechi.

Isharani Baruah starts against Talitha Ramdani, while Malvika Bansod needs to get past Wen Yu Zhang.

Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto have a tough mixed doubles opener against Danes Mathias Christiansen and Alexandra Boje.

The Indians fell 11-16 behind in the opener, before going off on a 7-point rally to take the opening game.

FEDERATION STANDS FIRM

'No special favours' — Vinesh ruled out of Asian Games trials

Seeking detailed reply to show-cause notice issued to the wrestler last week, WFI president Sanjay Singh insists

Nihal Koshie
Gonda, May 12

THE DOORS have closed on wrestler Vinesh Phogat's chances of making it to the Asian Games trials on May 30 because of the paucity of time between her giving a detailed reply to a show cause notice and the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) disciplinary committee taking a call on her participation eligibility.

This, according to WFI president Sanjay Singh, who is at the Open National Ranking Tournament in Gonda. Speaking to *The Indian Express* on Tuesday, a day after the WFI dug in its heels and reiterated its stance to disallow Vinesh from competing in the ranking tournament, Singh said rules could not be bent, no matter a wrestler's stature.

Despite missing the Asian Games trials window, there is still hope for her to compete in the trials for the World Championships to be held in Manama, Bahrain, in October-November.

"There was no reason for Vinesh to come here, as she was barred. But when Vinesh came to Gonda yesterday, the WFI briefed her about the reasons for which she was issued a show cause notice. She told me that she will give a detailed reply. Once she replies, a disciplinary committee of the WFI will take a call within 10 days.

"For the Asian Games, she won't be able to make it because the trial is on May 30 for women wrestlers. Will she be able to give her detailed reply, and will the committee have

time to take a call on her participation? I don't think so. When it comes to the trials for the World Championships, the WFI will take a call depending on what she mentions in her reply," Singh told this paper.

Vinesh had travelled to Gonda to verify for the women's freestyle event, but the WFI had asked her to first file a detailed reply to the show cause notice issued on Saturday, which had listed disciplinary issues, anti-doping rule violations and incomplete eligibility period.

When asked if the WFI could have been lenient and allowed Vinesh to compete in Gonda and then take a call on her eligibility based on her reply to the show cause notice, the WFI president said that no wrestler will get special treatment.

Moreover, the Open Ranking tournament in Gonda is not a qualifying tournament for the Asian Games trials, as per the WFI policy.

"It is not about how big or famous a wrestler is. Nobody is bigger than the WFI constitution. Aman Sehrawat, who is an Olympic medalist, could not maintain his weight during the World Championships (in 2025). He was also suspended by the WFI till he clarified about it. Rules can't be changed or bent for anyone, else we will set a precedent for it. No wrestler will get any special favour, and we told Vinesh the same thing," Singh added.

Delayed notice

Though Vinesh registered for the Open Ranking tourna-



Sanjay Singh has been the president of the Wrestling Federation of India since 2023. VIJAY KUMAR/E/HINDI

Vinesh travelled to Gonda to verify for the event, but the WFI asked her to first file a reply. Moreover, the Open Ranking tournament in Gonda is not a qualifying tournament for the Asian Games trials, as per the WFI policy.

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SANJAY SINGH,
ON THE DECISION TO DISQUALIFY VINESH FROM ASIAD CONTENTION

ment before the April-end deadline, it took the WFI another 10 days to issue her a show cause notice, raising questions about its timing as it came three days before the start of the women's freestyle event in Gonda. Singh claimed it was because of a procedural delay.

"Yes, Vinesh registered on time. The WFI had to look at

the entries of all the participants, and we checked everyone's data, including Vinesh's. We realized that there were three to four issues that she had to clarify about.

"We consulted our legal team and issued a notice. There is no conspiracy to this."

Gonda is the home turf of former BJP Member of Parlia-

ment and ex WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexual harassment by six women wrestlers in 2023.

On May 3, Vinesh had said that she was one of the complainants.

"There is no security issue for Vinesh in Gonda. Yesterday, she came and toured the entire college campus. To say that girls are unsafe here is incorrect."

"Women wrestlers from around the country have come to Gonda, and everyone is safe. I had given Vinesh guarantee that she would be safe, and she returned without any safety issue."

On Vinesh alleging that the WFI is creating hurdles in her return to competition, Singh dismissed it as a conspiracy theory.

"There is no truth in that, and such things don't make any sense. There are all conspiracy theories."

Sakshi seeks PM intervention

Express News Service
New Delhi, May 12

URGING THE Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to allow Vinesh Phogat to give trials for this year's Asian Games, Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi Malik has come out in support of her fellow wrestler.

Looking to make her comeback after two years following the Paris Olympics heartbreak, Vinesh was issued a detailed show-cause notice by WFI, accusing her of indiscipline and anti-doping rule violations, while also declaring her ineligible to compete in domestic events till June 26. Vinesh had travelled to Gonda to verify for the women's freestyle event, but the WFI had asked her to first file a detailed reply to the



Vinesh Phogat with Sakshi Malik (R) during the wrestlers' protest in New Delhi in 2023. FILE

show-cause notice issued on Saturday. The WFI said the 31-year-old failed to complete the mandatory six-month notice period required for athletes returning from retirement under UWW Anti-Doping Rules.

"I can give many such

examples, where the sports federations of other countries make the rules easier for their players," Sakshi said in a video posted on social media. "So that even after becoming a mother, women can play for the country and win medals. Whereas our federation implements such rules two days before, so that Vinesh cannot make a comeback," she added.

"I request the honourable Prime Minister, the honourable Sports Minister, and the Wrestling Federation to take the trials for Vinesh so that they can also win medals for the country and make the country proud. And to set such an example, so that even after becoming a mother, women can play for their country, win medals, and make the country proud," said Malik

Must be a reason if someone was stopped: Brij Bhushan

Express News Service
New Delhi, May 12

FORMER WRESTLING Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Tuesday reacted to the comments of wrestler Vinesh Phogat who on Monday said that she was not allowed to compete in the women's freestyle event by WFI.

Brij Bhushan, who was in 2023 accused of sexual harassment by six women wrestlers, including Vinesh, said that Monday's matters involving the wrestler does not concern him anymore.

"I am currently cleaning up the mess that madam left behind. Furthermore, the ques-

tion of where a wrestling match will or will not take place is not a matter that concerns me.

"This is not my subject anymore. It is for the current WFI to decide where events will be held, who will compete and who will not. However, since I served as the president of the WFI for many years, I can say from my experience that the WFI never stops any athlete from competing because the federation exists for the players.

"If someone has been stopped, there must be a reason for it, and that reason would also have been communicated," Singh said to reporters as per a video released by PTI.

Spurs relegation fears remain after 1-1 home draw with Leeds

Reuters
London, May 12

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR wasted a golden chance to ease their Premier League relegation fears as Dominic Calvert-Lewin's penalty earned Leeds United a 1-1 draw in North London on Monday. A first home win in the league since December would have put Spurs four points clear of 18th-placed West Ham United with two games left and in sight of salvation after a woeful season.

It looked on the cards when Mathys Tel struck with a stunning effort early in the second half, curling a right-footed shot into the top corner to raise the roof in the stadium. But Tel's night took a turn for the worse as he conceded the penalty that Calvert-Lewin thumped home in the 74th minute.

As Tottenham's nerves frayed, Leeds could have won it in stoppage time but Sean Longstaff's strike was superbly diverted onto the underside of the bar by goalkeeper Antonin Kinsky.

The result left 17th-placed Spurs on 38 points with West Ham on 36 after 36 games. Tot-



Tottenham Hotspur battled for a point with Leeds on Monday. AP

tenham's next game is away at boogie club and fierce rivals Chelsea on May 19, two days after West Ham go to Newcastle United on May 17.

Roberto De Zerbi has taken eight points from his first five games in charge of Tottenham but is yet to solve the club's home form and their fate may now rest on beating Everton in north London on the last day of the season.

"We made too many mistakes," he said. "I think we deserved to win anyway but maybe the pressure, the crucial game, the crucial part of the season, we suffered too much.

It will be tough until the end of the season, until the last game."

After a 15-game winless league run plummeted Tottenham towards a first relegation since 1977, successive away wins under De Zerbi changed the mood.

West Ham's dramatic 1-0 defeat by Arsenal on Sunday had also given Tottenham the opportunity to establish a safety buffer ahead of their daunting trip to Chelsea.

But it was never going to be that straightforward, especially for a Spurs side who had won only two of their 17 home league matches this season.

LOOKING FORWARD TO HEAVY SCHEDULE

Despite scare-free Candidates, Humpy has no regrets

Amit Kamath
Mumbai, May 12

THE INDIAN contingent that will head to Samarkand in September to defend its twin Chess Olympiad gold medals could be even stronger than it was at the last edition two years ago as veteran Koneru Humpy is open to playing at the prestigious event.

Humpy was one of the notable absentees at the 2024 Olympiad in Budapest where the open team and women's team claimed six gold medals between them, including four medals for individual boards.

Humpy is the country's top woman chess player, with her No. 6 spot in the FIDE women's ratings list for May 2026 making her the only Indian in the top 10 in the open section or the women's event. The women's team at the 2024 Olympiad consisted of Harika Dronavalli, R. Vaishali, Divya Deshmukh, Vantika Agrwal and Tania Sachdev.

While confirming her intent to represent India, the 39-year-old said she was awaiting the All India Chess Federation's selection criteria for the team.



Koneru Humpy pulled out of the Women's Candidates tournament in Cyprus citing safety concerns. FIDE

"There's a lot of time for the Olympiad, but I'm very positive about playing it," Humpy tells *The Indian Express* ahead of her appearance at the Norway Chess tournament.

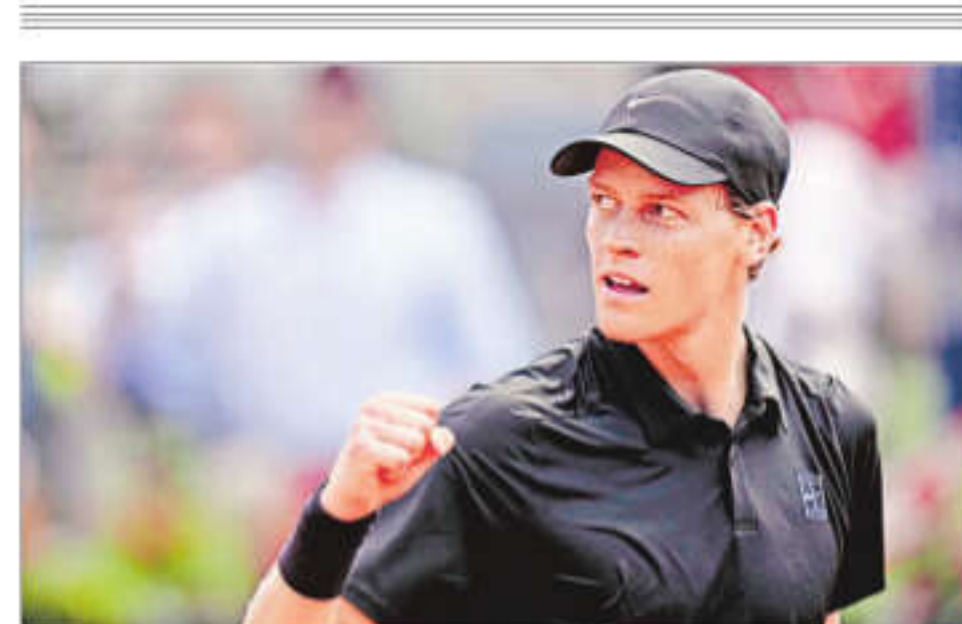
It's been two months since Humpy announced her decision to pull out of the Women's Candidates tournament citing safety concerns. Since the tournament was being played in Cyprus, close to Lebanon, and the Iran war was at its peak, she made the difficult decision to skip one of the most important tournaments

on the chess calendar.

Despite the tournament concluding without a hitch or a safety scare for the 16 players involved, Humpy is at peace with her decision.

"Today, people might talk about how everything went smoothly and nothing happened. But the scenario was different when I took the decision, and I can only take the decisions which are in my control. Once something happens, none of the calculations work or nobody will be around! Everybody will be looking

BRIEFLY



Jannik Sinner is currently on a 26-match winning run. AP

Sinner equals Djokovic's 31-match winning Masters run

WORLD NUMBER one Jannik Sinner extended his Masters 1000 winning streak to 31 matches, equalling Novak Djokovic's all-time record, with a 6-2-6-3 victory over unseeded compatriot Andrea Pellegrino in the round of 16 of the Italian Open on Tuesday. The 24-year-old four-times Grand Slam champion was ruthless early on, racing into a 4-0 lead before Pellegrino got on the scoreboard. Sinner struck 13 winners in a contest that lasted one hour and 29 minutes. REUTERS

SA's Ismail reverses intl retirement

SOUTH AFRICAN pacer Shabnim Ismail on Tuesday reversed her international retirement as she was named in the country's 15-player squad for the Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in the UK from June 12 to July 5. Aiming to inspire the future generations of women's cricket in the country, the Proteas squad, captained by Laura Wolvaardt, features the 37-year-old Ismail, who last represented SA in the World T20 final in February 2023. PTI

Lakshay enters final, four boxers settle for bronze

INDIAN BOYS had a challenging day at the Asian Boxing U-17 Championships 2026, with Lakshay Phogat emerging as the lone finalist as four other boxers settled for bronze medals after their semifinal bouts on Tuesday. In the 75kg category, Lakshay delivered a dominant performance to defeat Seungmin Lee of Korea by a unanimous 5:0 decision to book his place in the final. PTI

Arsenal's White ruled out of rest of the season

ARSENAL DEFENDER Ben White has been ruled out for the rest of the season after suffering a significant medial knee ligament injury, the Premier League club said on Tuesday. White came off in the 28th minute of Arsenal's nervy 1-0 win over West Ham United on Sunday, the latest injury blow for the 28-year-old who has missed several games this season. REUTERS

Bowlers must catch up in T20s, says Dravid

WORLD CUP winning former India head coach Rahul Dravid said the grammar of T20 batting has undergone a complete metamorphosis of late and bowlers have some serious "catching up to do." "In a sense, to see the quality of batting that has happened over the last two or three years, I think the bowlers in that format of the game will slowly have to do some catching up," Dravid told PTI. PTI

Murray to join Draper's team for Wimbledon

TWO-TIME WIMBLEDON champion Andy Murray will join fellow Briton Jack Draper's team during the grasscourt season, Draper announced on Tuesday as he parted ways with Murray's former coach Jamie Delgado after six months. Murray, who retired in 2024, previously had a coaching partnership with Novak Djokovic that ended in May 2025. REUTERS

Flick extends Barcelona contract to 2028

BARCELONA MANAGER Hansi Flick said on Tuesday he will extend his contract with the LaLiga club until 2028 after his side sealed their 29th league title. Flick, whose current deal was due to expire in June 2027, is set to sign a one-year extension, with an option to prolong his tenure. His team moved to an unassailable 91 points with three games remaining, securing the title by beating Real Madrid. REUTERS