

# The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM of COURAGE

NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 22 PAGES

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

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

## Happening today

● **THE BIHAR** Cabinet is set to be expanded, weeks after BJP's Samrat Choudhary was sworn in as the Chief Minister. JD(U) president and former Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's son, Nishant Kumar, is tipped to be among the new ministers.

● **BRITISH VOTERS** will cast ballots in local elections that could hasten the end of Prime Minister Keir Starmer's troubled term. Rival parties are framing it as a referendum on his two-year-old government.

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

## VERDICT 2026

LOOK FOR VISION, NOT ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE: KERALA CM FRONTRUNNER P S

## Business as Usual

By EP UNNY



## BJP, TMC IN BLAME GAME OVER VIOLENCE, POLICE SAY MORE THAN 400 ARRESTED

# Suvendu's key aide shot dead as post-poll violence rocks Bengal

## Assailants on motorcycle intercepted Rath's car in Madhyamgram

Tanusree Bose, Atri Mitra & Sweety Kumari  
Kolkata, May 6

THE SITUATION in West Bengal, rocked by post-poll violence following the BJP's landslide victory that ended 15 years of TMC rule, took a serious turn Wednesday night when Chandranath Rath, executive assistant to BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari, was shot dead in the Doharia area of Madhyamgram in North 24 Parganas district. Rath, a close aide of Adhikari who defeated Mamata Banerjee and is the frontrunner for the post of Chief Minister, was shot point blank after his car was intercepted by motorcycle-borne assailants around 10.20 pm. He died on the spot. His driver sustained serious injuries and was taken to the SSKM Hospital in Kolkata.

Police sources said Rath was returning to his home in Barasat when his car was stopped by men on one or two motorcycles in the Doharia area. A man came close to the car window and fired three rounds at him, the sources said. Rath was seated next to the driver.



Suvendu Adhikari's aide Chandranath Rath. PTI

A senior police officer said, "It's a planned murder. Because after he shot Rath, the killer waited for him to die."

Rath was rushed to a private hospital where he was declared dead. One of the doctors said that two persons were brought to the emergency section of the hospital. While one was brought dead, the other had sustained gunshot injuries, the doctor said.

Adhikari and Rath's wife set out for the hospital as soon as they learnt of the attack.

West Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya told

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The vehicle in which Chandranath Rath was shot, in North 24 Parganas on Wednesday night. EXPRESS

## TMC to move court, Mamata digs in heels; Assembly stands dissolved

Ravik Bhattacharya & Atri Mitra  
Kolkata, May 6

ACCUSING THE BJP and the Election Commission of India of "stealing" the mandate in West Bengal through "manipulation of EVMs" and violence,

TMC chief Mamata Banerjee Wednesday refused to resign as Chief Minister and her party announced that it would be moving court against the Assembly election results.

As Banerjee dug in her heels, state Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Agarwal

met Governor R N Ravi and submitted the gazette notification of the election results, clearing the decks for the Governor to invite the BJP, the party voted to power in a landslide, to form the next government.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



TVK chief Vijay met Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Arlekar in Chennai on Wednesday to stake claim to form the government. ANI

## Vijay still short of majority, arch rivals DMK & AIADMK weigh TN alliance

## TVK stakes claim with Cong support, Governor says show me the numbers

Arun Janardhanan  
Chennai, May 6

THE RACE for numbers in Tamil Nadu threw up a new possibility late Wednesday that would have sounded politically improbable just a day ago: leaders of Dravidian arch rivals DMK and AIADMK are exploring a joint fallback scenario if Vijay's TVK falls short of the majority mark, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Sources from both parties said one option being discussed was for the AIADMK to form a government with outside support from the DMK and backing from smaller parties. "Nothing has formally happened yet. But conversations among

leaders and internal meetings across camps suggest that this possibility is no longer just theoretical," sources said.

The latest twist in the state's post-election churn came after Vijay's path to becoming the next Chief Minister hit an unexpected pause, with Governor Rajendra Arlekar insisting that the TVK produce documentary

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## India's new sports policy for Pakistan: No to bilateral ties, yes to global events

Mihir Vasavda  
Mumbai, May 6

A YEAR after the Pahalgam terror attacks and Operation Sindoor, India has formally opened the door for Pakistani athletes and teams to compete on its soil in international events in a clear policy that separates bilateral ties from global sporting commitments.

An Office Memorandum issued Tuesday by the Union Sports Ministry stated that "Pakistani players and teams will be able to participate in multilateral events hosted by India", and signalled a more supportive visa regime for athletes, officials and international federation representatives.

The policy draws a firm line between bilateral and multilateral sport. "In so far as bilateral sports events in each other's country are concerned, Indian teams will not be participating in competitions in Pakistan. Nor will we permit Pakistani teams to play in India," the memorandum said.

However, it said, for international competitions, "we are guided by the practices of international sports bodies and interest of our own sports persons".

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## E. EXPLAINED

### Pak still grey zone

The government's new sports policy removes much of the ambiguity over engagement with Pakistan in India. But India's participation in multilateral events in Pakistan remains uncertain, and will depend on the prevailing geopolitical and security climate.

### Upcoming global events in India

- 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships, Ahmedabad
- 2026 World Badminton Championships, Delhi
- 2027 Shooting World Cup, Delhi
- 2027 Asian Rifle/Pistol Championships, Delhi
- 2028 World Indoor Athletics Championships, Bhubaneswar
- 2029 ICC Champions Trophy, Ahmedabad
- 2030 Commonwealth Games, Ahmedabad
- 2031 ODI World Cup

## Underground infra to air defence, armed forces fast-track priorities

LEARNING FROM CONFLICTS AT HOME, ABROAD

Dual-use infra like airfields, roads connecting strategic areas closer to borders also a key focus area



Amrita Nayak Dutta  
New Delhi, May 6

THE EARLY hours of May 7 will mark one year of Operation Sindoor, a strike by the Indian armed forces on terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Pakistan followed by hostilities between the two countries over four days.

A year since, the Indian military has focused on two significant aspects: large-scale construction of underground infrastructure and the establishment of a strong air defence system.

Learning from Operation Sindoor and ongoing global conflicts, several changes are being considered, covering deployment of troops and equipment, acquisition of new technology and weapons, among them a range of drones and

### THE EDITORIAL PAGE

BENCHMARK SET, INSTITUTIONALISE LESSONS FROM OP

SYED ATA HASNAIN P12

counter-drone systems, and newer ways of fighting wars.

Multiple officials across the defence establishment told *The Indian Express* that the construction of large-scale underground infrastructure has been a major focus of the military, alongside the implementation of other passive measures such as dispersal of assets and formations, increased concealment and camouflage, and force preservation efforts.

According to officials, work on the construction of underground command and control centres, starting with the Army's Command and Corps Headquarters level and later at divisional and lower levels, has been underway.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Rameez Khan, wife Urusa offer prayers at their children's graves. In Poonch, 14 people were killed in border shelling last May. ARUN SHARMA

## Twins dead, father says: 'I often wonder why we moved to Poonch...'

Arun Sharma  
Poonch, May 6

THE EMPTINESS that assails Rameez and Urusa Khan as they walk through the iron gates of their single-storey home in Poonch's Chakroo town is pervasive. It slips into their evening tea, haunts their favourite corners, and follows them as they visit the graves of their 11-year-old twins Zoya and Zain — both killed in last year's

cross-border shelling in Poonch during Operation Sindoor.

"They would open the gates for us when we came home from work," says Rameez, a government teacher, like his wife Urusa. "We're now simply passing through life."

Zoya and Zain, who were born 5 minutes apart and died within minutes of each other on May 7, 2025, were among the 14 people killed in shelling in

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## US, Iran close in on memo to end war, Hormuz ship escorts paused; oil prices fall

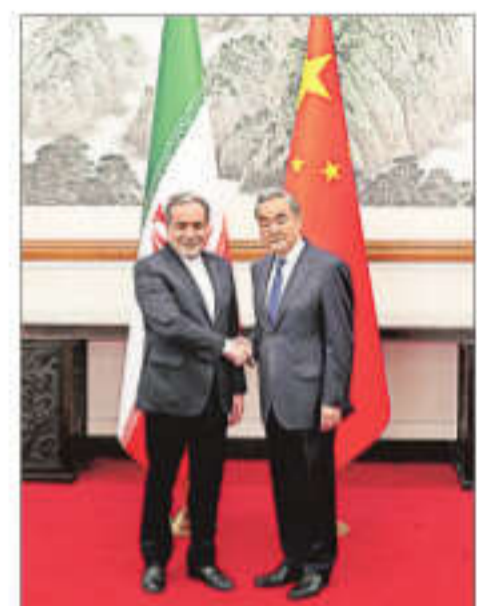
## Trump claims 'great progress', holds out bombing threat if Iran backs out

Ariba Shahid, Steve Holland & Alexander Cornwell  
Islamabad, Washington, Tel Aviv, May 6

THE US and Iran are closing in on an agreement on a one-page memorandum to end the war in the Gulf, a source from mediator Pakistan and another source briefed on the mediation said Wednesday.

In an early morning social media post, US President Donald Trump gave no details of any specific proposal but said the war could end if "Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to."

The sources confirmed information initially reported by the US media outlet Axios. The proposed 14-point, one-page memorandum would formally end the war, followed by discussions to unblock shipping



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing on Wednesday. AP

through the Strait of Hormuz, lift US sanctions on Iran and agree on curbs on Iran's nuclear programme.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## CLASSIFIED AS 'NEAR THREATENED', PROTECTED SPECIES FOUND TO BE ALIVE AND BREEDING IN ARAVALLI SCRUBLANDS

# Rusty-spotted, among tiniest wildcat species, sighted close to Delhi

Sophiya Mathew  
New Delhi, May 6

THEY WERE sighted for no more than 10-15 seconds — a mother, followed a few steps behind, by her tiny offspring. But it was enough to establish that an elusive species of the cat family was alive and breeding in the Aravalli scrublands at the doorstep of Delhi.

Photographic evidence for the presence of the rusty-spotted cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*), one of the world's smallest species of wildcat, was

reported last week in the peer-reviewed journal *Zoo's Print*.

The female adult and her dependent kitten were photographed in July 2025 in Kot village of Faridabad district during field surveys by researchers affiliated with the Department of Zoology at Indira Gandhi University in Meerpur, Haryana.

The finding, reported by Amit Kumar, Tejveer Mavi, Yatin Verma, Ram Kumar Rawat, and Sohail Madan, indicates the presence of a resident population of the species in the Aravalli landscape in Faridabad and Gurgaon.

The rusty-spotted cat is classified as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List, and is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an organisation of 160 member countries and hundreds of civil society groups that work together for the protection of biodiversity, and to examine the health of species and their extinction risk.

The rusty-spotted cat measures no more than 35-48 cm in length, about half of which is bushy tail. It has short, reddish grey fur, with rusty



The female cat, her kitten were photographed in July 2025 in Kot village of Faridabad district. YATIN VERMA

spots on the back and sides.

The cat is native to India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, where al-

most 75% of its habitat is believed to be under threat from land-use change, including

agriculture and urban expansion. The animal is rarely documented due to its secretive na-

ture and low density.

"The rusty-spotted cat is one of the world's smallest cat species. It is found in virgin forest, where there is no disturbance. But here we have recorded it very close to the city in Aravallis. This is the first time anybody has recorded the breeding. It is proof that Aravallis is still home to very sensitive wildlife," Yatin Verma, one of the researchers, told *The Indian Express*.

Until now, the species had only been recorded sporadically in Delhi-NCR. "In September 2023, from Manger Bani..., before that from Haryana, only

three-four instances were recorded in the past few years. It was all through a camera trap and there was no live sighting. But we were able to recently get live sightings as well," he said.

Verma said he had recorded three live sightings of the cat so far, including one made as recently as this week. The first live sighting was reported in Bhandsi in Gurgaon in 2023, followed by the mother-and-kitten sighting in Kot village in 2025, and a third in Tikri just days ago, he said.

The researchers said the presence of the species across

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Tech ties

Union MoS for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh meets Japan's Minister for Science and Technology Policy Kimi Onoda in New Delhi on Wednesday. DR/JITENDRASINGH

'A GRAVE ERROR' Apex court reverses bail for Haldwani riot accused, orders surrender in 2 weeks

Express News Service New Delhi, May 6

THE SUPREME Court on Monday set aside the Uttarakhand High Court order granting default bail to two men charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in connection with the widespread arson and damage to public property, including a police station, during the 2024 Haldwani riots.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, in its May 4 order, asked the two accused, Javed Siddiqui and Arshad Ayub, to surrender before the trial court within two weeks, failing which it said, the trial court should take stringent measures to take them into custody.

The High Court granted default bail to the duo on January 8, 2025, after they contended that the investigation was incomplete and that the charge-sheet was not filed within the statutory 90-day period.

Hearing the appeal filed by the state government challenging this, the Supreme Court said, "In our opinion, the High Court committed a grave error in facts as well as in law in extending the benefit of default bail to the respondents."

The Supreme Court noted that the trial court, on the request of the investigating agency, had, from time to time, extended the time to complete the probe and also rejected the accused's plea for bail. Ultimately, the chargesheet against the accused came to be filed on July 7, 2024, before the extended period expired on July 11, 2024.

The accused, meanwhile, approached the HC against the trial court order extending the time and rejecting their bail plea.

Granting them relief, the High Court also criticised the investigation. It said, "The manner in which the investigation proceeded clearly reveals the carelessness on the part of the inves-

Parents protest as 'embryos' found in mid-day meal eggs at Jharkhand govt school

Shubham Tigga Ranchi, May 6

STUDENTS OF a government school in Jharkhand's Godda district have alleged that eggs served under the mid-day meal scheme were rotten, with some found fertilised and containing partially developed embryos.

The incident was reported from Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya, Mednichak, in Basant Rai block, a school catering to students from Classes 1 to 8.

When *The Indian Express* accessed a video of the incident, it showed parents confronting school authorities over the quality of food being served. In the video, the headmaster, identified as Ajay Jha, is seen arguing with guardians and allegedly telling them, "You have not seen my power yet," while asking them to do whatever they wished.

A guardian, Jumman Alam, said the issue came to light when eggs were being distributed to students. "When we cracked open an egg, it turned out to be rotten. It appeared to have embryo-like content inside." Alam alleged that instead of

tigating officer... The height of sluggish investigation is that in the first month, only two public witnesses and one official witness were examined."

The Supreme Court, however, disagreed. "Having gone through the record, we find that the High Court has completely gone wrong in casting aspersions on the conduct of the Investigating Officer in failing to complete the investigation within a period of 90 days," it said. The bench pointed out, "The FIR had been filed in relation to an incident of widespread arson, rioting and damage to public property, including the building of the police station, wherein a large number of accused persons were arraigned with the allegation of using petrol bombs and other arsenal in the incident..."

The Supreme Court added, "In our opinion, it was absolutely unreasonable of the High Court to have observed that the investigating agency had not proceeded with the investigation at a reasonable pace or that it had acted with lethargy..."

"The observation that only eight official witnesses and four public witnesses had been examined in three months is factually incorrect... because in the said period of 90 days, the statements of 65 witnesses had been recorded by the investigating agency. Thus, without a doubt, the investigation was proceeding with utmost expediency in a case which would have presented grave challenges..."

The Apex court further added, "...the accused respondents never challenged the orders...by promptly approaching the High Court and instead waited till September, 2024...long before the appeal came to be filed, investigation was completed and chargesheet had been filed... By the time the accused respondents approached the High Court, they had lost the right to seek default bail by their acquiescence."

addressing the complaint, the headmaster reacted aggressively. "He snatched the egg from our hand and threw it down. When we tried to record the incident, he threatened us, saying he could get our work stopped and that we should call whoever we want," he claimed. Another parent, Mohammad Aqeel Alam, said the problem was not a one-off incident. "Earlier too, children were given spoiled food, even biscuits infested with worms. Recently, eggs distributed to students had developing embryos inside," he alleged. Parents also alleged that complaints against the school administration had been raised earlier, but no action was taken. When contacted, District Education Officer Mithila Tudu said: "I have not received any complaint so far. If you share the video, we will take immediate action." She indicated that middle schools fall under the jurisdiction of the District Superintendent of Education (DSE) and that he would be informed immediately. Repeated attempts to contact headmaster Ajay Jha for comment were unsuccessful.

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

Suvendu aide shot dead as post-poll violence rocks Bengal

reporters: "This was expected. How low can they get? I have said that once the government goes, the Governor has to take responsibility. The TMC... stooped so low that they killed Suvendu Adhikari's PA. Earlier, they have attacked our leaders including Suvendu, Dilip Ghosh and others. This is a very unfortunate incident. Even his mother is part of our party. Killing the Leader of Opposition's PA is a message. Let the people decide. We will take legal steps."

The TMC, in a statement on X, said, "We strongly condemn the brutal murder of Chandranath Rath in Madhyamgram tonight, along with the killing of three other TMC workers in incidents of post-poll violence

allegedly carried out by BJP-backed miscreants over the last three days, despite the Model Code of Conduct being in force."

"We demand the strongest possible action in this matter, including a court-monitored CBI investigation so that those responsible are identified and brought to justice without delay. Violence and political killings have no place in a democracy and the guilty must be held accountable at the earliest," the TMC said.

According to police sources, an investigation has begun and searches are being conducted. Police are looking at CCTV footage of the area.

Once with the Indian Air

Force, Rath was one of the closest aides of Adhikari. From Chandipur of Purba Medinipur, he was the son of Chandipur panchayat member Hasi Rath.

Rath had been with Adhikari since 2018. When Adhikari joined the BJP, he made Rath his personal assistant. And after Adhikari became the Leader of Opposition, Rath became his executive assistant.

Incidents of violence have been reported from different parts of the state after the elections. On Wednesday, DGP Siddh Nath Gupta said a total of 200 FIRs have been filed regarding post-poll incidents, leading to the arrest of 433 in-

dividuals.

"Since May 4, after the announcement of results, there have been incidents of violence, including threats, assaults, and intimidation. We have registered more than 200 FIRs and arrested 433 people so far. We have detained more than 1,100 people under preventive measures," he said, adding that there have been reports of violence and assault since Wednesday morning.

He said two deaths related to post-poll violence — one at Nanoor and another at New Town — have been reported. "We are investigating both cases. We have been able to arrest those involved in these two murders," he said.

TMC to move court, Mamata digs in heels; Assembly stands dissolved

Other than Agarwal, Ravi also met Chief Secretary Dushyant Nariala. Agarwal later told reporters: "The Election Commission of India (ECI) has published the gazette notification of the winning candidates. Now, the Governor will take all decisions as per provisions of the Constitution."

Citing Article 172 of the Constitution, a senior official of Lok Bhavan said the West Bengal Assembly will automatically stand dissolved with effect from midnight May 6 after the expiry of its five-year term. The outgoing Council of Ministers can continue to operate in a caretaker capacity until the new government is sworn in.

"If the Governor wants, he can replace the existing government with a caretaker govern-

ment but the new ministers too will have to take oath. He can also impose President's rule for a few days. After the Assembly is dissolved, the Governor will call the largest party to form the new government. The largest party has to elect its legislature party leader," the official said.

BJP sources said party MLAs will choose their leader once Union Home Minister Amit Shah, appointed a central observer for the legislature party proceedings, reaches Kolkata. The swearing-in ceremony is on Saturday and a venue is being finalised.

Meanwhile, Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, who is a Lok Sabha MP and the TMC general secretary, held a meeting with all the newly-elected MLAs of the party

at her residence in Kalighat this evening.

Of the 80 MLAs, nine did not turn up. The meeting lasted over an hour. According to sources, the MLAs were told to remain in their respective constituencies and guard against post-poll violence.

"We will go to court (over the elections). Post-poll violence is continuing," Abhishek Banerjee said after the meeting. According to sources, Mamata Banerjee told the MLAs that the party would approach the Supreme Court with its complaints about tampering of EVMs and "vote loot by the BJP and EC".

She also told the MLAs to identify who among the party leaders "sabotaged" the polls.

"She reiterated that she will not resign as Chief Minister,

even if President's rule is imposed in Bengal. She said the EVMs were manipulated and she herself was beaten up at a counting centre," said an MLA present at the meeting.

Banerjee said she would take the fight against the BJP to Delhi, that the INDIA bloc was with her and she would agitate along with other Opposition leaders. SP leader Akhilesh Yadav is scheduled to meet her Thursday.

"She also asked the party's legal team to be prepared since she expects a number of cases to be filed against party leaders and workers in the coming days," another MLA said.

Abhishek Banerjee asked the MLAs to lodge complaints of post-poll violence online if the police refuse to accept complaints.

New sports policy

Crucially, the memo underlines that "Indian teams and individual players will take part in international events that also have teams or players from Pakistan. Similarly, Pakistani players and teams will be able to participate in such multilateral events hosted by India" — paving the way for them to compete in international cricket and multi-discipline events in the country.

According to the Government, "India's approach to sports events involving Pakistan reflects its overall policy in dealing with that country." Yet, by formally notifying a dual approach — no bilateral engagement, but full compliance in multilateral sport — the policy attempts to balance geopolitical realities with the demands of global competition, where participation norms leave little

room for exclusion.

The memo stated: "With regard to international and multilateral events, in India or abroad, we are guided by the practices of international sports bodies and the interest of our own sportspersons. It is also relevant to take into account India's emergence as a credible venue to host international sports events."

The notification comes at a critical juncture when India is positioning itself as a global sporting destination.

The country will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, and has made an aggressive pitch for the 2036 Olympics and 2038 Asian Games. India will also host the cricket Champions Trophy in 2029 and the 50-over World Cup in 2031.

At the same time, in the coming months, Indian and

Pakistani athletes are likely to face each other multiple times, at the Commonwealth Games in July-August and the Asian Games in September-October. India and Pakistan are also set to face each other in hockey tournaments at least three times in the next few months — the FIH Pro League in London on June 23 and 26, and again at the World Cup in Amsterdam on August 19.

In the new policy, the Government has moved to address a recurring friction point: visas. The memorandum said the visa process for "sports persons, team officials, technical personnel, and office-bearers of International Sports Governing Bodies shall be simplified". It said all international federation officials will be granted "multi-entry visa... on a priority basis for the duration of their official tenure, subject to a maximum period of five years" to ensure "smooth movement... in accordance with international norms".

Underground infra

These underground command centres will be equipped with C4I2SR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Information, Surveillance and Reconnaissance), which can be shared among all services on a secure network.

A C4I2SR is an integrated system that enables military commanders to achieve situational awareness and coordination, thus aiding decision-making superiority in operations across domains. An underground command and control center will enable military commanders to lead operations securely during active conflict.

Other underground infrastructure to be constructed will include limited medical facilities, living bunkers designed for long-term habitation during wars and other disasters, ammunition and FOL (Fuel, Oil, Lubricants) and rations storage facilities in forward locations along the borders, as well as in depth areas.

Officials said that construction of 3D-printed bunkers, which are quick to make, resilient and can easily be relocated, will also form part of the country's underground infrastructure.

It is also learnt that the focus is also on the creation of additional underground infrastructure along the western borders, so as to make daily routine operations resilient to wars or disasters, a key element of which is

the hardened bunker.

Aside from the construction of underground military infrastructure, the creation of dual-use infrastructure such as airfields, highways and roads connecting strategic areas closer to borders has also emerged as a key priority.

For instance, the IAF last month conducted an emergency landing field activation drill on the Purvanchal Expressway in Sultanpur in UP. Fighters, including the Su-30MKI, Jaguar, Mirage 2000, and C295 transport aircraft, participated in the drill. Several airfields across the country, including those closer to the borders, have been opened for civil use.

Drawing from the lessons of Operation Sindoor, during which Pakistan sent swarms of low-cost drones to India, and also from the Israel-US and Iran war, in which Iranians launched drones and missiles towards Israel and US bases in the Gulf countries, strengthening air defence has been a key focus of the armed forces.

While there are moves to establish a comprehensive air defence shield under the Sudarshan Chakra mission — a panel under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently submitted a pre-feasibility report on the project — work has also begun on enhancing the existing Akash cover of the Army.

An indigenous, automated Air Defence Control and Repor-

ting System of the Army, Akash-teeer can be easily integrated with the IACCS (IAF) and TRIGUN (Navy), creating a clear and real-time picture of the battlefield.

There has also been large-scale procurement of counter-UAS systems — many of these will be integrated with legacy weapon systems of the armed forces — which are cheaper to operate, yet accurate and will help optimise the use of ammunition.

Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari (retd), who was Vice Chief of Air Staff during Operation Sindoor, told *The Indian Express* that India managed to defend all its bases from Pakistan's attacks during Operation Sindoor due to its robust, layered air defence shield already in place, but that will continue to evolve.

Underlining that detection is a key component of air defence, he said the idea is to get the information as quickly as possible. "Getting more advanced and specialised sensors and radars that pick up information about incoming threats, covering everything from ballistic missiles to small drones, will be the way forward towards strengthening air defence," he said. He said it may not be feasible to defend every piece of land against all weapon systems, so the deployment of air defence assets should focus on prioritising what is most important to protect.

Aside from plans to procure sophisticated sensors and radars, the Indian military has, since last year, prioritised procurement of counter-UAS systems. India has also been planning

US, Iran

"We will close this very soon. We are getting close," said the source from Pakistan, which hosted the war's only peace talks so far and has continued in that role of mediator. Reports of the possible agreement caused global oil prices to plunge, with benchmark Brent crude futures falling around 11% to around \$98 a barrel.

In his morning post, Trump said: "Assuming Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to, which is, perhaps, a big assumption, the already legendary Epic Fury will be at an end, and the highly effective blockade will allow the Hormuz Strait to be open to all, including Iran." "If they don't agree, the bombing starts, and it will be, sadly, at a much higher level and intensity than it was before," he said. — REUTERS

to procure more S-400 surface-to-air missile systems. The DRDO has been developing Project Kusha, an indigenous long-range surface-to-air missile system to protect strategic military and civilian assets and infrastructure from a range of aerial threats.

On the military's focus on offensive air defence, Air Marshal Tiwari said the idea of a robust air defence infrastructure is not only to deny the enemy from hitting any Indian target, but also to deny him from using the airspace of his own country for launching any attack.

The S-400s, the Kusha and even the MRSAMs (medium-range surface-to-air missiles) can act as offensive air defence systems based on how they are deployed, he said.

Last year, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh disclosed that among the targets destroyed on May 7 was a large Pakistani airborne platform, possibly an ELINT (Electronic Intelligence) or AEW&C (Airborne Early Warning and Control) aircraft, taken down from a distance of about 300 km. He described it as the "largest-ever recorded surface-to-air kill that we can talk about".

Such a long-range kill involves a long-range interceptor missile, a surface-to-air missile designed to destroy airborne targets at distances well beyond visual range, steady precision tracking and the ability to maintain a firing solution until impact.

The IAF acquired this capability recently, with the induction of the Russian-made S-400 Triumf system.

Vijay short of majority

proof of majority support.

It also revealed how deeply the state's political establishment was against a Congress-backed Vijay government — the Congress had earlier broken its longstanding alliance with the DMK to extend the support of its five MLAs to the TVK.

TVK won 108 seats in the Assembly poll results declared Monday, but its tally is effectively 107 since Vijay will have to vacate one of the two constituencies he contested and won. In the resulting 233-member House, the majority mark is 117. The DMK won 59 seats and the AIADMK 47, giving them a combined tally of 106.

Until late Wednesday, TVK leaders believed Vijay could be sworn in first and given time to prove his majority on the Assembly floor. The Governor's stand, however, created a numbers vacuum that prompted the old Dravidian establishment to reorganise itself. "The first move came from AIADMK, and DMK did not reject it instantly," sources said.

At the centre of new tensions lies the Congress decision. The party, while formally backing TVK, also signalled a broader political understanding covering future local body elections, Rajya Sabha polls and the next Lok Sabha election. That support initially appeared to rescue Vijay's prospects but, within hours, seemed to be isolating him from other possible allies.

Senior leaders in Anbumani Ramadoss-led PMK (4 MLAs), Thol Thirumavalavan-led VCK (2 MLAs) and T V Dhinakaran's AMMK (1 MLA), who until Wednesday morning had maintained informal lines of communication with TVK intermediaries, began distancing themselves from the possibility of supporting a Vijay-led government.

Sources in several NDA allies, too, told *The Indian Express* that the Congress-TVK understanding had fundamentally changed the situation. Two NDA insiders indicated that "Delhi" had conveyed that alliance partners should not facilitate a TVK government backed by Congress. Senior DMK leaders, meanwhile, privately expressed anger at how the Congress had handled the situation. A senior leader said Rahul Gandhi had spoken to M K Stalin over phone and reassured him: "I am with you, brother." By the following day, he said, Congress had formally moved toward

supporting TVK.

"Rahul could have done this more gracefully. The Congress's MLAs and MPs in Tamil Nadu were elected largely because DMK voters supported the alliance. Otherwise, they couldn't win a single seat," the leader said.

A former DMK minister described the evolving situation as "politically uncomfortable" but "not unethical". "It would be unethical if we poach MLAs. Let Vijay prove his mandate. If he fails, then the next developments can evolve politically," the leader said.

With the phrase — "if he fails" — hanging over nearly every conversation in Chennai's political circles, a new political choreography began to play out Wednesday night.

According to AIADMK sources, around 50 party MLAs were being moved to The Shore Trishvam resort in Puducherry as part of internal consultations and contingency planning. By around 10.30 pm, roughly 15 legislators had already reached the resort, while several others were still travelling.

Under the scenario being discussed informally across camps, Vijay would first be asked to prove his majority. If he fails, the AIADMK could stake claim to form the government with Edappadi K Palaniswami as Chief Minister, and the DMK extending outside support while smaller parties receive space within a coalition arrangement. Parties ranging from PMK and AMMK in the NDA alliance to CPM (2 MLAs), CPI (2 MLAs), VCK, DMKD (1 MLA) and IUML (2 MLAs) are expected to be part of this arrangement.

Leaders in both camps insist no final decision has been taken and that discussions remain fluid. But multiple meetings over the past two days, including AIADMK legislators' meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, and a DMK legislators' meeting expected Thursday, are increasingly being viewed through that prism. The public justification being informally circulated by sections in both Dravidian camps: they are not opposing Vijay's mandate, they are merely insisting that he demonstrate it constitutionally.

Earlier Wednesday, during his meeting with Vijay at Raj Bhavan, the Governor is learnt to have reiterated that any claim to form the government must be accompanied by a list demonstrating support from at least 117 MLAs.

Father of dead twins

Poonch between that day and the next. According to government data, 65 people were injured in the shelling and 598 houses damaged.

On April 20-24 this year, many of the families here relived those scary moments and the loss of their loved ones when the administration carried out a mock drill. Many left immediately for safe ground.

Rameez, 47, recalls that he was trying to do the same with his children when the shell hit.

Originally from Chakroo, some 9 km from the district headquarters of Poonch, the family was living in a rented accommodation in the main town. Zoya and Zain were enrolled in Class 5 at Christ School in Poonch, and the move was meant to bring them closer to their school. On May 7, after the cross-border shelling started and the Poonch town was among those hit, Rameez decided to move the family to a relative's home in the relatively safer Surankote. They had come out, with Urusa holding Zoya's hand and Zain right behind, when a shell struck right outside their home, killing first

Zoya and then Zain on the spot.

"They were born within 5 minutes of each other, Zoya and then Zain. They went the same way. Now, I often wonder why we moved there. Perhaps it was God's will," says Rameez, who still carries a piece of splinter in his liver which doctors believe will be fatal if removed.

At Syndicate Chowk some 2 km away, in Poonch town's main bazar, Jasmeet Kour sits at a confectionery shop once run by her husband Amreek Singh, who was killed on May 7. Jasmeet was employed as a Class IV officer in the state Agriculture Department as compensation, and the family was given an ex-gratia of Rs 14 lakh.

However, like with the Khans, life for Jasmeet, and her two daughters and a son, is "frozen". The eldest daughter is doing Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) training, while the two other children are still in school.

Says Jasmeet: "When the shelling started, we went down into the basement behind the shop. Amreek came up for a moment, which was when an artillery shell fell on the road outside and tore through him."

Rusty-spotted cat

20-30 locations in the Aravallis suggests a potentially stable population. They are now undertaking a larger study to assess the feeding behaviour of the animals, population estimates, and their interaction with humans.

The study area in the northern Aravalli range, is a scrub-agriculture-settlement mosaic that continues to support biodiversity despite pressures such as quarrying, grazing, and urbanisation, the paper says. Vegetation includes dry deciduous and thorn scrub species such as *Vachellia*, *Prosopis*, and *Ziziphus*, which provide both cover and

prey base for small carnivores. Interestingly, the observations challenge the belief that the species avoids human presence. "The cat is generally believed to be shy, but here we found it was aware of human presence. Two times in live sighting, it stayed for three to four hours with us since it was hunting... When it was with the kitten, the sighting was only for 10 to 15 seconds," Verma said.

The feline was found to be most active at dusk and dawn — after around 7.30 pm and around 4 am in the summer — which is consistent with the behaviour of many small wildcats.

SIGNS OF ABNORMALITIES DETECTED IN FOETUS

## HC raps RML doc panel after it asks woman to continue 27-wk pregnancy

Sohini Ghosh  
New Delhi, May 6

THE DELHI High Court Wednesday deprecated Dr Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital in New Delhi after doctors on its medical board, which looks into cases of medical termination of pregnancy, failed to give a clear opinion on whether it was "feasible" to terminate a woman's 27-week pregnancy, given that abnormalities have been detected in the foetus.

Justice Purushendra Kaurav went on to direct AIIMS New Delhi to examine the 29-year-old woman and to clearly opine on the feasibility of termination of her pregnancy and its consequences.

The married woman had approached the HC on May 1, seeking medical termination of her second pregnancy, submitting that continuing the pregnancy carries a risk of sudden death of the foetus in the womb, as the foetus has been detected with

abnormalities, endangering her physical and mental health.

On May 4, when the plea came up for hearing before Justice Purushendra Kaurav, Centre told the court that a medical board had been formed to look into the matter. The court then directed Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences and RML Hospital to examine the woman "to clearly opine regarding feasibility of termination of pregnancy and the necessary consequences".

The board's report, submitted to the court on Wednesday, however, failed to give a clear opinion on the feasibility and consequences of the termination. It concluded: "The patient has thus been advised to continue expectant management according to standard guidelines. Patient is advised to continue the pregnancy."

Justice Kaurav, pulling up the board, recorded, "There seems to be complete disregard to statutory mandate under the

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

**MEDICAL TERMINATION** of Pregnancy (MTP) Act allows termination of pregnancy up to 24 weeks subject to opinion of 2 registered medical practitioners that continuance of the pregnancy would involve a life risk for the mother or cause grave injury to her physical or mental health.

**THE ACT** provides that the length of pregnancy won't apply in cases of substantial foetal abnormalities diagnosed by a Medical Board.

MTP Act and guidelines thereunder by the team of doctors... The court order required the medical board to opine regarding feasibility of termination of pregnancy and the necessary consequences. It was specifically directed that the board bear in mind all aspects as has been noted in the petition. The petitioner has categorically

stated that the termination of the pregnancy is necessitated as there exists several fetal abnormalities."

The board comprised Dr Preti Sainia and Dr Jaya Chawla from RML's Department of Obstetrics, Dr Sarita Jilowa from Department of Radiodiagnosis and Imaging, Dr Bhawna from the Department of Neonatology and Dr Mina Chandra from the Department of Psychiatry.

Noting the risk of death of the foetus, as was submitted by the petitioner, Justice Kaurav noted, "There is no consideration bestowed by the medical board to these aspects. The court thus deprecates the act of the doctors who examined the petitioner in ABVIMS and RML Hospital... In the future it is warned that the court directions must be complied with in letter and spirit."

Justice Kaurav orally remarked that the Supreme Court has "very clearly said that reproductive autonomy has to be put

on a higher pedestal".

Addressing the Centre's counsel, Justice Kaurav said orally, "Either they (the medical board) have to say yes (to termination) or they disagree (with private doctors' opinion suggesting termination)... We have to say something regarding your doctors' conduct and we have to refer the matter to Delhi Medical Council because they have abdicated from their statutory responsibilities."

Initially being treated at a private hospital, mid-March, around the 21st week of pregnancy, a scan had documented severely restricted foetal growth. By early April, the abnormality was further confirmed, and by April-end, the woman made an emergency visit to RML Hospital, where she was told that the placenta had severely restricted blood flow to the foetus. A private foetal medicine specialist then confirmed that the survival of the foetus was gravely uncertain.

SEVERAL DEADLINES HAVE BEEN MISSED

## Bhairon Marg Underpass 5 likely to open in Feb next year

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 6

Deadlines & delays



Currently, traffic is being managed with temporary diversions and barricading. AMIT MEHRA

**FEBRUARY 2027** is the new deadline

**FINAL HURDLE** was cleared after an NOC was received from Indian Railways

**WORK ON** project pending since 2023

AFTER SEVERAL missed deadlines and delays, the last leg of the Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor — Bhairon Marg Underpass 5 — which passes beneath an active railway line is likely to be completed by February next year.

Public Works Department (PWD) minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said that the work on the stretch has been resumed and is going in full swing. "Work has gathered pace... We have also got an in-principle NOC from the Indian Railways. Trains are likely to be diverted for a few days so that the work is completed on time," he said.

The 110-metre-long Underpass 5 was supposed to be completed and inaugurated along with the Pragati Maidan tunnel and other underpasses on this stretch as part of the Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor redevelopment project. However, owing to an active railway line over the stretch

and fluctuations in the Yamuna water level, it was delayed.

In 2023, the work was halted after precast concrete boxes, pushed beneath the active railway line using a 'box-pushing' method, sank due to flooding caused by the Yamuna. Follow-

ing this, the PWD proposed a 'cut and cover' method, which involves cutting the railway track and pulling the stuck concrete and leveling it up. This process required a period of 40 to 60 days during which the railway line had to remain shut. The Indian Railways refused to grant permission for the same.

Later, the PWD decided to switch to the 'cast in-situ' technology.

Once completed, the stretch will bring relief to commuters travelling between Bhairon Marg, Central Delhi and ISBT Kashmere Gate, Ring Road and Sarai Kale Khan; ease congestion around Pragati Maidan and ITO corridor; improve East-Central connectivity; and ensure smoother traffic flow during major national and international events hosted at the ITPO complex.

Currently, traffic is being managed with temporary diversions and barricading, leading to severe congestion near Ring Road, Bhairon Marg and Sarai Kale Khan, said officials.

## Now, automated e-challan system across IGI Airport road network

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 6

TOSTRENGTHEN traffic discipline and improve road safety around the Indra Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL-GMR), in collaboration with the Delhi Traffic Police, has rolled out an automated e-challan enforcement system across the airport's road network.

Officials said 14 high-definition Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras have been installed at key

stretches, with another 35 set to be integrated soon. The system will automatically detect traffic violations such as speeding, illegal parking, wrong-side driving, triple riding, riding without a helmet, stop-line violations and red-light jumping.

Officials said once a violation is recorded, the data is routed through NIC systems and verified by traffic police personnel before e-challans are issued.

The cameras have been deployed at high-traffic points like Central Spine Road, Cargo Terminal area, Rangpuri, Cen-

taur Hotel junction, Aerocity, NSG junction and Terminal 1 exit road.

"This initiative is a significant step towards technology-driven enforcement in Delhi. With ANPR-based monitoring, we aim to improve compliance, ensure uniform enforcement, and enhance road safety across the IGI Airport road network," said Shobhit Saxena, DCP Traffic, New Delhi.

"The system also ensures greater transparency and efficiency in issuing e-challans," he added.

## MAN KILLED IN UTTAM NAGAR ON HOLI 'Of 20 named in chargesheet, 10 assaulted youth, rest provoked'

Alok Singh  
New Delhi, May 6

OUT OF the 20 people allegedly involved in the murder of 26-year-old Tarun Butolia in Uttam Nagar on Holi this March, "at least ten directly assaulted him with rods, sticks and cement blocks, while the others provoked them during the fight", according to the Delhi Police probe, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

According to the police, the murder was not premeditated but a result of a sudden outburst of anger triggered after an 11-

year-old relative of Tarun threw a water balloon from the second floor of her house that hit a woman. An argument broke out between the two families. During the exchange, the woman allegedly used derogatory and casteist remarks against Tarun's family and the argument turned into a scuffle. More relatives of the accused joined in and attacked Tarun's family, the probe suggested, police said.

On Sunday, the Delhi Police filed a 550-page chargesheet before a city court in connection with the murder on March 4, naming 20 accused, includ-



Near the site of the incident. FILE

ing two minors. Police said two of them are still absconding.

The police have built the case heavily relying upon disclosure statements of eyewitnesses, who were named as key prosecution witnesses, sources said. To corroborate this, the police have placed evidence related to the post-mortem examination report, Call Detail Records and Internet Protocol Detail Records, sources confirmed. Forensic reports, which are still awaited, may be part of the supplementary chargesheet in the case, they said.

During the scuffle, the accused allegedly tried to enter Tarun's house, police said. Around 30 minutes later, when Tarun was returning home, the accused surrounded him, and

at least 10 of them attacked him, leaving him critically injured, police said.

While the accused fled the spot after the attack, Tarun was taken to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries the next day, police said.

Police later arrested 16 people and apprehended two juveniles. Of the 20 accused named in the chargesheet, 17 are related to each other, while three are family friends, police also said. They added that the matter is still under investigation and efforts to arrest the rest of the accused are on.

## Subway to link Delhi Airport terminals 2 & 3

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 6

FOR EASIER, faster, and more comfortable transfer between Terminal 2 and Terminal 3, a new pedestrian subway is being built at Delhi's Indra Gandhi International (IGI) Airport.

The subway is expected to be opened by the end of 2026.

Currently, passengers have to get out of the Delhi Metro station near T3 and either walk half a kilometre to T2, wait for a shuttle bus provided by the airport, or depend on other modes of transport.

With the subway, there will be direct connectivity between the two terminals that will help passengers save time. It is expected to be around 70-80 metres long, considerably shorter than the current 750 metres commuters have to walk.

The groundwork for the project was laid three years earlier in May 2023 when the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) for the construction, operation and maintenance of the subway. Following this, DMRC floated a tender.

Officials had told *The Indian Express* previously that the cost of construction, including utility shifting work, if any, will be borne by DIAL. The Delhi Metro will bear system



The pedestrian subway is likely to open for commuters by the end of this year. FILE

operation and maintenance costs of the subway, including electrical and mechanical aspects, lift and escalator, Automatic Fare Collection (AFC) systems, CCTV surveillance, security and PA systems.

The subway will be constructed using the 'box-pushing' method, said officials. "In this method, vertical excavation or large-scale digging is not required. It is much faster than the conventional 'cut and cover' technology used generally for subway construction," said officials.

"The new pedestrian subway will enable direct access to T2 from the Metro station, ensuring seamless connectivity and greater convenience for passengers," a DIAL spokesperson said.

The average daily footfall at T2 is 38,000-42,000 while it is 1.19-1.24 lakh at T3, as per airport officials.

**SANJAY GANDHI POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
Raebareilly Road, Lucknow-226014 (U.P.)  
EPBX No.: 0522-2494000/2495000/2668700/2668900. Fax no. (0522) 2668017, 2668078.

**RECRUITMENT NOTICE**

Offline applications are invited by the Director, SGPGIMS, Lucknow, from eligible Officers from Police Departments of Central/State/Union Territory Governments or Officers from Para Military/Military Forces to fill the following Group A post on Deputation at SGPGIMS, Lucknow.

S. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Matrix (as per 7th CPC)	No. of Post	Essential Qualification and Experience
1.	Deputy Chief Security Officer (On Deputation)	Level-11 (₹67700-208700)	1	Officers of the Police Departments of the Central/State/UT/ or officers of the Armed Forces including Paramilitary Forces, holding analogous posts or with 5 years regular service in a post in PB-3 (Rs. 15600-39100), GP-5400 or above, preferably having experience connected with security, handling agitations, strikes of employees. (Period of Deputation shall not ordinarily exceed 3 years. Extendable by 2 years at discretion of Appointing Authority.)

Please visit Institute's website [www.sggpims.org.in](http://www.sggpims.org.in) for detailed advertisement.

Advt. No. 1/07/Rectt/2026-27 **DIRECTOR**

**डी.फार्म (आयु.) एडमिशन**  
NEET बगैर सीधा प्रवेश पाए \* योग्यता : १२वी पास (PCB)  
विश्वप्रसिद्ध एवम् भारत का एक मात्र राष्ट्रीय महत्वका आयुर्वेद संस्थान

आयुर्वेदिक शिक्षण एवं अनुसन्धान संस्थान  
स्कूल ऑफ फार्मसी जामनगर  
आयुष मंत्रालय - भारत सरकार  
राष्ट्रीय महत्वता प्राप्त की संस्था (INI)

विशेषताएँ ::  
 \* संस्थान द्वारा साक्षात्कार तथा प्लेसमेंट  
 \* आधुनिक सुविधाओं से सुसज्जित प्रयोगशाला  
 \* कैंपस में ही ओ.पी.डी. ट्रेनिंग की व्यवस्था  
 \* आयुर्वेदिक पद्धतियों द्वारा डिस्पेंसिंग तथा औषधि निर्माण प्रशिक्षण

शीघ्र संपर्क करें - फोन नं. 7043609842, 7043693918  
फैमि भारे की अंतिम तिथि 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026  
अधिक जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट पर जाएँ [www.itrapharmacy.in](http://www.itrapharmacy.in)

**SSB**

Walk-In-Interview for Specialist Medical Officers & General Duty Medical Officers in SSB on contractual basis.

1. Specialist Medical Officers

Sl.	Posts	Vacancy	Monthly Remuneration
1	Medicine	03	₹ 85,000/-
2	General Surgery	03	
3	Obs & Gyne	02	
4	Ophthalmologist	03	
5	Radiologist	02	
6	Pathologist	01	
7	Anesthesia	01	
	Total	15	

2. General Duty Medical Officers

Sl.	Posts	Vacancy	Monthly Remuneration
1.	GDMO's	20	₹ 75000/-

For eligibility, terms & conditions and venue / date of Walk-in-Interview, interested candidates may download the detailed advertisement for above posts from SSB recruitment website [www.recruitment.ssb.gov.in](http://www.recruitment.ssb.gov.in) and [www.ssb.gov.in](http://www.ssb.gov.in)

Sd/-  
Commandant (Rectt)  
CBC- 19114/11/0003/2627

**SANJAY GANDHI POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
Raebareilly Road, Lucknow-226014

**Recruitment Notice**

Offline applications are invited by the Director, SGPGIMS, Lucknow, from eligible Officers to fill the following Group A post on Deputation at SGPGIMS, Lucknow.

Name of post & Pay scale	No. of Post	Mode of Recruitment & other eligibility Criteria	Remarks
Joint Director (Administration) 7th CPC Level-13 (123100-215900)	01	<b>Essential Qualification</b> Graduate (with 55% marks or above) with MBA or PG Diploma in personnel management of 02 years duration or equivalent. <b>Experience</b> 1. Officers under the Central /State /PCS /U.Ts. Government / PSUs / Universities /Statutory & Autonomous Bodies or Research and Development Organizations. 2. Holding analogous posts (Level- 13 post) on regular basis OR officers working at Level-12 for at least 5 years on regular basis. 3. NOC from the Cadre controlling authority of the Institution should be submitted.	The period of deputation ordinarily shall not exceed 03 years.  Upper Age Limit- 55 Years for all categories

1. The detailed advertisement & Application format can be seen at Institute's website [www.sggpims.org.in](http://www.sggpims.org.in).

ADVT.No.:1/06/Rectt/2026-27 **Director**

**ADMISSION NOTICE**  
**Common Entrance Test-2026 FOR ADMISSION AT**

INSTITUTE	COURSES
Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (Divyangjan) (PDUNIPPD) 4, Vishnu Digamber Marg, New Delhi-110002 Website: <a href="https://pdunippd.nic.in">https://pdunippd.nic.in</a> , E-mail: <a href="mailto:cetpdunippd2026@gmail.com">cetpdunippd2026@gmail.com</a>	• BPT • BOT • BPO
Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (DIVYANGJAN), Cuttack (SVNIRTAR) Olatapur, PO- Bairoi, Cuttack, Odisha - 754010 Website: <a href="https://svnirtar.nic.in">https://svnirtar.nic.in</a> , E-mail: <a href="mailto:nirtar@nic.in">nirtar@nic.in</a>	• BPT • BOT • BPO • BASLP
National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (DIVYANGJAN), Kolkata (NILD) BT Road, Bonhooghly, Kolkata - 700090 Website: <a href="https://nild.nic.in">https://nild.nic.in</a> , E-mail: <a href="mailto:mail@nioh.in">mail@nioh.in</a>	• BPT • BOT • BPO
National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (DIVYANGJAN), Chennai (NIEPMD) East Coast Road, Muttukadu, Kovalam Post Chennai-603112, Website: <a href="http://www.niepmid.nic.in">www.niepmid.nic.in</a> , E-mail: <a href="mailto:niepmid@gov.in">niepmid@gov.in</a>	• BPT • BOT • BASLP
Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech & Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan), Mumbai (AJNISHD(D)) K.C. Marg, Bandra (W) Reclamation Mumbai - 400 050 Website: <a href="https://ajnishd.nic.in">https://ajnishd.nic.in</a> , E-mail: <a href="mailto:ajynihh-mum@nic.in">ajynihh-mum@nic.in</a>	• BASLP
Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech & Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan), Regional Center, Kolkata NIEPID Campus, Manovikas Nagar, Bowenpally, Secunderabad Telanfana-500009. Email: <a href="mailto:adsrc-nihh@ajynihh.nic.in">adsrc-nihh@ajynihh.nic.in</a>	• BASLP
Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech & Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan), Regional Center, Secunderabad NIEPID Campus, Manovikas Nagar, Bowenpally, Secunderabad NILD Campus, B.T. Road, Bonhooghly, Kolkata - 700090 Website: <a href="mailto:adsrc-nihh@nic.in">adsrc-nihh@nic.in</a>	• BASLP
Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, (DIVYANGJAN), Guwahati (CRCSRE) Guwahati Medical College Hospital Campus Post Office Indrapur, GMC Hospital Rd, Bhangagah, Guwahati, Assam-781032 Website: <a href="https://crgguwahati.nic.in">https://crgguwahati.nic.in</a> , E-mail: <a href="mailto:crgguwahati@gmail.com">crgguwahati@gmail.com</a> ,	• BASLP
Composite Regional Centre, Patna Sheikhpura, (Old Dharamshala), Near IGIMS Nursing College, Patna-800014 Website: <a href="https://crrcpatna.nic.in">https://crrcpatna.nic.in</a> , E-mail: <a href="mailto:crrcpatna@rediffmail.com">crrcpatna@rediffmail.com</a>	• BPO

**Eligibility: 10+2 Science with English as Compulsory Subject**

Starting date of online Application: 11.05.2026 (Monday)  
Closing date of online receipt of Application: 05.06.2026 (Friday)  
Date of Entrance Test: 28.06.2026 (Sunday)

To Apply Online go to <https://admission.svnirtar.nic.in>

For Further Details Visit - <https://pdunippd.nic.in>  
All concerned may please note. Director,  
PDUNIPPD, New Delhi

CBC- 38101/11/0002/2627

## Police file 527-page chargesheet into Peeragarhi flyover murders, 'godman' the only accused

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 6

MURDER OF at least six persons, an occult practice named *Dhanvarsha* (raining money), and an agent to bring him clients — this is what the police have found in their investigation into a self-styled godman, Kamruddin alias Baba, who allegedly killed three persons in Outer Delhi last February by feeding them "poisoned" laddus, senior officers said on Wednesday.

The Delhi Police on Wednesday filed a 527-page chargesheet before a court in connection to the triple murder case. Police said Kamruddin, the only accused in the triple murder case, has been charged with the murder of six persons in the name of *Dhanvarsha*.

Kamruddin's latest victims were from Outer Delhi — Randhir Singh (76), Shiv Naresh Singh (47), and Laxmi Devi (40) — whose bodies were found inside a car near the Peeragarhi Flyover last February. The others murders were allegedly committed in 2014 and 2025.

In October 2025, Laxmi, a homemaker and resident of Jahangirpuri, was struggling to make ends meet. Her husband had lost his job after taking too many leaves due to his chronic lung problems. It was at this time that Laxmi came into contact with Saleem, who acted as Kamruddin's agent, officers said.

"A man named Saleem had become his agent, who would bring him clients suffering from emotional and physical distress. He put her in touch with Kamruddin. She visited the baba sometime after Diwali," an officer said.

To demonstrate his "magical powers", police said Kamruddin took Laxmi's shawl, wrapped it around his hand, and slid bundles of notes inside it while chanting mantras. He then unwrapped the



Kamruddin after his arrest

shawl, and much to everyone's surprise, there was cash.

"Laxmi became convinced of the *Dhanvarsha* ritual. She saw it as the only way to end her problems. She started looking for girls for Baba so that the *djin* (supernatural spirit) to solve their problems. Laxmi was also added to WhatsApp groups. In one such group, she found Nareish, who was already part of the occult," officers said.

According to the police, a diary was recovered from Laxmi that contained details of multiple women — from measurements of various parts of their bodies to records of their surgeries and medications.

"Multiple pictures of these women were also recovered from Laxmi's phone," a senior officer said.

On Kamruddin's journey as a self-styled godman, police said he started out in Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad as a self-proclaimed *hakeem*, offering home-made remedies for common medical issues such as stomach pain and headaches.

From 2010, the year he moved to Ghaziabad with two of his sons, Raju and Samauddin, Kamruddin began getting involved in occult practices.

"He was in touch with some similar kind of self-styled godmen who were into the whole *Dhanvarsha* occult. He learned his trade from them and then started offering people similar schemes," an officer probing the case said.

## NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU DATA

# Delhi tops — crimes against women & elderly, offences by juveniles, cases of thefts

At 2,75,402, most number of crime cases registered in Delhi, Mumbai a distant second with 51,428 cases

Pragynesh & Nirbhay Thakur  
New Delhi, May 6

DELHI RECORDED the highest number of crimes against women and senior citizens among the country's 19 Metro cities in 2024, while also reporting the highest rate of crimes committed by juveniles, according to the latest Crime in India report released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) on Wednesday. It also topped the list of cities across the country when it came to cases of theft, with nearly 30% of all such offences being reported in the Capital.

The number of crime cases lodged in Delhi in 2024 saw about a 15% dip when compared to 2023, and 8.8% in 2022. But it still topped among the Metros. While the number of cases registered in Delhi stood at 2,75,402 in 2024, Mumbai came a distant second with 51,428 cases.

The data shows that 13,396 cases of crimes against women were registered in Delhi, while crimes against senior citizens stood at 1,267 — accounting for just over 30% of all such cases reported across the cities.

At 41.6%, Delhi recorded the highest rate of crimes committed by juveniles, far above the national average of 7.9%.

The data further shows that while 1,80,973 cases of thefts were registered in Delhi in 2024, 6,21,945 were recorded across the country during this time.

According to the data, while crimes against senior citizens dipped marginally in Delhi — from 1,361 cases in 2023 to 1,267 in 2024 — the city continued to top the list among Metro cities.

### • THE CRIME CAPITAL

#### Highest number of crimes against senior citizens

• The number of crimes against senior citizens was the highest in Delhi among all UTs and metro cities in 2024, according to a latest NCRB report.

A slight year-on-year dip in such cases

2023 1,361

2024 1,267

#### Tops in crime against women

• Crime against women in Delhi remained the highest among 19 major cities, with 13,396 cases registered in 2024 alone, according to the NCRB report.

• Number of such crimes per 1 lakh women in Delhi in 2024 was at 176.8. Overall crimes against women in city in 2024 saw 0.22% rise from 2023.

SOURCE: 'CRIME IN INDIA' REPORT RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU

The 1,267 cases account for just over 30% of all the 4,107 crimes against senior citizens reported in Metros. The data, however, suggests that the number of such crimes has dropped in Delhi in absolute terms — it was 1,361 in 2023 and 1,313 in 2022.

"Senior citizens have been vulnerable to crimes because of isolation and inducement. Many of them, especially in upscale localities, live alone, which has made them easy targets for thefts and robberies," said a senior police officer.

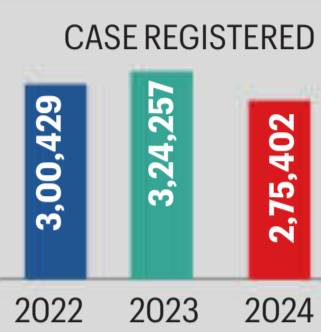
At 13,396, Delhi also recorded the most number of crimes against women in 2024 — more than a quarter of all such cases in Metros. The figure was almost the same as 2023, when the Capital saw 13,439 cases of crime against women.

Of the total cases of crime against women registered in Delhi in 2024, 1,058 were rape cases — again the highest among all Metros — with Jaipur a distant second at 497 cases. The data further shows that

#### Tops in overall crime rate

• Capital also tops among all metropolitan cities in terms of overall crime rate.

• It, however, saw a 15% dip in 2024, when compared to 2023, and 8.8% against 2022.



#### Prisons most overcrowded

• 19,512 inmates against capacity of 10,026 prisoners.

• Occupancy rate stands at 194.6% as of December 31, 2024

• 17,178 prisoners are undertrials — nearly 9 in 10, or 88%

30% of all such offences.

#### Reports most kidnapping and murder cases

• Even as Delhi records marginal dip in murder cases in 2024, among UTs, the city recorded the highest number of such cases in absolute terms. The murder rate stood at 2.3 per lakh population in 2024 — higher than the national average of 1.9.

• Kidnapping and abduction cases in the Capital were also the highest among metro cities, with 5,580 cases in 2024 — accounting for nearly 35% of all such cases across the metros.

#### 'Theft capital'

• Delhi dominated theft statistics, with nearly three-fourths of all such cases registered in 19 major metro cities.

• With 1,80,973 theft cases in 2024, Delhi also topped the list of cities across India with nearly

Delhi accounted for more than a quarter of all rape cases registered across the cities. However, of the 1,058 rape cases registered, 1,044 were found to lack "sufficient evidence".

"It is true that compared to Metros in other parts of India, Delhi shows a higher rate of crime against women. But that is also because cases here are registered quickly, often on the basis of the first complaint. There also have been multiple fake cases of rape, which were later found to be lodged for the purpose of blackmail. But pending trial, all these cases continue to be part of official records," said the officer.

Kidnapping and abduction cases lodged in the Capital were also the highest among the Metros, with 5,580 cases registered in 2024 — accounting for nearly 35% of all such cases. Mumbai recorded the second-highest number at 1,854.

Further, at 41.6% (2,306), Delhi recorded the highest number of crimes committed

by juveniles in 2024 — a jump from 2,278 in 2023. The national average is 7.9%. Only Madhya Pradesh (3,474) and Maharashtra (3,779) reported higher numbers. While the former has a population three times that of Delhi, the latter has a population over four times that of the Capital.

Meanwhile, murders in Delhi saw a dip in 2024, but only negligible, with 504 cases registered in 2024 as compared to 506 in 2023 and 509 in 2022.

In terms of cybercrime, Delhi reported 404 cases, a marginal dip from 407 in 2023 and significantly lower than 685 cases in 2022. The rate of cybercrime in Delhi stood at 1.8%, far below the national average of 7.3%. "We have now started to arrest banking officials, which rarely happened before. As they are a major source of cyber fraud, helping in opening unverified mule accounts, the possibility of prosecution has acted as a deterrent to some extent," said the officer.

### • STUDY PUBLISHED IN NATURE JOURNAL

# Mitigating SO<sub>2</sub> from coal power plants could prevent over 1.24 lakh deaths annually in India, says IIT Delhi study

Sophiya Mathew  
New Delhi, May 6

INDIA COULD prevent an estimated 1,24,564 deaths every year by fully mitigating sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from coal-fired power plants (CFPP), according to a study conducted by researchers from IIT Delhi, published in the *Nature* journal this week.

The study is among the first comprehensive attempts to quantify how SO<sub>2</sub> from CFPPs contributes not only to ambient SO<sub>2</sub> levels, but also to the formation of secondary fine particulate matter, or PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

The researchers found that a decrease in these emissions could reduce annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure by 0.3-12 microgrammes per cubic metre and ambient SO<sub>2</sub> levels by 0.1-13.6 parts per billion across states.

The CFPPs emit SO<sub>2</sub>, which reacts in the atmosphere to form secondary inorganic aerosols, including sulphate, nitrate and ammonium. These pollutants add to PM<sub>2.5</sub>, the fine particulate matter linked to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

"Multiple existing source apportionment studies show that the energy sector is the leading contributor to air pollution. Along with the household sector, thermal power plants are also among the leading contributors. So, we wanted to quantify the exact contribution from this sector," Debajit Sarkar from IIT Delhi, one of the co-authors of the study, said.

"The overall goal was to check if we can quantify and

provide to different states their specific emissions volume, so that they could make specific policies," he said.

The researchers used air pollution models and satellite data on SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from CFPPs. They also used the 'Global Burden of Disease' framework — which measures the impact on health across places, time, age, and sex — to estimate deaths that could be prevented from diseases linked to air pollution, including heart and respiratory illnesses. Further, they matched air quality data with National Family Health Survey-5 data — conducted in 2019-21 — to see how the benefits would differ across gender, caste and income groups.

The study found that complete mitigation of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from CFPPs could prevent 14,777 cardiovascular deaths and 8,476 respiratory deaths annually, apart from the all-cause mortality reduction.

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka were estimated to see the highest number of avoidable deaths due to high population exposure to pollution. Chhattisgarh and Odisha were expected to see the biggest improvement in air quality because they have several coal power-based pollution hotspots.

Further, the study found that the benefits would not be evenly distributed. People from Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and poorer and middle-income groups are expected to see larger air quality gains than wealthier and gen-

### • THE IIT DELHI STUDY, IN A NUTSHELL

#### Importance of the study

- Coal-fired thermal power plants (CFPP) emit atmospheric sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)
- Major precursor of secondary pollutants, which pose health risks
- Main pollutants produced include sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium aerosols

#### Current trend

- India's emissions have spiked significantly due to rapid socio-economic changes and heavy coal reliance
- Globally, CFPP-SO<sub>2</sub> emissions declining

#### The findings

- India could reduce annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels by 0.3-12 microgrammes per cubic metre by cutting down CFPP-SO<sub>2</sub>

#### The recommendations

- Proper implementation of SO<sub>2</sub> emission norms, which remains slow, localised and uneven in India
- More use of FGDs that are viewed as expensive
- Fully enforcing limits could cut SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions



- Can prevent 1,24,564 deaths annually
- States like Chhattisgarh and Odisha would see greatest improvements
- Socio-economically disadvantaged groups would see highest health benefits
- Health-related monetary gains likely to surpass costs of installing emission-control technologies like flue gas desulfurization (FGD)

by over 80% by 2030

- Developing domestic expertise in pollution-control technologies to support SO<sub>2</sub> mitigation efforts
- Policymakers should prioritise hotspot sub-regions

SOURCE: NATURE

### • Skywatch



Forecast: May 7, 2026  
Mainly clear sky becoming partly cloudy sky, possibility of thunderstorms

MAX: 35-37  
2.3°C below normal  
MIN: 21-23  
4.1°C below normal

• Sunrise: 5:36 AM (May 8)  
• Sunset: 7:00 PM (May 7)

• Moonrise: 12:02 PM (May 8)  
• Moonset: 9:31 AM (May 7)

### • AQI Tracker



JNU stadium Moderate AQI: 169  
RK Puram Moderate AQI: 173



ITO Moderate AQI: 154  
Lodhi Road Moderate AQI: 145

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

## 13-yr-old beaten to death, body found in forest; 2 minors held

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 6

HOURS AFTER a 13-year-old boy was reported missing, police said his body was recovered from a dense forest in South Delhi on Tuesday evening.

Officers said that the boy was allegedly beaten to death by minors who held a grudge against him.

Two minors were apprehended on Tuesday night in connection with the case, officers added.

Police said that the accused minors told them that an altercation had begun earlier on Monday when one of the minors shoved the victim.

Locals intervened at the time, but the grudge festered, and the accused allegedly killed him later on Monday, officers said.

According to police, the teen was playing cricket near a temple on Monday afternoon when the two accused approached him.

Pretending to make amends, they allegedly lured him into the forest on the pretext of burying a dead dog.

Once there, they seized the moment and choked him to death, officers said. One of them also struck his face with a brick, officers added.

According to the police, the deceased's father returned home on Monday night to find that his son had been missing since 3 pm. After searches proved unsuccessful, the family filed a missing person report on Tuesday.

Police said that the accused juveniles were apprehended based on technical evidence.

## YEIDA signs MoU with Japanese agency for medical device sector push

Express News Service  
Greater Noida, May 6

THE YAMUNA Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) on Wednesday signed an MoU with a Japanese agency to further the development of its Medical Device Park, said officials.

They said that the agreement — signed by YEIDA on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh government with the Medical Excellence Japan (MEJ) in Greater Noida — signalled a push to transform the region into a hub for medical device manufacturing and innovation with Japan's technical partnership.

YEIDA Chief Executive Officer Rakesh Kumar Singh said that the MoU outlines a collaborative framework spanning research and development, investment promotion, technology transfer, and startup incubation within YEIDA's Medical Device Park. "MEJ intends to bring in technical expertise, facilitate the involvement of Japanese medical technology firms, support research collaborations, and assist in knowledge transfer and capacity-building initiatives," he said.

The CEO said that under the terms of the MoU, YEIDA will provide land allocation, utilities, regulatory facilitation, and policy incentives for investors in the Medical Device Park. "MEJ will work to attract Japanese medical technology companies to the park and facilitate technology licensing and regulatory alignment between the two countries," said officials.

Officials said the two parties will explore joint funding and direct investments.



Chief Minister Rekha Gupta during the flagging off of 13 mobile heat relief units, at Delhi Secretariat on Wednesday, ANI

## CM calls for master plan on firefighting, seeks report in 10 days

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 6

THREE DAYS after nine people were killed in a blaze that broke out at a four-storey residential building in Shahdara's Vivek Vihar, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday directed officials to prepare a comprehensive 'Firefighting Master Plan' for the Capital, aimed at preventing fire incidents and loss of life and property.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Delhi Secretariat, Gupta asked all departments concerned to submit a report within 10 days, which would include a blueprint identifying vulnerable areas, recurring causes behind fires, gaps in the existing system, and preventive measures required to address them, officials said.

The meeting was attended by Home and Power Minister Ashish Sood, Chief Secretary Rajiv Verma, and senior officials from the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), power utilities, and other departments.

According to the Chief Minister's Office, Gupta said all departments linked to fire pre-

vention must become "more accountable, responsive and better equipped" to ensure there is no negligence in handling fire-related emergencies.

Expressing concern over recent fire incidents in the city, Gupta warned that strict action would be taken against officials found negligent. "No laxity will be tolerated in matters related to public safety," she said.

The CM also directed the Fire department to increase manpower, open new fire stations, and procure modern equipment, while assuring budgetary support for the same. She also directed the MCD to ensure that illegal constructions do not come up in residential areas and that roads and lanes remain free from encroachments, to allow unhindered movement of fire tenders during emergencies.

The CM asked Power department officials to exercise caution while granting electricity connections and to regularly inspect electrical infrastructure. The government will also launch a public awareness campaign on fire safety and conduct mock drills in residential colonies to improve emergency preparedness among residents, officials said.



The Haryana Government plans development of Residential, Commercial, and Institutional areas by procurement of approximately

**1.67 Lacs** acres land

in 71 towns with the consent of landowners through the e-Bhoomi portal

<http://ebhoomi.jamabandi.nic.in>



In the 2nd Phase approximately **47,000** acres of land is being procured in 17 towns

**LAST DATE OF SCHEME JUNE 30, 2026**



**The details of the land to be procured are as follows:-**

Identified Areas/ District/ Town	Revenue Village	Area (In Acres)
Sohna	Khailka, Baluda, Sohna, Rampur, Zakhopur, Rampura, Raisika, Barota, Khanpur, Berka, Dhunela, Raisina.	5035.15
Gwal pahari	Gwal pahari	133.39
Pataudi	Jatauli, Chhawan, Pataudi, Mubarikpur, Janaula, Nerhera & Rampur	1694.39
Karnal	Karnal, Mangalpur, Makarampur, Kailash, Baldi, Kailash, Tikri, Budha Khera, Phoosgarh	1563.741
Kurukshetra	Darra Khera, Narakatari, Kishangarh, Sirsama, Umri, Shadipur Ladwa, Partapgarh, Pipli, Sanwala, Bazidpur, Bohli, Amargarh Majhara, Rattandera, Dharra Khurd, Thanesar, Haripur, Bahri, Palwal, Kheri Ramnagar, Birpipli	6300.81
Saha	Bihta, Kalpi, Dhakola, Nahawani, Saha, Tepla, Jawahargarh	771.00
Palwal	Allahpur-Agwanpur-Palwal, Patli Khurd, Jodhpur-Dholgarh	2758.868
Prithla	Prithla-Nagla Bhikhu, Dudhola, Gadpuri	1563.50
Jind	Ahirka, Amarheri, Haibatpur, Ashrafgarh, Pindari, Bishanpura, Kishanpura, Julani, Jalalpur Khurd, Nirjan, Jind	4157.14
Fatehabad	Fatehabad, Basti Bhiwan, Matana	2753.21
Sirsa	Khairpur, Kanganpur, Khaza Khaira, Sirsa, Shamshabad, Chattargarh patti, Neza dela Kalan	3493.13
Bhiwani	Bhiwani Jonpal, Paluwas	238.09
Ganaur	Bai, Garhi kesri, Panchi Gujran, Baraut, Teha, Ganaur, Gumar, Jalalabad, Bari	2244.25
Kharkhauda	Kharkhoda, Thana Kalan, Pipli, Gopalpur, Barona, Rohna, Saidpur	5122.298
Gohana	Gohana, Nagar, Garhi Sarai Namdar Khan, Barota, Khandrai	2169.74
Bahadurgarh	Barkatabad, Sarai Aurangabad, Bamnoli, Bahadurgarh, Sankhol, Barahi, Kasar, Kherka musalman, Nuna majra, Tanda heri, Jakhda, Saidpur, Balaur, Parnala, Hasanpur	6355.06
Panipat	Sondhapur, Faridpur, Kabri, Nizampur, Ratipur, Sewah Kheri, Ugra Kheri, Bhainswal, Taraf mukhdumzadgan	1065.00

**For any further information**  
Interested landowners and aggregators may visit  
<http://www.hsvphry.org.in>

**Contact**

099960-74043, 094680-45455 (Gurugram, Sohna, Gwalpahari, Pataudi)

098965-74775 (Karnal)

099288-18564 (Kurukshetra)

086838-45145 (Ambala, Saha)

79825-07579, 88106-50008 (Faridabad, Palwal, Prithla)

094163-15365 (Jind)

088608-37653 (Hisar, Fatehabad)

086849-84455 (Sirsa)

097293-20497 (Bhiwani)

085912-49192 (Sonipat, Ganaur, Kharkhauda, Gohana)

094684-61232 (Bahadurgarh)

078385-41230 (Panipat) or Scan the QR Code

The interested landowners/land aggregators of said area can visit the website i.e. [ebhoomi.jamabandi.nic.in](http://ebhoomi.jamabandi.nic.in) and submit their interests for offering their land for the residential/commercial/institutional purpose. The window of e-bhoomi portal for accepting the interest/offers from the landowners/land aggregators is open till 30.06.2026 (2 months)

**CLEAR INTENT - TRANSPARENT MECHANISM**



**Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran**  
C-3, HSPV Complex, Sector 6, Panchkula 134109, Haryana  
[hsvphry.org.in](http://hsvphry.org.in) | [Hsvphry](https://www.facebook.com/hsvphry)

# Cong ends ties with DMK, promises to go with TVK in all future elections

Manoj CG  
New Delhi, May 6

EXTENDING SUPPORT to Vijay's TVK for formation of the new government in Tamil Nadu, the Congress Wednesday broke its long-standing alliance with the DMK in the state, saying its alliance with the TVK was "not only for the formation of this government, but also for future elections to the local body organisations, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha."

The Congress, which has 5 MLAs, will join the TVK government and is looking at two cabinet berths. The Congress will have a minister in the Tamil Nadu government after nearly six decades when it was ousted from power by the DMK in 1967.

The Congress and the DMK could still co-exist in the INDIA bloc, formed to take on the BJP electorally at the national level. Congress leaders pointed out that the Left parties, TMC and the Congress itself remain in the bloc despite contesting against each other in states.

While the DMK accused the Congress of backstabbing, the latter defended the move.

The Congress and DMK had come together in 2004 when they contested the Lok Sabha election in alliance and trounced the AIADMK. Since then the two parties had been together barring a brief period after the DMK walked out of the UPA government over the Sri Lankan Tamil issue in 2013. The parties revived their alliance ahead of the 2016 Assembly elections. Sources said the unanimous view of the state leadership of the Congress was in favour of joining hands with the TVK.

It is a political gamble for the Congress. The sense in the party is that the electoral momentum

will continue with Vijay, and the Congress will benefit by aligning with it in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

Virish Chodankar, AICC leader in charge of Tamil Nadu, said, "This alliance between the TVK and the Tamil Nadu Congress will strive to bring back 'Perunthalaivar' Kamaraj's glory days of Tamil Nadu, with a strong commitment to Thanthai Periyar's social justice ideals and Dr B R Ambedkar's constitutional ideals in the years and decades to come. This alliance, founded on mutual respect, appropriate share, and shared responsibility between the two parties, is not only for the formation of this government, but also for future elections to the local body organisations, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha."

The Congress's decision to support the TVK, however, is contingent on Vijay's party not having any truck with the BJP.

Incidentally, the Congress high command's position on the issue Tuesday was that the party "is determined not to have the BJP and its proxies run the government of Tamil Nadu in any manner." The party, however, did not mention "proxies" in its official statement amid reports that the TVK was in talks with the AIADMK.

Vijay and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi spoke during the day. Vijay thanked Rahul for extending his party's support and invited him for the oath-taking ceremony. Rahul, sources said, has agreed to attend.

The Congress was keen to be on Vijay's side given that the TVK was also in talks with the AIADMK. It wanted to seal a deal as quickly as possible as the Congress believes Vijay's party is ideologically compatible. Rahul



Tamil Nadu Congress leaders hand over letter of support to TVK president Vijay on Wednesday. ANI

and Vijay had been in touch for some time. Vijay had telephoned Rahul to wish him on his birthday last year and then Rahul had spoken to him after the Karur stampede.

"The people of Tamil Nadu, especially the youth, have delivered a very clear, strong and overwhelming verdict for a secular, progressive and welfareist government that believes in constitutional principles. They have chosen the Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) led by Mr Vijay to form the next government. The Indian National Congress stands for, and is the founding political party for, secular, progressive and welfareist politics in India. It is our constitutional duty to respect, uphold and help fulfil this mandate of the people of Tamil Nadu. Accordingly, the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee and the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) has decided to extend its full support to the TVK to form the government," Chodankar said.

## John Arokiasamy: Quiet strategist who turned Vijay fanbase into poll machine

Arun Janardhanan  
Chennai, May 6

IN 2023, when John Arokiasamy entered Tamil film superstar Vijay's political orbit, he was said to have been fascinated by one number above all else: 10 lakh. That was roughly the number of "likes" Vijay could command for even an ordinary social media post in one hour at the time.

The question, friends recall Arokiasamy repeatedly asking in private conversations: could that scale of digital affection be converted into votes? "It will. Wait and see," he would say.

For much of the TVK's campaign in the recent elections, the party's public face was its founder, Vijay—cinematic, emotionally charged, almost deliberately elusive. But behind the actor-turned-politician's electoral rise stood a quieter figure: Arokiasamy, the strategist who has now emerged as one of the most closely watched backroom operators in Tamil Nadu politics.

Soft-spoken and rarely visible at public rallies, Arokiasamy played a role far beyond that of a conventional election consultant. Within TVK circles, he is seen less as a campaign manager and more as a central organising mind, someone involved not only in messaging and electoral strategy, but also in shaping the party's structure, internal functioning and political positioning.

"Ask John" became one of Vijay's default responses inside the TVK—delivered with the same casual certainty with which Bussy Anand, the old fan-club organiser who could still call district and town functionaries by name, ran the party machinery. If Anand converted a sprawling fandom into an organisation, Arokiasamy gave that organisation its political skeleton, discipline and shape.

Inside TVK, one word is repeatedly associated with how Arokiasamy understood Vijay: "cult".

"Cult, cult, cult—that was how John would describe Vijay's political potential," said a person familiar with the strategist's



Arokiasamy is rarely visible at public rallies

early conversations with the actor. "He believed Vijay was not merely popular, but a cult in the making, perhaps beyond even Vijay's own understanding of himself."

That understanding shaped much of the TVK's political architecture. Multiple people close to Vijay's camp believe it was Arokiasamy who helped firmly position him against the BJP and the broader right wing, not necessarily out of ideological immersion in Dravidian politics, but through cold electoral arithmetic.

In internal discussions, sources said, Arokiasamy repeatedly stressed that nearly three-fourths of Tamil Nadu's voters historically aligned with Dravidian political sentiments in one form or another. Vijay, he argued, had to speak to that audience.

The slogan that came to define the TVK's campaign — "DMK is the political enemy, BJP is the ideological enemy" — is widely attributed to him. So too is the framing of the DMK as an entrenched generational "system" requiring disruption.

"Without John, Vijay could easily have drifted toward the NDA," said one party insider. Arokiasamy, who hails from Chittoor in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, studied English literature in Trichy before completing an MBA in Chennai. He worked at Perfect Relations and later rose to become Director and COO at Good Relations India before launching Persona Leadership Advisory Pvt Ltd in 2017 and later JPAC Persona, his political consulting venture.

## 'Sab ka saath, sab ka vikas...' new thing will be sab ka hisab'

NEWLY ELECTED BJP MLA from West Bengal's Kharagpur Sadar, **Dilip Ghosh**, who trounced the Trinamool Congress (TMC)'s Pradip Sarkar by 30,506 votes, celebrated his victory by flying his party flag atop a bulldozer in his constituency. Former MP Ghosh, 61, was the state BJP president during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls when the BJP won 18 of the 42 parliamentary seats, signalling his party's arrival in Bengal politics.

With the BJP now all set to form its first government in Bengal, Ghosh, in an interview with **Tanusree Bose**, speaks on multiple issues, ranging from the new government's agenda to TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee's stance. Excerpts:

**What is going to be the agenda of the BJP government in Bengal? How will it deal with the financial challenges facing the state?**

In Bihar the situation was also bad but it is improving now. We believe that as Narendra Modi is there, everything is possible. West Bengal has the potential and its people have capability, so we have to give the state that opportunity and its people a good administration.

More than 50 lakh youths have left Bengal in search of jobs. They want to return home and work here. We will give them that opportunity. There was (during the TMC rule) no administration, no law and order, no industry.

The education department is in shambles, health department in poor condition. People are leaving this state, so if that is stopped, its people will develop the state. Bengal has everything — from mountains to sea, ports, railways and airports, labour, resources. What does Bengal not have?



DILIP GHOSH  
BJP MLA, KHARAGPUR SADAR

**How do you see this mandate?**

It is the people's mandate. Last time also (in 2021), they wanted to bring us to power, but probably thought whether we can handle it or not. The people then gave us the opportunity to be in the Opposition and we played our role. But then people saw that Bengal is going towards an opposite direction as compared to the country, they thought it needs to be brought back and so people gave the BJP a chance in the state.

**The TMC has alleged that there have been attacks on its workers with its party offices being vandalised in different parts of Bengal after the poll results. What is the BJP's response?**

In 2021, after the state Assembly poll results were announced, how many BJP workers were murdered — one should not forget that. BJP does not believe in violence. Last time, they (TMC) had taken over dozens of our party offices, changed their colours, and put their flags there. Some party offices have been taken back, people know that those were BJP offices where our party flags are being put, so there is nothing to fear. In Diamond Harbour they had demolished 12 of our party offices using JCB.

**What is the BJP's approach towards other parties?**

All over the country, in many states, BJP is in power. And people through their mandate have brought PM Modi to power at the Centre. So everyone knows what BJP is, everyone should rest assured that we will give everyone equal opportunity. *Sab ka saath, sab ka vikas* (with everyone and development for all) but the new thing will be *sab ka hisab* — law will take its own course.

**CM Mamata Banerjee has said she will not resign.**

The people of this state have given her 15 years, she was given chance thrice, but she did not do anything for the people. The only thing she has done is corruption and level allegations against the Centre. She has also gone to Supreme Court on SIR issue. By just complaining nothing happens. One has to work and prove themselves. Why did the people give her such a big punishment — and she is complaining even now.

**Mamata had lost her own seat in Nandigram in 2021, and in Bhabanipur in 2026. Politically, could this be the end of road for her?**

That is what the public is saying now — stay at home, take rest and perform puja. But habits are hard to go, so she is complaining again. But the people want development, they chose BJP.

**What portfolio do you think the party will give you now — you were seen on top of a JCB on the counting day?**

West Bengal needs JCBs to wipe out corruption, infiltration by Bangladeshis who have captured the state. I have performed all the duties that the party entrusted me with. The party had asked me to fight the elections. I did and won. Next, the party will decide what I will do.

# INDIA bloc split over Congress move to ditch DMK for Vijay

Asad Rehman  
New Delhi, May 6

THE CONGRESS'S decision to end its decades-long alliance with the DMK and partner with Vijay's Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) to form a new government in Tamil Nadu has caused divisions within the INDIA bloc, with its constituents split over whether the move is "strategic pragmatism" or "political backstabbing".

While some leaders of the Opposition grouping defended the Congress's decision as necessary to keep the BJP and NDA out of power in the state, others echoed the DMK's charge of "backstabbing". The development has also raised questions about the cohesion of the INDIA alliance and its functioning in Parliament, where the DMK has 22 Lok Sabha and eight Rajya Sabha MPs.

Sources within the Congress indicated that the move was not universally supported even within the party. Several Congress leaders are learnt to have opposed the party's bid to break ties with the DMK, warning that the decision could have long-term consequences. "Some people in the Tamil

Nadu party unit have misguided the leadership. This is very short-sighted," said a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC). "The Congress won Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu because of the DMK. It also secured five Assembly seats with their support. To walk away from the alliance now raises serious questions about the party's political judgment."

According to Congress insiders, some senior party leaders were also not in favour of the alliance with the TVK. However, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, is believed to have been persuaded by the state party unit to back the move.

Some concerns have also been raised within the Congress about the implications of the decision for parliamentary politics. "We will need the DMK in the future," said a Congress MP from a southern state. "If the BJP attempts to push through constitutional amendments, we will need numbers to resist. The TVK will not have representation in the Lok Sabha until 2029." The MP added that the move sends a

troubling signal to other INDIA partners. "It suggests that alliances are expendable and contingent on immediate power equations. That weakens trust."

The DMK reacted sharply to the development. Lok Sabha MP Ganapathi P Rajkumar described the Congress's decision as a "classic case of backstabbing" and accused the party of losing "credibility".

Responding to the criticism, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera rejected the charge, drawing parallels with past political decisions. "In December 2013, the DMK announced it would contest the Lok Sabha elections alone. Was that backstabbing? No. Similarly, this decision is not backstabbing..." he said.

Some INDIA bloc allies supported this reasoning. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said the Congress had acted in accordance with the electoral mandate. The Samajwadi Party (SP) struck a more cautious note. SP MP Rajeev Rai said it was "too early" to assess the broader implications of the decision and suggested that its impact on national politics may be limited.

## Tiwary slams TMC govt: 'Was never allowed to undertake any actual work'

Sweetie Kumari  
Kolkata, May 6

CRICKETER-TURNED-POLITICIAN MANOJ Tiwary on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the Trinamool Congress leadership, citing football superstar Lionel Messi's brief visit to Kolkata and the handling of the Rs 700-crore sports budget as examples of "administrative ego and corruption" during his tenure. The former Minister of State (MoS) for Sports alleged he was sidelined in the department and barred from taking up "actual work".

His remarks came after the BJP's Assembly poll sweep in the state.

Tiwary said he was "repeatedly and forcefully" drawn into politics in 2019 to give the party a "political edge" but was sidelined later. Describing his ministerial role, Tiwary said, "I was given a lollipop of MoS. The Sports Department had no work other than having tea and biscuits. I was never allowed to undertake any actual work."

In a Facebook Live video, Ti-



People outside TMC chief Mamata Banerjee's residence in Kalighat, Kolkata on Wednesday. PARTHA PAUL

wary said he skipped Messi's state event, claiming he had a "premonition" of humiliation.

"Because of Aroop Biswas, football enthusiasts were denied even a glimpse of Messi. He departed after a mere five minutes—a monumental opportunity squandered solely because of one man," he said.

"The sole purpose of the event was for certain individuals to have their own photographs taken," he added.

Tiwary earlier shared a specific instance claiming that a world-class track and field event he proposed was stalled despite a Rs 5-crore allocation. "The state sports budget is Rs 700 crore, I have no idea where that money has vanished," he pointed out. He further alleged that despite his efforts to address the exodus of athletes to other states due to "incompatible policies," he was met with "cold indifference".

● OPPOSITION SPLIT, BJP POLARISATION ERODE TMC'S MUSLIM BASE IN KEY BENGAL DISTRICTS

# TMC reels from cracks in Muslim vote bank, holds out in high SIR deletion seats

Ravik Bhattacharya,  
Atri Mitra & Lalimma Verma  
Kolkata, Lucknow, May 6

ONE OF the reasons for the crushing loss of the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) to the BJP in the recent West Bengal Assembly elections seems to be the fragmentation of the TMC's Muslim support base, which had remained virtually intact in the previous polls clinched by the party.

During its three terms in power since 2011, Muslim voters have been a crucial part of Mamata's core vote base. The community makes up over 27% of Bengal's population.

In the current elections to the 293 seats, the BJP bagged 207 against the TMC's 80. As the BJP expanded its electoral footprint, the representation of Muslims declined in the new House to 40

from 44 in the outgoing Assembly. Of 40 Muslim MLAs, 34 are from the TMC, two from the Congress, and one each from the CPM and All India Secular Front (ISF).

Suspended TMC leader Humayun Kabir, who formed the Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP), had fielded candidates from 143 seats across the state. Kabir himself contested two seats — Rejinagar and Nowda — in the Muslim-dominated Murshidabad district, and won both. The TMC, which had won both these seats in 2021, slipped to third place there despite fielding Muslim candidates.

In this election, the BJP managed to make inroads in Muslim belts, even winning several seats there. A senior TMC leader said, "This time Bengal has seen not only huge anti-incumbency but also strong Hindu polarisation.

Probably, after Independence, this is for the first time that such a polarisation of Hindu vote were seen in the state. We were defeated in those seats where either Muslim vote fractured and Hindu vote got polarised."

**SIR deletions**

The Election Commission (EC)'s months-long Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which resulted in deletion of about 91 lakh voters — including over 27 lakh voters following adjudication — was a key plank of the TMC in the election, which highlighted the disproportionately high deletions of Muslim voters. Mamata has been up in arms against the SIR from the beginning, accusing the EC of doing a hatchet job on behalf of the BJP.

However, in several seats that saw high deletions after ad-



Muslim voters have been a crucial part of Mamata's core vote base. FILE

judication in Muslim dominated districts like Murshidabad and Malda, the TMC managed to retain several seats, which include Samserganj (74,775 deletions), Lalgola (55,420), Bhagabangola (47,493), Raghunathganj (46,100), Suti (37,965), Mothabari (37,255), Sujapur (26,829), and Malatipur (29,489).

Since 2011, the TMC dominated major districts, such as Murshidabad, Malda and Uttar Dinajpur, relying on the consolidation of Muslim votes.

Of the 43 seats in these three districts, the TMC won 22 this time, a sharp dip from its 35-seat tally last time. The BJP's tally in the three districts surged to 19

from eight seats in 2021. The remaining seats there were won by Muslim candidates of the Congress (2 seats), CPM (1) and the AJUP (2), which cut into the TMC's Muslim base.

The Congress and CPM won from Raninagar and Domkal respectively, where Muslims are in a majority. However, in another Muslim-majority seat, Beladanga, the BJP's candidate won, getting advantage of a split in the community's vote. The TMC similarly lost Khargram, Kandi and some other seats in Murshidabad to BJP, which also won Malda's Manikchak and Baishnabnagar seats, where the Muslim population is about 47%.

In 64 seats in North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas, the TMC had swept the polls in 2021, with the BJP just picking five. This time, the BJP increased its tally to 34, winning many seats

with over 30% Muslim population. ISF chief Naushad Siddiqui retained his Bhargar seat, too.

The TMC also lost the Hari-pal, Singur and Pandua seats in Hoogly and Monteswar in Purba Bardhaman, where 20-30% voters are Muslims.

Some observers have pointed out that there has also been resentment among a section of Muslims against the TMC government over issues like the OBC list and the Waqf law's rollout, among other factors.

A senior TMC leader from the Muslim community said, "We have lost the confidence of Muslims. It may get more eroded in the coming elections... Muslims seem to have realised that only some families became prosperous. The community has been reeling from problem of migration because of unemployment, which has also made

them angry."

The 40 Muslim MLAs elected this time account for 13.60% of the House. The share of Muslim MLAs in the outgoing Assembly was 14.96% (44). In 2016, there were 59 Muslim MLAs. Unlike the previous three elections, the BJP did not field any Muslim candidates this year. The party fielded Hindu candidates from the nine seats where it had nominated Muslims in 2021. The BJP, however, could not win any of these seats.

The TMC, Congress and the Left fielded a significant number of Muslim candidates in this election. A quarter of the Congress's 294 candidates or 75 (25.31%) were from the minority community. The Left Front together fielded 42 Muslim candidates, even as they contested the election in alignment with the ISF.

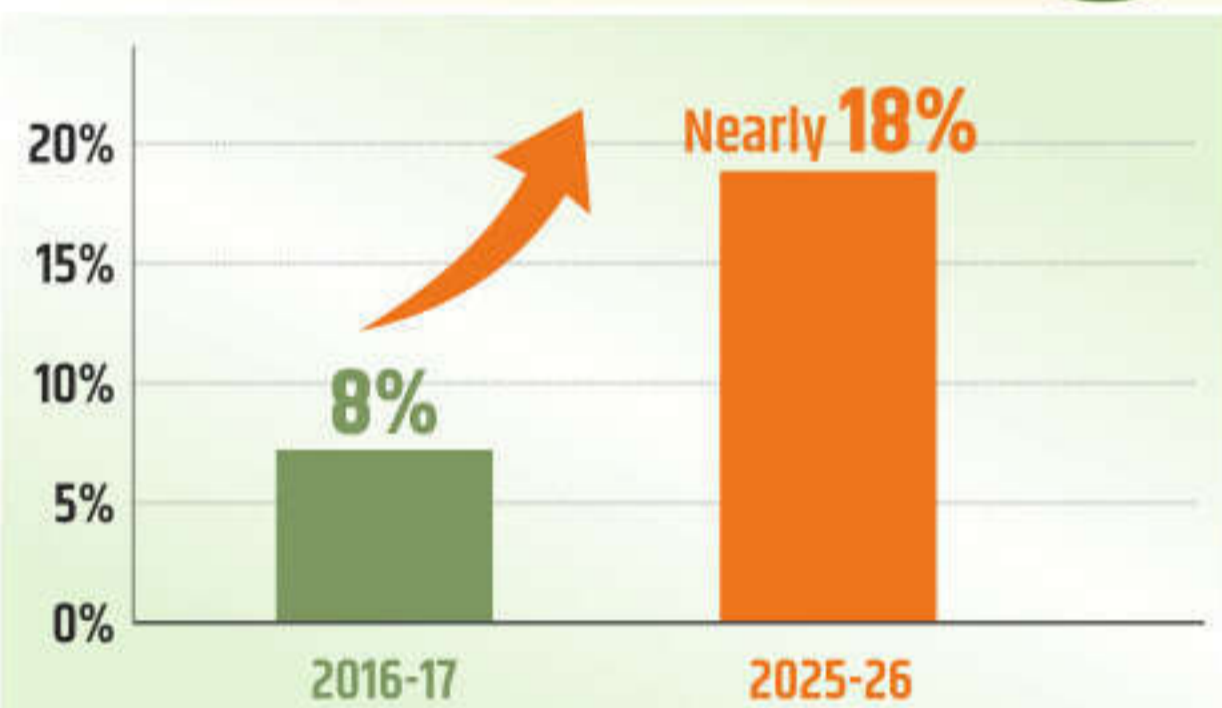


# Agriculture Rising Farmers Thriving

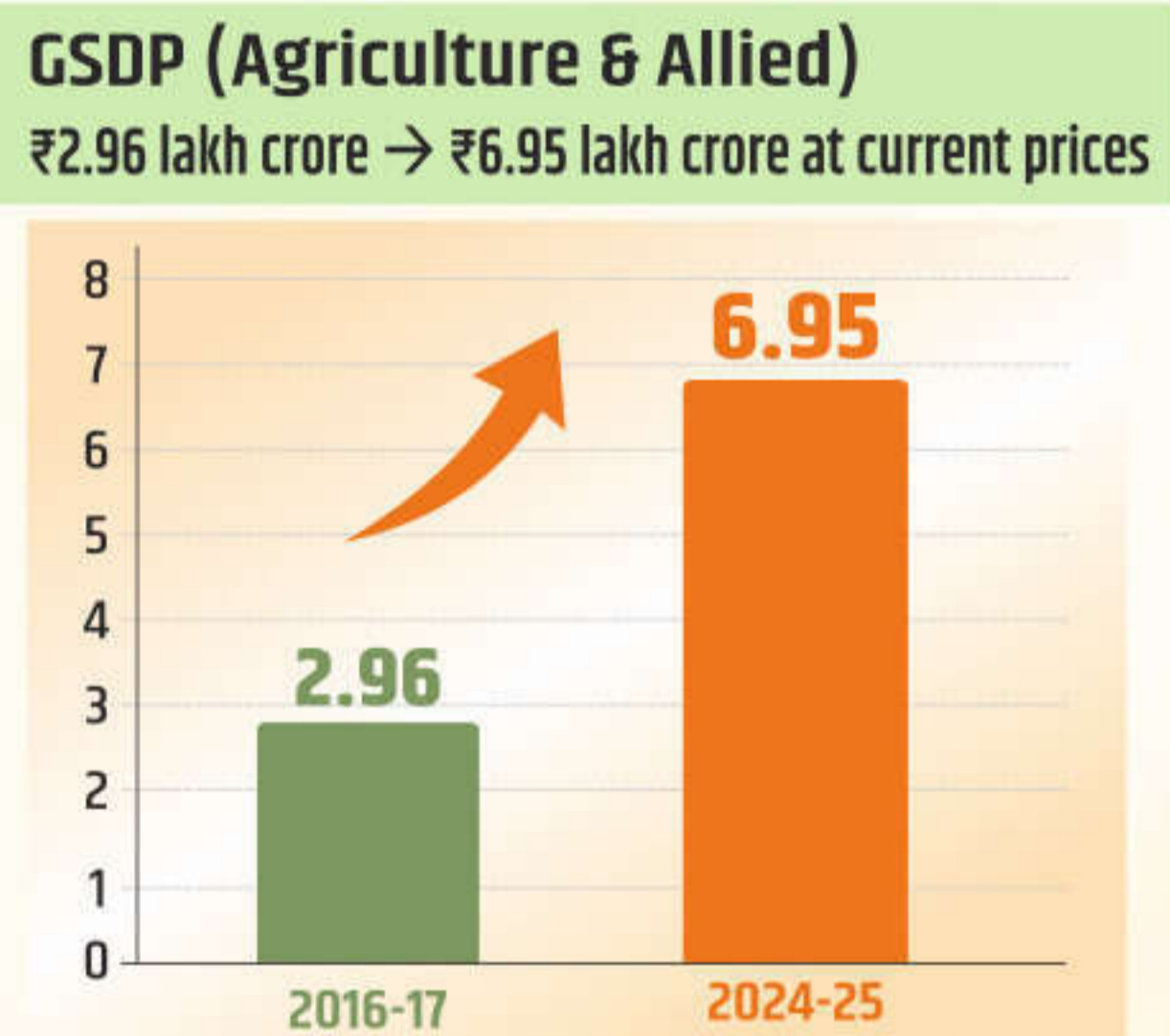
Uttar Pradesh Marches Ahead Under the Visionary Leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

Under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, UP has witnessed an unprecedented transformation in the agriculture sector. Guided by his commitment to farmer welfare, rural prosperity, and self-reliant villages, the state has emerged as a national leader in agricultural growth, irrigation development, sugarcane production, food processing, and farmer empowerment. Through progressive policies, direct benefit transfers, modern infrastructure, and sustainable farming initiatives, the government has ensured that the benefits of development reach every farmer's field and every village household.

## AGRICULTURAL GROWTH RATE



## CONTRIBUTION TO STATE ECONOMY



## FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION



**Sowing Progress, Harvesting Security**

- Foodgrain production increased by 32.28% in 2024-25
- Oilseed production increased by an impressive 192.98% in 2024-25
- For the financial year 2026-27, the target has been set to achieve 753.55 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrain production and 48.18 lakh metric tonnes of oilseed production.

## FARMER WELFARE



**Direct Support, Real Empowerment**

- 3.12 crore farmers benefited under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi
- Over ₹99,000 crore transferred directly through 22 installments
- 86 lakh+ small and marginal farmers benefited from the historic farm loan waiver
- 353.14 lakh farmers insured under PM Fasal Bima Yojana (From 2017) Compensation worth ₹5,660.33 crore provided to farmers



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during Kisan Samvad Karyakram

## SUGARCANE SUCCESS STORY



**Sweet Prosperity for Farmers**

**SUGARCANE CULTIVATION EXPANSION**

Year	Expansion (Lakh Hectares)
2016-17	20.54%
2025-26	28.61%

- Productivity increased significantly from 72 quintals/hectare to 83.25 quintals/hectare
- Sugar mill crushing capacity reached 8.48 lakh TCD
- Sugarcane payment to farmers crossed ₹3.16 lakh crore from 2017 to Feb. 2025
- Uttar Pradesh ranks No. 1 in India in sugarcane and sugar production

## IRRIGATION REVOLUTION



**Water Security for Every Field**

- Uttar Pradesh now has the largest irrigated agricultural area in India
- Irrigation coverage expanded to over 105 lakh hectares
- 1309 irrigation projects completed successfully
- Irrigation potential created across 52.13 lakh hectares
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana and the Chief Minister's Minor Irrigation Scheme, the construction of 13,14,282 shallow tube wells, 12,954 deep bore wells, and 33,600 medium bore wells has been completed.

## COOPERATIVE & CREDIT SUPPORT



**Financial Strength for Farmers**

- Crop loan distribution crossed ₹13,42,978 crore
- 492.46 lakh Kisan Credit Cards distributed
- 32,732 farm ponds constructed to improve local water conservation
- Cooperative institutions have been strengthened to ensure better rural credit access

## HORTICULTURE & FOOD PROCESSING



**From Farm to Market Prosperity**

- Horticulture production increased from 3.87 crore MT in 2017 to 6.03 crore MT
- Horticulture exports rose from ₹400 crore in 2017 to nearly ₹1,700 crore
- Farmer income through horticulture increased from ₹41,000 crore in 2017 to ₹1,25,000 crore
- Food Processing Policy 2023 attracted 1,604 applications, opening new employment opportunities across rural Uttar Pradesh



Vikas ki Gati Apaar-Double Engine Sarkar

Ended I-PAC contract due to lack of funds, says Akhilesh



SP president Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow on Wednesday. EXPRESS

Express News Service  
Lucknow, April 6

AFTER HIS party's proposed tie-up with political consultancy firm I-PAC for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections fell through, Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday said the decision was taken due to lack of funds.

Yadav also launched a sharp attack on the BJP and the Election Commission (EC) over what he called "vote ki dakaiti" (dacoity of votes), alleging that a "multi-layered election mafia" was influencing democratic processes in the country.

Referring to the recently held West Bengal elections, Yadav said what Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee suffered this time was faced by his party earlier.

Addressing a press conference in Lucknow, the former Uttar Pradesh CM claimed that elections were increasingly being manipulated through a "10-number model" of politics.

Citing vote share figures from the previous UP Assembly elections, he said the SP had higher percentage of votes in 2012, 2017 and 2022 and the BJP's vote share was significantly lower in the 2024 by-polls, reflecting "unnatural jumps" in voting patterns.

Referring to the bypolls in Kundarki, Rampur and Milkpur, he alleged that Muslim and Yadav votes were selectively deleted or shifted. "This is vote ki dakaiti. Our party had submitted around 18,000 affidavits to the EC after notices were issued over alleged voter irregularities."

Meanwhile, the SP leader said his party has ended its contract with I-PAC due to lack of funds and not because of the recent election results.

Yadav said the party had engaged the firm for a brief period ahead of the Uttar Pradesh polls but could not continue the arrangement.

"Yes, we had an association. They worked with us for a few months, but we are not able to continue because we do not have that kind of funding," he said.

## Ministry to make fresh move for PM-SHRI in Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala after political shifts

Abhinaya Harigovind  
New Delhi, May 6

AMID THE changes of guard in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala after the Assembly poll results, the Ministry of Education is preparing a fresh push to implement the Centre's flagship PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme in these states.

A senior ministry official said that letters will soon be sent to the chief secretaries of the three states, requesting them to formally adopt the scheme. PM-SHRI aims to upgrade existing schools into "exemplar" institutions that showcase the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Although PM-SHRI was approved in 2022, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala remain the only states yet to implement the scheme. The Education Ministry has linked the release of Samagra Shiksha funds to support the implementation of the Right to Education Act to the adoption of PM-SHRI.

As a result, these states have seen their central funding for school education withheld or only partially released since the 2023-24 fiscal year. Samagra Shiksha is typically funded

## Look for vision, not administrative experience: Kerala CM frontrunner

Satheesan underlines the need for party to 'talk the language of Gen Z'

Liz Mathew  
New Delhi, May 6

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE cannot be the criteria for choosing a leader, but the vision of the leader and his or her ability to build a team are important, senior Congress leader V D Satheesan said Wednesday.

One of the three frontrunners for Kerala chief ministership after the Congress's big victory in the state, the Leader of Opposition in the outgoing Assembly was answering a question at The Indian Express's Idea Exchange session on whether someone like him who has never had any administrative experience or been a minister should become a CM.

"Administrative experience is not an issue. VS Achuthanandan (former Kerala CM and long-time CPI-M leader), what was his administrative experience? When (Prime Minister) Nar-

endra Modi became the CM (of Gujarat), what was his administrative experience? He was a party organiser, not even a senior parliamentarian," Satheesan, widely credited with leading the Congress fight in the Assembly elections, said.

The other contenders for the CM post, apart from Satheesan — a five-time MLA from Paravur — include K C Venugopal, Congress general secretary (organisation), and former Kerala chief of the Congress Ramesh Chennithala.

"The vision of a leader is very important and the main thing is team building. Selecting the right people around, that shows your leadership," Satheesan, 62, said.

However, he added, the Congress has a "procedure" for selection of CM, which he said had already begun. "The high command will take a decision following the procedures," Satheesan said, adding that dis-



Senior Congress leader V D Satheesan at the Idea Exchange on Wednesday

cussions would be held with MLAs and their opinions taken, and reported to the party president. "Everything will be considered to make a decision."

About whether he would accept the decision of the high command, whoever it chooses, Satheesan said it was "a hypothetical question".

Talking about his own leadership, Satheesan said the "homework" started two years ahead of the elections. "We conducted a health conclave, an education conclave and an industrial conclave. We interacted with many experts inside and outside the country on many subjects. Then we pre-

pared special documents and presented them before the people," he said.

The people believed that if the UDF came to power, it would address the areas where the previous government had failed, Satheesan said. He called "the erosion of the CPI(M)'s roots" a big factor in the LDF's loss, with it winning just 35 seats against the UDF's 102. "The LDF is now the extreme right. We are the Nehruvian Left," Satheesan said.

The "adamant stand taken on secularism" by the Congress was another reason for the party's win, Satheesan said. He faced resistance from within own ranks over this, as the CPI(M) too tried to woo communities in a state where both Christians and Muslims are in significant numbers.

"Whenever religious leaders, whoever, started a hate campaign, we said, 'No, don't speak communalism. Don't start hate campaigns.' That was a strict positioning... Our strong secular stand without any dilution was accepted by the people of Kerala," he said, noting the party's rejection of the offer of support by the Social Demo-

cratic Party of India, the political arm of the banned Popular Front of India.

On what was ailing the Congress nationally, with the Assembly results in other states marking a further shrinking of the party, Satheesan said political parties need to be "election-oriented" and speak the language that the young generation understands. "Strengthening the organisation is important... Electioneering is an art and we have to do it with surgical precision."

In many places "outdated election campaigns" are taking place, Satheesan said. "Political leaders should learn the vocabulary of Gen Z. They use a different vocabulary. If we want to communicate with them, we have to understand their vocabulary, their thinking, their thought process, everything."

On the fate of the Left, now without a government anywhere in the country for the first time in nearly five decades, Satheesan said it faces disintegration. "If they don't correct themselves, what happened in Bengal and Tripura will be repeated in Kerala, no doubt," he said.

## DENIAL OF SERVICE, BOT ATTACKS Thwarted 68 lakh cyber attacks on counting day: EC

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 6

THE ELECTION Commission on Wednesday said it countered over 68 lakh malicious hits on its ECINET portal on Monday, when votes were being counted for the West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry Assembly elections.

While the ECINET website and app was used for disseminating real-time updates on the results for the public, the portal is also used by election officials.

On days when polling was held, April 9, April 23 and April 29, ECINET got over 98.3 crore hits and on Monday, counting day, there was an average of 3 crore hits per minute, the EC said.

"ECINET cybersecurity protocols resulted in effectively countering over 68 lakh malicious hits on counting day originating from both within India and overseas, targeting key election platforms, including the results portal," the EC

said in a statement.

The hits refer to a range of attempted cyberattacks, including denial of service attacks and bot attacks.

The EC had launched the ECINET app in January this year, after testing a beta version during the Bihar Assembly elections last November. The app has had 10 crore downloads so far, the EC said. The app brought around 40 of the EC's existing apps and portals together, covering a range of services for voters and officials alike. During the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls started by the EC last year, electors submitted forms and documents through ECINET, which was then used by officials to process the same.

"ECI's robust IT platform ECINET played a central role in streamlining election processes including real-time monitoring, enabling faster reporting, and enhancing transparency during the general elections to legislative Assemblies and by-elections 2026," the EC said.

## 2 REBELS WIN WITH UDF SUPPORT, WINNING SEATS SEE A SHARP DIP IN MARGIN On Pinarayi turf, a question hovers: Did cadre revolt seal CPI(M) fate in Kannur

Shaju Philip  
Thiruvananthapuram, May 6

IN AN unprecedented development for the CPI(M) in Kerala, sections of its cadres and supporters in its traditional stronghold of Kannur district appear to have used their vote as a tool of dissent, marking the first instance of grassroots workers silently forcing the party to recalibrate its leadership and strategy.

The CPI(M)'s setback in Kannur goes beyond a routine loss of seats, with the party losing six of the district's 11 constituencies. The outcome has lent weight to concerns raised by two senior rebel leaders, who exited the party in March this year and went on to capture its strongholds with the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) backing. In 2021, the LDF had won 9 of the 11 seats.

CPI(M) rebels V Kunhikrishnan and T K Govindan trumped the LDF candidates in Payyannur and Taliparamba, respectively — seats comprising panchayats where the party has traditionally governed unopposed or faced only token opposition from rivals.

Across other constituencies in the district, voting patterns suggest the CPI(M) bore the brunt of simmering discontent among its cadres.

Outgoing CM Pinarayi Vijayan, who sought a third victory from Dharmadam, was jolted by a sharp fall in his victory margin. From a margin of 50,123 votes in 2021, his lead dropped to 19,247.

A young Congress leader, V P Rasheed, who entered the communist bastion with little groundwork, posed a formidable



Outgoing CM Pinarayi Vijayan saw a sharp fall in his victory margin from Dharmadam

challenge to the CPI(M) stalwart.

A senior CPI(M) leader associated with Vijayan's campaign in Dharmadam said, "There is no erosion of cadre votes. There was minority consolidation in favour of the Congress candidate in three out of eight panchayats falling under the constituency."

Congress candidate Abdul Rasheed dismissed this claim. "This is a constituency with 80% Hindus. The right-wing Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), strong in one panchayat, had openly supported the CPI(M) and did not field a candidate. Among Hindus, Vijayan's Ezhava community is dominant," he said. Rasheed added that the verdict reflected a strong sentiment among CPI(M) workers that the party must be removed from power.

ACPI(M) panchayat member in the constituency said there had been strong sentiments against Vijayan.

CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan, in his media briefing after reviewing the poll results, said: "The defeat of the LDF in Kerala was unexpected. All party factions will be convened in the

next two months. Cadres will be given the opportunity to express their views without fear and in an independent manner."

An analysis of voting patterns in Dharmadam in recent elections shows that the electorate has adopted a flexible approach. While Vijayan clinched a big win in the 2021 Assembly polls, in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, party candidate M V Jayarajan's lead from the same segment dropped to just 2,700 votes. However, in the 2025 local body elections, the CPI(M) increased its lead across eight panchayats in the constituency to 16,500.

The erosion of votes was also evident in Mattannur, which had elected senior CPI(M) leader K K Shailaja by 60,963 votes in 2021. This time, when young leader V K Sanoj contested, the victory margin was reduced to 14,168. In Koothuparamba, RJD candidate P K Praveen saved face for the LDF with a victory by 1,286 votes over the IUML's Jayanthi Rajan. The constituency, once marred by political violence between the CPI(M) and the Sangh Parivar, is gradually emerging as a strong ground for the IUML.

Senior CPI(M) leader from Kannur, P Jayarajan, who has been sidelined in the party for over a decade, has called for a rectification drive. "When communists engage in parliamentary democracy, degeneration can occur in various ways. If such weaknesses are not discussed and corrected, the party's credibility will erode. Without addressing these issues, the CPI(M) cannot move ahead," he said in a social media post.



Congress leader Pawan Kherra in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

## Congress seeks repoll in seats where margin is less than votes deleted in SIR

New Delhi: The Congress on Wednesday demanded a repoll in 50 assembly seats in West Bengal where, it claimed, the victory margin is less than the total votes deleted during SIR, and urged the Supreme Court to step in.

Congress leader Pawan Kherra alleged large-scale electoral manipulation in West Bengal and Assam and said that after restoring the voting rights of people, polling should be held afresh in such assembly constituencies.

Launching a scathing attack on the BJP, Kherra said that electoral rolls were being "deliberately manipulated" and democratic institutions "compromised" to engineer favourable outcomes for the ruling party. "Abki baar loktantra ka antim sanskar (this time it will be the last rites for democracy)," he said.

Kherra alleged that the BJP had weaponised SIR as a tool to snatch away the fundamental right to vote. Under SIR, he alleged, electoral rolls had been selectively manipulated in election-bound states. PTI

## With BJP's win in Bengal, stand-off with Centre set to end, paving way for resumption of key schemes

Harikishan Sharma  
New Delhi, May 6

THE BJP's victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections is expected to clear the path for the resumption of funding under key central schemes, which had been stalled for years due to a prolonged stand-off between the NDA government at the Centre and the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC government in the state.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who also holds Rural Development portfolio, said on Monday that all the development work including the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025 will be implemented in the state at a faster pace.

"The work was halted be-

cause irregularities had occurred... The state government took no action against those responsible for these irregularities. The funds allocated for these schemes were intended for the poor, not for misuse... They changed the name of the scheme to Bangla Yojana... Now, all developmental works including VB-G RAM G will be done at a fast pace," Chouhan told *The Indian Express*.

Chouhan said the rules and guidelines of the VB-G RAM G have been finalised and the same will be rolled out very soon.

Termining the BJP's victory in the West Bengal Assembly polls as a "bhavuk pal (an emotional moment)", Chouhan said he held several meetings during the Assembly election campaign in the state.

The Centre enacted the VB-



Now, all developmental works including VB-G RAM G will be done at a fast pace: Union Agriculture Minister Chouhan

GRAM G law last year replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

The Centre had stopped the release of funds to West Bengal with effect from March 9, 2022 "due to non-compliance of directives of central government", by invoking Section 27 of the

MGNREGA, 2005. Since then, no work under the NREGS has happened in the state. Before the scheme's suspension, West Bengal was among the top states — 51 to 80 lakh families in the state availed it annually between 2014-15 and 2021-22. The total spending under the MGNREGS in West Bengal was well over Rs 10,000 crore per annum (Rs 10,027 crore in 2020-21 and Rs 10,907 crore in 2021-22).

Sources in the West Bengal government say the total Central share (both actual and projected) could be around Rs 43,000 crore for the MGNREGS. The projected NREGS dues are calculated based on average annual spending (about Rs 10,000 crore) under the scheme in the state before it was halted in March 2022. According to the sources, a Central share of Rs

24,275 crore is due for PMAY-G. The Centre has stopped release of funds under the rural housing scheme following complaints of alleged irregularities in the implementation of the scheme in the state.

However, the Centre pegs the dues at a much lower level. Responding to a starred question asked by TMC member Jawhar Sircar, Chouhan's predecessor and then rural development minister Giriraj Singh on December 6, 2023 informed the Rajya Sabha that a total amount of Rs 13,965.91 crore was pending as central share for two schemes — MGNREGS and PMAY-G.

According to the sources at the Union Ministry of Rural Development, an amount of Rs 3083 crore was outstanding to West Bengal under the MGNREGS as on March 9, 2022.

## SHRI RAMDHARI SINGH DINKAR MEMORIAL LECTURE

# Despite constitutional safeguards, social justice remain far from resolved, says CJI

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 6

POINTING OUT that instances of discrimination based on caste, class, economic status, and identity continue to exist despite constitutional safeguards, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said on Wednesday that true justice is realised when society itself is prepared to look inward and embrace change.

Delivering the Rashtrakavi Shri Ramdhari Singh Dinkar 8th Memorial Lecture, the CJI regretted that issues concerning social justice and human dignity remain far from resolved. He said in contemporary India, alongside development, it is equally essential that one accords the same priority

to social, economic, and political equality of status and opportunity, as well as to the dignity of the individual, as is enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution.

The CJI said that amid the unprecedented technological advancement, the question persists whether all sections of society are benefitting from it. He said courts play a pivotal role in the pursuit of justice, but justice is not confined merely to verdicts.

He pointed out that the law provides a framework and a direction, yet the responsibility to walk in that direction rests with society itself. If people's mindset lacks the values of equality, sensitivity, and respect, the reach of the law will remain limited, he said.



Chief Justice of India Surya Kant

Referring to Dinkar's poem "Rashmirathi" based on the life of Mahabharata's Karna, the CJI said through the character, Dinkar has launched a scathing critique of a society where an individual's identity is determined not by their deeds, but

by their caste and lineage.

He said it compels one to ponder whether it is just to discriminate against someone solely on the basis of birth; whether society has the right to disregard an individual's merit.

The CJI said that through the character of Karna, Dinkar champions the ideals of justice, self-respect, and human dignity — the fundamental entitlements of every human being.

"Rashmirathi", he added, shows the mirror to society, compelling it to reflect on whether it has truly succeeded in building a just society. It does not merely serve as a reminder of the past but challenges "us to ask whether we have truly learned to move forward in the direction we envisioned for a

New India".

The CJI said after the Independence, when India was in the process of reshaping its social and moral fabric from the ground up, questions such as equality, opportunity, and identity were not merely theoretical concepts, but rather the fundamental pillars of nation-building and the framers of the Indian Constitution kept all these human values in mind.

Recalling the Roman adage "if you want peace, prepare for war", the CJI said Dinkar too has a line which seeks to convey that it is only when national consciousness is awakened — when manliness, strength, and power emerge within society — that people offer it reverence, hold it in awe, and respect its identity and sovereignty.

# Crime cases saw 6% dip; cyber offences rose by 18% in 2024: NCRB data

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 6

EVEN THOUGH crime cases in India saw a 6% dip in 2024, recording 58.85 lakh cases as against 2023's 62.41 lakh cases, cyber crimes saw an almost 18% jump in the period, according to the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) on Wednesday.

Economic offences rose by 4.6% in the period. While 2,04,973 cases were registered in the category in 2023, the figure stood at 2,14,379 cases in 2024.

A total of 1,01,928 cases were registered under the cyber crimes category, showing an increase of 17.9% from 2023 when 86,420 cases were lodged. Crime rate under this category increased from 6.2 in 2023 to 7.3 in 2024.

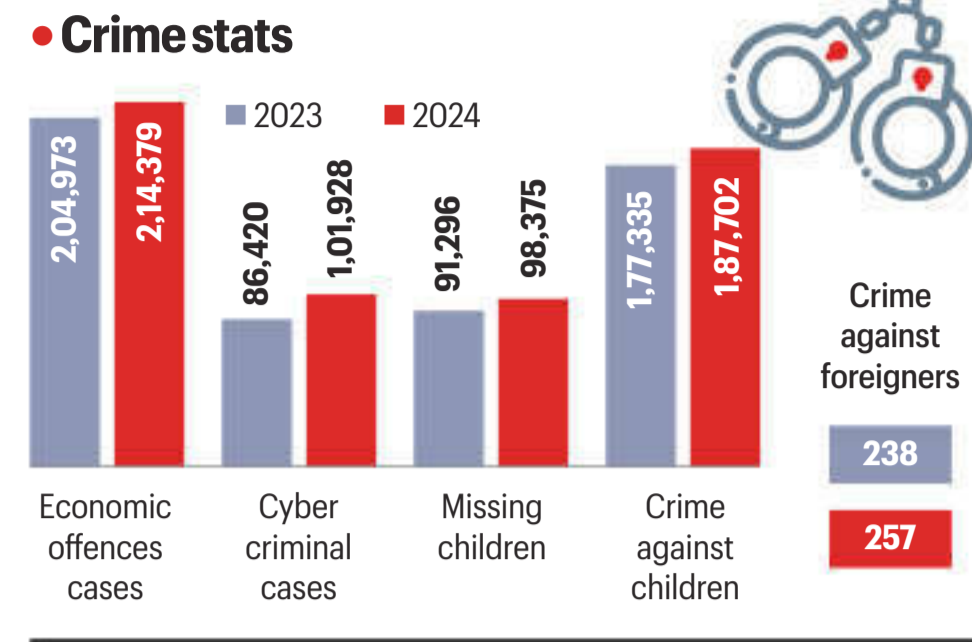
Child safety, too, remained a concern with 98,375 children going missing in 2024 — a 7.8% increase from 91,296 in 2023. These included 75,603 girls, 22,768 boys and four transgender children.

During the year, 27,049 cases of murder were registered, showing a marginal decline of 2.4% over the previous year, with disputes being the leading motive behind the crimes, followed by personal vendetta or enmity, and gain.

**Crime against women saw a marginal dip**

"Crime against women showed a dip of 1.5% from previous year, with 4.41 lakh cases lodged in 2024 as compared to 4.48 lakh the previous year. Cruelty by husband or relatives was the leading cause of such crimes, followed by kidnapping, crime against minors, assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty," the report said.

In terms of cyber crimes, 72.6% of such cases registered in 2024 were for the motive of fraud (73,987 out of 1,01,928 cases) followed by sexual exploitation (3.1% with 3,190



cases), and extortion with 2.5% (2,536 cases).

Crime rate, which is a measure of cases registered per lakh population, saw a dip during the period — from 448.3 in 2023 to 418.9 in 2024.

Forgery, cheating, and fraud (FCF) dominated economic offences, accounting for a staggering 1,92,382 cases — nearly 90% of the total.

**Criminal breach of trust with 21,251 cases**

In 2024, crimes against foreigners ticked up 8% to 257 cases from 238 in 2023, with theft (62 cases) and violations under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (25 cases) leading areas of concern. "Of 317 victims, 64% (or 203) hailed from Asia and 15.1% (or 48) from Africa," report said.

The figure of foreigners committing crimes also rose 9.7% to 2,792 cases. In this category, 46.6% or 1,301 cases were under the Foreigners Act and Registration of Foreigners Act while 19.5% or 544 cases were under Passport Act, the report said.

According to the report, the crime rate registered per lakh women population was 64.6 in 2024 in comparison with 66.2 in 2023. The number of cases registered against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) also saw a decline.

"A total of 55,698 cases were registered for crimes against SCs,

showing a decrease of 3.6% over 2023, when 57,789 cases were registered. Crimes against STs also showed a sharp decline of 23.1%, with a total of 9,966 cases in 2024, as compared to 12,960 cases in 2023," the report said.

Among 55,698 cases against SCs, Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of cases at 14,642, followed by Madhya Pradesh with 7,765 and Bihar with 7,549 cases. Among UTs, Delhi recorded the highest number of crimes against SCs, followed by Jammu and Kashmir with 19 cases, and Chandigarh with five cases, according to the data.

"Of 9,966 cases of crimes against STs, Madhya Pradesh reported the highest number of such cases at 3,165, followed by Rajasthan with 2,282 and Maharashtra with 830 cases. Among UTs, Delhi reported the highest number of crimes against STs in 2024," it said.

Data further shows that the highest number of cases and crime rate among metropolitan cities in terms of Child in Conflict with the Law (CCL) were recorded in Delhi. Here, 42 out of every one lakh minors were allegedly found involved in such cases. "Delhi recorded 2,306 such cases in 2024 as compared with 2,278 cases — highest among all metro cities. After Delhi, Chennai recorded 466 cases of crimes committed by CCLs in 2024 while Bengaluru reported 386 such cases," it said.

## Anil Parab, four others acquitted in case linked to Dapoli resort

Sadaf Modak  
Mumbai, May 6

SENA UBT leader Anil Parab and four others were acquitted in a case linked to a resort in Dapoli in Ratnagiri.

A special court in Khed, Ratnagiri cleared them of charges including cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy of the Indian Penal Code, and relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

M.L.C. Parab, sarpanch Suresh Tupe, gramsevak Anant Koli, Sudhir Pardule, a circle officer, and Jayram Deshpande, sub-divisional officer, were acquitted by the court.

The case was based on a complaint by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya, who had alleged that illegal permission was acquired for the construction of Sai Resort, on land falling under coastal zone regulations.

It was also alleged that the local gram panchayat was cheated for taxation purposes, during the construction of the project. The court said that these allegations were not proved.

The court said that although Somaiya was an important witness, he was not examined.

"He was the important witness. However, prosecution has not examined Kirit Somaiya to prove the offence against the accused," special judge P.S. Chandgude said in the order. The court said that there was no proof that the public servants named in the case as accused had made any pecuniary gains or had disproportionate sources of income.

The court said that there was also no proof brought before it that the officials had illegally sanctioned permission for construction in a coastal regulation zone. It also said that no offence was proved that the assessment of the building for taxation was done before the construction was completed. Parab's lawyer S S Butala had said that the there was no proof that any losses were caused to the government.

"The prosecution has not proved that the accused No.1 to 5 in collusion with each other have committed the offences as alleged," the court said.

A separate case was filed by the Enforcement Directorate based on these allegations, which remains pending.

## JABALPUR CRUISE MISHAP

# Court orders FIR against operator, says crew fled without rescuing passengers

Anand Mohan J  
Bhopal, May 6

A DISTRICT court in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district has directed police to register an FIR against the operator of the cruise boat that capsized in Bargi reservoir on April 30, holding that the crew's "failure" to rescue drowning passengers could amount to serious criminal offences.

Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports and social media coverage of the incident, Judicial Magistrate First Class D P Sutrakar ordered the Bargi police station to lodge an FIR and report back to the court within two days.

In the order dated May 5, the court observed that the boat operator allegedly drove the vessel "negligently", leading to the sinking that killed several passengers. The magistrate noted the operator, despite being familiar with the functioning of the vessel, "left drowning persons and escaped safely himself".

"The vessel operator, despite being familiar with the activities



The April 30 boat tragedy in the Bargi dam area of Jabalpur district had claimed 13 lives. FILE

and functioning of the vessel, abandoned the passengers who were drowning and himself escaped safely. His failure to make any effort to save them prima facie attracts provisions under Section 106 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and Section 110 relating to attempt to commit culpable homicide," the order read.

The court opined that if an FIR is not registered and investigation is not carried out in the matter, then in "future operators of cruises or boats may similarly

abandon other persons during mishaps, leading to repetition of such incidents," the order stated.

The magistrate said the court was taking suo motu cognisance to prevent recurrence of such incidents and ordered that an FIR be registered against the driver present on the boat at the time of the incident as well as other crew members.

The April 30 boat tragedy in the Bargi dam area of Jabalpur district had claimed 13 lives after a cruise ship reportedly overturned during an evening ride.

## Guidelines for school management committees unveiled

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 6

THE UNION Education Ministry released guidelines for school management committees on Wednesday, recommending that the chairperson and vice-chairperson of each such panel be an elected member from among the parents or guardians.

The guidelines suggest that the principal or head of the school be the member secretary of the committee, which will have two sub-committees — an academic committee and a school building committee.

Releasing the guidelines, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the concept of school management committees is not new, and they have existed in different forms before this, but there is a need to make the committees part of the school education culture. The new guidelines, align with the National Education Policy 2020.

## HC judge sends young lawyer to 24-hr custody, SCBA urges CJI to take note

Press Trust of India  
New Delhi, May 6

THE SUPREME Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Wednesday expressed "deep concern and shock" at an Andhra Pradesh High Court judge reportedly sending a young advocate to 24-hour judicial custody over a procedural lapse, and urged Chief Justice of India Surya Kant to take cognisance of incident.

The SCBA's resolution, issued through its president, Vikas Singh, underlined that judicial strength is best demonstrated through patience, rather than fear, especially when dealing with young advocates who are still learning the profession.

It said, "The SCBA expresses its deep concern and shock at the reported incident dated May 5, 2026, before the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, wherein a young advocate was allegedly directed to be taken into judicial custody for 24 hours during court proceedings before Justice

Tarlada Rajasekhara Rao."

According to its resolution, any action that caused fear, humiliation, or intimidation among young advocates had the potential to adversely affect the independence of the bar and the optimal operation of the justice delivery system.

"The SCBA respectfully urges the CJI to kindly take appropriate institutional cognisance of the matter, graciously call for the relevant records and proceedings, and consider such corrective and administrative measures as may be deemed appropriate in the interest of preserving public confidence in the judiciary and maintaining cordial bar-bench relations," the bar association said.

The resolution stressed that the relationship between the bench and bar was founded on mutual respect, dignity, pa-

tiency, and institutional balance, and that advocates were officers of the court.

"While the authority and majesty of courts must always be respected and maintained, the exercise of judicial powers must equally reflect restraint, proportionality, fairness, and compassion," it said.

The resolution said that judicial strength must be reflected through patience and balanced conduct, particularly while dealing with young lawyers who were still learning and evolving in the profession.

Earlier in the day, the Bar Council of India (BCI) sought an urgent intervention of the CJI into the same matter. According to the BCI, a video circulating online showed Justice Rao rebuking a young advocate who was unable to produce a specific order copy during a hearing.

DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WATER AND SANITATION  
Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India

CALL FOR EMPANELMENT OF NATIONAL WASH EXPERTS FOR THE FY 2026-27

SPM NIWAS invites online applications for Empanelment as National WASH Experts under the following categories: • Regional/Bulk Water Supply Expert • In-Village Water Supply Expert • Hydrogeology Expert • Solid & Liquid Waste Management Expert • Community Mobilization Expert • Water Quality Expert. Eligibility: • Maximum age 69 years as of 01.06.2026 • Engagement till the maximum age of 70 years. • Tenure of empanelment: upto 31st March 2027. How to Apply: • Applications must be submitted online only. Details of eligibility conditions and other details are available in [www.spmniwas.in](http://www.spmniwas.in) website. Last date for submission: 15th May 2026. Sd/- Administrative Officer, SPM NIWAS

Advertisement No. 48/2026

Government of India  
Public Enterprises Selection Board  
invites applications for the post of  
**Chairman & Managing Director**  
in  
**Braithwaite Burn & Jessop  
Construction Company Limited  
(BBJ)**

Last date of submission of application by applicants is by 15.00 hours on  
**26<sup>th</sup> May, 2026**

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 17.00 hours on  
**04<sup>th</sup> June, 2026**

For details login to website <https://pesb.gov.in>

# EXPRESS Careers

**NICMAR UNIVERSITY**  
PUNE  
25/1, N.L.A. Post Office, Balewadi, Pune 411 045,  
Enacted under the Maharashtra Private Universities  
(Establishment and Regulation) Act, 2023

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF VICE CHANCELLOR

The Search-Cum-Selection Committee invites more applications through this public notification or nomination or Talent Search for the post of Vice Chancellor, in extension of the advertisement published in leading newspapers on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and in accordance with clause 7.3 of the UGC Regulations dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Details regarding job description, eligibility criteria, general instruction and the online application process are available at: [www.nicmar.ac.in/pune-campus/careers](http://www.nicmar.ac.in/pune-campus/careers)

Revised Last Date for Application/Nomination/Talent Search: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Candidates who applied under the earlier advertisement dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 need not reapply.

Search Cum Selection Committee



The government is working with a clear strategy for short-term, medium-term, and long-term effects. The fundamentals of India's economy are strong, which has also helped the country greatly.

— Narendra Modi

**Empowering Businesses, Ensuring Resilience**

LAUNCH OF

## EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME (ECLGS) 5.0

to extend additional liquidity support, ensuring business continuity and safeguarding economic stability.



# ₹ 2,55,000 CRORE

Additional credit support backed by guarantee coverage from NCGTC

	MSMEs	Non-MSMEs	Airline Sector
Guarantee Cover	100%	90%	90%
Extra Working Capital	20%	20%	100%
Guarantee Fees	Nil	Nil	Nil
Moratorium Period	1 year	1 year	2 years
Additional Credit Limit	Up to ₹100 crore	Up to ₹100 crore	Up to ₹1,500 crore

**Government, Businesses and Banks come together to boost Economic Growth**

Visit nearest bank branch to avail benefits of the scheme.  
For more details visit [www.ncgfc.in](http://www.ncgfc.in)

TWIN BLASTS RATTLE PUNJAB

# Another blast near Army camp, DGP sees Pak hand

**Kamaldeep Singh Brar, Anju Agnihotri Chhaba & Man Aman Singh Chhina**  
Amritsar, Jalandhar, Chandigarh, May 6



Forensic team at the blast site in Amritsar, Wednesday. RANA SIMRANJIT SINGH

TWO BACK-TO-BACK blasts near critical security establishments within hours of each other triggered panic in Punjab with DGP Gaurav Yadav on Wednesday linking it to the Operation Sindoor anniversary saying it could be part of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI's designs to cause disruptions in the border state.

The first explosion happened around 8 pm on Tuesday outside the Border Security Force's Punjab Frontier headquarters in Jalandhar, while the second blast occurred three hours later, at around 11 pm, near the Army camp in Amritsar's Khalsa village, less than 20 km from the International Border with Pakistan. No casualties were reported in the two incidents. Security agencies cordoned off both the sites, collected samples for forensic examination with police saying that an investigation into both incidents is underway.

Amritsar (Rural) Senior Superintendent of Police Suhail Mir Qasim said preliminary inspection indicated that someone had thrown an explosive device towards the boundary wall of the Army camp, leading to the explosion. A piece of a tin sheet covering the boundary wall fell off due to impact of the blast. Amritsar (Rural) SP Aditya S Warrior, said a team of Army officials also inspected the spot and assessed the situation. Meanwhile, a group identifying itself as the Khalistan Liberation Army (KLA) claimed responsibility through a social media post for the Jalandhar blast outside. In the purported post, it described the blast as part of "Operation Nawa Savair" and issued threats against senior BSF officials, including DIG Sandeep Goyal. DGP Yadav said "we are verifying" the claim, but added that the KLA is a non-existent or-

ganisation and an "ISI stooge". In Jalandhar, a delivery package placed on a two-wheeler parked outside the BSF headquarters exploded, setting the vehicle on fire. Dhanpreet Kaur, Commissioner, Jalandhar police, said the vehicle belonged to Gurpreet Singh, who had come to deliver a parcel at the BSF complex. DGP Yadav termed both the blasts as of "low intensity". On Amritsar incident, he said that while no group has claimed responsibility, but it appears to be the handiwork of Pakistan's ISI. "We assume that, as today is the Operation Sindoor anniversary, this is part of Pakistan's ISI designs to cause disruptions in Punjab," he said, adding: "A

handful of elements want to disturb the atmosphere at the best Pakistan's ISI. We will crush such elements..." The exact nature of the explosion and the device used will be determined pending forensic examination, the DGP said, adding that investigations are being conducted from all angles. He said that shrapnel from an improvised explosive device (IED) was found at the explosion site in Amritsar suggesting that it was either a timed explosion or detonated remotely. Investigators are analysing clues, CCTV footage, and conducting a tower dump analysis of phone records, he added.

The DGP said investigations are being conducted in close coordination with the army and other agencies. Asked if central agencies had provided any inputs indicating that hostile forces might carry out an attack during the anniversary of Operation Sindoor, the DGP said, "We are living in a state of proxy war... Punjab is a frontline state and is fighting the nation's war." On potential connection between the incidents in Jalandhar and Amritsar, the DGP said that no links have been established so far, although he acknowledged that presumptions could be made.

APPOINTMENT OF CEC/ECs

# Wasn't 2023 ruling meant for short period until a law was made: Supreme Court

**Express News Service**  
New Delhi, May 6

DOES THE 2023 law on appointing the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners need to reflect the principles the Supreme Court laid down in its constitution bench judgment that was to apply only until a law was made? This was the question posed by a two-judge bench of the SC Wednesday hearing a challenge against the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. "The Supreme Court cannot direct the making of a law. Aren't these observations over 300 pages a justification for what the court laid down for a short period till the law is made? Can you say that the law also has to follow those observations?" Justice Dipankar Datta observed.

The bench, also comprising Justice S C Sharma, asked whether the earlier observations in the 2023 ruling only justified the temporary appointment framework, or whether the new law can be challenged for not following them. In March 2023, a five-judge constitution bench in 'Anoop

Baranwal v Union of India' had interpreted Article 324(2) of the Constitution, which requires a law to be made by the Parliament "fixing the criteria for selection, conditions of service and tenure" of CEC and ECs. The court had said that until such a law is made, they shall be appointed on the advice of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India. Subsequently, Parliament enacted the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, according to which the Selection Committee would comprise the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha. Petitions were filed before the SC citing the exclusion of the CJI would affect the neutrality of the appointments.

The 2023 SC ruling examined debates of the Constituent Assembly to ascertain what the founding members of the Constitution envisaged the process to be, and also looked at similar provisions in the Constitution. The SC held that the Constitution mandated a law by Parliament and did not intend the

executive to exclusively call the shots on appointments to the Election Commission.

Senior Advocate Vijay Hansaria, who appeared for Congress leader Jaya Thakur, who is one of the petitioners, submitted that there is no change in how the appointments are made before and after the 2023 SC ruling and that the appointment is still in the hands of the executive. "What is the difference now? Even now it has to be appointed by the President on the aid and advice of the PM and a Minister chosen by the PM. There is no change in the position on the ground..." he said. Hansaria argued that the appointments were earlier done under the Rules of Business of the House, which are now replaced by a law.

Responding to Hansaria's submissions that various committees and even the Law Commission had said that appointments to EC cannot be solely be left to the executive, Justice Datta asked whether a 2002 report submitted by a committee headed by former CJI M N Venkatachaliah had suggested inclusion of the CJI in the panel. "No," the senior counsel said, adding that the idea, however, was that the PM should not have complete control.

Picking Pace

THE WORK of the Joint Committee of Parliament examining the Bills on simultaneous elections, known as the One Nation One Election Bills, is expected to gather speed in the coming months. The committee chaired by BJP Lok Sabha member P P Chaudhary is set to visit Gujarat and Karnataka soon to consult state governments and other stakeholders on the impact of simultaneous polls. The committee, it is learnt, plans to visit as many states as possible before finalising its recommendations.

In Attendance

IN WHAT insiders say is intended to be a show of strength with national ramifications, Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with other Central leaders and Chief Ministers of 20 BJP-ruled states are likely to attend the swearing-in of the new West Bengal government on Saturday. Before that, sources say, the BJP brass will attend the expansion of Samrat Choudhary's cabinet in Patna on Thursday. Choudhary, the first BJP Chief Minister in Bihar, had taken oath in a muted ceremony on April 15.

No Discontent

THE DIRECTOR General of the CRPF has instructed senior commanders across formations to ensure that no one posts or circulates any written or visual content critical of government orders. He has directed that such posts must be deleted immediately and that action is being sought against officers who continue to post such content. Senior officers have been directed to ensure strict compliance.

# Mann: Blasts mean BJP getting ready for polls; Opp hits back

**Kanchan Vasdev & Man Aman Singh Chhina**  
Chandigarh, May 6

PUNJAB CHIEF Minister Bhagwant Mann Wednesday accused the BJP of being behind the two blasts near security establishments in Punjab even as the safety party dared him to show proof or tender resignation. The other Opposition parties in Punjab, including the Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal, termed Mann's remarks as "immature," "panic-driven," and a dangerous attempt to deflect from the AAP government's failure on law and order in the state. Punjab was jolted by two

blasts on Tuesday night: one outside the Border Security Force's Punjab Frontier headquarters in Jalandhar around 8 pm and another near the Army cantonment area in Khalsa village of Amritsar, around 11 pm.

Calling the two explosions "minor blasts", Mann alleged that the BJP was trying to create an atmosphere of fear in Punjab ahead of Assembly elections early next year. "This is the BJP's style of functioning. Whenever they have to contest an election in a state, they either engineer riots, blasts, or create tension between people of two faiths. These blasts mean that the BJP is getting ready for Punjab," Mann said in Anandpur Sahib. Calling the BJP a "communal party", he said, "Now that the Bengal elections are over, they are turning to Punjab. This is how they garner votes by

scaring people away. Punjab believes in world peace and in Sarbat Da Bhala. These vile acts will not work. Punjabis have always stood like a rock with the country."

Hitting back, BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh said: "On one side, the DGP is saying that Pakistan's ISI was behind blasts and, on the other hand, Mann is making reckless statement. Either Bhagwant Mann brings proof to support his claim or tender resignation from the chief minister's chair." Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu dared Mann to "register an FIR against the BJP" for the blasts. Meanwhile, replying to a question on the DGP suspecting Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa questioned whom the people of Punjab should trust, the political leadership or the state's top police officer.

# 208 dishes in UP's 'One District, One Cuisine' list — not one non-veg

**Maulshree Seth**  
Lucknow, May 6

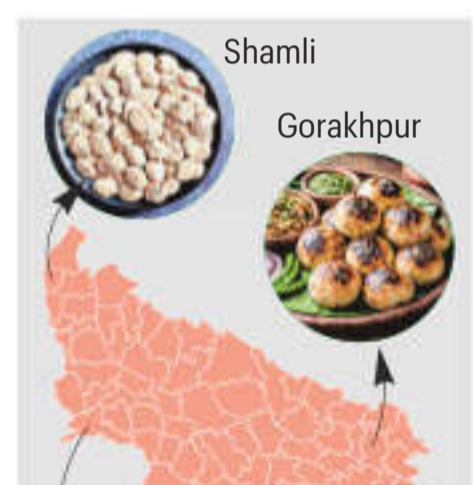
UNDER ITS newly approved 'One District, One Cuisine (ODOC)' scheme, Uttar Pradesh has come out with an extensive list of 208 dishes to promote local delicacies. Except, one glaring omission has raised eyebrows — there is not a single meat dish on the list. Lucknow, for instance, has been assigned rewari, chaat, malai makkhan and "mango produce", while the Moradabad hapsi halwa. Well-known specialties including galauti kebab, Moradabadi biryani or the slow-cooked handi mutton of Azamgarh are absent. The scheme, first announced by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath last December, was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Lucknow on January 24 during Uttar Pradesh Day celebrations. On Monday, the Cabinet approved the scheme, which aims to promote traditional cuisine through branding, packaging and marketing, on the lines of the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative. Sources said the government order for the scheme includes 208 cuisines, mapped across 18 divisions and 75 districts (see map).

Food critics, however, have questioned the exclusion of iconic non-vegetarian dishes. "It does not make sense. I had a look at the list, the one that stands out the most is spice in the list of cuisines from Rae Bareilly. How is spice a cuisine?" questioned Pushpesh Pant, food critic and historian. "... There is hapsi halwa from Rampur, which is again not a cuisine... Reori is there from

• MAPPING THE CUISINES

Over 200 food items for 75 UP districts have been listed under the government's 'One District, One Cuisine' scheme

- Agra:** petha, dal-moth, gajak, Agra-style paratha
- Lucknow:** rewari, chaat, malai makkhan, "mango produce"
- Firozabad:** tikki, kachori
- Shamli:** rewari, gajak
- Mathura:** peda, chhappan bhog, makkhan mishri, lassi, khurchan
- Jhansi:** Dal bafla, balushahi
- Azamgarh:** tehrri, white carrot halwa, laung lata
- Kanpur Nagar:** samosa, laddoo, malai makkhan
- Bareilly:** sewaiyan, barfi
- Prayagraj:** sabzi-kachori, imarti, rasgulla
- Varanasi:** Tiranga barfi, thandai, lassi, kachori, Banarasi paan, laung lata
- Gonda:** dahi bada (Tiyathok), kachori
- Rampur:** hapsi halwa
- Gorakhpur:** litti-chokha, garlic mini samosas, barfi
- Bahraich:** chamcham



- Balrampur:** coconut barfi, kalakand, local sweets
- Shravasti:** imarti
- Saharanpur:** honey-based products, chaat
- Ghaziabad:** soya chaap, pickles
- Gautam Buddha Nagar:** bakery

Lucknow, which is a sweet," said Pant, who is finalising his memoir on Lucknow food. Pointing to the range of meat dishes in Lucknow apart from Galauti Kababs, he added, "there are Kakori Kababs or Char Magaj ka murga, which is a typical Awadh dish made in Kayastha houses of Lucknow." He further said, "Even the Government of India admits that 68% of the population is non-vegetarian and moreover, these are across class and creed,

not just Muslims but Dalits, Kayasthas and even Kashmiri Brahmins, Maithili Brahmins or Saraswat Brahmins of Goa. Moreover, you cannot [define] food... with man-made boundaries. For instance, Lahore and Amritsar are twin cities when it comes to food." Writer Himanshu Bajpai from Lucknow, who performs Dastangoi across the world, said the omission was surprising. "I am a vegetarian, but when a list of popular cuisines

is prepared, the non-inclusion of Galauti Kabab, known worldwide for its 'melt-in-the-mouth' texture, comes as a surprise."

He called for clarity on the selection process: "If the aim is to promote lesser-known dishes, that is understandable. But if there is any bias in food selection, it should be explained." When asked about the selection criteria, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Minister Rakesh Sachan told The Indian Express that "it is a flexible list which can be upgraded based on public opinion and suggestions". "The list is flexible. The scheme has been approved by the Cabinet, but the list of cuisines can be changed any time based on local recommendations and public demand, with approval from the Chief Minister. It does not require Cabinet approval," he said.

He added that a district-level committee was formed in all 75 districts, chaired by District Magistrates and including teachers, professors, and local experts, and they made these recommendations. "Surveys were also conducted... It is based on these recommendations that this list was decided, the task was not easy," Sachan said. On the absence of non-vegetarian dishes, he said, "It is not intentional. If recommended in the future, they can be added. The idea is not to promote individual popular items but dishes that benefit a larger population through packaging, sales, and promotion." As per the list, each of UP's 18 divisions has been mapped with its 'signature' food ranging from sweets and snacks to staple dishes.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE  
Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	6-SEFile-276844RT1		
Name of Work and its location	Tender for "Provision for Segregation of 110V DC +VE & -VE cables at all levels and provision of cage clamp Terminals with Glass Fuses for enhanced fire safety in LHB EOG AC Chair Car Coaches and Executive Chair Car coaches for 40 coaches."		
Approx. Cost of work	₹908852.80/- including GST (Rs. Nine Lakh Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Two and Paise Eighty only)		
Earnest Money	₹18200/-	Completion period of work	12 months from date of LOA
Cost of Tender document on cash/ by post	NIL	Date and Time for submission of tender	Upto 12:00 hrs on 28.05.2026
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in		
Tender No.:	6-SEFile-276844RT1	Dated:	06.05.2026

**SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE 1514/2026**

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
जयपुर मण्डल  
अधिसूचना 01 / 2026

गति शक्ति युक्ति - जयपुर मण्डल हेतु निम्न पदों को संचालित रेल कर्मचारियों को मारने हेतु विज्ञापित अधिसूचना की गयी है। इस अधिसूचना के क्रम में रिक्तियों का विवरण निम्न प्रकार से है -

क्र.सं.	विभाग	कोटि	लेवल	रिक्तियों की संख्या
01	इंजीनियरिंग	वरि. अनुभाग अभियंता / रेलपथ	07	01
02	इंजीनियरिंग	वरि. अनुभाग अभियंता / वर्कर्स	07	01
03	इंजीनियरिंग	वरि. अनुभाग अभियंता / ड्राइंग	07	02
04	लेखा	वरि. अनुभाग अधिकारी	09	02
कुल =				06

अन्य शर्तें रेलवे की वेबसाइट [www.nwr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nwr.indianrailways.gov.in) पर देख सकते हैं। आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 25.05.2026 को 17:00 बजे तक है। (No. - 750-E/EP/RE-Engagement/Retired/GSU/178213 Dt. - 05.05.2025) 663-DO/26

Please join us on NWR Railways

**कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग सम्भाग भरतपुर**

कमांक: अमुअ/भरत/स./2026-27/डी- 256 दिनांक: 01/5/26

संशोधन पत्र निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2026-27

इस कार्यालय के पत्र क्रमांक एसीई/वीटीपी / निविदा/2026-27/डी-66 दिनांक 09.12.2026 से जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2026-27 में भरतपुर संभाग के अल्प जिला भरतपुर में 01 भवन निर्माण कार्य के लिए, जो कि एस्प्रीपी पोर्टल पर NIB NO. PWD2627WLOB00365 से प्रकाशित हुई है की तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन जारी किया जाता है जो वेबसाइट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं "www.sppp.raj.nic.in" पर देखा जा सकता है

विवरण	पूरे प्रकाशित तिथियाँ	संशोधित तिथियाँ
ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म दिनांक 13.04.2026 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से दिनांक 04.05.2026 सांय 06.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 13.04.2026 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से दिनांक 03.06.2026 सांय 06.00 बजे तक	
प्रो विड मीडिया की तारीख 22.04.2026 अपराह्न 03.00 बजे संगम कार्यालय भरतपुर में एवं प्रीविड क्लेरिज ई-मेल पर acebtp@rediffmail.com भेजने की तिथि तक 22.04.2026 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक।	26.05.2026 अपराह्न 03.00 बजे संगम कार्यालय भरतपुर में एवं प्रीविड क्लेरिज ई-मेल पर acebtp@rediffmail.com भेजने की तिथि तक 26.05.2026 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक।	
ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म जमा करने की तारीख दिनांक 13.04.2026 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से दिनांक 04.05.2026 सांय 06.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 13.04.2026 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से दिनांक 03.06.2026 सांय 06.00 बजे तक	
ऑनलाईन तकनीकी कार्य के सम्बन्ध अतिरिक्त कार्यालय में दिनांक 05.05.2026 अपराह्न 03.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।	दिनांक 13.04.2026 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से दिनांक 04.06.2026 अपराह्न 03.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।	

निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। हस्ता./- अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सार्वजनिक विभाग भरतपुर

No. DIPRC/7917/2026 Dated: 05/05/2026

**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

**E-Procurement Notice**

JBVNL invites online e-tender from reputed, technically experienced and financially sound manufacturers/ supplier only for procurement of following Materials:-

Sr	NIT/Tender notice No. and description of item	Tender fee	Date of publication of tender on website	Document download start date & time	Online Bid Submission start date	Online Bid Submission end date	Technical bid opening date and time
1	69/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked LT XLPE AB Cable 3Cx120 + 1x70 + 1x16 sq.mm	Rs 10000/- + GST	08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	08/05/2026 from 13:20 Hrs.	05/06/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	09/06/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs.
2	70/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked LT XLPE AB Cable 3Cx95 + 1x70 + 1x16 sq.mm	Rs 10000/- + GST	08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	08/05/2026 from 13:20 Hrs.	05/06/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	09/06/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs.
3	71/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked LT XLPE AB Cable 3Cx50 + 1x35 + 1x16 sq.mm	Rs 10000/- + GST	08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	08/05/2026 from 13:20 Hrs.	05/06/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	09/06/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs.
4	72/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked 33 kV XLPE UG Cable 400sqmm	Rs 10000/- + GST	08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	08/05/2026 from 13:20 Hrs.	05/06/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	09/06/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs.
5	73/PR/JBVNL/2026-27 ISI Marked 11 kV XLPE UG Cable 300sqmm	Rs 10000/- + GST	08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	08/05/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	08/05/2026 from 13:20 Hrs.	05/06/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	09/06/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs.

NOTE:- (i) Only e-tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9470378503/9430348596, NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178 (ii) Tender fee & EMD must be paid through online mode. (iii) Tender fee is non-refundable.

Sd/-  
Dy. General Manager  
Purchase

व्यक्ति एवं साक्षरता में कमी बर्बाद। कृपया अपनी शिक्षाको को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 0570 पर दर्ज करावें।  
PR.NO.379146 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(26-27):D

# ATS arrests two men 'recruited by ISI agents to plan terror attacks'

**Express News Service**  
Lucknow, May 6

THE UTTAR Pradesh Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) claimed to have arrested two suspects allegedly recruited by Pakistani ISI agents, including gangster Shahzad Bhatti, to plan terror attacks across the state. Officials said the accused are Daniyal Ashraf (23) from Barabanki and Krishna Mishra (20) from Kushinagar district. As per the DGP Headquarters, the ATS had been receiving intelligence inputs that terrorist organisations from Pakistan were influencing youth in different parts of India through various social media platforms. The outfits were turning them into foot soldiers and using them as sleeper cells to carry out terror activities, the

statement stated, to spread fear among people and threaten the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the country. ATS officials further claimed these intelligence inputs pointed to the hand of alleged 'ISI proxy' Bhatti and his terrorist network who were misleading Indian youth through social media, offering financial incentives, and radicalising them to prepare for attacks. After electronic and physical surveillance, the ATS team arrested Krishna on Tuesday and Daniyal on Wednesday. The agency claimed the duo was in contact with Bhatti and his aide Abid Jatt and, on their instructions, were planning attacks on important institutions, police stations, and outposts in UP and other Indian cities. A case has been filed against them at the ATS station, Lucknow.

ازعدالت جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سٹیشن (منصف) کاندریل  
شہیر احمد صوفی ولد محمد سلطان صوفی ساکن پور کھنڈ کاندریل  
بیتام: صدام حسین ولد غلام قادر بھران ساکن میر کاندھیل  
Vellege Kingus Tesil Nowshera District Rajori  
بجراجم - وارنٹ گشتی عام بخلاف  
Sadam Hussian S/o Gh. Qadir Bajran  
R/o A/P Vellege Kingus  
Tesil Nowshera District Rajori  
حکم بیتام : ایکٹران پولیس یو۔ ٹی۔ جموں و کشمیر  
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ملزم کی گرفتاری بطریق  
معمول ناممکن ہے اس طور ملزم کے خلاف کارروائی  
512 ض ف نجل لائی جا چکی ہے۔ لہذا ایکٹران  
پولیس یو۔ ٹی۔ جموں و کشمیر کو ہڈر یو۔ وارنٹ حکم دیا جاتا  
ہے کہ جب کبھی اور جہاں کہیں ملزم صدر حدود یو۔ ٹی  
جموں و کشمیر دستیاب ہو اسے گرفتار کر کے عدالت  
محاز میں بحراست ضابطہ پیش کریں۔ وارنٹ ہڈا  
دستیاب ملازم زیر کار ہے۔ تحریر 07.04.2026  
وارنٹ ہڈا امروزہ اجراء ہوئی حکم سنایا گیا۔ تحریر الصدر  
بردستخار رقم و مہر عدالت کے جاری کی جاتی ہے۔  
جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول (منصف)  
DIPK- DIPK-1075/26- DATE 06.05.2026

CHINA IN MIND, LEADERS STRESS ON PEACE AND FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

# India, Vietnam elevate ties to enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership

Shubhajt Roy  
 New Delhi, May 6

INDIA AND Vietnam decided to elevate bilateral ties to 'Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership', set a new trade goal of \$25 billion by 2030 and increase defence systems procurement between the two countries after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the visiting President of Vietnam To Lam on Wednesday.

After the bilateral talks with President To Lam, who is also the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Prime Minister Modi said, "We are today elevating our relationship to the level of an 'Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.' We will now steer our partnership toward even loftier goals. From culture, connectivity, and capacity-building to security, sustainability, and supply chain resilience—our cooperation is set to reach new heights across every sector."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Vietnam President To Lam in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANIL SHARMA

countries with whom Vietnam entered into a Strategic Partnership in 2007. This was also India's first Strategic Partnership within the ASEAN region. The two countries elevated the relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016.

On the trade ties, Modi said, "Bilateral trade between India and Vietnam has doubled over the past decade, reaching a vol-

ume of \$16 billion. Today, we have taken several significant decisions aimed at further boosting this figure to \$25 billion by the year 2030. The MoU between our respective drug authorities will now enhance access for Indian pharmaceuticals in Vietnam. The export of India's agricultural, fisheries and animal products to Vietnam is also set to become

## E. EXPLAINED

### Defence, maritime security in focus

With an assertive China in their neighbourhood, India and Vietnam have cooperated in the strategic domain for almost two decades now. Now, with the Vietnamese President choosing India early in his term, it signals that he is reaching out to Delhi to cooperate on defence and maritime security.

smoother. Very soon, Vietnam will get to savor India's grapes and pomegranates, while we will enjoy Vietnam's durian and pomelo." The two sides signed 11 pacts, ranging from rare earth to digital payments, urban management to culture and manuscripts.

During the meeting, Vietnam also joined the Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

On the contentious issue of South China Sea, the joint statement said, in an oblique reference to China's belligerent behaviour, "Underlining the link between prosperity and security, the leaders reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability, security and freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea, while pursuing the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, particularly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), without resorting to threat or use of force."

It also said that the leaders underscored the importance of "non-militarization and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states, and avoidance of actions that could further complicate the situation or escalate disputes affecting peace and stability. The leaders underlined that UNCLOS is the comprehensive legal framework governing all activities in the oceans and seas. The leaders further called for the full and ef-

fective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety and the early conclusion of negotiations towards a substantive and effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC)."

Underlining that "defence and security cooperation" is a "key pillar" of the India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, it said that the leaders agreed to further "strengthen co-operation and enhance engagements in both traditional and emerging areas of defence cooperation, including defence policy dialogue, joint exercises, staff talks, joint research and co-production of new defence technologies, enhanced port calls by naval vessels and air force aircraft, peacekeeping activities, information sharing, hydrography, defence exhibitions, capacity-building, defence industrial cooperation, maritime security, maritime safety, and search and rescue operations based on mutual interest and priorities of the two countries."

## BRIEFLY



Maharashtra Deputy CM Sunetra Pawar submits her resignation as Rajya Sabha MP to Vice President CP Radhakrishnan. PTI

## MAHARASHTRA

### Sunetra resigns as Rajya Sabha MP after winning Baramati bypoll

TWO DAYS after winning the Baramati assembly bypoll with a "record margin" over over 2.18 lakh votes, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Ajit Pawar on Wednesday resigned as Rajya Sabha MP. Sunetra Pawar, the MLA-elect, called on Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, C P Radhakrishnan at Uprashtrapati Bhawan the same day and tendered her resignation as Member of Rajya Sabha. Her resignation was accepted by the Chairman with effect from May 6, the NCP said. Sunetra Pawar was nominated for Rajya Sabha by her husband Ajit Pawar, the national president of NCP. She was elected unopposed on June 18, 2024. She replaced Praful Patel, the NCP working president Praful Patel who had four year term Rajya Sabha term left. ENS

### 19-yr-old worker dies, MMRDA fines contractor

A DAY after a 19-year-old worker died at the construction site of the Sewri Worli Connector, making it the fourth death at an infrastructure work site within a week, sources from the MMRDA claimed the contractor J Kumar failed to report the incident to the authority. A preliminary penalty of Rs 1 crore has been levied on J Kumar, and Rs 25 lakh on the consultant, Asystem STUP. An official from the MMRDA said, "MMRDA's safety protocols clearly mandate immediate reporting and escalation of any serious incident occurring at project sites..." ENS

### Mansarovar Yatra gets costlier by 20%

THE COST for undertaking the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra has gone up by 20% this year, with the total pilgrimage fee increasing to Rs 2.09 lakh, officials said on Wednesday. The annual pilgrimage via the Lipulekh Pass in Pithoragarh district is scheduled to commence on July 4. According to the officials, the rate of the US currency directly impacted travel expenses in Tibet. Revised travel rates within India also contributed to the overall price hike for pilgrims. The Ministry of External Affairs collects fees for the Tibet leg in dollars, they said. PTI

BJP, JD(U) STRIVE FOR SOCIAL BALANCE

# Bihar Cabinet expansion today, Nishant likely to make debut

Santosh Singh  
 Patna, May 6

WITH THE Bihar cabinet set to expand on Thursday, Nishant Kumar, former chief minister Nitish Kumar's son, is likely to be among the two dozen new ministers from the BJP, the JD(U) and three smaller allies—LJP (RV), HAM(S) and RLM.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president Nitin Nabin, and his predecessor, Union Health Minister JP Nadda, are among those expected to attend the ceremony, besides Nitish. The ceremony would take place at Patna's Gandhi Maidan.

Modi and Shah were not able to attend CM Samrat Choudhary's swearing-in ceremony on April 15. Samrat had taken the oath along with two deputies, both from the JD(U)—Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Bijendra Prasad Yadav.

BJP and JD(U) have agreed on a 50:50 formula, with 16 ministers each, while LJP (RV) would get two ministers and HAM(S) and RLM would get one each.

However, the BJP and the JD(U) might not want to exhaust their complete quota in Thursday's Cabinet expansion.



Nishant Kumar

Sources said while the BJP might get 13 new ministers, the JD(U) is likely to have 12 new ministers.

Probable names from the BJP include Vijay Kumar Sinha, Mangal Pandey, Sanjay Singh Tiger, Shreyasi Singh, Sanjeev Chourasia, Nitish Mishra and Krishna Kumar Mantu. Sinha, who was deputy CM in the previous government, is likely to get a key department.

Likely names from the JD(U) include Nishant Kumar, Shrawan Kumar, Ashok Choudhary, Madan Sahani, Bulo Mandal, Zama Khan, Sheela Mandal, Lesi Singh, Ratneswari Sada, Lakhindra Paswan, Sangeeta Kumari and Bhagwan Singh Kushwaha. Both the BJP and the JD(U) have sought to maintain regional and social balance with a focus on EBCs.

MAN WHO LOST PARENTS, GOT HURT IN DRONE ATTACK RECOUNTS STRUGGLES

# 'My parents are gone, I am all alone in world... Govt should not forget us'

Raakhi Jagga  
 Ludhiana, May 6

FOR A long time after Operation Sindoor ended and ceasefire was declared, death followed Jaswant Singh, 33. A drone attack that hit his village Khai Pheme in the border district of Ferozepur in Punjab on May 9 evening left his parents with serious injuries. His mother succumbed to them on May 13 last year, and his father after a long, painful two-month battle on July 1. "I was left all alone in the world," says Jaswant.

With pieces of the drone hitting him in the legs, Jaswant says he has been left with wounds that still hurt, with the pain excruciating when he tries to walk fast. After the incident, he moved out of the family home where the drone struck, and now lives with his paternal uncles in nearby Varyamwala village.

With India hitting terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir as part of Operation Sindoor, in response to the killing of tourists in Pahalgam, the border areas had been in Pakistan's line of fire at the time.

That evening, Jaswant remembers, multiple drones had been sighted over the Ferozepur Cantonment and adjoining areas. Khai Pheme lies 25-30 km from the international border, but drones had been



Jaswant Singh needs surgery for his wounds, but he can't get himself to go ahead with it.

sighted that far in as well.

"A blackout was on, when one drone fell in the compound of our house and a parked car caught fire," he says. While Sukhwinder, 50, sustained 100% burns, 54-year-old Lakhwinder suffered 72% burns.

Jaswant is now managing the family's 5-acre land in Khai Pheme village, but due to injuries, he depends on labourers for bulk of the work. The four buffaloes the family had also sustained burn injuries in the drone attack and died later, and Jaswant hasn't kept any since then.

Doctors advised him to undergo surgery after his wounds had healed for better mobility, Jaswant says. How-

ever, he can't get himself to go through it. "I spent several weeks in hospital... Now I am not keen on surgery. My parents are gone, and I am just carrying on. I can't be confined to bed yet again."

The expense too is a factor, adds Jaswant. "For the May 9 injuries, medical expenses were borne by the Punjab government. But who will bear the expenses now? I have no idea and I have no energy left to run from pillar to post finding out. Life is going on... let it be."

The Punjab government gave the family Rs 10 lakh on Sukhwinder's death—Rs 5 lakh each from the Chief Minister's ex-gratia relief fund and the discretionary fund of then Rajya Sabha MP Sanjeev Arora (who is now an MLA and a Punjab minister). Villagers say they had to sit on a dharna for Jaswant to get more after the government announced only Rs 5 lakh.

By the time his father died in July last year, attention had moved on, claims Jaswant. "No compensation was given for the death of my father."

Jaswant, who has studied till Class 12, says he was also promised a job by district administration officials after his mother's death, which did not materialise.

Senior BJP leader Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi attacks the Aam Aadmi Party government in the state, saying it made Jaswant wait for adequate compensation and a job. "Normally, the state government is supposed to take care of war casualties and compensate them from the disaster relief fund provided by the Union government."

A BJP leader from Ferozepur, Anumeet Heera Sodhi, also attacks the Bhawagant Singh Mann government. "Jaswant's life has been shattered completely. The Punjab government needs to realise its basic responsibility."

Ferozepur Deputy Commissioner Deepshikha Sharma denies any lapse on their part. "Compensation for both parents was released and their medical expenses taken care of," Sharma said. Queries to officials on Jaswant's claims of a job promise didn't get a response.

As India marks one year of Operation Sindoor, Jaswant says he is proud like any other citizen of the accomplishments of the Indian forces. "But look at my life, which has fallen apart completely... We have become victims of this Indo-Pak conflict for no fault of ours... The government should not forget victims like us."



# Man plots kidnapping of UPSC coach to recover his centre's losses during Covid

Anand Mohan J  
 Bhopal, May 6

THE PROBE into the kidnapping-for-ransom case involving UPSC coaching centre director Shubra Ranjan has revealed that the main accused, Priyank Sharma, hatched the plot to recover losses after his own coaching centre shut down during Covid, police said.

Sharma, son of a retired BHEL official, spent several years in Delhi preparing for the UPSC exam. He appeared three times between 2017 and 2019 but did not clear it. After his third attempt, he opened his own coaching centre.

"When he made contact with the victim, he made a business proposition. Sharma told Shubra that she did not have a coaching centre in Bhopal, and that a business deal with him would provide her with the infrastructure and students to set the businesses rolling with low investment," said a senior crime branch officer.



Accused Priyank Sharma (left) spent about two months planning the kidnapping of UPSC coaching centre director Shubra Ranjan

Police said Sharma allegedly concocted the kidnapping plot to recover losses after his centre shut during the Covid lockdown.

Sharma spent about two months planning the kidnapping. He allegedly first roped in three trusted associates—Vicky, Deepak and Rohit—and then recruited others from Datia, Rewa and nearby areas. Each was allegedly assigned a specific role, and Sharma held "repeated rehearsals to make sure each of them understood what they were supposed to do and when". A flat in Bhopal's Bagsewa-

niya area was allegedly rented two days before the crime with proper documentation to avoid suspicion. Sharma also arranged a Sundarkand recital there on the evening of April 29, "so that the sound from inside the flat would be masked and nothing the victims said or did would be heard outside", the police said. A key part of the kidnapping involved an accomplice, Deepak Bhagat, who was instructed to lie still and appear dead when the victims arrived. He was placed inside a locked box. The other men allegedly told

the victims that Deepak had "been killed because he had not followed instructions, and that his body would be disposed of." Police said the sequence was

To lure Shubra to Bhopal, Sharma allegedly contacted her in Delhi with what appeared to be a legitimate business proposal, discussing a new centre, a seminar and expansion plans. She travelled to Bhopal and checked into a five-star hotel, believing it was a business visit.

On April 29 afternoon Sharma allegedly picked her up from the hotel along with two associates from Delhi and drove them to the Bagsewaniya flat.

Over the next four hours, the victims were allegedly confined, threatened at gunpoint and forced to transfer Rs 1.89 crore in three instalments into two accounts. A video was also recorded under coercion, which investigators believe was meant to deter them from approaching police.

FULL REPORT ON  
[WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)

# 1986 film Amma Ariyan to premiere at Cannes 2026 in restored 4k version

Alaka Sahani  
 Mumbai, May 6

NEARLY FOUR decades after its release, John Abraham's Amma Ariyan (Report to Mother, 1986) will return to the global stage for the world premiere of its restored 4K version at the Cannes Film Festival 2026. Considered a landmark of politically-charged poetic cinema, the Malayalam film is the only Indian feature selected for a premiere this year.

The festival, which opens on May 12, will screen Amma Ariyan, which is presented and restored by Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) at L'Immaginer Ritrovata laboratory in association with Odessa Collective. Its restoration was carried out using one of only two surviving 35mm release prints preserved at the National Film Archive of India. The film will be presented at Cannes by FHF director Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, Joy Mathew (lead actor), Venu ISC (cinematographer) and Bina Paul (editor).



A still from Amma Ariyan, (left) director John Abraham



The Cannes Classics segment this year will feature 21 feature films, three short films, and six documentaries. It will also include two contemporary works. The selected features include Guillermo del Toro's fantasy feature Pan's Labyrinth, Chen

# Suspended over sleaze video, IPS officer reinstated three weeks before retirement

Express News Service  
 Bengaluru, May 6

THE KARNATAKA government on Wednesday revoked the suspension of senior IPS officer K Ramachandra Rao, three weeks before his retirement. He was suspended in January after a video purportedly capturing him in a compromising position with women inside his office surfaced on social media.

On Wednesday evening, the government issued the order revoking his suspension. "The Government of Karnataka, in exercise of the powers conferred under Rule-3(7)(c) of AIS (D&A) Rules, 1969, hereby revokes the order of suspension and reinstates Dr. K Ramachandra Rao. IPS (KN: 1993) into service with immediate ef-

fect and the officer is posted with immediate effect and until further orders as Director General of Police (Police Manual). Now, the Government has decided to revoke the suspension of the officer and reinstate him to service," the order read.

Rao will be retiring from the service on May 30 this year. He was suspended in January this year when he posted as DGP of Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement. The video allegedly showed Rao engaging in inappropriate physical contact with a woman when he was Inspector General of Police (IGP) of the Northern Range in 2017.

The disciplinary action against Rao was initiated on March 18 under rules of All India Service (discipline and appeal).

'Amma Ariyan' was not intended for conventional theatrical release but for a travelling cinema model that brought it back to the communities that made it possible. Set against the political turbulence of the 1970s in Kerala, it follows Purushan, who sets out to inform a mother of her son's death, gathering companions along the way in a journey that becomes both personal and political.

Dungarpur states, "This marks FHF's fifth consecutive year at Cannes with a restored film. This year, we've brought back a rare gem of Indian cinema that was in danger of being lost. With no original camera negative and only a single surviving unsubtitled print, the restoration was particularly challenging. John Abraham was a true original, with a cult following among film students when I was at the Film Institute in Pune. Shot in a cinema vérité style by Venu, the film blurs the boundaries between documentary and fiction." 0

● **WEB EXCLUSIVE**  
 'Sanatan Dharma: A hard politics, a Hinduism that defines itself through food "purity"'. — *By Devdutt*  
 Log on to [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

● **WORDLY WISE**  
 A good painting to me has always been like a friend. It keeps me company, comforts and inspires. — *Hedy Lamarr*

**The Indian EXPRESS**  
 ~ FOUNDED BY ~  
**RAMNATH GOENKA**  
 IN 1932  
 BECAUSE THE TRUTH  
 INVOLVES US ALL

## Operation Sindoor's key lesson: Future conflicts will not resemble the past

**A** YEAR after Operation Sindoor, it is possible to move beyond the immediacy of events and assess its deeper strategic meaning. Op Sindoor was more than a successful response to provocation. It marked the maturing of India's ability to employ calibrated force under a nuclear overhang, while retaining control over escalation. In doing so, it offered a template for the management of sub-conventional conflict in a complex, multi-domain environment.

The most striking feature of Sindoor was not the scale of force employed, but the discipline with which it was applied. India chose not to be drawn into a wider conventional conflict, despite having both the capability and the provocation to do so. Instead, it demonstrated a doctrine of aggression blended with restraint — precise, time-bound, and politically directed. This was not a restraint born of hesitation, but of strategic confidence. The message was clear: India could escalate, but chose not to. Yet, credible retribution against the perpetrators, rather than territorial ambition, defined the operation. This was a carefully chosen strategy from a spectrum of available options.

For Pakistan, this posed a dilemma it was ill-prepared to handle. Its strategic culture remains anchored in binary responses to either escalate conventionally or retreat into denial. Sindoor forced it into a grey zone where neither option was viable. Its military response lacked coherence, constrained by both surprise and capability gaps in handling limited, multi-domain operations. Its attempts to compensate through information warfare only diluted its credibility, as exaggerated claims failed to withstand scrutiny. More

significantly, Pakistan's repeated invocation of the nuclear threat appeared increasingly formulaic, even fatigued. Nuclear signalling, once a potent deterrent, risks losing salience when overused without corresponding credibility.

India, by contrast, demonstrated mastery over escalation control. Without overt signalling, it maintained a posture of readiness that was understood, if not articulated. The operation reaffirmed that limited conflict remains possible — even effective — within a nuclearised environment, provided political intent, military capability, and communication are aligned. The stability-instability paradox, long debated in the South Asian strategic conversation, found a contemporary expression in Operation Sindoor.

Equally important was the execution. In just a few years, the Indian armed forces have adapted to multi-domain operations without compromising their conventional edge. Operation Sindoor reflected a level of jointness that went beyond coordination to integration. Cyber capabilities, electronic warfare, intelligence, surveillance, and precision strike systems were brought together in a manner that compressed decision-making timelines and enhanced effectiveness. This integration did not replace conventional strength; it layered new capabilities atop it, creating a more agile and responsive force structure.

The role of civil-military convergence stood out starkly. Sindoor was not merely a military operation. It was a whole-of-government effort. Political clarity enabled operational flexibility. Diplomatic engagement ensured



**SYED ATA HASNAIN**

that India's actions were understood internationally as measured and necessary. Economic stability was maintained, with minimal disruption to markets and civilian life. Narrative management, though not flawless, was significantly more coherent than in earlier crises. Yet, the operation also revealed chinks that merit attention — particularly the need for faster, institutionalised communication frameworks and deeper inter-agency integration that does not rely on personalities.

The Pahalgam attack that preceded Sindoor was intended to reinsert Pakistan into the Kashmiri consciousness and to project its continuing relevance. It sought to disrupt a narrative of normalcy built around economic revival, tourism, and declining local recruitment. A year later, that objective appears to have failed. Local recruitment into militancy remains limited, and the economic momentum in the Valley continues. Broader Indian society's engagement through investment, connectivity, and opportunity has played a role in stabilising the environment. A return to pre-Covid levels of terrorism in Kashmir appears unlikely, though complacency would be misplaced.

The nature of the threat, however, is evolving. While local human resources for militancy may have diminished, this cannot be assumed across the border. Pakistan retains the ability to externalise manpower, and emerging technologies are lowering the threshold for disruption. Terror financing, though under greater scrutiny, is also adapting. The shift from traditional channels to hybrid models — including digital and crypto-based mechanisms —

poses new challenges. In a global financial environment marked by flux, these channels could facilitate the reconstitution of proxy support networks. This will require sustained monitoring and adaptive responses from agencies such as the National Investigation Agency.

Operation Sindoor also underscores a broader lesson: Future conflicts will not resemble the past. They will be shorter, sharper, and fought across domains that blur the line between war and peace. Urban centres, digital infrastructure, and societal cohesion may become as significant as traditional battlefields. The ability to absorb shocks, maintain normalcy, and control narratives will be as critical as military success.

For India, the challenge now is one of sustainability. Sindoor has set a benchmark, but its lessons must be institutionalised. Jointness must be deepened, technologies continuously integrated, and decision-making processes further streamlined. Above all, the delicate balance between aggression and restraint must be preserved — not as a slogan, but as a practised doctrine.

The legacy of Operation Sindoor, therefore, lies not just in what it achieved, but in what it revealed. It showed that India can act with precision without losing control, that it can send a decisive message without inviting uncontrolled escalation, and that it can align its instruments of national power in pursuit of clear strategic objectives. In an environment where provocations will persist and conflicts will evolve, that may be its most enduring contribution.

*The writer is Governor of Bihar and former commander of India's Srinagar-based Chinara Corps*

**Jointness must be deepened, technologies continuously integrated, and decision-making processes further streamlined. Above all, the delicate balance between aggression and restraint must be preserved — not as a slogan, but as a practised doctrine**

## In war-torn world, India needs autonomy, consensus at home



**SUBRATA MITRA**

**A** S THE war in the Gulf enters its third month, the daily bombardment is on pause though the ceasefire looks more fragile than durable. There is no escaping the horrific visuals of non-combatants — wounded men, women, and children — and the destruction of homes, hospitals, and schools. Iran seems to be holding its ground; its talks with the US sputter amid President Donald Trump's threats and reports of a rift within the Tehran regime. Yet to blame the caprices of a single individual for a global catastrophe is to trivialise the deeper, structural forces that underpin it.

Our first thought must go to the suffering of ordinary people across all conflict zones: Iran, Gaza, Lebanon, the Gulf, Russia, Ukraine. Beyond that, one must ask: What lessons does this moment hold for the citizens and states of the Global South?

Foremost is the structural crisis convulsing the West. Western economies are in serious disrepair, and the extreme Right has risen in direct proportion to the liberal democratic establishment's loss of credibility. The coalition sustaining Trumpism is a volatile amalgam: Blue-collar workers displaced by deindustrialisation, evangelical Christians alarmed by what they perceive as the erosion of traditional values, a military-industrial complex that is the principal beneficiary of perpetual conflict. It is the projection of state power, at home and abroad, that holds this otherwise incoherent alliance together.

Were the West's afflictions confined to Western societies, the Global South — long subjected to lectures on modernity, democracy, and productivity — might shrug them off with forgivable Schadenfreude. But the tsunamis unleashed by the Middle East war is spreading worldwide. No country remains immune. Closer to home, the consequences are already visible: The 1-crore-strong Indian diaspora in the Gulf lives under daily uncertainty; oil prices remain stubbornly elevated; queues for gas cylinders lengthen; small eateries shutter; and growth projections are revised downward.

This should serve as an incentive to introspect, decolonise our mindset and reach toward a genuine, endogenous modernity. China's synthesis of Confucian values with modern technology, however different its

political dispensation, offers a model for how civilisational roots and contemporary ambition need not be mutually exclusive. Yet one must not lose sight of the world's interconnectedness. Global challenges — energy security, climate change — do not respect the boundaries of the nation-state.

What, then, is the future of multi-alignment in an age of uncertainty? For India, the moment calls for a measure of Kautilyan realism. According to Kautilya's *Arthashastra*, the primary responsibility of the king (*swami*) is the protection, security, and welfare of his subjects (*praja-palana*). Legitimacy, therefore, flows from the contentment and prosperity of the people — not from grandstanding on the world stage. New Delhi would do well to set its foreign policy case by case, protect the diaspora, and secure access to vital supply chains through pragmatic bilateral arrangements. The wisest course remains strategic autonomy.

Domestically, the imperatives are equally pressing. The government must prepare Indian society to shoulder greater responsibility for its own security, revive manufacturing to generate employment, transcend partisan divisions in the pursuit of structural reform and, most urgently, foster social cohesion rather than polarisation.

The all-party briefing on global security was a step in the right direction; more such meetings would strengthen the case for national consensus. India is a civilisational state with the rare capacity to combine cultural depth with a modernising agenda. Its democratic ethos, rooted in pluralism, positions it credibly as a consensus-builder. But the credibility of India's G20 motto — One Earth, One Family, One Future — is contingent on the construction of that consensus at home.

Each of today's major war theatres lays bare the collision between two sacred principles: National sovereignty and the universal right to life and dignity. Confronted with this moral dilemma, those calling on the Indian state to take sides would do well to recall Wittgenstein's counsel in the *Tractatus Logicus-Philosophicus*: "Whereof one cannot speak (clearly), thereof one must be silent."

*The writer, emeritus professor, Heidelberg University, is co-editor of Re-use: The Art and Politics of Integration and Anxiety*

## For a safer samaj, lessons from schoolchildren



**RAJNI BAKSHI**

**A** FRIEND of mine — let's call him X — was driving in maddening traffic when another car swerved and almost crashed into him. He was so enraged, he sped up and blocked the car's way. Then he jumped out of his car and stalked towards the driver, who was also ready for battle. But suddenly, something flipped inside X. As he traversed the tiny distance between the two cars, his anger vanished, poof! Instead of throttling the other guy or raining curses on him, X touched his feet and silently walked away.

I recently shared this story with some twosome schoolchildren. I could sense that the final twist left most of them surprised and even puzzled. Then I asked what they made of X's flip away from violence. What happened next may well be a clue to the state of our *samaj*/society. The first to speak were those who scorned X's restraint. One girl actually said, "He should have beaten that other man; if someone annoyed me like that, I would show them!" Some of those who remained silent nodded in agreement. The majority looked non-committal. One boy hesitantly suggested that if X had assaulted the other fellow, he himself might have ended up beaten and injured. There was a murmur of agreement, even as some still said X should have vented his anger on the other fellow. Then one boy, who had been silent, raised his hand and confidently said: "Beating the other man would just be a waste of time and energy." So, according to him, X's ability to control himself was pragmatically superior. This view also garnered support, but it did not appear to alter the views of the earliest respondents, those who scorned X's self-restraint.

A small group of Class VII to IX schoolchildren cannot be said to represent the larger *samaj*. And yet the ebb and flow of emotions and ideas was instructive. One, those advocating violent assertion appear to be more confident, louder, and quicker to jump into the fray. Two, those who value self-control are confident but appear less passionate. They seem reluctant to jump into the fray. Between these two ends of the spectrum is a seemingly indifferent majority. The dominant assumption of our times is that this majority is more easily swayed towards violent assertion. This is why we are told that films depicting vengeful violence are now runaway hits. To accept this as decisively true and unchangeable would be fatal. So, how does one live in such times?

First, one can refuse to play along — be more vocal. When you are in a gathering where vengeful violence is being celebrated as greatness, take the trouble to disagree. Second, the choice is often not between violence and non-violence but between wasteful rage and competence. In the words of Isaac Asimov, "Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent." It is important to emphasise that countering deliberate and structurally promoted violence is a daunting task. But here is the paradox: Acts of resistance to violence, in everyday life, appear insignificant to overcome a systemic malaise. And yet this everyday resistance is a necessity. Meeting those children boosted my spirits because it confirmed that the full variety of views lives on and with it the building blocks of resistance to varied forms of rage, force, and tyranny.

*The writer is the founder of the YouTube channel Ahimsa Conversations*

**IN GOOD faith**

**Acts of resistance to violence, in everyday life, appear insignificant to overcome a systemic malaise. And yet this everyday resistance is a necessity**

## Amid disruptions, a timely lifeline

**I**N MAY 2020, the Centre had launched the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to support firms, especially MSMEs, in dealing with the fallout of the Covid pandemic. The facility had benefitted 1.19 crore borrowers, with guarantees adding up to Rs 3.61 lakh crore being issued. With the West Asia conflict now disrupting economic activities once again, though the current disruptions are of a lower order of magnitude, the government has launched a similar credit guarantee scheme — ECLGS 5.0. This is a welcome measure, which could help firms bridge short-term liquidity mismatches.

The scheme targets additional credit of Rs 2.55 lakh crore, including Rs 5,000 crore for airlines. Credit will be extended to MSMEs and non-MSMEs (excluding aviation) up to 20 per cent of their peak working capital utilised during the fourth quarter of the last financial year, capped at Rs 100 crore. For airlines, it will be extended up to 100 per cent, capped at Rs 1,500 crore. The moratorium under the scheme is for a period of one year for MSMEs and two years for the airline sector. This should provide relief. Economic activities have been disrupted across a range of sectors. Considering that MSMEs are unlikely to have deep pockets to absorb the surge in input costs and have limited capacity to absorb supply-chain disruptions, they are the worst-affected. In the last MPC meeting, committee member Ram Singh noted that "high input costs driven by energy spikes and supply-side disruptions have disproportionately affected the MSME sector, which lacks the working capital bandwidth to tide over these shocks". Nagesh Kumar, another member, had said that the shortage of natural gas has "affected many MSMEs that use it as a fuel". Airline companies, too, have been hit by the conflict. The world over, there are reports of airlines cutting flights and raising ticket prices. In the US, the surge in jet fuel prices, combined with existing financial stress, has pushed Spirit Airlines to the brink. In India, oil marketing companies raised the price of aviation turbine fuel for international flights last week, while keeping it unchanged for domestic flights — providing some relief.

The scale of disruption warrants that the government continue to monitor the situation. More measures may be needed if the supply-chain dislocations persist and deepen. Navigating this period will require policymakers to be nimble and surefooted.

## At Met Gala, red carpet becomes canvas

**O**NE COULD almost imagine the ghosts of the Medici patrons applauding from the balustrade as stars swept up at this year's Met Gala in New York. Supermodel Heidi Klum came dressed as the *Veiled Vestal*, a 19th-century Raffaele Monti sculpture of a priestess of the Roman goddess Vesta. Actor Julianne Moore turned into John Singer Sargent's Madame X in a custom Bottega Veneta gown, one shoulder strap slipping down in a faithful rendition. Filmmaker Karan Johar wore Raja Ravi Varma on his sleeves: His custom Manish Malhotra outfit featured a cape with scenes from the artist's *Hamsa Damayanti* and *Kadambari*. The theme for the evening was "fashion is art", and the annual fundraiser turned the body into an exhibition space — grandiloquent and whimsical.

There is nothing new, of course, in the confluence of fashion and art — late capitalism has long turned art into wearable commerce. In its most obvious iterations, this relationship has produced near-literal translations: Yves St Laurent's 1965 shift dress replicated Piet Mondrian's primary-coloured grid. The collaboration between Salvador Dalí and Elsa Schiaparelli produced some of fashion's most iconic designs: The 1937 lobster dress and the shoe hat, a surrealist ode to whimsy. While it took art beyond gallery walls, it also ensured that it remained an aspirational ideal — always desirable, always out of the reach of the masses.

In its layering of references into a living archive, the Met Gala pagentry seemed to pay tribute to this ideal. A red-carpet look is at once costume, critique, and commodity. It seeks to borrow from art not just its prestige, but also its promise of longevity.

## 40 YEARS AGO

May 7, 1986



## Barnala ministry expanded

THE BARNALA ministry, which was reduced in size by the resignation of three dissidents, was expanded with the swearing-in of 21 new ministers — one cabinet minister, 18 ministers of state, and two deputy ministers. Two ministers of state have been promoted to cabinet rank.

## BJP to support Akalis

THE NATIONAL executive of the Bharatiya Janata Party endorsed the decision of its Punjab units to support the Barnala government to help it avert the crisis faced by it in the

wake of "betrayal" by a section of the Akali Dal. The party vice-president, K S Hegde, briefed reporters about the national executive decisions. However, he ruled out the BJP joining the Akali government.

## Devastating acid fumes

IT IS happening just 100 km from New Delhi, where laws are being framed to save the environment. Gas and fumes from a fertiliser and acid plant have led to residents of nearby villages developing various types of diseases, hitherto unknown. Over 500 petitions from the hapless villagers to various authorities, from the President to the local tehsildar,

have achieved nothing but assurances. The effect is devastating — even old date trees and cacti, which are capable of withstanding the harshest of climates and atmospheric changes, have been burnt.

## New plan for border security

THE CENTRE has evolved a scheme to resettle ex-servicemen in sensitive border areas, in an effort to strengthen the country's frontiers. The Home Ministry has written to all the state governments to encourage ex-servicemen to settle in the border areas and extend all help to them in this regard. Liberal assistance will also be given by the Centre.



## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

War exposes democratic erosion in the US—Le Monde, France

## To teach or to research: We must be honest about what we want from our teachers



ANMOL JAIN

INDIAN ACADEMIA operates on a foundational fiction that every university faculty member is, at once, a brilliant researcher and an inspired teacher. This assumption, baked into hiring norms, promotion criteria, and institutional rankings, is actively damaging higher education in India and is simply unrealistic.

The university system today demands that anyone wishing to build a career as a college teacher must first earn a PhD, then continuously publish research for increments and career advancement. While the logic may seem reasonable on the surface, in practice, it produces a quiet catastrophe.

Teaching and research are distinct vocations, each demanding a different temperament, a different set of skills, and a different relationship with knowledge. A researcher must possess the patience to sit with uncertainty, the rigour to challenge existing ideas, and the drive to produce original thought; often in isolation, over years. A good teacher, by contrast, must be able to break complex ideas into digestible parts, hold a room, adapt to different learners, sustain curiosity in young minds, and build a course that has pedagogical coherence. There is no reason to assume these qualities naturally coexist in the same person. It is, in fact, rather rare.

By forcing every faculty member to do research, we have created a perverse incentive structure. Those who are natural teachers but lack research aptitude are compelled to produce academic papers regardless. The result is a flood of substandard research and a thriving predatory journal industry that profits from it. Journals that charge a fee and publish without meaningful peer review are not a fringe phenomenon in India. They are a struc-

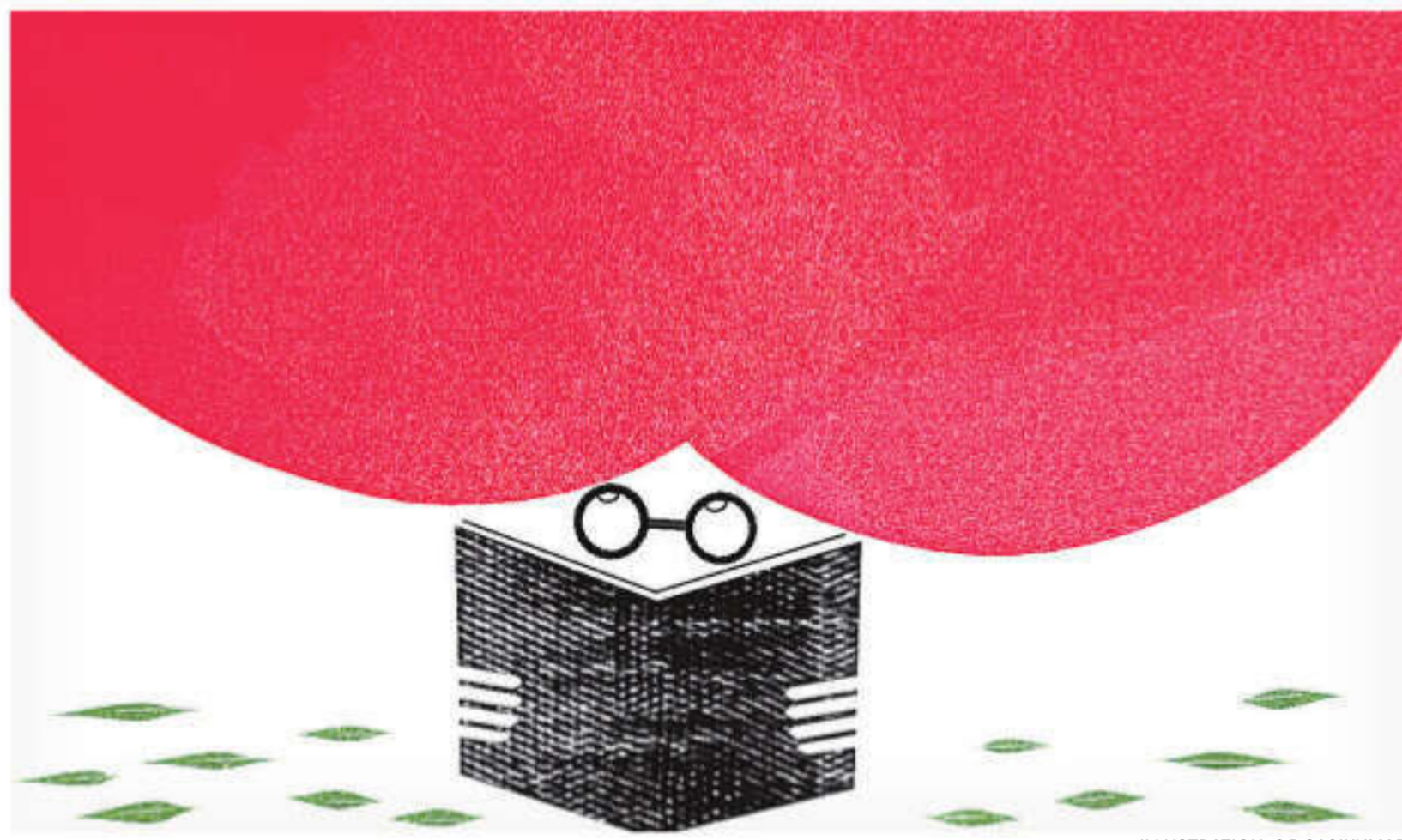


ILLUSTRATION: C.R. SASIKUMAR

tural response to a structural demand. Add to this the well-documented trade in PhD degrees and ghost-written dissertations, and what emerges is an ecosystem of institutionalised academic dishonesty sustained by a system that asks people to do what they are not built to do.

The flip side is equally damaging. Researchers, those genuinely engaged in the production of knowledge, are poorly served by mandatory full-time teaching loads. Good research demands uninterrupted time to read, to think, to write, to revise. A teaching-heavy semester fractures exactly this kind of time. Researchers also face evaluation pressures tied to their classroom performance, creating disincentives that are both unfair and counterproductive. Meanwhile, students in their classes suffer, not because researchers are bad people, but because standing before undergraduates and explaining the basics of a discipline, with patience and skill, is simply not what many of them do well or wish to do.

The question of institutional

**The assumption that subject-matter knowledge automatically translates into teaching ability has no basis in evidence. The UGC-NET, as currently structured, tests neither; it is a relic that needs fundamental reimagining**

rankings adds another layer. University rankings, both domestic and global, heavily rely on research output. These pressure institutions to require all faculty to publish, regardless of their actual role or skill set. Institutions have even adopted policies that structurally prefer quantity over quality, also termed as a focus on “bibliometric output”, and encourage unethical research practices, including unwarranted institutional self-citations and dubious collaborations. As Kishore Paknikar has rightly noted, this unhelpful race to win the rankings game has resulted in the adoption of “research strategies [that] tilt toward publication counts rather than conceptual depth.” Due to this, many Indian and global institutions continue to boycott such rankings, as reported by The Indian Express recently. Rankings must be reformed to incorporate teaching quality metrics adequately and bring more transparency to their evaluation parameters, but that is a longer battle. In the interim, India’s universities need a structural separation between teaching and

research tracks.

Such a division of labour is not radical. Many countries maintain lecturer or teaching-track positions for those who are gifted educators, while research-track positions are reserved for those whose primary contribution is knowledge production. Crucially, both tracks must be seen as equally legitimate and equally rewarded. Neither should be considered a lesser calling.

With this structural change must come a reform of entry requirements. Those entering academia through the research track must demonstrate research capability — a PhD, yes, but one judged on the quality of ideas, not the quantity of publications. Those entering through the teaching track, however, should not be required to hold a PhD. What they must hold is a rigorous certification in pedagogy. Unlike schoolteachers, university lecturers receive no formal training in how to design a course, structure a lecture, engage a diverse classroom, or assess learning outcomes. The assumption that subject-matter knowledge automatically translates into teaching ability has no basis in evidence. The UGC-NET, as currently structured, tests neither; it is a relic that needs fundamental reimagining.

This does not mean researchers and teachers must live in entirely separate worlds. Researchers can enrich undergraduate education through elective courses, seminar series, or guest lectures, formats that allow them to share their work without bearing a full teaching load. Regular faculty seminars that discuss new research can serve as a bridge between the two tracks.

The urgency of this reform is hard to overstate. India has one of the youngest and fastest-growing populations in the world. The number of young people entering higher education is rising at a pace that no system relying exclusively on research-active faculty can sustainably meet. To expand access without destroying quality, we must be honest about what we are asking people to do and stop asking one person to be two things at once.

The writer is an honorary senior fellow at Melbourne Law School

## Opposition must get past their differences, come together for 2029



MANI SHANKAR AIYAR

HISTORY IS replete with instances of defeat providing the springboard for eventual victory. Now that the reverses of May 4 are upon us, the time has come to transform defeat into a launch pad for success in 2029.

The starting point must be the recognition that in the 2024 general election, the ramshackle INDIA bloc was only eight seats behind the BJP. If only the year-long run-up to that election had been used to give the alliance an identity and purpose, Narendra Modi and Amit Shah might have been rendered history two years ago. As it is, the saffron forces did not take their near-defeat lying down but girded their loins to take the fight to the next stage. That is what has given them repeated breath-taking victories, climaxing on May 4.

Is this then the moment of despair for the tattered remains of the non- and anti-Hindutva Opposition? Has India really been rendered an ineradicable Hindu Rashtra? My answer is an unqualified “No, *nil desperandum*.” In West Bengal, the SIR was a fraught exercise, casting a shadow on the poll process: 91 lakh voters were deleted from the rolls. The total reinstatement across both phases of elections in the state stood at around 1,600 — 139 names before the first round of voting and 1,468 names before the second. Such vote “*chori*” exemplifies the “*sanatan*” brand of patriotism, which, meretriciously, attracts a third of the national electorate. Two-thirds, if mobilised, could still upset the BJP apocryphal despite all the shenanigans the establishment has perfected, in collusion with investigative agencies, the EC, and elements of the judiciary, to pervert the electoral process. West Bengal shows that such perversion works effectively not at the heart but at the margins, which are often decisive.

The exit from government of such stalwarts as Mamata Banerjee and M K Stalin to join Tejaswini Yadav, Akhilesh Yadav, the Left, even possibly Arvind Kejriwal, and that long-time exile, Rahul Gandhi, in an apparent political wilderness, gives INDIA a golden opportunity to regroup and present a

united front that could ensure the tables are turned come 2029. A collective leadership, a cabinet of rivals as it were, must be the starting point. The time to do so is now, at the nadir of defeat.

But on what novel platform or innovative programme can they unite? Federalism is the answer, cooperative not confrontational. The kickoff point might be the Justice Kurian Joseph High-Level Committee Report on Union-State Relations. It was commissioned

by Tamil Nadu’s DMK government and tabled as almost the Chief Minister’s last substantive act before the elections. I would be amazed if the new CM were to bury the report for it holds the road to Tamil Nadu rivalling, even overtaking, the Asian Tigers — if only the Centre would let it. And if the BJP at the Centre digs in its heels, that will provide the leitmotif around which the INDIA bloc might forge a distinctive identity.

The incoming Chief Minister, for all his opposition to the senior Dravidian party, is also part of the wider Dravidian consensus that rests on three pillars: Inclusive social and economic development; states’ rights; and secularism. This is incompatible with Hindutva’s centralised, sectarian authoritarianism. That ideological glue extends to the principal opposition parties of the Ganga basin, to the Left and the National Conference of J&K, to the motley parties of the religious minorities and, of course, the INC. Together, they represent up to two-thirds of the national electorate or, if there are dents in the Index of Opposition Unity, at least half. They can easily pick up the eight unachieved seats of June 2024 and, indeed, go up to a lead of even 80 seats.

Surely, they would have learned the lesson that the saffron establishment will resort to all the tricks already on display and, doubtless, new ones, to twist the electoral process in its favour. But there is a limit to manipulation. Winning West Bengal may expand the BJP national vote in 2029 from one-third to around two-fifths. The remaining three-fifths is for INDIA’s taking — provided wisdom, discipline and, above all, humility dawn.

The 2029 elections are likely to be the last that have any pretension to democratic norms. And so, the Opposition had better shape up now. The prospect of rampant religious-identity nationalism triumphing again — and in perpetuity — must alarm the INDIA bloc enough to stow away internecine differences and intra-party feuds for the larger goal of saving themselves and the nation from the disaster signalled by the May 4 results.

The writer is former cabinet minister

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Renewing the Left

THE LEFT’S decline must not be mistaken for a final verdict, as there can be no obituaries for ideas whose moral questions remain unanswered (‘Left needs to find a new vocabulary for the economy of aspiration’, *IE*, May 6). Inequality still widens, work grows more precarious, and the excesses of unbridled growth are a heavy burden. A renewed Left could emerge as a pragmatic force: One that partners with markets yet disciplines their excesses, embracing innovation while insisting on equity, that protects growth but humanises it more.

— R Narayanan, Navi Mumbai

## A vital opposition

IN THE 1990s and until recently, Left parties were best placed to occupy the vital position of leading the Opposition (‘On being left behind and left out’, *IE*, May 6). They have many positives: Their leaders’ reputation for personal and professional probity, committed cadres, secular credentials and adherence to principles — they were the only ones who could sacrifice power but not policies. They also do not have the taint of dynastic politics. They should remove the albatross of outdated ideology from around their necks. The nation needs them.

— YG Chouksey, Pune

## Twin dilemma

THE RUPEE’S slide accentuates India’s enduring twin-deficit dilemma of external vulnerability to oil shocks and fiscal strain from subsidy-driven spending (‘Weakening rupee points to challenges ahead’, *IE*, May 6). As Paul Krugman often notes, for emerging economies, credibility in macroeconomic management is as vital as reserves. India must move beyond reactive interventions: A sovereign wealth fund built from diversified export surpluses and remittance flows could buffer currency volatility while signalling long-term stability. Insulated from political cycles, it would stand the test of time.

— Abhinav Shah, Lucknow



AMIT MALVIYA

THE BJP’S victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections is not just an electoral triumph. It’s a turning of the tide in the state, which has been denied for decades by cynical, power-hungry politics. The election results do not merely mark a change in government; they herald the dawn of a New Bengal, one that rejects crime, corruption, and communalism, and steps confidently into India’s march towards development and growth — in infrastructure, industry, health, education, agriculture, factories, safety, security, and dignity for women.

Beyond policy and progress, the verdict marks something deeper, the beginning of healing. The soul of Bengal, bruised and diminished by years of corrosive politics, has to be restored. This is a land that once nurtured the idea of Indian nationalism. It was in Bengal’s fertile soil and flowing rivers that Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay found his inspiration and gave us ‘Vande Mataram’. It was in Bengal that Rabindranath Tagore composed ‘Jana Gana Mana’.

It is here that the idea of Bharat Mata took shape in the eponymous 1873 play by Kiran Chandra Banerjee, and was immortalised in an Abanindranath Tagore painting. Then came Sri Aurobindo’s articulation of nationalism in his historic Uttarpara speech, a moment that transformed political thought into spiritual conviction. His words — “Nationalism is not politics but a

**With the BJP’s victory, Bengal also witnesses a homecoming — this is the land of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, one of India’s tallest nationalist leaders. He ensured that Bengali Hindus retained their rightful place during Partition**

religion, a creed, a faith... it is the Sanatan Dharma which for us is nationalism” — continue to echo.

Bengal is a land of reformers, revolutionaries, saints and scientists. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar led pioneering efforts to protect women, a legacy that must now be reclaimed as Bengal confronts the erosion of women’s dignity in recent times. This is the land of spiritual giants like Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda. It is the land that gave us scientific minds such as Jagadish Chandra Bose, Prafulla Chandra Ray, Satyendra Nath Bose, Meghnad Saha, and Upendranath Brahmachari, who discovered the cure for kala-azar. It is also the land of sacrifice, of revolutionaries who laid down their lives for India’s freedom: Khudiram Bose, Surya Sen, Pritilata Waddadar, Binoy Basu, Badal Gupta, Dinesh Gupta and Bagha Jatin.

With the BJP’s victory, Bengal also witnesses a homecoming — this is the land of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, one of India’s tallest nationalist leaders. He ensured that Bengali Hindus retained their rightful place during Partition and stood firm during the horrors unleashed during the Muslim League’s Direct Action Day. As the founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the ideological forerunner of the BJP, he gave a rallying call that continues to resonate — One Nation, One Flag, One Prime Minister.

Bengal was home to revivalist movements within Hinduism.

Bankim’s *Anandamath* must be understood in the context of the Sanyasi Rebellion, a movement that stirred Hindu consciousness. ‘Vande Mataram’, born from that work, became the mantra of Indian nationalism. In 1892, Chandranath Basu authored *Hindutva*, the first formal articulation of the idea. In 1905, Abanindranath Tagore’s *Bharat Mata* gave a visual soul to the nation.

Bengal also gave rise to spiritual movements that strengthened Hindu identity — the Hindu Mela, akin in spirit to Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations; the Bhakti movement, as carried forward by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. The spiritual renaissance began with Rani Rashmoni through the Dakshineswar temple, where Ramakrishna Paramahansa served, and led to the emergence of Swami Vivekananda’s global vision. That was institutionalised through the Ramakrishna Mission. The tradition extended to times closer to ours, when A C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in 1965, taking Bengal’s spiritual legacy to the world.

That tradition finds renewed political expression today. The BJP’s victory promises transparent and responsible leadership, encourages people’s participation, and seeks to unleash the aspirations of millions. This is the beginning of Bengal’s renaissance. This time, its rise will be enduring.

Malviya is the national head of the BJP’s Information & Technology and sah prabhari of West Bengal

## In Bengal, a mandate for reform and renewal

## At 50, my ‘Devil Wears Prada’ moment

fashion. Not quite Anne Hathaway with her “lumpy blue sweater” in *The Devil Wears Prada*, but definitely not close to cutting-edge either. My clothes were pretty, vibrant — and safe — a way to draw attention to my words and ideas, not my appearance.

But a confluence of factors made me reconsider my sartorial choices. My family gave me generous gifts for my 50th birthday that I decided to invest in jewellery for the first time. A bestie insisted on gifting me a collection of makeup. And most importantly, I discovered a professional team to help me overcome my innate fashion handicaps: A talented personal shopper who introduced me to a cohort of designers, and a makeup artiste, in addition to my creative hairdresser, who was tired of blow-drying my hair into the same curls for the last five years. They gave me the

permission — to expand my style sensibility.

In the last couple of months, I’ve worn a “power” cape pantsuit for a family member’s 70th birthday, and an off-shoulder top that felt unusually sexy for a night out with the girls. Both shifted my notions of midlife femininity. At 50, what

**I had always considered myself too serious-minded to care about fashion. Not quite Anne Hathaway with her ‘lumpy blue sweater’ in ‘The Devil Wears Prada’, but definitely not close to cutting-edge either**

I had once dismissed is becoming an unexpectedly rich site for experimentation and joy.

Once I started paying more attention to my own fashion, I also began noticing what other people were wearing. And I observed what we know intuitively: We are fundamentally tribal, each tribe with its own uniform, its own codes that signal belonging. A group of wealthy south Mumbai women celebrating a milestone birthday wore similar sculpted silhouettes. A gathering of climate-change advocates had women in cotton dresses and handloom saris. There was little room for deviation.

As a writer from a business family, I have the opportunity to move between rooms — business, creative, philanthropic and the social sector. Earlier, I would look to blend in. But now, I’m more willing to ex-

periment. This is a form of reclaiming a sense of being alive in my body after many years of motherhood and trying to build a career. Most importantly, the joy of a mid-life fashion renaissance is that the gaze turns inward. This is about accepting my body, a struggle in the past for someone with a plus-size, perimenopausal figure such as mine. Choosing to be more visible at this stage in life, when my body feels so flawed, is empowering, even if sometimes challenging.

Fashion is not just for the red carpet, or for the young, I’ve discovered. What I once dismissed as frivolous has turned out to be another way of inhabiting myself — imperfectly, experimentally, but more fully than before.

Piramal Rajee is a writer and public speaker

**राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, राजस्थान**  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, स्वास्थ्य भवन, तिलक मार्ग, राजस्थान, जयपुर फोन नं. 0141-2225736, E-Mail ID: cemhraj@gmail.com Date:- 29.04.26

No:- 406 Short Term E-NIT No-08/2026-27 on EPC MODE

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भवन निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपर्युक्त श्रेणी में राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत सार्वजनिक/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/हाक एम्बू दूर संचार विभाग / रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ए. ए. ए. श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हों, से निर्धारित प्रश्न में भवन निर्माण कार्य के लिए EPC Mode पर ई-प्रोक्वैस्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

कुल कार्यों की संख्या	05
निविदा की कुल लागत (राशि रु. लाख में)	17365.00
ऑनलाइन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि	01 मई 2026 से 10 मई 2026 सायं 6:00 बजे तक
ऑनलाइन निविदा खोलने की तिथि	11 मई 2026 पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाइट <http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in> <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> व <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर ऑनलाइन सम्पादित की जावेगी।

**UBN :-**

S. No.	UBN Number
1	NRH2627WLOB00123
2	NRH2627WLOB00125
3	NRH 2627 WLOB00122
4	NRH2627 WLOB00124
5	NRH 2627 WLOB00121

मुख्य अभियन्ता  
विक्रमा एल स्वास्थ्य  
राजस्थान, जयपुर  
R.O.NO.:DIPR/C/7916/2026

**कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता**  
नगर निगम कानपुर  
पत्रांक :- डी /19 / मुं ओपिन / सीएमजी/2026-27 दिनांक 06-05-2026

**ई-निविदा सूचना**  
नगर निगम कानपुर द्वारा नगरीय सेवाओं और अवस्थापना विकास परियोजनाएं (मुख्यमंत्री वैश्विक नगरोदय योजना CM-VNY) योजनान्तर्गत निम्नांकित कार्य हेतु पात्र निविदादाताओं से ई-निविदाएं <https://etender.up.nic.in> आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य लागत (लाख में)	जमानत धनराशि (लाख में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)	निविदा प्रश्न का मूल्य जी० एन० टी० सहित
1	नगर निगम द्वारा संचालित ए०एन० डी० महिला डिग्री कालेज, 1 बृहम नगर व उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालय सर्वोदय नगर कानपुर में स्मार्ट क्लासेज की स्थापना व उच्चरीकरण कार्य।	643.99	12.88	06	रु. 10,000.00

**निविदा की समय सारणी**

क्र.सं.	विवरण	दिनांक एवं समय
1	ई-निविदा डाउनलोड / प्रारम्भ की तिथि	07.05.2026 03:00 बजे से
2	ई-निविदा अपलोड की अन्तिम तिथि/समय	21.05.2026 03:00 बजे तक
3	ई-निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि / समय	21.05.2026 04:00 बजे ।

निविदा से संबंधित समस्त प्रश्न, नियम / शर्तें व अन्य विवरण नगर निगम, कानपुर की वेबसाइट [kmc.up.nic.in](http://kmc.up.nic.in) व ई-प्रोक्वैस्ट की वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 07.05.2026 से देखी जा सकती है। उक्त निविदा की धरोहर घनराशि एवं निविदा प्रश्न मूल्य का भुगतान ई-निविदा वेबसाइट के द्वारा ऑनलाइन ही किया जायेगा।

मुख्य अभियन्ता  
नगर निगम कानपुर

**विशेष शाखा, पुलिस मुख्यालय**  
मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल  
NO. SB/Store/2026-25 ( 322 ), Bhopal, Dated 29-04-2026

**"ऑनलाइन ई-निविदा सूचना"**  
पुलिस महानिदेशक, मध्यप्रदेश की ओर से सहायक पुलिस महानिरीक्षक, विशेष शाखा (जी) पुलिस मुख्यालय, भोपाल द्वारा वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> पर निम्नलिखित उपकरणों के क्रय हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

S.No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Facial Recognition Solution	01	5,000/-	1,54,500/-	1 <sup>st</sup> Tender

- निविदा प्रश्न ऑनलाइन वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> पर जमा किये जायेंगे।
- निविदा शुल्क ऑनलाइन जमा करना अनिवार्य है।
- मध्यप्रदेश पुलिस की वेबसाइट [www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in) से निविदा प्रश्न एवं विस्तृत जानकारी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।
- निविदा समय सारणी:

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	निविदा प्रकाशन की दिनांक	30/04/2026 at 1400 hrs.
ii	निविदा प्रश्न डाउनलोड करने की प्रारंभ दिनांक	30/04/2026 up to 1430 hrs.
iii	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in	05/05/2026 up to 1700 hrs.
iv	प्री-बिड दिनांक	06/05/2026 at 1200 hrs.
v	निविदा जमा करने की प्रारंभ दिनांक	11/05/2026 at 1000 hrs.
vi	निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम दिनांक	20/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
vii	निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	21/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
viii	डिमांडेशन दिनांक	Demo date will be announced separately

- निविदाकर्ताओं से अनुरोध है कि निविदा से संबंधित संशोधन, शुद्धि पत्र आदि वेबसाइट पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे अतः वेबसाइट पर अद्यतन रहें।
  - निविदा में दर्शाए दिनांक/समय पर निविदा खोली जावेगी, निविदा खोलने के उपरान्त तकनीकी निविदा में योग्य पाए गए निविदाकर्ताओं एवं वित्तीय निविदा की जानकारी वेबसाइट के माध्यम से बाद में सूचित की जावेगी।
- उप पुलिस महानिरीक्षक गुप्तवार्ता ( जी )  
म.प्र.भोपाल दूरभाष कं.-0755-2443654

**SPECIAL BRANCH**  
**POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL**  
NO. SB / Store/2026-25 (330), Bhopal, Dated 29-04-2026

**"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"**  
E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>:-

S. No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Whatsapp Group Analyzer Tool	01	5,000/-	1,54,500/-	1 <sup>st</sup> Tender

- Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.
- Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police ([www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in))
- Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

**4. Tender Schedule:**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	E-Tender Publish Date	30/04/2026 at 1400 hrs.
ii	Tender document download Start Date	30/04/2026 up to 1430 hrs.
iii	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in	05/05/2026 up to 1700 hrs.
iv	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	06/05/2026 at 1200 hrs.
v	Bid Submission Start Date	11/05/2026 at 1000 hrs.
vi	Last date of online e-Tender submission	20/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
vii	Bid will be opened on	21/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
viii	Demonstration from	Demo date will be announced separately

- Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum/addendum/ amendment.
- Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

Sd/-  
**D. I.G. of Police**  
Intelligence (G) M.P. Bhopal  
Tel. No. 0755-2443654

G-12504/26

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION**  
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC/FM/10/04 dated 13.06.2022 and Railway Board's letter no. 2024/RS/(G/779/7/E3471089) dated: 13.08.2024, invites bids through e-Auction ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)) for leasing of parcel space of SLR compartments and VPs (on round trip basis) for a period of three years as per detail and schedule given below:-

S. No.	Date & time of e-Auction	Assets to be auctioned
1.	13.05.2026 at 10:30 am	12212(R1), 12306(F1), 12452 (F1), 12457(F1,F2,R1), 12952(F1), 14004 (F1), 14087(F1,F2,R1), 14303(F1,F2,R1), 14331(F1,F2,R1), 14507 (F1,F2,R1), 14521(F1,F2,R1), 14731(F1,R1), 20408 (F1), 22421 (F1,F2,R1), 22472 (F1)
2.	14.05.2026 at 10:30 am	12191(F1), 12596 (R1), 12612 (F1), 12642 (F1), 12916 (F1), 12958 (F1), 12986(F1), 13258(F1), 14053 (F2, R1), 14212 (F1), 15116(F1), 15622(F1), 20473 (F1), 20658 (F1), 22210(R1), 22429(F1), 22438(R1), 22454 (F1,F2,R1).
3.	19.05.2026 at 10:30 am	01 LYPH (24 tonnes) on round trip basis in each train - 12454/12453, 14012/14011, 14050/14049, 20408/20407.

**Important notes:** 3. For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit [https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning\\_centre.html](https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html). (e-Auction leasing section). 4. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the continuation/discontinuation of these trains or commencement of new train services. **1519/2026**

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**झारखण्ड सरकार**  
**स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा शाखा एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग**  
**झारखण्ड स्टेट आरोग्य सोसाइटी (जसास)**  
द्वितीय तल्ला, स्वास्थ्य निदेशिका भवन, आर०सी०एच० परिसर, नामकुम, रांची-834010  
Email Id-ed-abpmjay@jharkhandmail.gov.in

**राज्य कर्मी स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना**  
(पेंशनर/बोर्ड-निगम/ विश्वविद्यालय संबंधित कैंटेनरी "B" के लिए आवश्यक सूचना)  
सूचना संख्या -03(वि०)AB-MMJAY-04/2025-603  
राज्यकर्मी स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना अंतर्गत बीमा वर्ष 2026 से अप्रैल 2027 तक बीमा योजना का लाभ प्राप्त करने हेतु योजना के कैंटेनरी "B" अंतर्गत आने वाले सभी लाभुकों के लिए योजना में Enrollment करने हेतु योजना संबंधित पोर्टल (<https://schis.jharkhand.gov.in>) को दिनांक 01.05.2026 से 31.05.2026 तक सक्रिय किया जा रहा है। अतः इच्छुक लाभुकों को पोर्टल पर अपना Enrollment कर सकते हैं। आवेदक के संबंधित DDO/Verifying Officer के द्वारा Online सत्यापन होने के पश्चात निर्धारित प्रिमियम का भुगतान योजना के पोर्टल पर Online Payment के माध्यम से किया जा सकता है।  
वेसे पेंशनर लाभुकों को पिछले वर्ष योजना में समिलित थे परन्तु इस वर्ष में अभी तक अपने देय प्रिमियम का भुगतान नहीं किया है, वेसे लाभुकों को अपना देय रिन्सुअल प्रिमियम जमा कर सकते हैं।  
प्रिमियम राशि 6,000 रुपये (एकमुश्त) योजना पोर्टल (<https://schis.jharkhand.gov.in>) पर Payment Gateway के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन उक्त निर्धारित समय तक किया जा सकता है।  
अधिक जानकारी के लिए योजना के पोर्टल से प्राप्त की जा सकती है साथ ही टोल की नं० 1800-3455-027 पर भी सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

हो/-  
कार्यकारी निदेशक, जसास  
**PR 379108 Jharkhand State Arogya Society(26-27)#D**

**कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, सम्भाग कोटा**  
क्रमांक 355 दिनांक 30/04/2026

**निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/पीएमजीएसई/2026-27**  
NIB No. PWD2627A0266

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना-वृत्तीय चरण (बैच-प्रथम वर्ष 2019-20) के तहत स्वीकृत सड़कों का शेष निर्माण कार्य के निम्नलिखित कार्यों में पांच लाख की मरम्मत के लिए 1 फैजक हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राज्यपाल में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत सार्वजनिक / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / हाक एम्बू दूर संचार विभाग / रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपर्युक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हों, से निर्धारित प्रश्न में ई-प्रोक्वैस्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साइट <http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in> व <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। फैजक/वर्क/वृत्त/वृत्त संख्या निम्नानुसार है।  
**UBN No. PWD2627WSOB01201**  
इच्छुक संवेदकों की अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेब साइट <http://pmsgtendersraj.gov.in> पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।

Sd/-  
(निष्प. गुप्त)  
**RO .NO. DIPR/C/7762/2026** अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. संभाग-कोटा

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**ई-ऑफरेशन सूचना**  
मण्डल रेल प्रबन्धक (साणिज्य), उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, बीकानेर माल के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से बीकानेर मण्डल पर गाडियों पर विनायल रेंजिंग, पार्सल पैकिंग, ब्राण्डेड प्रिमियम स्टोर, वॉकिंग, एटीएम एवं ट्रेल हेल्प डेस्क के ठेकों के लिए ई-ऑफरेशन प्रारम्भ किये गये हैं जिनका विवरण निम्न प्रकार है:-

कैंटलॉग संख्या	कार्य का नाम व स्थान	ई आवश्कन की दिनांक व समय
EA-ADVT-WN-125	1. ट्रेन की बाहरी सतह पर खिचकी से नीचे विनायल रेंजिंग के माध्यम से विभाजन का प्रदर्शन k. Train No. 22497-98 (SGNR-TPJ) l. Train No. 14727-28(SGNER-YKJ) & 14737-38 (BNW-TKJ). m. Train No.54701-02(LGH-ABS) 04771-72 (APH-BT), 04783-84(SSA-BT) & 14721-22 (JU-BTJ) n. Train No. 12485-86 (SGNR-NED) & 12439-40(SGNER-NED) o. Train No. 22475/22476 (HSR-CBE) p. Train No.22471-72 (LGH-DEE) 20473-74 (DEE-UDZ) q. Train No. 12489-90 (SGNR-DDR) r. Train No. 14701-02 (SGNR-BDTS) s. Train No.04777-78(HMH-SDLP), 04773-74 (SGNR-SOG), 04775-76(SDLP-HMH), 04779-80(SGNER-SOG) & 54759-60/54761-62(HMH-SOG) & 54763-64(SGNER-SDLP) t. Train No. 14707-08 (HMH-DDR)	दिनांक 14.05.2026 समय 11:00 बजे ई-ऑफरेशन होगा
EA-ATM-05-26	2. एटीएम- लालगढ़ एवं सिरसा रेलवे स्टेशन	दिनांक 14.05.2026 समय 13:00 बजे ई-ऑफरेशन होगा
EA-MSS-03-PS	3. पार्सल पैकिंग करना एवं प्रिमियम ब्राण्डेड स्टोर खोलना पार्सल पैकिंग- हिंसास पार्सल कार्यालय प्रिमियम ब्राण्डेड स्टोर श्रीगंगानगर, इटानुमानगढ़ एवं निवासी रेलवे स्टेशन	दिनांक 14.05.2026 समय 15:00 बजे ई-ऑफरेशन होगा
EA-Par-04-26	4. वॉकिंग (दोपहरिया एवं चार पहिया मिक्स) मंडीडावावाली, चरखीदादरी एवं मोगावेली रेलवे स्टेशन	दिनांक 15.05.2026 समय 15:00 बजे ई-ऑफरेशन होगा
MSS-BKN-THDPK-1	5. ट्रेल हेल्प डेस्क की स्थापना - बीकानेर स्टेशन	दिनांक 21.05.2026 समय 13:00 बजे ई-ऑफरेशन होगा

अन्य सूचना एवं नियम व शर्तों के लिये IREPS की वेबसाइट [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) पर लौकित करें।  
**661-DO/26** मण्डल रेल प्रबन्धक (साणिज्य), बीकानेर

Please join us on [www.nwrailways.in](https://www.nwrailways.in)

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, LOHARDAGA**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Call e-Procurement Tender Notice**  
**Two Envelope System**  
Tender Reference No. WRD/MID/LOHARDAGA/B.D./S.L.I. - 01/2026-27  
Date - 06/05/2026

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender document (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Time of Completion	Mode of Submission of Tender
1.	Construction of Mukhamantri Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme at Vill - Jurjya, Panchayat - Jurjya, Block- Lohardaga, Distt. - Lohardaga.	Rs. 11162400.00	Rs. 10000.00 (Non Refundable)	Rs. 111700.00	335 Days	Online through <a href="http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in">www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a>
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 11162400.00				
3.	Cost of Tender document (Rs.)	Rs. 10000.00 (Non Refundable)				
4.	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Rs. 111700.00				
5.	Time of Completion	335 Days				
6.	Mode of Submission of Tender	Online through <a href="http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in">www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a>				
7.	Date of Publication of Tender on website ( <a href="http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a> )	Date - 15.05.2026	Time 2:00 PM			
8.	Last date/Time for downloading of bidding documents and submission of Tender on Website.	Date - 21.05.2026	Time 5:00 PM			
9.	Submission of Tender Fee and EMD	Start Date - 15.05.2026	Time 2:00 PM	Last Date - 21.05.2026	Time 5:00 PM	
10.	Technical Bid Opening Date	Date - 23.05.2026	Time 02:00 PM			
11.	Officer inviting Bids	Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Lohardaga.				
12.	(a) Contact No. of e-Procurement officer (b) E-Mail of Procurement officer	9801286765 Midlohb32@gmail.com				
10.	Helpline Number of Procurement cell	7488537740				

**Note:-**  
➤ Only e-Tender will be accepted.  
➤ Published Estimated Cost may Increase or Decrease.  
➤ Work will be awarded to those bidders [specially MNRE approved channel partners/MNRE approved channel Partners/MNRE approved manufacturers/MNRE approved PV system integrators/ A registered manufacturers/company/firm/Corporation in India (including MSME of Jharkhand) of at least one of the major sub system namely pumps or PV System electronics (confirming to National/International Standards) any others agencies having experience of installation and commissioning of such solar powered irrigation schemes]. Empanelled Indigenous Manufacturers of 10 HP pumps (AC Surface water Pumps) in the department with all accessories for off-grid standalone SPV water Pumping systems can also take part in the bid for executing the whole work of the bid. However those bidders who have not yet registered in Water Resources Department can also submit their bid provided they will have to get themselves registered in Water Resources Department within two months from the date of allotment of work.  
➤ Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>  
**PR 379161**  
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, LOHARDAGA

**North Eastern Railway**  
**Open Tender Notice**  
"Open Tenders" through Online (E-Tendering) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecomm)/Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and behalf of the President of India for the following works: **Tender Notice No.: NER-BSB05N-T-OT-22-2026 Name of work:** Signalling work in connection with Provision of shunting neck parallel to main line (North side at GYN end) & Tower wagon siding at MBS station of BSB Division. **Approx. Value:** ₹ 21877372.31 **Earnest Money:** ₹ 437600.00 **Cost of Tender Form:** ₹ 00.00 **Completion period:** 12 Months **Tender Closing date & Time:** 01.06.2026 Upto 15.00 Hrs. **Note:** (1) Tender Online will be submitted up to 15:00 Hrs. on date 01.06.2026 (2) For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the Official website of Indian Railways i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **Div. Rly. Manager (S&T) Varanasi**  
CPRO/Signal-27  
**DO NOT SMOKE BIDI/CIGARETTE IN TRAINS**

**IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE XXXV ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE (CH-36) AT BANGALURU OS.No.7859/2025**

**Between:**  
**The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited,** A Banking Company Established under the J&K Companies Act, 1977 (Act No.IX of 1977 svl) having its registered Office at M.A Road, Srinagar, Branch Office No.70/1, Ground Floor, CSI Compound, 'Brownamma Towers' 2nd Cross, Mission Road, Bangalore, Represented by its GPA Holder **Mrs. Seema Kaul** And **...Plaintiff**  
**M/s Natavar Singh** And **...Defendant**

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT**  
Mr. Natavar Singh So 10 Mr. Dev Raj Singh, Aged about 30 years, R/o Bholgram, Gaiyara, Raya Mathura, Uttar Pradesh-281204.  
**Aslo at:** Aditya Developers, No.59/1, "Ramkanda" 3rd Floor, K.F.R. Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004.  
Whereas, the Plaintiff Bank has filed the above money recovery suit against the Defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.21,13,54,79 (Rupees Two Lakhs Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Four and Paise Seventy Nine)** along with Future Interest at 16.50% per annum with monthly rests from the date of the suit till the date of realization and costs of the suit. Hence, you are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you in this suit on **22.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.** If you fail to appear on the fixed date the suit will be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Court this 21st day of April 2026.

**//BY ORDER OF THE COURT//**  
Senior Sheristadar City Civil Court, Bangaluru  
**Address of the Advocate Sd/- R.Shailesh Kumar Ms/ Sushel Associates**  
Law Firm, F-1, First Floor, Harshita Arcade, No138, 1st Main Road, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore, Bangalore-560020. Cell No.9845009771

**"IMPORTANT"**  
Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting in any manner whatsoever.

**ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण**  
प्लॉट सं. 01, नालेज पार्क-IV, ग्रेटर नौएडा, मोहनबुद्ध नगर, उत्तर प्रदेश-201308  
वेबसाइट: [www.greaternoidaauthority.in](http://www.greaternoidaauthority.in) ई-मेल: [authority@gnida.in](mailto:authority@gnida.in)

पत्रांक: वरि.प्र./ई-निविदा सेल/2026/750 दिनांक: 05/05/2026

**ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**  
महाप्रबन्धक (अभियन्त्रण) ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नौएडा की ओर से ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- वरि.प्र./ई-निविदा सेल/2026/749 दिनांक 05/05/2026 के माध्यम से उल्लेखित क्रम संख्या-01 से 39 तक के कार्य की ई-निविदाओं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। समस्त मियम व शर्तें ग्रेटर नौएडा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट [www.greaternoidaauthority.in](http://www.greaternoidaauthority.in) पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिए उक्त वेबसाइट देखते रहें।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम/वर्क सॉर्किल	अनुमानित लागत
1.	ग्रेटर नौएडा में ग्राम हल्दौनी के शमशान घाट के पहुँच मार्ग, रोड, चबूतरा और कमरे का निर्माण। (वर्क सॉर्किल-3)	रु. 21.50 लाख
2.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के पोकेट पी-3 वििल्डस एरिया में शांति कॉमन्वेल्थ का नदीनीकरण कार्य। (वर्क सॉर्किल-4)	रु. 35.08 लाख
3.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के ग्राम बादलपुर में नाली कवरिंग और सी.सी. रोड की मरम्मत का कार्य। (वर्क सॉर्किल-4)	रु. 36.57 लाख
4.	ग्रेटर नौएडा के ग्राम तिलपता करनावास में तिलपता करनावास से श्योराजपुर तक नहर सफाई का कार्य। (वर्क सॉर्किल-2)	रु. 44.02 लाख</

@ieExplained

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

● ECONOMY

## For four new govts, same problem: Debt burden

TN, West Bengal, Kerala are among India's most indebted states. Their new govts need to create revenue sources and reduce borrowings



HARISH DAMODARAN

THE NEWLY elected governments of all four states that went to the polls — Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala and Assam — will have one major challenge to confront: The burden of debt.

Tamil Nadu's outstanding debt — the total money the state government owes to lenders at a given point — has nearly quadrupled from Rs 2.8 lakh crore to Rs 10.6 lakh crore between 2016-17 and 2026-27 (April-March). The stock of debt has also risen from 21.8% of the state's gross domestic product (GDP) to 26.1% over this period.

This debt pile-up has been accompanied by ballooning interest payments, from Rs 21,449 crore in 2016-17 to a budgeted Rs 78,677 crore for 2026-27.

That's not all. Ten years ago, interest payments consumed 15.3% of the Tamil Nadu government's total revenues (or income from both tax and non-tax sources). This financial year, that ratio is expected at 22.8%.

### An unsustainable proposition

The story isn't much different for West Bengal and Kerala.

From the accompanying chart, it can be seen that the debt-to-GDP ratio was already high (30-38%) in 2016-17 for both states.

It has since remained at those levels for West Bengal and increased for Kerala. The proportion of the government's revenue that goes towards servicing interest on debt is close to 20% for both states.

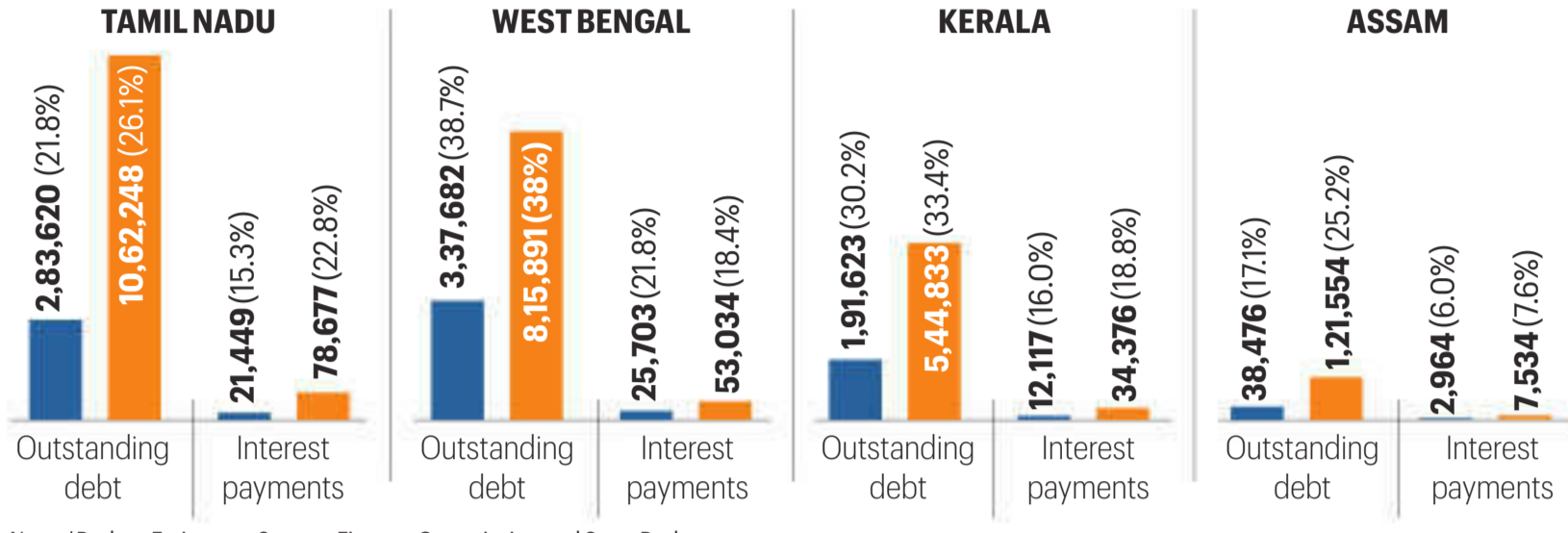
For comparison, the outstanding debt-to-GDP ratio for all states and Union Territories of India was estimated at 29.2% in 2025-26 (the last year for which aggregate data is available). The corresponding interest payments-to-revenue receipts ratio, at 12.2%, was way lower than that of Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala.

Assam, too, has seen its debt-to-GDP ratio surge from 17.1% to 25.2% over the last ten years. Interest payments, however, have been contained well within 10% of the state's overall revenue receipts.

A key reason for that has to do with Assam being a special category state, which entitles it to obtain 90% of central funding for schemes or projects in the form of interest-free grants and only the remaining 10%

### ● HOW DEBT HAS PILED UP ACROSS THE FOUR STATES (in Rs crore)

● 2016-17 ● 2026-27\* (Figures in brackets show ratios: Outstanding debt to state GDP & interest payments to revenue receipts)



Note: \*Budget Estimates; Source: Finance Commission and State Budgets



The Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam has promised to tackle Tamil Nadu's mounting debt burden. PTI

as loans. For non-special category states — those neither in the Northeast nor having hilly and difficult terrain like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand — the grants portion is just 30% and the remaining 70% comprises loans.

But special category or not, and new governing party or old, the existing and rising levels of debt are simply unsustainable for these states.

This is more so in an environment of hardening interest rates. On May 5, Tamil Nadu borrowed Rs 1,000 crore through the auction of a six-year state government security at an average interest rate of 7.49%. It raised the same Rs 1,000-crore loan for six years at only 6.54% a year ago.

In general, states are now paying 7.2-

7.73% on 10-year borrowings, as against 6.7-6.71% last year at this time.

### Relief with riders

The Centre can restructure its loan to a state, or waive or reduce interest.

The relief could carry riders such as state reforms.

### Unorthodox solutions

The precarious debt situation of most states, perhaps, demands unconventional remedies.

The Union government, for instance, can restructure, waive or reduce the interest, or even write off a part of its loan to a state. The relief could be conditional upon the state undertaking reforms — electricity tariff rationalisation; imposing charges on water, sanitation and other public services to recover operation and maintenance costs; targeting of welfare schemes to low-income and vulnerable households; and devolution of financial powers to pan-

● LEGAL

## Why SC expanded definition of 'acid attack victim' in Disabilities Act

Amaal Sheikh  
New Delhi, May 6

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday held that persons who were forced to consume acid and thus suffered internal injuries, without visible scars, would be considered acid attack victims under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016.

The top court's ruling was necessitated by the fact that the Act's definition of acid attack victims appears to confine itself to external "disfigurement".

The bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said the clarification would apply retrospectively — that is, from the day the Act came into force.

The court told the government that the existing punishment for acid attack had failed as a deterrent, and suggested placing the burden of proof on the accused and making acid sellers co-accused.

The order came on a petition filed by Shaheen Malik, a survivor who flagged the gap in law that left an entire category of victims without access to state support.

### The gap in the law

The RPwD Act includes acid attack survivors in its list of specified disabilities. But the definition it settled on was narrow. Under Schedule 2(zc) of the Act, an "acid attack victim" is a person "disfigured due to violent assaults by throwing of acid or similar corrosive substance." Survivors who were forced to consume acid fell outside it.

The court noted the problem was that "the use of the term 'disfigured' appears to confine the scope of external disfigurement of the body, thereby excluding cases involving internal injuries or scarring caused by the administration of acid."

The injuries in such cases are equally severe. When acid is ingested, it burns the mouth, throat, oesophagus, and stomach. The damage is quite often permanent. Malik's petition states that "the corrosive substance causes intense burns and significant harm to the internal organs, particularly the gastrointestinal system. This often results in lifelong medical complications, including the need for ongoing gastroenterological care. Victims of oral acid ingestion may experience long-term issues such as diffi-

### Pending acid attack cases

● The Supreme Court has flagged an 'alarming increase' in the number of acid attack cases since 2013.

● According to compliance affidavits filed in the top court, Uttar Pradesh has the highest backlog of acid attack cases at 198, followed by West Bengal (160) and Gujarat (114). Bihar reported 68 pending cases.

culty eating, swallowing, and digestion."

### A narrow definition

The consequences of falling outside the purview of the RPwD Act are significant. A disability certificate under the Act is the gateway to state support.

Since victims of forceful ingestion do not fall within the statutory definition, they are unable to obtain the disability certificates required to access state compensation, rehabilitation schemes and medical support. The petition argues that this denial of statutory recognition effectively infringes their right to live with dignity.

The only difference between the two groups, the petition argued, is the method of the attack — throwing vs administering acid, rather than the nature and extent of harm.

### What the petition challenges

At the centre of the challenge is Article 14 of the Constitution. The petition argues that the law creates an "arbitrary and unreasonable classification" by distinguishing victims based on the method of assault, throwing acid versus administering it,

rather than the consequence of the attack. This distinction has no rational nexus to the object of the law, which is to support persons living with disabilities.

The petition also pointed to an "inconsistency" between criminal law and welfare law. Section 124 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2024, treats throwing acid and administering acid as the same offence with identical punishment. "The harm, intent, and societal danger are identical regardless of the method of acid assault," the petition argues, making it "legally incoherent and arbitrary" for a remedial welfare statute to draw a distinction that penal law has rejected.

### The trial backlog

Expanding the ambit of definitions under the Act is a problem the court has been trying to address since December, when it called tardy trials in acid attack cases "a mockery of the system". The court directed the registrars general of all high courts to furnish details of pending trials in their jurisdictions. The CJI said: "Don't you think that the punishment should have been harsher?"

● HEALTH

## How hantavirus is deadlier than Covid, but slower

Anagha Jayakumar & Anonna Dutt  
New Delhi, May 6

A GROUP of people on a Dutch cruise ship was found to be infected by the deadly hantavirus earlier this week. Seven cases — two laboratory confirmed and five suspected — have been identified among the 147 passengers and crew onboard the MV Hondius, which was travelling from Argentina to Spain. Three of them have died while one is seriously ill. Three others are reporting mild symptoms, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The vessel is currently stationed in Cape Verde, off West Africa. The WHO said Wednesday that three suspected patients had been evacuated from the ship to receive medical care in the Netherlands. These cases created global concern, though WHO said that at this stage the "overall public health risk remains low".

### The virus

Named after South Korea's Hantan River, hantavirus is a family of rodent-borne viruses that can cause serious illness and death in humans. Human infection primarily occurs through contact with the urine, faeces or saliva of infected rodents or by touching contaminated surfaces. One can also get infected by breathing in air containing viral particles stirred up from these droppings, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

These viruses are generally not known to spread between people. Some human transmission has, however, been recorded in the past for the Andes strain, found in Argentina and Chile. The people on the ship are suspected to have been infected by the Andes hantavirus.

The type of hantavirus varies across regions. Each hantavirus is specific to a different rodent host. Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome is endemic to the Western Hemisphere and caused by "New World" hantaviruses. These are the deadlier of the two variants, killing a third of those who develop respiratory symptoms.

So-called Old World hantaviruses, found primarily in Europe, Africa and Asia, cause haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome. This variant is known to affect around 1,50,000 people annually, killing 1-15% of those infected. The Hantaan and the Dobrava strains are the most severe.

### Similarities with Covid-19

Hantavirus and coronavirus are both zoonotic, meaning they are transferred from animals to humans. The initial mode of transmission — and subsequent spread — is different. Hantavirus rarely transmits from one person to another. Coronavirus, on the other hand, jumped from bats to humans, and then freely spread between humans.

Both hantaviruses and the coronavirus that caused Covid-19 result in serious respiratory illnesses. In hantavirus, the spread is relatively slow and limited, but the fatality is high. According to WHO, hantavirus infections have a fatality rate of up to 50% in the Americas whereas it is less than 15% in Asia and Europe.

Covid had spread at a much faster rate and infected hundreds of millions of people worldwide, but its fatality rate was relatively low: about 1-2% of those infected died.

"The pandemic potential of this infection (hantavirus) is low, considering patients may start experiencing symptoms or die before they pass it on to others," said Dr Ekta Gupta, virologist from the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences and a part of the Covid-19 consortium INSACOG.

Sporadic hantavirus cases have been reported from India since the early 2000s. There were at least 28 cases reported in a 2008 study among patients with chronic kidney disease, warehouse workers and those from the Irula tribe in Tamil Nadu known for catching snakes and rats.

**Drishhti IAS**

**IAS GS Foundation Course**

Offline & Live Online Batches

Centre	हिंदी माध्यम	English Medium
9 Karol Bagh	17 मई   सुबह 11:30 बजे	13 May   8:00 AM
9 Noida	19 मई   दोपहर 3:00 बजे	22 May   3:00 PM
9 Indore	20 मई   रात 5:30 बजे	18 May   8:00 AM
9 Lucknow	29 मई   सुबह 8:00 बजे	25 May   8:00 AM
9 Prayagraj	14 मई   सुबह 11:15 बजे	1 June   5:30 PM
9 Ranchi	एडमिशन आरंभ	29 April   8:00 AM
9 Patna	एडमिशन आरंभ	30 April   8:00 AM
9 Jaipur	27 अप्रैल   सुबह 11:00 बजे	29 April   5:00 PM

Call Us: **87501 87501**

● TECH

## With 12 plants in phase one, India's chip-making mission sets sights on next frontier

Soumyarendra Barik  
New Delhi, May 6

THE UNION Cabinet on Tuesday approved two new semiconductor plants, including one that could be the country's first display fabrication facility, in a boost to India's chip-making ambitions. A display fabrication facility is a specialised, high-investment, clean-room environment designed to create electronic screens (such as LCD and OLED) by layering equipment on glass semiconductor bases.

With this, the government has approved a total of 12 chip plants under the first leg of its India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), an ambitious Rs 76,000-crore plan to kickstart chip manufacturing, after managing to localise smartphone assembly.

Semiconductors, used to power devices from toasters to fighter jets, have become a critical resource amid heightened geopolitical tensions over the last few years. India's foray into semiconductor production and packaging is seen as a strategic move

to assert itself into the global chip supply chain and to deepen domestic value addition in its electronics sector.

Launched in 2021, ISM 1.0 was conceived as a state-backed push to build a full-stack chip ecosystem, from fabrication and packaging to design and display manufacturing. Investments of around Rs 1.64 lakh crore have been committed under the scheme. In this year's Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced ISM 2.0 to produce equipment and materials, design full-stack Indian intellectual property, and fortify supply chains.

### India's chip footprint

The 12 chip plants approved so far are being built in states such as Gujarat, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha. They include one full-fledged commercial semiconductor fabrication facility (or fab), and assembly and testing plants.

● **TATA ELECTRONICS SEMICONDUCTOR FOUNDRY (GUJARAT):** The company is setting up India's first commercial-grade chip

fabrication plant. Taiwan's PSMC is its technology partner. Coming up in Dholera, the fab will be set up at an estimated Rs 91,000 crore. Its monthly capacity is expected to be 50,000 wafers across 28-nanometre to 110-nanometre technologies.

● **MICRON TECHNOLOGY (GUJARAT):** This was the first project approved under ISM 1.0 in 2023, after the government jacked up incentives for assembly and testing plants from 30% to 50%. The US-based company is a major manufacturer of memory chips. The plant started commercial production in February.

● **TATA ELECTRONICS ASSEMBLY UNIT (ASSAM):** This semiconductor assembly and testing facility in Jagirod of Morigaon district, involves an investment of over Rs 27,000 crore. It is expected to manufacture 48 million chips daily for sectors including automotive, electronics, and telecommunications.

● **HCL-FOXCONN (UTTAR PRADESH):** This joint venture (JV) is setting up a Rs 3,700 crore outsourced semiconductor assembly

and test (OSAT) facility in Jewar, with operations expected by 2028. Located near Noida International Airport, the plant will produce display driver chips with a capacity of 20,000 wafers per month.

● **KAYNES SEMICON (GUJARAT):** The plant in Sanand is a Rs 3,300 crore OSAT facility with a capacity of up to 60 lakh chips per day. It focuses on producing power modules for electric vehicles and industrial applications. This plant started commercial operations in March 2026.

● **CG SEMI (GUJARAT):** This OSAT plant in Sanand — a JV between CG Power and Renesas Electronics and Stars Microelectronics — is being developed at an investment of over Rs 7,600 crore.

● **SICSEM (ODISHA):** The Rs 2,066-crore assembly, test, marking, and packaging (ATMP) facility will produce silicon carbide-based diodes and MOSFETs.

● **3D GLASS SOLUTIONS (ODISHA):** The US-based company is implementing India's first advanced 3D chip packaging unit through its wholly owned Indian sub-

sidary Heterogeneous Integration Packaging Solutions Pvt Ltd. The project is funded by Intel, among others.

● **ADVANCED SYSTEM IN PACKAGE TECHNOLOGIES (ANDHRA PRADESH):** The company will set up a semiconductor manufacturing unit under a technology tie-up with South Korea's APACT Co. Ltd., with an annual capacity of 96 million units.

● **CONTINENTAL DEVICE (PUNJAB):** The company will expand its discrete semiconductor manufacturing facility at Mohali, whereupon it will manufacture high-power discrete semiconductor devices: individual electronic components designed to perform a single, fundamental electrical function.

● **CRYSTAL MATRIX (GUJARAT):** The company will set up a Rs 3,068-crore compound semiconductor fabrication and assembly unit for manufacturing Mini/Micro-LED display modules, after the Cabinet's approval on Tuesday. Once functional, this would be the first such facility in India. The display fab industry is largely concentrated in countries such as Japan and South Korea until now.

● **SUCHI SEMICON (GUJARAT):** The company will set up an OSAT facility in Surat worth Rs 868 crore for manufacturing discrete semiconductors.

### ISM 2.0

The government is working on the next iteration of the plan, and could approve a scheme with an outlay of around \$11 billion. *The Indian Express* had reported earlier. While ISM 1.0 focused on attracting chipmaking infrastructure to India, ISM 2.0 is likely to offer greater support to ancillary industries such as gases, chemicals and capital goods, among others.

Under ISM 2.0, the government could reduce the capex subsidy for ATMP or OSAT plants from the current 50%. The government could also offer capital equipment and ecosystem support such as gases, chemicals, and raw materials needed at assembly and testing plants. ISM 2.0 could also see a much more significant design-side push, and incentives to the amount of market capital companies are able to raise.

Classifieds PERSONAL

I, John Francis S/O Francis K. John born on 27/06/2001 residing at F-401, Bhagwan Apartment, Mayur Vihar Phase 1, Delhi-110091, have changed my name to John Francis Kuruthukulam vide affidavit dated 04/05/2026 at Gautam Budh Nagar. 0050288842-1

I, Jhitherto known as AKHILESH KUMAR, S/O RAJA RAM PANDEY, R/O KHASRA, NO-648, GROUND-FLOOR EXTENDED LAL-DORA, GALI NO-0, NEAR-BADA SHIV MANDIR, VILLAGE-ALIPUR DELHI-110036, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AKHILESH PANDEY 0040852986-7

I, PRAMOD GARG, S/O ISHWAR DASS GARG R/O 392, DEEPALI ENCLAVE PITAMPURA DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRAMOD KUMAR GARG. 0040852986-5

I, Vandana Gupta, W/o. Mr. Akshaya Gupta, R/o. W-5/28 Western Avenue, Sainik Farms, New Delhi-110062, have changed my name from Vandana Ravindra Gupta to Vandana Gupta for all future purposes 0040852986-1

I, MANISHA DHANKAR D/O RAKMISHA DHANKAR R/O J-603, J BLOCK, THE GRAND ARCH, SECTOR-58 GURUGRAM, 122011, HAVE CHANGED MY SON NAME RYAN TO RYAN DHANKAR. 0040852863-1

I, NIRMALA DEVI, W/O SH. VED PRAKASH R/O 181A, ANNI VIHAR, BLOCC-Q, GEETA ENCLAVE, STREET NO. 3, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI. The previous original documents (G.P.A AND OTHER DOCUMENTS) OF THE PROPERTY NO. 181A, LAND MEASURING 44 SQ. YDS. APPROX. CUT OFF GEETA ENCLAVE AT VILLAGE BINDAPUR, COLOR KEYDONS AND NAME PLATE BLOCK Q, GEETA ENCLAVE (STREET NO. 3) UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI, have been lost. An FIR has been lodged in Police Station, Voh NCR/19 No. 9507/2025 dated 29/04/2025. Any person claiming any right, interest, objection or found in possession of original documents, may contact with above named person at above address/Phone No. 9998260749, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property can personally inform to the above named owner/persons. Any such property shall be treated as null, void, and ineffective, in any manner. Sd/- B.B.N. DEO, Advocate S.R. Khandib D. Coomput, Jansik Pur, ND-58

I, MAHENDRA KUMAR, S/O RAM SWAROOP, R/O 1 - 48 ARUNA NAGAR MAJNU KA TILA CIVIL LINES S.O NORTH DELHI 110054, have changed my name MAHENDER KUMAR for all future purposes. 0071033835-1

I, KULDEEP S/O SATYA PRAKASH GUPTA R/O HOUSE NO. 38, GOVIND MOHALLA, NEAR MUTHOOT FINANCE, VILLAGE HAIDERPUR, SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088, have changed my name to KULDEEP GUPTA 0071033852-1

I, SHOBHA RANI SAXENA, W/O Pramod Saxena, residing at 141-C, Pocket-A, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095, holder of Indian Passport No. N3054098, have changed my name from Shobha Rani Saxena to Shobha Saxena by dropping Middle name and shall henceforth be known as Shobha Saxena for all purposes. 0130064347-1

I, Harpreet Kaur Bains D/o Vikas Dehal R/O Q.No.711, Type-2, Block-A, Thyagraj Nagar, Delhi have changed my name to Harpreet Kaur. 0071033906-1

I, GOURAV SINGH R/o-92/C, Munirka Village, JNU, Delhi-67 have changed my name to GOURAV SINGH RATHOUR. 0071033901-1

I, Ekta Jain Sethia D/o Anandi Jain & Pannalal Jain, W/o Gaurav Kumar Sethia R/o G-18, Ground Floor, East of Kailash, Srinivaspuri, Delhi-65, inform that Anandi Jain and Anuj Jain are certain to one and the same person. 0040852986-9

I, Arul Prakasam S/o Vedhachalam Thanakodi R/o E904, Exotica Fresco Apartment, Sec-137, Noida have changed my name to Thanakodi Arul Prakasam. 0071033874-1

I, AJAY KUAMAR, S/O VED PARKASH, residing at, F-1, Fire-Station, Rohini, Sector-05, P.O-Rohini, Sector-07, Distt-North-West Delhi, Pincode-110085, have changed my name to AJAY KUMAR SHARMA, Permanently 0040852988-6

I, Sneh Dewra W/o Ramesh Kumar Dewra R/O-3026/5, Gali-No.4, Ranjeet-Nagar, South Patel-Nagar, New Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Sneh Lata Dewra. 0040852999-4

I, Wasiq Hussain S/O, Zahid Husain R/o M-21/13a, ground Floor, Lane-2, near Khalilullah Masjid, katla House, jamia Nagar, okhla, new Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Wasiq Husain. 0040852992-1

I, Tina Verma D/o Yashpaul Verma R/O A-2/90, Block A2, VTC:Rajouri Garden, PO:Tagore Garden S.O., West Delhi, Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Teena Verma for all purposes. 0040852857-2

Rohit Mansukhlal Parekh S/O Mansukh Lal Parekh R/O B-79, Gularaj Apartment, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Rohit Parekh for all purposes. 0040852912-1

I, Mafri Kumari, T D/o Tikmaram and W/o Santosh Kumar Choudhary R/O C-69, 2nd Floor, Vivek Vihar Phase-1, Vivek Vihar, Jhilmil, Delhi-110095, have changed my name to Mafri Tikmaram for all future purposes 0071033871-1

I, Kushbuda Khatoun W/o Md Laddu Rain R/O-1-Block, H. No. 124, Shakarpur, J.J. Colony Saraswati Vihar, Delhi-34, have changed my minor child's name from MISKINA KHATUN to SOBIYA PARVIN for all future purposes. 0040852912-1

I, Kuldeep Singh Resident Of Banshi Vihar Colony Patiayavaha Mohalla Sikandar Kampoo, Ajaypur, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh Have Changed My Son's Name From Vihaan Singh Rajawat To Harshvardhan Singh Vide Affidavit Dated 03/02/2026 Before District And Session Court Gwalior. 0071033907-1

I, Gourav alias Gaurav S/O Rajpal R/O H.No.45, Gali No.2, Ramesh Tyagi Colony, Jharoda, Majra, Burari, North Delhi, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Gaurav for all purposes. 0040852857-1

I, Bhawna Pandey D/o Badri Prasad R/O RZ-24, Gali No-4, Near Dabri Police Station, Sitapur, Dabri, New Delhi-110045 have changed my name to Bhawna Sharma. 0040852984-2

I, MD HASNAIN R/O RZ-2107, Gali No-26, Tughlakabad Extn., Kalkaji, Delhi-19 have changed my name to MOHD HASNAIN. 0071033898-1

I, hitherto known as SALMA D/O ALIMUDDIN, W/O-NASEER AHMED, R/O-H.No-1871, GALI PATTE-WALI, SUIWALAN, DARYAGANJ, D ELHI-110002 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RUBY NASEER. 0040852988-8

I, Bhawna Sharma D/o Badri Prasad R/O RZ-24, Gali No-4, Near Dabri Police Station, Sitapur, Dabri, New Delhi-110045 have changed the name of my minor son Gaurav Pandey aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as Gaurav Sharma. 0040852984-1

I, Iqbal Singh, son of Bhagu Ram, R/O C-64, Ext.-2, Nangloi, Delhi-110041, have changed my name, from Rajbir Singh Rohilla to Rajbir Singh. Now my correct and exact name is Rajbir Singh, for all future purposes. 0040852999-5

I, Reetesh Talan, S/o Sh. Haripal Singh, R/O B-92, Balmukunda Residency, Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201017, hereby declare that my previous name was Reetesh Kumar Talan, and I have changed my name to Reetesh Talan for all future purposes. 0071033900-1

I, ASHOK KUMAR, S/O BANGAL SINGH, R/O VILLAGE HADOLI, HALOLI, MUZZAFARNAGAR, SISAU, UTAR PRADESH-251319, have changed my minor child name, from ANKIT to ASHWIN 0040852883-1

I, AKHILESH ARORA S/O O.P. ARORA R/O B-4-112, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, have changed my name to AKHILESH PRAKASH ARORA. 0040852999-5

I, AKBAR SINGH, S/O-PREM SINGH, R/O- HOUSE NO-117, SECTOR-14, NEAR-DAB SCHOOL, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR SON YASHVEER SINGH TO YASHVEER SINGH DHANDA FOR ALL PURPOSES 0040852986-1

I, ADITI ANAND, ADDRESS: A-1/25, PANCHSHEEL ENCLAVE, MALVIYA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110017, have changed my minor child name KUL ANAND to KUL DIAS ANAND 0040852883-8

I, MOHAMMAD ARIF MIRZA S/O Mohd Farooq, 817, Gali No-22, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-25 have changed my name to MOHD ARIF. 0071033894-1

I, hitherto known as KAMAL, S/O Late Shri Thawaria, R/O House No.36-H, Pocket-A/1, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, East Delhi-110096, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAMAL GAHLAUT. 0040852209-1

I, MOHD SHAHMEEN, S/O ABDUL HAMID, R/O R-169/A, JOGA BALI EXTN., JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025 confirm that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Daughter's (FARHEEN SAIFI) qualification documents record as SHAH AMEEN and my daughter's some other documents records as MOHD SHAH AMEEN instead of MOHD SHAHMEEN. My correct name is MOHD SHAHMEEN for all future Purposes. 0071033921-1

I, Lalit kumar Taneja, s/o-Ram Narain Taneja r/o-51, Tarun Enclave pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Lalit Taneja 0040852883-8

I, MOHAMMAD ARIF MIRZA S/O Mohd Farooq, 817, Gali No-22, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-25 have changed my name to MOHD ARIF. 0071033894-1

I, hitherto known as KAMAL, S/O Late Shri Thawaria, R/O House No.36-H, Pocket-A/1, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, East Delhi-110096, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAMAL GAHLAUT. 0040852209-1

I, MOHD SHAHMEEN, S/O ABDUL HAMID, R/O R-169/A, JOGA BALI EXTN., JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025 confirm that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Daughter's (FARHEEN SAIFI) qualification documents record as SHAH AMEEN and my daughter's some other documents records as MOHD SHAH AMEEN instead of MOHD SHAHMEEN. My correct name is MOHD SHAHMEEN for all future Purposes. 0071033921-1

I, Lalit kumar Taneja, s/o-Ram Narain Taneja r/o-51, Tarun Enclave pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Lalit Taneja 0040852883-8

I, MOHAMMAD ARIF MIRZA S/O Mohd Farooq, 817, Gali No-22, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-25 have changed my name to MOHD ARIF. 0071033894-1

I, hitherto known as KAMAL, S/O Late Shri Thawaria, R/O House No.36-H, Pocket-A/1, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, East Delhi-110096, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAMAL GAHLAUT. 0040852209-1

I, MOHD SHAHMEEN, S/O ABDUL HAMID, R/O R-169/A, JOGA BALI EXTN., JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025 confirm that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Daughter's (FARHEEN SAIFI) qualification documents record as SHAH AMEEN and my daughter's some other documents records as MOHD SHAH AMEEN instead of MOHD SHAHMEEN. My correct name is MOHD SHAHMEEN for all future Purposes. 0071033921-1

I, Lalit kumar Taneja, s/o-Ram Narain Taneja r/o-51, Tarun Enclave pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Lalit Taneja 0040852883-8

I, MOHAMMAD ARIF MIRZA S/O Mohd Farooq, 817, Gali No-22, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-25 have changed my name to MOHD ARIF. 0071033894-1

I, hitherto known as KAMAL, S/O Late Shri Thawaria, R/O House No.36-H, Pocket-A/1, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, East Delhi-110096, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAMAL GAHLAUT. 0040852209-1

I, MOHD SHAHMEEN, S/O ABDUL HAMID, R/O R-169/A, JOGA BALI EXTN., JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025 confirm that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Daughter's (FARHEEN SAIFI) qualification documents record as SHAH AMEEN and my daughter's some other documents records as MOHD SHAH AMEEN instead of MOHD SHAHMEEN. My correct name is MOHD SHAHMEEN for all future Purposes. 0071033921-1

I, Lalit kumar Taneja, s/o-Ram Narain Taneja r/o-51, Tarun Enclave pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Lalit Taneja 0040852883-8

I, MOHAMMAD ARIF MIRZA S/O Mohd Farooq, 817, Gali No-22, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-25 have changed my name to MOHD ARIF. 0071033894-1

I, hitherto known as KAMAL, S/O Late Shri Thawaria, R/O House No.36-H, Pocket-A/1, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, East Delhi-110096, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAMAL GAHLAUT. 0040852209-1

I, MOHD SHAHMEEN, S/O ABDUL HAMID, R/O R-169/A, JOGA BALI EXTN., JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025 confirm that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Daughter's (FARHEEN SAIFI) qualification documents record as SHAH AMEEN and my daughter's some other documents records as MOHD SHAH AMEEN instead of MOHD SHAHMEEN. My correct name is MOHD SHAHMEEN for all future Purposes. 0071033921-1

I, Lalit kumar Taneja, s/o-Ram Narain Taneja r/o-51, Tarun Enclave pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Lalit Taneja 0040852883-8

I, MOHAMMAD ARIF MIRZA S/O Mohd Farooq, 817, Gali No-22, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-25 have changed my name to MOHD ARIF. 0071033894-1

I, hitherto known as KAMAL, S/O Late Shri Thawaria, R/O House No.36-H, Pocket-A/1, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, East Delhi-110096, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAMAL GAHLAUT. 0040852209-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that My Client Major R.K. Arora, S/O Late Sh. Jawant Singh, B/O 778, First Floor, main road, Safdarjung enclave, New Delhi-110029, has declared that vide A Deed of Cancellation and Revocation of Will at Delhi dated 05.05.2026, My Client has already cancelled, revoked and rescinded the Will dated 03.08.1999 issued and executed by him. The said Will dated 03.08.1999 has thereby become null and void.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that My Client Mr. Vikram Arora, S/O Major R.K. Arora, R/O 105 W Wild Cherry Dr. Mar, Pa, has declared that vide A Deed of Cancellation and Revocation of Will at Delhi, at Mar, PA, dated, 30.04.2026, My Client has already cancelled, revoked and rescinded the Will dated 03.08.1999 issued on the basis of the said Will. The said Will dated 03.08.1999 has thereby become null and void.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that my client Mr. Ashish Sharma, residing at Plot No. Q-3, Flat No. Q-3/1, P.O. 110, Plot No. Q-3, DLF Qutub Enclave Complex (now known as DLF City, Phase-III), Gurgaon, Haryana, has declared the following original document is lost/impounded and not traceable:

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Rohit S/o Surti Lal R/o House No-90, Third Floor, Pocket-22, Sector-24, Village Rithala, New Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Rohit Banhotra. 0040852984-3

PUBLIC NOTICE
Under instructions and on behalf of my client Ramesh chander s/o late sh. prithvi resident of D245, sector 5, Anand Nagar, Dakshin Park New Delhi 110062 make it known to all concerned that my above mentioned client owns the above self acquired residential property 2-1/2 storey built measuring 50 square yard. That he has three children namely Vandana aditya and Labhya and his wife living with him in the above residential property.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Rahul Juneja, S/O Dr. Prem Nath, R/O 126 Vaishali Enclave, Pitam Pura, Delhi 110034, have changed my name to Rahul Nath Juneja for all future purposes. 0040852860-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that My Client Mrs. Manjira Arora, W/o Major R.K. Arora, R/O B787, First Floor, main road, Safdarjung enclave, New Delhi-110029, has declared that vide A Deed of Cancellation and Revocation of Will at Delhi dated 05.05.2026, My Client has already cancelled, revoked and rescinded the Will dated 03.08.1999 issued and executed by her. The said Will dated 03.08.1999 has thereby become null and void.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is hereby informed and cautioned that any reliance by any person/entity or party upon the said Will dated 03.08.1999 or any acts or deeds done or representations made on the basis of the said Will dated 03.08.1999 shall be non-est in law or illegal and in no manner shall be recognized by My Client, in any manner, whatsoever. Any person or Party acting on the premise of the said representations shall be acting at their own risk and consequence and My Client shall not be liable for the same, in any manner.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Muskan Khurana D/o Ved Prakash R/O C/4-16, Sector-85, Faridabad-121002, inform that my father's name is wrongly written as Ved Prakash in my High School Certificate. The Actual name is Ved Prakash Khurana. 0130064348-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public that my client- Dawerets Pvt. Ltd., Delhi has entered into a Property Development/Collaboration Agreement with the lawful owners of property bearing No. B-514, New Friends Colony, New Delhi, measuring 500 sq. yds. (hereinafter referred to as the "said property").

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that My Client Major R.K. Arora, S/O Late Sh. Jawant Singh, B/O 778, First Floor, main road, Safdarjung enclave, New Delhi-110029, has declared that vide A Deed of Cancellation and Revocation of Will at Delhi dated 05.05.2026, My Client has already cancelled, revoked and rescinded the Will dated 03.08.1999 issued and executed by him. The said Will dated 03.08.1999 has thereby become null and void.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that My Client Mr. Vikram Arora, S/O Major R.K. Arora, R/O 105 W Wild Cherry Dr. Mar, Pa, has declared that vide A Deed of Cancellation and Revocation of Will at Delhi, at Mar, PA, dated, 30.04.2026, My Client has already cancelled, revoked and rescinded the Will dated 03.08.1999 issued on the basis of the said Will. The said Will dated 03.08.1999 has thereby become null and void.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that my client Mr. Ashish Sharma, residing at Plot No. Q-3, Flat No. Q-3/1, P.O. 110, Plot No. Q-3, DLF Qutub Enclave Complex (now known as DLF City, Phase-III), Gurgaon, Haryana, has declared the following original document is lost/impounded and not traceable:

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Rohit S/o Surti Lal R/o House No-90, Third Floor, Pocket-22, Sector-24, Village Rithala, New Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Rohit Banhotra. 0040852984-3

PUBLIC NOTICE
Under instructions and on behalf of my client Ramesh chander s/o late sh. prithvi resident of D245, sector 5, Anand Nagar, Dakshin Park New Delhi 110062 make it known to all concerned that my above mentioned client owns the above self acquired residential property 2-1/2 storey built measuring 50 square yard. That he has three children namely Vandana aditya and Labhya and his wife living with him in the above residential property.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Rahul Juneja, S/O Dr. Prem Nath, R/O 126 Vaishali Enclave, Pitam Pura, Delhi 110034, have changed my name to Rahul Nath Juneja for all future purposes. 0040852860-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that My Client Mrs. Manjira Arora, W/o Major R.K. Arora, R/O B787, First Floor, main road, Safdarjung enclave, New Delhi-110029, has declared that vide A Deed of Cancellation and Revocation of Will at Delhi dated 05.05.2026, My Client has already cancelled, revoked and rescinded the Will dated 03.08.1999 issued and executed by her. The said Will dated 03.08.1999 has thereby become null and void.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is hereby informed and cautioned that any reliance by any person/entity or party upon the said Will dated 03.08.1999 or any acts or deeds done or representations made on the basis of the said Will dated 03.08.1999 shall be non-est in law or illegal and in no manner shall be recognized by My Client, in any manner, whatsoever. Any person or Party acting on the premise of the said representations shall be acting at their own risk and consequence and My Client shall not be liable for the same, in any manner.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Muskan Khurana D/o Ved Prakash R/O C/4-16, Sector-85, Faridabad-121002, inform that my father's name is wrongly written as Ved Prakash in my High School Certificate. The Actual name is Ved Prakash Khurana. 0130064348-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public that my client- Dawerets Pvt. Ltd., Delhi has entered into a Property Development/Collaboration Agreement with the lawful owners of property bearing No. B-514, New Friends Colony, New Delhi, measuring 500 sq. yds. (hereinafter referred to as the "said property").

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-55525
E-Tender Enq. No. 7805/P-3/EMP-13320 dated 05.05.26
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2026.POWER.167724\_1 for Procurement of different types of spares for wet ash handling system of stage II & III at GGSSTP Ropar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 06.05.2026/03.00 PM onwards,
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
RTP-50/26

To become a partner in the success of the country
GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY
Specific organization of One Station One Product plan
One Station One Product Scheme was announced by the Government of India in the budget of the year 2022-23. In this scheme, with the objective of providing local product under Vocal for Local Vision at all stations of Indian Railways, Policy No. 12 of 2022 dt. 20.05.2022, 15 of 2022 dt. 10.08.2022, 18 of 2022 dt. 20.09.2022, 09 of 2023 dt. 24.05.2023 & 29.09.2023 Under this scheme, stalls and show cases are to be provided to local individuals, voluntary organizations, voluntary groups, NGOs etc. North Central Railway also intended to provide the facility of sales/co-promotion center through stalls/kiosks at following stations under this scheme.

LIST OF STATIONS
Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Vindhyachal, Chunar, Manikpur, Prayagraj-Cheeki, Fatehpur Kanpur Central, Pandikham, Kanpur Anwarganj, Phaphund, Mainpuri, Hathras, Aligarh, Bhoagan, Achalda, Jhijnjak, Rura, Bharthana, Dadri, Dawar, Etawah, Khurja, Shikohabad Railway stations. Note: (1) Out of the above mentioned stations, only after the disposal of the applications of those stations whose applications are still pending in the earlier invited applications, the latest applications received under this advertisement will be considered by the committee in order/priority wise and the received applications will be arranged along with the remaining applications. The Railway Administration reserves the right to accept or reject any application for any given station as per the requirement without giving any reasons. (2) Apart from this, it is also to be clarified that for those nominated stations for which applications are not received, the Railway Administration reserves the right to shift/sup on the stalls and trolleys available at such stations at other stations of the division at its discretion and to operate the said stalls and trolleys. Following are the salient features of the scheme:- 1. Under this scheme, the Railway Administration will make and provide stalls/trolleys at the nominated stations. 2. Registration fee and duration of stall/kiosk is for minimum 15 days (Registration fees Rs. 1000/500) and maximum 03 months (Registration fees Rs.6000/3000). 3. Maximum 02 salesmen (including platform vendors) will be authorized to work in each stall in each shift. 4. Electricity charges will be charged on actual basis as per instruction of policy no. 9 of 2023 dt. 24.05.2023. 5. The effective tax liability if any will be of the allottee, for which the Railway Administration will not be responsible. 6. Local products, handicrafts, handlooms, local agricultural products, local crafts, processed and semi-processed food items, traditional clothes, wooden or clay articles, toys etc. Or any other products which is not conflict or infringe upon the scope of business of the existing licensee of catering units, Fruit and fruit Juice stalls, milk stalls. Multi Purpose stalls can be sold at OSOP stall.

Interested persons/firms may apply with required documents to Station Superintendent Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Vindhyachal, Chunar, Manikpur, Prayagraj-Cheeki, Fatehpur, Kanpur Central, Pandikham, Kanpur Anwarganj, Phaphund, Mainpuri, Hathras, Aligarh, Bhoagan, Achalda, Jhijnjak, Rura, Bharthana, Dadri, Dawar, Etawah, Khurja, Shikohabad Railway stations NCR Office up to 12.05.2026.

For any kind of information/Guidance you may contact the following Commercial Inspectors as mentioned below:
S. N. Station Related to this scheme, Please contact concerned commercial Inspectors Mobile No.
1. Aligarh and its section/station Shri Sanjay Shukla 9794837282
2. Etawah and its section/station Shri Nares Meena 9794837323
3. Mirzapur and its section/station Shri Rajesh Kumar 9794837292
4. Tundla and its section/station Shri Manoj Kumar 9794837321
5. Fatehpur and its section/station Shri Kapil Dev Meena 7978974526
6. Khurja & Dadri and its section/station Shri Hanuman Meena 9794837324
7. Chunar and its section/station Shri S. K. Akela 9140712727
8. Prayagraj Cheeki and its section/station Shri Omprakash 9794838965
9. Kanpur Area-2 and its section/station Shri Lalit Kumar 9616331233
10. Kanpur Central and its section/station Shri Dharendra Awasthi 9889203745

For any other information related to this scheme, can contact Shri Arun Chandra Pandey, Commercial Inspector/NFR-1 (Mo. No. 7525001449) & Shri Pankaj Kumar Rajak, Commercial Inspector/NR-1 (Mo. No. 7525001455), Divisional Office, Prayagraj and e-mail:cmialdmo@gmail.com.
Note: The selection of participants in the OSOP may be done considering that the benefit of this scheme must reach the marginalized sections, i.e. individuals at the bottom of the pyramid. Priority shall be given to the following:
• Holder of Artisans/weavers ID cards issued by Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Development Commissioner Handlooms, or requisite State/Central Government Authority.
• Individual artisans/weavers/craftsmen enrolled/registered with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) / National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)/Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) etc.
• Self Help Groups registered with PMEGP (Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme).
• Marginalized or Weaker Sections of the Society.
• Priority will also be given to "Divyangjan" in the allotment of OSOP.
• Applications for seasonal fruits will not be accepted at stations where fruit and juice stalls are operational.
Note:- In case of food items, it is mandatory for the applicant to have a valid food license.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Mobility is our Hallmark
99626 FA
North centralrailways @CPONCR @northcentralrailway www.ncrindianrailways.gov.in

# SALUTE THE SOLDIER

## BORDER SECURITY FORCE

**Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Dinesh Kumar Rai on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained grievous bullet injuries while fighting bravely armed militants in Anantnag area, J&K and made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.**

**Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Balbir Chand on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained grievous bullet injuries while fighting with militants in Natipora area, Srinagar, J&K and made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.**

**Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Ramachandra Parakanatti on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he made supreme sacrifice while on operational duty in Achhad area, Rajouri (Jammu).**

## CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

**Director General and all Ranks of Central Reserve Police Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Nirmal Singh and Constable Alfuddin of 58 BN, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating militants during a special operation under PS Sadar, Amritsar, Punjab on 7 May 1991. For their indomitable courage, both were posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.**

**Director General and all Ranks of Central Reserve Police Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Veer Balidani Sub Inspector G. S. Bhatti of 33 BN, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating militants during a special operation under PS Sadar, Amritsar, Punjab on 7 May 1991. For their indomitable courage, both were posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.**

**Director General and all Ranks of Central Reserve Police Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Veer Balidani Naik Mohan Lal of 33 BN, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating militants during a special operation under PS Sadar, Amritsar, Punjab on 7 May 1991. For their indomitable courage, both were posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.**

**Director General and all Ranks of Central Reserve Police Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Veer Balidani Lance Naik Hasmukh kumar of 33 BN, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating militants during a special operation under PS Sadar, Amritsar, Punjab on 7 May 1991. For their indomitable courage, both were posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.**

**Director General and all Ranks of Central Reserve Police Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Veer Balidani Constable Bachu Singh of 33 BN, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating militants during a special operation under PS Sadar, Amritsar, Punjab on 7 May 1991. For their indomitable courage, both were posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.**

**Director General and all Ranks of Central Reserve Police Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Veer Balidani Constable Randhir Singh of 33 BN, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating militants during a special operation under PS Sadar, Amritsar, Punjab on 7 May 1991. For their indomitable courage, both were posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.**

**Director General and all Ranks of Central Reserve Police Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Veer Balidani Constable Narsimayya of 33 BN, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating militants during a special operation under PS Sadar, Amritsar, Punjab on 7 May 1991. For their indomitable courage, both were posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.**

**Director General and all Ranks of Central Reserve Police Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Veer Balidani Constable T. Renugopal of 33 BN, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating militants during a special operation under PS Sadar, Amritsar, Punjab on 7 May 1991. For their indomitable courage, both were posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.**

**Director General and all Ranks of Central Reserve Police Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Veer Balidani Constable K. Nagrajan of 33 BN, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating militants during a special operation under PS Sadar, Amritsar, Punjab on 7 May 1991. For their indomitable courage, both were posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.**

**Director General and all Ranks of Central Reserve Police Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable/Driver Veer Balidani Constable/Bijender Singh of 33 BN, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely combating militants during a special operation under PS Sadar, Amritsar, Punjab on 7 May 1991. For their indomitable courage, both were posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.**

**Director General and all Ranks of Central Reserve Police Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Veer Balidani Constable B. M. Jamatia of 52 BN, who made the supreme sacrifice while bravely countering armed insurgents at UCO Bank, Bishnupur Bazar, Manipur on 7 May 1998. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.**

# 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 **Amir S/o Basir R/o Village Faisalabad, P.S. Kotwali, Distt. Bulandshahr, U.P.** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **e-FIR No. 600363/2017 U/s 457/380/411/34 IPC, P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Amir** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Amir** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Amir** of case **e-FIR No. 600363/2017 U/s 457/380/411/34 IPC, P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **05.06.2026**.

By Order  
Sh. Pankaj Rai  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-01  
Room No. 73, 5th Floor, North East District  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi  
DP/5978/NE/2026 (Court Matter)

## NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**OPEN E-TENDER**  
DRM (Electrical) Jaipur, for and on behalf of president of Union of India, invites e-tenders for following works: **S.N.-1, NIT No.:- EL-JP-1-2026-27, Name of work:- JP Division-Electrical work in connection with [1] Const of multi-store 100 bed, barrack with all facilities including road at RPF line barrack No-2 at Jaipur, [2] New Construction RPF post Sikar and BNLV 10-10 Bed barrack with centralizes cooling system and furniture, [3] Construction of RPF barrack (10 beds) and post along with furniture at Lalsot, [4] Provision of Interlocking of 02 Nos. of manned LC gates i.e. LC-240 & 294 in SIKR-LHU section over Jaipur Division., **NIT Cost:- 8856401.5, Earnest Money:- 177100.00, Tender opening:- 28.05.2026, S.N.-2, NIT No.:- EL-JP-02-2026-27, Name of work:- JP-Electrical work in connection with Improvement of maintenance facilities at washing line at JP (Pit light), **NIT Cost:- 13252240.26, Earnest Money:- 265100.00, Tender opening:- 28.05.2026, S.N.-3, NIT No.:- EL-JP-45R-II-2025-26 Name of work:- Bandikui: Electrical work in connection with Construction of 120 bedded staff barrack, 30 bedded ladies barrack & 20 bedded officers barrack for RPF training center. **NIT Cost:- 6830110.78, Earnest Money:- 136600.00, Tender opening:- 28.05.2026, S.N.-4, NIT No.:- EL-JP-51R-2025-26, Name of work:- Electrical work in connection with Provision of AT power supply for HADB installations over Jaipur Division., **NIT Cost:- 2057785.78, Earnest Money:- 412000.00, Tender opening:- 28.05.2026, S.N.-5, NIT No.:- EL-JP-11R-IV-2025-26, Name of work:- JP Div.: Replacement of overhead line network by underground cables over Jaipur division., **NIT Cost:- 18859825.94, Earnest Money:- 377200.00, Tender opening:- 28.05.2026, S.N.-6, NIT No.:- EL-JP-13R-III-2025-26, Name of work:- JP Gen. Improvement of water supply arrangement over Jaipur division, **NIT Cost:- 10405257.76, Earnest Money:- 208100.00, Tender opening:- 28.05.2026, S.N.-7, NIT No.:- EL-JP-38R-III-2025-26, Name of work:- Strengthening & Augmentation of power supply system over Jaipur division., **NIT Cost:- 20855709.60, Earnest Money:- 417100.00, Tender opening:- 28.05.2026, S.N.-8, NIT No.:- EL-JP-39R-IV-2025-26, Name of work:- JP Gen: Rewiring of staff quarter on age cum condition basis over Jaipur division., **NIT Cost:- 20760008.74, Earnest Money:- 415200.00, Tender opening:- 28.05.2026, Note: Date & time of closing of e-tenders:- On tender opening date Upto 15.00 hours., Date & time of e-tender opening:- On tender opening date after 15.00 hours., Complete details of tender can be seen on website No.:- <http://www.irops.gov.in>.******************

## उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे

**ई-ऑक्शन आमंत्रित करने की सूचना**  
No. - Comm/E-auction/2026/18 Date: 05.05.2026  
उक्त के सन्दर्भ में विभिन्न माहियों में एसएलआर लीजिंग एवं विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर पार्किंग स्टैंड / पे एंड यूज टॉयलेट्स / ब्लॉक कम एवं डिजिटल लाकर्स / रिटायरिंग रूम एवं डारमेट्री / विज्ञापन - RDN एवं DDIS/MSS-Misc Static Services / वेटिंग रूम के टेके हेतु ई-ऑक्शन आमंत्रित की गई है। केंद्रोंका IREPS वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किए जा चुके हैं।

1	कार्य का नाम	(1) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर पार्किंग स्टैंड के टेके हेतु ई-ऑक्शन (2) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर वाणिज्यिक विज्ञापन के टेके हेतु आउट ऑफ होम आदि का ई-ऑक्शन (3) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर रिटायरिंग रूम एवं डारमेट्री आदि का ई-ऑक्शन (4) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर वाणिज्यिक विज्ञापन - RDN एवं DDIS के टेके हेतु आदि का ई-ऑक्शन (5) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर MSS- Misc Static Services के टेके हेतु आदि का ई-ऑक्शन (6) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर पे एंड यूज टॉयलेट एवं वेटिंग रूम के टेके हेतु आदि का ई-ऑक्शन
2	कार्य की अवधि	(1) पार्किंग: 06 माह / 3 वर्ष (2) पे एंड यूज टॉयलेट एवं वेटिंग रूम: 03 वर्ष (3) विज्ञापन - RDN (Digital & Non-Digital): 3 वर्ष (4) विज्ञापन - DDIS: 3 वर्ष (5) MSS- Misc Static Services: 3 वर्ष
3	लॉट के ई-ऑक्शन प्रारंभ की तिथि व समाप्ति	(1) PARKING: (1) Park-JU-FW-11 दिनांक 12.05.26 को 12:00 बजे से (2) Park-NOK-26-11 दिनांक 15.05.26 को 11:00 बजे से (2) विज्ञापन-RDN: (1)RDN-JU-26-11 दिनांक 15.05.26 को 12:00 बजे से (3) MSS-Misc Static Services: (1) CR-JSM-26-02 दिनांक 15.05.26 को 14:00 बजे से (4) Pay and Use: (1) PnU-RDRA-26-08 दिनांक 11.05.26 को 14:00 से (2) KMNC-WR-RR-CR-2 दिनांक 18.05.26 को 12:00 से

[www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

## NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
CPM/GSU/NWR Ajmer on behalf of The President of India invites E Tenders for the following work up to 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date.  
**Tender No.:- SNT-GSU-AII-2025-26-08R01, Name of work:- S&T work in Connection with "Raising and extension of ML (Medium Level) platform to HL (High Level) platform with all passenger amenities at stations" MLI, KRW, BNGM, BW, GRI, CNL, BQN, DRS, AUJVA, BWA, NANA, BNS, KVV, BBN, MAA, KWI, MXO, SIM, SZA, DRN, VMD and RGO stations to eliminate the deficiencies of MEA at 22 stations" over Ajmer Division of NWR. Approximate cost of work:- Rs. 1,03,65,182.18. Bid Security:- Rs. 207400.00/-, Date & Time of closing E-Tender - 27.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs. Date & Time of opening E-Tender - 27.05.2026 at 15.30 Hrs. The details of above E-tender are available on website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in).**

## EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-tender Notice No. 08 of 2026-27 (Open)-Engg/DDU On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/ DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings. **Tender No. 03-DDU-SR DEN-I-26-27.1. Name of work with its location:** Proposal for Repairing and Dewatering from limited height subway in ARA-SSm section under ADENXBKJ. **2. Advertised Value:** Rs. 6770068.05. **3. Earnest Money:** Rs. 135400.00/- **4. Closing Date & Time for submission of e-tender:** 26.05.2026, Up-to 12:00 hrs. **5. Website particulars of e-tendering:** [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)  
Divisional Railway Manager East Central Railway  
Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Division  
PR/0178/DDU/ENG/26-27/32

## S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

Divl. Electrical Engineer (OP)-I, South Eastern Railway, Ranchi for & on behalf of President of India, invites e-Tenders for the following work: **e-TENDER NOTICE No. EL-OP-RNC-RR-HTE-MURI-26, Dated: 30.04.2026 (with Corrigendum No. 1, dated 04.05.2026). Brief Description of work:** Upkeep & Maintenance of Running Rooms at Hatia & Muri, which includes preparation & serving of meals (subsidized & Non-subsidized) to the occupants at running room Hatia, and cleaning, gardening of running rooms at Hatia & Muri both for a period of 2 years (730 Days). **Approx. cost of work:** ₹ 1,77,93,620.90. **EMD/Bid Security:** ₹ 2,39,000. **Date & Time of closing:** 21.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs. The tender details can be viewed at the website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderers/bidders can participate on e-tendering. All relevant papers must be uploaded by tenderer with tender document at the time of participating in e-tendering. (PR-128)

## GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED, CHANDIGARH (HARTRON)	SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF SERVERS FOR STORING THE DATA OF PORTALS/DASHBOARD OF HOME & ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF HOME DEPARTMENT, HARYANA	06.05.2026 28.05.2026	ESTIMATED COST Rs. 85.00 LACS	<a href="https://tenders.hry.nic.in">https://tenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172293376 snkps@harnon.gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) No- 44939/HRY

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD R and B DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU

### Short e-NIT No.07of 2026-2027 Dated:-04-05-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advised Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Upgradation of waiting lounge at Circuit House Jammu	PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU	68.21	1500/-	25% of Advertised Cost	60 Days	12-05-2026 (12.00 Pm)	"A"

**Position of AAA / TS : Accorded**  
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :-

S. No.	Particulars	Time
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-05-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-05-2026 to 11-05-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	-
4	Bid submission Start Date	04-05-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date	11-05-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	12-04-2026 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Bakshi Nagar Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Bakshi Nagar Jammu and upload the same i.e. treasury challan / receipt, Earnest Money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Bakshi Nagar Jammu The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI to be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Bakshi Nagar Jammu at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message to their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Bakshi Nagar Jammu The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-  
a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.  
c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJG/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**  
6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.  
6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.  
6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.  
6.4 Bids will be opened online on same schedule mentioned above.  
6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.  
**Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.**  
7. The department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission due to any reasons.  
8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH - 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Bakshi Nagar Jammu and upload the same i.e. treasury challan/receipt, Earnest Money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Bakshi Nagar Jammu and Correctness of Information on the notarized affidavit which must be notarized between the period of downloading of bidding document as per the format mentioned in the e-NIT/SBD with the technical documents of the bid.  
9. Bidders may contact office of the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department, Jammu or concerned Executive Engineer for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.

Sd/-  
(ER. SANDEEP GUPTA)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Bakshi Nagar

## UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)  
Victoria Cross Vijaya Gate Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwal Road, Dehradun-248001, Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGC025867/2358  
Telephone - (0135) 2763872-76, Fax - (0135) 2760289, Website : [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)

### E-TENDER NOTICE (NIT)

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd., Dehradun invites e-tender for following as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Tender Specification no.	Tender Qty.	Estimated Cost (in ₹)	Average yearly Turn Over of Preceding Three Financial Year i.e. 2022-2023 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Cost of tender document including GST in ₹	Date & time of Prebid conference in online mode	Last Date & time of online request for Tender and Submission of tender in online & Offline mode	Date of opening of bid Part-I in offline mode
1	LT XLPE AB cable 3x120+1x95+16 Sq. mm	CCP-I/1/ 2026-2027	400 Km	28,57,10,356.00	42,85,66,000.00	57,15,000.00	29,500.00		20.5.2026 upto 17:00Hrs	21.5.2026 at 15:30Hrs.
2	8.5 Meter Long PCC Pole	CCP-I/2/ 2026-2027	40,000 Nos	14,14,82,000.00	21,22,23,000.00	28,30,000.00	29,500.00	12.5.2026 at 12:00 hrs	20.5.2026 upto 17:00Hrs	21.5.2026 at 15:45Hrs.
3	Stay Set GI 20x1800 mm	CCP-I/3/ 2026-2027	20,000 Nos	1,44,05,000.00	2,88,10,000.00	2,89,000.00	11,800.00		20.5.2026 upto 17:00Hrs	21.5.2026 at 16:00Hrs.
4	GI Earthing Strip 35x6 mm	CCP-I/4/ 2026-2027	60 MT	48,61,920.00	1,45,86,000.00	98,000.00	2,360.00		20.5.2026 upto 17:00Hrs	21.5.2026 at 16:15Hrs.

For further details, please visit the website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in).  
No.: 3171/EE(cm)/UPLJA-2 Dt: 05/05/2026  
SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION. USE LED Bulb, Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912) "Pay Electricity bill online 24x7 from [www.upcl.org](http://www.upcl.org)". (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll free No. 18001804185/Fax No 0135-2760911)

## उत्तर प्रदेश प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय: महर्षि दयानन्द नगर, निकट सैण्टमेरी स्कूल, आदम्पुर चक्कर रोड, बिजनौर-246701  
सन्दर्भ सं./212/F-4/जनरल-2026 दिनांक: 06.05.2026

### फ्लाई ऐश ब्रिक्स का उपयोग निर्माण कार्यों में किये जाने के संबंध में

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार की अधिसूचना दिनांक-01.01.2024 द्वारा फ्लाई ऐश के निस्तारण हेतु अधिसूचना जारी की गयी है। उक्त अधिसूचना के नियम 1 (11) के अनुसार कोयला या लिग्नाइट आधारित थर्मल पावर प्लांट के 300 किलोमीटर के दायरे में सभी भवन निर्माण परियोजनायें (केन्द्रीय, राज्य और स्थानीय प्राधिकरण, सरकारी उपक्रम, अन्य निर्माण एजेंसियाँ, और सभी निजी एजेंसियाँ) राख की ईंटों, टाईल्स, सिंक्रिट राख समुच्चय या अन्य राख आधारित उत्पाद का उपयोग करेगी, परन्तु इन्हे केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग या सम्बन्धित राज्य के लोक निर्माण विभाग द्वारा निर्दिष्ट दरों की अनुसूची में उल्लिखित कीमत से अनाधिक कीमत पर उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा या दरों की अनुसूची के अधीन निर्धारित न होने पर वैकल्पिक उत्पादों के मूल्य पर उपलब्ध कराया जाये। उक्त अधिसूचना के नियम-1 (III) के अनुसार सभी स्थानीय प्राधिकरण राख और राख आधारित उत्पादों अर्थात् इमारतों, सड़कों, तटबन्धों या किसी अन्य सम्बन्धित निर्माण गतिविधि के निर्माण में ईटे, ब्लॉक, टाईले, सिंक्रिट या कोल्ड बान्डेड राख समुच्चय, फाईवर सीमेन्ट शीट, पाइप, बोर्ड, पैनल के उपयोग के लिये अपने सम्बन्धित भवन उप नियमों और अन्य सुश्रांत विनियमों उपलब्ध करेंगे। उक्त के क्रम में अवगत कराना है कि जनपद-बिजनौर के अन्तर्गत तीन इकाईयों यथा मैसर्स मनन इन्टरप्राइजेज, भागुवाला, मोटा महादेव बाईपास, नजीबाबाद, जिला-बिजनौर, मैसर्स गंगा कंक्रीट, ग्राम-दारानगर, तहसील व जिला-बिजनौर एवं मैसर्स ग्रीन ब्रिक्स, ग्राम-नांगल जेट, झालू रोड, तहसील व जिला-बिजनौर एवं अन्य इकाईयों द्वारा राख (फ्लाई ऐश) से ईट निर्माण का कार्य किया जा रहा है। अतः पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार की अधिसूचना दिनांक-01.01.2024 द्वारा अधिसूचित उक्त प्राविधानों के अनुपालन में समस्त कार्यदायी संस्थाओं यथा समस्त निर्माण निकाय, पी०डब्ल्यू०डी०, जिला पंचायत राज अधिकारी, उ०अ० राजकीय निर्माण निगम एवं NEDA आदि द्वारा निर्माण कार्यों में फ्लाई ऐश ब्रिक्स के उपयोग हेतु उक्त कर्मान्वयों से सम्बन्ध स्थापित करते हुये निर्माण कार्यों में फ्लाई ऐश से बनी ईट का उपयोग किये जाने हेतु आवश्यक कार्यवाही सुनिश्चित की जाये।

क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी

## Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)  
e-mail: [pdadvt@bmrc.co.in](mailto:pdadvt@bmrc.co.in) Website: [www.bmrc.co.in](http://www.bmrc.co.in) Ph: 080-22969300, 22969301 Date: 06.05.2026

### RFP NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Managing Director, BMRCIL invites open e-tenders from eligible applicants, who fulfill the prescribed eligibility and qualification criteria for the following Outdoor Advertisements in BMRCIL Network;

Sl. No.	Tender Name	RFP Notification	Bid Security	Last Date for submission of Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Bids
1	Request for Proposal for Grant of Concession to Design, Develop, Operate, and Maintain Advertisements on Selected Piers & Portals of Purple, Green, Yellow, Pink & Blue lines of the BMRCIL Network.	BMRCIL/PD/ADVT/PIERS & PORTALS/2026-27/RT/08 DATED: 06.05.2026	INR 83.00 Lakhs	05.06.2026 up to 5:00 PM	06.06.2026 at 5:15 PM

For more details, visit our e-tendering portal: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> The Request for Proposal (RFP) will also be available in our website [www.bmrc.co.in](http://www.bmrc.co.in)

Sd/- Director (Finance)

## NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice



A boat beside cruise ship *MV Hondius*, hit by Hantavirus, anchored off Praia Port, Cape Verde, on Tuesday. REUTERS

## 3 being evacuated to Europe from cruise ship with Hantavirus spread

Associated Press  
Geneva, May 6

TWO PATIENTS with hantavirus and one suspected of being infected were being evacuated from a cruise ship to the Netherlands on Wednesday, the UN health agency said. The vessel at the center of a deadly outbreak remained off Cape Verde with 150 people on board waiting to head to Spain's Canary Islands.

Associated Press footage showed health workers in protective gear heading to the ship for the evacuation that included the ship's British doctor, who Spain's health ministry said had been in "serious condition" but has improved. An air ambulance later departed.

Three people have died, and one body remained on the ship, the World Health Organization said. Of the eight cases recorded, five were confirmed by laboratory testing.

Hantavirus usually spreads by inhaling contaminated rodent droppings and can spread person-to-person, though that is rare, according to the WHO, whose top epidemic expert said the risk to the public is low.

Health officials in Europe and Africa are trying to identify people who may have had contact with people who earlier left the ship, which departed April 1 from South America for stops in Antarctica and several remote Atlantic islands.

Two Argentine officials in-

## Spain to repatriate asymptomatic passengers of virus-hit vessel

Associated Press  
Madrid, May 6

ALL PASSENGERS remaining aboard a luxury cruise ship hit by a deadly hantavirus outbreak are asymptomatic and non-Spanish citizens will be repatriated to their countries after the ship arrives in Tenerife in the Canary Islands from Cape Verde, Spanish Health Minister Monica Garcia said Wednesday.

The non-Spanish passengers will not be required to quarantine in Spain, with the decision being up to their home countries, Garcia told a news briefing. She added the 14 Spaniards will be transferred by plane to a hospital in Madrid to quarantine.

Investigating the origins of the outbreak said the government's leading hypothesis is that a Dutch couple contracted the virus while bird-watching in the city of Ushuaia before boarding.

They said the couple visited a landfill during the tour and may have been exposed to rodents. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media, with the investigation ongoing.

## BEIJING'S CLOSE ECONOMIC & POLITICAL TIES TO IRAN GIVE IT A UNIQUE POSITION OF INFLUENCE

# China calls for 'comprehensive' ceasefire, opening of Strait for all

## Wang Yi meets Araghchi, says 'deeply distressed'

Associated Press  
Beijing, May 6

CHINA'S FOREIGN minister on Wednesday called for a comprehensive ceasefire in the Iran war, in comments that could inject new energy into stalled efforts to end the two-month conflict between the United States and Iran.

Wang Yi said his country was "deeply distressed" by the conflict. He spoke after meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who was visiting Beijing for the first time since the war with the US and Israel started February 28.

China's close economic and political ties to Tehran give it a unique position of influence.

The Trump administration is pressing China to use that relationship to urge the Islamic Republic to open the Strait of Hormuz. The Chinese minister's comments followed an earlier statement by US President Donald Trump that he was pausing his short-lived US effort to guide stranded com-



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (second right), talks to his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi (left), during the bilateral meeting in Beijing on Wednesday. XINHUA VIA AP

mercial vessels out of the Strait of Hormuz in hopes that a deal could be finalized.

A shaky ceasefire has been largely holding, despite exchanges of fire during the US push to reopen the Strait.

Iran's closure of the strait, a vital waterway through which major oil and gas supplies, fertilizer and other petroleum products passed before the war, has sent fuel prices skyrocketing, rattled the global economy and put enormous economic pressure on countries, includ-

ing major powers like China.

The spot price of Brent crude oil, the international standard, fell to around \$100 per barrel Wednesday, easing significantly from big price jumps earlier in the week. The prices are still well above the roughly \$70 a barrel that crude was selling for before the war began.

Araghchi's visit to China comes ahead of a planned visit by Trump to Beijing for a high-profile summit May 14-15 with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The trip would be Trump's

first to China during his second term and the first by a US president since Trump visited in 2017.

"We believe that a comprehensive ceasefire is urgently needed, a resumption of hostilities is not acceptable, and that it is particularly important to remain committed to dialogue and negotiations," Wang said.

The Chinese foreign minister said the conflict "has already lasted for more than two months. It has not only caused serious losses to the Iranian

people, but also had a severe impact on regional and global peace. China is deeply distressed by this."

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio expressed hope that Beijing would reiterate the need for Iran to release its chokehold on the strait, which would deny its main leverage as Trump demands a major rollback of Iran's disputed nuclear program.

"I hope the Chinese tell him what he needs to be told," Rubio said during a White House briefing Tuesday. "And that is that what you are doing in the strait is causing you to be globally isolated. You're the bad guy in this."

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said Beijing has made clear that the relevant sides must act "with prudence" and resolve the conflict through dialogue in order to restore peace. He added that China has been actively promoting peace talks and will continue to do so.

In a statement published on the ministry's website about Wang's meeting with Araghchi, the foreign ministry said China values Iran's pledge not to pursue nuclear weapons while affirming its "legitimate right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy."

## G7 trade talks target critical minerals as US-EU tariff rift strains unity

Reuters  
Paris, May 6

GROUP OF Seven trade ministers meeting in Paris on Wednesday sought common ground on securing critical mineral supplies that are dominated by China, but fresh US tariff threats against European Union-made cars risked straining unity.

France wants critical minerals supplies to be among the most concrete deliverables during its G7 presidency as ministers prepare for a leaders' summit in mid-June, Foreign Trade Minister Nicolas Forissier said as he arrived for talks.

"I believe we will make very concrete progress on rare earths and critical minerals, securing our supply chains and ensuring we are not held hostage by certain countries," he said.

China's share of the market for minerals used in everything from electric vehicles, wind turbines, electronics to defence systems is so dominant that it can set prices low enough to drive rivals out, French Finance Minister Roland Lescure said on Tuesday.

G7 countries will seek to "ensure that attempts or threats to weaponize economic dependencies will fail," the trade ministers said in a joint statement after their meeting.

# Local polls could hasten exit of UK's embattled PM Starmer

Jill Lawless  
London, May 6

BRITISH VOTERS will cast ballots Thursday in elections that could hasten the end of Prime Minister Keir Starmer's troubled term and confirm that an increasingly fractured United Kingdom has entered an era of messy multiparty politics.

Starmer's center-left Labour Party is expected to take a battering in elections for local authorities across England and

for semiautonomous legislatures in Scotland and Wales.

With the prime minister's popularity in the doldrums from a weak economy and repeated questions about his judgment, rival parties are framing Thursday's votes as a referendum on Starmer and his 2-year-old government.

"Vote Reform, Get Starmer Out" is the campaign slogan of the hard-right party Reform UK. The next national election does not have to be held until



British PM Keir Starmer

2029, but a wipeout on Thursday could tip a restive Labour Party into revolt against its un-

popular leader. Less than two years after winning a landslide election victory, "Keir Starmer has become a vessel for people's disappointment (and) disillusionment," said Luke Tryl of pollster More in Common.

Starmer's popularity has plunged after repeated missteps since he became prime minister in July 2024. His government has struggled to deliver promised economic growth, repair tattered public services and ease the cost of liv-

ing, tasks made harder by the US-Israeli war with Iran, which has choked off oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz.

The prime minister has been further hurt by his decision to appoint Peter Mandelson, a scandal-tarnished friend of Jeffrey Epstein, as Britain's ambassador to Washington.

Forecasters suggest Labour will lose well over half of the 2,500 seats it is defending on English local councils. It is expected to lose votes to parties

on both left and right — especially to the Green Party in London and Reform UK in working-class, former Labour strongholds in England's north.

"These elections are a perilous moment for Keir Starmer," said Tony Travers, professor in the Department of Government at London School of Economics. He said after a series of policy U-turns and in an economy where "there isn't much money to spend on anything... his opponents are lining up." AP

## VISIONARY BEHIND CNN & THE 24-HOUR NEWS ERA DIES AT 87

Jonathan Kandell  
May 6

TED TURNER, the media mogul who cut a brash and vivid figure on the American scene of the late 20th century by dominating cable television industry, creating the 24-hour news cycle with CNN, and extending his restless reach into professional sports, environmentalism and philanthropy, died on Wednesday at his home near Tallahassee, Florida. He was 87.

Phillip Evans, a spokesman for the family, confirmed the death. Turner announced in 2018 he had Lewy body dementia, a progressive brain disorder.

Turner's signature creation was CNN — the Cable News Network — which revolutionized television news in 1980 by presenting it all hours of the day and eventually inspiring other media operations to follow suit. But his portfolio of business ventures bulged with much more, and their impact on American culture was considerable.

As a spinoff of CNN, Turner created the channel CNN Headline News and CNN International. He founded the cable and satellite sports and entertainment "superstation" that became known as TBS and spawned a sister channel, TNT, both of which continue to reach millions of homes.

In 1985, he bought for \$1.5 billion the MGM studio's library of films and nine years later created the cable franchise Turner Classic Movies, or TCM.

He made a similar purchase of Hanna-Barbera cartoons and, relying on them, created the Cartoon Network in 1992. And in 1996, he merged his conglomerate, Turner Broadcasting System, with Time Warner to create one of the world's largest media companies.

Along the way, he found the time and energy to captain the winning yacht in the America's Cup race in 1977 and to take an



(Top) Ted Turner is seen at his desk inside the CNN Center in 1982; Ted Turner and wife Jane Fonda arrive for their West Coast wedding reception in Hollywood on January 10, 1992. AP

history of mass media.

An Atlanta-based entrepreneur, Turner took astounding risks in business, often teetering on the edge of bankruptcy and then roaring back to multiply his fortune. Against the advice of colleagues and the conventional wisdom of his industry peers, he poured millions of dollars into pioneering ventures that combined cable and satellite broadcasts. He warred against the big television networks.

His personal life, too, was turbulent. His three marriages, his last, ending in 2001, was to the Oscar-winning actress Jane Fonda, were often rocked by his open displays of infidelity, heavy drinking and otherwise boorish behavior.

Nicknamed "the Mouth of the South" for his self-aggrandizing claims and a reputation for dispensing gratuitous insults, Turner, tall and slim with a craggy, mustachioed face, could nonetheless be a man of great charm, whose gaffes were forgiven by an indulgent public which considered him a living American legend. NYT

## Australia files new weapons charges against suspect in Bondi shooting

Associated Press  
Wellington, May 6

AN AUSTRALIAN man accused of killing 15 people in a massacre at a Hanukkah celebration at Sydney's Bondi Beach will face 19 more charges related to the attack, officials said Wednesday.

Naveed Akram was already charged with 59 counts including murder, attempted murder and committing a terrorist act after two gunmen opened fire on the Jewish holiday event in December 2025. He hasn't yet been required to enter a plea.

The 24-year-old was shot and wounded and his father Sajid Akram, 50, was killed in a gunbattle with police that ended the attack. The massacre was inspired by Islamic State group, Australian police said.

The additional counts included 10 of shooting with intent to murder and six of discharging a firearm with intent to resist arrest.

## Russia snubs Kyiv's unilateral ceasefire, fires dozens of drones

Associated Press  
Kyiv, May 6

RUSSIA FIRED dozens of drones at Ukraine in nighttime attacks, Ukrainian officials said Wednesday, disregarding a unilateral ceasefire announced by Kyiv that began at midnight.

The Russian Defence Ministry claimed that Ukraine hadn't abided by its own ceasefire, saying that air defenses shot down 53 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions, the illegally annexed Crimean Peninsula and the Black Sea between Tuesday evening and dawn Wednesday.

Five people were killed by a Ukrainian drone strike on the city of Dzhankoi in Crimea, according to Russia-installed Gov. Sergei Aksyonov.

He reported the casualties just after midnight, but posted about the attack itself more than 90 minutes earlier.

There had been no official sign from Moscow that it would

heed Kyiv's ceasefire, and there was little hope for a pause in hostilities as the war stretches into its fifth year following Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbor.

US-led diplomatic efforts to stop the war over the past year have come to nothing.

On Tuesday, Russian drone and missile strikes on Ukraine killed 27 people and wounded 120 others, all of them civilians, according to Ukrainian Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko.

On Wednesday, two Russian drones hit a kindergarten in the downtown area of Sumy city in northeastern Ukraine, killing a security guard and wounding two others, officials said. No children were there at the time.

Russian attacks since last Friday have killed at least 70 civilians and wounded more than 500, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said Wednesday, as the strikes hit 14 regions.

## • MOSCOW SHIFTS FROM LOW-COST RECRUITS TO PROFESSIONAL SABOTAGE OPERATIONS USING CRIME NETWORKS: POLICE INTELLIGENCE

# Russia shifts from mass recruits to covert sabotage cells

Claudia Ciobanu  
Warsaw, May 6

RUSSIA IS SHIFTING from individual recruits to 'professional' networks to carry out a campaign of sabotage and other attacks across Europe, Poland's internal security service said in a report published Wednesday.

European officials and law enforcement have previously warned that Russia is waging a hybrid war against Europe, including sabotage, arson attacks, and vandalism, as well as influence operations.

The Associated Press has tracked more than 150 such incidents linked to Moscow by Western officials since the invasion of

Ukraine. Many of the people involved were recruited online as disposable agents and some had no idea they were working for Moscow. Russia is now moving away from using those low-cost, one-time recruits toward more "professional" operations, tapping organized crime networks, according to the report published on Wednesday by the Internal Security Agency, or ABW.

Poland has conducted as many espionage investigations in the past two years as it did over the previous three decades, ABW said, noting that 62 people have been arrested.



Soldiers from Russian Wagner mercenary group take part in a joint training at a military range outside Brest, Belarus. FILE

said, in which "Russian intelligence is increasingly using methods typical of special forces (reconnaissance and sabotage)."

In 2024 and 2025, 69 espionage investigations were initiated, the same total number as between 1991 and 2023, ABW reported. "The long-term goal of Russian Federation remains the disintegration of Euro-Atlantic structures, the isolation of specific countries and their internal socio-political and economic destabilization," the report stated.

While Poland was primarily targeted by Russia, some of the espionage activities were also dictated by Belarus' secret services, which are "closely cooperating" with Moscow, as well as by China. The "mass surveillance" operations in Poland are meant to set ground for acts of diversion, which ABW considers "the

most serious challenge" it faces. Russian intelligence services, who are escalating actions in Poland, are accepting possibility of "occurrence of fatalities," the Polish agency observed.

ABW also noted an increasing "professionalization" of Russian sabotage activities in 2024-2025. According to the agency, in 2023, Russian services were still basing their operations mainly on so-called one-time agents, recruited ad hoc via the internet.

That is a model that Russia is thought to have expanded following the expulsion of its intelligence officers by Western European countries after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. AP

'INDIA & VIETNAM WILL ENSURE ECONOMIC SECURITY, SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE OF BOTH NATIONS'

## India, ASEAN to update trade pact by year-end, says PM Modi

The talks assume significance as India is rapidly opening its market to FTA countries in a bid to diversify exports

Ravi Dutta Mishra  
New Delhi, May 6

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries will update the trade agreement by the end of the year. The deal was originally signed in 2009 under the UPA government, and both trade partners began renegotiating the deal in 2024 amid a ballooning trade gap.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Vietnamese President To Lam here, PM Modi said, "Bilateral trade between India and Vietnam has doubled over the past decade, reaching \$16 bn.

"To take it to \$25 bn by 2030, we have taken several important decisions today. We have also reached an agreement to update the India-ASEAN Trade Agreement — AITIGA — by the end of this year. This will give new energy to trade and investment between India and all ASEAN nations."

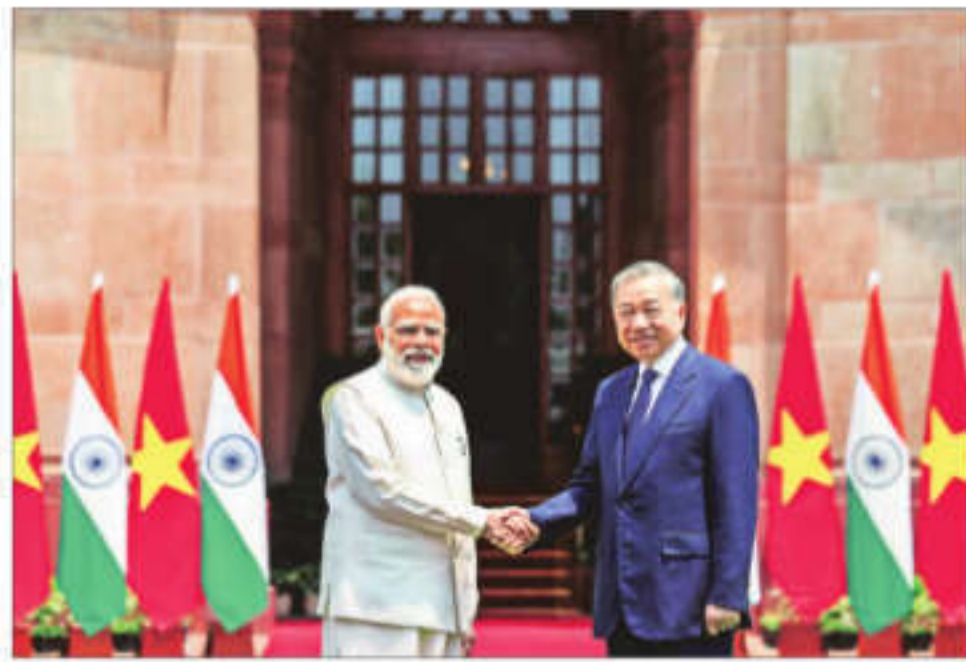
The India-ASEAN trade deal review has been one of the most challenging negotiations that the Commerce and Industry Ministry has engaged in, as

ASEAN nations have an edge over India under the current deal. India's trade deficit with the fast-growing ASEAN region has risen to \$45 billion in the financial year 2025 (FY25), from \$8 billion in FY13.

An Indian Economic Service research paper on India's trade patterns with the 10 ASEAN nations between 1991 and 2020 showed that while imports have grown, exports have declined since 2010, resulting in increasing trade deficits with all ASEAN countries.

PM Modi said that through new initiatives in critical minerals, rare earth, and energy cooperation, India and Vietnam will ensure the economic security and supply chain resilience of both countries. "Export of India's agricultural, fisheries, and animal products to Vietnam will also become easier. Very soon, Vietnam will taste India's grapes and pomegranates, and we will enjoy Vietnam's durian and pomelo," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the drug regulators of both countries would "increase access to Indian medicines in Vietnam".



Both trade partners began renegotiating the deal in 2024. ANI

"To boost financial connectivity as well, today we have decided to enhance cooperation between our central banks. India's UPI and Vietnam's Fast Payment System are also set to be linked soon. Additionally, we are now going to strengthen state-to-state and city-to-city cooperation between our two countries," Modi said.

"In this era of global upheaval and economic challenges, on the strength of our talent, good governance, and economic reforms, India and Vietnam are emerging as the world's fastest-growing economies. Now, through our enhanced strategic partnership, we will become partners in each other's rapid growth," he said.

The renegotiations also assume significance as India is

rapidly opening its market to FTA countries in a bid to diversify exports during growing uncertainty in markets such as West Asia, the US and the growing regulatory hurdles in Europe.

Amid India's aggressive push for global trade integration, the existing FTAs have not translated into higher exports.

Imports have surged from the ASEAN region after it joined the China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal.

India exited the RCEP negotiations in 2019 due to concerns over rising imports from China. Notably, China-ASEAN trade is on the rise. The 10 member states of ASEAN include Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar,

### • SKEWED TRADE

INDIA'S TRADE deficit with the fast-growing ASEAN region has risen to \$45 billion in FY25 from \$8 billion in FY13

AN INDIA Economic Service research paper on India's trade patterns with the 10 ASEAN nations between 1991 and 2020 showed that while imports have grown, exports have declined since 2010, resulting in increasing trade deficits with all ASEAN countries

Cambodia, Brunei and Laos.

According to a statement released by PMO, India and Vietnam have agreed to strengthen the supply chains in sectors of mutual interest. Vietnam affirmed its commitments to diversify its supply sources and to "import more products from India to serve its domestic production and export needs".

"Both sides agreed to explore ways for a more conducive regulatory environment to facilitate ease of doing business for companies of both countries, including in standards compliance certification. They underlined the importance of maintaining constructive dialogue for resolving mutual concerns under bilateral institutional mechanisms," it said.

FULL REPORT ON  
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

## Indian cos pledge to invest record \$20.5 bn in US; pharma in focus

Shubhajit Roy  
New Delhi, May 6

INDIAN COMPANIES have pledged to invest a record \$20.5 billion in the United States, which includes \$19.1 billion in pharmaceuticals, the US embassy said on Wednesday.

The commitments were made during an investment summit in Maryland, US.

According to the US embassy, the commitments span key sectors including pharmaceuticals, advanced manufacturing, energy infrastructure, and emerging technologies, and are expected to create thousands of jobs in both countries while expanding US production and joint innovation capacity.

The US embassy statement quoted Ambassador Sergio Gor saying, "I am proud to advance our goal to double US-India bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030. Through fair, balanced, and mutually beneficial trade, we're attracting world-class investment to the United States and creating shared prosperity for both nations."

It said that a significant share of the investment is driven by India's pharmaceutical sector, with more than \$19.1 billion in planned investments in US manufacturing, research and development, and new facilities.

In addition, 12 Indian companies announced more than \$1.1 billion in new greenfield and expansion projects across multiple states, supporting jobs in manufacturing, technology, and engineering.

### Pharmaceuticals & industrial capacity

Indian pharmaceutical companies announced plans to invest more than \$19.1 billion in the US, anchored by Sun Pharmaceutical's planned \$11.75 billion acquisition of New Jersey-based Organon & Co.

### 'Review of HDFC Bank finds no major lapses'

Reuters  
Mumbai, May 6

LAW FIRMS reviewing governance at HDFC Bank are set to report this month that they have not found any major lapse, two people with direct knowledge of the findings said, clearing the way for the reappointment of its CEO.

India's largest private lender by assets called in Mumbai-based Trilegal and Wadia Ghandy & Co after Atanu Chakraborty resigned as chairman in March citing "incongruence" between his personal values and bank practices.

He did not elaborate. The resignation was followed by a 13.81% drop in the bank's share price, or \$16 billion in the stock's value, and prompted a rare statement from the central bank seeking to allay investor and depositor concern about a lender deemed too big to fail. It also threw into doubt the lender's application at the central bank due May-end to reappoint CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan.



US Under Secretary William Kimmitt gave the opening remarks on Day 3 of the 2026 #SelectUSASummit. X/@SELECTUSA

Participating companies include Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, Biocon Group, Cipla Limited, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Granules India Ltd, Jubilant Group, Lupin Limited, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, Piramal Pharma Ltd., and Zydus Lifesciences Limited.

These investments will support manufacturing and network expansions, new greenfield facilities, and increased research and development, helping expand the supply of essential medicines, address drug shortages, and strengthen the resilience of the US healthcare supply chain.

JSW Steel affirmed plans for commissioning \$255 million in modernisation projects at its facilities in Ohio and Texas.

### Manufacturing

Abhyuday Group (Ahmedabad) will invest over \$900 million across five US sites, creating 1,500 American jobs. Jindal Pipe and Jindal Tubular USA (PR Jindal Group) will invest \$87 million to expand in Texas and Mississippi, creating 140 jobs. The statement said. Jivo Wellness (Delhi) will invest \$15 million, creating 50 direct jobs and up to 150 indi-

rect jobs. Polyhose Inc. will invest \$2 million in Los Angeles to support the US shipbuilding industry.

### Technology, AI, & digital infrastructure

Mumbai-based Sterile Technologies Ltd. will invest \$100 million, creating up to 500 jobs and supporting AI and telecom infrastructure.

Techedome Solutions (Indore) will invest \$7.5 million, creating 100 jobs. Kerala's RoshAI will invest \$5 million in Texas, creating 20 jobs. Chennai's Atri AI will invest \$2 million in Menlo Park, California. Kissflow will invest \$2 million in Houston. SatoriXR will invest \$1.5 million in Michigan.

### Energy, research & innovation

Magnoinnovation Lab of Kerala will invest \$2 million to establish US field operations and support energy sector applications. Indian Institute of Technology Madras Global Research Foundation will invest \$4.5 million to establish a US research and collaboration hub in California, with plans for an additional East Coast. FULL REPORT ON  
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

### • BRIEFLY

### SEBI classifies 'significant indices' based on AUM threshold

Mumbai: Markets regulator SEBI has introduced a regulatory framework classifying any index as a "significant index" if it is benchmarked by mutual fund schemes with daily average cumulative assets under management exceeding Rs 20,000 crore for each of the preceding six months. The move is aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in index governance. PTI

### Dedicated pharma train flagged-off in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Aushadhi Express, an inaugural cargo train carrying pharmaceutical products, was flagged off by Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, South Central Railway (SCR), and Sanjay Swarup, CMD of Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) from ICD Sanathnagar in Hyderabad to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT). Officials said that the initiative will enable faster, safer, and more efficient movement of temperature-sensitive cargo. ENS

### Review cyber risks in 2 mths: RBI to banks

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to conduct an internal review of their cybersecurity preparedness and place a detailed assessment before their respective boards within the next two months, sources said. The exercise is part of an advisory issued by the central bank on April 27 directing lenders to further strengthen their cyber defence frameworks amid rising digital and AI-linked risks. FE

### Zee sues Reliance-Disney over alleged copyright breach

New Delhi: India's Zee Entertainment has sued the Reliance-Disney joint venture, the country's biggest entertainment company, alleging it used Zee's copyrighted music after licence agreements expired, court documents show. Zee is seeking \$3 million in damages, alleging unauthorised use and exploitation of works from its music division on the Reliance-Disney streaming platform and some of its TV channels, according to previously unreported court papers seen by Reuters. REUTERS

## RIL to shut some units for maintenance, govt sees no impact on LPG

Sukalp Sharma  
New Delhi, May 6

INDIA'S LARGEST domestic market-oriented refinery—Reliance Industries (RIL) domestic tariff area refinery at Jamnagar—will be taking a routine maintenance shutdown later this month, but the government doesn't expect the shutdown to impact fuel availability in the country, particularly that of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), a senior Petroleum Ministry official said on Wednesday.

The government is also involved in coordinating refinery shutdowns by different refiners to ensure ample fuel availability amid the West Asia crisis, which has reduced energy flows to India.

RIL's 33-million-tonnes-per-annum (mtpa) refinery is the largest refinery supplying fuels for the Indian market. The company's Jamnagar refinery complex also has a 35.2-mtpa special economic zone (SEZ) refinery that is export-oriented.

Refineries take periodic planned maintenance shutdowns, or turnarounds, to ensure operational safety, comply with regulations, and replace equipment that needs to be changed. These scheduled refinery outages help with inspection, cleaning, repairs, and upgrades to maintain and even improve operational efficiency. Due to the West Asia war, wherever feasible, refinery

shutdowns have been postponed to ensure stable and adequate fuel supplies in India.

According to Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma, RIL's refinery shutdown—likely to last about four weeks—will begin after Nayara Energy's 20-mtpa Vadinar refinery comes back on stream after its maintenance turnaround is completed by the middle of May. The Vadinar refinery's maintenance shutdown started last month after facing months-long delays.

"Shutdowns or turnarounds are part of normal operations as far as refineries are concerned. We in the ministry try to ensure that all shutdowns don't happen at the same time. It has to be scattered so that the supplies for the domestic market are not affected, and that's what we are ensuring now also. Right now the Nayara refinery is under shutdown, and by the mid of this month or even before that, it will come back (on stream). And then the Reliance shutdown will start," Sharma said. She added that the shutdown will not have any impact on the domestic production of LPG as not all units of the RIL refinery are going to be offline. As for other fuels like petrol, diesel, and aviation turbine fuel, the country is self-sufficient and a net exporter, which means that there is no real supply constraint.

FULL REPORT ON  
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

### AI FEARS & HEADY VALUATIONS

## Foreign investors cut holdings in top Indian IT cos in FY26

Akash Mandal  
Mumbai, May 6

INDIAN IT companies are facing a double whammy from the advent of artificial intelligence (AI).

Not only are future business orders under risk, the increasing use of AI in workflows by the same tech firms is leading to what is called 'AI deflation'—or reduction in order values as efficiencies reduce costs, which is then passed on to customers. This, naturally, has hit their share prices, with the National Stock Exchange's benchmark Nifty IT index down 23% so far in 2026. Infosys and HCL Technologies have fallen 27-28% in that period.

Foreign investors, a key player in the capital markets, have taken a particularly tough view of the Indian IT sector, cutting their shareholding in the top companies in FY26 by over three percentage points on average. In fact, Foreign institutional investors' (FIIs) allocation to the Indian technology sector stood at an all-time low of 7.3% at the end of March compared to 10.1% at the end of FY25, according to brokerage Motilal Oswal Financial Services. Among India's top-nine IT services companies, Coforge saw the largest decline in FII holding — 9.6 percentage points — during FY26.

Infosys and Tech Mahindra saw a reduction in FIIs shareholding by over 4 percentage points. Wipro was the only one

### • How much holdings FPIs cut in Indian IT companies

Company	Change in FPI holding in FY26 (bps)
Coforge	-955
Infosys	-443
Tech Mahindra	-436
HCL Tech	-365
TCS	-238
Persistent Systems	-225
Mphasis	-110
LTIMindtree	-37
Wipro	-3

SOURCE: EXCHANGES

of the nine in which FIIs left their stake largely unchanged.

Most of these companies, barring Tech Mahindra, Wipro, and LTM (formerly LTIMindtree), saw FIIs reduce their stakes in January-March—the quarter in which concerns about AI eating into business intensified after US-based Anthropic rolled out legal plugins for its Claude chatbot as analysts expressed worries that these tools could render the Indian IT services sector obsolete.

The hit to the Indian IT sector has been sufficiently large to be a drag on the entire Indian stock market, with the Nifty 50 down 0.2% over the last one year. So far in 2026, FIIs have sold \$21.6 billion of Indian equities—more than the \$18.9

billion they sold in all of 2025—of which \$2.4 billion worth of net sales have been of Indian IT stocks (until April 15). As a result, FII holdings in the IT sector reduced to \$41.4 billion from \$59.8 billion at the end of 2025. FIIs have continued to lower their holding of IT companies even though many experts think valuations in the sector, especially for large-cap companies, are now fair post the sharp correction in stock prices. Meanwhile, domestic institutional investors (DIIs)—consisting primarily of mutual funds and insurance companies—have increased their stake in technology companies that are part of the NSE 500 universe by 4 percentage points in FY26 to 22.3%.

To be sure, this has been part of a broader trend.

"On a year-on-year basis, DIIs raised their holdings in 21 out of 24 sectors. The maximum increase in holdings was visible in private banks, technology, telecom, real estate, healthcare, and NBFC — Lending," Motilal Oswal said on Tuesday.

Experts remain mixed on the IT services sector. While some are cautious due to concerns regarding the outlook for their earnings due to the increasing adoption of AI, some fund houses have seized upon the opportunity offered by cheaper valuations to accumulate shares of these companies.

FULL REPORT ON  
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• AN MIT GRADUATE, SHE IS ALSO THE CEO OF BOSTON-BASED BIOTECH FIRM BICARA THERAPEUTICS

## Claire, 37, 'right person' to lead Biocon into next era, say experts

George Mathew  
Mumbai, May 6

POISED TO succeed Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw at the helm of Biocon Ltd, Claire Mazumdar brings a formidable mix of scientific brilliance, global biotech leadership and entrepreneurial success.

Claire, who is set to take over the mantle from Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw as the head of Biocon, is a success story in her own right as the CEO of Boston-based Bicara Therapeutics, a biotech firm incubated with funding from Mazumdar-Shaw and listed on Nasdaq in 2024. Daughter of Ravi Mazumdar, who is the brother of Kiran

Mazumdar-Shaw, Claire, 37, will head Biocon which operates in more than 120 countries, supported by seven manufacturing sites, three R&D sites, 18 offices worldwide, and a workforce of over 9,500 employees.

Mazumdar-Shaw, who is now Chairperson of Biocon, said it's part of the five-year phased transition plan for the company which has a market capitalisation of Rs 61,700 crore. Mazumdar-Shaw, whose husband John Shaw died in 2022, has no child.

Claire holds a Bachelor of Science in Biological Engineering from MIT, earned her MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business and a PhD in cancer



Claire's (left) research in tumour immunology and cancer epigenetics has been published in Nature, Cell Stem Cell and Cancer Cell. FILE

biology from Stanford School of Medicine. Her research in tumour immunology and cancer

epigenetics has been published in Nature, Cell Stem Cell and Cancer Cell.

Bicara is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company committed to bringing transformative bifunctional therapies to patients with solid tumours. It has built a platform designed to facilitate the development of bifunctional therapies that precisely target the tumour and deliver a tumour-modulating payload to the tumour site.

Claire led business development and corporate strategy at Rheos Medicines, where she supported a major partnership with Roche. As a Senior Associate at Third Rock Ventures, she focused on company formation and supported business development for TRV portfolio companies. She is also a Member of

the Board of Directors for Noora Health, a global non-profit which works to improve patient outcomes and strengthen health systems by equipping family caregivers with the skills they need to care for their loved ones. Corporate observers say that Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has selected the right person to succeed her at the Indian biotech firm.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw's brother Ravi Mazumdar is also on the board of Biocon. Biocon has commercialised 12 biosimilar products and 30 plus generic formulations globally. It has robust research and development pipeline of 20+ biosimilar assets.

### • MARKETS

↑ Sensex 77958.52 940.73 1.22%	↑ NIFTY 24,330.95 298.15 1.24%	↓ Gold ▲ ₹1,50,860	↓ US Dollar ▼ ₹94.61
		↓ Silver ▲ ₹2,49,067	↓ Oil ▼ \$112.47

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION DATA GOLD PER 100G, SILVER PER 1KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF MAY 5, 2026



**‘Would’ve been too selfish to go for a hundred’, says Samson**



Sanju Samson led CSK to a win over DC on Tuesday. PTI  
Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 6

PERSONAL MILESTONES are always enjoyable, but Sanju Samson believes they're not the be-all and end-all of the game. At one stage during the chase against Delhi Capitals, when the match was pretty much in the bag, Samson needed 21 for his third hundred of the IPL season with the team requiring 30 for victory.

There have been instances in the past when strike and scoring has been manipulated in such circumstances to allow a batter to reach a personal milestone. But Samson had the bigger picture in mind, especially as net run rate may be a factor. "A hundred is always special but it would have been a bit too selfish to go for a hundred, so I thought let's win the game. Finishing not out, winning the game gives you more satisfaction."

As it turned out, Samson scored just eight of the final 33 runs with batting partner Kartik Sharma applying the finishing touches with three fours and a six.

The pitch wasn't the easiest to bat on, but Samson seemed to be playing on a different surface. Where other batters were frustrated with the slow pitch with variable bounce, where the odd ball was turning, he stood still and timed the ball to get his boundaries.

He played the situation perfectly as 64 of his 87 runs came in fours and sixes.

"I have been working a bit on my initial movement and it has been coming off. I've been doing it for the last few years and it's tactical as well depending on the bowlers and how you want to approach them. It's good to stick to what works well for you, and allow the hands to do the job," CSK's batting mainstay said.

**“A hundred is always special but it would have been a bit too selfish to go for a hundred, so I thought let's win the game. Finishing not out, winning the game gives you more satisfaction.”**

SANJU SAMSON  
CSK BATSMAN

# Drop by drop, Punjab lose top spot to Hyderabad

**Three dropped catches and a missed stumping give lives to Klaasen and Ishan as SRH return to winning ways**

**SYNOPSIS:** After losing their last game, SRH got back to winning ways against PBKS to reach the top of the table with 14 points from 11 games.

Tanishq Vaddi  
Hyderabad, May 6

AFTER LOOKING flawless in the past seven games, the Punjab Kings have lost their third game in a row. Fielding is increasingly becoming a worrying sign for last year's finalists. Against Sunrisers Hyderabad, this was evident as their dropped chances for Heinrich Klaasen and Ishan Kishan proved to be the crucial moments that ultimately decided the game. On the contrary, coming off a loss, Hyderabad performed efficiently in all three departments.

## Butterfingers

Shreyas Iyer subtly mentioned at the toss what happened in Hyderabad the last time the Punjab Kings visited. "On this wicket...they chased 245," he said, but behind that high-scoring chase was the Kings' sloppy fielding effort; they dropped several chances. Abhishek Sharma scored a ton. A year later, on Wednesday, the same untidy fielding effort led them to concede 235 runs.

The poor fielding virus showed its symptoms late in the game against LSG, when Shashank Singh dropped three catches. The result was all but decided that night in Mullanpur, and Iyer could see the funny side of it, but here, when Shashank dropped Klaasen on nine, the Punjab skipper's expression was not as happy. With the rich vein of form Klaasen has shown this tourna-

ment, he made it count.

Klaasen did what he has been doing for SRH this season: walking in during the middle overs and laying the foundation for the final overs. Klaasen played second fiddle when Ishan Kishan was batting, though he showed power-hitting whenever the ball was in his arc. Ishan scored a half-century, but he himself had a charmed life throughout at the crease, where he was dropped twice. When he was nine, Cooper Connolly spilt one at mid-wicket, when he was 18, Lockie Ferguson missed a chance at square-leg, and on 20, wicket-keeper Prabhsimran Singh missed the stumping chance. Both Klaasen and Ishan put up 88 runs in the middle overs. The duo's power-hitting quality was as ballistic as always.

To the Punjab Kings' credit, they devised shrewd plans to counter SRH's batting. They did what the SRH bowlers have been doing on this surface this season: digging the ball into the surface and taking the pace off. However, they received no help from their fielders. Vijaykumar Vyshak took a severe beating from the Kishan-Klaasen partnership during the middle overs. By the time he came into the attack, batters were aware of what to expect and started to set up. After scoring a half-century, Ishan hit one through mid-wicket; ironically enough, Suryansh Shedge at deep mid-wicket took a catch this time. Klaasen fell on the final delivery when Marco Jansen took an unusually low, bent catch at long off for a ball that went high in the air.

## Fielding to the fore

Although the Kings had the intentions and plans in place, their execution failed, which is



SRH's Heinrich Klaasen provided the fireworks with his innings of 69 (43 balls, 3x4, 4x6) vs Punjab. PTI

## ●IPL table

Teams	M	W	L	PTS
SRH	11	7	4	14
PBKS	10	6	3	13
RCB	9	6	3	12
RR	10	6	4	12
GT	10	6	4	12
CSK	10	5	5	10
DC	10	4	6	8
KKR	9	3	5	7
MI	10	3	7	6
LSG	9	2	7	4

M: MATCH; W: WIN; L: LOSS; PTS: POINTS

where the Sunrisers got their two points. In the first over, Pat Cummins dug one into the wicket, and Priyansh Arya made an error. The pull shot did not come off, and Eshan Malinga took a superb running catch at square-leg. Nitish came into the attack looking for swing and pitched the ball up.

Prabhsimran Singh tried to close the bat face early, but the ball took the leading edge. Cummins, fielding at mid-off, took a lovely catch while running backwards, using a reverse cupped-hand position.

Shreyas Iyer perished in the powerplay. His counterpart, Cummins, took the catch at mid-off when Iyer mis-hit a delivery from Malinga. Losing three wickets in the powerplay, Punjab was hampered in the chase. They had to maintain the gruelling balance of keeping the tempo without losing any more wickets. Marcus Stoinis and Cooper Connolly partnered, stopped the fall of wickets and also counter-attacked quite bravely before on-field brilliance undid Stoinis. Shivang Kumar delivered one wide. Stoinis slashed at it as hard as he could, but keeper Ishan's quick reflexes secured the catch on the second attempt. Connolly found another

ally in Shedge. They built 47 runs from 30 deliveries, and Cummins brought himself back into the attack to break the partnership, deploying the pitch's most efficient weapon: a slow bumper.

By the halfway mark of the chase, Punjab needed 145 runs from the next 10 overs. The ball was oldish and reversing a bit. Malinga and Sakib Hussain, knew the drill that works here. The bowlers kept pressuring the Punjab batters. But while the other Punjab batters struggled with the sluggish pitch, Connolly has an ideal backfoot game suited for this pitch. Weighting on the back foot, he had answers for all the variations SRH offered and fought the lone battle for Punjab.

**BRIEF SCORES:** SRH 235/4 in 20 ovs (Klaasen 69, Ishan 55, Head 38) beat PBKS 202/7 in 20 ovs (Connolly 107 not out; Cummins 2-34) by 33 runs

# How Kartik, who hit 500 balls a day, is keeping Dhoni on the bench

Venkata Krishna B  
Chennai, May 6

MS DHONI has a calf injury. He has not rushed back. Partly because Chennai Super Kings are managing him carefully at 44. But partly, those inside the dressing room say, because Kartik Sharma has made it complicated.

It was not long ago that Stephen Fleming was sceptical about young blood. As CSK fell behind other teams in batting approach last season, Fleming held his ground — sample size too small, he said. Weeks later he had changed his mind. Beyond Abhishek Sharma, Priyansh Arya and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, there were more. Kartik was among them — spotted mid-season by CSK's scouting team, added to their pool as a development player, ineligible for the auction but too good to ignore.

A year on, he is making that scouting look shrewd.

Kartik is 19, from Bharatpur, and not the biggest or burliest of batters. What he has is one specific thing, and he has built his life around it. At the Aravali Cricket Academy in Hathod on the outskirts of Jaipur — where he trained under the late Vivek Yadav, a former Ranji Trophy winner who died of COVID-related complications in 2021 — coaches spotted early that he could connect with the ball and hit it long.

Range hitting became the immediate priority. On some days, 500 to 700 balls against the machine, pace and spin, the objective each time the same: hit as many out of the park as possible.

His father, back in Bharatpur, installed a ball machine at home so he could keep practising between academy stints. "There is a clarity in his head about what he is working on: hitting sixes," says Jagsimran Singh, head coach at Aravali.

CSK have punted Rs 14.2 crore on exactly that. They knew the price tag alone would create pressure. So they built around him carefully. David Reid, a mental-skills coach from Australia with experience in the AFL and Big Bash League, oversaw the sessions off the field — breathing, nerves, understanding what the mind does when 50,000 people are watching.

"The mental aspect is really important," Fleming said. "You're sending players out into an absolute cauldron like 35,000 to 50,000 to 100,000 people. The mental aspect of staying calm and understanding what the mind and body are doing is reasonably untapped in this competition. We introduce them to certain mental skills and breathing aspects that might help them to perform. Because they're very good at hitting balls in the nets, but understanding nerves and anxiety and fear of failure is also equally important, especially if you have a price tag

Even if Axar can be excused for seething a bit after a defeat that puts their Playoff hopes in further jeopardy, Kuldeep's poor returns have not escaped the attention of DC head coach Hemang Badani either. "We would ideally want him to be better than this. He hasn't struck peak form yet. He hasn't bowled at the speeds he would normally bowl. But we will rally around him," Badani said.

As far as Kuldeep himself is concerned, his coach advised him to get back into the nets and iron out his shortcomings. "One doesn't need to worry about the odd bad day. He should practice spin bowling to get his length back," Pandey added.



Kartik Sharma caught CSK's eye before he was even eligible for the auction. PTI

on your head."

Beyond Reid, there was Dhoni. Like how he had moulded Shivam Dube into a six-hitting finisher, a pattern was drawn in CSK's net sessions. Kartik was put in the same batch as the 44-year-old. Simulated match situations, specific tasks listed out — which balls to pick, which bowlers to target, which pockets to exploit. Dhoni by the side, watching, guiding. The initial plan was to use Kartik as a finisher; after the early struggles, CSK moved him to No 4, his position for Rajasthan, his comfort zone.

## Unconvincing start

His IPL debut — No 6 on a seaming Guwahati pitch — brought 18 off 15. Unconvincing shows against Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru followed, and he was dropped. In domestic cricket last season, batting at No 4 for Rajasthan, his six-hitting had made Kevin Pietersen stop and ask on X. "Who is this?" CSK had been watching since before the auction. They knew what he could do. They also knew he needed time.

When he came back in the last week of April, CSK moved him to No 4. Against Mumbai, with Rituraj Gaikwad at the other end. Against Delhi, with Sanju Samson settled. In both games he walked in under pressure, soaked it, found his area of strength, and grew — not slogging, but pacing, picking his moments. An unbeaten 54. An unbeaten 41. Two chases completed.

When he came back in the last week of April, CSK moved him to No 4. Against Mumbai, with Rituraj Gaikwad at the other end. Against Delhi, with Sanju Samson settled. In both games he walked in under pressure, soaked it, found his area of strength, and grew — not slogging, but pacing, picking his moments. An unbeaten 54. An unbeaten 41. Two chases completed.

When he came back in the last week of April, CSK moved him to No 4. Against Mumbai, with Rituraj Gaikwad at the other end. Against Delhi, with Sanju Samson settled. In both games he walked in under pressure, soaked it, found his area of strength, and grew — not slogging, but pacing, picking his moments. An unbeaten 54. An unbeaten 41. Two chases completed.

# Ahmedabad to host IPL final, KSCA 'disappointed'

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 6

THE NARENDRA Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad will host the IPL final for the fourth time in five years as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) unveiled the Playoffs schedule for the IPL 2026 season on Wednesday.

While the knockouts will be held at three venues starting May 26, the BCCI omitted Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium, the home venue of defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru, from staging the final. The board stated that the decision was

taken after the Karnataka State Cricket Association failed to meet certain requirements to host the final, making way for Ahmedabad again.

"Bengaluru was originally designated to host the Final. However, owing to certain requirements from the local association and authorities that were beyond the scope of BCCI's established guidelines and protocols, the venue has been shifted and reassigned," a statement from the BCCI read.

The KSCA expressed its disappointment over the BCCI's decision. It said that former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad, who is the association's presi-

## ●Playoffs schedule

**QUALIFIER 1**  
May 26: Dharamshala  
**ELIMINATOR**  
May 27: New Chandigarh  
**QUALIFIER 2**  
May 29: New Chandigarh  
**FINAL**  
May 31: Ahmedabad

dent, was "personally in touch with the BCCI" in this regard where he had formally conveyed KSCA's preparedness, willingness, and keen interest in hosting the IPL Playoffs at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

KSCA had also addressed a "detailed communication" to the BCCI where it outlined its preparedness and explained the operational framework under which the current IPL season was conducted in Bengaluru. In June last year, 11 RCB fans had lost their lives while celebrating the franchise's first IPL title in 18 seasons at a victory parade.

The statement, signed by KSCA's spokesperson, Vinay Mruthyunjaya, noted that specific reasons for the IPL playoff games being allotted to other centres over Chinnaswamy Stadium have not been formally communicated to KSCA.

"But we fully respect the prerogative and decision-making authority of the BCCI in this regard," it said.

The Qualifier 1, involving the top two sides at the end of the league stage, will be held at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala, the secondary home venue of Punjab Kings. The Himachal venue will host three league stage games involving Punjab starting later this week. Punjab's traditional home venue in New Chandigarh, Mullanpur, will then stage the Eliminator and Qualifier 2 fixtures on May 27 and 29, respectively before the Ahmedabad finale on May 31.

# ‘Watching Virat chase, you understand art of batting’

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 6

HE HASN'T set the IPL on fire yet, but Jacob Bethell is quickly coming to terms about what it takes to flourish in the Indian Premier League. The 22-year-old has been highly regarded in England for some time and has even captained the national side but he burst onto the lime-light big time with a hundred in the last Ashes Test in Sydney in January. Indian fans got to know him first-hand when he gave the home team a big scare with a century in the big chase in the T20 World Cup semifinal in Mumbai in March.

Bethell has played just three matches for RCB this season with a grand total of 39 runs. But he has already earned something which he will cherish for a long time — watching Virat Kohli from up close and observing what makes the maestro tick, especially when he has a target to overhaul.

"Watching Virat chase, you understand the art of batting, how to control a chase and stay not out. It's about shifting gears

based on the situation," Bethell said on RCB Bold Diaries.

He has opened with Kohli in his three games so far and though the partnerships have been worth 26, 26 and 34, the short stints would be invaluable in teaching Bethell what it takes to perform in the IPL cauldron. "When I got to RCB, I was curious about the experience. Watching Virat, (skipper) Rajat (Patidar), and speaking to DK (Dinesh Karthik), I realised the game shifts here. It's played at a high tempo; you have to be aggressive and brave," the England prodigy, who was born in Barbados, said.

RCB head coach Andy Flower has coached in T20 leagues around the world, and also had a long and successful stint with England during which period the team reached the pinnacle of Test cricket. Bethell came onto the scene much later, but he was nevertheless keen to work with the Zimbabwe-born former wicket-keeper-batter-turned-coach, who was the one to end the long wait of RCB fans for the IPL crown last year.

## ●IPL 2026

# Out of returns: Why Kuldeep has endured a poor season

Tushar Bhaduri  
New Delhi, May 6

IT'S NOT every day that a captain singles out a particular player for criticism after a defeat, especially if he's a senior member of the side. But Delhi Capitals skipper Axar Patel did just that after the hammering at home at the hands of Chennai Super Kings on Tuesday, when he said, unprompted, that "When we were bowling, I missed my partner."

That comment was a reference to Kuldeep Yadav, one half of one of the more potent spin-bowling duos in the Indian Premier League, but which has largely underperformed this season.

On match eve, DC bowling coach Munaf Patel had claimed that his team would benefit if pitches slowed down as the tournament progressed. But on a spin-friendly surface at the Arun Jaitley Stadium against CSK, Kuldeep was taken to the cleaners by Sanju Samson and Kartik Sharma, leaking 34 runs in three wicketless overs.

And this is not just a case of

one bad game. The left-arm wrist-spinner is having a forgettable season, his seven wickets in 10 games coming at an economy rate of 10.37 runs per over, and a bowling average well north of 44.

Whenever Kuldeep has faced a problem or crisis in his career, he has turned to his longtime coach Kapil Pandey for guidance. The coach from Kanpur had orchestrated his comeback after injuries and surgeries and helped him bounce back when his effectiveness was questioned due to his slow pace, which often allowed batters time to adjust even after being beaten in the air.

Pandey, who was watching Tuesday's game, took it upon himself to call his protégé and offer words of advice and encouragement. "I saw that he was a bit disturbed and called him after the game to tell him not to worry too much," Pandey told *The Indian Express*. "He bowled well in his first two overs in which he conceded just 16 runs. It was only in the third that he lost the plot a bit and



Kuldeep Yadav in conversation with KL Rahul during Delhi Capitals' match against Chennai Super Kings on Tuesday. PTI

gave away 18 runs."

Pandey believes his ward's confidence is low and needs to focus on his strengths.

"He is missing his length. Yesterday, he bowled a fast one down the leg side, which Samson just tickled for a boundary. He should have gone for a googly but was bowling short a lot of the time," he said. "Kuldeep should have relied on his skill and variations and tried to

spin the ball."

The Delhi pitch on Tuesday had something for the bowlers, but Pandey said there wasn't much assistance by the time Kuldeep came on to bowl.

"There was some grip and turn, and Akeal Hoseni took advantage. But that was only in the first innings. DC should have bowled first. Generally, the IPL has good wickets with not much in them for

**The left-arm wrist-spinner is having a forgettable season, his seven wickets in 10 games coming at an economy rate of 10.37 runs per over**

spinners," he said.

Kuldeep hasn't taken a wicket since April 25, when Punjab Kings achieved the highest-ever successful run-chase in the IPL. Pandey went back to that game to explain Kuldeep's recent struggles.

"In that game, an easy catch of Shreyas Iyer was dropped off Kuldeep's bowling, and he went on to win the game for the Punjab Kings. That's not the only drop suffered by him this season. A spinner needs support from his fielders to provide results. That game hurt his confidence."

## Backing from team

The coach said the present scenario isn't unusual for a spinner playing in the IPL for 11

years now, apart from his international career.

"Batters face him in the nets and matches. They get to read his variations, and there is not much novelty left. The team needs to back him now as he has done very well for the franchise over a long period. One also needs to see that a score of 155 made matters tough for the bowlers."

Even if Axar can be excused for seething a bit after a defeat that puts their Playoff hopes in further jeopardy, Kuldeep's poor returns have not escaped the attention of DC head coach Hemang Badani either.

"We would ideally want him to be better than this. He hasn't struck peak form yet. He hasn't bowled at the speeds he would normally bowl. But we will rally around him," Badani said.

As far as Kuldeep himself is concerned, his coach advised him to get back into the nets and iron out his shortcomings. "One doesn't need to worry about the odd bad day. He should practice spin bowling to get his length back," Pandey added.

# WFI reiterates selection criteria, shuts door on Vinesh's Asiad hopes

Express News Service  
Mumbai, May 6

THE WRESTLING Federation of India (WFI) effectively ended Vinesh Phogat's bid to compete at the Asian Games, stating that the eligible events for selection didn't include next week's National Open Ranking tournament.

The governing body announced that it will conduct the Asian Games trials for women on May 30 in New Delhi and a day later in Lucknow for men's freestyle and Greco-Roman. It was earlier expected that the ranking tournament in Gonda from May 10-12 would open the door for Vinesh, who is set to return to the mat after 20 months, to be in contention for the Asian Games trials. However, in a circular issued on Wednesday, the

WFI laid down the eligibility criteria.

It said that only the medalists at the 2025 National Championships, held in December, and last February's Federation Cup would be allowed to compete in the selection trials. Vinesh, who gave birth to a baby boy in July last year, did not compete in either tournament.

The WFI's decision will come as a blow to Vinesh, a 2018 Asian Games gold medalist. The wrestler, who walked away from the sport after the Paris Olympics heartbreak, had announced her comeback in December. Last week, she claimed that she intended to compete at the Federation Cup, "but the team selection criteria were changed at the last minute", and she couldn't compete. Since announcing her re-



Vinesh Phogat is slated to make a return to the mat in the ranking tournament in Gonda starting May 10. PT/FILE

turn, Vinesh has been at loggerheads with the WFI. First, she alleged that they were trying to stop her from registering for the ranking tournament — a claim WFI rejected. Then, she chal-

lenged the decision to conduct the tournament in Gonda, the backyard of former federation president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Vinesh also said that she was among the alleged victims

**WFI said that only the medallists at the last year's Nationals and the Federation Cup would be allowed to compete in the selection trials. Vinesh, who gave birth in July last year, did not compete in either.**

of sexual harassment by Brij Bhushan, and was one of the six woman wrestlers who have filed complaints against him.

The ranking tournament is scheduled to take place at the Nandini Mahavidyalaya in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. Brij Bhushan is the founder of Nan-

dinagar Mahavidyalaya and is a former Member of Parliament from Gonda. He is facing trial in a Delhi court after some of the country's top woman wrestlers accused him of sexual harassment in 2023. Vinesh was at the forefront of those protests along with Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik.

Meanwhile, the WFI added that the U-20 National Championships medallists will also be eligible for the Asian Games selection trials. The only deviation from its earlier selection policy, released in February, was that the U-23 Nationals will no longer be considered. Back in February, the WFI said the U-23 medallists could also take part in the trials if the tournament was held in time. However, the U-23 Nationals are yet to take place.

## • BRIEFLY



Gianluca Prestianni was accused of racially abusing Vinicius Jr. REUTERS

## Prestianni's ban for abusing Vinicius extended to World Cup

FIFA CONFIRMED a global ban Wednesday for Gianluca Prestianni that will rule the Benfica winger out of two World Cup games in the United States if he is selected in Argentina's squad. UEFA imposed a six-game ban - with three games deferred on probation - on Prestianni two weeks ago for his verbal abuse of Real Madrid's Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior in the Champions League. Prestianni covered his mouth with his jersey while using the insult. REUTERS

## FIFA chief justifies World Cup ticket prices citing resale market

Reuters  
Los Angeles, May 6

FIFA PRESIDENT Gianni Infantino said the high market rate for match tickets in the United States justified the ticket prices in next month's World Cup, citing high demand for match tickets in the resale market.

The soccer governing body received 500 million requests for tickets to the showpiece event and media reports said last month that some tickets for the tournament's final, set for July 19 in New Jersey, are up for resale at over \$2 million each.

"If some people put on a secondary resale market some tickets for the final at \$2 million, number one, it doesn't mean the ticket costs \$2 million," Infantino said at the Millken Institute Global Conference in Los Angeles on Tuesday. "Number two, it doesn't mean that somebody will buy these tickets. Actually, if someone buys a ticket for \$2 million, I will personally bring them a hot dog and a coke to make sure he has a great experience."

Ticket prices for the World Cup being held in the U.S., Canada and Mexico have seen a considerable increase from the 2022 edition in Qatar. Tickets for the final in July range from \$2,030 to \$6,370, significantly higher than the final in Doha, priced from \$206 to \$1,607. FIFA has faced calls from several groups to lower ticket prices, including from dozens of U.S. lawmakers. Due to backlash over prices, FIFA introduced a small number of \$60 tickets tucked high in the top corners of stadiums, limited in number compared to the other categories.

"We are in that market in which entertainment is the most developed in the world, so we have to apply market rates," Infantino said. "In the U.S., it is permitted to resell tickets as well. If you were to sell tickets at a price which is too low, these tickets would be resold at a much higher price."

## ARSENAL INTO CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

# 20-year wait ends: The night the Emirates became Highbury

Mikel Arteta's side is 90 minutes away from a first European title after battling past Atletico Madrid

### Scoreline

ARSENAL	ATLETICO
1	0
Saka 44'	
AGGREGATE: 2-1	

### Sandip G

New Delhi, May 6

FOR NINETY minutes and sundries on Tuesday night, the Emirates transformed to Highbury. The spectators seemed so close to the field of action, blurring man-made obstacles, that they could pour onto the ground and storm their players. The energy was wild and raw, the men in the middle waged a war they were resolved to not lose, and the grand concrete arena finally found its soul, nearly two decades after it sprung to life, displacing the crumbling old stadium that had beheld the finest of Arsenal's moments. Before kick-off they splashed a giant tifo of a ship with the words: "Over land and sea".

That is what success does to a place. Arsenal could sense history winking at them, and the last seven days of May could turn out to be the most glorious in the club's history — or the most crushing.

Even Arteta, a former Arsenal player himself, admitted he had never felt as much energy before. "I have never felt that in the stadium. The atmosphere, our support has created the energy, the way they managed every ball with us, they made it special and unique. An incredible night."

Arsenal did not sweep Atletico Madrid in the semifinal; but they did enough to qualify for

their maiden Champions League final since they moved to the Emirates nearly two decades ago. It's the nature of champion teams — they grind out wins, they scrape and squeeze through, they trade beauty for function. The first Champions League title and a league title after 22 years could yet adorn their mantelpiece. Fate could be unkind, but Mikel Arteta's men, hardened by heartbreaks and near-miss taunts, believe this time is theirs.

The scoreline — 1-0, a classic European result — and associated stats would convey an impression that the tie was close. Apart from a couple of penalty appeals in the second half, there was little cause for alarm. Both teams shadow-boxed for a long time, guarded their fort ferociously, conscious of not erring rather than inflicting the knockout blow. But Arsenal strutted with an authority that said they could not be defeated. That however much Atletico pressed and prodded, they would not budge. It was akin to a rigorously drilled march past, every move synchronised with the beat of the drum — a game designed in the boardroom and executed with robotic precision, more refined prose than wanton verse. They are, after all, masters at suffocating teams out of possession.

It's not fear of losing, but the will to not lose — the relentless pursuit to leave nothing to chance. A moment of ingenuity could arrive, so be it. But until it does, they slam the doors shut. Something has perceptibly changed in Arsenal since the defeat against Manchester



Bukayo Saka scored the only goal as Arsenal held onto the 1-0 lead to go into the final. AP



Arsenal fans celebrate after the final whistle on Tuesday. AP

City. The past episodes of meltdowns were duly fished out after the 2-1 loss at the Etihad. But this time Arsenal didn't slip, let alone wither. It was as though the City game had liberated them, made them second favourites again. The Etihad defeat also gave them a specific task — win the remaining games and lift the league. They relish the tag of chasers rather than those being chased. The week also showed that City are susceptible to pressure, when they dropped points away to Everton. History, thus,

**The energy was wild and raw. The grand concrete arena finally found its soul, nearly two decades after it sprung to life, displacing the crumbling old stadium that had beheld the finest of Arsenal's moments**

could yet be kinder to Arsenal's three successive second-spot finishes.

Defeating Atletico would further heighten the mood of optimism. The biggest fillip is that after two middling months, they are peaking at the ripest time. Talisman Bukayo Saka has returned to fire up their previously stagnant creativity. Striker Viktor Gyokeres has adjusted to the pace and physicality of the league and begun to score freely. The team they encounter in the final — either PSG or Bayern Munich,

both free-scoring — will be a different beast. But Arsenal have shown they can storm opponents or suffocate them. Both roads lead to the same place.

Arteta always had these attributes in his squad. But since the City defeat, they have found something missing — belief. The belief that they can ride through every storm, the conviction that they can land their biggest titles. Arteta revealed as much: "Everybody can feel a shift in energy, in belief, in everything. Let's use it in the right way and understand that the margins and the difficulty of what we are trying to achieve are huge, but we have the ability and the conviction to do it."

They are not in the promised land yet, but they are nearer to its shores than ever before. They would fight over land and sea to reach there. And success could give soul to even the most soulless concrete structures. The Emirates could banish the sprawling shadows of Highbury forever.

## Disappointing campaign at World TT ends

INDIA'S UNDERWHELMING campaign at the World Table Tennis Team Championships ended with women's 1-3 loss to USA in the round of 32. The men too lost in a round of 32 clash against Austria on Tuesday. Manika Batra was the only one who made an impact in the rubber, winning her singles against Reyes Jessica 11-2, 11-8, 8-11, 11-4. In the opening singles, Yashaswini Ghorpade was blanked by Moyland Sally 0-3. PTI

## Casemiro backs Carrick to get Man Utd job

MANCHESTER UNITED midfielder Casemiro says Michael Carrick has already shown he has all the qualities to be a great manager at the club and backed calls for the former England international to be given the role on a permanent basis. "I think he's a guy who has already demonstrated that he has very good qualities to be a Manchester United coach," Casemiro told ESPN Brazil. REUTERS

## India A to play two four-day games vs Aus A

INDIA A men's team will host Australia A for a shadow tour comprising two four-day 'Test' and three List A games in September-October as BCCI on Wednesday released a comprehensive schedule for men's and women's age-group (U-19) and pathways teams, and senior women's side. The marquee contest will be India A vs Australia A men's series which will be held between September 22 to October 11 in Puducherry. PTI

## Compound teams flop at World Cup

INDIAN COMPOUND men's and women's teams, considered strong medal contenders, endured a disappointing outing in Stage 2 of the Archery World Cup, failing to secure a podium finish. The biggest setback came from the women's team, who had won India's only gold medal at the season-opening World Cup in Mexico last month. The trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Pragati and Aditi Swami crashed out in the quarterfinals. PTI

## Young boxers get 27 medals at Asian U-15, U-17

INDIAN BOXERS were assured of 27 medals at the Asian Boxing U15 & U17 Championships on Wednesday. The U-15 girls' contingent secured 14 out of 15 possible medals, while the U-15 boys nearly matched the feat by confirming 13 out of 15 medals, setting the stage for a historic show. Following this massive medal confirmation, the Indian boys delivered another day of ruthless performances. PTI

## Williamson, Jamieson to play England Tests

KANE WILLIAMSON and fast bowler Kyle Jamieson were included in a strong New Zealand test squad on Thursday for the tour of Ireland and England in May and June. Williamson, New Zealand's most prolific batter, has not represented his country since last December's test series against West Indies, while Jamieson last bowled in five-day cricket more than two years ago. REUTERS

# Indian athletes forced to jump off moving train to save poles

British Raj  
New Delhi, May 6

FIVE INDIAN athletes — three pole vaulters and two heptathletes — were returning to Salem from Bhubaneswar after competing in the Indian Indoor Open Combined Events and Pole Vault Competition. The 22-hour journey had been uneventful for the first twelve hours. By the time it ended, two of them were on a different train, three were stranded at a railway station in Andhra Pradesh, and all of them had watched their poles fall onto the tracks from a moving train.

The group was travelling on two seats due to the reservation rush. They were carrying eight poles — each costing over Rs 1 lakh — and had tied them to the window of their reserved sleeper coach after finding insufficient space inside. Usually, athletes keep poles on the ceiling fans inside the compartment, but with the coach full, the window was the only option. Fellow passengers had agreed to the arrangement, and the first half of the

journey passed without incident.

The trouble began at Rajahmundry station in Andhra Pradesh. A passenger complained, and Railway Police Force personnel cut the ropes securing the poles. As the train began to pull away from the station, the poles started sliding onto the track.

Kavinraja, the reigning U20 Federation Cup champion and one of the three pole vaulters in the group, did not stop to think. "My only thought was that the poles shouldn't break," he said. He jumped off the moving train. Two other athletes followed. Inside the compartment, a fourth athlete pulled the emergency chain. The group retrieved their equipment before it could be damaged under the wheels.

"When we left from Bhubaneswar, there was no problem. We talked to the passenger and tied it to the window as they were okay with it," Kavin said.

What followed was harder to explain. RPF personnel and railway officials demanded details from the athletes. When the details were provided, Kavin, along with Vishal and Sakthi, were

asked to accompany officials to the railway police station on the platform. They requested access to their luggage, which was still on the train. The request was denied. The train left for Salem with their bags — and the other two athletes — on board.

Sakthi, 22, is a commercial cum ticket clerk with the Salem Division of Indian Railways. Once he showed his credentials as a railway employee, the tone shifted. After almost six hours and a written reply submitted to officials, the three were allowed to leave. They boarded the Coromandel Express later that night and returned to Chennai. Their luggage had already reached Salem.

This is not the first time pole vaulters have faced such difficulties. Earlier this year, national record holder Kuldeep Kumar and then-national record holder Dev Meena were asked to disembark at Panvel station while travelling to Madhya Pradesh. "It is disheartening, to be honest. Such incidents discourage kids from taking up a sport like pole vault," Kavin said.

## • SUPER RAPID & BLITZ TOURNAMENT

# Gukesh's fist pump seals statement win over Sindarov

Amit Kamath

Mumbai, May 6

EVEN THE most impulsive teenager in the world broke character. If actions speak louder than words, Gukesh's fist pump screamed, even though there was a library-esque hush in the playing hall at Warsaw when he accepted Javokhir Sindarov's resignation in a statement victory.

For a few seconds, the mask of inscrutability that Gukesh usually wears slipped. Gukesh turned into the teenager that he is, celebrating a victory in a rapid game at a tournament like a tennis player would celebrate a point. Gukesh was celebrating a point well made, too. In the fifth round of the Super Rapid and Blitz tournament, Gukesh defeated Javokhir Sindarov, who he will face later this year to defend his world champion's crown. "That fist pump was for myself," Gukesh, barely able to contain a smile, told Saint Louis Chess Club in an interview after the day ended. "It felt really good to win. In the heat of the moment, I did something."



D Gukesh reacts after defeating Javokhir Sindarov in the fifth round in Warsaw. SCREENGRAB VIA SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB

If one of Gukesh's most famous victories in chess had gained traction around the world for his opponent, Magnus Carlsen smashing his fist on the table in anger, the Indian's victory on Wednesday over Sindarov will also be remembered for Gukesh pumping his fist with a pointed look into the crowd.

Playing with black pieces, Gukesh earned his victory in 52 moves. The games saw Sindarov blunder his knight on move 25 and drop down to just over a

minute on his clock, advantages that Gukesh never let go, tightening the screws on his opponent until the Uzbek yielded.

"I know from the previous experience of playing Ding Liren before our world championship over Sindarov that there's always something always going on in the background in such games," Gukesh added.

Asked if he had attached any more meaning to this encounter than usual, Gukesh pointed out that this was a rapid game; the world cham-

ampionship match would be much different. "But obviously, when you play games like these, there is always something running behind. It's a nice feeling," he said, his smile no longer hidden.

Just like the Carlsen result last year, Gukesh's victory over Sindarov in the Super Rapid and Blitz tournament in Warsaw was swimming in subtext. This is the first time after Sindarov was facing Gukesh, after he had secured his spot in the world championship as a challenger to the Indian. The quicker formats of rapid and blitz are not known to be Gukesh's domain, while Sindarov bosses them.

Gukesh has had a wretched run of results since he became world champion, while Sindarov has been in rampaging form this year, sweeping to victory at the Candidates tournament without losing a single game.

Since Gukesh became the world champion in December 2024, every move he made in critical positions, every game he played and did not win, every tournament position where he did not finish at the top became

a referendum on his credentials.

Carlsen recently said that Sindarov would be the favourite at the World Championship because Gukesh has "very obvious weaknesses in his understanding". Garry Kasparov too installed Sindarov as the favourite.

All of this explains why one of the most impulsive players in chess was fist-pumping after winning a fifth-round tie at a rapid and blitz tournament.

Sindarov came into the second day of the tournament as one of the only two players to be unbeaten. For both players, Wednesday had started with defeats. Gukesh had, in fact, lost in the fourth round to Radoslaw Wojtaszek, who was his second at the last world championship.

Gukesh and Sindarov had faced off at the Tata Steel Chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee at the start of 2026, where Gukesh had fumbled a winning position. Sindarov had resisted Gukesh for six hours before pulling out an incredible draw. That game too had seen Gukesh lose his cool when he had called the arbiter to ask fans to speak softly.