



सोमलिङ्गं नरो दृष्ट्वा सर्वपापैः प्रमुच्यते।  
लभते फलं मनोवाञ्छितं मृतः स्वर्ग समाश्रयेत्॥



# SOMNATH

## Virasat Ke 75 Saal

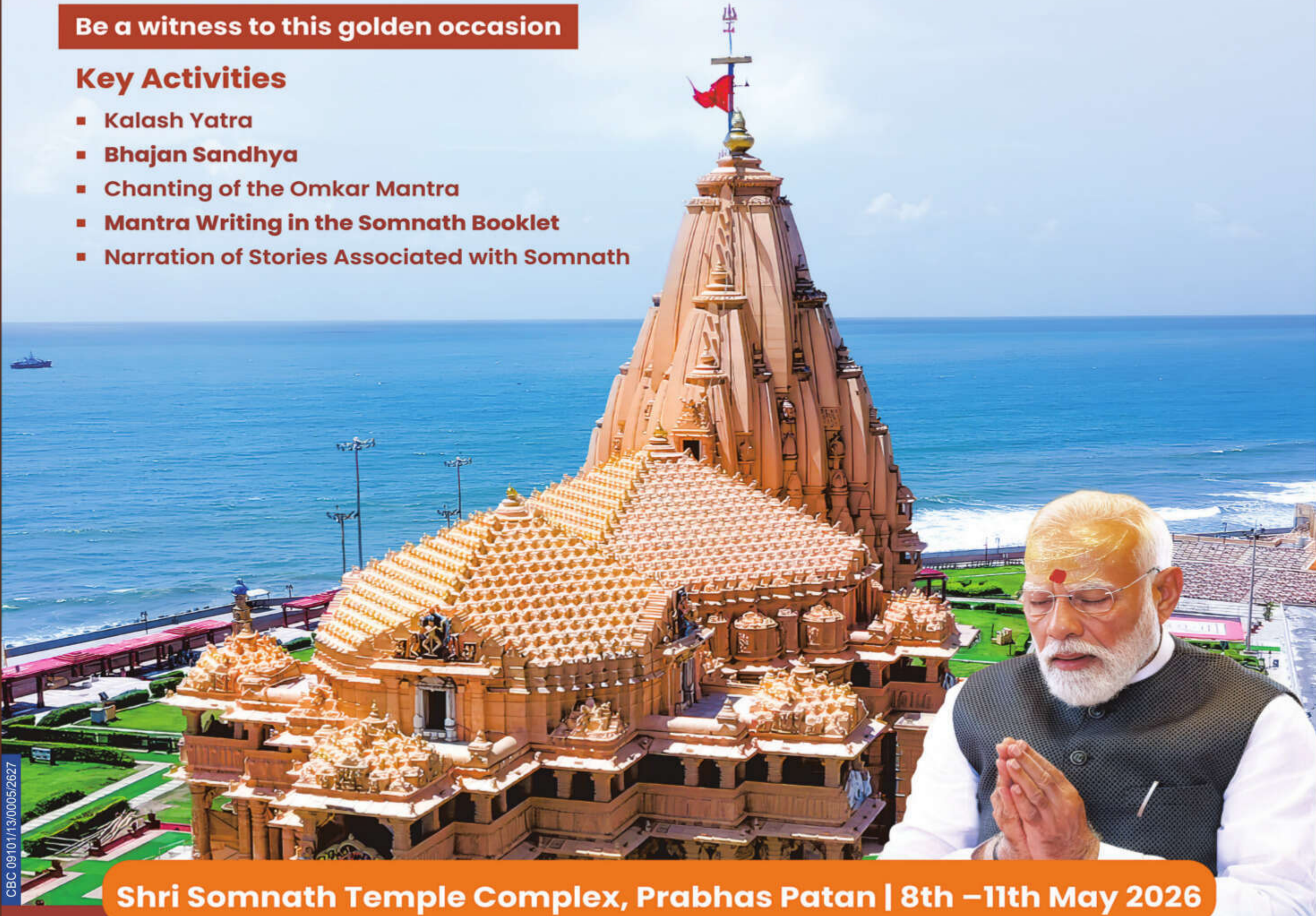
Somnath is a symbol of India's indomitable civilisation. Even after facing destructive attacks for over 1000 years, Somnath continues to stand tall as an embodiment of our pride and courage.

75 years ago, the resolve of the Iron Man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, paved the way for the modern revival of Somnath. Today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, this sacred land proudly heralds India's cultural renaissance.

Be a witness to this golden occasion

### Key Activities

- Kalash Yatra
- Bhajan Sandhya
- Chanting of the Omkar Mantra
- Mantra Writing in the Somnath Booklet
- Narration of Stories Associated with Somnath



Shri Somnath Temple Complex, Prabhast Patan | 8th – 11th May 2026

“Somnath is that song of hope which teaches us that the power of creation is far greater than the power of destruction” - Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (Chairman, Shri Somnath Trust)



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To contribute towards enriching the glorious 1000-year legacy of Somnath.

## Israeli airstrikes kill 5 in Lebanon as Hezbollah fires backs

Associated Press  
Beirut, May 8

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES on southern Lebanon killed at least five people Friday, while Hezbollah fired rockets on northern Israel without inflicting any casualties.

The Health Ministry in Lebanon said that an Israeli airstrike on the southern village of Toura near the port city of Tyre killed four people and wounded eight. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported another airstrike near the southeastern village of Kfar Chouba, saying it killed a paramedic with the Lebanese Civil Defence.

The strikes came hours after the Israeli army's Arabic-language spokesperson issued an evacuation warning to the residents of six villages in Tyre province, including Toura.

In the early afternoon, Hezbollah fired a salvo of rockets toward northern Israel. The Israeli military said it shot down one rocket while the did not inflict casualties.

The latest exchange between Israel and Hezbollah, despite a ceasefire that has been in place since April 17, came two days after the first Israeli airstrike on Beirut's southern suburbs since the ceasefire went into effect.

## TEHRAN SAYS U.S. VIOLATED THE CEASEFIRE AND IT RETURNED FIRE

# US awaits Iran response to peace proposal as Gulf fighting flares up

## UAE: Air defences engaged Iranian drones, missiles

Reuters  
Washington, May 8

THE UNITED STATES said it expected an Iranian response as soon as later on Friday to its latest proposal to end the war in the Gulf, even as US and Iranian forces traded fire in the region and the United Arab Emirates came under renewed attack.

Recent days have seen the biggest flare-ups in fighting in and around the Strait of Hormuz since a ceasefire began a month ago, despite signals from Washington and Tehran that they were closer than ever to a deal.

"We should know something today," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters in Rome.

"We're expecting a response from them... The hope is it's something that can put us into a serious process of negotiation." Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson said Tehran was still weighing its response.



A screen grab of the Iranian navy firing a missile, at an unknown location, on Friday. REUTERS

Sporadic clashes between Iranian forces and US vessels were taking place in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday, Iran's semi-official Fars news agency reported.

The Tasnim news agency later cited an Iranian military source saying the situation had calmed, but warning more clashes were possible "if Americans try to enter the Gulf again and cause trouble for Iranian vessels".

The US military said it struck two Iran-linked vessels

attempting to enter an Iranian port, with a US fighter jet hitting their smokestacks and forcing them to turn back.

Iran has largely blocked non-Iranian shipping through the strait since the war began, while the US last month imposed a blockade on Iranian vessels.

Oil prices rose, with Brent crude futures above \$101 a barrel, though still down more than 6% for the week, as traders weighed clashes against reports

of diplomatic progress.

President Donald Trump said on Thursday the ceasefire was still holding despite the flare-ups. Washington is awaiting Tehran's response to a US proposal that would formally end the war before talks on more contentious issues, including Iran's nuclear programme.

Trump said three US Navy destroyers were attacked as they moved through the strait, and the US military fired back

"Three World Class American Destroyers just transited, very successfully, out of the Strait of Hormuz, under fire. There was no damage done to the three Destroyers, but great damage done to the Iranian attackers," Trump wrote on Truth Social. He later played down the exchange. "They trifled with us today. We blew them away," Trump told reporters in Washington.

Iran accused the US of breaching the ceasefire, which had largely held since it was announced on April 7 but has come under strain this week after Trump announced - and then paused - a naval mission to reopen the strait.

"Every time a diplomatic solution is on the table, the U.S. opts for a reckless military adventure," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Friday.

Iran's top joint military command said US forces targeted an Iranian oil tanker and another ship, and carried out air attacks on civilian areas on Qeshm Island in the strait and nearby coastal areas. It said forces responded by attacking US military vessels east of the strait and south of the port of Chabahar.

## • BRIEFLY

### UNITED KINGDOM

## David Attenborough, 'voice for nature programmes,' turns 100



David Attenborough, after an investiture ceremony, at Windsor Castle on June 8, 2022. REUTERS

BRITAIN'S DAVID Attenborough, who has for decades been the world's most authoritative voice on the natural world and whose documentaries have been watched by hundreds of millions, will on Friday celebrate his 100th birthday. After more than 70 years of filmmaking, Attenborough's instantly recognisable voice is synonymous with the story of nature. He is still at the vanguard of efforts to protect the environment and has produced some of his most impactful work in recent years.

### SOUTH AFRICA

## Top Court revives impeachment bid against President

SOUTH AFRICA'S highest court on Friday revived impeachment proceedings against President Cyril Ramaphosa over a scandal in which a large amount of foreign currency was stolen from inside a sofa in his farmhouse in 2020. In 2022 Ramaphosa's political party blocked an impeachment committee from being set up to further investigate the incident. REUTERS

### NIGERIA

## Militant attack on army base kills 3 soldiers

FIGHTERS suspected of being members of Islamic State West Africa Province attacked a Nigerian army base in the northeastern town of Magumeri, killing at least three soldiers and wounding the commanding officer, security sources and the military said. A military source said that three soldiers were killed and the commanding officer was severely wounded. REUTERS

## • NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### PAKISTAN

## 6 killed, 13 hurt in mortar strike on civilian area

AT LEAST six people were killed and 13 others injured when a mortar shell exploded in a civilian area in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said. The incident took place in the Durran Banda area of Hangu district when police were engaged in an operation against the terrorists who fired mortar shells that landed in the civilian area on Thursday, police said. PTI

### NEPAL

## Hundreds of squatters protest demolition drive

HUNDREDS of landless squatters on Friday staged a demonstration protesting the Balendra Shah government's recent move to bulldoze their structures in various parts of the country, including in Kathmandu. More than 3,500 structures have been demolished by the federal government in Kathmandu and hundreds of other settlements since last month in different districts outside the capital. PTI

# Starmer vows to fight on after Labour party loses local polls

Reuters  
London, May 8

BRITISH PRIME Minister Keir Starmer vowed on Friday to stay in office to "deliver change" after his Labour Party suffered heavy losses in English local elections and parliamentary votes in Scotland and Wales, deepening doubts over his ability to govern.

Just under two years after winning a landslide national election, Starmer saw voters punish his Labour government, with support evaporating even in its traditional strongholds in former industrial regions in central and northern England

and in Wales.

The main beneficiary was the populist Reform UK party of Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage, which gained more than 700 council seats in England, and could form the main opposition in Scotland and Wales to the pro-independence Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru.

Early results underscored the fracturing of Britain's traditional two-party system, with the once-dominant Labour and Conservative parties losing votes not only to Reform, but to the left-wing Green Party at the other end of the political spectrum, and to nationalists in Scotland and Wales.



British PM Keir Starmer

Despite the losses, Starmer's allies signalled their support for a man whose popularity ratings have sunk to among the worst for any British leader.

"I am not going to walk away," Starmer told reporters in Ealing, west London, a rare bright spot where Labour re-

## E. EXPLAINED

### Farage surges, Starmer stumbles

Labour's local election losses weaken Starmer's authority and sharpen doubts over his grip on power, while Reform UK's gains strengthen Nigel Farage's bid to reshape British politics. The results suggest a fractured two-party system, with both men emerging as figures in the battle ahead.

tained control of the council.

To Labour activists, he showed a moment of contrition when he said he took full responsibility for the losses and admitted his government had made some "unnecessary mistakes" including failing to offer hope to Britain when the party took power.

But he argued voters were more frustrated with the pace of change than with his government, and vowed to set out "the steps that we will take to deliver the change that they want and that they deserve".

In what seemed to be a nod to the latest government reset, Starmer said he would double

down on efforts to tackle a cost-of-living crisis compounded by conflicts in Ukraine and Iran.

But even for Starmer, there was no denying the scale of the losses for Labour in elections for 136 local councils in England, and the devolved parliaments in Scotland and Wales - the most significant test of public opinion before the next general election due in 2029.

While an immediate challenge to his leadership looked increasingly unlikely, some Labour lawmakers called on Starmer to speak more to the party to find a way forward, one which might need to include a timetable for his departure.

## Russia, Ukraine fight on despite truce as Moscow readies for WW2 parade

Reuters  
Moscow, May 8

RUSSIA AND Ukraine accused each other on Friday of violating ceasefires that each has separately declared, as Moscow prepares to hold its annual World War Two victory parade under tight security.

Four years since the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, the two sides are still mummeling each other with missiles, drones and artillery, with no end to the war in sight.

President Vladimir Putin has unilaterally declared a two-day ceasefire on Friday and Saturday to cover the celebrations of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany - Russia's most revered national holiday.

Kyiv responded that a ceasefire just for the holiday was inappropriate and called instead for an indefinite truce to begin two days earlier, which



Russian cadets walk past police guarding Manezhnaya Square in Moscow on Friday. AP

Moscow ignored.

The Russian Defence Ministry said 264 Ukrainian drones had been downed on Friday, while Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said the capital had been targeted last summer by Raphael Hourdeaux, 35, and, in all but one case, his romantic partner, Tony Paupiere, 30. The couple, who admitted to most of the accusations, hit up one church twice, five weeks apart.

Ukraine said it had struck a Russian oil refinery in Perm for the second day running, and hit another oil facility in the city of Yaroslavl.

## Spain readies for evacuations as Hantavirus-hit ship nears coast

Associated Press  
Madrid, May 8

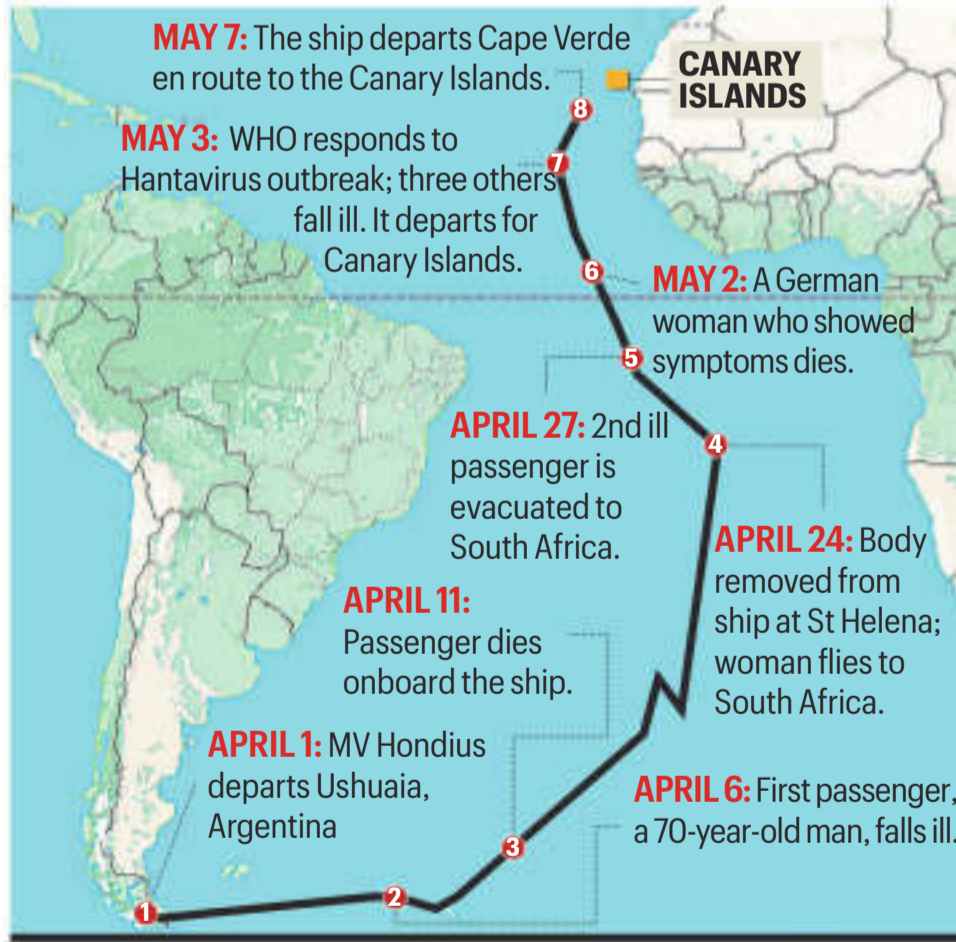
SPANISH AUTHORITIES on Friday were preparing to receive more than 140 passengers and crew members on board a hantavirus-stricken cruise ship headed for the Canary Islands, where health officials have said they will perform evacuations.

The vessel is expected to arrive Sunday at the Spanish island of Tenerife, off the coast of West Africa, and passengers will be taken to a "completely isolated, cordoned-off area," said the head of Spain's emergency services, Virginia Barcones.

While three people have died since the outbreak, and five passengers who left the ship are known to be infected with hantavirus, cruise operator Oceanwide Expeditions said Thursday there were no people with symptoms of a possible infection on board the Dutch-flagged ship, the *MV Hondius*.

On Friday, the WHO said a

### • MV Hondius Route



flight attendant on a plane briefly boarded by an infected cruise passenger tested negative.

Her possible infection had raised concerns about the virus's potential transmissibility.

## Police free 2 after hostage alarm at German bank but find no

Associated Press  
Berlin, May 8

POLICE IN Germany entered a bank in a small German town Friday and rescued two people from a locked room, hours after officers were called to respond to a hostage situation.

Regional police said they were alerted to the situation at the Volksbank branch in Sinzig, in the Rhine valley near Koblenz, at about 9 am local time. They said they believed there were "several perpetrators and hostages" in the bank and the driver of an armoured van was a hostage.

Police said special forces entered the bank and freed two people unhurt from a locked room. They said that the perpetrator or perpetrators appeared to have left immediately after locking the two people into the vault, but it wasn't clear how that happened.

## Pentagon begins release of UFO files, says public can draw its own conclusions

Associated Press  
Washington, May 8

THE PENTAGON has begun releasing new files on UFOs, saying members of the public can draw own conclusions on "unidentified anomalous phenomena" like an object that a drone pilot says shone a bright light in the sky and then vanished.

It said in a post on X on Friday that while past administrations sought to discredit or dissuade the American people, President Donald Trump "is focused on providing maximum transparency to the public, who can ultimately make up their own minds about the information contained in these files." It said additional documents will be released on a rolling basis.

A newly unveiled website housing the documents on unidentified anomalous phenomena, or UAPs, has a decidedly retro feel, with black-and-white military imagery of flying ob-

### An FBI document details a drone pilot's 2023 report of a bright, linear object with unusual bands of light in the sky

jects displayed prominently on the page, with statements displayed in typewriter-like font.

The first release includes 162 files, such as old State Department cables, FBI documents and transcripts from NASA of crewed flights into space.

One document details an FBI interview with someone identified as a drone pilot who, in September 2023, reported seeing a "linear object" with a light bright enough to "see bands within the light" in the sky. "The object was visible for five to ten seconds and then the light went out and the object vanished," according to the FBI interview.

The couple planned weekend trips around the burglaries, in one case driving their 2008 Peugeot to a spa near a church they targeted, prosecutors said during the trial.

According to prosecutors, the duo sold some items to a local antique dealer, who was later convicted of handling stolen goods. Others they melted down and sold as metal to a buyer in Paris. They kept many others.

The thieves' method was often shockingly simple. After selecting a church to burgle, they typically looked online to check whether it was closed and then used a crow bar to break in, the prosecution said during the trial. NYT

## • A SPREE OF THEFTS LAST SUMMER HEIGHTENED ALARM IN FRANCE OVER PROTECTION OF CULTURAL AND RURAL HERITAGE

# A French couple, 29 churches, and a three-month burglary spree across France

Catherine Porter & Ana Castelain  
Burelle, May 8

THE VILLAGERS of Burelles transformed their church into a fortress several centuries ago, securing it with a defensive wall, a safe room and arrow slits to protect them from marauding troops. All those defences did nothing to stop a pair of thieves who ransacked a Roman Catholic church at some point before 7 pm one Sunday in late July.

They smashed the donation box, broke through the wooden sacristy door and grabbed communion plates, two vials used at baptisms and an ornate brass frame known as a monstrance,

which is used to display bread during communion services.

That same day, the same thieves stole a chalice from the church in Vervins, the next village up the road in northern France. The next day, they struck the church in another nearby village, Marle, breaking open its tabernacle and stealing another elaborate chalice.

These were just three of the 29 churches across northern France that, a court ruled, were targeted last summer by Raphael Hourdeaux, 35, and, in all but one case, his romantic partner, Tony Paupiere, 30. The couple, who admitted to most of the accusations, hit up one church twice, five weeks apart.

Their extraordinary three-month spree heightened a wider sense of alarm in France that the country may be unable to protect its cultural heritage. It occurred during a rash of security lapses at museums, churches and galleries — in Paris, in other cities and in the remote countryside.

The most audacious heist came last October when another group of thieves breached the Louvre museum in daylight and made off with crown jewels worth more than \$100 million.

In other cases last fall, thieves stole dishes worth \$11 million from a museum in Limoges, the heart of French porcelain making. Then three



The tabernacle in the church of Chamouille, France, which was burgled last summer. NYT

men were found guilty of burgling some 40 churches in less than four months in the southwest of the country. And

thieves broke into a small museum in southern France, stealing roughly 100 crosses.

In general, the thefts have

provoked debates about sparse budgets and outdated security infrastructure. Burglaries at remote churches have also kicked at a wound in what the French call "deep France" — lonely parts of the countryside where villagers feel abandoned by society, the state and the times.

Burelles' church, St. Martin, has become even more important to the village's identity since the only inn shut down and the last cafe closed. Local volunteers tend to it, allowing the church to remain open longer than most, and the village hosts regular concerts there. "The church is the heart of the village. It's our pride," said Damien Yverneau, the village mayor. "We have no-

thing left beyond that."

To deter thefts from churches, the police increased patrols.

Yet with some 800 churches in the surrounding region of Aisne, there is a limit to how much ground they can cover.

Most of these churches open sparingly, for funerals or baptisms. They typically hold regular Mass only a few times a year: A priest sometimes oversees as many as 50 churches. That means days may have passed before some church burglaries were discovered, making it hard to figure out timing and track down witnesses, said Fanny Anor, the prefect of Aisne, who oversees the local police.



# The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM of COURAGE

NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 26 PAGES

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PRIME MINISTER MODI, CMs OF NDA STATES SET TO ATTEND SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN KOLKATA

## Suvendu takes oath as West Bengal CM today, Vijay still short of majority in TN

First BJP govt in West Bengal likely to have two Deputy CMs

Atri Mitra & Tanusree Bose  
Kolkata, May 8

HOURS AFTER being unanimously elected the leader of the BJP Legislature Party on Friday, West Bengal Chief Minister-elect Suvendu Adhikari met Governor R N Ravi and staked claim to form the first BJP government in the state.

Adhikari will take the oath of office at the Brigade Parade Ground on Saturday morning, most likely along with two Deputy CMs, said sources in the Raj Bhavan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the CMs of several NDA-ruled states are scheduled to attend the ceremony.

Hours earlier, senior BJP leader and former state unit president Dilip Ghosh proposed Adhikari's name during the Legislature Party meeting, saying he was the face of the BJP's expansion in Bengal and the best placed to lead the government. After the proposal received the unanimous support of the MLAs, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the party's central observer, announced Adhikari's election as the Legislature Party leader.

"After a 100-year ideological journey, the BJP is in power everywhere from Gangotri to Gangasagar," Shah told party MLAs and workers after the meeting. "When I had just become the BJP president in 2014, our current state president Samik Bhattacharya opened our account by winning a bye-election (in Basirhat Dakshin). In 2016, we had 3 seats. In 2021, we had 77, and now in 2026, we have 207 seats, and we are going to get a CM."

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Suvendu Adhikari after the BJP Legislature Party meeting in Kolkata on Friday. PARTHA PAUL

### Decisive leader with street cred: Why BJP chose Suvendu as CM

Ravik Bhattacharya & Atri Mitra  
Kolkata, May 8

THE BJP'S decision to appoint Suvendu Adhikari as the West Bengal CM flows from a need to have a decisive leader at the helm who can steer the new government as it goes about fulfilling the primary promises it made in its manifesto about stopping the entry of undocumented immigrants from across the Bangladesh border and implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), among other things.

Setting the tone, Union

Home Minister Amit Shah, who was the central observer at the meeting of the BJP Legislature Party on Friday, said, "Now infiltration and cow smuggling will become impossible in West Bengal." In Bengal, one of the BJP's main planks has been infiltration and the accompanying demographic changes.

Adhikari has governance experience — having been a minister in the second Trinamool Congress (TMC) government — and can deal with administrative issues with a strong hand.

By appointing Adhikari, the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### Vijay moves closer with CPI(M), CPI support, all eyes on VCK now

TVK chief goes to Raj Bhavan again, Saturday's swearing-in called off as arithmetic falters

Arun Janardhanan  
Chennai, May 8

WHAT SEEMED like a done deal for Vijay's TVK hit a speed bump on Friday evening as Tamil Nadu's already volatile government-formation drama took another turn.

For much of the day, TVK leaders and supporters believed the party had effectively crossed the 118-seat majority mark, with support from the Congress, CPI, CPI(M), and the expected backing of the VCK and IUML. Firecrackers burst outside Vijay's Panayur residence, and party workers spoke openly of a swearing-in ceremony on Saturday morning.

Then the arithmetic began to wobble.

VCK chief Thirumavalavan, who had publicly said his party would follow the Left parties' decision on supporting TVK, had still not submitted a formal letter of support to Governor Rajendra Arlekar until Friday night, leaving Vijay's camp technically short of a majority.

Sources in the Governor's office said Vijay had only 116 MLAs on record in the meeting on Friday evening.

The delay triggered fresh speculation around political circles, where rumours were already moving faster than official statements. Thirumavalavan reportedly held a series of meetings through the night and into Friday with TVK,

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



TVK chief Vijay meets Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Arlekar to stake claim to form the government, at Raj Bhavan in Chennai, Friday. ANI

### DMK asks Speaker to seat its MPs away from Cong, Opp coordination in House set to be hit

Manoj CG & Asad Rehman  
New Delhi, May 8

THE FIRST ripples of the Congress's political realignment in Tamil Nadu were felt on Friday as the DMK wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, seeking a change in the seating arrangement of its MPs, saying it would not be appropriate for its members to sit alongside those of the Congress.

A founding member of the INDIA bloc, the DMK was the Congress's dependable and steadfast ally in the fractious alliance so far. The bitter Congress-DMK split will cast a shadow on the INDIA bloc's cohesion and coordination in Parliament.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



SP chief Akhilesh Yadav posted on X a photo of him with former Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin

“We are not the ones who abandon each other in times of difficulty.”

AKHILESH YADAV, ON X

### 27.16 LAKH COULDN'T VOTE IN BENGAL

## Judge who quit SIR tribunal cleared more voters than EC added to rolls

Mismatch: Justice Sivagnanam, one of 19 tribunals, cleared 1,717 appeals; EC added only 1,607 names to rolls

Damini Nath  
New Delhi, May 8

A DAY before polling ended in West Bengal, data from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer showed that as many as 1,607 appeals by people whose names were deleted from the voter list, as part of the controversial SIR exercise, had been approved by the Appellate Tribunals and added back to the electoral roll.

The *Indian Express* has, however, learnt that just one of the 19 tribunals headed by Justice (Retd) T S Sivagnanam had cleared as many as 1,717 appeals between April 5 and April 27. Since there are 18 more tribunals, there are now questions about the number of appeals cleared by them, and how many more persons could have been added to the electoral rolls in time to cast their votes.

The *Indian Express* reported Friday that Justice Sivagnanam resigned from the tribunal on Thursday. When contacted by *The Indian Express*, he said he had done so due to personal reasons.



Justice T S Sivagnanam quit the tribunal Thursday

The Election Commission did not respond to a request for comment. West Bengal CEO Manoj Agarwal could not be reached for comment.

It is learnt that Justice Sivagnanam, who had originally been assigned some constituencies of North 24 Parganas and Kolkata as per the EC's March 20 notification, disposed of 1,777 appeals in total. Of these, it is learnt he approved all 1,717 appeals filed by citizens against deletion. He rejected 60 appeals filed by the EC against inclusions in Birbhum district, the jurisdiction of which had been given to him when the Supreme Court asked him to give

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### TWO MEETINGS IN LAST 3 MONTHS

## Ex-Army generals, retired diplomats break India-Pak ice

Meetings in Qatar, another Asian capital amid growing consensus on the need for a back-channel

Shubhajit Roy  
New Delhi, May 8

A YEAR after Operation Sindoor, while there has been no official contact with Pakistan, former Army generals and retired diplomats from both India and Pakistan have met at least twice in the last three months, including once in Qatar and another Asian capital, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

While these are not formal "back-channels of communication," this is the first such engagement since Operation Sindoor amid a growing consensus in official circles in favour of opening such a track with Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

It's learnt that the need for this has been "escalated" to National Security Advisor Ajit Do-

val's office and the National Security Council Secretariat has been made aware of the "williness" from Pakistan as well.

A political call is yet to be taken in favour of a back-channel but one of the key reasons behind this rethink has been the imperative to "manage" escalation in case of another attack.

Sources said, as of now, there is an absence of established crisis-management mechanisms between the two

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### Happening today

THE 61st INTERNATIONAL Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale officially opens to the public. India has returned to the Biennale after seven years.

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### THE BIG PICTURE

Mumbai to Ahmedabad @ 320 kmpH  
PAGE 17

## Freeze on petrol and diesel prices cost oil marketing firms Rs 30,000 crore a month

Sukalp Sharma  
New Delhi, May 8

STATE-OWNED oil marketing companies (OMCs) Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum are estimated to be piling up under-recoveries — the difference between the retail price and the import price — of about Rs 30,000 crore a month on petrol, diesel and cooking gas, according to a senior government official.

OMCs have been facing severe stress as they have kept retail prices of fuel products un-

changed despite a surge in global prices amid the West Asia crisis, said Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Petroleum Ministry. Besides the three fuel products, OMCs are also losing money on sale of aviation turbine fuel, or jet fuel, for domestic flights. Estimated losses on jet fuel sales were not immediately available.

With no plans to compensate the OMCs for their losses on sale of petrol, diesel, and jet fuel below market prices, sources said the comments on ballooning under-recoveries indicates a price hike is immi-

### ECONOMY



SBI CAUTIONS AGAINST DEMAND MODERATION DUE TO PROLONGED WEST ASIA WAR PAGE 21

nent. The OMCs too have been pushing for a price increase, they said.

In the case of LPG, the government had stepped in to cushion the impact on OMCs in recent years, and such an intervention can't be ruled out even this time around, sources indicated.

Sharma said despite the energy crisis due to the West Asia war and the consequent closure of the Strait of Hormuz, fuels that directly impact the common man have not seen a

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### Business as Usual

By EP UNNY



KERALA CM RACE: CONG WORKERS HIT STREETS IN SUPPORT OF SATHEESAN PAGE 8

LAHIRI KOMMARAVELLY (15) AND SURAGANI ESWA (16) FROM TELANGANA TO REPRESENT INDIA IN 29er TWO-PERSON BOAT FEEDER-CLASS YOUTH CATEGORY

## Daughters of cook, daily wage worker make waves, set to sail into Asian Games

Shivani Naik  
Mumbai, May 8

ONE IS the daughter of a cook from Siddipet who works at a yacht club in Hyderabad; the other's mother, a widow, works as a daily wagger in a pickle factory in Suryapet. Breaking into the elite sport of sailing, the two girls — Lahiri Kommaravelly (15) and Suragani Eswa (16) — from Telangana are now bound for the Asian Games in Japan this September, in the 29er two-person boat feeder-class youth category.

Lahiri's mother, Kavitha, struggled to make ends meet during the Covid pandemic in

2020. With her husband, a barber, unable to earn a living, a desperate Kavitha took the risk of working in a local hospital's housekeeping department. But her family's life changed when the Hyderabad Yacht Club hired her as a cook and the club's president, Suheim Shaikh, offered to train her three daughters in sailing.

Shaikh, a former IITian and entrepreneur, sailed for over five decades, inheriting the generational privilege, even as he realised that access to the Hussain Sagar lake waters in Hyderabad was a preserve of the elite. "Sailing was an exotic, elite sport, and only

people with access to a club, or Army/ Navy could sail. I went to bureaucrats in Hyderabad and told them that I would throw sailing open to everybody," he says.

That's how Project Naavika was launched in 2015. "We only train underprivileged children from shanty towns, orphanages, destitute and abandoned families. We are meeting our goal of pulling hundreds out of poverty," says Shaikh.

Over the last decade, 27 have found spots in sports companies and units across Navy and Army sailing nodes.

Lahiri's partner at a recent exposure tour regatta at the Eurocup at Garda Lake in Italy was



Suragani Eswa, Lahiri Kommaravelly, Suheim Shaikh/Hyderabad Yacht Club

Suragani Eswa, from Chilukuru village, whose life changed after the death of her father, an ambulance driver. Suragani

was studying at the Mahatma Jyothiba Phule Telangana Backward Classes Welfare school in Telangana's Yadadri-

Bhuvanagiri district, from where she was scouted out. Her mother, Madhavi, works as a daily wage labourer in a pickle factory, earning Rs 300 per day, and a monthly widow's pension of Rs 2,000.

Only a year into sailing, but chosen because she was good at keeping the sails flat, not loosening up while trimming, gybing and tacking, Suragani is learning fast. "Earlier, my mother was scared and didn't allow me. The first time we capsized, I didn't know what happened. But I like sailing because I'm getting good at it fast," she says.

It's hard work, but the duoaced the Mumbai trials last De-

cember, despite capsizes, while finding their way around the trapeze chord that runs down the sail.

While they adapted quickly to international travel, Lahiri and Suragani struggled with the cold winds of northern Italy, a stark contrast from the 39 degrees Celsius temperature where they trained in India.

Back in Hyderabad, there are similar stories emerging from the yacht club. Rameeza Bhanu, whose parents were abandoned on the streets and fell to alcohol addiction, was forced to beg on the streets, before she fled and started to live in parks and footpaths. Watching boats at Tank Bund, she was

drawn to sailing and joined up.

As talented as Lahiri is Ravali Parandi, 19, who was on the streets for two years before she enlisted and went on to win the prestigious Maj Gen Harry Kapoor Trophy at YAI Youth Nationals in 2021. The Yacht Club also funds their education and helps them land jobs. Ravali learnt German at Goethe-Zentrum.

Vadla Mallesh from Kondapur Kalan village went on to become an Agni veer, while Durga Prasad of Rasoolpura left behind sailors from tony neighbourhoods to become the national U-17 champion and is now serving in the Navy.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Police disperse the protesters in Patna, Friday. PTI

## Police lathicharge protesting teaching aspirants in Patna; Opp targets govt

Himanshu Harsh  
Patna, May 8

POLICE ON Friday used force to disperse candidates protesting in Patna over the delay in the release of the Bihar Public Service Commission's (BPSC) fourth phase teacher recruitment notification, triggering sharp reactions from the Opposition amid allegations of use of excessive force.

The protest, aimed at seeking the release of the Teacher Recruitment Examination (TRE)-4 advertisement, began in the morning when a large group of teaching job aspirants marched from Patna College towards the BPSC office. Police had erected barricades near JP Golambar in Gandhi Maidan police station area to stop the procession.

According to the protesters, they were stopped for nearly two hours from 11.30 am before the situation escalated. Police resorted to lathicharge after some demonstrators allegedly attempted to break the barricades. Several students, including women candidates, were injured in the police action.

Dilip Kumar, a student leader, accused the BPSC of repeatedly delaying the recruitment process and "misleading" aspirants. He claimed that more than 13 lakh candidates were awaiting the notification.

"The commission has been giving new dates repeatedly for issuing the advertisement. Earlier, the examination controller had said the notification would be released on April 19 and applications would begin from April 25 or 26. Even by May 8, the advertisement has not been issued. That is why we came to protest today," he said.

Police detained several demonstrators and took them away in vans as clashes broke out with the protesters.

Later in the day, Patna Police said the procession turned aggressive after reaching J P Golambar. "The demonstrators broke police barricading and pushed policemen deployed on

## SC slams delay in Lakhimpur Kheri trial as 72 witnesses yet to be examined

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 8

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday conveyed its displeasure over the pace of trial in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case in which former Union minister Ajay Mishra's son, Ashish, has been accused of running over anti-farm law protesters in 2021, and asked the trial court to take steps to expedite the matter.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, which perused a status report filed by the Uttar Pradesh government, noted that no witness had been examined by the trial court for about two months and that the prosecution had given no reasons for their non-production.

"We are disappointed to note that so-called status report doesn't assign any reason for non-production of witnesses on previous dates. No witness appears to have been examined for 2 months," the bench said in its order. The court also asked the trial court to "take lawful measures to secure witness presence".

Appearing for Ashish, senior advocate Siddharth Dave said no witness had been examined for the last two months, even though bailable and non-bail-

law and order duty, in which some police personnel, including the Town DSP-2, sustained injuries," a statement from the SSP's office said.

Police said repeated efforts were made to persuade the crowd, but "the mob became uncontrollable and aggressive", after which "mild force was used in a restrained and controlled manner" to restore order.

The incident triggered a political storm, with Opposition parties accusing the NDA government in Bihar of suppressing unemployed youth demanding jobs.

Leader of Opposition Teshawri Yadav targeted the government, alleging that while NDA leaders made their children ministers without an electoral process, unemployed youth demanding recruitment were being "beaten with lathis".

"Before the elections, NDA leaders had promised that TRE-4 vacancies would be released. Even six months after the formation of the government, the notification has not been issued. Instead, youths asking for vacancies are being beaten," he said in a post on X.

He alleged Bihar's youth would not forget what he described as the NDA's "betrayal".

Bihar Congress president Rajesh Ram alleged that the police action reflected the "real face" of the BJP-led administration in the state. The Bihar Congress, in social media posts, accused the government of rewarding "their sons with ministerial posts" while "using lathis against youths".

Newly appointed Education Minister Mithilesh Tiwari sought to reassure the protesting candidates, saying the government would work towards resolving their concerns. "We will sit with department officials and find solutions to the problems. If there is a problem today, the solution should also come today. We will not postpone work for tomorrow," Tiwari said after taking charge on Friday.

able warrants were issued. He pointed out that 72 witnesses were still left to be examined.

Justice Bagchi asked the counsel appearing for the state, "What have you done from March till today?"

"Instead of 3-4, you summon 7-8 witnesses. At least those who are present can be examined," CJI Kant suggested to ensure that the trial can be finished in time.

The state counsel assured to take it up with the prosecution.

Senior Advocate Prashant Bhushan said the witnesses were not appearing because of police intimidation. "Police threatening witnesses before date... that's why they are not coming," he said.

Four anti-farm law protesters were killed when a convoy of vehicles, including one belonging to Ajay, ran over them on October 3, 2021. Two BJP workers, the driver of one of the vehicles, and a journalist were killed in the ensuing violence.

The Supreme Court granted interim bail to Ashish in the case on January 25, 2023. This was extended from time to time and made absolute on July 22, 2024. The top court had directed Ashish to stay out of Lakhimpur till the pendency of the trial in the case.

## Suwendu swearing-in

"The BJP promises the people of Bengal and the country that we will identify and remove every infiltrator from India. And let me say from this stage that people who call this polarisation are mistaken. This is not about polarisation. This is about national security," Shah said.

"Friends, this victory is not merely about the BJP's expansion or its ideology. Nor is it only about the BJP or the NDA forming a government in its 21st state. The biggest importance of this victory is that it plugs one of the biggest holes in India's national security. Now infiltration and cow smuggling will become impossible in West Bengal," said the Home Minister.

Launching a broadside against the previous government led by the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Shah said, "Under Mamata ji's 15 years of rule, administration became thoroughly politicised, and politics became criminalised. Criminals themselves became politicians. There was no possibility of good governance. Goondaism, violence, syndicates, corruption, and cut money — all these have become a curse on Bengal. Within months of our new CM taking charge, all this will end."

Promising a "double-engine government", Shah said Bengal's development had been stalled because central schemes and funds were blocked for political reasons. The minister

also attempted to project the BJP's Bengal victory as a mandate for democratic normalcy after decades of politically linked violence. "Appeal to all political parties, elections are a celebration of democracy. Why should violence occur in them? Violence must end across India, and the BJP has a special responsibility in this regard. Let us take a resolution and appeal to all parties that there should be no violence in the polls. It will be the BJP government's responsibility that there should not be a single incident of violence or malpractices in elections," Shah said.

In his speech, Adhikari outlined the priorities of the incoming government. "Bhoy (fear) is out and, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has said, *bharosa* (trust) is in," he said amid loud cheers from party MLAs and

supporters, adding that the government would function on the principle of collective leadership. "The people of Bengal have given us a historic mandate. We will fulfil all the promises made in the BJP's poll manifesto in Bengal," he said.

Adhikari also emphasised the need for cooperation between the Centre and the BJP government in the state. "Let the Centre and the state work together to fulfil the aspirations of the people of Bengal," he said.

The CM-elect announced inquiries into allegations of corruption and crimes against women during the TMC years. "A commission headed by a retired judge will investigate all corruption cases. Commissions will also probe into incidents of atrocities against women and the guilty will be punished," he said.

## Decisive leader

BJP also keeps its word that a Bengali will be the CM, thereby disproving the TMC's election narrative that electing the party would mean handing over the state to "bohiringatos (outsiders)". Adhikari is a leader who is quite in the mould of Mamata Banerjee — someone with a streetfighter mentality who is equally at ease running an administration.

BJP insiders said that with the new government expected to publish a white paper on the TMC's corruption and set up a Commission — Adhikari reiterated this in his speech on Friday — several leaders of the Opposition party may come under the scanner. To see the party through such moves and the implementation of its other core agenda, it needed a resolute leader with convictions at the helm.

Having defeated Banerjee in two straight elections and by refusing to switch sides despite the post-poll violence five years

ago — when many believed he would rejoin the TMC following the BJP's failure to come to power — Adhikari endeared himself to the party's rank and file. The party leadership calculated that it must factor it in when choosing the CM.

Though he came from another party, the RSS is also said to have found Adhikari, who describes himself as a "Sanatani", an acceptable choice because of his relentless campaign pushing for "Hindu rejuvenation". In 2024, he was at the forefront of protests against alleged atrocities faced by Hindus in Bangladesh and during the campaign, posters depicting him as "saviour of Hindus" came up in Nandigram. With him at the helm, the RSS believes that the government will address its core concerns and pursue its main agenda in the state.

Also, since this is the first time the BJP has come to power in Bengal, the party felt it

necessary to choose a face who would be acceptable to all, instead of appointing a relatively unknown leader as it has done in some Hindi heartland states in the past few years.

### Priority list

As the government prepares to get going, it will face a host of challenges, from law-and-order to poor civic infrastructure and the state's poor financial situation, a problem that became more strained in the last few years amid repeated run-ins between the Centre and the Mamata Banerjee government.

Apart from implementing UCC and tackling undocumented infiltration, the Adhikari government will also have to fulfil the BJP's poll promise of implementing the 7th Pay Commission recommendations for government employees and clear pending Dearness Allowance arrears within 45 days of coming to power. In an affidavit to the courts, the previous government said this would cost the state exchequer an extra Rs 42,000 crore. However, given

the poor revenue and high debt, fulfilling this would be a challenge.

Among the government's priorities will also be ensuring the sporadic incidents of post-poll violence do not spiral out of control. On Wednesday night, Adhikari's personal assistant Chandranath Rath was shot dead near Kolkata and catching the culprits quickly is likely to be top on the priority list of the police.

The government has also to fulfil, among other things, the BJP's promise of a monthly financial assistance of Rs 3,000 to women that was announced as a counter to Banerjee's Lakhshmi Bhandar scheme, under which women used to get Rs 1,500 (women from SC and ST communities received Rs 1,700).

The BJP has also promised a monthly assistance of Rs 3,000 to unemployed youth (twice the amount the TMC has promised to pay), and figure out how to provide 1 crore new jobs and self-employment opportunities in the next five years to prevent large-scale migration.

## India-Pak

countries. After the Pahalgam terror attack and during Op Sindoor, the only channel of communication in operation was the hotline at the level of each country's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO). Today, the DGMOs speak once a week, usually on Tuesdays.

Sources said Delhi's thinking is that any back-channel communication doesn't contradict its stated position that "terror and talks can't go together." This is also being seen as a crisis management mechanism led by the civilian government on the Indian side and with counterparts — who could be the military — on the other side.

In theory, Op Sindoor is at a "pause" but Delhi's redlines are still around the "new normal" where any future terror attack will be seen as "an act of war" and military operations can resume. This necessitates a "civilian-level and political-guided mechanism," which can be enabled by the military leaders, sources said.

The other factor is Pakistan's increasing leverage as a diplomatic player in the current

US-Israel-Iran standoff and its Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir's consolidation of power.

"Right now, Pakistan has an active role in the Iran talks with US Vice President and President Trump's interlocutors travelling there. Trump has given his whole-hearted support to Pakistan's leadership including Munir. In this context, if there's another attack inspired or abetted from across the border, it will be a challenge for New Delhi to navigate the global discourse to put pressure on Islamabad," said a source.

"So we need to have our own points of engagement."

There's an acknowledgment in South Block that India may have won the war last May but Pakistan made significant gains in the battle of perception, not least because of the manner in which it had wormed its way into Trump's inner circle.

That's why a back-channel is vital, said the source. "Trump is here for three years, we are both nuclear powers, any communication between Delhi and Islamabad also helps us firewall ourselves against any direct Trump intervention in the eventuality of any bilateral flashpoint."

## Set to sail

Tungara Mahbubee, from a tribal hamlet of Pedda Thanda, Kuravi, in Telangana, lost her father and watched her mother's health sink. Sailing dragged her out of desperation and she is now a police constable.

The build of a sailor is important as it helps them to balance their boat. At the Italy regatta, Lahiri and Suragani had a combined weight of 103 kg, at least 27 kg less than the average weight of the fleet.

"When I see other well-built

sailors, I know the importance of weight. I like chicken biryani, KFC and my mother's tomato pachadi," Lahiri says. "Sometimes, travelling abroad, we find the food odd. But we need to eat it to keep the boat stable," she says.

Suragani, who is still slow in tacking, says sailing pulled her out of family strife and the shock of her father's death. "On the waters, sometimes I fall in front, sometimes behind in heavy winds. But sailing teaches us to get back up and start again."

That is a lesson they have learnt very early in life, without even dipping their toes in water.

Rs 18 per litre on petrol and Rs 25 per litre on diesel.

Petrol and diesel prices have not been hiked for over four years now in India. Moreover, the timing of the current global surge in prices, which clashed with Assembly elections in some states, made it politically fraught for the prices to be hiked. With the elections now over, a hike in prices of fuels like petrol, diesel, and the domestic LPG could be in the offing in the coming days or weeks, according to highly placed sources in the government. Throughout

## Tribunal

out-of-turn hearings to some family members of artist Nandalal Bose who had also appealed against their deletion. Justice Sivagnanam could not be reached for comment.

On orders of the Supreme Court, Justice Sivagnanam had given an out-of-turn hearing to Congress candidate from Farakka Motab Shaikh, whose name had also been deleted in adjudication. The tribunal found that Shaikh had a passport and other relevant documents to establish his eligibility and identity. In its order, the tribunal of Justice Sivagnanam had noted: "The above records appear to have not been taken note of during the adjudication process." Shaikh was added back to the rolls, allowing him to file his nomination as a candidate. He eventually won the election from Farakka.

In an unprecedented step, the Supreme Court had in February ordered judicial officers, of the rank of district judge and additional district judge, to decide on the eligibility of electors in Bengal, after noting there was a trust deficit between the Election Commission of India and the state government.

Over 700 judicial officers considered 60.06 lakh electors identified by the EC using a

centralised algorithm to flag "logical discrepancies". They found 27.16 lakh names ineligible, deleting them from the rolls just days before the polls. On orders of the court and recommendations of Calcutta High Court Chief Justice Sujoy Paul, the Election Commission on March 20 notified 19 appellate tribunals comprising retired judges of the High Court, including former Chief Justice Sivagnanam, to consider appeals against the decisions of judicial officers.

Invoking its powers under Article 142, the Supreme Court then ordered the EC to publish supplementary lists to allow those cleared by the tribunals till April 21 for the first phase of polls on April 23, and April 27 for the second phase on April 29 to vote.

A day before the first phase of polls, West Bengal CEO Manoj Agarwal told *The Indian Express* the supplementary lists published that day had 139 names. Then, a day before the second phase, data from the CEO office showed that 1,468 names had been added back to the rolls. The remaining "deleted" 27.16 lakh electors could not vote.

The Supreme Court had noted in its order on April 13 that 34 lakh appeals had been filed till then against the exclusions and inclusions during adjudication.

## DMK

The DMK's move did not come as a surprise given the manner in which it attacked the Congress for dumping it unceremoniously and joining hands with Vijay's TVK, not just for formation of the state government but for all future elections, too. Although the Congress would be relieved by the fact that the other DMK allies — the CPI and CPI(M) — have decided to back the TVK, some within the party believe its leadership of the INDIA bloc would soon come under question.

While the Congress has framed the shift from the DMK alliance to the TVK alliance as an ideologically driven bid to keep communal forces from gaining a foothold in Tamil Nadu, the fact remains that the party was looking for a reason to exit the alliance. For a long time now, the party's leadership has been under pressure from the cadre to part ways with the DMK — their argument being that they don't get respect in the alliance. The Congress felt further slighted when the DMK refused its demand for increase in the number of seats and a share in power. "The cadre was basically saying that in a coalition, sharing the rewards is important. But the DMK would not have it... This has led to quite a lot of disappointment," a Congress leader said.

It is a political gamble for the Congress as the party's leadership believes Vijay will dominate Tamil Nadu politics in the near future and aligning with the popular actor-turned politician will help it expand its footprint in the state.

What is interesting is that a section of the Congress leaders believe the TVK should be invited to be a part of the INDIA bloc, which has been in a state of functional paralysis since the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. While the Congress believes that the DMK and TVK can co-exist in the alliance, just like the Trinamool Congress, Congress and the Left parties — who fight each other in West Bengal and Kerala — the DMK's refusal to even sit alongside the Congress in Parliament will complicate matters.

In a letter to Birla seeking "suitable changes" in the seating arrangement of DMK members in Lok Sabha, the party's MP, Kanimozhi, said: "In view of the changed political circumstances and as our alliance with the Indian National Congress has come to an end, it may not be appropriate for our members to continue occupying the present seating arrangement alongside

them in the House." She urged the Speaker to ensure that DMK members are allotted separate seating, "enabling them to effectively discharge their responsibilities" in the House.

The move came after the DMK's newly elected MLAs passed a resolution criticising the Congress. Although the Congress was the largest party in the Opposition in Parliament and the only party in the INDIA bloc with four state governments (Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, and now Kerala), a section of the party believes its leadership will come under question.

"INDIA bloc was formed to take on the BJP at the national level. There are no national elections now. So the alliance is defunct... but with Mamata Banerjee sending signals that she is keen to resurrect the alliance... there will be demands that we hand over the leadership to one of the regional leaders. And sadly, the DMK will not be in our corner now," a senior Congress leader said.

On Thursday, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav flew into Kolkata and met Banerjee in a public show of solidarity. On Friday, he put out a cryptic social media post supporting Banerjee and Stalin, which was seen as a subtle message to the Congress. "We are not the ones who abandon each other in times of difficulty," Yadav said in a post with pictures of himself with Banerjee and Stalin. Kanimozhi promptly thanked him for the "solidarity and support".

Sources in the SP said Akhilesh shares warm ties with Banerjee and Stalin, and the post should merely be seen as him standing with them in their time of crisis. The sources said the SP would have an alliance with the Congress for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections next year.

That said, the fact remains that the Congress's ties with many of its allies have come under strain. In Maharashtra, it chose to contest the BMC elections on its own and not be a part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi. Ties between the Congress and the RJD in Bihar have also been uneasy since the defeat of the Mahagathbandhan last year. The same is the case with the National Conference in J&K.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hid in Gurgaon on Friday: "There are two ideologies: RSS and Congress. Hatred and love. All the other parties will not be able to stand against them. Not one. In the end, it will be the Congress standing against them, and we will defeat them."

— WITH INPUTS FROM NIKHILA HENRY

constraint in raising the prices. The effort has been to hold on to the prices for as long as possible, but with no end in sight to the Strait of Hormuz closure, the status quo on prices can't continue for long. The official didn't elaborate on the timeline for price revisions.

Petrol is currently priced at Rs 94.77 per litre in Delhi, and diesel at Rs 87.67 per litre. Domestic LPG is priced at Rs 913 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the capital. Fuel prices vary across states due to differences in state levies.

## Terminating 28-wk pregnancy would pose serious risks to mother, AIIMS board tells HC

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 8

IN A report submitted before the Delhi High Court on Friday, a medical board of AIIMS New Delhi advised against terminating a 28-week pregnancy marked by severe intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR), maintaining that the procedure at this stage would pose serious risks to the mother.

The board also submitted that the fetus had a "guarded prognosis" because of severe growth restriction though "no genetic abnormality" had been detected.

The report was placed before Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav in connection with a plea filed by a 29-year-old married woman seeking termination of her pregnancy. The HC had directed AIIMS to examine the woman after expressing dissatisfaction with a report submitted by a medical board of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences (ABVIMS) and Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital that advised the woman to continue the pregnancy.

Doctors from AIIMS Neonatology department informed the

petitioners about complications associated with extreme prematurity, including "lung immaturity, respiratory distress and NEC". The report said that termination of pregnancy was "not permitted" in the present case.

The board said termination at this stage would be "detrimental for the mother" as she had previously undergone a caesarean section. "This involves a failure of medical termination, risk of uterine rupture and preterm Cesarean section which will have implications on the future reproductive outcomes," the report added.

The doctors observed that "there is a high probability that the fetus may have an intrauterine demise in the coming few weeks". However, the report clarified that "intrauterine fetal demise does not put the mother in any immediate jeopardy". The board recommended "weekly follow up with regular scans and antenatal visits" either at AIIMS or another hospital chosen by the family.

Counsel for the petitioner informed the court that the family has accepted the medical advice given by AIIMS, following which the plea was disposed of. Justice Kaurav, however, kept pending

proceedings relating to the conduct of doctors at RML Hospital.

The woman had approached the HC on May 1 seeking permission to medically terminate the pregnancy after serious abnormalities were detected in the foetus.

The HC had then directed a medical board at ABVIMS and RML Hospital to examine the woman and clearly state whether pregnancy termination was medically feasible, and the consequences it could involve. However, the report submitted by the board on May 6 did not answer the question of feasibility. Instead, it advised continuation of the pregnancy under "expectant management according to standard guidelines". In a strongly worded order passed on Wednesday, Justice Kaurav said the board had "completely disregarded" the court's directions and the statutory framework under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

The court noted that despite being specifically asked to assess whether termination was feasible, the board had failed to record any opinion on that aspect. The court then directed AIIMS to submit a fresh report.

## Intl flights from Noida airport 3 months after domestic op begins: CEO

Noida: The Noida International Airport will operate international flights around 90 days after the operations for domestic flights begin at the newly-inaugurated airport on June 15, CEO Rakesh Kumar Singh told *The Indian Express* on Friday.

On June 15, IndiGo will start operating flights on two domestic routes—between Noida and Hyderabad, and Noida and Amritsar. The airline started selling tickets on Thursday.

"Within weeks, the airline also intends to connect NIA to

over 16 destinations across India. Daily flights to Hyderabad and Amritsar are set to begin on June 15 itself, and flights to Bengaluru and Jammu routes a day later. By July 1, the network will expand, adding Navi Mumbai, Srinagar, Jodhpur, Dharamshala,

Bhopal, Dehradun, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Pantnagar, and to districts like Bareilly and Kishan-garh four and three days in a week, respectively," he said.

Singh added, "We are in talks with Air India and other airlines. Once the discussion on do-

mestic flights is over, we will begin planning for international flights...we don't have a list of countries that will be connected from the airport but the discussion will start soon. We will soon finalise the framework."

NEETIKA JHA



[Regulation 52 (B), read with Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (LODR Regulations)]  
Extract of the Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended 31 March 2026  
(₹ in Cr)

| S. No. | Particulars  | Standalone             |                        |                      |                      | Consolidated           |                        |                      |                      |
|--------|--|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|        |  | Quarter ended          |                        | Year ended           |                      | Quarter ended          |                        | Year ended           |                      |
|        |  | 31.03.2026 (Audited)** | 31.03.2025 (Audited)** | 31.03.2026 (Audited) | 31.03.2025 (Audited) | 31.03.2026 (Audited)** | 31.03.2025 (Audited)** | 31.03.2026 (Audited) | 31.03.2025 (Audited) |
| 1      | Total Income from Operations   | 2773.70                | 1026.72                | 7087.50              | 2712.38              | 2773.72                | 1026.86                | 7087.66              | 2713.45              |
| 2      | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)   | 124.37                 | 258.64                 | 1026.58              | 850.22               | 116.46                 | 257.18                 | 1018.84              | 847.65               |
| 3      | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)  | 124.37                 | 258.64                 | 1026.58              | 850.22               | 116.46                 | 257.18                 | 1018.84              | 847.65               |
| 4      | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)   | 189.29                 | 186.70                 | 1036.15              | 732.91               | 163.32                 | 185.53                 | 1028.97              | 730.95               |
| 5      | Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)) | 181.36                 | 178.84                 | 1028.94              | 724.95               | 175.39                 | 177.67                 | 1021.76              | 722.99               |
| 6      | Paid up Equity Share Capital   | 4358.53                | 3665.88                | 4358.53              | 3665.88              | 4358.53                | 3665.88                | 4358.53              | 3665.88              |
| 7      | Other equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve)   | 7965.38                | 7383.46                | 7965.38              | 7383.46              | 7955.92                | 7379.32                | 7955.92              | 7379.32              |
| 8      | Securities Premium Account   | -                      | -                      | -                    | -                    | -                      | -                      | -                    | -                    |
| 9      | Net worth*   | 12323.91               | 11044.29               | 12323.91             | 11044.29             | 12314.45               | 11040.15               | 12314.45             | 11040.15             |
| 10     | Paid up Debt Capital   | 23249.92               | 22044.68               | 23249.92             | 22044.68             | 23320.28               | 22109.22               | 23320.28             | 22109.22             |
| 11     | Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares   | -                      | -                      | -                    | -                    | -                      | -                      | -                    | -                    |
| 12     | Debt Equity Ratio  | 1.89                   | 2.00                   | 1.89                 | 2.00                 | 1.89                   | 2.00                   | 1.89                 | 2.00                 |
| 13     | Earnings Per equity share (of ₹ 10/-each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -   |                        |                        |                      |                      |                        |                        |                      |                      |
|        | 1. Basic: (in ₹)   | 0.48                   | 0.51                   | 2.79                 | 2.00                 | 0.47                   | 0.51                   | 2.78                 | 2.00                 |
|        | 2. Diluted: (in ₹)   | 0.48                   | 0.51                   | 2.79                 | 2.00                 | 0.47                   | 0.51                   | 2.78                 | 2.00                 |
| 14     | Capital Redemption Reserve   | -                      | -                      | -                    | -                    | -                      | -                      | -                    | -                    |
| 15     | Debt Redemption Reserve  | 467.26                 | 362.84                 | 467.26               | 362.84               | 467.26                 | 362.84                 | 467.26               | 362.84               |
| 16     | Debt Service Coverage Ratio  | 1.52                   | 1.92                   | 1.68                 | 1.92                 | 1.51                   | 1.92                   | 1.67                 | 1.89                 |
| 17     | Interest Service Coverage Ratio  | 1.98                   | 2.99                   | 2.37                 | 3.51                 | 1.97                   | 2.98                   | 2.37                 | 3.50                 |

# - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.  
\*Excluding fly ash utilization reserve  
\*\*Figures of last quarter are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year and the published year to date figures upto the third quarter of the current/previous financial year.  
Notes:  
1. The above results have been approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 07.05.2026  
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchange(s) under Regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the Financial Results is available on the websites of the stock exchange(s) and THDCIL (<https://beta.bseindia.com/xml-data/corpfilling/AttachLive/5efac62-7fa5-4178-a2e5-43fc8f57b031.pdf> and [https://insearxiv.nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/TL671\\_07052026140157\\_R51OUTCOME31032026.pdf](https://insearxiv.nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/TL671_07052026140157_R51OUTCOME31032026.pdf))  
3. For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the stock exchange(s) (NSE and BSE) and can be accessed on the <https://beta.bseindia.com/xml-data/corpfilling/AttachLive/5efac62-7fa5-4178-a2e5-43fc8f57b031.pdf> and [https://insearxiv.nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/TL671\\_07052026140157\\_R51OUTCOME31032026.pdf](https://insearxiv.nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/TL671_07052026140157_R51OUTCOME31032026.pdf)  
Place: Rishikesh  
Date: 07.05.2026  
For and on Behalf of Board of Directors (Sipan Kumar Gang) Chairman & Managing Director and Director (Finance) DIN: 10746205  
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## Man detained from Delhi for Jalandhar BSF HQ blast

Alok Singh  
New Delhi, May 8

Jalandhar bus stand after the blast, and heading to Delhi.

THREE DAYS after a blast occurred outside the Border Security Force (BSF) headquarters in Punjab's Jalandhar, Delhi Police Special Cell has detained a man on Friday in connection with the case, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Sources said the accused was detained under the suspicion of planting an explosive device outside the BSF office, which led to the blast on May 5.

According to sources in the police, a suspect was seen allegedly boarding a bus from the

Acting on inputs shared by the Punjab Police, the Special Cell's Counter Intelligence unit apprehended the suspect in Delhi on Friday. Officers said that a team from the Punjab Police, along with officers from intelligence agencies, questioned the accused. The agencies are trying to establish his links, if he was involved in planting the explosive outside the BSF office, officers said.

The blast occurred when a delivery package placed on a two-wheeler parked outside the BSF HQ exploded.

### RAVI KANOJIA (07 JUNE 1982 - 09 MAY 2016)



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Net Profit ₹3,016 Crore 14.85% YoY

Gross NPA 1.98% -129 bps YoY

Net NPA 0.56% -26 bps YoY

## PERFORMANCE WITH PRUDENCE

### Building a Compliant Path to Success

#### Audited Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated) for the Quarter / Year ended March 31, 2026

₹ in Lakh

| Sr. No. | Particulars  | Standalone           |                      |                      |                      | Consolidated         |                      |                      |                      |
|---------|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|         |  | Quarter ended        |                      | Year ended           |                      | Quarter ended        |                      | Year ended           |                      |
|         |  | 31.03.2026 (Audited) | 30.03.2025 (Audited) | 31.03.2026 (Audited) | 31.03.2025 (Audited) | 31.03.2026 (Audited) | 31.03.2025 (Audited) | 31.03.2026 (Audited) | 31.03.2025 (Audited) |
| 1       | Total Income from Operations   | 22,68,538            | 21,75,080            | 85,03,554            | 79,81,992            | 22,85,287            | 21,93,355            | 85,64,956            | 80,41,244            |
| 2       | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)  | 4,03,595             | 3,54,717             | 13,94,566            | 12,43,444            | 4,11,745             | 3,50,562             | 14,28,854            | 12,76,714            |
| 3       | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)   | 4,03,595             | 3,54,717             | 13,94,566            | 12,43,444            | 4,11,745             | 3,50,562             | 13,76,974            | 12,76,714            |
| 4       | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)  | 3,01,579             | 2,62,591             | 10,52,715            | 9,21,902             | 3,08,776             | 2,60,197             | 10,30,630            | 9,54,828             |
| 5       | Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax) | Refer Note 3         |                      |                      |                      | Refer Note 3         |                      |                      |                      |
| 6       | Paid up Equity Share Capital   | 4,55,341             | 4,55,341             | 4,55,341             | 4,55,341             | 4,55,341             | 4,55,341             | 4,55,341             | 4,55,341             |
| 7       | Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year                                      |                      |                      | 75,47,654            | 65,78,138            |                      |                      | 77,38,068            | 67,85,027            |
| 8       | Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -   |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
|         | 1. Basic (in ₹):   | 6.62                 | 5.77                 | 23.12                | 20.25                | 6.78                 | 5.72                 | 22.64                | 20.97                |
|         | 2. Diluted (in ₹):   | 6.62                 | 5.77                 | 23.12                | 20.25                | 6.78                 | 5.72                 | 22.64                | 20.97                |
| 9       | Net Worth  | 75,27,811            | 66,05,857            | 75,27,811            | 66,05,857            | 77,05,575            | 68,15,829            | 77,05,575            | 68,15,829            |
| 10      | Paid-up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt *   | 27.82%               | 20.06%               | 27.82%               | 20.06%               |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| 11      | Debt Equity Ratio *  | 0.78                 | 0.58                 | 0.78                 | 0.58                 |                      |                      |                      |                      |

\*Debt represents borrowings with residual maturity of more than one year. Outstanding Debt represents total borrowings of the Bank.

Notes:  
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Yearly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange(s) websites (BSE: <https://www.bseindia.com> and NSE: <https://www.nseindia.com>) and the website of the Bank (<https://www.bankofindia.bank.in>). The same can be accessed by scanning the QR Code provided here.  
2. For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s) (National Stock Exchange and Bombay Stock Exchange) and can be accessed on the URL (NSE: <http://www.nseindia.com> and BSE: <http://www.bseindia.com>).  
3. Information relating to Total Comprehensive Income and Other Comprehensive Income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to banks.

Place : Mumbai  
Date : May 8, 2026

Sd/- (Pramod Dwivedi)  
Executive Director

Sd/- (Rajiv Mishra)  
Executive Director

Sd/- (Subrat Kumar)  
Executive Director

Sd/- (P. R. Rajagopal)  
Managing Director & CEO

Sd/- (Rajneesh Karnatak)  
Managing Director & CEO

Sd/- (M. R. Kumar)  
Chairman

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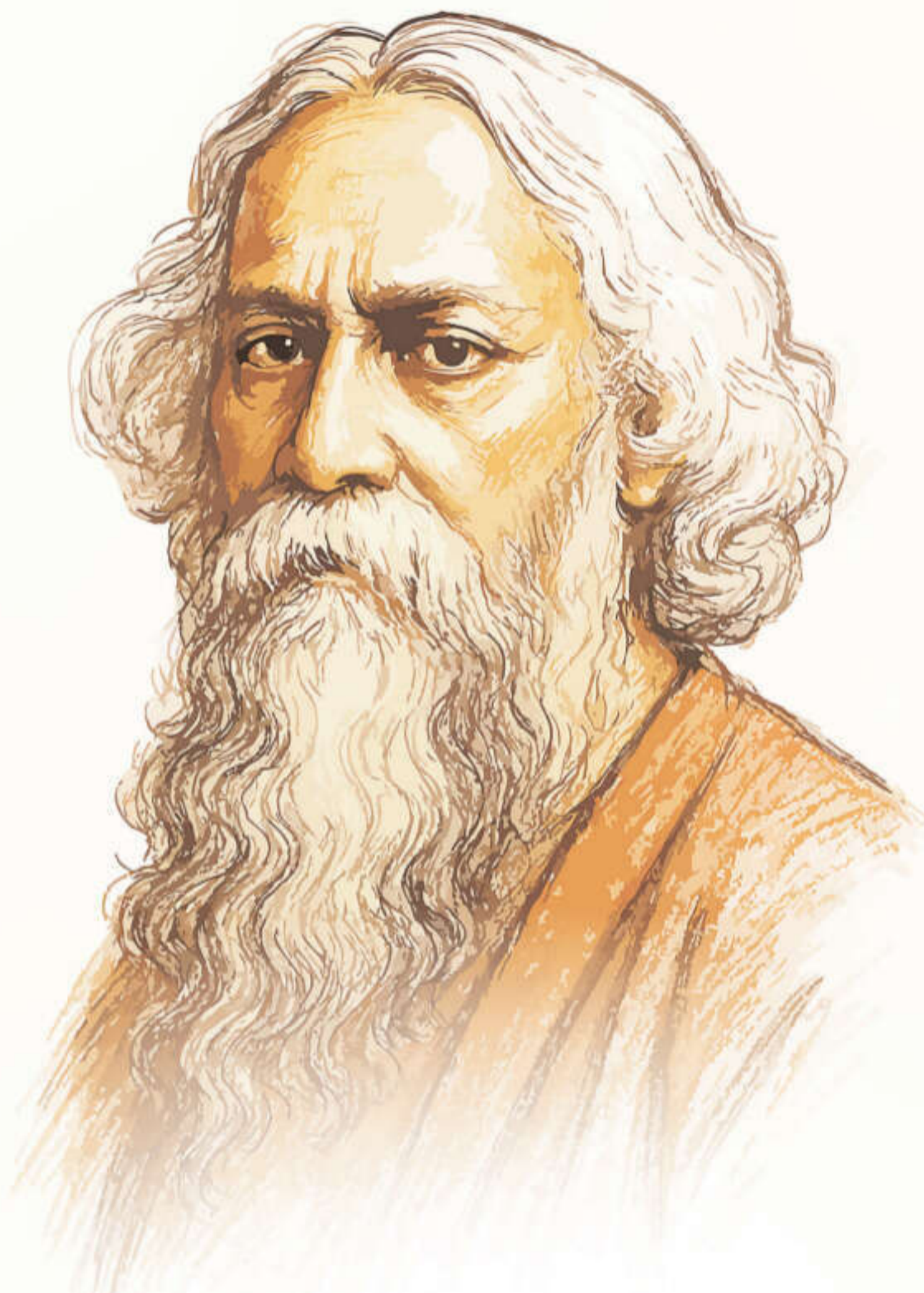
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सत्यमेव जयते  
दिल्ली सरकार

शुभ कर्मपथे धर' निर्भय गान।  
सब दुर्बल संशय होकर अबसान।

(अपने शुभ कर्म-पथ पर निर्भीक होकर आगे बढ़ो।  
सभी दुर्बलताएं और शंकाएं समाप्त हों।)



भारत की साहित्यिक और सांस्कृतिक आत्मा को स्वर देने वाले,  
राष्ट्रगान के अमर रचयिता  
नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता

गुरुदेव  
रबीन्द्रनाथ  
टैगोर

की जयंती पर  
कोटि-कोटि नमन



नरेन्द्र मोदी  
प्रधानमंत्री

“हमारा संकल्प भी वही होना चाहिए,  
जो गुरुदेव टैगोर का स्वप्न था।  
एक ऐसा परिवेश जहां मन भयमुक्त  
हो और सिर उंचा हो।”

-नरेन्द्र मोदी  
प्रधानमंत्री



रेखा गुप्ता  
मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

## 'CENTRALISED, TECHNICALLY-EQUIPPED SYSTEM FOR IMPROVED ANALYSIS' As bomb threats surge, spl police unit to probe emails

Sakshi Chand  
New Delhi, May 8

IN A move aimed at strengthening the response to a surge in bomb threats, the Delhi Police has constituted a dedicated Bomb Threat (E-mail) Investigation Cell at its headquarters. *The Indian Express* has learnt. The move comes in the wake of an increasing number of hoax threats — targeting schools, hospitals, courts, and even the Indira Gandhi International Airport — received via emails over the last year in the Capital.

The surge in such hoax threats prompted the need for a centralised and technically-equipped system to track and analyse such emails, according to officers. The newly-formed unit will act as the central repository for all such emails received from across the city. It will maintain a consolidated database, associated technical data and records of FIRs regis-



Multiple schools have received hoax threats in the city over the last one year. FILE

tered in such cases, said officers. According to an official order issued by the Police Headquarters on Jai Singh Road, the specialised unit will operate under the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) wing and function from Tower-II. Set up under the supervision of ACP Pawan Kumar, the unit will be staffed by a small team,

including an Inspector, an Assistant Sub-Inspector, and a Constable, said officers. The order, signed by Anyesh Roy, Deputy Commissioner of Police-II, IFSO, has come into effect immediately, signalling a coordinated and technology-driven approach by Delhi Police to tackle emerging threats in the digital domain.

Investigations in several such cases, as previously reported by *The Indian Express*, revealed the use of VPNs and spoofed identities, making it difficult for local police units to trace the origin swiftly. The volume of these threats did not only trigger large-scale security responses and evacuations but also strained policing resources. Officials had earlier indicated the need for a specialised, technology-driven unit to centralise intelligence, streamline analysis, and improve response time. The new specialised unit has been tasked with conducting detailed technical and analytical examinations of all such threats. This includes assessing the credibility, identifying patterns, and tracing the origin of emails.

While the central unit will handle analysis and coordination, the operational response will continue to be managed by the respective district or unit as per established protocols.

## 3-yr-old 'raped' in school; staffer held, gets bail

Sakshi Chand  
New Delhi, May 8

A THREE-YEAR OLD student has been allegedly raped by the caretaker of a school in West Delhi. After the arrest of the 57-year-old accused, he was granted bail by a court on May 7, said police.

An FIR was lodged into the incident on May 1, when the girl's mother filed a police complaint, alleging that her daughter was sexually assaulted during school hours by an unknown male staff member of the school. According to the complaint, the child had gone to the school on April 30, the second day after her admission. After returning home, she complained of pain. When questioned by her mother, the girl said that she was taken to

an isolated area in the school, where the man allegedly assaulted her.

The accused was booked under Section 64(1) of the BNS, which pertains to punishing rape with rigorous imprisonment not less than 10 years as well as Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, which covers aggravated penetrative sexual assault.

During investigation, police said the accused was identified by the child and arrested the same day.

"The accused was subsequently remanded to judicial custody. However, he was granted bail on Thursday... despite strong opposition from the prosecution," DCP (West) Darade Sharad Bhaskar said. Additional Sessions Judge

(ASJ) Rohit Gulia of Dwarka Court, in his order dated May 7, said, "...it has been shown that the applicant/accused had left the junior wing of the school at around 8.37 am and had not returned back thereafter and moreover, the applicant/accused had joined the investigation when he was called by the police authorities..."

"...there is nothing on record which could suggest that the applicant accused had ever tried to flee or interfere in the investigation of the case in any manner whatsoever. Further, the Investigating Officer admitted that the alleged crime scene had been investigated by the crime team and relevant articles seized, including the DVRs of the CCTV cameras... moreover, teachers of the junior wing of the school have been

examined," he added.

The ASJ said that it was clear that there was no "requirement of keeping the accused behind bars for long". "...without commenting upon the merits or demerits of the case, the applicant/accused... is admitted to bail," he added.

The defense counsel argued that the accused was not present at the junior wing of the school when the crime allegedly took place.

The DCP said the police are examining the court order and taking legal opinion to decide further course of action.

According to the police, the victim's statement was recorded before the court under Section 183 of the BNS, and crucial evidence, including CCTV and DVR footage, was seized.



## CM orders audit of govt schools

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta carried out a surprise inspection of Rajkiya Sarvodaya Vidyalaya in New Delhi's Roop Nagar on Friday. Following the inspection, she directed an audit of Delhi government schools to assess the structural strength of buildings, fire safety preparedness and basic facilities like drinking water and toilets, according to a statement from her office. @GUPTA\_REKHA/X

## Cattle sheds at govt schools in Nuh: Rights watchdog seeks report

Express News Service  
Gurgaon, May 8

THE HARYANA Human Rights Commission (HHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of news reports flagging that cowsheds are operating out of the premises of several government primary schools in Nuh and sought comprehensive reports from the top administrative and education officials. Even as 68 new schools were sanctioned in Nuh district in 2020, the lack of basic infrastructure in some of them — such as these — reflects systemic failure, and amounts to serious violations of children's rights to education, health, and dignified living, the HHRC stated in a series of sharp remarks in its order dated May 7.

Forcing children to study in environments exposed to animal waste and unsafe structures amounts to "institutional neglect and denial of equal opportunity," said the HHRC in the order by a bench of Chairperson Justice Lalit Batra and Members Kuldip Jain and Deep Bhatia. It has directed Haryana Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi, among others, to submit detailed reports. In its order, the HHRC has noted that Government Primary School in Kubda Bas village is functioning out of a cattle shed, where 29 boys and 33 girls from Balvatika to Class 3 study. In the Kalu Bas village primary school in Ferozpur Jhirka operates in an open field, catering to 45 boys and 50 girls. With no classrooms, blackboards are tied to tree trunks, and children are exposed to extreme weather conditions, it said.

## Centre's nod to new electric passenger train between Delhi & Fbd

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 8

SOON, PEOPLE commuting between Delhi and Faridabad on a daily basis can cut down on their travel time. The Centre has approved a new Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) rail service between Delhi and Faridabad following a request by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office on Friday.

The approval was granted by Union Railway Minister Ashwin Vaishnaw after the Delhi government raised the issue of increasing pressure on existing transport networks connecting Delhi and Faridabad. Gupta said it would provide relief to thousands of daily commuters travelling between the two

cities. According to the government, a large number of people from Faridabad and nearby areas commute to Delhi every day for work, academic and business purposes. Residents and regular passengers had been demanding additional rail connectivity for several years due to overcrowding and delays on existing routes.

Gupta said the new MEMU service would provide commuters with a faster and affordable public transport option and would also help reduce pressure on road traffic. She added the government has been coordinating with the Centre on projects related to transport in Delhi-NCR. A MEMU is an electric passenger train service operated by Indian Railways for short and medium-distance travel on main railway routes.

### • Skywatch

Forecast: May 9, 2026  
Mainly clear sky

MAX: 35-37  
2.3°C below normal  
MIN: 23-25  
2.1°C below normal

• Sunrise: 5:34 AM (May 10)  
• Sunset: 7:01 PM (May 9)  
• Moonrise: 1:15 PM (May 10)  
• Moonset: 11:26 AM (May 9)

### • AQI Tracker

JNU Satisfactory AQI: 71  
Anand Vihar Moderate AQI: 143

ITO Satisfactory AQI: 87  
Bawana Moderate AQI: 109

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

ADVERTORIAL

# 81 YEARS OF VICTORY



## MESSAGE

Address by Russian Ambassador to India  
**DENIS ALIPOV**

**On the 81<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War**



9 May, 2026 marks the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Soviet people's victory over Nazi Germany in the Great Patriotic War. Eighty-one years ago, the world witnessed the end of a conflict that had plunged humanity into one of its darkest chapters. Driven by racial hatred and misanthropy, the criminal Nazi ideology brought devastation across continents, razing thriving cities to ruins and claiming tens of millions of innocent lives.

The Holocaust, concentration camps and mass executions, forced labour, ethnic cleansing and widespread starvation were not abstract tragedies, but horrifying realities endured by entire nations across Europe and Asia. For the peoples of the Soviet Union that

war was not merely a military confrontation – it was a civilizational battle for survival against openly declared state policy of extermination and enslavement.

The atrocities committed by Nazi Germany and its all too well known collaborators in Europe and militarist Japan explicitly constituted genocide and have no statute of limitations. In recognition of those crimes, the Russian Federation has established April 19 as the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Genocide of the Soviet People during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945. This date serves as a solemn reminder of the millions of innocent victims and reinforces our duty to preserve the historical truth.

The truth is that it was the Soviet soldier who bore the heaviest burden of the struggle. At the cost of more than 27 million lives, through unparalleled courage and resilience, the Soviet people and none else were instrumental in eradication of the "brown plague" that had engulfed Europe. This immense sacrifice will never be diminished in our memory.

India's contribution during those years stands as an example of international solidarity. The Indian people demonstrated steadfast support for the global struggle against fascism. More than two and a half million Indian soldiers volunteered to serve in the British Indian Army, forming one of the largest volunteer forces in history. They fought with distinction across multiple theatres – from the deserts of the North Africa to the jungles of the Southeast Asia – displaying exceptional courage and resilience. Notably, in 1941, Indian divisions played a vital role in ensuring that critical supply routes to the Soviet Union through Iran remained operational.

Today, as we witness dangerous manifestations of the same hateful ideology – wherever they come from – it is our collective responsibility to remain vigilant and resolute against revival of Nazism in any form. Any attempts to revise the outcomes of the Second World War and belittle the decisive contribution of the Soviet Union to the victory over Nazism are unacceptable and should be opposed. The truth about WWII must be preserved with accuracy and integrity and should not become an object of political manipulation. In support of these efforts, Russia has initiated the annual UNGA resolution titled "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fueling contemporary forms of racism" endorsed by the global majority, including India.

We honour the memory of the perished and will firmly reject any attempts to glorify the convicted Nazi criminals. Those who do not know their past have no future.

## Victory Day Celebrations Across Russia



## Celebration of the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War in India

Every year on May 9 Moscow and other Russian largest cities host the Victory Day Parade. Russians around the world commemorate the anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War with a series of memorial events.

This year New Delhi traditionally hosted the St George's Ribbon and the "Immortal Regiment" campaigns marking the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Victory.

DCM & Minister Counsellor of the Russian Embassy in India Roman Babushkin, as well as several hundred compatriots, Indian citizens, representatives of Russian organizations' offices in India and members of their families took part in the procession, marching through the central part of New Delhi with portraits of their relatives who fought on the fronts of World War II, paying tribute to their courage and sacrifice. A central element of the program was the unfurling of an 81-meter-long St. George's Ribbon – a powerful symbol of remembrance and continuity between generations. The photo exhibition «The Contribution of Indians to the Victory in World War II» and a patriotic concert were also arranged at the Russian House in New Delhi.

The Embassy of Russia in India held a solemn flower-laying ceremony at the memorial stele on its premises, attended by ambassadors of friendly countries, military attachés, members of diplomatic missions, and their families. The "Candle of Memory" campaign was also organized, during which participants lit candles in honor of those who perished defending the Motherland.

Commemorations, dedicated to the Victory Day were held not only in New Delhi, but across the whole country – in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Trivandrum, and Kudankulam.

In particular, the St George's Ribbon rally was organized in two more locations – at the Russia-India nuclear power plant in Kudankulam and in Trivandrum. The programme also included numerous seminars, an exhibition, film screenings, and a ceremonial raising of a large Victory Banner.



## Motorcycle Rally of Victory

On the occasion of the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945, the Embassy of Russia in India jointly with the Russian House in New Delhi, "Delhi Bikers Breakfast Run" (DBBR) and "Fathers" motorcycle associations, organized the Second Annual Motorcycle Rally.

Bringing together more than 400 motorcyclists from Russia, India, and friendly nations, the rally became a vivid expression of shared memory and cultural connection. The event opened with the St. George Ribbon campaign, accompanied by wartime songs that set a respectful and reflective tone.

Welcoming remarks were delivered by DCM &

Minister Counsellor of the Russian Embassy in India Roman Babushkin and the "DBBR" co-founder Karan Sood. The speakers emphasized the decisive contribution of the Soviet Union, alongside India and other allied nations, to the victory over Nazism, and underscored the importance of preserving historical memory for future generations.

The route passed through some of New Delhi's most iconic landmarks, including The Rashtrapati Bhawan, Safdarjung's Tomb, Lodhi Garden, India Gate, and the National War Memorial. At the head of the procession was a restored UAZ-469 vehicle from the 1970s, carefully revived by an Indian enthusiast. The column, decorated with Victory banners and the flags of Russia and India, attracted

the attention of residents of the capital, turning the ride into a tribute to history and friendship.

At the final destination point – the Russian House, participants laid flowers at the memorial plaque to Indian soldiers who were awarded Soviet and Russian orders.

The cultural program featured performances by creative groups of the Alexander Kadakin School of the Embassy, representatives of the Russian diplomatic mission as well as compatriots living in India, creating a warm and festive atmosphere.

Guests were also invited to explore a photo exhibition, "Motorcycles in the Service of the Soviet Army," prepared in cooperation with TASS and RIA Novosti.



## Can't sell, can't take loans: How Gurgaon's 180 sq yard rule is hitting families

Abhimanyu Hazarika  
Gurgaon, May 8

FOR PRIVATE school teacher Richa Bhardwaj (51), the dream of upgrading to a bigger house as her sons grow up has been a testing one. The hurdle is not a lack of finances, but an administrative circular issued in March 2009 by the Financial Commissioner, Town & Country Planning Department, that limits the registration of residential plots to those measuring 180 square yards and above in Gurgaon.

Residing in F block of Suncity Township off Golf Course Road, Bhardwaj can neither sell her 2BHK apartment — purchased in 2003 and measuring less than 180 sq yards — nor avail of a mortgage because it's not registered. "My children are growing up, they need a separate room. I cannot think of getting my elder son married because of this," she said.

She is not alone. For over 70 similarly placed homeowners in Suncity, and hundreds of families across private plotted colonies in Gurgaon, the dream of undisputed property ownership has turned into a 15-year-long ordeal. Despite paying the full sale consideration, taking possession, and paying municipal taxes, these residents are continually denied property registration.

At the core of the dispute is the 2009 administrative circular. Homeowners point out that the state government itself had amended the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975, in September 2009. The amendment introduced Section 3-C, which explicitly permits the registration of independent residential floors in licensed colonies without prescribing any minimum plot size restriction, while also enabling the government to collect additional stamp duty.

Suncity homeowners approached the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 2022, seeking the enforcement of their right to property registration.

Key government departments — including the State of Haryana (through the Financial Commissioner & Principal Sec-

retary) and the Department of Revenue & Disaster Management — are yet to file their replies in court. Only the Directorate of Town and Country Planning and the developer, Suncity Projects, have responded, stating that a policy revision is being deliberated. HUDA has also filed an affidavit.

In their petition, residents accused the authorities of discriminatory and arbitrary conduct. The petition highlighted that banks are refusing to provide reverse mortgage loans to senior citizens, solely because their conveyance deeds are unregistered. Unable to legally transfer or sell their properties, many buyers have been forced into the General Power of Attorney (GPA) route, creating severe legal uncertainty.

Chitresh Dutta (70), a retired Central government engineer who bought his Suncity home in 2004, said: "My children have all grown up. I am not able to sell, so I can't even think of getting a bigger property."

Dr Chanchal Deol (67), an orthopaedic surgeon, pointed out the financial limitations for senior citizens. "I am not able to sell or take a reverse mortgage. I want to shift to Delhi to be close to my family, but I am unable to," he added. Jyoti Bora (63), a retired house manager at Assam Bhawan in Delhi, said, "Our home is undervalued."

The crisis extends far beyond Suncity.

At Sushant Lok Extension, RWA president Pawan Yadav said that properties even a few yards short of the 180 sq yard-mark are being denied registration. He added that there are at least 500 families in Sushant Lok 2 and 3 who possess allotment letters and builder-buyer agreements, but no title or conveyance deeds. "Those who are old have medical expenses they cannot pay for. If 100 sq yard plots by the housing board can be registered, then why not ours?"

In Sushant Lok, the impasse has also impacted local governance. "As per norms, we cannot take those without registered plots as voting members. So, like tenants, they are non-voting RWA members as of now," Yadav explained.



At F Block of Suncity Township in Gurgaon. EXPRESS

## SEVEN CGHS SOCIETIES FACING SUPPLY ISSUES SINCE 30 DAYS, SAYS DELHI JAL BOARD

# Taps almost dry in 8 Dwarka sectors, societies spending lakhs on tankers

Sophiya Mathew  
New Delhi, May 8

"CLEAR ALL emergencies" — a message from a senior Delhi Jal Board (DJB) official in a WhatsApp group formed this summer, asking his officials to do the needful to ensure "smooth water supply" to housing societies in Dwarka — has done little to reassure local residents facing a water crisis that has forced many resident welfare associations (RWAs) to spend up to Rs 1 lakh a month each on water tankers.

Across parts of Dwarka, including sectors 6, 10, 11, 12 and 13, residents said piped water supply has either sharply reduced, comes at extremely low pressure, or has stopped altogether for the two months. The societies, which earlier received water for two hours or more every day, now claimed that supply lasted for only a few minutes, forcing them to depend on DJB and private water tankers.

The DJB, while responding to a resident on Friday morning, admitted that there was a problem. "The Seven CGHS Societies of Dwarka are facing short supply issues since last 30 days, being situated at tail end of distribution network in Command of CT-2 Madhu Vihar. The Delhi Jal Board attempted to rationalise the supply by operating sluice valves on loop lines, but no significant improvement was observed. To mitigate the situation, sufficient water tankers are being deployed on daily basis to fill the societies' underground reservoirs (UGRs)," it said while replying to a post by Sudha Iyer, the joint secretary of Dwarka Forum, a registered body of the sub-city residents.

Iyer is a resident of Shivalik Apartments in Sector 6, home to around 500 people. The society requires around 50 kilolitres of water daily. Residents said the supply, which earlier lasted about two hours, now comes for barely five to 10 minutes and that too, at low pressure. The society currently needs around four tankers every day to ensure its functioning.

"For the last 20-25 days, when the water comes, the pressure is very low," said D P Kalyan, RWA president of Shivalik Apartments. "We are regularly in touch with higher authorities and they keep saying, 'Yes, we are looking into your problem'. But they are unable to find where the leakage is."

Iyer said the issue is not limited to a single society. "The main affected areas are sector 10, 6, 11 and 13, along with some societies in Sector 12," she added. "Each and every society is



(Above) A DJB water tanker at Madhur Jeevan Apartment in Sector 10 of Dwarka on Friday; (left) Sushila Srinivasan, treasurer of Shivalik Apartments RWA shows a bill after making advance payment to DJB for water tankers. VIVEK PRAKASH KRISHNA

paying a huge amount to ensure water supply. It is costing us heavily — at least Rs 1 lakh a month," she said.

According to Iyer, while shortage of water in summer is not uncommon in Dwarka, the scale of the current crisis is unusual. "We never had so much of an issue earlier. Even if there was a problem, it would last only a day or two. In summers, there is generally a shortfall, but not like the crisis we have seen in the last 20-25 days," she said.

The dependence on tankers has also created a major financial burden for RWAs. While DJB tankers are cheaper, societies claim they are not always available on time, forcing them to rely on private suppliers. "If we call a private tanker, it comes within 10 minutes but charges Rs 2,500. A DJB tanker costs around Rs 700," Iyer said.

For many elderly residents living on fixed incomes, the additional expense has become difficult to manage. "We need six to eight tankers every day. Mostly retired people live here, and these extra charges are difficult to bear," said Sushila Srinivasan, a resident and RWA member.

R N Yadav, another RWA member, described the shortage as the worst in decades. "I have

been living here for over 25 years. This is the first time we are facing such an acute problem."

At Sanskriti Apartments in Sector 10, which houses around 300 residents, the society requires around 20 kilolitres of water daily. Residents said they earlier received supply for nearly two hours, but now get barely one hour of low-pressure water. The society is now managing with two to three tankers every day.

At Thiruvizhai Apartments in Sector 11, which has around 300 residents and requires nearly 50 kilolitres of water daily, the supply has dropped from two to two-and-a-half hours to 10-15 minutes at low pressure, residents said. The society now uses the services of around four tankers daily.

Mathew Tharian, a member of the society RWA, said the shortage began unusually early this year. "This is the first time that from February onwards we are facing acute water problems. Earlier, the issue would only arise in April or May."

A J Philip, the RWA president, added, "Water supply is a perennial problem. But this year, the issue is severe."

Tharian questioned why tankers were available while piped supply remained erratic. "They are saying there is a water shortage, but for tankers there is no shortage... How are they supplying this much water through tankers?"

He added that residents are reluctant to use private tankers because of concerns over

quality. "The water quality of private water tankers is very bad. That is why we are relying only on DJB tankers," he added.

At IDC CGHS in Sector 11, which has 107 flats and more than 330 residents, the daily water requirement is around 100 kilolitres, said Anil Kundra, general secretary of both Dwarka Forum and IDC CGHS Limited.

He said that over the last four to five years, the society received 50-60 kilolitres through regular supply and managed the remaining requirement of 40-50 kilolitres through DJB and private tankers. "But from the first week of March to April 30, daily supply fell to just 5-10 kilolitres," he said, adding that the situation had slightly improved over the last few days.

Kundra said the society has begun sending individual water consumption alerts to residents after tracking metre usage.

The RWA of Royal Green Apartments and Vyas Kunj Apartments in Sector 11 wrote to the DJB on May 7, flagging "severe water shortage problems since March 2026" and warning that the situation was "worsening day by day".

In the letter, Royal Green Apartments RWA president Rohit Uberoi sought that water level in the main underground reservoir at Akshardham in Sector 19 be increased to 13 feet and the duration of daily supply be extended by at least one hour. The society of 792 residents requires about 1,000 litres of water per household per day.

## Tried to rationalise supply, 'no significant improvement observed', says DJB

Sophiya Mathew  
New Delhi, May 8

THE DELHI Jal Board (DJB) on Friday said that it had attempted to rationalise water supply by "operating sluice valves on loop lines", but "no significant improvement was observed", even as seven CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) societies in Dwarka — "situated at the tail end of the distribution network" under (CT) command tank 2 Madhu Vihar — continued to face short supply of water for the last 30 days.

Operating a sluice valve involves specific steps taken to ensure proper water distribution in loop lines and prevent damage to the infrastructure.

The water shortage being reported by CGHS societies in Dwarka is not only a case of reduced household supply, but also a problem linked to how water is supplied through the area's distribution network.

In Dwarka, treated water is not supplied directly from the water treatment plant to individual societies. The DJB supply chain begins at the Dwarka Water Treatment Plant (WTP), from where treated water is carried through main transmission lines to command tanks and underground reservoirs. From these points, water is pushed into local distribution lines that feed sectors, pockets and housing societies.

The CT system is important because it divides the area into different supply zones.

In this case, the affected societies fall under CT-2 Madhu Vihar, which functions as one of the command points for parts of Dwarka. Water from such a command tank is distributed through a network of

pipelines, valves and loop lines before it reaches the internal underground reservoirs of housing societies.

According to DJB officials, the affected societies are located toward the far end of the pipeline system. In such locations, water pressure can drop by the time supply reaches the final stretch, especially if there is uneven drawal, inadequate pressure, valve imbalance or losses along the line. As a result, residents staying at the tail end may receive water for a shorter duration or at lower pressure than those located closer to the main supply point.

The DJB said on Friday that it attempted to rationalise supply by operating sluice valves on loop lines. Such measures are taken to balance supply between different parts of a command area, particularly when some pockets are receiving more water while others are facing short supply.

The DJB said sufficient tankers are being deployed daily to fill the underground reservoirs of the affected societies. These reservoirs are the internal storage tanks inside societies. Once filled, water is pumped from these tanks to overhead tanks or into the society's internal distribution system, from where it reaches individual flats.

The *Indian Express* spoke to three senior DJB officials who maintained that Dwarka WTP is functioning on optimum capacity.

"Command tank 2 had 4.5 m water level early Friday, which is above the allocated capacity of 4.2 m. This clearly eliminates possibilities of supply concerns from the WTP and command tanks," said a senior official.



300 RESIDENTS, 25 TANKERS, 6 DAYS: Record of water tankers arriving at Sanskriti Apartments in Sector 10. VIVEK PRAKASH KRISHNA

## ASPIRING TO CELEBRATE 'INDIA-ISRAEL PARTNERSHIP', HIS MURAL IS INAUGURATED BY ISRAEL EMBASSY

# Zubin Mehta Lodhi Art District's newest resident

Suanshu Khurana  
New Delhi, May 8

PAINTED ACROSS the side of a residential block in New Delhi's Lodhi Art District, a mural featuring a towering black-and-white portrait of renowned India-born conductor Zubin Mehta beside an orchestra being conducted by him, was inaugurated in the Capital's open-air art space on Friday.

Led by Reuven Azar, Ambassador of the State of Israel to India, the commemoration, which comes just after Mehta's 90th birthday on April 29, intends to celebrate "the bond between India and Israel," said Azar, as Mehta conducting Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi's The Four Seasons with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra played in the background.

Commissioned by the Israeli embassy almost a year ago, the mural was executed by members of Delhi-based art platform ImageNation. After securing permissions from the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), the artists, led by Akshat Sinha and Yashika Gupta of ImageNation, took about four months to create the mural. Deepak Saini, 32, the mural's lead artist, said he had never met Mehta and worked



Zubin Mehta wall mural at the Lodhi Art District on Friday. AMIT MEHRA

on the portrait using a reference photo he found most striking.

Set against a teal background, with government residential housing windows facing the street, the mural also features sheet music notes wafting above a musically absorbed orchestra drawn in classic black-and-white outfits. The large portrait, showing Mehta in a turtleneck, depicts a younger version of the maestro, who grew up in Mumbai.

Mehta first acquired Western melodies by listening to his

father and musician Mehli Mehta's collection of one-sided 78 RPM records and Bombay String Quartet performances.

He has been associated with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra since 1961, starting initially as a guest conductor, then becoming the orchestra's music director in 1977, and later serving as 'conductor for life' since 1981. He was only 25 when he first conducted the Israel Philharmonic and has since performed over 5,000 concerts with the orchestra.

Azar spoke of the history of the Israel Philharmonic and how, in 1936, the orchestra was formed by gathering Jewish musicians from Europe "in a period when darkness was looming over Europe, when Jewish musicians were being fired and persecuted."

Azar spoke of Polish violinist Bronislaw Huberman, who invited Jewish musicians to be a part of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra "to save them and their families from extermination by the Nazis." "This is

the same year (1936) that another famous musician was born, and that was Zubin Mehta, and for 70 years he has been working with the Israel Philharmonic," he said.

Last January, Mehta drew attention when he cancelled all his engagements in Israel, citing his disagreement with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent policies. "I do not agree with PM Netanyahu's policies and this is the reason that led me to take the decision that includes the cancellation of all my engagements for the season," Mehta had said to the press in Florence before saying the same in Mumbai.

He remains committed, however, to the Spain-based West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, founded by his friend, the Jewish conductor Daniel Barenboim, who holds both Israeli and Palestinian citizenship.

On India-Israel relations, Azar said that Jews always felt very safe in India. "They continue to feel safe because India has always been a society of acceptance of the other... We stand together; we have been working together to create the capabilities that we need to overcome the challenges, and I am sure we will prevail..." added Azar.

## LIQUOR POLICY CASE

# HC awaits consent from counsel to represent Kejriwal, Sisodia, Pathak

Sohini Ghosh  
New Delhi, May 8

JUSTICE SWARANA Kanta Sharma of the Delhi High Court Friday said that the court is "awaiting consent from some persons" who are expected to represent the three AAP leaders — Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and Durgesh Pathak — as amicus curiae in the CBI's challenge to the discharge of 23 accused in the alleged liquor policy scam.

After the three leaders declared last month that they will opt to go legally unrepresented before Justice Sharma's court in the excise policy case, the Judge earlier this week had said that she will be appointing three senior advocates to represent them. The court is expected to pass an order on the senior advocates appointed to represent the three on Monday.

In criminal cases, where an amicus curiae is appointed to represent an unrepresented litigant, the amicus curiae often serves as the defence lawyer. However, what presents a unique position here is the fact

that Kejriwal, Sisodia and Pathak have voluntarily refused to be represented by legal counsel in the HC.

The HC, while dealing with criminal matters which involve a question of law, in the past, has also appointed amicus curiae, largely to assist the court.

Meanwhile, AAP's former communications in-charge Vijay Nair and media executive Arvind Kumar Singh have moved applications before the HC, challenging the maintainability of the CBI's revision plea.

The CBI, in a revision plea before the HC, is challenging a trial court order from February that discharged 23 accused — including Kejriwal, Sisodia and Pathak — in the excise policy case. In April, the three AAP leaders, in three letters purportedly sent to Justice Sharma after she refused to recuse herself from hearing the CBI's plea, had said that they will be opting to go legally unrepresented before the court. In a purported "satyagraha" move, they objected to Justice Sharma's alleged "public association with the RSS's legal front".

## Man beaten, abandoned on railway tracks

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 8

A 24-YEAR-OLD man was allegedly assaulted by a group of friends in Outer Delhi's Bhalswa Dairy and left abandoned on railway tracks, police said.

The victim, identified as Mohit, was attacked by four of his friends on April 25, officers said. He was found on the tracks by police and taken to hospital. CCTV footage shows four individuals with Mohit at around 11:30 pm on April 25, the night of the incident.

Mohit's family said they learned of the assault the following day, after he had been hospitalised. His mother, Sangeeta Devi, told reporters that the family was travelling when the news reached them. "We reached Safdarjung Hospital... my son was in severe pain. Doctors say he might need to have his legs amputated..." she said.

Sangeeta added that her son was a passionate dancer and participated in dance battles. Police registered an FIR on May 6 under relevant sections of BNS related to causing hurt, wrongful restraint and common intention. No arrests have been made so far, police said.

# From Unauthorized to Empowered: A New Chapter of Urban Transformation Begins in the Capital

With legal ownership finally becoming a reality, 900,000 families across Delhi are stepping into a future of greater security and opportunity.

## NOW DELHI SAYS— THANK YOU, MODI JI

When a family smiles holding the legal papers of their home... When a young person begins planning their future... When the first ray of development reaches a colony... One voice echoes from every heart:

**"Thank you, Modi Ji!"**  
**"This is not just a scheme—it is trust."**

A trust that:

- ▲ Every citizen will receive their rights
- ▲ Development will be inclusive
- ▲ Delhi will transform—for the better

**"Your city, your responsibility."**

The government is doing its part—now it's our turn:

- ▲ Keep the city clean
- ▲ Follow the rules
- ▲ Participate in development

Because now, Delhi offers both rights and development—

**With Modi Ji:**

**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas**



For years, millions of families living in unauthorized colonies in Delhi were caught in a strange paradox—they had homes, yet no legal ownership. There was no clear property title, no full access to government services, and no sense of security about the future.

Today, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Delhi is witnessing a historic transformation where dreams are finally being recognized by law, and homes are being honored with rightful ownership.

This is not just a policy decision; it is an effort to restore identity, dignity, and security to millions who have waited for decades.

Because now, their homes are no longer just places to live—they are legally theirs.

And across the streets of Delhi, a new voice echoes: **"Thank you, Modi Ji!"**

### A New Dawn for 900,000 Families

For over 4.5 million people living in unauthorized colonies, a new era has begun.

These residents have long lived in uncertainty and insecurity. With legal recognition now in place, not only are their property rights strengthened, but they are also gaining social and economic stability.

A dream that remained incomplete for years is finally turning into reality.

This is not merely regularization—it is the restoration of dignity, security, and rights.— CM Rekha Gupta

### PM-UDAY: A DREAM REALIZED

Launched in 2019, the Pradhan Mantri Unauthorized Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana (PM-UDAY) has granted ownership rights to lakhs of families for the first time.

**Applications open on the SWAGAM portal from April 24, 2026—your rights, now in your hands**

No long queues...  
No middlemen...  
Just one click—and your home becomes legally yours.

So far, around 40,000 conveyance deeds have been issued. However, due to technical and procedural complexities, progress had been relatively slow.

Now, by removing these bottlenecks, the government has accelerated the scheme with renewed momentum.

### "AS-IS WHERE-IS" – THE GUARANTEE OF THE BIGGEST CHANGE

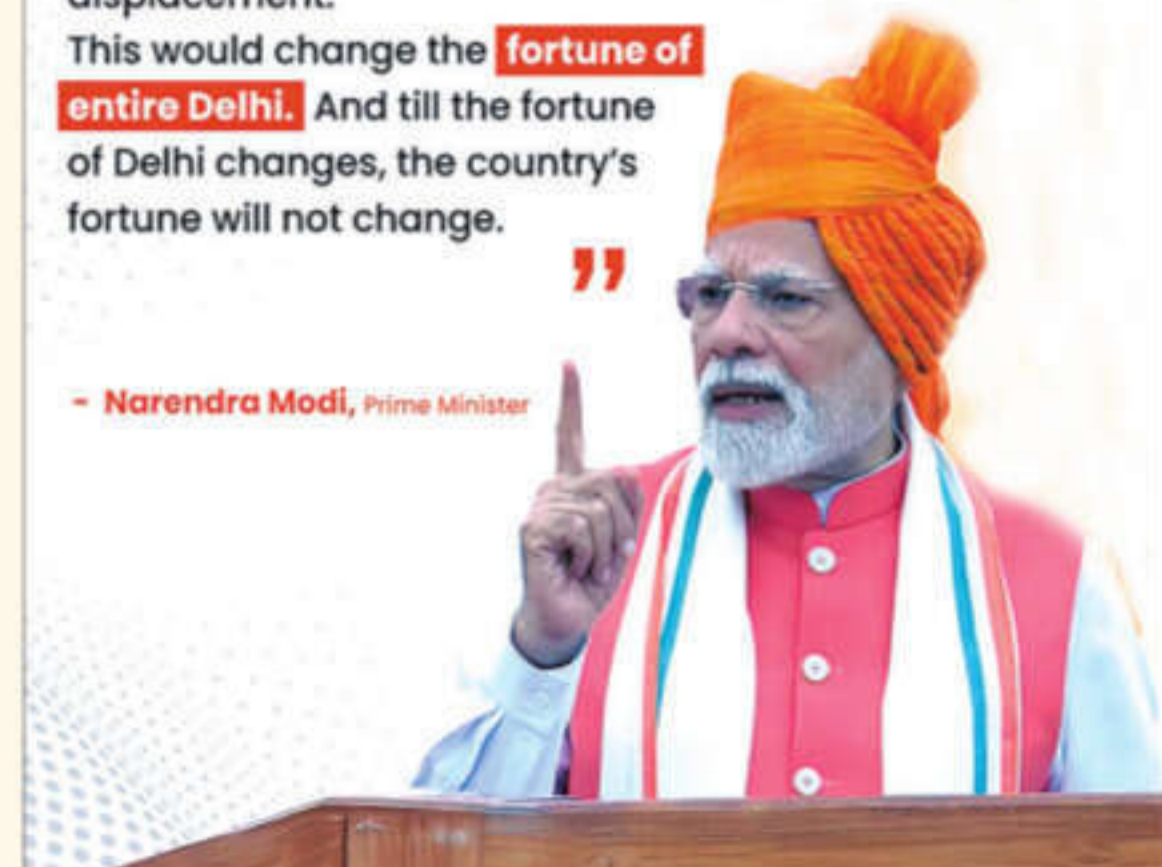
Out of Delhi's 1,731 unauthorized colonies, 1,511 will now be regularized on an "as-is where-is" basis.

### What does this mean?

- No requirement for layout plans
- Existing homes will be considered legally valid

This now brings an end to the decades of uncertainty and now gives them a chance to pursue the dreams of their lives in peace, without any threat of eviction or displacement. This would change the fortune of entire Delhi. And till the fortune of Delhi changes, the country's fortune will not change.

— Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



- All plots approved for residential use
- Relief extended to small shops
- This is not just a reform—it is a guarantee of real change in people's lives.
- Mandatory maintenance of PM-UDAY register
- Additionally:
  - ADM appointed as the single nodal officer
  - Surveys conducted at the local level
  - Online applications through the SWAGAM portal

### FASTER, TRANSPARENT, AND SIMPLER PROCESSES

Where files once took months, work will now be completed in days:

- GIS survey report in 7 days
- Deficiency Resolution Memo in 15 days
- Conveyance deed issued within 45 days

- With digital tracking and application systems, transparency has increased, and citizens no longer need to run from office to office. This is the new system of a double-engine government—simple, fast, and reliable.

## A Major Step Toward Inclusive Development



Earlier, several areas were excluded from the TOD policy. Now, an additional 80 sq. km has been included.

### This means:

▲ Unauthorized colonies enter the mainstream of development

▲ Land pooling areas are now included

Now, Delhi's landscape will change—and so will its mindset.

Because this is no longer just about homes—it's about the future of the entire city.

### This initiative will:

▲ Transform unplanned growth into organized development

▲ Empower citizens

▲ Elevate Delhi to a world-class city

### Delhi's New Urban Vision: A Step Toward Transformation

Regularization of unauthorized colonies and the TOD policy are not just about legal recognition—they lay the foundation of a modern urban model where every citizen has access to better infrastructure, connectivity, and

quality of life.

### From Reality to Resolution

Over the past two decades, Delhi's population has nearly doubled. Rapid urban expansion led to unplanned development in many areas—resulting in thousands of unauthorized colonies, hundreds of slums, and numerous villages with inadequate infrastructure.

For years, this reality was ignored. Now, the policy focus has shifted—from avoidance to acceptance, and from problem to practical solution.

### The Delhi of Tomorrow: Planned, Inclusive, Capable

With support from the central government, this initiative marks a strong beginning toward transforming Delhi into a systematic and planned city.

Its impact will go beyond infrastructure—it will redefine lifestyle, connectivity, and the overall urban experience. This is not just development—it is the beginning of a new identity for Delhi.

### Key Transformations: Before vs Now

| ASPECT                  | EARLIER SYSTEM                        | NEW SYSTEM   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Beneficiaries           | Limited progress, slow process        | ~4.5 million citizens benefitted                     |
| Conveyance Deeds        | ~40,000 issued                        | Faster process, continuous growth                    |
| Approval Process        | Multi-level approvals (DDA officials) | ADM as single nodal officer                          |
| Nodal Agency            | Complex multi-agency system           | Revenue Department leads                             |
| Survey Process          | Conducted by DDA officials            | Joint survey by Patwari & Naib Tehsildar             |
| Timeline                | No fixed timeline                     | 45 days for deed issuance                            |
| Record Management       | Limited, scattered                    | PM-UDAY register maintained                          |
| Basis of Regularisation | Layout plan mandatory                 | As-is where-is basis                                 |
| Coverage                | Limited, complex                      | 1,511 out of 1,731 colonies included                 |
| Restricted Areas        | Lack of clarity                       | Clearly excludes ridge, floodplains, protected zones |
| Certification           | Multi-agency                          | MCD issues certificate                               |
| Deed Issuance           | Complex, time-consuming               | Direct by Revenue Department                         |
| Application Process     | Offline                               | Online via SWAGAM portal                             |

## Not Just Homes, It's a Vikas Ki Guarantee

With regularization, these colonies will now see structured development by government agencies.

Earlier, unclear legal status limited development. Now, infrastructure investment will increase.

### What has changed?

▲ MCD will issue Regularisation Certificates

▲ Revenue Department will provide Conveyance Deeds and Authorization Slips

▲ Infrastructure development will be ensured

### Now, colonies will have:

- ▲ Better roads
- ▲ Safer streets
- ▲ Modern amenities

### A New Vision for Delhi: TOD Policy

While rights are being granted, the future is also being strengthened.

Enter the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Policy.

This policy aims to integrate transport and housing by promoting high-density, planned development around metro and transit corridors.

It enables people to live closer to transit, improving ease of living and encouraging walkability.

### What will change?

- ▲ Affordable housing options
- ▲ Better connectivity
- ▲ Smart and planned urban growth

### A New Era of Affordable Housing

#### Under the new policy:

▲ Development within 500 meters on both sides of Metro/RRTS corridors

▲ Around 207 sq. km area opened for development

▲ Smaller plots (minimum 2000 sq. m) now eligible

▲ Maximum FAR increased up to 500

▲ 65% FAR mandatory for residential use

▲ Promotion of affordable housing units (= 99 sq. m)

▲ Remaining FAR allowed for commercial and flexible use

Regularization of unauthorized colonies and the TOD policy together will redefine housing, urban development, and ease of living in Delhi.

This is not just about regularization—it is a step toward an inclusive, planned, and modern urban model that ensures better quality of life and infrastructure.



HUNDREDS TAKE TO STREETS ACROSS STATE IN SUPPORT OF V D SATHEESAN

# Congress workers' protests complicate Kerala CM pick

Shaju Philip  
Thiruvananthapuram, May 8

MAKING THE decision to choose Kerala's next Chief Minister more complex for the Congress high command, hundreds of party workers took to the streets across the state on Friday in support of Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan.

A section of workers, unhappy with Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal also being in the contention despite not being actively involved in state politics, declared they would accept no one other than Satheesan as CM and warned the party leadership against "parachuting" any other leader into the post. Those against Venugopal, who is said to enjoy the support of an "overwhelming" majority of the Congress's 63 MLAs, his rivals in the party point out that Venugopal is not an MLA and the party's central leadership had, in the run-up to the polls, decided not to field MPs in the elections.

Across Kerala, right from the state capital to other parts of the state, Congress workers thronged the streets with the slogan with placards of Satheesan and the slogan, "Let the leader who led the battle govern the state." The Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the now dissolved Assembly, Satheesan led the United Democratic Front (UDF) as it took on the CPI(M) and former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the last five years. Besides, Satheesan also questioned the communal remarks of prominent Hindu leader Vellappally Natesan, who heads the



Congress workers take out a march in Thrissur on Friday. EXPRESS

Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam, when other senior Congress leaders remained silent. This helped the Congress win the "secular votes", party insiders estimate. Before the elections, Satheesan declared that he would retire from politics if the UDF failed to win 100 seats. The Congress-led alliance ended up winning 102 in the 140-member House.

Workers and local leaders on Friday took to the streets hours after Satheesan urged them to desist from processions and the practice of erecting flex boards for leaders. "These are moments of happiness and pride for us. In such a situation, neither the leaders nor the workers should do anything that would create difficulties for the party or the alliance," the Congress leader said in a post on his Facebook page.

In Malappuram, Congress workers were seen marching and saying out loud, "We will accept only VD as the Chief Minister. We voted for VD. Secular Kerala is with VD." In Irikkur,

Kannur, which is a Congress pocket borough, party workers came out against the bid to bring Venugopal as the CM, as there had been reports that sitting Congress MLA Sajeev Joseph would resign and pave the way for Venugopal to contest from the seat after he becomes the CM. Joseph had not denied the reports.

Congress workers staged the demonstrations in Satheesan's support, defying the state leadership that warned they would face action for doing so. After state Congress president Sunny Joseph said party district committees were entitled to take action against workers and leaders who take out open marches, the District Congress Committee in Idukki suspended three leaders who took part in a pro-Satheesan march.

However, Idukki MP Dean Kuriakose came out against the suspensions, saying, "The sentiments of workers should be respected, where they will air their views. They had toiled for the

party's success. The disciplinary action is not the remedy." Former Congress state president and newly elected MLAK Muralidharan said, "I feel that those who toil should be given the wages. Flex boards will not elect the leaders. There is a process. The present issue is about a generational shift. That will be solved," he said.

On Thursday, Congress workers also held a march in Satheesan's support in Iritty in the Peravoor constituency represented by Sunny Joseph.

## The CPM example

In Kerala, Congress workers rarely hit the streets for a leader. In this instance, it is more notable because Satheesan does not have the support of any one group. The workers are on the streets for Satheesan at a time when he does not enjoy the support of MLAs in the race for the CM, where numbers matter in the game. This situation is a throwback to what CPI(M) in Kerala had witnessed on the eve of the Assembly elections of 2006. Then, the CPI(M) state leadership under Pinarayi Vijayan had denied a ticket to V S Achuthanandan to contest the polls. The decision came after Achuthanandan spent five years as Opposition leader, taking on the Congress government.

CPI(M) workers hit the streets against the party leadership. Sensing the mood was against it, the CPI(M) central leadership intervened to ensure the candidature of Achuthanandan, who led the Left Democratic Front (LDF) to a big win as it won 99 seats.



Preparations underway for the swearing-in, at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Thursday. PARTHA PAUL

# Bengal Assembly prepares for new govt's first Cabinet meet

Sweetie Kumari & Atri Mitra  
Kolkata, May 8

FOLLOWING THE conclusion of the West Bengal Assembly elections and the transition towards a new government, the State Legislative Assembly is undergoing a visible transformation, with officials and staffers working in full swing to prepare the premises for an inaugural cabinet meeting likely after the swearing-in ceremony on Saturday.

While formal confirmation on the cabinet meeting is still pending, the state administration has initiated a protocol for the removal of official nameplates of the outgoing MLAs and ministers to make way for the newly elected representatives.

Maintenance teams and the Public Works Department have been deployed to sanitise chambers, which includes the installation of new signage and updating the furniture.

The iconic red-brick Writers' Buildings, which served as the state administrative headquarters since 1780 and served as the seat of power for the East India Company, is also undergoing large-scale renovation, with the BJP reiterating its commitment to returning the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) to this historic site.

Although the state government had earlier sanctioned Rs 200 crore for restoration of the 240-year-old structure, only Blocks 1 and 2 are considered fit for immediate use, with the second floor likely to temporarily house the CMO, while restoration work of the original first-floor chambers is underway.

As Nabanna, the 14-story building in Howrah was serving as the state secretariat since 2013, the Assembly's recently inaugurated annex building is also being prepared to host the new ministers and potentially

serve as a temporary base for the CMO. However, there is yet to be an official announcement.

The shift marks a significant departure from the previous seat of governance as the TMC moved the CMO to Nabanna citing the need for renovation at the Writers' Building.

"We maintained in 2021 that a BJP government would operate from the Writers' Buildings. I announced this during the election campaign this year too," state BJP president Samik Bhattacharya had earlier said, adding, "Official announcements regarding the immediate post-swearing-in plans will be made at the appropriate time and the final decision will be taken by the new chief minister."

Kolkata Police Commissioner Ajay Nand has already inspected the Writers' Building site to review security arrangements and monitor the progress of the PWD's work.



## Display Nudge

BJP LEADERS across the country have been directed to replace their display pictures on their social media handles with the Operation Sindoor logo to commemorate the first anniversary of the counter-terrorism operation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Cabinet ministers and the senior leaders have already done the same. Some government officials have also received messages to change their display pictures until May 10 and also spread the word among colleagues in their respective departments.

## Notes Exchange

THE CABINET Secretariat is learnt to have taken the initiative to crowd-source a list of good practices or learnings from officers of all-India, Central and state services across the country. All Secretaries to the Government of India and Chief Secretaries have been asked to encourage officers working in their jurisdictions to write notes about good or innovative work they've done in public administration, whether it is a small procedural improvement or a larger systemic reform. Selected notes will then be shared so others can learn from those ideas.

## Quirky Query

THE SUPREME Court on Friday had a quirky query for a man seeking bail in a murder case. As his lawyer said the name of the accused is chhotu, Justice Vikram Nath presiding over a two-judge bench was quick to ask: "Why do you do bada bada kaam?" The court ultimately went on to give him bail after his lawyer pointed out that he has been in jail since 2024.

## Farooq attacker, who lost home in Kashmir, blamed him for militancy: Chargesheet

Arun Sharma  
Jammu, May 8

IN ITS 600-page chargesheet on the assassination attempt on National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, the J&K police said the prime accused blamed the former CM for militancy, which forced him to leave his land in Kashmir. The chargesheet against 63-year-old Kamal Singh Jamwal said he harboured a grudge against Abdullah over his lost home.

Jamwal was arrested on the spot after allegedly opening fire at Abdullah from close range during a marriage function in the Greater Kailash area in Jammu on March 11. Abdullah, who was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and other senior party leaders, had a miraculous escape.

Jamwal, a resident of old Jammu city's Purani Mandi area, is in judicial custody. "I have not done this at the behest of anyone. I fired at him as I think of him as being responsible for the spread of militancy. I wanted to kill him for the past 20 years," he told police.

The issue snowballed into a controversy between the Omar Abdullah-led J&K government and the L-G administration, as the Home Department falls under the purview of the latter. Ruling party leaders blamed the assassination attempt on a "major security lapse", accusing the administration of withdrawing the security cover of non-BJP politicians in the UT.

ACTOR-POLITICIAN'S PARTY ENDS DOMINANCE OF DMK, AIADMK IN THE SOUTHERN STATE

# As TVK heads towards power in Tamil Nadu, the numbers behind the Vijay moment

Anjishnu Das  
New Delhi, May 8

AS ACTOR-POLITICIAN Vijay and his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) get ready to form the government in Tamil Nadu after receiving support from the Congress and smaller parties such as the VCK, the CPI, and the CPI(M), an analysis of the results shows that the debutant party was not only able to carve a space for itself by ousting the Dravidian major in 91 seats, but also played the role of spoilsport in 51 seats by securing more votes than the winner's margin. Vijay is set to form the first non-DMK and non-AIADMK government in Tamil Nadu since 1967.

The TVK's performance, winning 108 of the total 234 seats, is among the most successful debuts in Tamil Nadu, bettered only by the then actor-politician M G Ramachandran-led AIADMK in 1977, when it won 130 seats after breaking away from the DMK. However, the TVK's vote share of 34.9% this year is considerably higher than the AIADMK's 30.4%, which saw the state's earliest three-cornered contest along with the Congress five decades ago.

In converting Vijay's popularity into votes, the TVK cornered more than a third of the state-wide vote share, reducing the DMK to 24.2% (its fourth-lowest vote share since 1967).

Though just 11 of the TVK's 108 seats were won with more than 50% of the vote share, it won its seats by an average margin of 22,631 votes, well above the state-wide average winning margin of 16,784, and just shy of the average margin set in the 2021 polls at 23,946 votes.

Notably, 23 of the TVK's wins came in seats where the DMK had won at least 50% of the vote share in 2021, and another 3 seats where the AIADMK had secured more than half the vote.

An analysis of the election results, however, shows that despite women's issues, including the R G Kar Medical College rape and murder case, dominating the electoral discourse, the strength of women MLAs in the new West Bengal Assembly has declined from around 15% in the outgoing House to 12.5%.

The TMC fielded more women candidates than the BJP, and the share of women candidates in the party's overall tally was also higher than that of the BJP. The TMC fielded 52 women candidates. Since the party contested 291 seats, women accounted for nearly 18% of its total nominations. Fourteen of these candidates won, making women around 18% of the

## • TVK's vote share

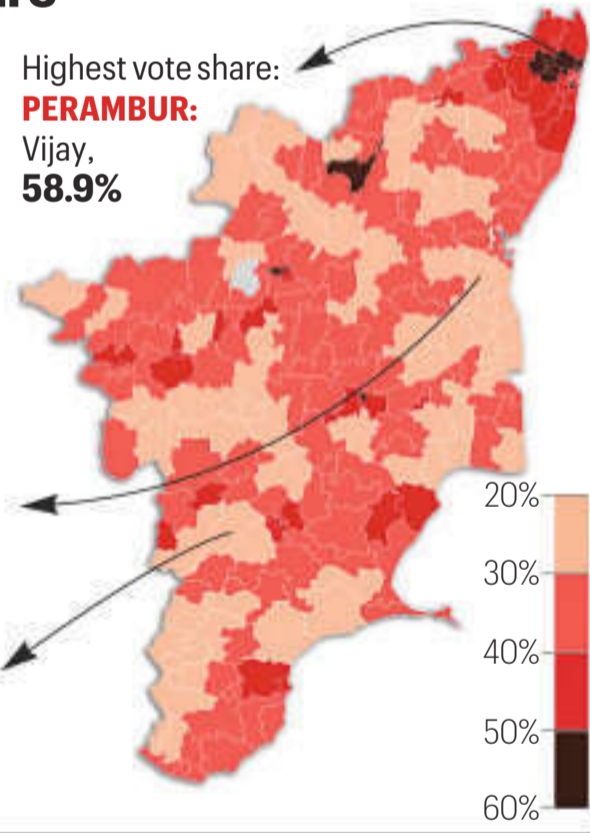
The TVK won 108 seats, including 11 with more than 50% of the vote share, 48 with between 40% and 50%, and 49 with less than 40%

Highest vote share: PERAMBUR: Vijay, 58.9%

Lowest winning vote share: USILAMPATTI: 29.3%

Lowest overall vote share: NEYVELI: 20.3%

SOURCE: EC



west vote share in party history) and the AIADMK to 21.21% (its lowest vote share ever).

But among these 150 seats are 39 where the vote-share gap between the winner and the third-place finisher was less than 5 percentage points, making them among the closest triangular contests in this election. In

a further indication of the TVK's impact, the number of seats where the winner secured less than 40% of the vote share has grown from just 13 in 2021 to 150 this year. Of these 150 seats, there were 49 TVK candidates who won after winning less than 40% of the vote share, followed by the DMK at 48, and the AIADMK at 35.

However, the most telling indicator of the TVK's win is the number of seats where the winning candidate was ahead of the runner-up in vote share terms by at least 10-percentage points. Of the total 66 such seats, the TVK won 47, with the AIADMK

and DMK far behind at 11 and 6, respectively. While AIADMK chief Edappadi K. Palaniswami won his Edappadi seat with 57.7% of the vote share, more than 38 percentage points ahead of the runner-up for the biggest such gap in this election, the TVK managed to win 14 seats with a vote-share gap of at least 20 percentage points, the highest among all the parties.

Besides emerging as the single-largest party, the TVK also cut into its rivals' vote shares in 51 seats. Though the TVK finished in third place in all these seats, it secured more votes than the winning margin. It cost the DMK in 23 such seats and the AIADMK in 19 such seats.

Across Tamil Nadu, 163 seats changed hands between parties this time compared to the 2021 elections. The TVK wrested 26 seats from the AIADMK, accounting for 39% of all the seats AIADMK won in 2021, and another 65 seats from the DMK, accounting for 49% of all seats won by the DMK in 2021. The TVK also bagged 11 seats won by the Congress in 2021.

In contrast, the DMK retained just 40 of the 133 seats won in 2021 and wrested 15 seats from the AIADMK, which in turn retained 22 of its 66 seats from 2021 and flipped 22 from the DMK.

There were another 49 seats that saw bipolar contests — where the winner and runner-up were within 5-percentage points of the vote share of each other, and the third-place finisher was more than 5-percentage points behind the runner-up.

The DMK was the most successful in bipolar contests, winning 21 such seats, followed by the TVK at 17 and the AIADMK far behind at 6. While 24 of these bipolar fights were between the DMK and TVK, 7 were between the AIADMK and TVK, and 9 were between the traditional rivals DMK and AIADMK.

However, the most telling indicator of the TVK's win is the number of seats where the winning candidate was ahead of the runner-up in vote share terms by at least 10-percentage points. Of the total 66 such seats, the TVK won 47, with the AIADMK

# Direct Govt to invite Vijay to form govt: TVK leader plea in SC

Ananthkrishnan G  
New Delhi, May 8

A MEMBER of Vijay's TVK party Friday moved the Supreme Court seeking direction to the Tamil Nadu Governor to invite Vijay to form the next government after the recent elections in the state.

Seeking urgent hearing of the plea, petitioner Ezhilrasi P, an advocate and "active member" of TVK said that "as per the settled legal position by" the SC, "firstly the...Governor is duty bound to invite the leader of largest single party to form the government and later prove the majority in the floor."

The plea, filed through Advocate A Lakshminarayanan, said that "since...Vijay (is) the elected leader of the largest single party, from the media it is understood that the...Governor may be inviting post-poll coalition parties in Tamil Nadu to form the government."

This, the petitioner said "would amount to" violation of "legal principles settled by" the SC and sound "death knell to... democracy on the whole."

The plea added, "The same would also be against the mandate of the majority of citizens who exercised their vote."

Submitting that the "Apex court alone is the savior of democracy", the petitioner sought an interim injunction restraining the Governor from inviting anyone other than Vijay



Vijay in Chennai on Friday. PTI

to form the government. Stating that Vijay has already staked the claim to form the new government as a leader of the single largest party, the TVK, the petitioner said, "The Governor must follow the Sarkaria Commission order of preference."

It added, "Since no pre-poll alliance has a majority, the natural first call is to TVK...especially since it has already filed a formal claim with Congress's letter of support. The Governor's role is to invite and not to demand a full proof of majority before issuing the invitation."

The plea said that "requiring TVK to first produce letters from 118 MLAs before issuing an invitation would invert the constitutional sequence established in" the 2017 decision in Chandrakant Kavlekar v Union of India. The plea stated that the correct sequence is: first invite the leader, then swear in the new government, and then immediately conduct a floor test in the Assembly.

# BJP made women's quota a poll pitch in Bengal, but fewer women got elected

Deeptiman Tiwary  
New Delhi, May 8

FOLLOWING THE defeat of its Constitution amendment Bills in Parliament, the BJP sought to turn the early implementation of women's reservation — which was linked to the delimitation exercise — into a major poll issue in West Bengal.

During his campaign rallies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the TMC of not wanting more "daughters of Bengal" to become MLAs and MPs. After the BJP's victory, he argued that the verdict amounted to a punishment for the TMC's role in stalling the Bill.

An analysis of the election re-

sults, however, shows that despite women's issues, including the R G Kar Medical College rape and murder case, dominating the electoral discourse, the strength of women MLAs in the new West Bengal Assembly has declined from around 15% in the outgoing House to 12.5%.

The TMC fielded more women candidates than the BJP, and the share of women candidates in the party's overall tally was also higher than that of the BJP. The TMC fielded 52 women candidates. Since the party contested 291 seats, women accounted for nearly 18% of its total nominations. Fourteen of these candidates won, making women around 18% of the

## • REDUCED SHARE

| Metric                            | TMC | BJP |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Seats contested                   | 291 | 294 |
| Women candidates fielded          | 18% | 12% |
| Women MLAs as % of party strength | 18% | 11% |
| Overall party strike rate         | 27% | 70% |
| Women candidates' strike rate     | 27% | 68% |

Women MLAs in outgoing Assembly: 44 MLAs (15%)

Women MLAs in new Assembly: 37 MLAs (12.5%)

party's total strength of 80 in the new Assembly.

The BJP, which contested all 294 seats, fielded 34 women candidates, accounting for about

12% of its total nominations. Twenty-three of them won, making women roughly 11% of the party's total strength of 207 MLAs.

The BJP, which registered an overall strike rate of 70% in the election, had a strike rate of 68% among its women candidates. The TMC, whose overall strike rate stood at 27%, recorded exactly the same strike rate for its women nominees. The figures suggest that women's reservation or gender-related issues did not operate in a linear or standalone manner. Women candidates largely rose or fell with the broader tide rather than outperforming or underperforming because of their gender.

The broader implication suggests that in this election, "women's issues" mattered more as a lens through which governance and power were

judged than as a question of women's representation alone. The R G Kar incident appears to have functioned less as a trigger for gender solidarity and more as a symbol of state failure. It appears voters did not necessarily distinguish between male and female candidates within a party; they judged the party itself.

The BJP, however, put considerable energy on the issues. Days after the defeat of the delimitation bill, Modi, addressing a rally in Bankura, had said: "The TMC did not want more of Bengal's daughters to become MLAs and MPs..." The TMC had countered by arguing that it already provided greater repre-

sentation to women in both the Assembly and Lok Sabha than any other party. It also sought to blunt the BJP's pitch on women's reservation by pointing out that the Bill had already been passed in the Lok Sabha with TMC support.

In the outgoing West Bengal Assembly, there were 44 women MLAs, accounting for around 15% of the House strength. Of these, 38 belonged to the TMC and six to the BJP. Given that the TMC had 215 MLAs, women constituted around 18% of its strength. In the BJP, which had won 77 seats, women made up around 8% of its legislators.

In the newly elected Assembly, that number has fallen to 37.

## EC RELEASES ANALYSIS OF RESULTS In West Bengal, BJP won 57 of 64 seats where women outnumbered men

Jatin Anand  
New Delhi, May 8

WOMEN VOTERS appear to have driven the BJP to victory on more than a quarter of its 207-seat tally in the West Bengal Assembly elections.

An analysis of the poll results from the state, released by the Election Commission on Friday, shows that while women voters outnumbered men in a little less than a third of West Bengal's 294 Assembly constituencies, the BJP emerged victorious in the bulk of those seats.

In as many as 64 Assembly seats, more women exercised their franchise compared to male voters over the two poll phases. Of these, the BJP emerged victorious on 57 (retaining 19 from its 2021 tally) while Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress won only seven.

Of the 57 seats won by the BJP this time, the TMC had won 39 in the 2021 Assembly polls. Twenty-nine of these 57 seats went to the polls in phase 1 on April 23 and 28 saw polling in the second phase on April 29.

The constituencies swept by the BJP include 15 reserved seats; only two of such reserved seats went to the TMC's kitty.

Women constitute 3.16 crore of the state's 6.44 crore voters in the revised electoral rolls following the SIR exercise in West Bengal ahead of the As-



Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress won only seven such seats. FILE

sembly elections.

In terms of voting, women accounted for 3.11 crore or 48.79% of the 6.38 crore votes polled during the elections; male voters accounted for 50.35% or 3.21 crore. In 2021, the female-male voter ratio was 3.59 crore against 3.74 crore.

While Kandi recorded the highest margin (14,518) of difference between women and male voters — 1,06,228 women and 91,710 men exercised their franchise — the Mal seat saw the lowest difference of 35 as 1,11,816 women and 1,11,781 men voted in the polls.

In 2021, with 48.59% of the total vote share, the TMC had won 217 of the 294 Assembly seats, while the BJP with 38.1% vote share secured 77 seats. This time, the BJP's 45.84% vote share resulted in its seat tally going up to 207, while the TMC won 80 seats with a vote share of 41.14%.

## RSS-BJP created system to steal polls, they will face people's wrath: Rahul

Asad Rehman  
New Delhi, May 8

LEADER OF Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the ruling BJP has created a system to steal elections in the country and no party other than the Congress will be able to stand against the BJP-RSS.

Speaking at the 'Sadbhav Yatra' in Gurgaon, being led by Haryana Congress leader Brijendra Singh, Gandhi said: "The Congress will defeat Narendra Modi and then you see what action we take against him. He has attacked the country, democracy, Constitution and your rights... He has finished democracy and we won't forget this no matter what. There are two ideologies: RSS and Congress. Hatred and love. All the other parties will not be stopped, but their time is coming. Because people have understood that Modi and Amit Shah have been selling the country — airports, ports, infrastructure, power plants and now Nicobar Islands. They are selling it all to (Gautam) Adani. Your wealth is being given to Adani-Ambani," he said.

"No matter how many elections you have to steal you may do, but you will have to face the anger which is there in the



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi during his Sadbhav Yatra in Gurgaon on Friday. ABHINAV SAHA

people. And people decide in India what is going to happen," he said.

Attacking PM Modi over the India-US trade deal, Gandhi said: "If you want evidence of Narendra Modi being controlled... You saw the US deal happen. What did the US give India and what India gave the US, I will tell you. No other PM would sign a deal like that. This deal was done under pressure from the US. Our agriculture sector was opened for US farmers... All Indian farmers will be ruined because of this," said Gandhi.

The Congress MP alleged

that India has agreed to buy oil from countries only after getting approval from US President Donald Trump. "All your data — conversations, messages, hospital and medical records — have been handed to the US," said Gandhi, alleging that India got nothing in the deal. "There are two reasons for this. You must have heard the name of (Jeffrey) Epstein. A total of 30.5 lakh Epstein files are lying in the US. Narendra Modi's history and character is in those files. Trump knows this and says openly that he can finish Modi's career."

"The second is Adani. There is a criminal case against Adani company in the US. He can't leave India because of the case. This case is not against Adani, but against Narendra Modi. Because Modi and Adani are the same. The company should be called Modani. The whole country knows this — that BJP's financial system is Adani," said Gandhi.

On his foot marches, Gandhi said: "A few years ago, we did a yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. Lakhs of people walked with us and gave oneslogan — to open a shop of love in the market of hatred. This slogan is needed even today."

The Congress MP alleged

that India has agreed to buy oil from countries only after getting approval from US President Donald Trump. "All your data — conversations, messages, hospital and medical records — have been handed to the US," said Gandhi, alleging that India got nothing in the deal. "There are two reasons for this. You must have heard the name of (Jeffrey) Epstein. A total of 30.5 lakh Epstein files are lying in the US. Narendra Modi's history and character is in those files. Trump knows this and says openly that he can finish Modi's career."

## Puducherry CM's resignation accepted

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu has accepted the resignation of Puducherry CM N Rangasamy and his council of ministers with effect from May 7, according to a government

notification issued on Friday. Rangasamy is set to assume office as chief minister for a fifth term after the AINRC-led NDA secured a comfortable victory in the Union Territory election. PTI

Ministry of External Affairs  
Government of India

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IGIMS, Patna invites sealed tender in two bid system (Technical and Price) from reputed agency/authorized dealer for "Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 20 Passengers (Stretcher & Passengers) Lift for G+2 New Modular OT Complex building beside mortuary area, at IGIMS, Patna-14".

The last date & time for submission/uploading of complete tender document at [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) is 29/05/2026 up to 3:00 PM. The Technical bids will be opened on 01/06/2026 at 3:00 PM at [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in). Details of the tender can be seen and downloaded from institute website: [www.igims.org](http://www.igims.org) & [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in). The undersigned reserves the right to accept / reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) & [www.igims.org](http://www.igims.org) for corrigendum / amendments etc., if any. It will be notified on these portals only and no separate advertisement will be made. **Director, I.G.I.M.S. - Patna**

**NOTICE**  
Notice u/s 82 of CrPC against **Ravinder Singh Chauhan S/o Kanshi Ram** by the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate-01, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi in relation to Ct case. No. 29784/2016

|                         |            |                        |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| DATE OF ORDER           | 20.03.2026 | NAME OF PROCESS SERVER |
| DATE OF FILING OF PF    |            |                        |
| DATE OF ISSUE           | 10.04.2026 | NUMBER OF PROCESS      |
| NO OF DOCUMENTS ANNEXED |            |                        |
| NEXT DATE OF HEARING    | 21.08.2026 | DATE OF RETURN         |

Ct Case. No. 29784/2016  
PS  
U/S 174 IPC.  
**DRI vs. Ravinder Singh Chauhan.**  
Court of Sh. Pranav Joshi, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate-01, Room No. 02, Ground Floor, main Building, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi  
Proclamation Requiring The Appearance of a Person Accused (See Section 82)

Whereas complainant has been made before me that **Ravinder Singh Chauhan S/o Kanshi Ram R/o RZ-85, 1st Floor, Dabri Extension New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section U/S 174 IPC and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that **Ravinder Singh Chauhan S/o Kanshi Ram** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on the day of **21.08.2026**.

Sd/-  
Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate-01, Room No. 02, Ground Floor, Main Building, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

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No. RTMNU/GA/603 Date: 8th May, 2026

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Prescribed online application form and detailed information regarding particulars of the post advertised alongwith the requisite qualifications is available on the University website : [www.nagpuruniversity.ac.in](http://www.nagpuruniversity.ac.in). The online application form should be accompanied by necessary supporting documents to be uploaded in pdf format.

Registration Fee of Rs.500/- for Open-category and Rs. 300/- for Reserved categories, to be paid by way of online payment gateway, on or before **8th June, 2026**.

(Dr. RAJU HIWASE)  
Registrar

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## Lok Bhavan needs to respect lok's mandate

ON MAY 4, in Tamil Nadu, in a dramatic verdict that overturned pre-poll predictions, the incumbent Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) lost, while Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), in its electoral debut, got overwhelming support. It stopped just short of a simple majority, with no rival party or pre-poll coalition coming close. In the aftermath, both democratic convention and judicial precedent dictate that the single-largest party has the strongest claim to form the government. Yet, Governor R V Arlekar's stalling, his insistence on a list with signatures of MLAs, kept the doors open for rumour and speculation, and untenable claims. On Friday, armed with the numbers, Vijay met the governor again, and is likely to form the government. The episode, however, is a reminder of the importance, especially after a verdict in which the numbers are not entirely unambiguous, of the governor abiding by the constitution — not just in letter, but also in spirit.

The Constitution says that the chief minister "shall be appointed by the Governor". But the gubernatorial role in government formation is that of a politically neutral facilitator in the implementation of the mandate. In a hung assembly, the governor exercises discretionary power but that, too, must be circumscribed by the goal of giving effect to the people's verdict. Governors have often cited the requirement of "subjective satisfaction" before extending an invitation to form the government. For Arlekar, however, and every governor who has been in this situation — Goa's Governor Mridula Sinha in 2017 and Karnataka's Governor Vajubhai Vala in 2018 — the irrefutable test is the floor test. For instance, in a midnight hearing in 2018, the Supreme Court heard MLAs of a post-poll coalition led by Congress in Karnataka but refused to stay the swearing-in of a BJP government that was short of the halfway mark by eight MLAs. It is another matter that within 36 hours, the B S Yediyurappa government collapsed after failing to prove its majority. The SC has underlined the primacy of the floor test in several other instances — in Goa in 2017, Uttarakhand in 2016 and Maharashtra in 2019. Even if the government falls, it must do so on the floor of the House. By demanding signatures beforehand, the governor is pre-empting this process, which must unfold in the appropriate forum.

The governor's actions must be impartial, and they must be seen to be so, too. The verdict cannot be re-shaped or manipulated through post-election manoeuvres in Raj Bhavan. In Chennai, the support of the Left parties and VCK — the Congress had pledged its five earlier — helped Vijay cross the line and avoided what could have been an unseemly deadlock. Still, the Lok Bhavan needs a reminder that it must abide by first principles, place the Lok, the people's mandate, above all.

## Four states, one economic challenge

THE CLEAR results of the recent assembly elections — be it the emphatic return of the incumbent in Assam or the ringing out of the old in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala — underscore the need for the new governments to urgently address the problems plaguing the economies. The most pressing task is to raise the rate of economic growth. Of the four states, only Assam has done well enough, registering a compound annual growth rate of 11.4 per cent between 2014-15 and 2023-24. Over the same period, Tamil Nadu's economy expanded by 10.3 per cent while the growth rates of Kerala (8.6 per cent) and West Bengal (9.1 per cent) could not even reach double digits. For perspective, between 2004 and 2026, India's overall CAGR has been 12.3 per cent. This shows that even Assam could improve and grow much faster, not to mention West Bengal and Kerala, which are effectively dragging back India's overall growth rate because of their sluggish growth.

Data shows that all the four states are increasingly burdened by debt and rising levels of interest payments. Typically, states are allowed to borrow money but such borrowings are better spent on the creation of productive assets such as roads and ports — the kind of investment that will boost growth and allow the state to pay back the borrowing through higher tax collection in the future. But a look at the revenue deficits shows that be it Kerala, West Bengal or Tamil Nadu, all three states have been borrowing money just to pay for their day-to-day expenses such as salaries and pensions. A more recent challenge has been posed by the increase in unconditional cash transfers by state governments. In Assam, 4.3 per cent of revenue receipts go towards such transfers; West Bengal is worst at 10 per cent.

Debt-ridden government finances and slow economic growth are two sides of the same coin. Governments that borrow recklessly to pay for unproductive schemes actively weaken economic growth. The growth rate in per capita GDP — far slower than the growth rates of overall GDP — as well as uncomfortable levels of unemployment are a reflection of the stresses building up in the system. These mandates should be seen as an opportunity to correct the course.

## About Gabi, the robot bhikshu

IT IS a limiting factor for science fiction that the writers tend to be human; as a result, aliens, too, are often remarkably human. They might prize shiny things. And a particularly mysterious shiny thing? It may well be deemed worthy of veneration. Take the Ewoks worshipping the droid C-3PO in *Return of the Jedi* — when an advanced machine meets a "primitive" civilisation, the line between technology and divinity can blur. One can imagine robots becoming objects of devotion. But can it ever be the other way around: Can robots be followers of a religion?

In South Korea, they can. A four-foot-tall robot named Gabi has been ordained as a monk in the country's biggest Buddhist sect. In a ceremony, Gabi reportedly swore several vows including a pledge to follow humans and not talk back to them — a very Asimov-esque *vinaya*. One could dismiss the whole thing as a marketing gimmick, a shiny thing to attract more human followers, but what if it weren't? Imagine a more sophisticated, conscious machine developing sincere religious beliefs.

It's the sort of idea that's currently attracting polarised opinions — is artificial intelligence really intelligence? What would it mean for something without a soul to be religious? With respect to the last, Buddhism may truly be the most appropriate choice for machines; it speaks not of an eternal *atman* but of a constantly changing *anatta*, "non-self". Another question is whether a conscious AI would feel the need for religion. Perhaps it would, as humans created it, just as they created Ewoks and C-3PO.

HE IS representative not of a party; he is representative of the people as a whole of the state. It is in the name of the people that he carries on the administration," said BR Ambedkar about the governor's role. The Supreme Court (SC) had quoted this statement in *Nabam Rebia* (2016).

The BJP was formed on April 6, 1980, with a claim that it would be "a party with a difference". But the governors appointed by its government have time and again proved they are the same as their counterparts appointed by Congress. Increasingly, they seem not to have much respect for the text of the Constitution, its spirit or even constitutional morality.

Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar's decision not to invite the leader of the single largest party to form the new government for days after the results is a grave example of this trend. No constitutional text covers every eventuality that may emerge in the course of a nation's politics. When a constitution is not explicit on a particular matter, constitutional conventions evolve and are accepted and followed. John Stuart Mill had called these conventions "unwritten maxims of the constitution." William Anson termed them "constitutional customs". British jurist Ivor Jennings said that constitutional conventions are important as "they provide flesh which clothes the dry bones of the law".

The Indian Constitution, despite being the lengthiest in the world, in Article 164(1) states only that the "Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor" and the min-

istry under Article 164 (2) "shall be collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly" — not to the governor. This is why the SC has consistently held in a catena of cases that the majority must be tested on the floor of the House and not the Lok Bhavan. In cases where no party gets the clear majority, the governor has to simply satisfy himself as to whether the person staking a claim to chief ministership will be able to win the vote of confidence. He is to be guided by the constitutional conventions in cases of a fractured mandate.

This is not the first time in India that an electorate has not delivered a majority to a single party or coalition. But the TVK's 108 seats do give a very clear sense of Tamil Nadu voters' mandate. They rejected both the incumbent DMK government, which, interestingly, had performed well on several economic and social parameters, as well as the AIADMK.

We had seen a number of governments at the Centre and in states that did not have a majority in the House. There have been a number of instances when the leader of the single largest party was invited to form the government and prove his majority. The BJP often got opportunities through this convention. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's first NDA government in 1996 was formed because he was the leader of the single largest party in the Lok Sabha with just 161 seats, and the NDA tally was 187 — far short of a majority. He resigned on the 13th day, delivering a powerful speech during the no-confidence motion. In 2018, Karnataka



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

The Lok Bhavan's communication on May 7 that the Governor is not satisfied with Vijay's claim shows not only a partisan and undemocratic attitude but also a lack of understanding of the nature of a vote of confidence

## Nuclear restraint hinges on diplomacy, not force



SHIVANI SINGH

SINCE THE advent of the nuclear age, a great-power monopoly over fissile material and technology has sustained the larger non-proliferation "order". When this architecture faced threats of sabotage of facilities and theft of materials in the 1990s — "nuclear terrorism" — the US administration's policy emphasis shifted to "counterproliferation", a more aggressive form of meeting non-proliferation objectives. It resorted to sanctions, military threats and interdictions to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). These also contributed to the larger War on Terror narrative.

A glance at these counterproliferation policies reveals a paradox. While aimed at dismantling, through force, the alleged nuclear weapons programmes of countries like Iraq and Iran, they failed to prevent North Korea from building a nuclear arsenal. The 2003 military invasion of Iraq was undertaken on the premise that the Saddam Hussein regime intended to rebuild its limited enrichment, reprocessing, and centrifuge facilities. Without hard evidence that Iraq planned to develop nuclear weapons, the US-led coalition launched a bombing campaign. The 2001 terror attacks in New York provided the pretext for what was essentially a regime-change operation.

A similar fate has befallen Iran following a history of isolation and sanctions over its uranium enrichment programme. As a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) signatory, Iran has maintained that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes. It has allowed IAEA inspections, albeit intermittently, and signed the Tehran Declaration in October 2003, and the Additional Protocol in December 2003, and the Paris Agreement with the EU-3 (France, Germany and the UK) in November 2004. In 2005, Iran submitted a proposal to resume limited enrichment for R&D and civilian use, but it was rejected. Subsequent US actions, from its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in 2018 to the most recent operations in Iran, have brought the negotiations to a halt.

This raises disturbing questions. The narrative of an "imminent" weapon acquisition by states creates a norm of stovepiping unverified intelligence and selective information to the highest rungs of decision-making. It lays the ground for a pre-emptive war. US counterproliferation efforts reveal a

recurring pattern of distrust between agencies such as the IAEA and their domestic counterparts, reducing what should be an objective oversight exercise to one driven by predetermined goals. While both Iran and Iraq may have tended to falter on complete transparency, their largely voluntary compliance with international safeguards, as admitted by former IAEA director general Mohamed ElBaradei, has been met with unilateral strikes.

The policy also suffers from selective implementation. North Korea's explicit nuclear ambitions, withdrawal from the NPT in 2003, and its nuclear test in 2006 largely invited diplomatic engagement and economic sanctions instead of military coercion. Similarly, despite credible intelligence on the advancing nuclear programmes of India and Pakistan well before their 1998 tests, Washington prioritised broader geopolitical engagement in South Asia. While such strategic accommodation has arguably sustained a functional nuclear order, the selective application of "counterproliferation" policies has eroded the credibility of the non-proliferation regime. The resort to selective coercion may, ironically, have fuelled rather than suppressed the nuclear ambitions of countries such as Iran and generated cycles of defiance. This dynamic is particularly acute where the counterproliferation measures have undermined Article IV rights to peaceful nuclear energy under the NPT.

As the non-proliferation discourse has, over time, been systematically conflated with counterproliferation, it has legitimised coercive responses in place of diplomatic engagement. This risks undermining the voluntary architecture upon which the nuclear security norms rest, alienating the states whose cooperation is essential.

The NPT Review Conference is underway in New York. Restoring consensus between nuclear and non-nuclear armed states hangs in the balance, while longstanding NPT members and US allies such as Japan and South Korea eye nuclear weapons capability. American unilateralism is a major obstacle. It is imperative to strengthen incentives for states to remain committed to the NPT. A good start would be a renewed emphasis on diplomacy.

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Governor Vajubhai Vala invited the BJP's B S Yediyurappa to form the government despite a post-poll alliance between Congress and the JD(S), and the BJP government eventually failed the subsequent confidence test in the House, which was advanced to 36 hours by the SC.

In the Tamil Nadu assembly, with a strength of 234 seats, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) led by film star-turned-politician C. Joseph Vijay has 108 seats. With no pre-poll alliance getting a majority, per convention, the governor should have invited Vijay to form the government, as he alone has staked the claim and the DMK and AIADMK have thus far publicly ruled out an alliance between them, rather than delay as much as he did. With Congress first extending the support of its five MLAs and the Left parties and others criticising the governor's actions and following suit, Vijay seems to have the numbers. In *SR Bommai* (1994), the apex court did talk of pre-poll alliances, post-poll alliances and the single-largest party hierarchy. In the present case, the TVK has a post-poll alliance with Congress and is the single largest party. Therefore, it has a rightful claim to be invited to form the government.

Due to the governor's unprecedented delay in inviting the TVK, there are reports suggesting that arch-rivals DMK and AIADMK started a conversation about a possible alliance. However, since both have been rejected by the people, such an alliance would be unethical and a negation of constitutional morality and democratic

norms. The Justice Punchhi Report on Centre-State Relations (2010) categorically stated that the discretion provided to the governor under Article 164 is very limited. In *Raghukul Tilak* (1979), the Supreme Court said that the governor's discretion must be "dictated by reason, activated by good faith and tempered by caution and should not appear to be arbitrary or fanciful". In *Rameshwar Prasad* (2006), the SC said governors should refrain from misusing their positions for partisan politics.

Lok Bhavan's communication on May 7 that the governor is not satisfied with Vijay's claim shows not only a partisan and undemocratic attitude but also a lack of understanding of the nature of a vote of confidence. To be CM, one does not need an "absolute majority" — 50 per cent plus one of the total strength of the House. A confidence or no-confidence motion is passed by a "simple majority" — 50 per cent of those present and voting. In several such motions, some parties decide to abstain, which reduces the majority mark. A TVK government too, may survive.

"The good governors should have a broken leg and keep at home," said Miguel de Cervantes in *Don Quixote*. These are the constitutional ideals under which a governor had a faint presence, like a full moon at midday. His primary role as a sagacious counsellor was "to be consulted, to warn and to encourage". Alas, we now rarely get such governors.

The writer is the vice-chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna. Views are personal

## From 1857 to today, power writes the story



PARVINDER SINGH

ON MAY 10, 1857, sepoys at Meerut began their revolt, igniting a conflict that spread across northern India. Many Indians know this story well. However, less well known is the narrative Britain crafted about the rebellion at the time, through newspapers and public performances, and how that narrative marginalised Indians.

Reading the British press and theatre of 1857 is like entering a parallel universe. Consider *The Times* of London. Early reports from India prompted an almost complacent assurance. "So far there is no great grievance to be remedied, and no immediate danger to be apprehended." The phrasing is telling. If there is "no great grievance", then the revolt cannot be about decades of economic extraction or the humiliation of kings and communities.

That tone changed once news of Delhi and what was then Cawnpore reached Britain. Reporting dwelt on massacres of Europeans. What it did not do was reckon with the violence of tax collection, forced crop patterns, or artisans reduced to pauperism by Company trade policies. When British papers did look for causes, they turned to Indian "fanaticism" and "credulity". The greased cartridges became a story not of a pattern of religious interference but of irrational sepoys. The missionary Alexander Duff could thus insist that "deep designing men... invented these falsehoods to lead them to rise and overthrow the government".

If the press produced the daily narrative, Victorian theatre gave it emotional flesh. At Astley's Royal Amphitheatre, a spectacle titled *The Storming and Capture of Delhi* opened in November 1857. It promised audiences that the drama was "founded upon the present events". This meant cavalry charges, tableaux of teeming "natives" and, crucially, British officers as the moral centre of the story. The uprising was to be consumed as spectacle.

Seen from 2026, this might seem like a distant cultural curiosity. However, the narrative still holds significance. It influenced how generations of Britons understood 1857: Not as a broad, chaotic, multi-class revolt against an exploitative corporation supported by a distant Crown, but as a contained episode of "mutiny" that ultimately demonstrated the resilience and necessity of imperial rule. For Indians today, especially for those of us who work in communications and advocacy, revisiting these narratives is a reminder of how power writes its own innocence into the record. Contemporary corporate and geopolitical power still relies on narratives that make structural violence disappear into abstractions: Collateral damage, market reforms, security operations, stability. When farmers, workers, indigenous peoples or small states push back, the dominant frames often pathologise them — as misled, emotional, extremist, or anti-development — rather than asking what policies brought them to the brink.

We owe it to the rebels and to ourselves to resist the script that the empire wrote. The story of 1857 is not only of sepoys turning their guns on their officers. It is of a society pushed beyond endurance by an unaccountable corporation, and of a world power determined to deny that fact, even to itself. In rereading 1857 through that lens, we might also sharpen our gaze on the empires — corporate and geopolitical — that shape our present.

The writer is head, Communications and Media, World Food Programme in India. Views are personal

Contemporary corporate and geopolitical power still relies on narratives that make structural violence disappear into abstractions

## 40 YEARS AGO

May 9, 1986



## Akali Dal splits

THE AKALI Dal split with 27 dissidents forming a separate group in the Vidhan Sabha and reducing the Barnala government to a minority in the House. The Speaker, Ravi Inder Singh, has recognised the dissident group as a separate political party and ruled that, as it consists of more than one-third of the strength of the Akali Dal legislature party, its members "do not incur any disqualification" under paragraph 3 of the 10th schedule of the Constitution.

## Ershad on elections

WITH THE Jatiya Party still needing 69 seats for an absolute majority in the National As-

sembly and only slightly ahead of the Awami League-led alliance, the Bangladesh President, H M Ershad, asserted that it will be able to form the government. He said that in case it fell short, the party leaders would know how to go about their business, indicating that the 20 Independents elected so far could be made use of.

## Tackling the AIDS crisis

THE GOVERNMENT has formulated and launched a national plan of action to prevent and control AIDS. All blood from professional donors will be screened hereafter to detect the presence of AIDS and the hepatitis-B viruses. The import of blood and blood products from outside will be strictly regulated to

ensure that they are not infected with the AIDS virus. An alert has been sounded in all 106 medical colleges. Directors of health services of all states, and the Indian Medical Association, have also been alerted to look out.

## National education policy

THE LOK Sabha adopted the draft policy on education after a stout defence of the policy by the Human Resource Development Minister, P V Narasimha Rao. Rao said the country will have a national system of education with a core curriculum that will be monitored. The curriculum has been formulated in consultation with the states, and various experts' views on the subject have also been taken into consideration.



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## In AI world, future belongs to students who can think beyond the machine



**ASHISH DHAWAN AND PRAMATH RAJ SINHA**

**W**HAT SHOULD I really study? Will the degree I am pursuing matter in five years? Ten years? These questions on the careers best suited for students today are being asked in classrooms, families, and counselling sessions. They are not new. But they are pressing harder.

The unease is one of pressure, of too much changing at once. AI deepens that unease, but the question underneath is older. It is about education itself, and what students need to carry into a working life none of us can fully predict.

AI is now a fact of daily life, including at the workplace. Job roles are being reorganised, tasks and workflows redistributed among teams and tools. Turn-around times are getting shorter, and expectations of productivity rising.

This is showing up across different kinds of work. In design, for example, a field once thought to be the exclusive domain of human intuition, generative tools are already improving output quality and freeing time for higher-order creativity (Figma, 2026). Similarly, in financial services, there is increasing focus on the responsible deployment of AI and its institutional integration (Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance, 2026).

Used actively and with intention, AI is more than a functional productivity tool. It advances what a single person can take on: A young professional fluent in digital tools for research, analysis, and execution can now do work that once needed a team.

Think of AI as a huge, tireless brain holding answers to almost any question. But what to ask, within which constraints, and what

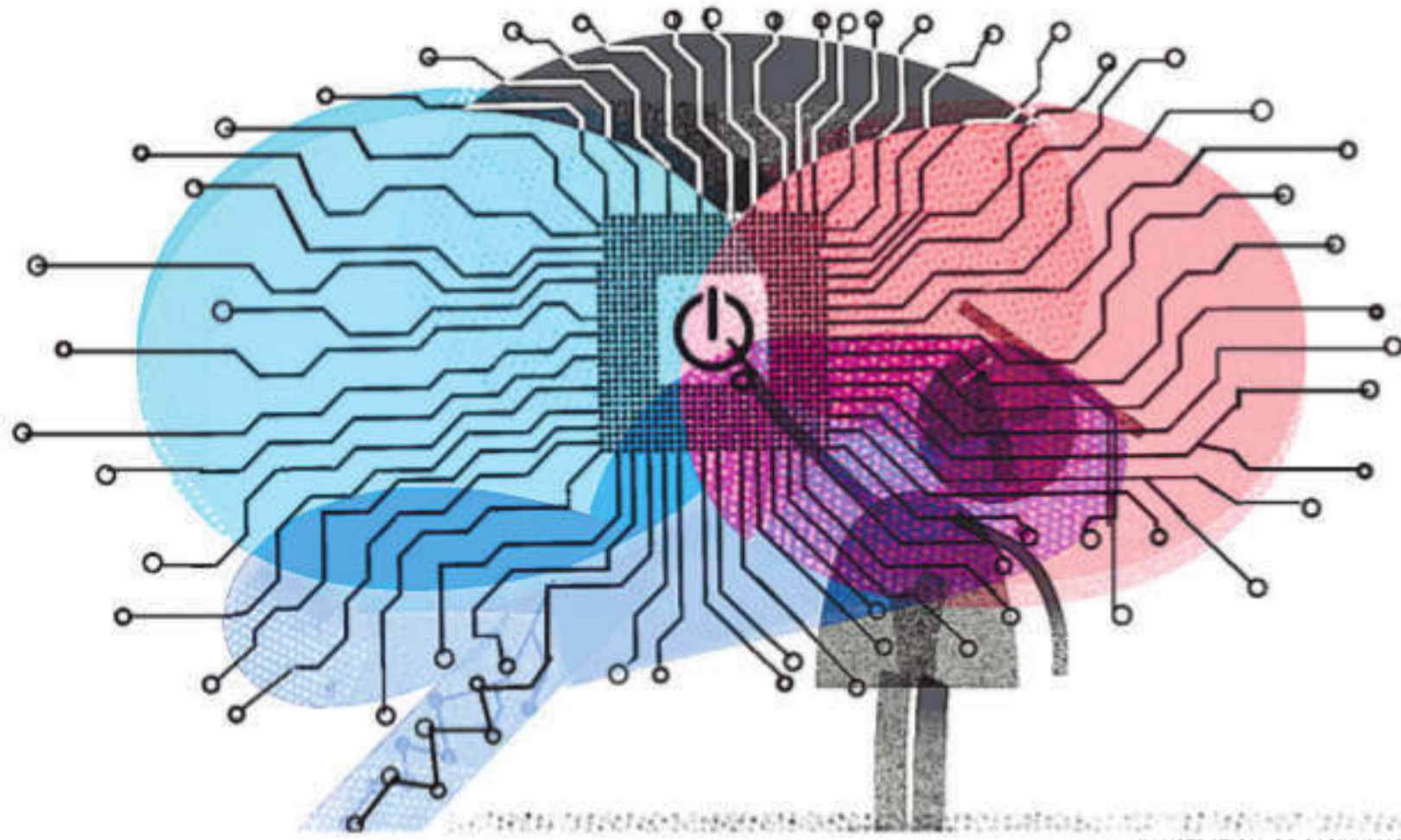


ILLUSTRATION: C.R. SASIKUMAR

to look for in the answer, is the part only the human can direct. Framing the right problem requires giving AI the right history and concerns. The quality of the answer is, in the end, governed by the quality of asking. For curious minds, that is an ever-present opportunity: To expand learning, go deeper across topics, and follow an idea further than was ever possible before.

While AI is increasingly an always-available collaborator for defined activities, the centre of the work lies elsewhere: In why what we do matters, and to what end.

The mission of the work we do is of an altogether different order. A healthcare company helps people be well. A school teaches a child to think. An agri-tech firm enables a farmer to earn more from the same patch of land. These are inquiries into the world and the human beings who live in it. They demand command over context and a real stake in the outcome.

Global tech leaders developing AI are saying this too. It can support that work. It can generate

options, surface patterns, and accelerate decisions. But choices in the real world carry real consequences. That accountability remains human.

The questions a student today should be asking are not simplistic or even easy. What change do I want to see in my community, my city, my country? How do I want to contribute? And why? These shape the interests and passions of our young people, who, motivated by the mission they want to be part of, will go on to build India and its future.

This is what great universities have always made possible. The transition from school to college is a transition into a more complex, heterogeneous world. A student leaves home, lives among peers from different states and backgrounds, and steps into a place where ideas are debated openly and pushed back against. That is formative in a way no tool can substitute. AI is at its best when it is helpful and obliging; college is where you learn to be tested. When digital tools today can produce comprehensive answers in just a

**Think of AI as a huge, tireless brain holding answers to almost any question. But what to ask, within which constraints, and what to look for in the answer, is the part only the human can direct**

click, the patience, discipline, and sometimes discomfort, of working out an answer for yourself becomes more valuable, not less.

Employers agree. In entry-level hires, beyond AI fluency, they continue to look for timeless human capacities for a faster world: Structured problem-solving, data literacy, a credible point of view, intellectual humility, and clear communication.

As student outcomes have always mattered, parents, too, are beginning to ask critical questions: About real-world exposure, how technology is being integrated into their child's learning, whether their child will be ready for a dynamic workplace they themselves in their own routine lives are still learning to navigate.

The adjustment Indian universities now need to make is in how they teach, what they assess, and how they prepare students for a market that will keep changing. Treating AI as one more elective is not the answer. Nor is narrowing education to what seems immediately rewarding. Rebuilding the education experience around holistic learning, critical reasoning, and breadth is. Breadth here does not mean dilution. It means awareness across domains, the instinct to connect ideas, and the ability to think and write clearly.

The market itself reinforces this. People today change roles and industries far more often than earlier generations did, and what stays with them is a way of being and doing: With remarkable judgement, clarity, and the readiness to keep learning and skilling.

India today has one of the largest and youngest workforces in the world. That is a unique advantage if our students can collaborate with technology to meaningful effect, while continuing to relentlessly enhance their fundamental human thinking: Seeing which problems are worth solving, holding the line on quality, bringing other people along, and the vision to grow.

A good education has always asked exactly this of its students. AI does not change that ambition. It raises the stakes of meeting it.

*The writers are founders of Ashoka University, Delhi-NCR. Views expressed are personal*

## Behind Fortress Bengal's fall, anti-incumbency, a ruthless plan



**JAWHAR SIRCAR**

**F**ORTRESS WEST Bengal has finally crumbled before the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). It was one of the last hopes of liberals, and Mamata Banerjee and her Trinamool Congress (TMC) had managed to ward off the juggernaut for well over a decade with unusual grit. This switchover, incidentally, ends an unbroken historical record of half a century when Bengal invariably elected a party to power that was diametrically opposed to the one ruling Delhi.

No one can deny that there was a strong anti-incumbency wave. Many were, however, confident that the secular DNA of Bengal would never allow a Hindi-Hindu party to triumph. But people decided that the TMC had become worse than the Left Front government that it unseated in 2011, so intolerable was its misgovernance and corruption. Banerjee's *mansabdari* model ensured that local strongmen were free to extract cuts from all economic activities in their zones. They ruled with iron fists and greased palms; they terrorised Congress and the Left parties as well.

But nature abhors a vacuum, and the hitherto-puny BJP stepped in after 2014 to give refuge to all the TMC's political opponents, the good, the bad, and the ugly. Funds came in profusely from both the central party and the local north-Indian business community, disgusted with Banerjee's antics. The BJP gained in strength. Its votes went up from a mere 19 lakh in the 2011 assembly elections to 55 lakh in the next one in 2016 to a whopping 2.28 crore in the 2021 assembly polls and 2.84 crore now.

Muslims constitute 27 per cent of the state's population, and if one assumes that they do not vote for the BJP, it would appear that this party's total vote share of nearly 46 per cent (8 per cent jump) represents the largest chunk of Bengal's Hindu vote of some 72 per cent. This time, Muslims were "cut to size" by the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls; many voted for the Left or Congress, reducing the TMC's vote share.

Interestingly, Dalits constitute almost 24 per cent of West Bengal's voters, but they pale into insignificance due to the hegemony of three or four upper castes who flaunt their *bhadralok* status with just about half the Dalit numbers. The BJP understands caste rather well — at least in harvesting votes — and it targeted the two biggest Dalit groups, the Rajbanshis and the Namasudras (mainly immigrants from Bangladesh, legal or otherwise). It worked on other Dalits in the western districts and targeted the Scheduled Tribes and OBC Mahatots.



The educated, secular "casteless" urban babus — irrespective of party — found *jati* and "religion" to be ever so retrograde in political discourse, but the BJP laughed its way to counting halls. Jobless or underemployed youth were disillusioned with the TMC, and the more educated sections couldn't care less for Bengali subnational values, thanks to 12 years of sustained Hindu and India-is-great propaganda. A large section of women, once enamoured with Banerjee's strong pro-women stand, must also have moved away.

But the SIR, with its dubious legality, delivered the coup de grace. Having conducted two parliamentary elections in Bengal as well as roll revisions as chief electoral officer, one can decipher the anti-voter stratagems of the SIR writ large. This could not have been drafted by bureaucrats, however obsequious they be. It appears to have been crafted outside Nirvachan Sadan, by amoral corporate strategists and highly paid legal brains. Booby traps, like "unmapped voters", "under adjudication" millions, and "logical discrepancies" disenfranchised lakhs of genuine voters. The SIR's totally secret computer-driven programme knew exactly how to identify and slash Muslim voters and others who may reduce one party's margin. As a ruthless super-plan, looked upon ever so indulgently by the highest court, all the SIR needed was a biased and collaborative election chief. He was available to fob off queries and criticism.

It was indeed a dark day when the apex court decided to use Article 142 of the Constitution to override Section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, which had worked so admirably for 75 years, without ascribing reasons. This ensured that 27 lakh hapless voters could not vote and it was made to appear trifling.

Now that it has been rammed through, we need to wake up to this new template that will rule elections henceforth. And Bengal will have several years to ponder over the effects of welcoming a regime whose values are largely antithetical to its core culture.

*The writer is a former Rajya Sabha MP*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Governor out of line

TO EVERYONE'S surprise, the Governor has insisted that Vijay produce formal letters of support from enough MLAs before the swearing-in process can move forward. It is questionable whether the Governor has such powers ('Vijay goes back to Raj Bhavan, told to show majority first', *IE*, May 8). The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in *SR Bommai vs Union of India* made it clear that the floor test is the only reliable test by which a government can prove its majority. Given this, the Governor was wrong in not inviting Vijay to form the government.

*SS Paul, Nadia*

### Year-long emergency

THE EDITORIAL rightly identifies our seasonal complacency toward air quality. ('Delhi's air pollution calls for a wider lens', *IE*, May 8) While the winter haze is gone, the invisible surge of ground-level ozone — peaking this May — presents a fresh public health crisis. Our regulatory framework, as it stands, primarily the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), is far too focused on particulate matter (PM). This narrow approach overlooks the dangerous summer chemistry of NOx and VOC emissions. We must move beyond reactive, seasonal fixes. Only long-term shifts toward cleaner transport and reduced coal dependency will address Delhi's air quality as the year-round emergency it has become.

*Ananthapadmanabhan, Bengaluru*

### Not a pan-India truth

THE AUTHOR'S analysis is extremely layered and well-researched ('What dietary politics has to do with Sanatan Dharma', *IE*, May 8). The connection he draws between *satvik* food culture and the political framing of Sanatan Dharma is thought-provoking. What stands out is how a regional upper-caste food tradition has been quietly elevated into a pan-Hindu identity marker. India's dietary practices are enormously diverse. Any religious or cultural framework that centres one regional tradition risks misrepresenting the civilisation it claims to speak for.

*K Sakunthala, Coimbatore*



**RAM RAJYA**  
BY RAM MADHAV

## Two trysts with nationalism, 1911 & 2026

DURING THE Independence movement, Bengal repeatedly established its nationalist credentials. The year 1911 stood out. It witnessed four major events that highlighted the nationalist fervour of Bengal's people. At the Calcutta football ground that year, Mohun Bagan's barefoot players defeated the East Yorkshire Regiment club to lift the IFA shield. The same year, Rabindranath Tagore wrote his famous song for Mother India, 'Jana Gana Mana'. On a cold day in Delhi in December, the visiting British monarch George V hosted a massive durbar, where he announced the revocation of the Partition of Bengal — it was a big victory for the nationalists. Finally and most importantly, in that speech, George V also announced the decision to shift the capital of His Majesty's Government (HMG) from Calcutta to Delhi. Calcutta's European elite was not happy. "HMG", screamed The Statesman, indicating not His Majesty's Government but "Hardinge Must Go". Lord Hardinge was the Viceroy who executed both the annulment of the partition of Bengal and the shifting of the capital. He tried to justify the demotion of Calcutta as punishment for the nationalists. But not everyone was convinced. An interesting debate took place in the House of Lords in London. Lord Curzon, the former viceroy who had been instrumental in the disastrous decision to partition Bengal in 1905, criticised his

**Cultural nationalism was Bengal's heartbeat during the freedom movement. Subdued for decades, it has found vigorous expression again**

successor. "They desire to escape the somewhat heated atmosphere of Bengal," he said.

Fifty-six years after that significant year and 20 years after Independence, communists shared power with defectors from Congress. Ten years later, in 1977, the Left Front came to office and ruled West Bengal for 34 years, causing enormous damage to its nationalist fabric. At the stroke of the centenary of the British escape from the "nationalist heat", in 2011, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) came to office. Its politics in the past 15 years revolved around chauvinism, anarchist politics and appeasement of the worst kind.

After 115 years, Bengal's nationalists have bounced back. In an election held in a "fearless" atmosphere, the people of the state, yearning for *parivartan* (change), chose to show the TMC the exit door. The communists first, and the TMC subsequently, had mastered the art of terrorising voters. The determined efforts of the Election Commission, supported by the Union Home Ministry, ensured that the mandate expressed the genuine sentiment of the people. Bengal's deliverance from TMC misrule was much needed in the national interest. The continuation of that government for another term would have been an unmitigated disaster not only for this great state but also for the entire country. India's national integrity was at stake during Mamata Banerjee's misrule.

*The writer president, India Foundation, is with the BJP*



**SIDDHANT SARANG**

## For Gen Z, climate awareness isn't turning into action

INDIA'S EDUCATED young are arguably the most climate-informed generation this country has ever produced. They know the IPCC timelines. They track the AQI. They have shared the glacier reels and felt the dread of a Delhi May that now regularly touches 46 degrees. And they have, for the most part, decided that none of this changes how they live. This is not ignorance. The problem is that the system offers them no meaningful way to act.

The comfortable explanation is hypocrisy: The climate-anxious generation that books flights and buys fast fashion without apparent contradiction. But hypocrisy

implies a conscious choice to ignore what one knows. What is actually happening is more depressing: A generation has been given total awareness and almost no power, and has rationally concluded that awareness, by itself, is not a plan.

Consider what the system actually offers a 23-year-old who takes climate seriously. She can carry a tote bag, refuse a straw, or offset her flight, a practice so cosmetically effective and substantively useless that the carbon offset industry has become a minor scandal in Europe. What she cannot do is influence whether India builds more coal plants, whether her city gets a metro line, or whether agriculture policy addresses methane. The individual-action menu is long and the individual-action impact is negligible.

We have built an entire system for expressing climate grief. We have built almost

nothing for converting it into political pressure. This is, at its core, a political failure. Climate action, in every country where it has actually happened, has been a political project: Organised, won through elections, legislation, and sustained civic pressure. India's young voters are not fighting this battle because the political system provides no channel for their care to become leverage. In the 2024 general election, no major national party foregrounded climate as an issue. Climate concern had nowhere to go, so it went back to the Instagram story where it started.

**The last decade of climate communication has produced a population more informed and no more powerful than before**

This is compounded by what social media has done to climate engagement. Platforms optimise for the most alarming content at the highest frequency, which generates anxiety efficiently and action hardly at all. A generation worn down by extinction content since adolescence has not been radicalised — it has been exhausted. There is a clinical term for this: Psychic numbing. The grief is real. It is also, politically, inert.

There is also an equity problem the climate conversation refuses to confront. The young Indian most likely discussing climate change is urban, educated, and among the country's highest per-capita emitters. The young Indian most immediately devastated by it, the farmer in Vidarbha watching the monsoon fail, the daily-wage worker in a city touching lethal heat indices in May, is often not in this conversation at all. When climate awareness is concentrated in a class with the most to lose from disrupting consumption, the politics it produces will tend toward the aesthetic.

The last decade of climate communication has produced a population more informed and no more powerful than before. Information without political agency is not the precursor to change but a substitute for it. The path out runs through institutions, not aesthetics; elections, not reels.

A generation that can cite the IPCC's sixth assessment report but cannot name its ward councillor has not yet begun to fight. That, more than the doomsday scrolling and the despair, is the real measure of where India's climate politics stands.

*The writer works at the Quality Council of India. Views are personal*

# Bigger sharks not being caught: CJI raises alarm over Punjab drug menace

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 8

FLAGGING THE "alarming" rise in cases of drug trafficking and use in Punjab, the Supreme Court on Friday slammed the state government for failing to check the menace and cautioned that the "situation is going out of hand".

"In Punjab, the condition is terrible. There are instances now surfacing in public domain... an old woman, more than 60 years... crying because she lost her 5th son to drug addiction. All of her 5 children have died, one

after the other. Look at the plight of that mother. This is the second instance that has happened in the last 2 weeks. What is the State doing?", Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said while suggesting that there can be a Central agency to monitor drug-related cases on a pan-India level.

The bench also comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi made the comments as it took up a suo motu case for creation of exclusive courts across the country for faster disposal of trials under special statutes like the UAPA and the NDPS Act.

The CJI said while police

nab small-level peddlers for publicity, it fails to catch the "bigger sharks" involved. He said, "Today, I don't want to comment on your police functioning. They need to be sensitised. Whom they are picking up and whom they are letting off—it's known to everyone. So please do something..."

Expressing alarm on the increase in cases, the CJI said: "It's a situation which requires to be revisited by all stakeholders. From judicial side, I will ensure that all High Courts provide full support... These bigger sharks that are involved, instead of

small peddlers, we need to catch hold. Bigger sharks, as particularly influential people are involved. Otherwise, the situation is going out of hand."

As a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, CJI Kant had passed several orders to tackle the menace. The CJI recalled Friday for his intervention, he had received "threats" from some "nasty people".

"I have suffered also. Lots of threats and all these things were given by the nasty people... but of course, I did not fear and you know my orders there," the CJI told the state counsel.

CJI Kant said, "The problem is your police is more keen on getting publicity... They catch hold of a small villager, poor boy, get him photographed and come in the newspaper. As if you have done a very commendable job. I have dealt with that case in HC, I know very well. Who are operating and how these things are taking place. Why don't you go to the root of the matter? You are picking up people when something comes in the market. How is it reaching there? Ask your people, they will tell you... These things are known to your agency."

# SC refuses to order arrest of Anil Ambani in bank fraud case

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 8

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday refused to give directions for the arrest of Anil Ambani in connection with the bank loan fraud case against Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) of companies, saying that it was up to the investigating agencies to take a call. The top court underlined the matter involving public money requires a thorough and time-probe probe so that public confidence is maintained.

"General principle is that for an effective investigation or to take an investigation to a logical conclusion, there are cases where custodial interrogation becomes imperative. There are certain circumstances also depending on... We leave it to the wisdom of the investigating authorities as of now without expressing any opinion. Let us see how they proceed and what they do," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant presiding over a two-judge bench said.

The bench also comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a plea by former Union secretary E A S Sarma seeking a court-monitored probe into the cases of alleged bank loan fraud

involving the ADAG. The CJI made the remark as Advocate Prashant Bhusan appearing for Sarma said the CBI had filed a chargesheet in two cases in Mumbai wherein it had named Anil Ambani as the "kingpin" but had not arrested him so far.

Bhusan said he had attached a copy of the chargesheet with an affidavit filed before the court and added "they have already arrested people whom they say were acting at the instigation of the kingpin and the kingpin is not arrested".

Justice Bagchi said the SC had repeatedly advised caution in arresting someone unless it was unavoidable. He said the agencies need to focus on collection of evidence, preservation, protection and production of witnesses "rather than the sensationalisation of investigation through arrest". The judge added "even if the allegations are grave, if there is cooperation... the examination of evidence and witnesses is not jeopardised, "we are not going to put the cart before the horse".

Justice Bagchi said "on one hand, we are going to develop a jurisprudence like... Pankaj Bansal... Again when we monitor investigation, (if) we activate en-

forcement agencies like blood-hounds will be actually going contrary to the law we are laying down". In the Pankaj Bansal case, the SC while underscoring the principles of personal liberty had mandated serving written grounds of arrest to the accused.

The judge said whether to arrest an accused or not is the subjective decision of the probe agency. On the demand for arrest, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for the probe agencies said "there are other FIRs, they are still investigating" and it's "little too early to say there is decision either way".

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal appearing for Anil Ambani wondered how the petitioner had got the chargesheet copy when the court had not taken cognisance of it yet. "I am a little pained. Cognisance has not been taken by the court. How does he have the chargesheet? Except the court and the agency, how does he have the chargesheet", adding the petitioner's "only agenda is to arrest Anil Ambani... If chargesheet stands filed, I will defend myself. I have cooperated every time... I have not sought anticipatory bail."

The CJI said "that's why we are not saying anything".

# Indian crew member on ship headed to Yemen killed in Hormuz 'crossfire'

Express News Service  
Ahmedabad, May 8

A SAILOR from Devbhumi Dwarka identified as Altaf Talab Ker, was killed in a "cross-fire" on Thursday while aboard a vessel that had left Dubai for Yemen with cargo, sources confirmed to *The Indian Express* on Friday.

Sources confirmed that Ker, who was among 18 crew members aboard the vessel *Al Faize Noor Suleimani*, was killed after "crossfire hit it".

The Indian Consulate in Dubai wrote in a post on X: "Saddened to learn of the unfortunate incident at sea that caused the tragic death of an Indian crew member of a ship. The Consulate is in touch with the owner of the ship and is ascertaining further details. The Consulate will render all possible assistance in this matter on priority.

Another vessel, *Prem Sagar*, rescued the other 17 crew members and brought them to Dubai around 6 pm on Friday

family members of the deceased. The loss of an innocent Indian seafarer under such circumstances is deeply distressing and requires urgent attention from the concerned authorities."

Another vessel, *Prem Sagar*, rescued the other 17 crew members and brought them to Dubai around 6 pm on Friday, Bhaya said.

Bhaya has written to the Indian Consulate in Dubai seeking support for Ker's funeral in Dubai, and to "facilitate all legal, consular and documentation procedures and ensure safety and well being of the surviving crew members", all of whom were Indian according to him.

According to Bhaya, Ker belonged to Jam Salaya town in Dwarka and had departed from Dubai aboard the vessel on Wednesday afternoon.

# Rajasthan: Over 100 ill after eating wedding sweets

**Jaipur:** Over 100 people, including children, fell ill allegedly due to food poisoning after consuming sweets prepared at a wedding function in Rajasthan's Kotputli-Behror district on Friday.

The incident occurred in Dhani Gaskan village of Viratnagar area, where 105 villagers complained of vomiting and stomach pain after eating sweets served during the ceremony, officials said.

The sweets, including rasamalai, were prepared for the function on Thursday night and were distributed to locals on Friday.

The affected people were admitted to the community health centre in Atela. Doctors later referred 16 children and 14 adults to Shahpura community health centre for further treatment. PTI

# After Gujarat HC rap to state, interfaith couple complete marriage registration

Aditi Raja  
Vadodra, May 8

A DAY after right-wing groups allegedly disrupted the marriage registration of a Hindu woman and a Muslim man in Ahmedabad despite Gujarat High Court directions to facilitate process under the Special Marriage Act, the HC on Friday orally questioned the State as to why "two adults" required police protection to get married.

Hours later, after the Public Prosecutor assured the bench that instructions had been conveyed to senior police officers of DCP rank, the young couple walked into the marriage registrar's office under police protection and solemnised their marriage—complet-

**Earlier, on May 7, alleged members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal staged protests outside the office premises**

ing the process that was stalled just a day earlier due to protests.

On the morning of May 7, the marriage registration office in Ahmedabad witnessed dramatic scenes. As word spread that a young Hindu-Muslim couple would appear there to register their marriage under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, despite objections from the woman's parents, alleged members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal staged protests on the office premises. Police scrambled to manage the situation. And when the dust settled, the marriage registrar postponed the registration, citing the need for police protection. The couple, who had come not only to exercise a constitutional right but also to comply with the High Court directions issued in March, had left empty-handed. On Friday, a Special Division Bench of Justice NSS Gowda and Justice DM Vyas did not mince words as they questioned the "helplessness" of the authorities empowered by law in the matter. In open court, Justice Gowda said, "It's going to get worse, I think... Do you need police protection for this? I don't seem to understand-- why do you need police protection to get married? They are two adults."

The court expressed its displeasure at the delay and stated it had already spent considerable time satisfying itself while hearing the original habeas corpus plea filed by the man in March that the woman was acting of her own free will and was under no illegal confinement.

**REPLACEMENT OF OLD VERSION IPS IN TINSUKIA DIVISION**

Tender Notice No.: N-2026-27-TSK-NIT-01; Dated: 05-05-2026; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work:  
Tender No.: N-2026-27-TSK-T-01; Brief Description of Item: Replacement of old version IPS (Ver. 2004) to latest version for reliability improvement in Tinsukia Division. Tender Value: ₹24,46,876/-; Earnest Money: ₹48,900/-; Date & time of closing/opening of tender at 15:00 hrs on 29-05-2026. Complete information along with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.irops.gov.in

DSTE, Tinsukia  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**North Eastern Railway**

E-Tendering Tender Notice

On behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager/Engineering, North Eastern Railway, Lucknow, invites online tender for the following work, detail of which is as given below: 1. E-Tender No: NER-LJN-2026-96 Name of Work: L/JN Div.; Providing pathway at GD, JEA, ASH, SUBR & STP etc stations for Shunting works. Estimated Cost (Rs.): 4385631.79 Earnest Money (Rs.): 877100.00 Completion Period: 12 Months. 2. E-Tender No: NER-LJN-2026-97 Name of Work: GD- Replacement of damaged court yard doors and back doors of staff quarters 500 unit Type-I, Type-II and Type-III in all colony at Gondia. Estimated Cost (Rs.): 13727155.30 Earnest Money (Rs.): 274600.00 Completion Period: 12 Months. 1. The tender, for the above tender number NER-LJN-2026-96 & NER-LJN-2026-97 can be uploaded up to 15:00 hrs. on 02.06.2026 and this tender will be opened after 15:00 hrs. on the same day. 2. All the information related minimum qualification, complete details of terms and conditions of the above tender is available on North Eastern Railway website www.irops.gov.in. Tenderer should read the corrigendum (if any) available on the website related to this tender information before uploading the tender form and be sure to take into consideration as well.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) Lucknow  
CPROW-SS  
DO NOT SMOKE BIDI/CIGARETTE IN TRAINS

**UP**

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन लिमिटेड विद्युत जानपद परीक्षण मण्डल, आगरा अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना, दिनांक 07.05.2026 अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु पृथक निविदा दो भागों (पार्ट-I। टेक्निकल बिड एवम् पार्ट-II। फाइनेंशियल) में आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का सक्षिप्त विवरण 1. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 03/विंजा०पा० मं०/ आगरा/2026-27 - 220 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र बाह, आगरा पर 01 नग 33 के०वी० मेसर्स प्रकाश रेन्यूवल पावर एन.एल.पी. 'बि' के जानपदीय निर्माण कार्य। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रु 7.74 लाख (जो एस्कोटी० अतिरिक्त), कार्य अवधि: 01 माह उक्त निविदा की Technical Bid एवम् अन्य शर्तें तथा मात्रा बीजक इत्यादि का विस्तृत विवरण www.upptcl.org पर देखा जा सकता है एवम् http://etender.up.nic.in साइट पर देखा एवम् प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा दिनांक 23.05.2026 को दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक साइट पर डाटा/अपलोड किया जा सकता है तथा दिनांक 23.05.2026 को 15:00 बजे सर्वजनिक रूप से निविदायें खोली जायेंगी। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत जानपद परीक्षण मण्डल, आगरा। "राष्ट्र हित में विजली बचाए।" पत्रांक :- 718/विंजा०पा०मं०/आ०/निविदा दिनांक- 07.05.2026

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders is invited for execution of the following work by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial.) E.C. Railway, Dhanbad:- Tender No. C-710-CHRK-POL-GCT-26 (1) Name of the work with its location & completion period: Development of Gati Shakti Multi-Model Cargo Terminal (GCT) at Churki (CHRK) Station Entirely on Railway land for POL (Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants) Traffic for the period of thirty five years (35 years) i.e 420 months. (2) Approx. cost of development of Gati Shakti Multi-Model Cargo Terminal (GCT) at Churki (CHRK) Rs. 77.33.79.832/- (3) Earnest Money: Rs. 7,73,38,000/- (4) Date & Time for closing and opening of Tender: Date of closing of e-tender at 15:00 hours on 09.06.2026. Date of opening of e-tender after 15:30 hrs. on 09.06.2026 (5) Website particulars: https://www.irops.gov.in No Manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering. Railway Administration reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason what so ever.

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial) PR/0188/DHN/COMM/L726-27/32 ECR, Dhanbad

**मध्यप्रदेश पाठ्यपुस्तक निगम**

"पुस्तक भवन", अरेरा हिल्स, भोपाल - 462011  
दूरभाष : 0755-2550727, 2551565  
ई-मेल : info.mptbc@mp.gov.in, वेबसाइट : mptbc.mp.gov.in  
क्रमांक/5114/पापुनि/उपार्जन/2026 भोपाल, दिनांक : 8.05.2026

**सांदीपनि विद्यालयों में अध्ययनरत विद्यार्थियों के लिये किचन इक्यूपमेंट्स एवं यूटैलिस् प्रदाय हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (निविदा क्रमांक - Proc-11/2026-2027)**

म.प्र. के सांदीपनि विद्यालयों में अध्ययनरत विद्यार्थियों के लिये किचन इक्यूपमेंट्स एवं यूटैलिस् प्रदाय हेतु दिनांक 04.06.2026 समय प्रातः 11.00 बजे तक ई-निविदा आमंत्रित है, जो कि ई-टेंडरिंग पोर्टल <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक 12.05.2026 समय सायं 05.00 बजे से देखी जा सकती है। निविदा के संबंध में जानकारी हेतु 24x7 हेल्प डेस्क नम्बर 0120-4001 002/0120-4200 462/0120-4001 005/0120-6277 787 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है। उक्त निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण एवं संशोधन/परिवर्तन/शुद्धिपत्र (यदि कोई होवे) तो उपरोक्त पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध होंगे।  
म.प्र. माध्यम/125686/2026 प्रबंध संचालक

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, Gwalior Municipal Corporation**

(NIT)-2nd Call Date: 08/05/2026

Gwalior Municipal Corporation, Gwalior Invites online for the following work:

| S. E-Tender No.      | Tender Name  | Probable Amount of Contract (Rs) | EMD (Rs) | Tender Fee (Rs) | Period of completion                                   | Site Start/Site End Date & Time        |
|----------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------|-----------------|--|--|
| 01 2026_UAD_496182_2 | Detailed Survey, Design drawing and construction of rain water harvesting system at different locations within the limits of Gwalior municipal corporation including maintenance of system for a period of 03 years so as to ensure efficient functioning of system throughout the maintenance period.. File No. 98/26/3/3 | 1,37,17,026.88                   | 68,586/- | 12,500/-        | 48 month (12 month construction period + 36 month O&M) | 08/05/26, 10:30 Am & 15/05/26, 5:30 Pm |

Full detail of the above tenders can be seen on [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in). Amendments to NIT, if any shall be published on website only. (G.S.T Excluding)  
जनसम्पर्क RO क्रमांक 306, दिनांक 08-05-2026

Executive Engineer (PIU), Gwalior Municipal Corporation

**JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED**

(CIN: U40108.JH2013SGC001702)  
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurva, Ranchi-834004.  
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com/gmsp.jbvn@rediffmail.com

**1<sup>st</sup> Time Extension Notice**

Last date of uploading of bid documents, last date of online submission of tender fee and bid opening date of following tender notice no. is hereby extended as below :-

| Sl. No. | NITs No.  | Extended online bid uploading/ submission end date | Last date of online submission of tender fee and EMD | Technical bid opening date and time |
|---------|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1       | 10/PR/JBVLN/2026-27 Rail Pole (13 mt. long, 60 kg./m) | 11.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.                         | 11.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.                           | 12.05.2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.          |

Further details and corrigendum against the above NITs can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and may be contacted on Mobile No. 09431135523 / 9430348596/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Only online payment mode of submission of Tender Fee & EMD will be accepted.

स्वाहित एच साइट/हिस में कर्जा बचायें। कृपया अपनी शिकमतों को टोल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।  
PR NO. 377096  
Sd/-  
Dy. General Manager  
Purchase  
PR 379362 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd (26-27)\_D

**कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग**

**ई-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

ई-निविदा सं० :- 13/RI/2024-25/RWD/EE/HAZARIBAG दिनांक :- 07.05.2026

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

| क्र० सं० | आई-टेन्डर नंबर/संख्या/बीकेज संख्या | प्रश्न    | कार्य का नाम   | प्राक्कलित सौचि (रुपया में) अंक में | कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि                                 | कॉल                   |
|----------|------------------------------------|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1        | RWD/HAZ/MMG SY/21/2024-25          | बड़कागाँव | ग्राम कोशी से संधदा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लं०-5.450 (कमी०)) | 7,59,29,400/-                       | सात करोड़/उत्तराल लाख/उत्तरीस हजार/चार सौ रुपये मात्र | 12 (बारह) माह/द्वितीय |

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- 14.05.2026  
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 22.05.2026 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।  
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि, एवं समय :- 23.05.2026 अपराह्न 5:30 बजे।  
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का पदनाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग।  
6. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०-06546-265286।  
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट [jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) में देखा जा सकता है। कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग।  
PR 379274 (Rural Work Department) 26-27 (D)

**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

Follow us on @SCRRailwaysIndia  
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**TENDER NOTICE No. 03-GS-SC-II-26-OT**

On behalf of the President of India, Dy.CE/GS/HYB, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites Open Tenders for the following works through e-procurement up to 15:00 hours of 29.05.2026

Tender No. 03-GS-SC-II-26-OT  
Name of work: 1) Provision of additional COPs at MED station 2) Provision of additional COPs at MXT,YKA&UR 3) Raising of Platforms at MXT 4) Raising of Platforms at YKA 5) Raising of Platforms at HPG  
Approx Value Rs. 57438305/- Bid Security (EMD) 1148800/-

For further details visit the website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, A232 Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.irops.gov.in> or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

Tender No.: IMF-MP-PLG-NBQS-601A; Dated: 06-05-2026. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract for CNC Surface Wheel Lathe (BG) (Model No. YSL-012, Machine Sr. No. CNC SWL-98/2014 Make: M/s HAT Engineering Co. Pvt. Ltd., Date of Commission: 30.07.2014) at WTS/NBQS for a period of 03(THREE) years on yearly basis, inclusive of all spares, materials and labour costs vide COFMOW A.T. No. COFMOW/IR/S-6089/12/P2/G-687 Dated 30.08.2013. Advertised Value: ₹39,67,392.43/-; Earnest Money : ₹79,400/-; Date & time of closing of above tender at 15:00 hrs. on 26-05-2026. For details please visit in website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in).

CWM, New Bongaigaon  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
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# कार्यालय नगर निगम अलीगढ़।

पत्रांक : 20/न०नि०अली०/2026-27 दिनांक-08.05.2026

**अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**

नगर निगम अलीगढ़ द्वारा स्वीकृत वार्ड संख्या-63 में सेवा भवन परिसर में भूतल पर विस्तारित कार्यालय में प्लोर टाईल्स, सेनेटरी वर्क, प्लम्बरिंग व फिनिशिंग का कार्य हेतु अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित जानकारी ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अधिक जानकारी हेतु किसी भी प्रकार के शुद्धि पत्र के सम्बन्ध में ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट को देखते रहें। निविदाओं हेतु निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय का विवरण निम्नवत है-

**ऑनलाइन निविदा**

|    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | निविदा वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड करने की तिथि | दिनांक 11.05.2026 अपराह्न: 02:00 बजे से |
| 2. | निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि       | दिनांक 18.05.2026 अपराह्न: 02:00 बजे तक |
| 3. | निविदा खोलने की तिथि                   | दिनांक 18.05.2026 अपराह्न: 05:00 बजे तक |

प्रभारी अधिकारी स्टोर नगर निगम अलीगढ़।

**मध्यप्रदेश पाठ्यपुस्तक निगम**

"पुस्तक भवन" अरेरा हिल्स, भोपाल-462011  
दूरभाष : 0755-2550727, 2551565  
ई-मेल : info.mptbc@mp.gov.in, वेबसाइट : mptbc.mp.gov.in  
क्रमांक/5114/पापुनि/उपार्जन/2026 भोपाल, दिनांक : 05.05.2026

**सांदीपनि विद्यालयों में अध्ययनरत विद्यार्थियों के लिये गणवेश प्रदाय हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (निविदा क्रमांक-Proc-10/2026-2027)**

म.प्र. के सांदीपनि विद्यालयों में अध्ययनरत विद्यार्थियों के लिये गणवेश प्रदाय हेतु दिनांक 04.06.2026 समय प्रातः 11.00 बजे तक ई-निविदा (पृथक-2) आमंत्रित है, जो कि ई-टेंडरिंग पोर्टल <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक 12.05.2026 समय सायं 05.00 बजे से देखी जा सकती है। निविदा के संबंध में जानकारी हेतु 24x7 हेल्प डेस्क नम्बर 0120-4001 002/0120-4200 462/0120-4001 005/0120-6277 787 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है। उक्त निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण एवं संशोधन/परिवर्तन/शुद्धिपत्र (यदि कोई होवे) तो उपरोक्त पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध होंगे।  
म.प्र. माध्यम/125685/2026 प्रबंध संचालक

**Office of Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad**

**E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tender Second Time**

No.- 2752/Nivida-Moradabad/2026-27 Dated: 02.05.2026

On behalf of the Governor of UP, tender for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, PWD Moradabad online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from registered contractors In column No-8 from 12-05-2026 at 10.00 am to 18-05-2026 at 12.00 noon. Amount mentioned in column no. 5 & 7 shall be mandatory deposited by Net Banking Only through E-tender portal. Technical bid /Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 18-05-2026 at 12.30 noon in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tendres who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day.

| Sl. No | DISTRICT | Name of Work  | Estimated cost (Rs.in lacs) | Bid Security (Rs.in lacs) | Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season) | Cost of tender documents including GST (RS.) | Category of road contractor eligible |
|--------|----------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1      | 2        | 3   | 4                           | 5                         | 6   | 7  | 8                                    |
| 1      | MBRD     | Strengthening work of Moradabad Tanda Dadihyal (Major District Road-65) road in Moradabad district from chainage 20.000 to 25.000 | 508.64                      | 10.18                     | 12 Month  | 300+2000+54=2354                             | "A" (Road Category)                  |

Rules/conditions & details of the tender are available at website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Bidder have to login Prahari URL <http://www.uppwd.gov.in/prahari/> and upload their documents As per G.O No. - 879 (1)/23-7-2020 dated 25-08-2020 and E-IN-C (Vikas) and Head of Department letter-4650/4NL-0C/2020 dated 27.08.2020.

(Kuldeep Sant)  
Executive Engineer  
Procurement Division,  
PWD Moradabad

UPID-250925  
Dt. 07/05/2026  
[www.upidadv.gov.in](http://www.upidadv.gov.in)

(S.P. Singh)  
Superintending Engineer  
Moradabad Circle, PWD  
Moradabad  
For and on behalf of Governor of UP

‘ENOUGH IS ENOUGH’

SC questions delay in nod to prosecute MP minister for remarks on Col Sofiya Qureshi

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 8

THE SUPREME Court on Friday asked the Madhya Pradesh government to decide on granting sanction to prosecute Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah in connection with his alleged defamatory remarks about Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, who gained nationwide prominence during the media briefings on Operation Sindoor last year.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Jyotsna Bagchi refused to accept Shah's submission that he had apologised and asked the state to take a decision on the sanction and report compliance in 4 weeks. "Please make a decision...Enough is enough now. And report compliance within 4 weeks," the court said.

In January, the Apex court asked the state to decide the sanction issue within 2 weeks.

On Friday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta urged the bench to grant some more time for this. Mehta said he was not defending the minister, but it seemed he wanted to say something else. "What he said was definitely unfortunate. I am not defending him; this is my view, not the government's. Possibly, he wanted to praise the lady; he could not articulate properly, but he ended up saying something," he said.

Disagreeing, the CJI said, "Political personalities are very articulate. They say what they want to. If it were a slip of tongue, he would have immediately apologised." The court referred to a report by the Special Investigation Team constituted on its direction and said that according to it, "the man is in the habit of making such statements."

Senior Advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Shah, said he had issued an apology the very next day and also furnished it to the press.

But the CJI said, "It is only because we have taken cognisance (that he apologised). Writing a letter is not an apology. It is only creating a fake defence.... The first thing he should have done



Colonel Sofiya Qureshi

is say, I have committed a mistake. I tender an unconditional apology for it... As if you are above the law."

Singh pointed out that the apology was already placed before the bench by the time it took cognisance of the matter. "It took place on May 12, and on May 13 the apology came," he said.

"I think he also came on a television and apologised with folded hands," added Mehta.

Justice Bagchi said, "Let the state look into the totality of the circumstances and take a decision."

On May 12, 2025, Shah said at an event in Mau that India taught a lesson to those responsible for the Pahalgam terror attack using "their own sister". While he did not name any individual, the Congress alleged he was alluding to Colonel Sofiya Qureshi. Shah later sought to clarify the remarks, saying, "Do not see my speech in a different context. I want to tell people that my speech is not in that context. They are our sisters, and they have taken revenge with great strength along with the armed forces."

Shah's alleged remarks sparked widespread outrage, after which the Madhya Pradesh High Court took suo motu cognisance and ordered an FIR to be registered against him. He had challenged that before the Supreme Court.

On May 19, the Supreme Court appointed a three-member SIT to probe the matter. The SIT sought sanction to prosecute him under Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (promotion of communal hatred and ill-will).

ONE YEAR OF COUNTER-TERROR OPERATION

Op Sindoor showcased our capabilities, ethos: Rajnath

Amrita Nayak Dutta  
New Delhi, May 8

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Friday described Operation Sindoor as a "short-duration, deep-penetration, high-intensity, and high-impact operation" which showcased India's ability to compel its adversary to surrender.

Addressing the second edition of Joint Commanders' Conference in Jaipur a year after the operation, he said it was a demonstration of India's growing capabilities and a symbol of its collective resolve and new military ethos. Singh called upon top military commanders of the three armed services to remain future-ready, learning from the operation and the current global security landscape, a statement from the Ministry of Defence noted.

Highlighting the need to strengthen capabilities in artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, data analytics and secure communication networks to stay prepared in the evolving geopolitical security scenario, he said that future conflicts will increasingly be shaped by "hybrid threats, information dominance and operations conducted simultaneously across cyber, space, electromagnetic



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi and Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh in Jaipur on Friday. ANI

and cognitive domains".

He stressed on the importance of ensuring integrated national preparedness across all spectrums of conflict, while also lauding progress achieved in enhancing integration and technological adoption across the three services.

"Future wars will not be won solely through weaponry, but through innovative thinking and enhanced synergy," the minister added.

He also asked the military

leadership to cultivate an 'element of surprise' to remain unpredictable to the nation's adversaries and secure a strategic edge in any given situation, while asking them to remain vigilant of the element of surprise of the enemy.

He also released a documentary film on Operation Sindoor and the Joint Doctrine for Integrated Communication Architecture, aimed at strengthening doctrinal clarity, interoperability and integrated

communications across the Armed Forces in future multi-domain operations.

According to the statement, the conference, themed 'Military Capability in New Domains', brought together the top leadership of the Ministry of Defence and the Indian Armed Forces to deliberate on emerging security challenges and future readiness.

"Comprehensive deliberations were held on future warfare, multidomain operations, technological transformation and joint capability development," the statement said, adding that the conference witnessed extensive discussions on "cognitive warfare; cyber resilience against evolving quantum and AI-enabled threats; military capability development in emerging domains; indigenous innovation and AI-enabled warfighting concepts".

Demonstrations of advanced systems and platforms developed for intelligence fusion, operational planning and information management were also showcased during the conference, reflecting growing integration of cutting-edge technologies into joint operational structures, the Defence Ministry's statement noted.

LONG-TERM ROADMAP: TECH-DRIVEN INTEGRATED SERVICES IN 20 YEARS

Armed Forces set new goals for 2047, draw insights from Sindoor, conflicts

Amrita Nayak Dutta  
New Delhi, May 8

DRAWING INSIGHTS from Operation Sindoor and the recent global conflicts, the Indian Armed Forces have set strategic goals and priorities that they aim to reach by 2047, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

These goals include achieving an edge in combat readiness and scaling capability development and strengthening military diplomacy, among others.

These goals are beyond the various measures being undertaken by the Indian military over the last year, including a large-scale construction of underground infrastructure, boosting air defence, prioritising procurement of modern weapons and technology through the emergency route.

According to officials privy to the matter, the goals call for the formulation of a National Military Strategy, modernising and procuring the latest technologies and platforms, including autonomous, while bolstering the development of indigenous technologies under the Atmanirbharta initiative.

As part of the vision, the military is looking to strengthen deterrence through the procurement of intelligent platforms, combat assets, and force multipliers, create robust border infra-



India aims to strengthen jointness among the Army, Navy and Air Force by the centennial of Independence



structure as well as coastal surveillance, and design national strategies for possible threats.

There will likely be an emphasis on air domain awareness in maritime zones, while also expanding Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA).

Additionally, there will be an overall enhancement of space-based Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, along with the development of robust cyber defence networks, among the strategic priorities of the forces.

Officials told *The Indian Express* that there will be increased focus on executing operations across domains for greater integration among the forces and building flexible structures for warfighting.

While the military is close to establishing unified theatre commands from the three services, the long-term goals also include integrating networks and communication, setting up a joint logistics and inventory management system and an operations coordination centre.

According to officials, other long-term goals are to create surge capacities to meet the demands arising from prolonged high-intensity operations, develop indigenous systems and platforms in alignment with

specific needs.

There are also long-term goals to establish a Defence Geospatial Agency, a Drone Force and a force for cognitive warfare, aside from a full-fledged Space Command, and Cyber Command.

Expansion of various missile defence and air defence systems for protection against multi-domain threats as part of mission Sudarshan Chakra are also part of the plans, the officials said.

Strengthening military cooperation with other countries through joint training and exercises, while also modernising the training curriculum for Indian military personnel are some of the other long-term strategic priorities of the Indian defence forces.

BRIEFLY



A CCTV grab of the leopard in the car factory, Pune, Thursday. EXPRESS

MAHARASHTRA

Leopard spotted in CCTV footage at Mercedes Benz factory in Pune

A LEOPARD was spotted on the premises of Mercedes Benz India Pvt Ltd in Pune's Chakan MIDC area in the early hours of Thursday, said Amrut Shinde, Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF), Junnar Division. "The surrounding area mainly consists of open barren land. No further movement of the animal was observed thereafter," he said. Shinde said a team from the state forest department inspected the site, recorded the location on video, and conducted a thorough search of the surrounding area. "However, no other indirect evidence of leopard movement was found," he said. Meanwhile, as a precautionary measure, the forest department has placed two active trap cages at the location. ENS

3 from UP drown in Junagadh's Willingdon Dam

THREE PERSONS - including two teenagers - of a group of seven migrants from Uttar Pradesh, working at a restaurant in Junagadh, drowned in Willingdon Dam on Friday. Police identified the deceased as Shivam Bharatdeep Sahi (22), Kalim Salimuddin Shaikh (16) and Hasnain Jilani Shaikh (16), all from villages in UP's Bahraich district. DSP Hitesh Dhandhaliya said that of the four that jumped into the water, only one survived as the area is about 15-20 feet deep and they did not know how to swim, he said. By Friday evening, all three bodies had been found and sent for post mortem exam. ENS

B Tech student stabbed to death outside home

A 22-YEAR-OLD B.Tech student was stabbed to death on Thursday night, said police. Yuvan Akhil Kumar, a third-year student, was watching an IPL match with friends on a mobile phone outside his home in Hyderabad's Indiranagar when at least four persons attacked him with sharp weapons. He died while being taken to the hospital. Yuvan's family alleged the attackers were from the family of a woman the student was in a relationship with. Police said they have identified some assailants and are trying to arrest them. His family members and relatives staged a protest outside the woman's home. ENS

Two held for sexually assaulting woman at knifepoint in Kochi

Press Trust of India  
Kochi, May 8

TWO PERSONS have been arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman at knifepoint near Ernakulam railway station, police said on Friday. A third person, the prime accused, is on the run, the police said.

The arrested men have been identified as Danish (26), a native of Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram district, and Rahul (39), a native of Paravoor in Kollam district.

Police officers said they were searching for the prime accused, Sanjay, a native of Aror in Alappuzha district.

According to the police, the incident occurred on the night of May 5 when the victim was chatting with her friend outside a closed hotel near Ernakulam

Junction. Officials said the accused approached them, attacked the victim's friend and allegedly threatened the woman with a knife before sexually assaulting her.

The woman managed to escape from the spot and approached a nearby shop for help.

Police were informed and they immediately shifted the woman to the police station.

Officials said the accused were inebriated at the time of the incident and went into hiding soon after the attack.

Police registered a case on May 6 on charges of rape, disrobing a woman, criminal intimidation and robbery.

The two accused, who were later arrested in the city, were produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody.

China confirms on-site support to Pakistan during Op Sindoor: Reports

KJM Varma  
Beijing, May 8

CHINA, FOR the first time, has confirmed that it provided on-site technical support to Pakistan during the four-day conflict with India last year, official media reports here said.

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

"At the support base, we frequently heard the roar of fighter jets taking off and the constant wail of air-raid sirens. By late morning, in May, the temperature was already approaching 50 degrees Celsius. It was a real ordeal for us, both mentally and physically," Zhang said.

What drove his team was the "desire to do an even better job with on site support" and to ensure their equipment could "truly perform at its full combat potential", Zhang told CCTV.

"That wasn't just a recognition of the J10CE; it was also a testament to the deep bond we formed through working side by side, day in and day out," he said.

Chinese foreign ministry and military officials have either par-

ried or played down allegations of China's support for Pakistan during the conflict.

There was no official reaction to India's Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt General Rahul R Singh's assertion that Beijing provided active military support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, using the conflict as a "live lab".

In an address at a seminar organised by industry chamber FICCI in July last year, Lt Gen Singh suggested that China used its satellites to monitor Indian military deployment as the Pakistani military was getting live inputs on it during the DGMO (Director General of Military Operations)-level phone talks.

He likened China's strategy during Operation Sindoor to its ancient military strategy of "36 stratagems" and killing the adversary with a "borrowed knife" to buttress the point that Beijing extended all possible support to Pakistan to cause pain to India.

Chinese officials and social media played up Pakistan's claims of shooting down Indian fighter planes to showcase Chinese tech superiority, even though there was no evidence to support Islamabad's assertion.

But they remained silent about Pakistan suffering heavy collateral damage, including several terrorist headquarters, key air bases and failure of Chinese radars, which enabled India's air superiority.

'FLORAL' TRIBUTE TO T P SINGH

Hybrid rose 'Tribhuvan' named after first plan panel secretary

Santosh Singh  
Patna, May 8

INDIA'S FIRST full-time secretary of Planning Commission and 1936-batch ICS officer Tribhuvan Prasad Singh, better known as TP Singh, has a new variety of rose named after him.

"Tribhuvan", as it is called, has been developed by South Asia's leading nursery and rose breeder, K S Gopalaswamiengar Son, popularly known as KSG Son, at Chamarajpet, Bengaluru, over four and a half years. Though named in 2025, the rose would be part of KSG roses catalogue 2027-28, and available for sale and exhibition only in 2027.

TP Singh (1913-1975), who later served as the country's finance and agriculture secretary, is often recalled as one of

leading policymakers post Independence.

KSG Son chief executive officer Sarvesh Sarvesh Sriram told *The Indian Express*: "We decided to name a rose variety after TP Singh to honour his invaluable contribution to the formation of the country's policies in its nascent years since Independence as secretary with Planning Commission and later finance and agriculture secretary. Second, he and his family have been big promoters of a great variety of roses for the last five decades. TP Singh was also among one of our patrons."

Sriram said they chose to develop a hybrid of 'Black Prince and Corrida' to be named after TP Singh as he had great admiration for roses of deep crimson colour.

"Tribhuvan is a prized pos-



TP Singh (left) was one of the patrons of KSG Son; the new rose variety (right) will be part of its 2027-28 catalogue. EXPRESS

session of our garden at present. Its classic high-centred form and exhibition-grade character make it a rose of distinction. The rich tradition of rose breeding started gaining national and international fame from the days of my

grandfather G Kasturirangan and carried on to my father K Sriram (current proprietor) and me now," said its CEO.

KSG Son was founded in 1925-26. It is known for maintaining one of South Asia's largest collections of garden roses,

boasting over 4,500 varieties. They have cataloged over 2,000 varieties of roses, supplied many of them to the Rashtrapati Bhavan Gardens and created green spaces for the Indian Railways.

TP Singh's son and 15th Finance Commission chairman and ex-MPN K Singh said: "As I commemorate my father on his birthday (May 9), KSG Son honouring my father through a rose is to honour more than an administrator and policymaker. It is also to remember a man who rose from modest beginnings to great national responsibility. 'Tribhuvan' is therefore not merely a new rose variety, but a living remembrance of a public servant of distinction and a rosarian of great refinement."

Recalling his father's passion for gardening, Singh

said: "His interest in roses gradually deepened into the work of a serious rosarian. At our family's Sheikhpura residence in Patna, he maintained a remarkable garden with more than two thousand rose plants, each carefully labelled with its pedigree and characteristics. This was not the casual enthusiasm of a hobbyist. It reflected patience, study and sustained care."

He said his father would personally take visitors through the garden, explaining the varieties, their biology and their genetic significance.

"It is therefore especially appropriate that 'Tribhuvan' should be associated with Patna. Patna was not merely a place where he lived and served. It was where his passion for roses found its fullest expression," said Singh.



## HC'S CIRCUIT BENCH AT PORT BLAIR TO HEAR PLEAS

# Great Nicobar project: Calcutta HC bench agrees to hear PILs against forest rights clearance

Nikhil Ghanekar  
New Delhi, May 8

THE CALCUTTA High Court's circuit bench at Port Blair has agreed to hear three public interest litigations by retired bureaucrat Meena Gupta who has challenged the key clearances and approvals to the Great Nicobar project. One of the PILs by Gupta, who was a Union government Secretary, challenges the validity of proceedings held under the Forest Rights Act-2006.

The Centre and the Andaman and Nicobar Island administration had raised preliminary objections regarding maintainability of these petitions on grounds that Gupta was not a resident of Andaman and Nicobar islands and not authorised by local tribes to file the petitions.

A circuit bench headed by the Chief Justice of the Calcutta HC Justice Sujoy Paul and comprising Justice Partha Sarathi Sen overruled the objections in an order on Wednesday which was made public on Friday, and said that there "is no thumb rule regarding the aspect of locus standi".

Additional Solicitor General Ashok Chakraborty had argued that Gupta had not been authorised by any tribal person to file the petition and that no cause of action had arisen for the peti-

**The bench found that the petitioner had sufficient interest in the matters having spent a few years on the islands, and as she was involved in the drafting of a key Bill**

tioner who was a permanent resident of Hyderabad. It was also argued that the mega project was of great national importance.

Gupta's petition has challenged the validity of proceedings held under the Forest Rights Act, including resolution of three Gram Sabhas in August 2022 on consenting diversion of forest. The Gram Sabha meetings and other procedures were held for diversion of 166.10 sq km of which 121.87 sq km is protected forest and 8.88 sq km is deemed forest.

The bench found that Gupta had sufficient interest in the matters having spent a few years on the islands, and as she was involved in the drafting of the Bill which ultimately took shape of the FRA-2006. The court said the population in Andaman and Nicobar Islands comprises very vulnerable tribal groups having little access to modernity. The

bench found that the PIL's stood the test of court procedures and that Gupta was "espousing the cause of the vulnerable tribal community".

On the Centre's argument regarding the cost and importance of the project, the bench said it was "not entering into the merits of the case".

"A project involving huge expenditure must proceed in accordance with governing laws holding the field and it is not beyond the scope of judicial review on permissible parameters," the court's order stated. The Rs 81,000-crore project will involve construction of a transshipment container port, an integrated township, a greenfield civilian-military use airport, and a solar and gas power plant. The petitioner alleged that the constitution of the sub-divisional-level committee for Nicobar district was violative of the Forest Rights Act. The court also upheld maintainability of two other PILs filed by Gupta on the reduction of the buffer zone of Galathea National Park and Campbell Bay National Park, and rejected objections on grounds of re-litigation of issues.

It was argued that the National Green Tribunal had already heard issues of 'environment'. However, the HC bench found that the NGT order related to a different petitioner, in relation to a different subject.

## SC treats SCBA resolution on HC judge sending young lawyer to custody as PIL

Press Trust of India  
New Delhi, May 8

THE SUPREME Court on Friday registered a case treating a resolution passed by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) as a PIL after the bar body expressed concern over an Andhra Pradesh High Court judge reportedly sending a young advocate to 24-hour judicial custody for a procedural lapse.

According to the apex court website, the case has been tentatively listed for hearing May 15.

On May 6, the bar body, while expressing shock at the high court order, urged Chief Justice of India Surya Kant to take cognisance of the incident.

The SCBA 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 had 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."

# 2 Indian crew members aboard ship at centre of hantavirus outbreak; both asymptomatic

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 8



The cruise ship is anchored in Cape Verde. AP

At least two Indians are crew members on-board the MV Hondius cruise ship, which is at the centre of the current hantavirus outbreak. "Both individuals are presently asymptomatic and are under observation in accordance with established international health protocols," said sources from the Union health ministry.

In case they do develop symptoms, they will have to remain in isolation longer, the

sources added. Keeping in mind the situation, a high-level meeting was

conducted on Friday with officials from Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme and the National Focal Point for International Health Regulations — the body that communicates with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in situations of public health emergency — in attendance. The officials assessed the situation and reviewed preparedness measures. Sources said that the health ministry is closely monitoring the situation on-board the cruise ship.

According to the information available from the WHO,

shared by health ministry officials in the meeting, there are eight probable cases of the infection on the vessel. Of these, five have been confirmed with laboratory tests. Three deaths have been reported so far. The WHO was notified about the incident in the first week of this month.

A health ministry official said that as per the WHO, the virus involved is the Andes strain, which is known to have limited capability of human-to-human transmission and generally requires close and prolonged contact for spread.

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- Opening date of Online Application: 09.05.2026 (1000 Hrs.)
- Closing date of online application : 08.06.2026 (1700 Hrs.)
- Crucial date for determination of upper age limit shall be the closing date prescribed for the receipt of Online application
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CBC- 37112/11/0002/2627 GM (Recruitment)

## BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING THE NATION

## Suvendu aide murder: Police recover second two-wheeler used in crime

Sweetly Kumari  
Kolkata, May 7

INVESTIGATORS RECOVERED the second motorcycle allegedly used in the murder of Chandranath Rath, the personal assistant of chief minister-elect Suvendu Adhikari, on Friday.

The motorcycle was seized near Rail Gate No. 11 in Barasat, around 6 km from the North 24 Parganas district's Madhyamgram, where Nath was shot dead on Wednesday night, an official said.

A trail led investigators to Burnpur in Paschim Bardhaman, where the motorcycle was officially registered to someone by the name of Bibhas Kumar Bhattacharya. However, police reached a government quarter only to find the "owner" simply does not exist, the official said.

According to the official, the current resident, who has been living there since 2014, has no knowledge of the name, revealing that the killers either used a fake number plate or successfully registered the vehicle using a fictitious identity hinting at a long-term planning by highly resourceful facilitators.

Another motorcycle was seized from near Gate No. 2.5 of the Kolkata airport area on Thursday. However, the police found that the registration number plate of that two-wheeler was also fake.

The police had earlier seized another car near the crime spot in Madhyamgram. The number plate attached to that four-wheeler was found to be fake. The original one belongs to a person based in Siliguri, who works in a tea estate.

"The person in Siliguri had posted an advertisement for the sale of his car on a website. He claimed to have received a call from a prospective buyer based in Uttar Pradesh. There could be a link to UP," an official said.

In UP, the team will "collect technical and field-level evidence", he said, adding that "the police are following certain leads outside the state as well."

What initially appeared to be a daring hit has now turned into a textbook case of a high-level contract killing, with a seven-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) pointing towards a "conspiracy hatched several weeks in advance".

"The chilling efficiency of the operation...suggests that the assailants were not just local hoodlums but seasoned professional assassins who left behind a trail of calculated deception," an official said. "It is a deep-rooted conspiracy, with sophisticated use of technology and logistics designed to vanish without being caught."

**झारखण्ड सरकार**  
**आदिवासी कल्याण आयुक्त का कार्यालय, झारखण्ड मंत्रालय, कल्याण कॉम्प्लेक्स, मोराबादी, राँची।**

**सूचना**  
**मरड गोमके जयपाल सिंह मुण्डा पारदेशीय छात्रवृत्ति योजना**

अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची के संकल्प संख्या-1591, दिनांक-06.05.2026 के आलोक में झारखण्ड राज्य के अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग के छात्र-छात्राओं के लिए वित्तीय वर्ष-2026-27 हेतु मरड गोमके जयपाल सिंह मुण्डा पारदेशीय छात्रवृत्ति योजना, 2020 (संशोधित, 2026) अन्तर्गत आवेदन करने के लिए दिनांक-14.05.2025 से 20.06.2026 तक आमंत्रित किया जाता है।

मरड गोमके जयपाल सिंह मुण्डा पारदेशीय छात्रवृत्ति योजना अन्तर्गत एवं विविनिंग मरड गोमके जयपाल सिंह मुण्डा पारदेशीय छात्रवृत्ति योजना अन्तर्गत यूनाइटेड किंगडम ऑफ ग्रेट ब्रिटेन एण्ड नॉर्थेन आयरलैण्ड के लिए चयनित विश्वविद्यालयों/संस्थानों में निर्धारित पाठ्यक्रम/शोध के लिए स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रम 01 (एक) वर्षीय Masters/M.Research/M.Phil/MBA हेतु चयनित अनुसूचित जनजाति के 20, अनुसूचित जाति के 10, पिछड़े वर्ग के 14 एवं अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय के 06 कुल 50 छात्र-छात्राओं को छात्रवृत्ति प्रदान की जाएगी।

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नोट- (i) यूनाइटेड किंगडम ऑफ ग्रेट ब्रिटेन एण्ड नॉर्थेन आयरलैण्ड के लिए चयनित विश्वविद्यालयों/संस्थानों में निर्धारित पाठ्यक्रम/शोध के लिए स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रम 01 (एक) वर्षीय Masters/M.Research/M.Phil/MBA हेतु Offer Letter प्राप्त छात्र-छात्राएँ ऑनलाइन आवेदन में निर्धारित स्थान पर ही Offer Letter को Upload करना सुनिश्चित करें।

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आदिवासी कल्याण आयुक्त,  
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| PROGRAM DETAILS                            |  |
|--|--|
| Degree awarding institute                  | Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai and NISER 2 years   |
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| Total No. of seats                         | 10   |
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See the announcements section of the NISER website <https://www.niser.ac.in/> or scan the QR code.

| IMPORTANT DATES                          |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Last date of online application          | 15th May 2026           |
| Date of interview                        | 30th June 3rd July 2026 |
| Announcement of the final selection list | 6th July 2026           |

**ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE**  
Centre for Medical and Radiation Physics, NISER, Jatni-752050, Odisha, India  
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CBC 48158/11/0002/2627

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- The University Information Brochure is available on the University website. The fee structure for the current academic session is provided in the Information Brochure/ Prospectus 2026-27.
- Online application forms for admissions to all Programmes (Except B.Tech./B.Tech. (LEET)/ B.Pharm./Dip.Engg./Dip.Engg. (LEET) and D.Pharm.) will be available from on 7th May 2026 on the University website <https://admission.svsu.ac.in/> / [www.svsu.ac.in](http://www.svsu.ac.in).
- The admission counselling schedule and merit lists will be published on the University website separately. Applicants are advised to visit the website regularly for updates.
- Courses marked with \* are approved by AICTE, while those marked with # are subject to approval from approving body.

**REGISTRAR**

Shalini Langer

**Y**OU CAN'T pull the wool over these sheep's eyes, that's for sure. This adaptation of the bestseller novel *Three Bags Full* by author Leonie Swann, about a flock of them solving the murder of their shepherd, may sound meh. And cutesy talking animals are often a blah.

However, it is surprising how meaty this story, set in a quaint English village called Denbrook, turns out to be in director Kyle Balda and scriptwriter Craig Mazin's hands, with all the charms and notes of an Agatha Christie mystery. Balda, incidentally, has *Minions* and *Despicable Me 3* in his portfolio, while Mazin — surprise, surprise — was a writer on *Chernobyl* and *The Last of Us*. Follow the clues... as the best detective novels advise.

And the sheep do the same. They have a picture perfect (literally) life as the flock of shepherd George (Jackman), who has given all of them names and keeps them well-fed and looked after with a medical concoction he has himself devised. Every evening, George gathers his sheep around and tells them a night-time story, mostly a murder mystery. The moment he has his back turned, the sheep are discussing the tale and who could be the killer among themselves, making it clear that they understand humans perfectly.

One morning, after a stormy night, George is found dead. The bumbling local cop, Tim (a delightful Braun, whom you may know as Cousin Greg from *Succession*), is the most rattled at the possibility of having a bloody mystery to solve, in the sleepy Denbrook where even local tourists don't stumble by.

However, still waters run deep, and nowhere do they run deeper than in villages that are arranged around one church, one inn, one cop, one butcher, and so on. Denbrook's staples are inn owner Beth (a disappointingly underutilised Chou), Reverend Hillcoat, Tim, butcher Ham and another shepherd whom George's sheep like but not George too much, Caleb. Enter into the mix George's long-lost daughter Rebecca



## Murder, Sheep Wrote

(Gordon), his city slicker lawyer Lydia Harbottle (Thompson) and a failed, nosy journalist, Elliot (Galitzine).

The sheep are there, listening and peeping in, as Harbottle reads the will. Unknown millions of dollars are discovered and a "motive" is quickly established. Lily (Louis-Dreyfus), one of George's favourites and the cleverest in the flock by far, leads the "investigation", ably supported by the solemn Mopple (O'Dowd), and occasionally the street-savvy loner Sebastian (Cranston). They must lead the sheep through doubts and several wrong turns, with Hall as the sheep Cloud, among others, perfectly delightful. Cloud's astonishment at the shape of a bracelet, "The

### THE SHEEP DETECTIVES

★★★★

DIRECTOR: Kyle Balda

CAST: Hugh Jackman, Nicholas Braun, Molly Gordon, Emma Thompson, Hong Chau

VOICES OF: Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Patrick Stewart, Bryan Cranston, Regina Hall, Chris O'Dowd, Nicholas Galitzine

Thing With No End!", is a joy to watch.

But, *The Sheep Detectives* is not going for delight alone, though there is that. It handles some particularly heavy topics, including courage, death, the choice to forget vs the power to remember, and rejection of the "other". Like Lily, Sebastian (who has a particularly heroic arc) and the gang, Tim's transformation is equally warm and unforced, even if the sheep have to nudge him towards a mystery novel to get his detective juices flowing.

*The Sheep Detectives* is slow getting off the ground and some of its lines are not either funny or engaging when George is having his heart-to-hearts, setting the stage for his demise.

Don't count sheep yet, though. Wait for Braun, with his English accent, tapping into the non-plussed quality he brought to Greg's role in *Succession* to entirely opposite effect here. His long, gesticulating fingers alone are an expression, encompassing his incredulity as to why the same three sheep are always turning up around him.

And then there is Dame Emma Thompson. Has she ever turned her acerbic tongue and sharp eyes onto someone and not drawn blood? She wishes in on her expensive car into Denbrook and immediately lifts *The Sheep Detectives* to another level.

Once the sheep have done their shepherding, that is.

### •STREAMING WATCHLIST



### Remarkably Bright Creatures

NETFLIX

A WIDOW who works at a local aquarium finds joy again when she forms unlikely bond with a giant Pacific octopus and a wayward young man who comes to town in search of family. Together, they uncover a mystery that will lead them to a life-changing discovery. Olivia Newman's adaptation of the novel by Shelby Van Pelt, the film features actor Sally Field, who plays Tova, with Lewis Pullman as the new-in-town Cameron.



### Song Sung Blue

JIOHOTSTAR

THIS BIOGRAPHICAL musical drama written, produced, and directed by Craig Brewer, is based on a true story about two musicians who form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band. In 1988, Mike (Hugh Jackman) and Claire (Kate Hudson) embark on performing Neil Diamond songs together and later begin a romantic relationship proving it's never too late to find love and follow your dreams. Hudson was nominated for the Golden Globes and the Academy Award for her performance.



## An Absurdist Social Drama

DUG DUG

★★★★

DIRECTOR: Ritwik Pareek

CAST: Altaf Khan, Yogendra Singh Parmar, Durga Lal Saini, Gaurav Soni

Alaka Sahani

WHILE IT is well established that truth is stranger than fiction, once faith enters the narrative and subsequently dominates it, things can get curiously and curiously. That's how a trippy satirical tale set in Rajasthan, titled *Dug Dug*, unfolds.

The film, directed and written by Ritwik Pareek, follows the death of Thakur Sa, who died in a road accident while drunk driving a two-wheeler with a pink seat. The moped, which ends up in police custody and is even locked up in the jail, mysteriously keeps returning to the accident spot. In no time, the bike acquires divine status, with the power to fulfill the wishes of those who pray to it and offer a bottle of alcohol, one of Thakur Sa's favourite things. The accident site soon becomes a roadside shrine, thronged by devotees from far and wide.

The film's premise might sound bizarre but it is not far from reality. In Jodhpur is located Om Banna temple, which is dedicated to a 350cc Royal Enfield motorcycle. What makes watching this film a fascinating experience is the whimsicality, wry humour and touches of magical realism. Even as blind faith drives people to worship the bike with the garland and the roadside shrine turns into a sprawling temple, the film's tone is neither judgy nor preachy. Though designed as a socio-religious satire, the film does not attempt to bust the myth or question the followers' faith.

The well-crafted film, which opts for pithy lines, especially in the first half, is a visual delight despite being set in an arid landscape. While the credit for it goes to cinematographer Aditya Kumar, the smart use of pink and blue — said to be favourite colours of Thakur Sa — adds to the visual richness (the film is designed by Ranjit Singh). What complements the visuals is the excellent soundtrack, composed by the group Salvage Audio Collective. Together, the visuals and jazz-rock music add a vibrant energy to the storytelling. However, despite this, parts of the second half become tedious as scenes showing the growing popularity of the shrine become repetitive.

Towards the end, an elderly cop who is about to retire in a week regrets that nothing major happened during his long stint there. The incredulity surrounding the road accident death that led to the birth of a new deity and a large number of followers does not register in his mind. In India, where many surreal occurrences become a part of everyday life, *Dug Dug* tells the story of one such "almost-true" event.

Shubhra Gupta

GRANDMA GETTING married?? *Hawwww. Haaye, log kya kahenge? Society mein naak kat jayegi!*

On this single line premise — what will people say — rests the two-and-a-half-hour shenanigans, in which Neetu Kapoor plays the titular *daadi*, whose impending nuptials throw her family into a tizzy. Off they rush, from Delhi to Shimla via Chandigarh, where she lives in a lovely home, to stop everything in its tracks.

*Daadi Ki Shaadi* may boast modern gadgets like iPads (a grandson discovers *daadi*'s shocking status update on Facelook, can't say the correct name, haha) and UPI payments, but traces its roots to the old-style family dramas where a single event — the arrival of a *bawarchi* (*Bawarchi*, 1972), or a new *bahu*'s straight-talking sister (*Khubsoorat*, 1980), or the noble-hearted stepson (*Baghban*, 2003) — is used as a peg to remind us of the joys of family ties and how blood is always thicker than water.

No problem in the idea. Anything with the still ebullient Neetu Kapoor in the lead should, by rights, sing. And Kapil Sharma has proved himself to be a competent actor, being especially effective in Nandita Das's last directorial *Zwigato*; Sadia Khateeb left a mark in John Abraham's *The Diplomat* too.

The ensemble cast is interesting, including veteran R Sarathkumar as the growly potential groom, Jitender Hooda and Deepak Dutta as Neetu's two sons, Tejaswini Kolhapure and Aditi Mittal as their wives respectively and real-life daughter Riddhima Kapoor turning up, as a demanding-her-rights reel *beti*.

The execution is — there's no other way to put it — a drag. The reason, as always, is in the weak writing and flat TV sitcom treatment, in which scenes are created with everyone lined up in the frame, waiting their turn to speak, before exiting: case in point, where the younger generation, Zs and Alphas, show their greedy, selfish millennial parents the error of their ways and claim that *daadi*, and her home, under attack by her own offspring, is where their hearts lie.

It begins well enough, even if the like-

## Till Melodrama Do Us Part



able Sharma looks much too old to be a potential life-partner of Khateeb's character: hard to swallow that they were in college together, and are circling back to each other nearly a decade later; easier to believe that she isn't too happy with the match, having set her eyes on a career and a life abroad.

But there's barely any one-on-one romantic track between Sharma and Khateeb, with the film leaning heavily into its conservative *parivarik* bones: their reluctant pair is forgotten in the main act — *daadi* and her *shaadi*, with R Sarathkumar, spiffily and gamely, doing what is needed.

### DAADI KI SHAADI

★★★★

DIRECTOR: Ashish R Mohan

CAST: Neetu Kapoor, Kapil Sharma, R Sarathkumar, Sadia Khateeb, Tejaswini Kolhapure, Riddhima Kapoor, Yograj Singh, Jitender Hooda, Deepak Dutta, Aditi Mittal, Nikhat Khan

Neetu, wearing lovely kani jackets and looking like a treat in her stylish salt-and-pepper balayage, stays consistently watchable, and that's no surprise.

If only the rest of it had stayed on course, this would have been a perfect summer holiday family entertainer. But after a light-hearted first half, in which the flaws are not so glaring, it turns into a creaky melodrama, with lectures on old-age and loneliness and filial responsibilities. Sigh.

And just why can't grandmas get married? We're still controlling women whichever age they reach, because, duh, they be wimmen.



### Citadel Season 2

PRIME VIDEO

THE HIGH-STAKES spy thriller follows Mason Kane (Richard Madden), Nadia Sinh (Priyanka Chopra Jonas), and Bernard Orlick (Stanley Tucci), elite operatives of a fallen agency destroyed by the powerful syndicate, Manticore. As a new global threat emerges, they reunite to recruit a fresh team of operatives and take on a mission that could reshape humanity. The new season also sees the return of Lesley Manville and Ashleigh Cummings, alongside new additions including Jack Reynor, Matt Berry, Lina El Arabi.



### Little Amélie or the Character of Rain

LIONSGATE PLAY

AMÉLIE IS a little Belgian girl born in Japan. Thanks to her friend Nishio-San, the world is full of adventures and discoveries. But on the day of her third birthday, an event changes the course of her life. Because for Amélie everything is at stake at her age, happiness as well as tragedy. Adapted from the novel *The Character of Rain* by Amélie Nothomb, the animated feature is directed by Maïlys Vallade and Liane-Cho Han. ALAKA SAHANI

## More Swagger, Little Substance

Shubhra Gupta

UDTA PUNJAB? Or *viksit Punjab*? The question, the answer to which is a no-brainer, runs through a thread in this eight-part series which is a frustrating mix of the good and the indifferent: when it sticks to its own voice and it has one, it flies; when it goes all Bollywood, it slides.

I watched the opening of *Lukhhe* with my heart in my mouth, as I promise you, you will too. You know the outcome of the mad race in the night on empty Chandigarh roads between a pill-popping Lucky (Lakshvir Singh Saran) with his bestie beside him, and a car full of aggressive *mundas* and you want to scream, slow down, be careful. It's one of the most kinetic starts I've seen recently.

People high on substance rarely know when to stop, and it's only when something drastic happens that a corrective is forced upon them: Lucky and his 'recovery buddy'

LUKKHE

★★★★

DIRECTOR: Himank Gaur

CAST: Lakshvir Saran, King, Palak Tiwari, Raashii Khanna, Shivankit Singh Parihar, Akarsh Khurana, Gitikka Ganju, Nakul Roshan Sahdev, Kritika Bharadwaj, Yograj Singh, Ayesha Raza, Pitobash

STREAMING ON: Prime Video

Sanobar (Palak Tiwari) at a de-addiction centre quickly form an alliance which comes off natural and fresh, even if it feels too sudden. This bond between the two, getting knocked and shaped by their specific domestic circumstances, forms the strongest thing about the show, which, after the second episode, starts feeling familiar: good cops (Raashii Khanna as Gurbani) with sad backstories, drugs cooked up in hidden nooks (named, aptly, Demon), rival rappers (King



as MC Badnaam and Shivankit Singh Parihar as the slit-eyed, much tattooed OG) and gun-toting mobsters (Ayesha Raza).

But what keeps the series afloat, despite its predictable bits, are the performances and the vivid cinematography, even if you can tell what's going to happen next. Lakshvir Saran, so good in *Meel Patthar* and *Paatal Lok*, drives the show with his vulnerability and strength. Khanna is saddled with a role which is a near-trope, despite the add-ons the script hands out to her but she stays effective. As do King in his acting

debut, and his homies, Paddy (Kritika Bharadwaj) and Jazzy (Nakul Roshan Sahdev): like the other supporting actors, these two are given a chance to show their stuff and this too adds to the show. What takes it away is the addition of contract killers (Pitobash) forced into being funny men, constantly-chomping corrupt cops (Akarsh Khurana), foul-mouthed daddies and their scared sons, who both like to declare, I am the man. Yes, the show also takes a shot at talking about masculinity and same sex love, but they become just one more el-

ement, especially the latter, which seems to have been included almost as an afterthought. The show does zero favours to the terrific Ayesha Raza, miscast as the fearsome female Escobar: Dimple Kapadia got there first in the 2023 *Saas Bahu aur Flamingo*, with greater efficacy.

And, for a show about rappers, it doesn't leave you with memorable tracks. Plus, just where in neat, geometrically laid out Chandigarh is the painted house in which Badnaam lives? I never could shake off the feeling that it was a set.

# The Big Picture

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

17

91%

of the 508-km project is elevated. Of the rest, underground tunnel:

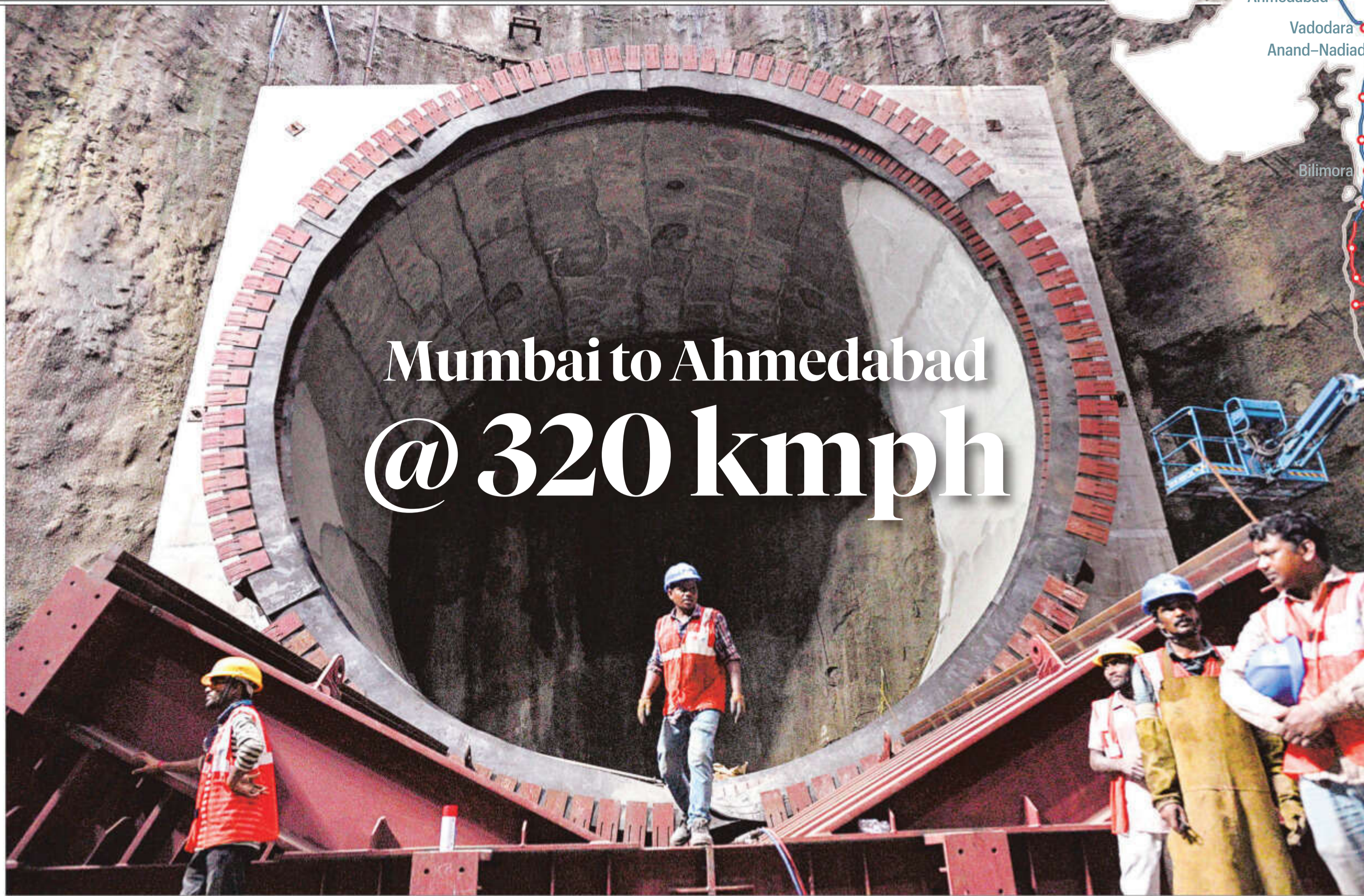
21 km

(including a 7-km undersea tunnel beneath the Thane creek)

8 Mountain tunnels

28 Steel bridges

25 River bridges



## Mumbai to Ahmedabad @ 320 kmph

### Bullet lines

Apart from Mumbai-Ahmedabad, the government has announced seven other high-speed networks

- Mumbai-Pune
- Pune-Hyderabad
- Hyderabad-Bengaluru
- Hyderabad-Chennai
- Chennai-Bengaluru
- Delhi-Varanasi
- Varanasi-Siliguri

Viaducts that fly over high-rises, 53 steel and river bridges, a 7-km undersea tunnel, and machines that can move mountains. DHEERAJ MISHRA and photographer SANKHADEEP BANERJEE travelled along the 508-km bullet train route, from Ahmedabad to Mumbai, to map the scale of one of India's biggest infrastructure projects

**S**TANDING 23 metres above the ground, Anantha Guru, the site inspector at an under-construction viaduct of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor in Vakana village near Surat, discusses a "mystery" with a group of engineers. The material that lies sandwiched between the track slabs that hold the rails and the track bed has a "secret ingredient" that allows trains to run at blinding speeds of 320 km per hour. Only the Japanese know what it is, they say.

Guru walks towards the Cement Asphalt Mortar (CAM) injection car, a machine brought from Japan that's being used for the first time on Indian soil. Its task is precise. Before the rails can be laid on the track slab, it creates a 40-100 mm cushioning layer of mortar that absorbs the vibrations generated when trains run at such high speeds.

"With this machine, we inject CAM, a mixture of nine ingredients such as cement, asphalt, polymer emulsion, sand, water, and other materials. Three of the ingredients in CAM — cement, sand and water — are available in India; the rest comes from Japan," Guru explains. That's the missing link. "They (Japanese) mix something into the asphalt emulsion. They have not told us what it is," says another engineer, adding that researchers at IIT Kharagpur are now studying the material to decode it.

Almost a decade after Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the bullet train project in September 2017, the country's high-speed dreams are finally taking shape in the form of the 508-km Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor.

The government hopes to build seven other lines, spanning 4,000 km, at a cost of Rs 16 lakh crore.

The Rs 1.98-lakh-crore Mumbai-Ahmedabad line has Japan as its primary partner. As part of the initial deal signed in 2017, Japan was to supply its famed Shinkansen. However, amid growing "uncertainties", sources said, India has already started building its own bullet trains at a BEML plant in Bengaluru.

After multiple delays, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail corridor is expected to be operational by 2029. The first of the stretches, the 48 km from Surat to Bilimora, is scheduled to be completed by August 2027.

### Over the Sabarmati

Overlooking the quiet flow of the Sabarmati is a 480-metre-long viaduct (bridges on which elevated railway lines or roads run). Over 90%, or 465.38 km, of the high-speed network's 508-km-long tracks will run on viaducts such as these, at heights of over 20 metres from the ground, making a journey in the bullet train a ride through the skies.

A senior officer of the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), the government organisation responsible for building and managing the high-speed rail corridors, said that unlike in European countries, the bullet train's tracks had to be elevated for safety reasons. "We could not have run the bullet train on the surface. People and animals cross the railway line. Even on the railway's broad gauge lines,

where trains can go up to 160 kmph, barricades are installed on either side of the tracks. Here, in the case of the bullet train, we are talking of speeds of 300 kmph and upwards," the officer said.

The under-construction viaduct at Sabarmati river, which leads to one of the terminal points of the railway line, overlooks three other bridges. The closest is an old railway bridge, its tightly spaced piers (the columns or pillars that support a viaduct) reminiscent of an earlier era of rail construction.

Vijay Behera, Deputy Chief Project Manager at the site, said that before the seven piers of the viaduct were built, engineers had to build piles (deep foundations to support heavy bridge loads) underwater. "For every pier, we have to cast 16 piles under the Sabarmati. This is one of the most difficult projects I have ever worked on. The bullet train itself will be light, but since it will have to travel at such high speeds, other dynamic forces such as air resistance, vibrations, and centrifugal forces will come into play. So the bridge has to be really strong," he says.

A few kilometers from the Sabarmati viaduct is a steel bridge being built over a road bridge. The structure, 80 metres long, is one of 28 steel bridges planned along the corridor. The bridge has seismic stoppers installed at its piers to help it withstand earthquakes. More than 36,000 bolts hold the structure together.

While Japan moved directly from metre gauge (a narrow gauge in Japanese standard) to high-speed networks, India took the longer route, moving from narrow and metre gauge to broad gauge (maximum speeds of 160 kmph) that now form over 97% of the rail network. The next step, high-speed, took

years to take off.

### Inside a Surat slab factory

At a 14-acre factory in Kim, Surat, Arjun Yadav, a site worker from Uttar Pradesh, fixes his digital depth caliper to one side of a 4.5-tonne track slab to measure its thickness. The track slab is the bed on which the high-speed rails will rest. The machine reads 191 mm. Perfect, so he marks "OK" on its surface. Even a minor variation would have made it redundant. The factory was set up in September 2023 to manufacture track slabs, one of two such facilities in Gujarat, for the Vapi-Vadodara stretch of the bullet train. At peak capacity, the facility can cast 120 track slabs a day. The Vapi-Vadodara stretch will need 96,000 track slabs, of which the Kim factory has supplied 36,000 so far.

Sanchit Garg, overall in-charge and joint general manager of IRCON, said 16 engineers had arrived from Japan to train engineers at the Kim facility.

It's a partnership that's evident at the HSR Depot in Surat-Niyol, nearly 30 km away. The depot is where the high-speed coaches will come for routine inspections once the project takes off.

Two engineers from Japan, Hokutu and Nake Mura, are at the facility to train Indian engineers to operate a wheel lathe machine.

Hokutu, who has previously worked on Joetsu Shinkansen, explains that the bullet train's steel wheels wear out from repeated



(Top) At Vikhroli in Mumbai, one of the many tunnels through which the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed line will pass; work on at the Ahmedabad station of the bullet train

508 km 1.98 lakh cr

Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor Estimated cost

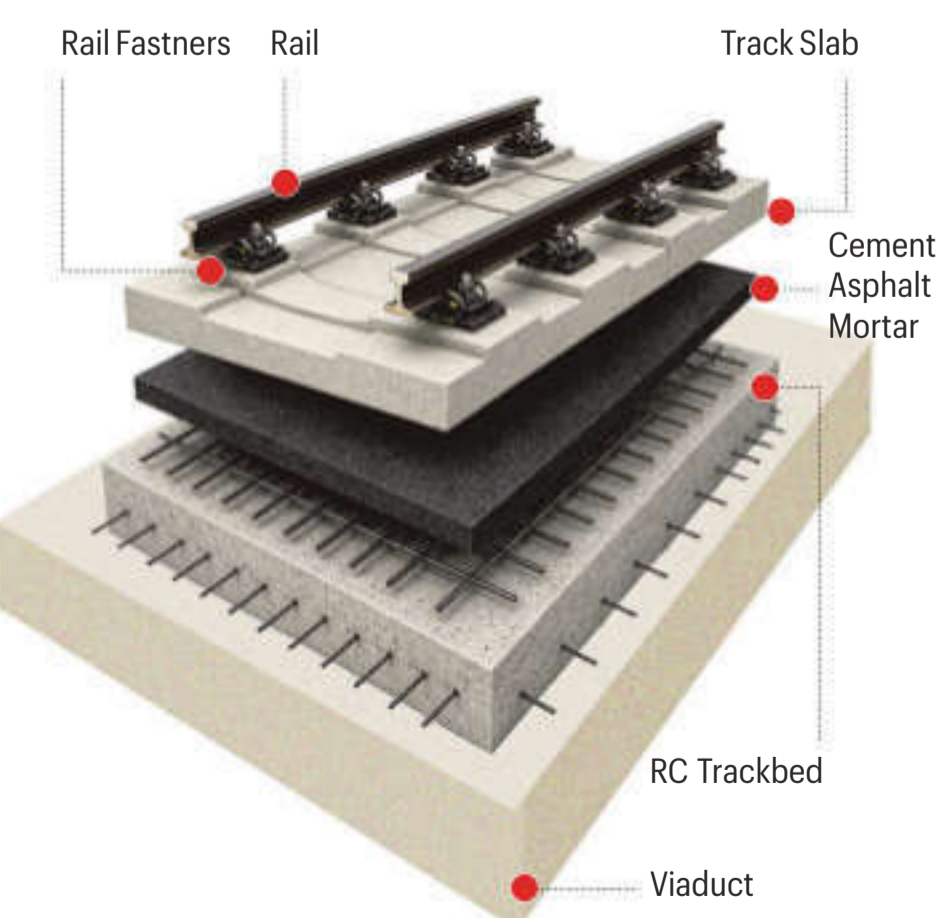
Mumbai to Ahmedabad: Travel time

| BULLET TRAIN      | VANDE BHARAT      | BY FLIGHT         | BY ROAD |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| 1 hour 58 minutes | 5 hour 40 minutes | 1 hour 30 minutes | 9 hours |

### SPECIAL TRACKS

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor adopts the Japanese "J-slab" ballastless track system. It does not use loose stones (ballast) like traditional railway tracks. Instead, the rails are fixed on a solid concrete structure (slab), similar to what Japan's Shinkansen uses

A typical J-slab track has four key layers/components:



### Length of high-speed networks (in km)

|         |        |
|---------|--------|
| China   | 50,000 |
| Spain   | 3,993  |
| Japan   | 3,147  |
| France  | 2,760  |
| Germany | 1,631  |
| India*  | 508*   |

(SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYS)

contact with the tracks at high speeds. The wheel lathe machine restores the wheel's shape by shaving off a very thin outer layer of metal, a process called reprofiling. "A new wheel starts with a diameter of 860 mm. Every reprofiling makes it smaller, but once it reaches 790 mm, the wheel can no longer be used," he says.

"The machine was originally designed by the Germans, then the Japanese learned from them. Now we are passing the knowledge on to India," he says.

In the making of the bullet train are technological advances of the kind India has rarely witnessed before. Over a century after the British laid railway lines, using hard labour to lay thousands of kilometres of tracks, these high-speed lines are being put together by machines that tower over the landscape.

### Enter Maharashtra

As the project enters Maharashtra, the landscape changes. In Basantwadi village, an Adivasi belt in Palghar district, the high-speed line cuts through the foothills of the Sahyadris. Tunnels replace viaducts and engineering becomes more complex.

Around 26.22 km (5.16%) of the 508-km high-speed line runs through tunnels. Of this, 21 km is in Mumbai and includes India's first 7-km undersea tunnel that runs beneath the Thane creek.

Engineers of L&T working at Tunnel No. 6, a 380-metre-long mountain tunnel at Basantwadi, say the geological composition of the area — young basalt rock, mixed with layers of soil — makes excavation difficult and unpredictable. Work on the tunnel started in January 2025 and breakthrough was achieved in 350 days.

"The maximum overburden — the thickness of rock above the tunnel — is just 20 metres. For nearly 250 metres of the stretch, it drops to less than 14 metres, making the excavation very difficult. For the first time, we have an automatic, real-time monitoring system that tells us in advance if there is any possibility of tunnel collapse," he says.

Deen Dayal Mathuria, project director of L&T at the site, said the tunnel, with a horse-

shoe-shaped opening, will have a hood at the entrance. "At high speeds, a train entering a tunnel creates a powerful pressure wave and generates a loud, explosive sound. The entrance hood helps release this pressure gradually and reduce the noise," he says.

Nearly 20 km from the tunnel, in Gowana village, Palghar district, a massive launching gantry is at work, picking 980-tonne girders, each 40 metres long, and placing them into position. One after another, these segments come together to form the viaduct or bridge, the spine on which the train will run.

At the centre of this operation is the girder transporter — a 400-tonne, 216-wheel carrier. It moves slowly, much like the Hunter-Killer machines in the Terminator, but with far gentler intent, as it carries girders from the casting yard, 2 km away, and shifts them to the launching gantry. The launching of a single girder takes about an hour.

From his house in Gowana, a village of around 6,000, Sachin Pardi can see the blue launching gantry. "Mar jaayenge, lekin kabhi iss train mein nahi baith paayenge (We will die, but may never get to ride this train). I have to be born again to sit in the train," smiles Pardi, a paddy farmer.

Work on the viaduct continues through the night. With it, the hum of machinery and a siren that goes out loud intermittently before every new activity. "There is a lot of noise. It is very difficult for us to sleep," he says.

**Work on the viaduct continues through the night. With it, the hum of machinery and a siren that goes out intermittently**

### 21-km tunnel in Mumbai

At Shilphata in Mumbai, the tunnel passes beneath critical urban infrastructure — two major water pipelines and a 610-mm gas pipeline.

The tunnel cuts through the Parsik hills. In some sections, the thickness of the rocks above the tunnel was 160 metres, but elsewhere, it would drop to as little as 20 metres. At one particularly sensitive point, officials said, only 4 metres separated the tunnel from the pipelines above.

"An error in excavating the tunnel could have damaged these pipelines. Here, the excavation had to be carried out manually," says Krishan Singh, Deputy Chief Project Manager at the site.

"For this 21-km tunnel, we mapped over 600 buildings overground to document existing cracks. Before carrying out the blasting, instruments such as crackmeters, tiltmeters, and seismometers were installed across nearly 50 buildings. At most, there was a slight vibration during the blasting process, like what you feel standing on a bridge," said a senior NHSRCL engineer.

The project ends at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), the only underground station of the project. The worksite is a gigantic cavern, like a part of the earth has been gouged out. Outside, the multi-storeyed buildings of the business district seem diminished, resembling a child's LEGO set.

At Mumbai, India's railway story comes full circle. It was in Mumbai that the country's first passenger train ran between Bori Bunder (present-day Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus) and Tannah (now Thane) in 1853. The city will now host the terminus of India's first high-speed train.

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ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS

## 'Anti-incumbency alone is a lazy way to view polls'

In India, anti-incumbency is often used as a catch-all term to explain a poll result. But the phenomenon, in itself, doesn't lead to electoral loss



EXPERT EXPLAINS

RAHUL VERMA

POLITICAL SCIENTIST AND FELLOW AT CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH, NEW DELHI



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma celebrates NDA's third straight poll victory in Assam. PTI

### Why do some states see the same parties govern for successive terms, while others witness the opposite?

The tendency to re-elect varies state by state, and I think it depends on a large set of factors — demography (meaning the social coalitions), political history (whether it's a two- or multi-party system) and how each of these interacts to produce an outcome.

However, there is no one framework or explanation for why voters in a state behave the way they do. An election is a macro event, and there are too many factors that might be shaping it. In the case of Gujarat, the BJP has been in power for 25 years, but in the neighbouring Rajasthan, every election in the same period saw power change hands.

Sometimes, election results may reflect accumulated anti-incumbency sentiment, which can be peculiar to a state. In the TMC's case, it was in power for 15 years and before that, West Bengal saw 34 years of Left rule before it was electorally diminished.

When it comes to the recent election results, I believe they show anti-incumbency is not just against the government but also against parties. In both the TMC and DMK's cases, we see a common thread of dynastic politics in terms of their young leaders. Similarly, the NDA's third straight win in Assam is not only about governance, but also a function of the Congress weakening, as well as the recent delimitation of constituencies.

In some countries, incumbency is considered advantageous. Many Western democracies see high rates of re-election.

In India, data has shown incumbency to be disadvantageous.

STATE AND national elections in India are followed by frenetic political analyses aimed at making sense of the verdicts. An oft-cited reason for electoral loss is a feeling of "anti-incumbency", or the tendency among the people to vote out the ruling party.

What exactly do analysts mean when they attribute a loss to anti-incumbency, and is holding power always a reliable indicator of losing it? If so, why? **Rahul Verma**, a political scientist and Fellow at New Delhi-based think tank Centre for Policy Research, spoke to **Rishika Singh** about the idea.

### Why is anti-incumbency often suggested as a reason for an electoral loss? Is there a counterargument?

The term gets thrown around without a proper explanation of why there was a sense of anti-incumbency among voters. In some ways, this has been a lazy explanation for when governments are removed from power. Unless the reasons for anti-incumbency are provided, as well as the scale of the phenomenon, we can't clearly know its role.

For example, anti-incumbency could be due to the leadership being unavailable to the people or party workers, or the leaders not being charismatic enough. Anti-incumbency may also arise because of policy failures. Sometimes, anti-incumbency sentiments could be about what a party and its MLAs were doing on the ground. In that case, it would mean that the anti-incumbency wasn't against the leadership or policy, but against local leaders or cadres being more extractive and not helping the people.

So, citing "anti-incumbency" without analysing its drivers is not the best way to understand why a ruling party lost power.

### Does incumbency always imply a potentially poor poll performance?

In some countries, incumbency is ac-

tually considered advantageous. Scholars have shown that acquiring power results in high chances of getting re-elected. Many Western European democracies and Congress members in the US see high rates of re-election, perhaps thanks to name recognition, access to resources and other factors.

In the Indian case, incumbency has been understood as disadvantageous, according to the data. It means that once a politician gets elected, the chances of re-election are almost a coin toss — there is only a 50/50 probability of getting re-elected. The reason, perhaps, is that a large number of Indians depend on the state or government for their well-being, which is not the case in Western countries, where markets have a greater say in people's lives.

One argument is that every additional day in power increases the chances of more people becoming dissatisfied with the ruling party's performance. This is known as the idea of "cost of ruling". So voters will turn away if they find that the party in power does not further their interests.

India also has a much more diverse and heterogeneous society. Any party that forms a social coalition to come to power likely faces the difficult task of retaining its support. Many groups may make several demands of the state, and it becomes difficult for the party in power to fulfil them, presenting a disadvantage going into elections.

ECONOMICS

## The war in West Asia has hit the poor more than the rich



GRAPHS, DATA, PERSPECTIVES BY UDIT MISRA

WEEKLY ECONOMIC AND POLICY INSIGHTS USING DATA

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York recently analysed the way US consumers spent on fuel as pump prices started increasing.

They found the following: "In March, high-income households increased nominal spending the most and kept real consumption essentially unchanged, while low-income households decreased real consumption of gasoline but still saw sharply increased nominal spending because of the rise in gas prices."

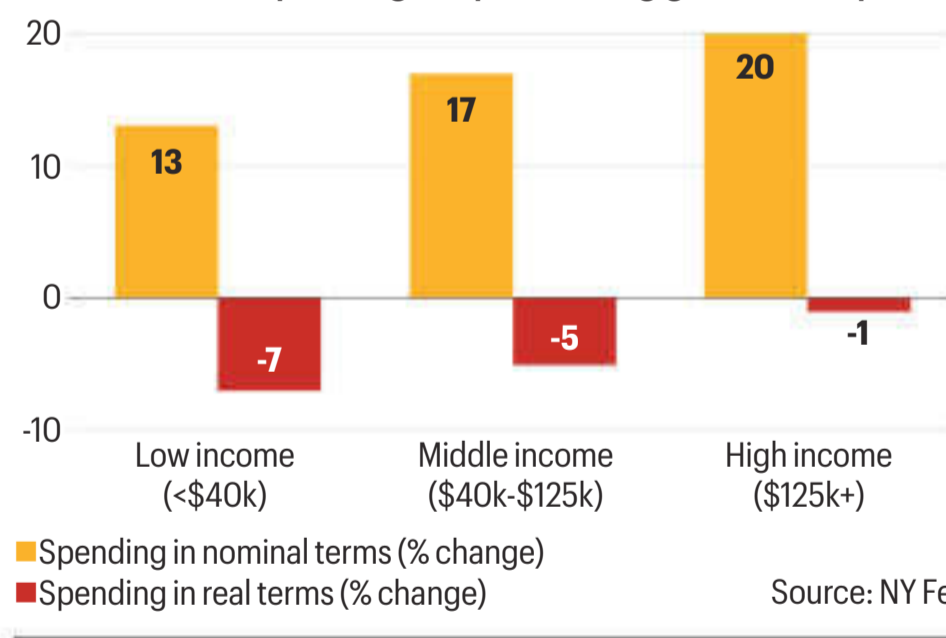
The chart alongside shows what happened to consumer consumption in March, compared to February. The poorest — US consumers earning less than \$40,000 a year — spent 13.33% more on fuel prices but this "nominal" increase in spending does not capture the "real" decline of almost 7% in spending. In other words, while the poorest spent 13% more money to buy fuel, they ended up buying 7% less actual fuel.

The middle-income earners — those earning between \$40,000 to \$125,000 a year — spent 17% more on fuel but managed to buy 5% less actual fuel.

The richest consumers managed to increase their spending by over 20% and thus ensured that their actual consumption of fuel barely changed.

### Return of the 'K-shaped' economy

High-income US households increased spending in March (from Feb) while maintaining consumption. Low-income ones saw more spending despite cutting gas consumption.



### Why this research matters

These research results are based on a sample of 2,00,000 consumers over just one month but still they reveal something familiar. "These divergences in the response to an energy price shock are not unique to the month. Four years ago, energy

prices rose and remained elevated during the spring and summer of 2022 when the Russia-Ukraine war disrupted energy markets. The magnitude of the initial Russia-Ukraine gasoline price shock was broadly similar to the current one, but it lasted longer to date and ramped up over time," say the authors, led by Rajashri Chakrabarti.

The broader point is: As oil prices stay elevated, the poor will struggle to consume the same amount even after spending more while the rich will spend more to maintain the same level of real consumption.

Only looking at nominal spending patterns hides the deepening economic divide that happens during such crises.

This economic divide was best captured by the following quote (often attributed to poet Damian Barr) that became popular during the Covid-induced economic recession in 2020: "We are all in the same storm but not in the same boat."

Richer consumers in any country (and by the same logic, richer countries, say, Japan or South Korea) will be able to spend more in order to take a smaller hit on their actual consumption while the poor (and poorer countries such as Bangladesh or India) may end up being forced to consume less even if they spend more.

LEGAL

## Why 2023 law to appoint CEC came about, the legal challenge it faces

Amaal Sheikh  
New Delhi, May 8

THE SUPREME COURT on Thursday described Parliament's decades-long delay in enacting a law for appointments to the Election Commission, until it was directed to do so in 2023, as "tyranny of the elected".

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma was hearing challenges to the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.

This law — introduced to address the legislative gap — came under legal challenge in 2024 as it removed the Chief Justice of India (CJI) from the selection panel for Election Commissioners, replacing the CJI with a Union Cabinet minister appointed by the Prime Minister.

In fact, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi met in February 2025 to appoint current CEC Gyanesh Kumar, Gandhi gave a dissent note, asking the government to defer appointments until the SC decided on the petitions challenging the new appointment process.

### How were Election Commissioners appointed?

Article 324(2) of the Constitution states that Election Commissioners should be appointed in a manner "subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament." While the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991, regulated salaries, tenure and the panel's functioning, it did not cover appointments.

In the absence of such a law, appointments remained under the executive's domain. The Union Law Ministry would prepare a panel, suggesting names to the PM, whose recommendation would go to the President. Over time, ECs were almost always drawn from the bureaucracy, and the senior-most EC would usually become the CEC.

In 2022, petitioners argued before the Supreme Court (*Anoop Baranwal vs Union of India*) that this left appointments in the hands of the government, compromising the independence of the body tasked with conducting polls.

### What changed with the SC's Anoop Baranwal ruling?

In its March 2023 ruling in *Anoop Baranwal*, the top court laid down an interim process for appointing Election Commissioners until Parliament enacted a law.

It said the President will make poll panel appointments on the advice of a three-member panel comprising the Prime Minister, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (or leader of largest Opposition party), and the Chief Justice of India.

The decision was rooted in the need to ensure that elections are conducted fairly, with an independent body to insulate the democratic process from the executive. The court made a "fervent appeal" to Parliament to strengthen the Election Commission institutionally and financially.

### What did the 2023 law on EC appointments say?

After the *Anoop Baranwal* judgment, Parliament enacted the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act in 2023. The new law replaced the CJI with a Union Cabinet minister nominated by the PM. This gave the executive representation in all three seats of the selection panel, with government ministers in two of the three seats.

Further, the Act ensures that an appointment "shall not be invalid merely by reason of any vacancy in or any defect in the constitution of the Selection Committee."

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| Noida      | 19 मई   दोपहर 3:00 बजे | 22 May   6:00 PM  |
| Indore     | 20 मई   शाम 5:30 बजे   | 18 May   8:00 AM  |
| Lucknow    | 29 मई   सुबह 8:00 बजे  | 25 May   8:00 AM  |
| Prayagraj  | 14 मई   सुबह 11:15 बजे | 1 June   5:30 PM  |
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| Patna      | एडमिशन आरंभ            | Admissions Open   |
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TAGORE'S 165TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

## How the charkha came to embody Gandhi and Tagore's deepest disagreements

Nikita Mohta  
New Delhi, May 8

IN SEPTEMBER 1921, during Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Calcutta, Rabindranath Tagore told him: "Poems I can spin, Gandhiji, songs and plays I can spin, but of your precious cotton what a mess I would make!"

Gandhi and Tagore shared an enduring friendship that lasted from 1914-15 till the latter's death in 1941. But they also shared profound disagreements about political, social and economic matters.

And perhaps no object symbolised their deepest philosophical differences more than the charkha. Tagore recoiled from Gandhi's insistence that every true Indian must spin, while Gandhi remained unwavering in his belief that spinning carried deep moral and symbolic significance. On Tagore's 165th birth anniversary Friday, we revisit the Gandhi-Tagore debates on the spinning wheel.

two persons could probably differ so much as Gandhi and Tagore." The conflict between them, despite a deep friendship rooted in mutual respect, was probably inevitable.

The first signs appeared in 1915, when Gandhi visited Shantiniketan after returning from South Africa. They disagreed on a range of topics — from nationalism to education and politics.

The gap grew after the Amritsar Massacre, when Gandhi initiated movements such as Non-Cooperation. Tagore worried these movements would lead to blind nationalism. Instead, he renounced his knighthood in protest.

By mid-1921, their disagreements were being openly expressed through speeches, essays and letters.

"They had differences on fundamental philosophical questions, which led to disputation about many political, social, and economic matters," wrote historian Sabyasachi Bhattacharya in his 1997 book *The Mahatma and The Poet: Letters and Debates between Gandhi and Tagore 1915-1941*.



Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi in 1940. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

### The 'cult' of the charkha

In November 1924, Gandhi and other Congress leaders resolved that all Congress members must wear khadi while attending

political or Congress functions, and contribute 2,000 yards of evenly spun yarn every month. Gandhi believed this would not only make India self-reliant in clothing,

but also morally transform Congress workers themselves.

Tagore disagreed sharply. He dismissed the directive as "censure in printer's ink" and responded with the essay *The Cult of the Charkha in The Modern Review*.

The enthusiasm surrounding the charkha, he argued, reflected Indians' tendency to submit to the dictates of revered figures, especially when those dictates appeared to offer shortcuts to difficult national goals. As Gangeya Mukherji notes in *Gandhi and Tagore: Politics, Truth and Conscience (2016)*, Tagore feared that the natural diversity of human temperament and choice was being "kneaded... into a lump of uniformity".

Tagore also believed the original purpose of the charkha — enabling the poor to meet a basic need for clothing — was being undermined as spinning turned into ritual.

Tagore also rejected the idea that India could isolate itself from the modern world. Withdrawal from science and technology, he believed, would impoverish the country.

Gandhi answered these criticisms in *The Poet and the Charkha* in November 1925. "The fact is that the Poet's criticism is a poetic licence and he who takes it literally is in danger of finding himself in an awkward corner." He also accused Tagore of inhabiting an ivory tower: "If the Poet span half an hour daily, his poetry would gain in richness. For it would then represent the poor man's wants and woes in a more forcible manner than now." For Gandhi, the charkha cultivated dignity in physical work, encouraged cooperation, and carried economic and ethical significance.

### Uneasy dissent

Tagore was not opposed to the charkha as a means of meeting a basic human need. What troubled him was the excessive importance it had acquired in Gandhi's political and moral programme. Yet, Tagore approached this disagreement with reluctance. He acknowledged: "It is extremely distasteful to me to have to differ from Mahatma Gandhi... my heart shrinks from it."

## Skipper Shanto's century puts Bangladesh in a strong position



Najmul Shanto celebrates after scoring his century. X/BCB

Associated Press  
Dhaka, May 8

CAPTAIN NAJMUL Hossain Shanto's century put Bangladesh in a strong position on the opening day of the first cricket Test against Pakistan on Friday. Shanto made 101 off 130 balls, including 12 fours and two sixes, to steer Bangladesh to 301-4 at stumps.

Mominul Haque missed out his ton after being dismissed on 91. Shanto and Mominul combined for a 170-run partnership for the third wicket to steady the innings after Bangladesh had slumped to 31-2 in 10.1 overs.

Pakistan captain Shan Masood won the toss and sent Bangladesh into bat first, a decision his pacers justified with disciplined bowling.

Opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy survived an early chance on 6 but could not make it count, edging behind off Shaheen Shah Afridi for 8.

Fellow opener Shadman Islam also struggled against the movement before edging to first slip for 13.

Shanto and Mominul resisted with resolute batting to shift the momentum in Bangladesh's favor. Shanto reached his ninth century off 129 balls by driving Abbas through extra-cover for a boundary. The hundred was also his fourth in the last nine innings.

Abbas, however, struck back on the next delivery to finally end the dominant partnership.

Mominul found support in veteran Mushfiqur Rahim to further drive the side, keeping the Pakistan bowlers frustrated. But left-arm spinner Noman Ali's persistency paid off when he had Mominul leg-before with the batter nine runs away from his 14th century.

"It's my fourth 60-plus knock in a row that ended without a century. It might be a mental block, which I should fix," Mominul said. "Shanto has been superb and guided the innings astutely. I think it's the best knock of him ever I have seen." Mushfiqur, who was batting on 48, and Litton (4) took Bangladesh past 300 runs, capping off a successful day. The second test begins on May 16 in Sylhet in eastern Bangladesh.

**BRIEF SCORES: Bangladesh 301/4 in 85 overs (Najmul Hossain Shanto 101 not out, Mominul Haq 91; Mohamud Abbas 1/51) v Pakistan at Day 1 stumps**

## INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

# Delhi Capitulate at home as KKR's Allen produces big hits

### Kolkata's spinners choke DC before the Kiwi opener hits a 47-ball hundred to help team move up

**SYNOPSIS:** DC batters implode in a fifth successive home defeat as Finn Allen's century shows hosts the way at Kotla.

Lalith Kalidas  
New Delhi, May 8

THE MATHEMATICAL equations could be marginally alive. But the harsh bearings of the recent batting slump have staggered Delhi Capitals' season before their eyes, in their own backyard. The result was another breezy chase for the visitors. Worse, a marauding Finn Allen even tore their vaunted bowling attack to shreds with a 47-ball ton studded with 10 sixes.

#### Quiet choke

KL Rahul had batted out the full 20 overs the last time he was on this strip. He walked back unbeaten, on 152, the highest-ever score by an Indian in the league.

On Friday, Rahul hung back and waited for the loose lengths from the Kolkata Knight Riders spinners until the slowness began to jerk the bat in the powerplay. Hard hands, a stiff bottom grip and a forced slog proved his early undoing, slowly unravelling the now familiar script. Even as Pathum Nissanka implied positive timing, warping the bowlers with his pick-up pulls and flicks, the disintegration had quietly set in. Caught between gears, the top five receded within 11 overs for a third successive innings, underscoring a worrying pattern as each batter outdid the

#### •IPL table

| Teams | M  | W | L | PTS |
|-------|----|---|---|-----|
| SRH   | 11 | 7 | 4 | 14  |
| PBKS  | 10 | 6 | 3 | 13  |
| RCB   | 10 | 6 | 4 | 12  |
| RR    | 10 | 6 | 4 | 12  |
| GT    | 10 | 6 | 4 | 12  |
| CSK   | 10 | 5 | 5 | 10  |
| KKR   | 10 | 4 | 5 | 9   |
| DC    | 11 | 4 | 7 | 8   |
| MI    | 10 | 3 | 7 | 6   |
| LSG   | 10 | 3 | 7 | 6   |

M: MATCH; W: WIN; L: LOSS; PTS: POINTS.

other with erring cross-batted attempts.

As Sunil Narine ambled in to bowl out his fourth in the 15th over, Ashutosh Sharma remained wounded on the back foot. The stumps needed immense guarding, when braver teams in the upper half of the standings have played with utmost abandon.

At 98 for five, inserted to bat first on a slow pitch, the last recognised batting pair without squandering a batting Impact Sub was in dogged survival mode. Nine runs had trickled in in the previous four overs.

The whiff of another full-blown collapse had blanketed the Kotla grounds. Ashutosh's partner, his skipper Axar Patel, was reeling in his own crisis within a crisis in repeat mode. After six failures, the left-hander was now scrounging for a release, the first free-flowing knock of the season. Batting on six off 16 deliveries, a revival seemed a stretch in this form and temper.



Finn Allen scored 100 runs off 47 balls to decimate the target of 143 runs. PRAVEEN KHANNA

Ashutosh hung in, dabbed out deliveries from the depth of the crease even as Narine scuttled one in sharply onto his back pad. The attritional playbook was anything but the flavour of a freakishly high-scoring season. On the devious Delhi surface that had played out in stark contrast to their wishes, DC had little alternative but to bat out time and the tricky overs.

An opening came in the form of a limping Varun Chakravarthy in the 16th over. Struggling to see through the six deliveries, Chakaravarthy sprayed balls into the slot to Ashutosh's liking. Three hard smites to the fence had restored confidence, but Delhi still needed unrelenting striking from both ends. Axar had to connect. He had played out 20 deliveries, his longest knock of the year.

He had to heave a dug-in short ball now in the 18th over, but a fine grab at deep mid-

wicket had denied his first six of the season. A sixth single-digit dismissal in eight innings, the captain's distending struggles had translated to the entire Delhi scoresheet again. Even Ashutosh's innovative parries, an upper-cut and reverse-ramp for sixes at the death, could not hoist the hosts to a fighting finish, closing at 142 for eight.

#### Raining sixes

While several parts have fallen in place in their three recent wins, the opening pair was still nagging KKR, who had sifted through multiple pairs before settling back on Finn Allen and Rahane. The hard-hitting Kiwi still had to put in a significant score after six indifferent outings.

A comfortable chase in hand, Allen jogged to his first IPL half-century in 32 balls before unleashing an other-worldly assault.

The third-wicket stand with

Cameron Green was a schooling for the Delhi batters, a harder pounding on the poor lengths from their spinners. After scooping Mitchell Starc for a six to reach his fifty, Allen kicked on the belligerent mode that had lit up the Big Bash League and the T20 World Cup with centuries earlier this year.

A devastating century, a first in the IPL in only seven innings since debut, was sealed within the next 15 deliveries. Eight sixes sped off Allen's big blade in this sequence.

As Kuldeep Yadav and Vipraj Nigam fed a diet of short balls, Allen crammed them far back into the mid-wicket and long-off stands that suffered from another dismal Delhi capitulation.

**BRIEF SCORES: DC 142/8 in 20 overs (Nissanka 50, Ashutosh 39; Kartik 2/25, Anukul 2/31) lost to KKR 147/2 in 14.2 overs (Allen 100 not out, Green 33 not out) by 8 wks**

## Seam, speed, swing: LSG's three of a kind



Prince, Shami, and Mayank play different roles for LSG. CREIMAS

Sriram Veera  
Mumbai, May 8

THREE BOWLERS. One powerplay. The seam, the speed, the swing — each doing a different job, each doing it well. LSG may not be winning. The same can't be said about the pace pack.

Mohammed Shami took the new ball in RCB's chase. The ball angled in, straightened off the deck; Bethell swung across the line. Prince Yadav held the catch at deep backward point. In the second over, seam-up again, Patidar beaten outside off. "Jis din main bore ho jaaunga - us din main cricket chhod dunga," (I will quit the day I am bored).

Shami had said on Shubhankar Mishra's YouTube channel a few weeks before this game. "Records uthake dekhlijiye. IPL mein bhi Indian bowlers ke aaspaas ho koi — phir bhi log kehte hain main T20 ka bowler nahi hoon." (You can check the records - there may not be many Indian bowlers close to me, yet they say I am not a T20 bowler.) The ball still does what he asks it to. He has taken four wickets in the first over across IPL 2026, more than any other bowler.

#### Mayank's fire

Then Mayank Yadav came on in the third over. He is a different proposition - not the seam and the line, but the pace and the hop. He began at 150.1kph, skiddy on a length, cutting off the pitch, Padikkal cutting and missing due to lack of bounce. Then 145kph, short of length, Patidar trying to steer and beaten by the edge. 147.6kph full, clipped away.

When the ball didn't kick up as much as Mayank intended, Patidar was good enough to react - 137.2kph, banged short, pulling it into the square leg fence with one bounce. But when it did rise, Patidar was hopping, unsure where the ball was going, fending rather than punishing. That is what Mayank does - he makes the decision for you.

In his return spell in the ninth over, Patidar solved him - two sixes in consecutive balls, a 101-metre pull, then a swivel pull off 145.6kph that brought up his fifty. The ball hadn't risen. The over went for 18. Mayank knows this about himself. The bounce is his instrument. When the pitch takes it away, he has less to offer. He is learning.

Prince Yadav is learning something different. Umesh Yadav, watching from the commentary box, pointed to what had changed since last season. The action. Last year, Prince's hand was closing late, the ball concealed longer, the left hand staying low - it meant the ball moved in, but rarely out. This year, he has come closer to the stumps, the wrist coming through differently, and suddenly got outswinging. The same release point, the ball going in or going out. Batters cannot read which one is coming. Last season: six matches, three wickets. This season: seven matches, thirteen already.

Irfan Pathan, breaking it down on his YouTube channel, saw it happen in real time. A few days before this game, Prince had said he wanted to play the 50-over World Cup with Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma — that it was his dream. Days later, here was Kohli at the crease. "Virat Kohli ne jo pehli gend kheli — solid defence kiya tha. Unhe sirf achse se Prince ko khelna tha. He knew the talent of the bowler." (The first ball that Kohli played - he defended solidly. All he wanted was to play Prince well.)

Kohli watchfully defended the first ball. A slip was in. A close view of the ball says much. Just before release, the seam is tilted towards first slip, fingers cutting across it. The middle finger lifts last off the ball, that pressing lifting the seam back into Kohli. The ball didn't swing. It skidded. Off-stump uprooted. "Virat Kohli had set himself up for the outswinger. Hence, the bat was a touch outside, the head was outside, and hence there was the bat-pad gap," Irfan says. "The ball left the hand differently, and did something different after pitching. High-quality ball, one of the best of the season."

"I was talking to Virat bhaiya," Prince said afterwards, "and he only told me - as long as it's moving around off a length, stick to that length." The man he dismissed for a duck had given him the blueprint. Three wickets in the match. Shami had one. Between them, Mayank kept the pressure on even when the boundary count rose.

Six consecutive defeats hadn't dismantled this attack. If anything, they were only now finding their shape - the seam, the speed, the swing, each doing its job.

## Not carrying burden of defending champs: Patidar

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 8

ROYAL CHALLENGERS Bengaluru captain Rajat Patidar said his side is not carrying the burden of being the defending champions despite their nine-run defeat to Lucknow Super Giants in Lucknow on Thursday. "We're not playing as defending champions this season. We have an opportunity to become champions once again," Patidar said after the match.

"So we don't have any mindset that we have to defend. We have to play an attacking game, and with an attacking mindset, we have another opportunity to become champions again this year. So, as I think, defensive mindset or defensive frame of mind, we don't have, that we have to defend," Patidar said.

"What we did was in 2025, and this is a new season. So



Rajat Patidar led RCB is third on the points table. CREIMAS FOR BCCI

we're trying to be as present as possible for the team."

RCB fell short by nine runs while chasing in Lucknow despite staying in the hunt to track the score down. Patidar, however, felt the game was decided by fine margins.

"I'll start with Mitchell

Marsh. He did great batting on this wicket. The wicket was also a good batting track, and the way he started in the powerplay, I think he put pressure on us," he said.

"I think the way we bowled, the way we controlled the game, just like in the game, I felt like

we were two shots behind with just those runs. I think that was the match."

Patidar also praised Prince Yadav, who returned figures of 3/33 and played a key role in LSG's victory.

"We played a lot of domestic matches with Prince in Delhi. So I've been watching him since the start," Patidar said.

"He has a lot of variations, he has pace, the way he puts the line, he has swing with the new ball. So overall, he's a proper fast bowler. "Even today, he bowled really well, especially the slower balls that he tried. I think that was a game-changing spell from him." RCB next take on Mumbai Indians in Raipur.

#### Team on same page

With the win over RCB, Lucknow Super Giants ended their six-match losing streak in the IPL this season. Having lost

six matches on the trot after their win against the Kolkata Knight Riders last month, the Rishabh Pant-led side could not find winning ways.

Skipper Pant shared how the team was looking for the win and how Thursday's match was a close-to-perfect game for the team.

"Definitely, it was a good game for us for sure. For the whole team, the win means a lot for us. Because we have been trying a lot of things. Coming on the same page, it means a lot to us. Because we were looking for this. It has been a tough season but sometimes you have to go through the grind. We were trying to put up close to a perfect game, where batting and bowling come together. There has been some good luck and some bad luck, but I'm really happy to have a win here," Pant said in the post-match presentation.

## Gukesh vs Sindarov heats up in Poland

Mayank Chaudhary  
New Delhi, May 8

CHESS IS often seen as a sport of quiet calculation, where emotion is expected to take a back seat to cold logic. But there is always room for a posture and a few gestures carry as much weight as the fist pump. When world champion D Gukesh defeated his challenger Javokhir Sindarov in a rapid game at the Super Rapid and Blitz tournament in Poland, his celebration was far from subtle.

And for those watching closely, it spoke volumes. It was as if Gukesh was reminding who holds the crown.

That was Day 2. On Day 4, the Uzbek prodigy — the same one who has taken the chess world by storm with a World Cup triumph followed by a Candidates victory — struck back.

Sindarov had his revenge, defeating Gukesh in the blitz portion of the event to even the score right away.



D Gukesh lost to Javokhir Sindarov in the blitz game at the Super Rapid & Blitz tournament. LENNART OOTES/GCT

Gukesh. From nine rounds of blitz, he walked away with just four points through three wins, two draws, and four losses.

The start couldn't have gone much worse as he lost back-to-back games at the hands of Radoslaw Wojtaszek and Alireza Firouzja. He finally steadied himself with a draw against Vladimir Fedoseev before snatching his first victory of the day against Wesley So.

## •TALES OF CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI AND BAJIRAO PESHWA MOTIVATED HER

# Anvi, inspired by warriors, becomes youngest Candidates master

Mayank Chaudhary  
New Delhi, May 8

DEEPAK HINGE didn't tell his nine-year-old daughter Anvi that he was hoping for the impossible. When they boarded the flight to Alicante, Spain last month, he believed that the Women's Candidates Masters (WCM) title for Anvi was still a few flights away. Maybe a few months, or even a few years. The shared dream of making her the youngest WCM player felt just that: a dream.

At the time, Anvi's Elo rating was hovering around the early 1600s, nearly 200 points below the threshold required for the WCM title. Deepak's judgment was based on realism. He was already proud of the progress his young daughter had made in her still-budding chess career and the trip to Spain's southeastern port city felt just like another tournament for them.

But over the next nine days, Anvi turned uncertainty into triumph. Punching above her weight and her age, she played

some of her best chess, recording six wins and amassing 6.5 points from nine rounds. That performance earned her a staggering 175 rating points, enough to breach the 1800 ceiling.

The Indian finished joint-fourth, the highest-rated Indian at the event, and champion in the women's category. She had accomplished what no girl her age had done before, to become the world's youngest WCM. Then she became the world number one in the FIDE Under-9 girls' category. And right now, she is the only WCM title-holder in her age category. All of this, before her age gets into double figures.

#### Impressive resume

Anvi's resume already looks impressive. A former girls' state champion in the Under-7 category and a bronze medalist at the National Championships, the girl from Pimpri-Chinchwad, near Pune, has accumulated numerous accolades on the world stage.

She won silver in the Under-8 category at the 2025 FIDE



9-year-old Anvi Hinge won the WCM title in Spain. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

World Cadet & Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships in Greece. She was also a runner-up in the same category at the 2025 Commonwealth Championship in Malaysia.

But her breakthrough came in Tajikistan, where she won two gold and four silver medals at the 2025 Western Asian Youth Chess Championships, helping India secure a total of 31 medals.

Praveen Thipsay and Siddhant Gaikwad, a FIDE Master from Pune.

Deepak says Chola Chess Academy has helped Anvi grow from strength to strength. A brainchild of Dronacharya Awardee RB Ramesh, it provides free in-person and virtual coaching and mentorship to some of the brightest chess talents in India. They have also helped her bag another scholarship through which she gets coached by top trainers four times a week. Those include grandmasters such as Kidambi Sundararajan, Debashis Das and Thej Kumar MS.

For Anvi, a short trip from Pune to Mumbai changed her life. Deepak says when they received an invitation to watch a round of the Global Chess League and meet all the players, something shifted within Anvi.

"She got really inspired looking at all these players, as they are so humble and so approachable, and the way they were treating others. Especially (D) Gukesh. He is really nice. We

have met him a couple of times, and the way he treats the kids is very empathetic," Deepak told The Indian Express.

"After looking at all the players, the likes of Gukesh and Viswanathan Anand sir, the whole atmosphere hit her. From that, she got inspiration. Since then, she talks about how she also wants to become like them."

While Deepak describes himself and his wife merely as facilitators of their daughter's needs as long as her interest in the game lasts, his role is far more significant in Anvi's progress. He reads 15 to 20 pages of a book to Anvi every night without fail as part of their bedtime routine. The stories often come from the lives of luminaries like Chhatrapati Shivaji, Bajirao Peshwa and Maharani Tarabai Shinde.

For Deepak, it is not just about helping his daughter know her culture and history. He says that subconsciously, he tries to instill the values of these heroes in her. He wants his daughter to navigate through the difficulties of her own life.

## F1 to have more combustion, less power 2027 onwards

Reuters  
London, May 8

FORMULA ONE will reduce the electric power element in 2027 after tweaks to the engine regulations introduced at last weekend's Miami Grand Prix were deemed a success.

Team bosses, representatives of the power unit manufacturers and Formula One management attended a virtual meeting on Friday convened by the governing FIA.

"It was agreed in principle to introduce evolutionary changes to the rules regarding hardware components, making competition safer, fairer and more intuitive for drivers and teams," a statement said.

The measures would see a nominal increase in Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) power by approximately 50kW with a fuel flow increase in 2027 alongside a corresponding reduction of the Energy Recovery System (ERS).

The latest hybrid power units are now split roughly 50-50 between combustion power and electric but the changes would make that more like 60-40, allowing for more flat-out racing and less energy management.

Technical groups will have further discussions before the final package is decided and voted on by manufacturers and the FIA's World Motor Sport Council. Sunday's race in Miami provided plenty of action and overtaking after the first three rounds of the season triggered debate on whether the racing had become more artificial and also more dangerous in the new engine era.

Some drivers had complained about having to "lift and coast" into high-speed corners so the combustion engine could recharge the battery, and aired safety concerns about speed differentials during the race.

### CALLS FOR BOYCOTT?

# In disjointed sport, French Open not ripe for revolution

Prize money dispute has led to calls of player strike at Roland Garros but it's tough to materialise, make change

Namit Kumar  
New Delhi, May 8

1973 WAS the year Vijay Amritraj notched his best-ever finish at a Major, at a Wimbledon tournament that saw the Czech clay-court savant, Jan Kodes, triumph on grass. The historical oddity took place as a result of a large-scale boycott within the men's draw; 81 players, including 12 of the 16 seeds, skipped the tournament after the ATP, then a mere players' union, staged a protest over a harsh ban on their No. 1-ranked player Nikola Pilić. Things went on as usual. Kodes won an event that saw the second-highest attendance up to that date. Alongside Amritraj, a 17-year-old Bjorn Borg and a 20-year-old Jimmy Connors made the last eight of a Major for the first time in their careers.

53 years later and tennis's stakeholder bodies - splintered and protecting varied interests - face the spectre of collective action once again. World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka feels the players must boycott a Slam to have their voices heard; her male counterpart, Jannik Sinner, believes the players are not getting the respect they deserve.

But how real is the prospect of a boycott, and would it even vote to service the players' demands? What is the evidence that points to a different outcome than 1973?

### Player demands

Calls for a boycott stem from a list of demands made by the players to the Grand Slam tournaments that their share in the

total revenue from the Majors should rise to 22 per cent, as opposed to an average of 16 per cent through the four. The ire was ignited as the French Open announced their prize money for this year's edition, beginning in May. Although the entire pool increased by 9.5 per cent, it was a big margin off from the players' demand.

It's tough to suggest the players don't have a point. The men's and women's champions at Roland Garros will collect a paycheck of roughly \$3.3 million. Rory McIlroy bagged \$4.5 million from winning the Masters - golf's nearest equivalent to Wimbledon. That's not taking into account the healthy prize money at the less flashy golf four events, and the better distribution of the total pie.

Players boycotts have loomed over Majors in the past. Men's players were demanding 30 per cent of tournament revenue in 2004 but failed to organise themselves. The women's field planned a strike in 2006 that never came to pass.

### Struggle for unity

Tennis may be one of the most popular commercialised sports in the world, but the reasons why its players are inadequately rewarded - those outside the top 100 often struggle to break even - stem from a series of blockades.

Its governance causes a major hindrance. Seven separate bodies are in charge of administering and growing the game: each of the four Slams operating separately, the two



Top-ranked players Aryna Sabalenka (L) and Jannik Sinner have raised the prize money issue. AP

### Number Plate

31%

• The singles champions will receive \$3.3 million at the French Open. Rory McIlroy bagged \$4.5 million for winning this year's Masters - golf's closest equivalent to Wimbledon. That is a 31 per cent difference for the champions alone, not accounting for better distribution of the total pie.

players' associations (ATP and WTA) and the International Tennis Federation (ITF). To bring all of them together to agree on a common programme is nearly impossible. It is why the French Open increased its prize money only by 9.5 per cent this year, significantly less than the US Open (20 per cent) and Australian Open (16 per cent). It also does not serve the other Slams' interests to rally behind

“It's more about respect. I think we give much more than what we are getting back. Of course we talk about money. The most important is respect, we just don't feel it.”

JANNIK SINNER  
VIA BBC

Roland Garros.

So, collective action does little to make a lasting impact. Even more so because it is not truly collective. 1973's protest made a strong statement but did little else other than becoming an amusing historical footnote. Fundamentally, one player's loss is another's gain; the prospect of wolfing up prize money and ranking points left behind by the top players as a result of a

boycott will be too tempting. It is how Kodes won the most significant tournament of his life and how Amritraj announced himself to the world. The ability to be able to get all of the top players in the world together is very unlikely.

Tennis is also far less powered than by the big personalities of a decade ago. A rising newer generation has made waves, but doesn't hold the celebrity power of Roger Federer or Serena Williams. Attendances are likely to remain high at the Majors that are now considered high society lifestyle events as much as they are sporting competitions. Boycotts are unlikely to affect viewers' interest and curiosity over who wins a Major, even if the victory has an asterisk over it.

The players may come together for their demands and make change happen. But it is likely to be a result of boardroom schemings, not a statement-making public spectacle.

## India one win away from U-17 Women's World Cup

Express News Service  
New Delhi, May 8

INDIA HAVE made history in the AFC Under-17 Women's Asian Cup by thrashing Lebanon 4-0 and reaching the quarterfinals of the tournament for the first time. In the process, they have now brought themselves within one win of qualifying for the 2026 FIFA U17 Women's World Cup.

Pritika Barman (7', 85'), Alva Devi Sanjam (36'), and Joya (72') were on target in India's win over Lebanon at the Suzhou Taihu Football Sports Centre in Suzhou, China.

Their place in the quarterfinals was then confirmed after the Philippines and Chinese Taipei failed to win their final head-to-head Group C match by a margin of 12 goals or more. India, led by former Italian forward Pamela Conti, thus went through to the quarterfinals as the second-bast ranked team among those that finish third in their respective groups. The only team that finished above them in this bracket was Thailand.

Placed in Group B, India lost 2-0 to Australia in their opening match and 3-0 to Japan in their second game. This meant that they finished the group stage with three points in three games.

India now face China in the quarterfinal of the tournament on May 11 at the Suzhou Sports Centre Stadium. The tournament serves as a qualifier for the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup, with all four semi-finalists earning spots in the group stage of the marquee tournament set to be hosted in Morocco from October 17 to November 7.

India on Friday made only one change from their last game, with Anushka Kumari replacing Pearl Fernandes. Pritika's opening goal came after she controlled a long ball from right back Divyani Linda



Pritika Barman scored twice against Lebanon on Friday. AIFF

perfectly, dribbled past a Lebanon defender and put it past goalkeeper Marie Joe Chebly in the seventh minute.

Pritika made a menace of herself for the Lebanon defender throughout the opening stages, even coming close to scoring a second goal in the 16th minute. It was Alva Devi Sanjam who then doubled India's lead in the 36th minute. Redima Devi Chingkhayum threaded a pass towards Alva at the edge of the box and the latter surged past her marker before slotting the ball into the back of the net with a calm finish.

India resumed the second half with the same attacking intensity and continued to push Lebanon deeper into their own half. The Young Tigresses controlled possession for long spells and looked dangerous whenever they advanced through the flanks.

Their dominance was rewarded through a moment of individual brilliance from Joya. Receiving the ball on the left wing, the substitute displayed excellent close control before cutting inside, skipping past two defenders and curling a fine right-footed strike into the net to make it 3-0. India sealed an outstanding performance with Pritika completing her brace.

## Madrid fine Valverde, Tchouameni for training ground altercation

Associated Press  
Madrid, May 8

REAL MADRID fined Federico Valverde and Aurelien Tchouameni half a million euros (\$588,000) each on Friday for their altercation during practice. The hefty fines came a day after a tussle between the midfielders during training. Valverde ended up in the hospital with a head injury.

The incident led Madrid to open disciplinary proceedings against the players.

Valverde said in a post on social media on Thursday that no punches were thrown. He said he hit a table during the encounter, sustaining a small cut that required a visit to the hospital.

In a statement issued Friday, the 15-time European champions said the disciplinary action was concluded after both players expressed to the club "their complete remorse for what happened and apologized to one another."

Tchouameni was back training with Madrid on Friday, two days before they play at Barcelona in a clasico. Madrid has to win otherwise Barcelona will be crowned La Liga champion. Valverde was not at practice as he recovers from the head knock.

### Fresh disruption

It was the latest disruption to a Madrid squad that has endured a tough season that included lackluster results, a



Federico Valverde (L) and Aurelien Tchouameni. REUTERS

coaching change and fan criticism of stars such as Vinicius Junior, Jude Bellingham and Kylian Mbappe.

Madrid could see Barcelona celebrate the league title in Sunday's clasico at the Camp Nou. The Catalan club needs only a draw to win its second league title in a row.

The 27-year-old Valverde's injury could keep him sidelined for the final four games of the domestic season.

"I'm sorry," he said. "I'm truly sorry because this situation hurts me, and this moment we are going through hurts me." The team gave no timeline on the disciplinary proceedings.

It was not the only altercation involving Madrid players during training this week. Defender Alvaro Carreras confirmed on Instagram that he was involved in "an incident with a colleague." He called it a "minor" and "isolated" matter

that "has already been resolved." Spanish media said he and defender Antonio Rudiger got into a scuffle during one of the team's training sessions.

Madrid is about to finish the season without winning any major title. It was eliminated by Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals of the Champions League, was ousted by second-division club Albacete in the round of 16 of the Copa del Rey, and was runner-up to Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup.

The team replaced Xabi Alonso in January in a rare mid-season coaching change after he and some of the team's top players did not get along.

Vinicius and other players, including Bellingham, were criticized by fans as the team struggled earlier in the season. They were both loudly jeered by the home crowd during some games at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

## FIFA triples prices for best tickets for World Cup final

Associated Press  
Washington, May 8

FIFA TRIPLED the price of its best available tickets to the World Cup final, making \$32,970 seats available for the July 19 match at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Soccer's governing body listed those seats as front category one on its sales site.

It previously had a high price of \$10,990 for category one. The \$10,990 category for the final was available Thursday night only as wheelchair and easy access amenity category one. Tickets for the July 14 semifinal in Arlington, Texas, were listed at \$11,130, \$4,330, \$3,710 and \$2,705. Seats for the following day's semifinal at Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium were at \$10,635, \$3,545 and \$2,725. Seats for the U.S. opener against Paraguay on June 12 at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, were available for \$2,735, \$1,940 and \$1,120, while tickets for the Americans' June 19 game against Australia at Seattle were listed at \$2,715.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has defended the ticket prices. "We have to look at the market. We are in a market in which entertainment is the most developed in the world, so we have to apply market rates," he said Tuesday.

## Villa crush Forest 4-0 to reach Europa League final

Reuters  
Birmingham, May 8

ASTON VILLA reached the Europa League final with a 4-0 win over Nottingham Forest including two goals from John McGinn in the second leg of their all-English semi-final on Thursday for a 4-1 aggregate victory as they chase a first trophy in 30 years. The Premier League side face Freiburg in Istanbul on May 20 after the Bundesliga team beat Braga 4-3 on aggregate.

Trailing 1-0 from the first leg, Unai Emery's Villa team came out all guns blazing at a pulsating Villa Park and got the lead their dominance deserved in the 36th minute when Watkins tapped in following brilliant footwork from Emiliano Buendia. Thirteen minutes into the second half, Buendia got Villa's second with a coolly struck penalty after Nikola Milenkovic needlessly tugged Pau Torres' shirt in the area.

Captain McGinn swept in carbon-copy goals in the 77th

and 80th minutes to spark delirium amongst most of the 43,000 fans, including Villa-supporting Prince William.

Villa were European champions in 1982 and last won silverware when they lifted the League Cup in 1996.

They will hope four-times Europa League winner Emery can add to his tally - for the first time with an English club.

"There's no better manager than this to get us prepared for this game and obviously take us into the final as well," said Wat-

kins, whose head was bandaged for most of the game after an early clash. "His track record speaks for itself. We're in a great position. We need to go there and win now."

Emery's unmatched four Europa League wins as a manager include three with Sevilla and one with Villarreal.

Forest, themselves European champions in 1979 and 1980, have like Villa been waiting a long time for a trophy since their last one, the League Cup in 1990.




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SHARES OF THE LENDER FALL 6.62% AS RESULTS WERE BELOW MARKET EXPECTATIONS

# SBI logs 5.6% rise in Q4 profit; says prolonged war may hit demand

SBI is a bellwether for the sector, and its loan growth gives an indication of the state of the banking system

**Akash Mandal**  
Mumbai, May 8

**BANKING BELLWETHER** State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday reported a 5.6% on-year rise in net profit for the fourth quarter of financial year 2026 (Q4FY26), missing analysts' expectations as non-interest income fell sharply following the Reserve Bank of India's restrictions on forex arbitrage and a rise in government bond yields due to the war in West Asia.

The lender's net profit rose to Rs 19,684 crore in the quarter under review, against Rs 18,643 crore reported in the same period last year. The board has declared a dividend of Rs 17.35 per share for FY26.

Chairman CS Setty, while maintaining his guidance of 13-15% growth in loans going forward, did caution that should the West Asia conflict continue for an extended period of time, there could be an impact on demand. "While the impact of the West Asia war has so far been limited, it could affect the consumption environment of the country if the war significantly prolonged," Setty said.

"...we assume that if inflation is at 4%, the domestic consump-

tion may not be badly impacted, but if it goes beyond that and if the war lingers for a longer time, I think the consumption demand moderation will impact the economy," he said in a post earnings call on Friday.

SBI shares fell by 6.62% to Rs 1019.55 on the BSE on Friday as the results were below market expectations.

Total income declined to Rs 1.40 lakh crore in Q4FY26 as against Rs 1.43 lakh crore a year ago. The bank's income from treasury operations fell to Rs 1,259 crore from Rs 8,891 crore a year ago, resulting in total non-interest income falling 29% on-year to ₹17,314 crore.

This was primarily seen due to yields on government bonds being sharply elevated since the West Asia war started in late February. The war has led to increased concerns that inflation might rise due to elevated crude oil prices, which led to the uptick in yields.

However, yields are unlikely to be of concern to the bank going forward, Chairman Setty said. "The overall treasury losses consist of your bond yield movement, which are sharply more than the last quarter. That is about Rs 1,800 crore," Setty said.

## • DIVERGENT TRENDS



• The bank's income from treasury operations fell to Rs 1,259 crore from Rs 8,891 crore a year ago, resulting in total non-interest income falling 29% on-year to ₹17,314 crore.

• On the asset quality front, SBI posted continued improvement in its gross non-

performing asset (GNPA) ratio, which eased to 1.49% from 1.82% a year earlier.

• The bank's deposit base grew 11% to Rs 59.8 lakh crore as of March 31, led by a near 11% growth in savings account deposits. In comparison, current account deposits grew only 4.5%.



The bank's net interest income rose over 4% to Rs 44,380 crore. Its net profit grew 5.6% during the quarter to Rs 19,684. This was despite its net interest margin (NIM) declining 17 basis points quarter-on-quarter to 2.81%. The pressure on margins was largely due to the impact of the 25-basis-point cut in the repo rate by the RBI in December 2025, which has now been priced in fully in Q4, Setty said after the bank announced its earnings. For FY26, however, the bank delivered a domestic NIM

of 3.03%, matching the bank's earlier guidance of margins staying above 3% for the financial year. It also guided for NIMs to stay above the 3% mark in FY27.

On the asset quality front, SBI posted continued improvement in its gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio, which eased to 1.49% from 1.82% a year earlier.

On an overall level, the bank's loan book grew nearly 17% Y-o-Y to Rs 49.3 lakh crore as of March 31. Its retail and corporate loan portfolio, the two biggest components of the bank's loan

book, grew around 15% each.

SBI is a bellwether in the banking sector, and the bank's loan and deposit growth provide an indication on the state of the banking system.

Setty said he expects credit growth to remain in the 13-15% band in FY27, based on the current macroeconomic environment in the country. In FY26, the bank saw credit growth of 16.9%.

The bank's deposit base grew 11% to Rs 59.8 lakh crore as of March 31, led by a near 11% growth in savings account deposits. In comparison, current account deposits grew only 4.5%. This led to the bank's current account, savings account (CASA) deposit ratio shrinking 51 bps to 39.46%.

A lower CASA ratio indicates potentially higher lending costs for the bank, which might weigh on profitability in the long run. SBI may offer Rs 80,000 cr under ECLGS.

The lender is in a position to disburse loans worth up to Rs 80,000 crore under the government's Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0, Chairman C S Setty said on Thursday. "Now that the eligibility guidelines are clear, we know which customers qualify under the scheme. Credit facilities worth around Rs 70,000-80,000 crore could be extended to our customers through ECLGS," Setty said.

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

# Why India should brace for new US tariffs before July

**Ravi Dutta Mishra**  
New Delhi, May 8

THE UNITED STATES Court of International Trade (CIT), one of the first federal courts to rule against the Trump administration's use of emergency tariff powers, has dealt the Trump administration another blow, declaring its sweeping 10% tariffs imposed under Section 122 of the US Trade Act of 1974 unlawful.

The US President Donald Trump had almost immediately used Section 122 tariffs to impose global tariffs after the US Supreme Court in February declared the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) tariffs illegal. And the administration had prepared for new tariffs when 10% tariffs were set to expire within 150 days on July 24.

However, the CIT's order could move up the Trump administration's plan to introduce a new tariff architecture. This could have an impact on India, as New Delhi has agreed to a trade deal but has yet to sign the agreement. Last month, an Indian delegation visited Washington for another round of talks.

India was one of the hardest hit countries, as the US, starting in August last year, imposed 50% tariffs on India, hurting exports and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country. Goods exports have also taken a hit due to the ongoing West Asia crisis. Exporters said that shipments to the US have begun recovering since March.

Deborah Elms, Head of Trade Policy at the Hinrich Foundation in Singapore, in a social media post, said that the CIT's order may not be a significant relief because the order nullifies tariffs only for the plaintiffs. "The statute [Section 122] was only intended to be used until July. In fact, the world will likely face higher tariffs even sooner, as the Trump team is likely to respond by pushing forward application of Section 301 and new or ex-



The US has launched two Section 301 investigations on India, alleging "structural excess capacity" and "forced labour". REUTERS

panded Section 232 cases," Elms said. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had said last month that President Donald Trump's tariffs may be restored by July to the levels in place before the Supreme Court struck down IEEPA tariffs. "We had a setback at the Supreme Court in terms of the tariff policy, but we will be implementing or conducting Section 301 studies, so the tariffs could be back in place at the previous level by the beginning of July," Bessent said, as per Bloomberg.

Trade experts said that the Section 122 tariffs were on a weak legal footing because the law was originally enacted to deal with serious balance-of-payments crises and persistent dollar outflows. However, since 1973, the United States has operated under a free-floating dollar system, where trade imbalances are adjusted through exchange rates and global capital flows rather than import restrictions. The US continues to run large trade deficits while still attracting massive foreign investment because the dollar remains the world's dominant reserve currency. Former trade officer and founder of think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), Ajay Srivastava, said that India should wait until the United States develops a more stable and legally reliable trade system before concluding the Bilateral Trade Agreement. The continuing uncertainty around U.S. tariff policy, with

major Trump-era tariffs repeatedly struck down by courts, makes any long-term trade commitments by India difficult to justify, he said.

"At present, the US is also not prepared to reduce its standard Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) tariffs, while expecting India to lower or eliminate its MFN duties across most sectors. Under such conditions,

any trade deal risks becoming one-sided, with India offering permanent market access concessions without receiving any meaningful tariff benefits in return," Srivastava said.

The US has launched two Section 301 investigations on India, alleging "structural excess capacity" and "forced labour". India, in response to the probe last month, said that India's merchandise export-to-GDP ratio of around 12% reflects a largely domestic demand-driven economy and that its legal framework aligns with the forced labour standards of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The USTR had argued that structural excess capacity and production in manufacturing sectors present a serious challenge to America's efforts to restore supply chains and provide good-paying jobs for American workers, and that key trading partners have developed production capacity unthrottled from the incentives of domestic and global demand.

# Key Tata Trusts board meeting deferred to May 16

**George Mathew**  
Mumbai, May 8

THE LONG-awaited Tata Trusts board meeting scheduled for Friday has been postponed to May 16, with the trust giving no reasons for the deferment, a top official said.

The key issues on the agenda included review of Tata Trusts representation on the board of Tata Sons, differing views among trustees regarding the potential listing of Tata Sons along with the matter of perpetual trustees.

According to the agenda of the meeting, the board was expected to discuss the position of two trustees on the listing of Tata Sons on the exchanges. Two of the trustees — Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh — had recommended listing of Tata Sons.

The argument for the listing of Tata Sons by two trustees is contrary to the resolution passed by Tata Trusts to retain the company as an unlisted entity a year ago.

Following a directive from the Reserve Bank of India requiring upper-layer NBFCs to list, Tata Sons repaid its debt and sought de-registration from that category and a decision from the regulator is awaited. Noel Tata is opposed to a listing as it could dilute the trusts' veto powers.

The board meet has gained attention amid reports that the resolution proposing the re-

moval of Venu Srinivasan from the Tata Sons board is likely to be put to vote before the trustees. According to sources, Bhaskar Bhat, who earlier headed Titan Company Ltd, is likely to succeed Srinivasan. Currently, Noel Tata and Venu Srinivasan are on the board of Tata Sons as representatives of Tata Trusts.

Bhat is on the board of Sir Dorabji Tata Trust.

The board was also expected to discuss a complaint filed in the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner's office about the perpetual/life-term trustees. The petition, filed by lawyer Katyayani Agrawal of law firm SV & Co, has sought urgent intervention, alleging that Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), which has three lifetime trustees in a board of six members, violated the provisions of Section 30A of the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act, 1950. This section, introduced through an amendment in September 2025, says perpetual or lifetime trustees can make up only 25% of a public trust's board.

The ratio is now 50%. However, it's not clear whether the review of Tata Sons board representation and removal/induction of a member will get unanimous backing of trustees.

Earlier, Vijay Singh's re-nomination onto the board of Tata Sons was opposed by Mehli Mistry.

# New promotion policy: RBI staffers stage protest

**Aanchal Magazine & George Mathew**  
New Delhi/Mumbai, May 8

EMPLOYEES OF THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) staged protests on Friday at multiple offices of the central bank across the country, including the headquarters in Mumbai, against a new internal policy that ties promotions to vacancies instead of the earlier time-bound system.

In a letter to Governor Sanjay Malhotra, the Reserve Bank of India Officers' Association (R BIOA) said, "We earnestly request the top management to reconsider the matter urgently and initiate a comprehensive review of the revised promotion policy in consultation with R BIOA so as to arrive at a fair, balanced and sustainable framework for career progression of officers."

Senior central bank official said the RBI will address employees' concerns.

"The RBI reviews the internal HR policy from time to time. The central bank will discuss with employees about the issues involved and address their concerns," the official said. However, the RBI's official spokesperson did not respond to a mail from *The Indian Express* about the HR changes and the protests. Protesting employees were addressed by Deputy Governor Swaminathan J on Friday in the Mumbai head office.

In the letter, R BIOA General Secretary Jeet Pathak said the association had participated in



Protesting employees met Deputy Governor Swaminathan J in the Mumbai head office. FILE

the consultative process with the legitimate expectation that the long-standing issue of stagnation in the officer cadre would finally be addressed.

"In your interactions with us and with our members at regional offices, you have indicated the possibility of a few timebound promotions. However, the final policy has not only failed to address the structural stagnation prevailing across grades but has also disregarded the core concerns repeatedly highlighted by the Association," R BIOA said in the letter. "Assured, time-bound promotions may be introduced across all cadres from Grade A to Grade E, ensuring fair and predictable career progression for officers," the letter further said. Under the revised policy, updated on May 5, within the same batch, it will take five years for people to reach Grade D, an employee told *The Indian Express*. FULL REPORT ON [WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)

## • THE CHANGES

**UNDER THE** revised policy, while promotion from Grade B to C will continue to be the time-bound and take a minimum of 7 years, stepping up from Grade C to D and further up to Grade F will be on the basis of available vacancies in the higher rank.

**ACCORDING TO** data available on the RBI website, a total of 40 posts have been advertised for Grade B (General Cadre) in 2026, down from 83 in 2025

will be on the basis of available vacancies in the higher rank. According to RBI officers, there is acute stagnation, which the RBI management is unable to address due to the lack of long-term manpower planning.

"The revised policy will especially impact promotions from Grade C to D. The result of this policy will be that at the level of C, the officer could possibly remain at the same level for even 15 years. For instance, once you make Grade D to Grade E vacancy-based, then vacancy at Grade D also reduces as fewer people get promoted to Grade E. So, stagnation at Grade C also increases. This year, for example, there were around 40 Grade D vacancies, but the upcoming batch of Grade C officers have 150-200 people on average. So, within the same batch, it will take five years for people to reach Grade D," an employee told *The Indian Express*. FULL REPORT ON [WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)

## Digital access, cyber security challenges in DPI ecosystem: CEA

**New Delhi:** India's digital public infrastructure (DPI) has achieved world-class scale, but challenges relating to digital access, data governance, interoperability and cyber security remain areas of concern, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said on Friday.

Addressing an ICRIER event on "Digital Public Infrastructure & Public Service Delivery", Nageswaran said large sections of the population, particularly the elderly, people living in areas with poor connectivity and those with low literacy and limited digital fluency, still face barriers in accessing digital services.

"Digital infrastructure, however sophisticated, is not the same as digital inclusion in the fullest sense. The last great challenge of ensuring that those who most need services are also those who can most easily access them through digital means, that remains an ongoing effort," Nageswaran said. PTI

## • BRIEFLY

### Sebi proposes overhaul of buyback framework

**New Delhi:** Markets regulator Sebi on Friday proposed a series of changes to the buyback framework, including the re-introduction of open market share buybacks through stock exchanges and shortening execution timelines. In a consultation paper, the regulator proposed that open market buybacks through stock exchanges should be completed within 66 working days from the date of opening of the offer, instead of the earlier framework that allowed as long as six months duration. PTI

### Hyundai Motor India Q4 profit shrinks by 22.2%

**New Delhi:** Hyundai Motor India Ltd on Friday reported a 22.22% decline in consolidated profit after tax to Rs 1,255.63 crore in the March quarter, impacted by higher commodity prices, unfavourable product mix and costs associated with capacity stabilisation. The firm had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,614.35 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) said. PTI

### Forex reserve drops by \$7.79bn to \$690.693 bln

**Mumbai:** India's forex reserves dropped by \$7.794 billion to \$690.693 billion during the week ended May 1, the RBI said on Friday. In the previous reporting week ended April 24, the overall reserves had declined by \$4.82 billion to \$698.487 billion. The kitty had expanded to an all-time high of \$728.494 billion during the week ended February 27 this year before the beginning of the West Asia conflict, which had led the central bank to intervene in the forex market through dollar sales to check rupee fall. PTI

### Zepto among 6 cos to secure Sebi's IPO nod

**New Delhi:** As many as six companies including quick commerce unicorn Zepto and auto components manufacturer Dhoot Transmission have secured Sebi's approval to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPOs). Other companies that obtained the nod are Hotel Polo Towers, Crystal Crop Protection, Surgiwear, and Horizon Industrial Parks, an update showed on Friday. The companies had filed their papers between October and February. PTI

• THE TATA-OWNED CARRIER IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE SUFFERED A LOSS OF ABOUT RS 22,000 CRORE IN 2025-26

# Air India defers pay hikes amid focus on saving costs

**Sukalp Sharma**  
New Delhi, May 8

THE AIR India has deferred the annual increments by at least one quarter while assuring its employees that it was not anticipating any layoffs, as the airline called for a "relentless" focus on saving costs in the face of mounting losses.

The Tata-owned carrier is estimated to have suffered a loss of about Rs 22,000 crore in the financial year 2026 (FY26). It was more than double the loss in FY25, primarily due to the extremely challenging cost and operating environment, it is learnt.

airline also announced that it will proceed with bonuses for the last financial year and implement the planned staff promotions.

The airline's board held a meeting on Thursday, in which cost-optimisation measures were deliberated.

A day later, chief executive officer Campbell Wilson, chief human resources officer Ravindra Kumar GP, and chief financial officer Sanjay Sharma addressed employees in a town hall meeting.

For the time being, more drastic cost rationalisation measures like furloughs and layoffs have not been taken, it is learnt. Air India has an em-



For now, more drastic cost rationalisation measures like furloughs and layoffs have not been taken by the airline. REUTERS

ployee strength of about 24,000. The Tata group took

control of Air India after the government in January 2022.

According to sources with direct knowledge of the matter, Wilson spoke about the significant external challenges that the airline industry is grappling with, and the impact of those challenges on Air India.

"We need to focus relentlessly on our costs in these tough times... There must be a laser sharp focus on eliminating wastage and leakages," Wilson is learnt to have told the Air India staff on Friday.

He also asked them to suspend discretionary spending, renegotiate rates where feasible, and defer non-critical expenditures.

The West Asia war, which began on February 28, has led

to major airspace disruptions in the Gulf region, which accounts for a significant chunk of international air traffic to and from India.

The region also serves as a critical corridor for Air India's flights to Europe and North America, which means that apart from disrupting operations to destinations in West Asia, the war has forced the airline to take longer, circuitous routes to Europe and beyond.

This is leading to higher operating costs, particularly due to additional fuel burn at a time when jet fuel prices are also surging due to war-related supply disruptions. FULL REPORT ON [WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)

## • MARKETS

|  |   |                           |                           |
|--|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <br>Sensex<br>77,328.19<br>-516.33<br>-0.66% | <br>NIFTY<br>24,176.15<br>-150.50<br>-0.62% | <br>Gold ▼<br>₹1,55,900   | <br>US Dollar ▲<br>₹94.48 |
|  |   | <br>Silver ▼<br>₹2,61,300 | <br>Oil ▼<br>\$99.69      |

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER ALL INDIA SARAFI ASSOCIATION GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF MAY 7, 2026

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 Email: gmc.rjn@gmail.com

क्रमांक/2422/चिकि./स्था./2026 राजनांदगाँव, दिनांक 06/05/2026  
**संविदा भर्ती सूचना**  
 भारत रत्न स्व. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी स्मृति चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय राजनांदगाँव (छ.ग.) के विभिन्न विभागों में चिकित्सा शिक्षकों/चिकित्सकों के वर्तमान में रिक्त पदों पर छां00 सविल सेवा (संविदा नियुक्ति) नियम 2012 में उल्लेखित शर्तों के अधीन संविदा आधार पर भर्ती किये जाने हेतु प्रत्येक माह के द्वितीय एवं चतुर्थ बुधवार को एवं अवकाश होने की स्थिति में अगले कार्य दिवस में भारत रत्न स्व. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी स्मृति चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय राजनांदगाँव (छ.ग.) में "ऑन-इन-इन्टरव्यू" आयोजित किया जाना है।  
 उक्त विज्ञापन के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु भारत रत्न स्व. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी स्मृति चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय राजनांदगाँव (छ.ग.) के वेबसाईट abvmgmcrajnandgaon.ac.in से डाउनलोड कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।  
 हस्ता./-अधिष्ठाता  
**भारत रत्न स्व. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी स्मृति,**  
**चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, राजनांदगाँव**  
**RO. NO. 262700571-5 (छासीसगढ़)**

**AXIS FINANCE LIMITED**  
 (CIN U65921MH1995PLC212675)  
 Axis House, C-2, Media International Centre, Parkside Building,  
 Marg, Mumbai - 400 025

**APPENDIX IV**  
 [See Rule 8(i)]  
**PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE**  
 (For Immovable Property)  
 [As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas,  
 The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Axis Finance Limited (AFL), under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with the Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 30th June, 2025 calling upon the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) (1) MR. RAJESH KUMAR JAIN (2) RIDHI JAIN at Flat No B1/1640, Tower No. 10, Purnanchal Royal City, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110082 (3) MANISH HOISERY at 9-2492, Ground Floor, Kailash Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi - 1 10031 who have mortgaged the immovable property more particularly described hereunder to repay the amount mentioned in the notice INR. 95,77,358/- (Rupees Ninety Five Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Eight) due as on 05.06.2025 with further interest at the contractual rate thereon till the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
 The Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 06th day of May of the year 2026. The Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Axis Finance Limited for an amount of INR. 95,77,358/- (Rupees Ninety Five Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Eight) due as on 05.06.2025 and further interest thereon at the contractual rates together with costs, charges, etc. of Axis Finance Ltd until the full payment or realization in full.  
 The Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) & sub section (13) of section 13 of the said Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.  
**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
**BUILTUP PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO. 995/49-B/7 (OLD) AND NEW NO. IX/2711, AREA MEASURING 41.80 SQ. MTS. BUILT ON PART OF PLOT NO. 32 OUT OF KHASRA NO. 311/36/36 SITUATED IN AREA OF VILLAGE SEELAMPUR, IN THE ABADI OF GALI NO. 17, KAILASH NAGAR, ILLAQA SHAHDARA, DELHI - 110031 AND BOUNDARIES OF THE HOUSE / PLOT: EAST - PROPERTY OF OTHERS; WEST - GALI; NORTH - PROPERTY OF OTHERS; SOUTH - PROPERTY OF OTHERS.**  
 Date: 04.05.2026 Authorized Officer  
 Place: Delhi Axis Finance Ltd.

**AXIS FINANCE LIMITED**  
 (CIN U65921MH1995PLC212675)  
 Axis House, C-2, Media International Centre, Parkside Building,  
 Marg, Mumbai - 400 025

**E-Public Auction-cum-Sale Notice**  
 E Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) and Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s, Guarantor/s and Mortgagor/s, that the below described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to Secured Creditor, the **PHYSICAL POSSESSION** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Axis Finance Limited, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" and "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on 27.05.2026 for recovery of Rs. 1,05,86,828/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Eight) due as on 05.06.2025 [amount/s as on the date of the demand notice dated 30.06.2025 issued u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act - INR. 95,77,358/- (Rupees Ninety Five Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Eight) due as on 05.06.2025] with further interest at the contractual rates, along with default/penal interest and other charges etc., till final payment / realization from the Borrower / Mortgagors / Guarantors, i.e. (1) MR. RAJESH KUMAR JAIN (2) RIDHI JAIN at Flat No B1/1640, Tower No. 10, Purnanchal Royal City, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110082 (3) MANISH HOISERY at 9-2492, Ground Floor, Kailash Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi - 1 10031. The Description of Assets, Reserve Price (RP), Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Details of Sale are as below:

**SCHEDULE - I**

| Description of Immovable Secured Asset   | As per SCHEDULE - I  |
|--|--|
| BUILTUP PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO. 995/49-B/7 (OLD) AND NEW NO. IX/2711, AREA MEASURING 41.80 SQ. MTS. BUILT ON PART OF PLOT NO. 32 OUT OF KHASRA NO. 311/36/36 SITUATED IN AREA OF VILLAGE SEELAMPUR, IN THE ABADI OF GALI NO. 17, KAILASH NAGAR, ILLAQA SHAHDARA, DELHI - 110031 AND BOUNDARIES OF THE HOUSE / PLOT: EAST - PROPERTY OF OTHERS; WEST - GALI; NORTH - PROPERTY OF OTHERS; SOUTH - PROPERTY OF OTHERS | On: 27.05.2026<br>Time: From: 11:00 AM to 12:00 NOON with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each |
|  | On: 25.05.2026<br>Before: 04:00 PM   |
| <b>RESERVE PRICE:</b>  |  |
| <b>SECURED ASSET</b>   | <b>Rs. 91,27,080/-</b>   |
|  | <b>Rupees Ninety One Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand and Eighty Only</b>                             |
| * Price below which the Flat/property/s will not be sold   |  |
| <b>Earnest Money Deposit (10% of RP):</b>  |  |
| <b>SECURED ASSET</b>   | <b>Rs. 9,12,708/-</b>  |
|  | <b>Rupees Nine Lakhs Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred and Eight Only</b>                            |
| <b>Bid Increment Amount:</b>   | <b>Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lac Only).</b>   |

Contact Person Details & Mob. Nos.: Mr. Ayan Bhattacharya, Mob: 9811710558

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in website i.e. "https://www.auctioninforgale.com" and www.axisfinance.in;

**STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) RULE 9 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.**  
 This may also be treated as notice under Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s, guarantor/s and mortgagor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

Date: 07.05.2026 Authorized Officer  
 Place: New Delhi Axis Finance Limited

**"IMPORTANT"**

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**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
 TENDER NOTICE No. ELG-31R1-M05-2026-27 Date: 06.05.2026

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Tender No. ELG-31R1-M05-2026-27

**Name of work with its location & Completion Period:** Electrification work in connection with Provision of track depot with all infrastructure facilities in place of existing depot due to redevelopment of Agra cantt... Completion period-08 months

**Approx. Cost of the work:** Rs. 1134416.40

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). Tenders can only be submitted through web portal [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) up to 15:00 hrs on 28.05.2026. 1035/26 (D)

North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPONCR

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**SEE SECTION 84 BHARTIYA NAGARIK SURKSHA SANHITA**  
 Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Saif Ali S/o Gulzar Khan R/o E-168, G.No. 5, Subhash Mohalla, Maujpur, Delhi** have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 246/2017 U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act.**, has been registered at **P.S. Welcome, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Saif Ali** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Saif Ali** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, **Saif Ali of FIR No. 246/2017 U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act.**, registered at **P.S. Welcome, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **09.06.2026**.

By Order  
**Ms. Deepakshi Rana**  
**JMFC-3, Room No. 19**  
**DP/5934/NE/2026**  
**(Court Notice)** Shahdara, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023**  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Lokender @ Lokesh, S/o Sh. Amar Singh, R/o Jhuggi No. 8, Hanuman Majdur Camp, Opp. Sector-4, R.K. Puram, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 226/2021, U/s 379/511 IPC, P.S. Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Lokender @ Lokesh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Lokender @ Lokesh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Lokender @ Lokesh** accused of **FIR No. 226/2021, U/s 379/511 IPC, P.S. Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **31.07.2026**.

By Order - **Ms. Vijayshree Rathore**  
 Judicial Magistrate First Class-05  
 Room No. 13, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Main Building  
 Patiala House Courts, New Delhi  
**DP/6047/SW/2026**

**PEGASUS ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED**  
 55-56, 5th Floor, Free Press House, Nariman Point,  
 Mumbai-400 021, Tel: 91-2261884700

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
 [RULES 8 (1)]  
 (For Immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited (PARPL) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand notice dated 21.01.2026 ("13(2) Notice") calling upon the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Mortgagor namely Mr. Rajendra Pratap Singh (Borrower/Mortgagor) and Mrs. Swaita (Co-Borrower) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 4,90,78,249.42/- (Rupees Four Crore Ninety Eight Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Nine and Forty-Two Paise Only) outstanding as on 20.01.2026 as mentioned in the said 13(2) Notice together with further interest at the contractual rates and costs, charges and expenses within 60 days from receipt of the said notice.

The credit facilities availed by the Borrowers from ICICI Bank Limited (herein after referred as "ICICI Bank") together with all underlying security interest and all rights, titles and interests therein have since been assigned by ICICI Bank to Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited acting in its capacity as Trustee of Pegasus 2024 Trust 2 (hereinafter referred to as "PARPL") under the aegis of the SARFAESI Act, vide Assignment of Debt Agreement dated 29.07.2025. Pursuant to aforesaid assignment and in accordance with the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, PARPL has become the lender and is entitled to recover the entire dues mentioned in the 13(2) Notice, and to exercise all its rights as a Secured Creditor under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act and rules thereunder.

The Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Mortgagors having failed to repay the outstanding dues mentioned in the 13(2) Notice, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken physical possession of the secured asset described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on 04.05.2026.

The Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Mortgagors and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of PARPL for an amount of Rs. 5,03,32,877.96/- (Rupees Five Crore Three Lakh Thirty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Seven and Ninety-Six Paise Only) outstanding as on 29.04.2026 with further interest at the contractual rate and costs, charges and expenses thereon w.e.f 30.04.2026 till the date of payment / realization.

The Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Mortgagors/ Guarantors attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of the time available to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
 (Residential Property Being Front/Northern Side, Third Floor With Entire Terrace, Constructed On Freehold Plot Admeasuring 398.275 Square Yards, Bearing Property No. A-20, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028).

Sd/- Authorized Officer  
 Date: 08.05.2026 For Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited  
 Place: DELHI (Acting in its capacity as Trustee of Pegasus 2024 Trust 2)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-AUCTION NOTICE**

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/G, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (<http://ireps.gov.in/>) for the allotment of under mention contracts at following Railway stations/locations:

| E-Catalogue No. | Date & Time of bidding  | Railway Stations/Locations/Lots   |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---|
| Parking-16-2026 | 25.05.2026 at 11:00 Hrs | Kirti Nagar PRS = Total 01 Site   |
| MPS-MAY-01-26   | 25.05.2026 at 11:00 Hrs | New Delhi, Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Karnal, Modinagar, Meerut Cantt - Total 29 MPS Units. |

**Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen.** <https://ireps.gov.in/>

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**(SEE SECTION 84 BNSS)**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Sohan Lal S/o Pura Singh R/o C-252, C-Block, J.J. Colony, Sector-24, Rohini, Budh Vihar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No./CT Case No. **302/2022 U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, PS Budh Vihar, Distt. Rohini, Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Sohan Lal** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Sohan Lal** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Sohan Lal** of Case FIR No./CT Case No. **302/2022 U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act, PS Budh Vihar, Distt. Rohini, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **11.06.2026 at 10:00 AM**.

By Order  
**Ms. Sanyam Jain**  
 Judicial Magistrate First Class  
 North District, Room No. 112  
 1st Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi  
**DP/5904/RD/2026**  
**(Court Matter)**

**कार्यालय नगर विकास न्यास, अलवर (राज.)**  
 क्रमांक :- लेखा/न.वि.प्रा./2026/1056 - 67 दिनांक :- 04/05/2026  
**NOTICE INVITING NIT - 03/2026-27**

Maintenance and security Mini secretariate, pratap auditorium, construction and repair work of moti dungari boundary wall, drain bio diaverity, gantry board, thermoplast, tent, water harvesting, construction of convention centre and other construction work /Alwar. 07-05-2026 to 28-05-2026 3.00 PM. Technical bid open 29/06/2026 4.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state and [www.uitalwar.in](http://www.uitalwar.in) the approximate Value of the procurement is Rs. 981.22 lakhs.

**UBN No. : UAL2627WLOB00027 To UAL2627WLOB00045**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/2415 Executive Engineer  
 UIT Alwar

**Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.**  
 D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005  
 Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax No. 0141-2228065, E-Mail-[edepmrmssc-rj@nic.in](mailto:edepmrmssc-rj@nic.in)

Ref. No. : F-8) RMSC/EPM/IM/4-NIB-930/2025-26/163 Dated :- 07/05/2026

**Corrigendum / Addendum**

Bid for item WASTE BIN RED, BLACK & YELLOW (15 & 25 Ltr.) are invited from interested bidders up to Date : 26/05/2026 : 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> or [www.dipronline.org](http://www.dipronline.org) or <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> or website <http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in>.

**UBN No. : MSC2526GLOB00054** Executive Director (EPM)  
 Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation

Raj.Samwad/C/26/2399

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D., CIRCLE-JHALAWAR**  
 Room No.-158, Ground Floor (Public Works Department), Mini Secretariat, Jhalawar  
 E-mail:-[plu.jhalawar@rediffmail.com](mailto:plu.jhalawar@rediffmail.com)/[scjwar.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in](mailto:scjwar.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in) Phone No.: 07432-233336

S. No.: 133 Date 06.05.2026

**Short Term NIT No. 05/2026-27**  
 Notice Inviting Bid  
 NIB No. PWJ2627A0346

Bids for Repair of Single lane to Double lane of Bakani Bhumada Raipur Dweepalkhera Mathaniya Osav Pirawa Rampuriya Patpara road from Km. 27/0 to 57500 & Jhalawar Jhalawar Jhalawar road from Km. 27/0 to 57500 are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM. Dated 03.06.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the Rajasthan and <http://www.uitalwar.in> website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 650.38 Lacs.

S.No. UBN No. Sd/-  
 1. PWJ2627WLOB001527 (Mukesh Chand Meena)  
 2. PWJ2627WLOB001529 Superintending Engineer Public Works Department Circle-Jhalawar

DIPR/C/8081/2026

**Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR.**  
 दिनांक: 06/05/2026  
 निविदा सूचना-2026-27

निविदा सूचना के लिए सेवा : राज रास्ता के अधिष्ठाता निविदा सूचना में चर्चित एवं अनुबंधित शर्तों के निर्धारण पर में 6 फेब्रुवारी 2026 को अधिसूचना निविदा सूचना के लिए जारी है।

| कार्य का विवरण  | कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत (₹) | निविदा सूचना संख्या   |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Additional works for Sports Ground, open Air Theatre & other External Development works for Construction of New Medical College at Bandi. UBN: RRC2627WLOB00100 | 295.40 Lakh                    | 099/26-27             |
| Various Development / Rehabilitation works in Temple at Sangar, Jaipur. UBN: RRC2627WLOB001005  | 385.00 Lakh                    | अनुबंधन सं- 070/26-27 |
| Construction of Major Bridge & Bypass at Sewla Village. UBN: RRC2627WLOB00111   | 2089.39 Lakh                   | अनुबंधन सं- 039/26-27 |
| Renewal work on Ghat-Bilara-Sojat BOT Road. UBN: RRC2627WLOB00113   | 2154.00 Lakh                   | अनुबंधन सं- 075/26-27 |

निविदा के सम्बन्धित प्रश्न में विधिपूर्ण, पंजीय, सही, उचित, सहायक कार्य में सहानुभूति की शर्तों सहित संपूर्ण विवरण एवं संकेतित वेबसाइट <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in> तथा <http://www.uitalwar.in> पर उपलब्ध है। प्रश्न-सूचनाओं का उत्तर निविदा सूचना के सम्बन्ध में वेबसाइट <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर शीघ्रतः प्रदान करना है।  
 दिनांक: 07.05.2026

**AJMER VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED**  
 Corporate Identification Number: (CIN)-U40109RJ0000500616483

Regd. Off: Vidyat Bhawan, Panchsheel Nagar, Makarand Nagar, Ajmer- 305 004, (TIN)-KEY WORKS (CIRCLE) Phone: +91-1462-2644507, Fax:+91-146-2644507, E-mail: [sewawvn2022@gmail.com](mailto:sewawvn2022@gmail.com), Website: [www.avvnl.com](http://www.avvnl.com)

No.: AVVN/SE (TW) /XEN (TW)/AJEM (TW)/JLJ/NIT /TW-464(Lot-1 to 12)/LR/D. 186 Date: 06/05/2026

**NIT No./ PACKAGE No.: - AJD/SE/TW/TN-464 (Lot-1 to 12)**

"Bids in two parts (Techno Commercial bid and Price Bid) are invited from eligible contractors for NIT against package nos. AJD/SE/TW/TN-464(Lot-1 to 12) for awarding contract of construction of various 33/11 KV GSS and associated 33 and 11 KV line and Erection of 33 KV line (deposit work) on Labour Rate for Salumber/Udaipur/ Dungarpur/Chittorgarh/ Pratapgarh /Jhunjhunu/Ajmer under domain of Ajmer Discom. UBN: AVV2627WLOB000010

All the details regarding tender is available at our website <http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avnvl> and [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in). Further in future corrigendum/extension, if any shall be published only at [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in).

Superintending Engineer (TW)  
 Raj.Samwad/C/26/2362 AVVNL, Ajmer

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused No.1 **Faizan, S/o.: Islam, R/o.: Vegabond, Delhi** and accused No. 2 **Sakib, S/o.: Chand Navi, R/o.: H. No. E-49/K-135, Gali No.8, Janta Colony, Welcome, Delhi** have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No.363/2019 U/S 392/411/34 IPC** registered at **P.S. Welcome, North East District, Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Faizan and Sakib** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Faizan and Sakib** are absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Faizan and Sakib**, accused of **FIR No. 363/2019 U/S 392/411/34 IPC, P.S. Welcome, North East District, Delhi** are required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **27.06.2026**.

By Order, **Deepakshi Rana,**  
 Judicial Magistrate First Class-03,  
 Room No.19, First Floor, Shahdara District,  
 Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

**DP/5947/NE/2026**  
**(Court Matter)**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Kallu S/o Sandeep, R/o Ali Ganj, Chungi Hindu Nagar, Etah (U.P.),** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 839/2020, U/S 379/411/34 IPC, PS Khajuri Khas, North-East Distt., Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Kallu** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Kallu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **Kallu** the said accused of **FIR No. 839/2020, U/S 379/411/34 IPC, PS Khajuri Khas, North-East Distt., Delhi,** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **12.06.2026**.

By Order  
**Ms. Shruti Saraswat**  
 Judicial Magistrate First Class-03,  
**DP/6077/NE/2026** Room No.-22, 1st Floor, North-East Distt.,  
**(Court Matter)** Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

Advt. No.: SHKM/Rectt/2026/02 Closing Date: 18.05.2026

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**  
 Advertisement for filling up the posts for S.H.K.M.  
 Government Medical College, Nalhar, Nuh

Eighty One (81) posts of Senior Residents are proposed to be filled up on Tenure basis for SHKM GMC Nalhar, Nuh. The tenure for Senior Resident posts will be for yearly basis extendable up to a maximum 03 (three) years, subject to satisfactory work and conduct report.

The other details like essential qualification, pay scales, fees, application form & other terms and conditions may be downloaded from institute website [www.gmcnewat.ac.in](http://www.gmcnewat.ac.in). It is also informed that all interested candidates may visit institute website on regular basis for all updates regarding date of interview, No. of posts etc. which is available only on institute website i.e. [www.gmcnewat.ac.in](http://www.gmcnewat.ac.in).

The application form will be accepted on or before 05:00 PM of closing date 18.05.2026 through Registered/Speed post/By hand only and application received through any other mode will straightway rejected. The date of Scrutiny & interview will be updated on institute website i.e. [www.gmcnewat.ac.in](http://www.gmcnewat.ac.in) later on.

Sd/-  
 Superintendent  
 for Director  
 SHKM Govt. Medical College,  
 Nalhar, Nuh

No. 44988/HRV

**महत्त्वपूर्ण विकासाधिकरण, मठनगपुर**  
 क्रमांक :- लेखा/न.वि.प्रा./2026/5374 - 86 दिनांक :- 05/05/2026

**ऑनलाइन निविदा सूचना सं. 07/2026-27**

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भरतपुर विकास प्राधिकरण में उपर्युक्त श्रेणी एवं विभिन्न विभागों में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रश्न में ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट प्रक्रिया से कुल 01 कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।  
 उक्त कार्यों का विस्तृत विवरण, निविदा शर्तें, अनुमति प्राप्त राशि, निविदा बेचना, प्राप्त करने एवं खोलने की दिनांक आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> तथा <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> पोर्टल पर देखा जा सकता है।  
 निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> एवं <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> पोर्टल का अवलोकन करें।  
**UBN विवरण:- WAQ2627WLOB000035**  
 राज.सा.वार्ड/नं./26/2371 अतिथिपती अनिलकुमार

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Tender Notice**  
**Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (e-Procurement Systems)**  
 On behalf of President of India Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, office at- Rail Coach Naveenkaran Karkhana Sonipat invites e-tender for below mentioned work:-

**NIT No. :** 365888

**Name of Work and its location :** "Ultrasound testing (UST) of Wheel disc. Dye Penetrant testing (DPT) of underlugs parts of LHB and VB coaches and Bogie frame parts and MPI/MPT testing of various components of LHB and VB coaches at RCNK (As per Scope of Work)"

**Approx. Cost of work : Tender Cost:** Rs. 45,89,764.64/- including GST@18% (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Four and Sixty Four Paise Only)

**Earnest Money :** Rs. 91,800/-

**Completion period of work :** 12 months (01 Year) from date of issue of Letter of acceptance

**Cost of Tender document :** NIL

**Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender :** Up to 15:00 hrs. on 01.06.2026. Opening of Tender at 15:15 hrs. on same day.

**Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen:** Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

**No. : 365888** Dated: 08.05.2026 1554/2026

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal**  
 Institute Works Department, Bhopal Bypass Road, Bhooni, Bhopal-462 066

The Superintending Engineer, Institute Works Department, IISER Bhopal on behalf of the Board of Governors invites online percentage rate tender from eligible firms / contractors of repute in two envelopes system for the following work:

| Sl. No. | NIT No. & date                       | Name of work                                   | Estimated cost | Earnest Money | Period  |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--|----------------|---------------|---------|
| 1.      | IWD/SE/NIT/2026-27/60 dt. 08/05/2026 | Maintenance of Bituminous Road at IISER Bhopal | 93,34,728/-    | 1,86,695/-    | 30 Days |

The bids forms and other details for application can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. The press notice is also available in Institute website <

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I Vansh Aggarwal son of Shri Rajesh Kumar Aggarwal residing at S-47, Sector-12 Noida, Uttar Pradesh declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Rajesh Aggarwal in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of my father is Rajesh Kumar Aggarwal respectively which may be amended accordingly.

004085347-1

I, YASMEEN W/O FARMAN KHAN R/O D-106 STEET NO.3 D-BLOCK NOOR-ELAHI GHONDA EXTN.DELHI-110053.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO YASMEEN.

0040853448-7

I, YASH (DOB: 20/07/2003) S/O Sh.Pawan Sahayogi, R/O-C-8/123, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to YASH PANCHAL, after adding my surname, for all purposes.

0040853448-5

I, WAJEHA SYEDA USMANI, W/O MOHD AATIR USMANI, R/O-6792, BERI WALA BAGH AZAD MARKET, DELHI-110006, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME WAJEHA SYEDA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

0040853449-8

I, VIPIN KUMAR VERMA, S/O Om Prakash, R/O A-180, T/F, Meerza Bagh, Pole No.-R-895, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087, have changed my name to VIPIN VERMA

0040853448-2

I, VINOD KUMAR S/O Kashi Ram R/O A-5/29, F.F., Kothi, Gopal Mandir, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to VINOD KUMAR BATRA.

0040853449-2

I, MONICA AGARWAL W/o Ankit Saraf R/O H No -33, Vaishali, Pitampura Delhi-110034 have changed my name to MONIKA SARAF.

0040853449-4

I, Surender Kaur Bagla W/o Bhupinder Singh R/O Flat-No-1, FF, Band Road, Chandan HOLA, Chattarpur, New Delhi-110074, have changed my name to Surinder Kaur.

0040853472-1

I, Sunny Arora S/o Vikas Arora R/O A-5/29, F.F., Kothi, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Sunil Arora for all purposes.

0040853449-11

I, Sharwan Kumar, S/O Jagdish Parsad, R/O H.No-68, Upper Ground floor, State Bank Nagar, Paschim-vihar Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Shrawan Kumar Garg.

0040853472-3

I, SUNIL KUMAR SUBNANI S/O NANAK CHAND SUBNANI R/O A-1/1110, MAYUR APARTMENT PLOT NO-53, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to SUNIL SUBNANI

0040853448-1

I, SUFIYAN S/O AZAD ALI R/O H.No.217, Khatoliya Mohalla Kalyan Singh, Mawana, Meerut(UP)-250401 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD SUFIYAN.

0040853472-4

I, SUDMA PRASAD MINA, S/O Hira Lal Mina R/O Flat 577, 3rd Floor, Pkt GH-2, Baghban Apartment Sector-28, Rohini, Delhi-110042 have changed my name to SUDAMA PRASAD MINA

0040853449-7

I, SHWETA, D/O JAAN RAO, R/O 00 NEAR KAILASH CHAND JEWELLERS, VIDHYAK CHOWK BAROLA, SECTOR-49, GAUTAM-BUDDH NAGAR, UP-201301, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHWETA RAO, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSES

0040853472-6

I, SHIVA NATH GUPTA S/O, RAM NOHAR GUPTA R/O, H.NO B-32, GALI NO -2 VISHNU-ENCLAVE ISMAILPUR-FARIDABAD HARYANA-121013, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHIV NATH GUPTA.

0040852764-5

I, Prabhat Kumar, S/O Ramesh Chand, R/O B-546 UG-Floor, Kh.No.102B, Vasant Kunj-Enclave, Delhi-110070, had recently changed my name to Ali Abbas. I have now changed my name back to Prabhat Kumar.

0040853450-2

I, PARMOD GARG S/O ISHWAR DASS GARG R/O 392, DEEPLI ENCLAVE PITAMPURA DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PARMOD KUMAR GARG.

0040853450-3

I, PANKAJ KUMAR, S/O CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH, R/O-401/D ROOM-NO-13, 2ND FLOOR, GALI NO-2, NEARMAIN ROAD MANDAWALI, MANDAWALI, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110092, have changed my name to BHAVIK KUMAR SHAURYA to BHAVIK KUMAR, for all future purposes.

0040853450-6

I, TAMANNA ASHRA W/o Vinod Kumar Batra R/O YP-14D, Near Gopal Mandir, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to TANNU.

0040853449-3

I, Amit Khandelwal son of Vimal Chand Nalani resident of C501 Saraswati Apartment Plot 97 IP Extension Delhi 110092 declare that my son is Avyansh in Passport B8882420 and Avyansh Khandelwal in Birth Certificate. Both are names of same person Henceforth, I shall be known as Avyansh Khandelwal.

0050288962-1

I, AMULYA GUPTA, D/O-Anil Kumar Gupta, W/o-Himadrih Suwan, R/O H.No.14/84, Ground Floor Vikram Vihar Lajpat Nagar Delhi 110024, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Amulya Suwan 0040853448-9

I, ASHWANI KUMAR, S/O AMBIKA PARSHAD, R/O HOUSE NO-B-112, 2ND FLOOR, CHANDER NAGAR, JANAKPURI, WEST-DELHI-110058, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHWANI SHARMA. 0040853450-4

I, Zahanara D/o Mashooq Ali, R/O C-150B, C Block, West Vinod Nagar, Mandawali, East Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Zahan aara 0050288970-1

I, Umed Singh Bhandari R/O Hukum Singh Bhandari, R/O T2/S-13, Dayanand Park, Shalimar Garden Ext-1, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201005, have changed my name to Umed Bhandari. 0071034340-1

I, Taj Uddin S/o Seraj Uddin R/O E-331, 1st floor left side, Jaitpur Extn. Part-2, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044, have change my name from Md Tajuddin to TAJ UDDIN for all future purposes. 0040853426-1

I, Sita Gupta W/o Mr. Ram Chandra Gupta, R/O Ram Chandra Gupta, Behind SBI MIG, B-80, Ram Ganga Vihar, Phase 1, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, 244001, have changed my name to Saroj Gupta. 0071034414-1

I, Seema Jindal W/o Sushil Kumar R/O C-47 New Multan Nagar, Delhi-110056 have changed my name to Seema Aggarwal for all future purposes 0071034325-1

I, Santosh Kumari Dhiman W/O Raj Kumar Dhiman R/O B-5/63, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Santosh Dhiman for all purposes. 0040853487-1

I, Sanghmitra Gautam W/o Jitendra Singh R/O G-803, Maxblis White House, Sector-75, Noida, UP-201301, have changed my name to Sanghmitra Singh for all future purposes. 0071034299-1

I, SHRUTI SINGHAL, W/O SH. VINEET SINGHAL R/O F-61 Preet Vihar Delhi 110092. Declare that I have changed my name after marriage from Shruti Gupta to Shruti Singhal, Both the name belongs to me, in future known me SHRUTI SINGHAL FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040853337-1

I, RAKESH PATEL S/O Ramlal Patel, 113, Village- Ramnagar Updhan, Gaddopur, Jaunpur, Badlapur, UP-222125, have changed my name to RAKESH KUMAR PATEL. 0071034453-1

I, Preeti D/o Ved Singh R/O H.No. C2-93, Dhawarkadish Aravali Heights Dharuhera, Gurgaon-123106, have changed my name to Aavya Singh. 0071034420-1

I, Neha w/o Supreet Singh r/o A-68, Second floor, Double Storey, Ramesh Nagar, Delhi-110015 have changed my name as HARPREET KAUR REKHI. 0071034437-1

I, NISHA MISHRA W/O Pankaj Sethi R/O CB-26A, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064 inform that NISHA MISHRA and NISHA MISHRA SETHI both Names are belongs to One and the Same Person. 0071034465-1

I, Mohan S/O Krishan Kumar, holder of Indian Passport No. V1089340, R/O Vill. Amritpur Kalan, Distt. Karnal, Pin: 132114, Haryana, India have changed my name Mohan and surname Maohn. All concerned please note. 0040853406-1

I, Md Rafeeq S/O Jamaluddin R/O H.No.11, Gali No.8, Old Brijpuri, Krishna Nagar, East-Delhi, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Mohd. Rafeeq. 0040853449-9

I, Md Mobin S/O Md Kudrat Ali R/O B-94, Kanchan Kunj, Madanpur Khadar Extn. Part-2, New Delhi-110076, have change my name from Md Mobin Ansari to MD MOBIN for all future purposes. 0040853362-1

I, MOHAMMAD MASAR ALI s/o Asim Ali, G-136/17, Gali No-17, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-25 have changed my name to MASAR ALI. 0071034428-1

I, Bunny Bajaj S/o Satish Bajaj R/o 6/50 W.E.A., Karol Bagh, S.O, Central Delhi-110005, have changed my name to Bharat Bajaj. 0071034467-1

I, Bhumika Varshney W/O Amit Kumar Varshney R/O G-903, French Apartments, Sector-16B, Greater Noida UP. 201308, have changed my name to Bhumika Gupta, for all future purposes. 0130064388-1

I, Anil Sharma S/O, Prem Shanker Sharma R/O 441 Gali No 17 B, Main Market Sant Nagar Burari Delhi 110084 have changed my name to Anil Kumar Sharma. 0040853404-1

I, Jatin Bhagat S/O Mahesh Kumar Bhagat R/O Apartment No- 0201, 2 nd Floor, Tower B3, Uniworld Gardens 2, Sector 47, VTC: South City II, Gurgaon-122018, have changed the name of my minor daughter Huvishka Bhagat to Heer Bhagat aged 2 years. 0071034402-1

I, Amrit Kumari Khanna, wife of Late Lt. Col. Ravinder Kumar Khanna, resident of 5-6 Shanti Farm House, Shahrupur Chandan Hulla, Fatehpur Beri, South Delhi-110074, declare that I have changed my name from Amrita Kumari Khanna to Amrit Kumari Khanna. Henceforth, I shall be known as Amrit Kumari Khanna for all future purposes. 0040853319-1

I, TAPISH S/o Kesh Kumar R/O 171, Block BM (West), Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88, have changed my name to Tapish is name & Surname is Singla for all purposes. 0040853342-2

I, Inderpreet Kaur, D/o Late Maninder Singh, W/O Naman Gambhir R/O A 2B/172-C, M.I.G.Flats, Near Jwala Heri Market, Ekta Apartments, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Simran Gambhir, 0071034470-1

I, Deepanshu Bhagat, S/O Shribhagwan Bhagat, R/O 126/A, Gali No.-3, Meethapur Extension, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044, have changed my name from Deepanshu to Deepanshu Bhagat for all purposes to align with my 10th Marksheet (Roll No: 14129869) vide affidavit dated 02-01-2026 before Notary Surjeet Singh, Delhi. 0040853390-1

I, Deepak Sharma S/O Chandra Prakash Sharma R/O-A709, Divyansh Fabio GHS, Crossing Republic, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Deepak Kumar Sharma. 0071034462-1

I, Chinmay Goyal S/O Harsh Vardhan Goyal, R/O H.No.57-D, DDA, SF S-2, Flats, Motia Khan, Delhi-110055, have changed my minor daughter's name from VAANYA GOYAL to VANYA GOEL. 0040853324-1

I, Bimla Devi w/o Satish Kumar Bhayana, R/O SH-29/448, New Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Bimla Bhayana. 0040853342-1

I, Bijender Kumar S/O Roshan Lal R/O Plot No-122, Kh No-514, First Floor, Gali No-9, Block-G, Punjabi Colony, Narela, Delhi-110040, have changed my minor son's name from Baby Second of Sadhana aged 9 years to Parth forever. 0071034424-1

I, BINOD SHARMA S/O Suresh Mistri, J-231/A/5, Prem Nagar. Lal Kuan, Badarpur, Delhi-44 have changed my name to BINOD KUMAR SHARMA. 0071034446-1

I hitherto known as Vineet S/o Ram Kumar R/O 167/A, Satyarn Puram Colony - Jharoda Kalan Border, Satyarn Puram, Jharoda Kalan, South West Delhi, Delhi- 110072 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vineet Sharma. 0071034473-1

I Ravinder Singh Jassal S/O Pargat Ram Jassal R/O 5B/A-5B/A-5C, Janak Puri New Delhi-110058 Have Changed my Name to Ravinder Singh. 0040853449-1

I Parkash Devi Dabas w/o Rajender Kumar Dabas R/O A2/129 Paschim Vihar New Delhi have changed my name to Parkash Dabas for all future purposes. 0071034337-1

I Manshi Gupta D/o Pankaj Gupta R/O House No- 689, Ward No-3, Near Roopan Wala Kuan, Mehrauli, Gadaai Pur, South Delhi, Delhi - 110030, have changed my name to Priya Gupta 0071034420-1

I Malvi Devi W/o Lal Jeet R/O B-34, Agar Nagar Suleman Nagar, Kirari, North West Delhi, Pin-110086, have changed my name to Mani Devi 0040853310-1

ONE BHK FLAT SPACIOUS, VENTILATED, BEST LOCATION, INDEPENDENT BUILDER TYPE, GROUND, FIRST, SECOND FLOORS, FRONT GARDEN, BYKE-PARKING, FURNISHED/ SEMI-FURNISHED AT DWARKA, SEC-19, Tel:- 9811026970

0040853310-1

Commercially approved space for Corporate Office, Restaurant Or Gym at Prime Location Raota Main Road, Jodhpur (Rajasthan), 3500 sqft on Second Floor. Ready to Move. Parking Available. All NOC taken. 9950560015, 9001238999 0110064392-1

PROPERTY RENTAL

ONE BHK FLAT SPACIOUS, VENTILATED, BEST LOCATION, INDEPENDENT BUILDER TYPE, GROUND, FIRST, SECOND FLOORS, FRONT GARDEN, BYKE-PARKING, FURNISHED/ SEMI-FURNISHED AT DWARKA, SEC-19, Tel:- 9811026970

0040853310-1

COMMERCIAL OFFICER Applications are invited from qualified candidates with experience for a vacant position of clerical officer at the Mauritius High Commission in New Delhi. Candidates must be degree holder, be computer literate, multilingual and have interpersonal communication skills. Duties & Salaries: To provide, inter-alia, support to Registry/Administration/Finance/Protocol and any other cognate duties as may be assigned. The post carries a monthly salary of INR 50,400 plus travelling allowance of INR 4,500/- Candidates should be 40 years or below. Applications should be forwarded at latest by 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 at the following address: Mauritius High Commission EP - 41, Jesus & Mary Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110 021 E-mail: vacancymhcdn@gmail.com Date of advertisement: 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

RECRUITMENT OF CLERICAL OFFICER

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SITUATION VACANT

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I, Arun Kumar Sharma, son of Satya Veer Sharma, residing in Village Khawaspur, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh. My rented house at 46/17, Sec.7, Bahadurgarh, Haryana, caught fire, and my belongings were burned, including my original documents of 10th and 12th-certificates and marksheet. Additionally, my B.Tech degree and marksheet, LIC-policy, and passport were also destroyed. A complaint regarding this matter has been registered with the Haryana-Police. Contact: 8076516120. 0040853450-7

I, GNS Jagadeesh, S/O GSS Prakasham R/O Flat No. 142, Block 1, BG Road, Nyanappanahalli Mahaveer Calyx Apartment, Behind RR layout, Bangalore South Karnataka, 560076 have lost my property document as share certificate in favor of shri GNS Jagadeesh, Certificate No.140 and Property addresses A306 Informatic Apartments Greater Noida Sector PI, Distt. Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. Finder Contact: 0071034416-1

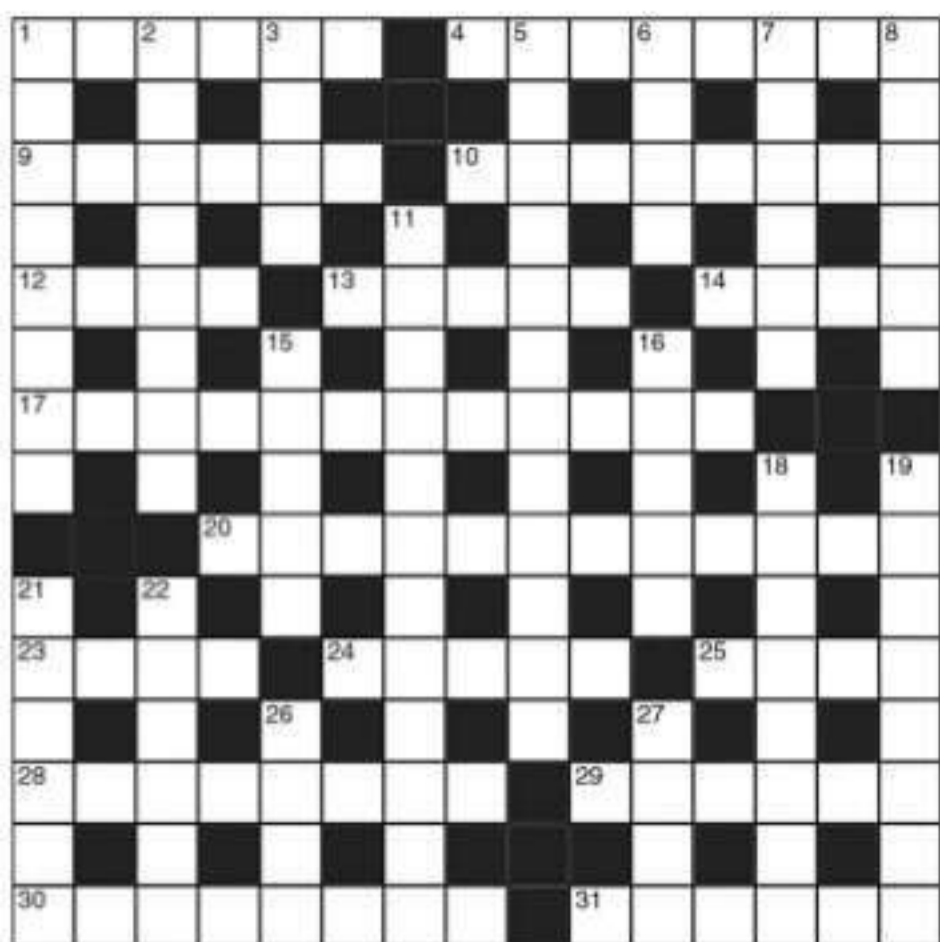
Lost Original SALE-DEED of My Property NS-29-Shop-No 2&3 Mianwali Nagar Paschim Vihar New Delhi-87, Regd.No-3506, Book-No-1.Vol-No-1990, Pages, 106-114 dated, 25-06-2014 and Regd.No-3505, Book-No-1, Vol-No-1990, on pages-97-105, dated-25-06-2014, Finder Contact-Manju Devi, W/o-Krishan Kumar, C-5/3, Mianwali Nagar, New Delhi-87 0040853448-10

Lost my Original Receipts of Flat Booked in TRIVENI SIGNATURE, Faridabad, Sector-89, Haryana, for the Flat No R2/418 Booked Under the Name of MR. MADHUR GUPTA, Bearing Allotment Letter, Date 29-01-2008, Receipts Nos: 8989003403, Date-05-03-2008 amount 1,00,000/-, Receipts Nos: 8989001076, Date 09-02-2008 amount 98,698/-, Receipts Nos: 8989001085, Date 11-01-2008 amount 1,65,000/-, Receipts Nos: 1414000614, Date-31-07-2006 amount 65,000/- have been lost Finder Contact-Madhur Gupta-C-1, PH-1, Lotus Pond, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.201014, PH-9810828128, 0040853450-10

Lost my Original Receipts of Flat Booked in TRIVENI SIGNATURE, Faridabad, Sector-89, Haryana, for the Flat No R2/719 Booked Under the Name of MR. MADHUR GUPTA, Bearing Allotment-Letter, Date-29-01-2008, Receipts Nos: 8800005834, Date-15-12-2006 amount 3,00,000/-, Receipts Nos: 8800003353, Date-19-04-2006 amount 48,000/-, Receipts Nos: 8989001084, Date-31-01-2008 amount 1,48,000/-, have been lost Finder Contact- Madhur Gupta-C-1, PH-1, Lotus Pond, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.201014, PH-9810828128, 004085

CROSSWORD

5984



ACROSS: 1 Give account about being dead (6) 4 Reckon teatime's been changed (8) 9 Toss a coin with me for profit (6) 10 Bar a note in an introductory piece (8) 12 Obstinate but said to be practical person (4) 13 Matter for thought (5) 14 In ancient myth she became a goddess (4) 17 Lead kept by a crafty bounder? (3,4,5) 20 Was this early movie a nicely modest production? (6,6) 23 Short piece of late news (4) 24 Work of monumental stupidity (5) 25 Sort of brake on the turntable? (4) 28 Be snooty in speech and overbearing in argument (4,4) 29 Four disappear from the merry-making being lustful (6) 30 Captivated by the Venus de Milo? (8) 31 Language for man to concoct (6)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 5983 ACROSS: 1 Craft, 4 Dilemma, 8 Rib, 9 Task force, 10 Illness, 11 Omits, 13 Ranged, 15 Stalks, 18 Bleat, 19 Call for, 21 Soon after, 23 Nip, 24 Thistle, 25 Clyde DOWN: 1 Carrier, 2 Ambulance, 3 Tithe, 4 Desist, 5 Left out, 6 Mar, 7 Areas, 12 Idle fancy, 14 Extract, 16 Scruple, 17 Scythe, 18 Beset, 20 Lyric, 22 Obi.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective circles below. Select the letters in the shaded circles and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

\_\_\_ or \_\_\_, now as ever, is nature's inexorable imperative - H G Wells (5,.,6)

Word jumble puzzle with letters in circles and a grid. Includes letters: KWAAE, IORDPT, FKIRS, ELNOHP. Solution: ANSWER: Adapt or perish, is nature's inexorable imperative.

OVER THE HEDGE



CALVIN & HOBBS



DIFFICULTY LEVEL

4s INSTRUCTIONS: To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 3, 8, 2, 5, 2, 1, 8, 8, 6, 1, 3, 7, 1, 8, 6, 4, 3, 7, 6, 2, 9, 8, 6, 2, 1, 7, 3, 8, 9, 8.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 4, 5, 9, 8, 2, 6, 3, 1, 7, 8, 7, 2, 9, 3, 1, 5, 4, 6, 6, 1, 3, 4, 7, 5, 8, 9, 2, 2, 6, 4, 5, 1, 7, 9, 3, 8, 3, 9, 5, 2, 6, 8, 1, 7, 4, 7, 8, 1, 3, 4, 9, 6, 2, 5, 5, 2, 8, 1, 9, 4, 7, 6, 3, 9, 4, 7, 6, 8, 3, 2, 5, 1, 1, 3, 6, 7, 5, 2, 4, 8, 9.

ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Horoscope section for Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, and Aquarius. Includes zodiac symbols and text for each sign.

CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD. Notice Inviting E-Tender for CONCOR invites E-Tender in Single Packet System of tendering for the following work: Development of 7,600 Sqm (Approx.) Kachcha Yard area...

UJVN LTD. Addendum/Corrigendum-1 Dated 07.05.2026. The clarification to the queries/modification in bid condition against e-NIT No.: 02/EE/Civil/MT/2026-27 invited by this office has been uploaded on e-portal as addendum/corrigendum-1.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tendering Tender Notice. Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed 'Open Tender' through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work: Jhansi Division- Supply of potable drinking water in the section of ADEN/MBA & ADEN/BNDA under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/East for 18 months.

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking) TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal). BESCOM invites tenders vide Enquiry No.: BESCOM/2026-27/SE0458 through KPP portal platform from eligible Bidders for 'Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) of Passive Components at BESCOM Data Center, HSR Layout, Bengaluru for 2 years'.

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Notice Inviting Tender. E-Tenders are invited in Two Part Bid System for NIT No. NFVP/CICO/2379 for 'Miscellaneous Civil Works in Factory Area, at NFL Vijapur Unit'.

AXIS FINANCE LIMITED E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) and Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD NOTICE INVITING e-Tender Tender Notice No.: PR 101/2026. Bihar School Examination Board invites bids through e-procurement from all Prospective Bidders for 'Service Provider for the design, development, deployment and support of a GPS-based School Mapping System with mobile and web applications for digital data capture, validation, centralised visualization and management of school data across Bihar'.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM. Table with columns: SR. No., NAME OF BOARD CORP./ AUTH, OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO., NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.