TUESDAY
April 7, 2026

HYDERABAD
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 51 • No. 82

RNI No. TELENG/1976/49963

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

VAJIRAM & RAVI

VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

THE BEST COURSES AT THE BEST CIVIL SERVICES COACHING INSTITUTE

YOUR GO-TO INSTITUTE FOR GENERAL STUDIES PREPARATION

GENERAL STUDIES
PRELIMS & MAINS COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMMES

GENERAL STUDIES COMPREHENSIVE COURSE 2027
11 MONTH PROGRAMME + 6 Months Free Coaching
COMMENCES: 25TH APRIL, 2026

GENERAL STUDIES FLEDGLING COMPREHENSIVE COURSE
2 YEAR PROGRAMME + 6 Months Free Coaching
COMMENCES: 8TH MAY, 2026

OPTIONAL SUBJECT COURSE
COMMENCES: APRIL, 2026

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS
- Agriculture
- Political Science & IR
- Geography
- Psychology
- Philosophy
- Commerce & Accountancy
- Anthropology
- Sociology
- Mathematics
- Public Administration
- Economics
- History

BANANA BRANDWORKS / VAJIRAM

THE GENERAL STUDIES COURSE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING

- 350+ lectures (G.S. + Current Affairs)
- 30+ experienced teachers & 3+ teachers for each subject
- Prelims Test Series with 30 General Studies & Current Affairs Tests
- 900+ hours of teaching for comprehensive coverage of syllabus
- Exclusive content on the Student Portal (vajiramias.com)
- Mains Exam Test Series with mentorship support
- Mentor Support Programme for students to seek guidance
- 6 months Mains Support Programme (MSP) to prepare after classes conclude
- Class lectures are available online to help with revision
- Access to monthly Current Affairs magazine- The Recitals
- Printed study material called Yellow Books designed for Prelims & Mains
- Free Interview Guidance Programme (After qualifying for the Mains Exam)

To enrol: www.vajiramandravi.com

Scan to connect

New Delhi Centre: 1/7B, Pusa Road, adjacent to Karol Bagh Metro Station, New Delhi - 110060
Visit our Student Portal: www.vajiramias.com Email: online@vajiramandravi.com

080-6220 6311

ANDROID APP ON Google play
Download on the App Store

VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination
NEW DELHI

VAJIRAM & RAVI

VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

THE BEST COURSES AT THE BEST CIVIL SERVICES COACHING INSTITUTE

CSAT PROGRAMME 2027

- 3.5 month complete CSAT coverage
- 2 hour classes, 3 days a week
- Regular tests for practice & clarity
- Concept-based study material with practice
- 5 full-length mock tests

COMMENCES: 13TH APRIL, 2026

SURE SHOT MAINS TEST SERIES 2027

- Pre-test PYQ brainstorming session
- 40 tests (20 Subjective Sectional Assessments, 20 FLTs)
- One-on-one mentorship with the rankers & senior mentors
- 10 answer writing enhancement lectures
- Toppers' strategy & value-addition sessions
- Prelims and Mains Smasher books
- Post-test discussion for each test

COMMENCES: 15TH APRIL, 2026

STEPUP MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME 2027

- A 4-layered ecosystem for serious UPSC aspirants
- SMART current affairs + Prelims & Mains CAMP with test series
- Weekly tests + PYQ-based revision for continuous improvement
- Essay, CSAT & answer writing training (12+ lectures)
- One-on-one mentorship + Toppers' strategy sessions
- Thematic content, workbooks & one-pager notes

MEDIUM: English | Hindi
COMMENCES: 15TH APRIL, 2026

ETHICS MARKS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

- Conceptual clarity covering the entire ethics theory syllabus via 9 concept classes
- 9 mini-tests-cum-answer-writing sessions
- 6 dedicated case study sessions - including concepts, framework and case study based mini-tests
- Value-addition-cum-revision sessions before Mains 2026, to ensure current affairs integration & syllabus consolidation
- One-on-one mentorship with Ms. Sakshi Sundrani
- 3 HLTs and 1 FLT with detailed evaluation for targeted improvement

COMMENCES: 1ST JUNE, 2026

ESSAY PROGRAMME 2026

- 11 classes; 5 tests
- Concise essay handouts - one-stop solution
- Writing drills during class
- Test discussions and individual guidance
- Separate test series for seniors

COMMENCES: 31ST MAY, 2026

SMART CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMME 2026

- Thematic coverage of current affairs
- Interlinkages with static knowledge
- Content with high-use value
- Live in-class answer writing and answer generation templates and practice
- SMART MCQ solving SOPs and skills
- High-yielding value-addition handouts

ADMISSIONS OPEN



Anuj Agnihotri
AIR 1
IGP



1st RANK HOLDERS



JOIN OUR GENERAL STUDIES PROGRAMME & ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST OF UPSC TOP RANK HOLDERS

To enrol: www.vajiramandravi.com

Scan to connect

New Delhi Centre: 1/7B, Pusa Road, adjacent to Karol Bagh Metro Station, New Delhi - 110060
Visit our Student Portal: www.vajiramias.com **Email:** online@vajiramandravi.com

080-6220 6311

ANDROID APP ON Google play
Download on the App Store

VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination
NEW DELHI

TUESDAY
April 7, 2026

HYDERABAD
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 51 • No. 82

RNI No. TELENG/1976/49963

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna





NCERT CONTROVERSY

'Blacklisted' academics seek top court hearing

NEWS » PAGE 12



'MOOD FOR CHANGE'

Congress clearly ahead in Kerala: Tharoor

ASSEMBLY POLLS » PAGE 11

WORLD HEALTH DAY

Addressing rights, dignity in public health

A curated set of articles highlighting key issues

EDITORIAL & OPINION » PAGES 8 & 9



DEEP TECH SUMMIT

2-day meet begins with focus on infra push

FULL COVERAGE » PAGES 14 & 15

SC denies Bengal's plea to delay locking of poll rolls

Top court says tribunal hearings cannot be 'compressed' and made hasty to fit a deadline; CJI says gheraoing of judicial officers on April 1 was a 'well-planned, calculated and deeply instigated' move

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI



Last resort: People queue up in Nadia, West Bengal, on Monday to submit their petitions before the special tribunal after their names were deleted from the voter list under the SIR. PTI

The Supreme Court on Monday declined the West Bengal government's appeal to wait for a few more days before freezing the electoral roll so that many of the over 20 lakh voters, who could not pass the verification by judicial officers after being removed from rolls under the special intensive revision (SIR), get a chance to vote in the Assembly election on April 23 and 29.

On the gheraoing of judicial officers in the State's Malda district on April 1, the top court invoked powers under Article 142 of the Constitution and Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a Bench, said the incident was not an emotional outburst, but a "well-planned, calculated, and deeply instigated" move. The court directed the National Investigation Agency to take over the investigation in the case.

The hearing began with senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for West Bengal, saying there were long meandering queues of voters in the State who, remain excluded from the electoral rolls after failing to make their case against 'logical discrepancies' found in their details.

Mr. Divan said the 19 appellate tribunals should be asked to dispose of the appeals by April 15. A final supplementary electoral roll, including the names of voters who have won their appeals, could be published on April 18, five days ahead of April 23, the first polling date. Electors, whose appeals could not be decided by April 15, could be included in the electoral roll. Freezing the electoral rolls on April 6, the last date of filing nominations for the first phase, would deprive lakhs of their right to vote and amount to ignoring the appellate process, he submitted. "Appeals are a continuation of the adjudication process, and no elector should be disenfranchised. These are mapped electors. They had voted in the 2002 elections," he said.

But Justice Joymalya Bagchi, on the Bench, said a tribunal hearing cannot be "compressed". Principles of natural justice were involved and the hearing of appeals cannot be made into a hasty exercise to fit a pre-conceived deadline, as suggested by the State.

The court said the issue of logical discrepancies was "peculiar" to West Bengal, prompting the use of judicial officers to verify objections. The court noted that out of over 60 lakh objections, 59.15 lakh were disposed of by the judicial officers.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
SERPENTINE LINES
» PAGE 12
EDITORIAL
» PAGE 8

Iran intel chief killed as Trump's deadline to open Strait looms

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM/PARIS



Majid Khademi WIKI COMMONS

The intelligence chief of Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC), Major General Majid Khademi, was killed in U.S.-Israeli strikes on Tehran on Monday, according to Iranian state media and Israel's Defence Minister. He was sanctioned by the U.S. earlier this year citing a role in suppressing anti-government protests.

Israel said it also killed Asghar Bakeri, the leader of the IRGC's undercover unit in its expeditionary Quds Force. Announcing the killing of the intelligence chief, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said Iran's steel and petrochemical industries were "severely damaged" as well.

Major General Khademi, who, according to a statement by the IRGC, was killed in an airstrike at dawn, was one of several senior figures within the force to be killed so far in the war in West Asia that began on February 28 with the assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in U.S-Israeli strikes.

The IRGC praised the Major General's role in paving the way for Iran to confront "foreign enemies" and vowed to avenge his death. "The malicious and desperate enemy should know that a major retaliatory strike... under Operation 'crushing revenge', awaits the planners and perpetrators of this crime," it said in a statement on its official media site Sepah News.

Confirming the killing of Mr. Bakeri, the Israeli military said the undercover leader had planned attacks on Israeli and U.S. targets as well as operations in Syria and Lebanon.

With U.S. President Donald Trump's Tuesday deadline for Tehran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz looming, Israel and the U.S. on Monday carried out a wave of attacks, killing more than 25 people in Iran. Tehran responded with missile fire on Israel and its Arab neighbours.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
TRUMP'S THREATS
» PAGE 16

NEARBY



Fruit market land being diverted, says Harish

HYDERABAD
BRS leader Harish Rao accused the Congress government of attempting to divert nearly 200 acres of land earmarked for the proposed Koheda Fruit Market to private interests. » Page 6

Early Bird property tax drive affected

HYDERABAD
Property tax collection during the Early Bird scheme might get affected due to the trifurcation of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation into three different corporations. » Page 2

'Demand for processed food being exploited'

HYDERABAD
Telangana's growing demand for ready-to-eat and processed food is being exploited through widespread adulterationand the use of substandard ingredients, Health Minister C. Damodar Raja Narasimha cautioned. » Page 4

Nine policemen get death in T.N. custodial murder case

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI



The accused policemen being produced before the First Additional District and Sessions Court in Madurai on Monday. G. MOORTHY

A trial court in Tamil Nadu on Monday awarded the death penalty to nine policemen found guilty of custodial torture and murder of a trader and his son during the COVID-19 lockdown at Sattankulam in Thoothukudi district.

The custodial torture meted out to P. Jayaraj (58) and his son J. Benicks (31), who were detained at the Sattankulam police station on the mere charge of violating COVID-19 lockdown norms and keeping their mobile phone sales and service showroom open in June 2020, had shaken civil society and also became a political issue.

The Madurai First Additional District and Sessions Judge, G. Muthukumaran, had on March 23 held that all the nine policemen prosecuted by the CBI in the case were guilty of the crime.

The judge awarded death sentence to the then Sattankulam inspector S. Sridhar; sub-inspectors P. Raghu Ganesh and K. Balakrishnan; head constables S. Murugan and A. Saamidurai; and constables M. Muthuraj, S. Chelladurai, X. Thomas Francis, and S. Veilumuthu.

Special sub-inspector Pauldurai was also an accused. But he died during trial after contracting COVID-19.

The judge said the act of the police personnel was unacceptable. "Where there was power there should be responsibility. Jayaraj and Benicks were unarmed and were tortured at regular intervals all through the night at the police station," the judge said.

Jayaraj was tortured following an altercation with the police personnel, while Benicks was tortured for intervening. They had no previous antecedents and it was an act of vengeance and instilled fear among the public.

The judge said the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court had monitored the case and if not for this, the case would have been buried. "The police personnel were mentally sound and well educated. They were drawing government salaries. Those who should protect and safeguard the public acted in such a manner. It was a case of the fence eating the crop," he said.

Social evil

It was an attack on human rights, the judge said, adding the custodial deaths were a social evil. He pointed out to the recent custodial torture and death incidents reported in Tamil Nadu as well as outside.

The judge also referred to the George Floyd incident reported in the U.S. and the recent Ajith Kumar case reported in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Chairs of both Houses reject notice seeking CEC's removal

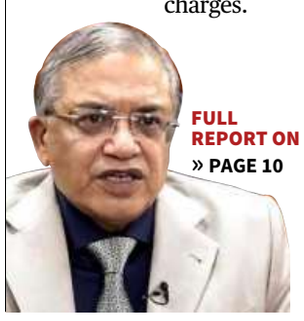
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla have rejected a notice submitted by 193 Opposition MPs across both Houses seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. No specific reasons were cited for the rejection.

The notice, submitted on March 12, was signed by 63 Rajya Sabha members and 130 Lok Sabha members.

The Secretaries-General of both Houses issued bulletins on Monday stating that "after due consideration", the notice had not been admitted.

The 10-page document accused the CEC of being "subservient" to the executive and alleged the "deliberate abuse of power and position of a constitutional office", among other charges.



FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 10

CM vows to complete all pending irrigation projects

Ravi Reddy
PIPRI (ADILABAD DISTRICT)



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and others at a public meeting organised in Pipri, Bazarhathnoor mandal, Adilabad district on Monday. NAGARA GOPAL

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday vowed to complete all pending irrigation projects in the State and asserted that his government would restart the Pranahita-Chevella project at Tummidihatti in ertswhile Adilabad district.

Addressing a largely attended 'Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika' public meeting at Pipri in Boath Constituency and also to commemorate the three years of 'People's March' undertaken by the then Congress Legislature Party leader and present Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Mr. Reddy said: "From this platform, I promise that we will not only complete pending irrigation projects but we will restart the Pranahita-Chevella project at Tummidihatti. Providing irrigation water to Adilabad and turning this region lush and fertile is our responsibility."

Specifically referring to the developmental works planned for erstwhile undivided Adilabad district, Mr. Reddy said the government planned to lay the foundation stone for Adilabad Airport, tentatively, by June 2. "We will develop the Adilabad region into an industrial hub," he said and pointed out that the land acquisition for this purpose is progressing rapidly. He also pointed out that the government has initiated land acquisition for a university in Adilabad.

The Chief Minister, referring to the land of tribal warrior Komaram Bheem – who ignited the spirit of struggle with the slogan "Jal, Jungle aur Jameen" while fighting for the resolution of people's issues – said the protests in Nirmal as PCC president, the Indravelli Dandora movement, or Bhatti Vikramarka's People's March padayatra all made impact.

He made it clear that politics exist only during elections. "When it comes to development, we move forward by taking everyone along. That is why we invited people beyond party lines to these meetings," he noted.

The Chief Minister said even when there are no Congress MLAs, the government had sanctioned Young India Integrated Schools. "Even without our MLAs, we are taking development forward, ensuring that people do not suffer. We have never said that development will happen only if you vote for Congress. We do not look at parties; we look at people's hardships and implement welfare schemes," he said. The Chief Minister also spoke about free RTC bus travel for women.

Concluding his speech, he said the government was preparing assessments of everything that Adilabad district needs.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 6

INBRIEF



Man feted for rescuing minor girl from abduction bid

A 30-year-old businessman was honoured by Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar for rescuing an eight-year-old girl from an alleged abduction and assault attempt. The accused, Saleem, a 30-year-old auto driver from Mehdipatnam, was arrested on April 2 after allegedly luring the girl into his vehicle in Abids on April 1 and taking her to an isolated spot in Golconda. Businessman Mohammed Feroz, passing by after offering prayers, noticed the child crying inside the autorickshaw and grew suspicious. When he intervened, the girl said the driver was behaving inappropriately. The accused fled, leaving her behind. Feroz contacted her family, and patrolling Blue Colts constables soon reached the spot and safely reunited her with her parents.



Orthopaedic surgeons trained in advanced trauma care

Medicover Hospitals, in collaboration with Osmania Medical College and orthopaedic bodies, organised a training programme aimed at strengthening emergency trauma response, in Hyderabad on Monday. Nearly 200 orthopaedic surgeons from across the country took part in the intensive, hands-on cadaveric workshop on pelvic and acetabular trauma care. Uday Krishna Myneni, organising secretary of the workshop, noted that the injuries carry a high risk due to potential internal haemorrhage, and said timely intervention in the 'golden hour' can greatly improve survival chances.

Young India Skills University and Vignana Jyothi ink MoU

The Young India Skills University (YISU)and Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering & Technology (VJIET) have signed a memorandum of understanding to advance skill-based education and enhance industry-oriented learning. Through this collaboration, VJIET will play a role in jointly developing and implementing skill development programmes, certification courses, internships, workshops and industry-integrated training initiatives. This will help students across the institutions gain relevant technical, analytical and professional skills. The MoU stresses faculty development, collaborative research and knowledge exchange through joint academic initiatives. YISU Vice-Chancellor V.L.V.S.S. Subba Rao was present.

GHMC trifurcation glitches mar Early Bird property tax drive

Scheme faces setback as GHMC trifurcation triggers technical glitches, delayed SMS alerts and payment failures, leaving taxpayers struggling despite incentives and expanded urban jurisdiction

Swathi Vadlamudi
HYDERABAD

Property tax collection during the Early Bird scheme might get affected due to the trifurcation of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation into three different corporations, namely GHMC, Cyberabad Municipal Corporation and Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation.

Early Bird scheme offers a rebate of 5% on the total annual payable tax if paid within the first month of the year. Every year, the scheme earns a large bounty for GHMC as property owners vie to avail the concession by paying effortlessly online.

This year, many consumers are struggling to pay the tax as the website has undergone changes, and the tax payment appears under the name of Core Urban Region Economy instead of the corporation concerned. "I have been unable to pay the tax online despite several attempts, as the payment options are not working. I got an error message repeatedly that the selected payment gateway was under development," Srinivas Nayak, a resident of Chintalkunta said.



Last year, GHMC got a total ₹900.93 crore in the Early Bird scheme which was 44% of the previous year's collection of ₹2,038 crore.

The same complaint was heard from several others. All the payment options appear bunched under a single push button. If one still goes ahead with payment selecting it, one gets the error message.

The SMS blast which would send customised links to each property taxpayer for easy payment, has not been initiated yet, a week into the Early Bird window. While a few owners in the GHMC limits have received the messages, a large number are yet to get them. In Cyberabad and Malkajgiri corporations, the SMSes have not yet been started.

"Till last year, we paid the tax through Bill Collector who would visit once every month. We did not get any message or link so far," shared Vinayak, another property owner from Nizampet. Nizampet was a separate corporation till last year, and one among the 27 urban local bodies to be merged with GHMC at the end of 2025. Now, it is part of the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation.

Last year, GHMC got a total ₹900.93 crore in the Early Bird scheme which was 44% of the previous year's total collection of ₹2,038 crore. In the 2025-26 financial year, the collection for the CURE area stood at mere ₹2,558.8 crore, which is way less when juxtaposed against the expansion in the scope from 650 sq.km to more than 2,000 sq. km.

Of the total, the highest ₹1,000.36 crore was collected from the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation's purview, while Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation accounted for mere ₹562.62 crore. The newly constituted GHMC's collections stood at ₹995.82 crore, which is merely ₹94.89 crore or 9.6% higher than the Early Bird collections from its previous form. This is despite the One Time Settlement scheme, which entailed 90% waiver on the penalty, and heightened enforcement towards the end of the year.



The tax rate will remain unchanged at 5%. REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO

SCB set to collect property transfer tax directly from June 1

Siddharth Kumar Singh
HYDERABAD

The Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) has resolved to collect Transfer of Property Tax (TPT) directly from applicants, with the revised system set to come into effect from June 1, according to CEO Arvind Kumar Dwivedi.

The decision was taken during a board meeting on Monday. Under the new mechanism, all property transfers within the Secunderabad Cantonment jurisdiction from June 1 onwards will require the TPT to be paid directly to the Cantonment Board. Until now, it was being collected through the Sub-Registrar Office at the time of registration.

Mr. Dwivedi said there is no change in the tax rate. The TPT continues to be levied at 5%, a rate that has remained unchanged since it was fixed in 1989.

The Board's decision comes amid growing demands from residents' groups seeking a reduction in the TPT rate and a fresh public consultation process. A representation submitted by Cantonment Vikas Manch, an NGO, has urged SCB to revisit the decades-old tax structure and invite objections and suggestions from residents.

Sanki Ravinder Babu, general secretary of the NGO, argued that socio-economic conditions, property values and purchasing capacity have changed significantly over the decades, making the continuation of the 5% rate unjustified.

The group added that in the adjoining Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation areas, the TPT rate is 1.5%, and sought parity on grounds of fairness.

Education schemes take a beating as minority welfare spending falls below 50%

Syed Mohammed
HYDERABAD

Amid concerns raised during the recent Telangana Assembly Budget session over the gap between allocations and actual spending on Minorities Welfare, official documents reveal that less than 50% of the earmarked funds were utilised.

A Right to Information request filed by Kareem Ansari, an activist with the portal youRTI.in, stated that the aim was to track the performance of government schemes across departments.

According to the information sought, including per-head allocation, fund releases and actual expenditure, the Minorities Welfare Department, which was allocated ₹3,585.03 crore in FY 2025-26, spent only ₹1,703.30 crore, or 47.5% of the total.

One area that witnessed glaringly low spending was education. A primary example is the disbursal of funds for the Reimbursement of Tuition Fee (RTF) scheme, under which the government extends financial assistance to college students by paying their fees. While the allocation and release were ₹300 crore each, only ₹68.88 crore was spent.

The data shows that no funds were spent on the pre-matric (GoI) scholarship scheme, which had an allocation of ₹1.73 crore. While the government dragged its feet on these schemes, there was a silver lining in the form of the Chief Minister's Overseas Scholarship, which covers airfare and tuition in foreign universities. The scheme saw an expenditure of ₹172.27 crore against an allocation of ₹130 crore. However, the number of beneficiaries under this scheme is significantly smaller compared to those under RTF.

A primary example is the disbursal of funds for the Reimbursement of Tuition Fee scheme... Despite ₹300 crore being allocated and released, only ₹68.88 crore was actually spent on it

While ₹4 crore was allocated for study circles, only ₹3 lakh was spent. The Centre for Educational Development of Minorities, with Osmania University as the nodal agency, was allotted ₹4 crore but recorded an expenditure of ₹63 lakh. The Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society was allocated a budget of around ₹995 crore, but the expenditure was around ₹850 crore.

"In the current financial year, the government reduced the RTF budget by ₹200 crore. We are now seeing very low spending in the previous year," said Mohammed Faraz Ahmed, State president of the Students Islamic Organisation.

He said that the recent interim orders of the High Court permitting private engineering colleges to collect fees directly from students in case the government fails to reimburse them will have a huge impact. "The government should appeal against this order," he said.



Hyderabad to host second Rugby Premier League in June

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

GMR Sports, in partnership with Rugby India, has announced that the second edition of the Rugby Premier League (RPL) will be held at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad from June 16 to 28.

The announcement comes shortly after GMR Sports signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of Telangana, aimed at developing a Satellite Sports City within Bharat Future City. The initiative reflects the group's focus on strengthening sports infrastructure, promoting innovation and supporting athlete development in the State, said a release.

The upcoming edition of the league will feature the six franchises that participated in the inaugural season. The organisers said the tournament will bring together leading Indian and international players while offering fans an engaging and competitive rugby experience.

"Hyderabad's emergence as a global sporting destination reflects Telangana's long-term policy vision and institutional support for international partnerships. Events such as the Rugby Premier League contribute significantly to tourism, urban visibility and the broader sports economy of Telangana," said Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan.

Timings
HYDERABAD

TUESDAY, APR. 07		
RISE	06:06	SET 18:30
RISE	23:11	SET 09:24
WEDNESDAY, APR. 08		
RISE	06:05	SET 18:31
RISE	00:00	SET 10:14
THURSDAY, APR. 09		
RISE	06:05	SET 18:31
RISE	00:02	SET 11:07

Hyderabad Weather	max	min
Sangareddy	37	27
Warangal	36	24
Hyderabad City	37	27

Hyderabad City Today
37°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail.

Hyderabad City Tomorrow
36°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm with uneasy afternoon. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

'Bring idle and underutilised tourism infra into active use'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Tourism Special Chief Secretary A. Vani Prasad on Monday conducted an inspection of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Statue at NTR Marg and the musical fountain at Sanjeevaiah Park in Hyderabad, with a focus on bringing underutilised tourism infrastructure into active public use.

Accompanied by P. Gouthami, managing director of the Telangana Tourism Development Corporation (TGTDC), and senior officials, the inspection reviewed facilities that have been completed but remain either underutilised or not yet open to the public.

At the Ambedkar Statue premises, Ms. Prasad assessed the status of surrounding infrastructure and called for a holistic development of the area. She underlined the need to develop proposed lawn spaces in a planned and aesthetically appealing manner to improve visitor experience.



Telangana Tourism Special CS A. Vani Prasad with TTDC chief P. Gouthami inspecting the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Statue in Hyderabad on Monday.

For transformation

Officials were directed to explore the use of these open spaces for tourism-friendly activities, cultural programmes and public engagement initiatives, with the aim of transforming the site into a vibrant destination for both tourists and residents.

The team later inspected the musical fountain project at Sanjeevaiah Park, which has been completed with support from the Ministry of Tourism.

Despite its completion, the facility has not yet been made operational or opened to the public. Ms. Prasad instructed officials to take immediate steps to operationalise the fountain and ensure its early inauguration.

Warangal para taekwondo athlete ranked world no. 2

P. Laxma Reddy
WARANGAL

In a powerful tale of resilience and determination, Warangal-based para taekwondo athlete Ellavula Goutham Yadav (27) has climbed to World No. 2 rank in the Senior Male P51 category, according to the latest rankings released by World Para Taekwondo.

The achievement marks a milestone in Goutham's sporting journey, particularly given the challenges he has overcome. In 2020, his promising career was interrupted by a road accident. Refusing to accept defeat, and supported strongly by his family, he embarked on a determined recovery and return to international competition.

His perseverance has since translated into consistent success on the global stage. Goutham Yadav has emerged as one of India's most accomplished para taekwondo athletes, bringing pride to Telangana and the nation through his performances.



Ellavula Goutham Yadav

His notable international achievements include a gold medal at the World Para Taekwondo Championship 2024 in Bahrain, followed by another gold at the 5th KTA International Para Poomsae Championship 2024 in London. He added to his medal tally with a silver at the 10th Asian Para Taekwondo Championship 2025 in Malaysia. At the national level, he is a three-time senior national champion, establishing his dominance in the sport.

Speaking about his achievement, Goutham said, "My long-term goal remains to secure an Olympic medal for India."

Published by Nirmala Lakshman and Printed by Durga Tirumaleswara Rao Sunkara at THG PUBLISHING PRIVATE LIMITED., Z-6 to 8, Survey No. 1, Uppal kalan, IDA, Uppal, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500007. on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X



Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla along with police officers after inaugurating 'Nivrutti' at Cherlapalli Central Prison on Monday.

De-addiction centre 'Nivrutti' inaugurated at Cherlapalli prison

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A de-addiction centre, 'Nivrutti', was inaugurated at the Central Prison in Cherlapalli on Monday as part of efforts to strengthen rehabilitation and reformative initiatives for inmates.

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla inaugurated the facility in the presence of senior officials, including Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services Soumya Mishra and other government representatives.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor highlighted that correctional institutions must focus on reform and rehabilitation, and highlighted past efforts to improve conditions in prisons and staff welfare.

Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services Soumya Mishra said that the centre marks a significant step in strengthening jail-based rehabilitation programmes and emphasised that substance abuse should be addressed through counselling, medical care and sustained support rather than punitive measures alone.

Similar 'Nivrutti' centres have been established in all central prisons in the State, including Chanchalguda, Sangareddy and Nizamabad, as well as the Special Prison for Women in Hyderabad.

These centres are staffed with psychologists and social workers to provide treatment and counselling.

According to officials, 2,915 inmates have been screened for substance use, while 590 have undergone assessment and received counselling and therapy.

Following the inauguration, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla visited the Prisoner Agricultural Colony in Cherlapalli and reviewed various vocational and reformative activities.

Mr. Shiv Pratap Shukla also inspected initiatives such as organic farming and skill-based programmes aimed at rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates into society.

HC issues notices on plea against award to Shamirpet police stn.

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Justice E.V. Venugopal of the Telangana High Court on Monday issued notices to the State and the Central governments in a writ petition which sought a direction to reconsider the 'best police station ranking awarded to Shamirpet police station of Malkajgiri commissionerate.

The petition was filed by Lokahitha society seeking direction to consider its representation given to the Centre and the State to review the 7th rank awarded to Shamirpet police station nationwide and the best police station in Telangana State. The petitioner society also wanted the court to order an inquiry by the Vigilance Commission into the alleged corruption in the police station.

According to the society represented by its president Venkat Swamy, the best ranking was in conflict with the experiences of corruption, inaction and abuse of power faced by members of the society. The petitioner pointed out that a Sub-Inspector of the police station M. Parashuram was caught taking ₹22,000 bribe from a person in August 2025. The same SI was accused of accepting ₹2 lakh bribe from the same complainant. Some members of the society lodged complaints about illegal occupation of lands but the officers did not respond, the petitioner stated. It was only after members of the society moved the High Court, the police officials registered cases, the petitioner said.

The matter was posted for hearing on April 20.

APPOINTMENT

KBNU
KHAJA BANDANAWAZ UNIVERSITY
EDUCATING HUMANITY
KALABURAGI, KARNATAKA.

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
No. 02/2026 Date: 06-04-2026

The Khaja Bandanawaz University invites applications from the eligible citizens of India for the following positions under the **FACULTY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY** and **FACULTY OF COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT**:

Teaching Positions:
• Professor • Associate Professor

Non-Teaching Positions:
• Technical Assistant / Lab Instructor

Interested candidates may apply via the Google Form by scanning the QR code provided.
The last date to submit the online application is 14th April, 2026.
For further detials/updates please visit www.kbn.university
Sd/-
Registrar

A FAIRFAX Company
Thomas Cook

THIS SUMMER HOLIDAY'S BIGGEST OFFER
BOOK NOW AND GET 25% VALUE* BACK
Upto Rs. 50 000.00 worth of loyalty points*

Sydney, Australia
Meet TACY our virtual travel expert. Ask her anything about your holiday. Log onto www.thomascook.in
Offer Valid Till 18th April 2026

India and Surrounds (without Flights)
7 Days - Heavenly Himachal @ ₹ 42 000.00 pp
6 Days - Andaman Fully Loaded With Neil Stay @ ₹ 35 400.00 pp
7 Days - Exotic Kashmir with Gulmarg Stay @ ₹ 45 700.00 pp
7 Days - Bhutan Direct Flights from Bangalore @ ₹ 75 900.00 pp
7 Days - Sri Lanka Fully Loaded @ ₹ 59 200.00 pp
6 Days - Awe - Inspiring Nepal @ ₹ 32 900.00 pp

Easy Visa Holidays
10 Days - Magical Vietnam with Cambodia @ ₹ 1 97 900.00 pp
11 Days - Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore @ ₹ 1 62 300.00 pp
7 Days - China Extravaganza @ ₹ 1 95 100.00 pp
7 Days - Grand Bargain Japan @ ₹ 2 75 000.00 pp

Most Popular
8 Days - Swiss French Magic @ ₹ 2 92 000.00 pp
10 Days - Grand Bargain Australia @ ₹ 3 75 000.00 pp
9 Days - Scenic New Zealand @ ₹ 4 07 000.00 pp
15 Days - Sensational Europe @ ₹ 4 22 900.00 pp

Spiritual Journeys (without Flights)
6 Days Anant Kashi Ayodhya Yatra @ ₹ 41 400.00 pp
7 Days - Sri Lanka Ramayan Anant Yatra @ ₹ 50 500.00 pp
10 Days - Kashi To Kathmandu Darshan Yatra @ ₹ 76 900.00 pp

TravSure Travel with Confidence
FREE Rescheduling & Cancellation in Emergencies | Additional Trip Protection | 24x7 Customer Support
Inclusions: Airfare (where specified), Hotels, Meals, Insurance, Sightseeing & Services of our 'Experience Managers' as per itinerary.

Call Your Nearest Store
HYDERABAD: Lakdikapul: 8879826114 | Banjara Hills: 9619492105 | Begumpet: 8291243442 | Dilsukhnagar: 9619591969 | Gachibowli: 9167161392 | Jubilee Hills: 9619810063 | Kukatpally: 9619599531 | Hi Tech City: 9619593440 | Sainikpuri: 9619595061 | GUNTUR: 8291455869 | RAJAHMUNDRY: 9167253443 | VIJAYAWADA: 8291457263 | VISHAKAPATNAM: 8291457655 | WARANGAL: 9619599103

T & C Apply: Prices mentioned are Ex-Hyderabad & are per adult on twin sharing basis. Taxes as applicable. ROE is calculated at 1 USD = INR 95.91, 1 AUD = INR 66.92, 1 NZD = INR 56.05, 1 JPY = INR 0.61, 1 SGD = INR 74.92, 1 EUR = INR 110.00 and will vary on the date of payment. Final pricing & availability of offers/services may vary based on the market conditions and prevailing forex rates. Confirm all the relevant details with our sales staff or visit www.thomascook.in/conditions before making a booking. Guaranteed departure refers to the operation of the group on dates indicated and does not guarantee individual customer visas – which are purely consular decisions. Thomas Cook utilizes services of various third party service providers in the products / tours.

1800 2099 100 | thomascook.in

THE HINDU GROUP

The future isn't imagined. It's engineered.



SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
(Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956)
Presents
THE HINDU
Deep Tech Summit 2026

The Hindu DeepTech Summit presented by SRM Institute of Science and Technology unites visionaries, institutions, and ideas driving the next wave of innovation.

Today | 9:30 AM onwards

Scan to watch the event live or log into
newsth.live/THSRMD2

DAY 02

Panel: 10:10 AM – 11:10 AM
The State as De-Risker: Aligning Academic Excellence with National Strategic Missions
Dr Vibha Malhotra Sawhney, Head, Technology Management Directorate (TMD) & Innovation Protection Unit (IPU), CSIR
Sridhar Bharathwaj, Founder, Exponential Integration VC Pvt. Ltd.
Dr Ramanan Ramanathan, Chairperson – National Expert Advisory Council on Technology, Innovation and Incubation of Department of Science and Technology India
Rishi Dewan, Associate, StartUp India
Prof. Ashwin Mahalingam, Co-Founder, Okapi Research & Advisory Pvt. Ltd. Professor, IIT Madras
Moderated by **N Nagaraj,** Vice-President, Digital Media, The Hindu

Fireside Chat: 11:10 AM – 11:40 AM
Leveraging a Multi-Disciplinary University Ecosystem for Enabling the Deep Tech Revolution
Dr Shantanu Patil, Director, Entrepreneurship & Innovation, SRMIST
In conversation with **Dr R Kalpana Sastry,** Scientist, Agri-Food Innovation Consultant, Executive Director, STEM

Panel: 11:50 AM – 12:50 PM
Convergence of Disciplines: End of Traditional Engineering Silos
Puhazhendi Kaliyappan, Medical Devices Consultant & Advisor
Dr Vishal Gandhi, Founder & CEO, BIO Rx, Chief Investment Officer – Indian Healthcare Angels
Aravind Ganesan, CTO, Kauvery Hospital
Senthil Kumar Rajendran, Investor, Partner, Mentor & Advisor
Moderated by **Koushik Ramani,** Managing Partner & Co-Founder, NetworkGain Consulting

12:50 PM – 01:00 PM
Vote of Thanks by
Dr Ananth Kumar, Associate Director, Directorate of Entrepreneurship & Innovation (DEI), SRMIST

Industry Partner: MMA Management Association; IHFC Technology Innovation Hub of IIT Delhi; STEM
Knowledge Partners: IVY Club Chennai; Sathguru Catalysing Success; birac Ignite Innovate Incubate; Bio-NEST; NITI Aayog; AIM Atal Innovation Mission; DPIIT #startupindia
Ecosystem Partner: Startup Singakam

Minister cautions against rise in food adulteration

Reflecting on the growing demand for ready-to-eat and processed food, Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha warns of health hazards as enforcement and awareness drives intensify

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana currently has around 1.41 lakh food business entities, with nearly 80% concentrated in urban areas including Hyderabad, reflecting the growing demand for ready-to-eat and processed food.

However, this surge is being exploited through widespread adulteration and the use of substandard ingredients, Health Minister C. Damodar Raja Narasimha cautioned.

The Minister was speaking after flagging off a Food Safety Awareness Walkathon at Jalavihar, which saw participation of around 1,000 students and youth. Highlighting changing consumption patterns, the Minister said rapid urbanisation and busy lifestyles have led to a decline in home-cooked meals, resulting in increased dependence on restaurants and processed food. "This shift has significantly expanded the food industry, but has also created opportunities for malpractice," he added.



Health Minister C. Damodar Raja Narasimha visits a stall at the 'Eat Right Mela' along with other officials in the city. SIDDHANT THAKUR

He noted that adulteration now affects a wide range of essential food items, including salt, pulses, tamarind, sugar, and tea leaves. In addition, some food establishments are using inferior oils and low-quality ingredients, posing serious health risks to consumers. Consumption of such food is contributing to gastrointestinal disorders in the short term and increasing the risk of chronic diseases.

He said a stringent enforcement approach is being adopted. Over the past two years, more than 11,000 inspections were conducted in coordination with the Food Safety and Police Departments, with strict action taken against violators.

Later in the day, the minister along with senior officials participated in the 'Eat Right Mela' organised at Nature Cure Hospital in Hyderabad. The event showcased a range of healthy food products. Millet-based items emerged as a key attraction, with vendors presenting innovative offerings such as millet ice cream and coffee.

Two injured in stabbing incidents

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Two siblings were injured in stabbing incidents reported in Rein Bazar early on Sunday.

The accused have been identified as Rehan Akhwan, Mohd Akbar Pasha, Sijju Agha and Asghar.

According to the police, the incident began around 3 a.m. when 20-year-old Shaik Moin Ahmed was on his way to a medical shop near Ganga Nagar Nala. He was attacked with a knife by the accused over previous enmity, causing an injury to his left hand. Later, when Moin Ahmed's brother Shaik Abbas Ahmed questioned them, Rehan allegedly stabbed Abbas in the stomach, causing bleeding injuries. Probe is underway.

3 extort money from gas delivery boy, held

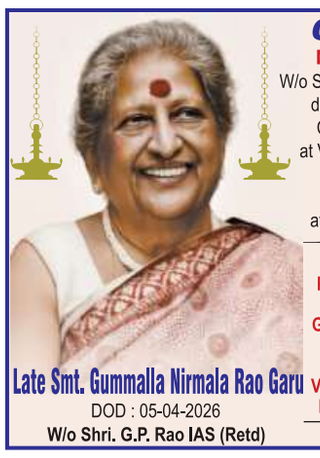
The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Three persons were arrested for allegedly posing as vigilance officials and extorting money from a gas delivery boy near Film Nagar on Monday.

According to the police, the trio intercepted the delivery boy and accused him of selling gas cylinders in black market. They allegedly threatened to report him to his employer. Police said the accused demanded ₹2 lakh, following which the victim, out of fear, handed over the cash he had collected after making deliveries. The victim later informed his employer, who lodged a complaint with Film Nagar police. The accused were held and ₹23,000 was recovered from them.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



OBITUARY
Mrs Nirmala Rao Garu
W/o Shri. G.P. Rao Garu IAS (Retd) demised on 5th April 2026, Cremation will take place at Vaikunta Mahaprasthanam, Banjara Hills (near Nagarjuna Circle) at 11 AM on 7th April 2026.

Daughter - Son-in-law:
Pratima - Srinivas Koppolu
Sons - Daughters-in-law
Gummalla Sanjay - Malavika
Gummalla Sunil - Usha
Grand Daughters :
Vyshnavi, Sanjukta, Vimathi, Nayantara, Nandini, Aanya

Late Smt. Gummalla Nirmala Rao Garu
DOD : 05-04-2026
W/o Shri. G.P. Rao IAS (Retd)
Ph:9618897333

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: 040-27155005 ▪ 98497 93373
▪ 97040 74747 ▪ 95023 25317 ▪ 98852 80564
or Contact your nearest Authorised space sellers

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PINJARI BUCHAMMA (OLD NAME) W/O Pinjari Rajam R/O 4–185,Medipally, Metpally,Jagtial,TS. I have changed my name as PINJARI LAXMI (NEW NAME) W/O Pinjari Rajam.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public at large are hereby informed that my client **Majji Kasi Visalakshi W/o. Majji Venkata Ravindranath**, R/o. H.No. 12-7-112/11/2/B, Kesava Nagar Colony, New Mettuguda, Lallaguda, Secunderabad., is the absolute owner and peaceful possessor of Residential Flat bearing No.404 in Fourth Floor bearing Municipal No.1-1-29/375/485/ MS/404 (PTIN No.1010130326), constructed in Plot Nos.4 & 5, in Survey Nos.375, 378, 379 and 380, in "MARUTHI SIGNATURE" having Plinth area 935.00 Sq. Feet (including common areas and Lift amenities) and one Car Parking area of 100.00 Sq.feet, together with undivided share of land measuring 39.00 Sq.yards, or 32.60 Sq.Mtrs. (out of 679.00 sq.yards or 567.64 Sq.mtrs.), situated at Block No.01, situated at KRISHNA ENCLAVE, KAPRA, within the limits of GHMC Kapra Circle and Kapra Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State, by virtue of Sale Deed Document bearing No.827/2020 dated 12-02-2020 registered at office of the Sub-Registrar, Kapra.

My client had lost Original sale deed document No. 827/2020 Dated 12-02-2020 registered at office of the Sub-Registrar Kapra and original Link document i.e., Sale Deed document bearing No. 312/2019 dated 19-01-2019 registered at office of the Sub-Registrar, Kapra., on 25-03-2026 at about 11.00 AM he boarded a TSRTC city bus Route No. 136D at Dammaiguda x Roads and got down at Balaji Nagar Bus stop (Under P.S Jawaharnagar Police station Limits). Persons who ever find may return to my client at his residential address or the under signed, will be rewarded suitably.

G.DURGA PRASAD M.B.A., B.L., I.R.P.M.
ADVOCATE
Plot No.308, Street No.8-N, Bhavani Nagar, Kapra, ECIL Post, Hyderabad -62. Cell : 9849708498
Date: 02-04-2026,Place: Hyderabad.

CYBERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, HL&WBM CIRCLE, HYDERABAD

Lakes-SE/HL&WBMC - Tenders are invited for the followng work

Sl. No.	Tender Notice Number & Date	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value
1	Tender Notice Number:02/SE/HL&WBMC/ 2026 -27, Dated:04.04.2026.	Engg - Lakes -"Construction of RCC Box drain for surplus Nala of Chinna Pedda Cheruvu, Gopanpally (V), Serilingampally (M), Ranga Reddy District"	Rs.63,45,460.00/-

*Last Date and Time for sumbission of the above tender and other details please visit **www.tender.telangana.gov.in**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, HL & WBM Circle, Hyderabad. 9381909379

DIPR R.O.No.190-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt. 06.04.2026

Request for Proposal (RFP Cum RFQ)

RfP No. 01/CE-II/RFP/TGIIC/2026-27, Dt: 02.04.2026.

"Design, Construction, Testing, Commissioning and O&M of Infrastructure Works at Kakatiya Mega Textile Park (PM MITHRA park) at Shayampet (V), Geesugonda (M), Warangal District on EPC Basis".

The Request for Proposal (RfP) document can be downloaded from www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in from Date: 04.04.2026

Last date for submission of Proposals: Date: 04.05.2026,15:00Hrs (IST).

Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited
"Parishrama Bhavan", 6th Floor, 5-9-58/B, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad-500004, Telangana, Ph: 23237625, Fax: 040- 23240205, Email: ce-iic@telangana.gov.in

R.O. No. : 13-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt: 06.04.2026 CHIEF ENGINEER - II

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on X @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Open E-Tender Notice No. CAO/Con/RSP/SC/02/2026-Capital (works)/Deposit dated 01/04/2026 & 02/04/2026 PUB019

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works up to **11.00 hrs on 24.04.2026**

Sl.No 1 **e-Tender No.** CONST-CAO-RSP-26-003 **Name of the work** Vijayawada Division: (1) BZA-GDV section: Construction of Proposed 2 lane ROB in Lieu of LC.No.16 between Nidamanuru and Uppalurut Stations. (2) BZA-VSKP section Construction of Proposed 2 lane ROB in Lieu of LC.No.324 between Gannavaram and Pedda Avutapalli Stations & (3) BZA-VSKP section Construction of Proposed 2 lane ROB in Lieu of LC.No.328A between Pedda Avutapalli and Telaprolu stations **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.** 128,28,37,926.53 **EMD [Rs.]** 2,56,56,800.00 **Completion period (in Months)** 18 **Defect liability period (in Months)** 48 **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria** B.II (d)Any "Railway/Metro/Road Bridge Work having steel composite/Bowstring girder and/or PSC girder in super structure".

Sl.No 2 **e-Tender No.** CONST-CAO-RSP-26-004 **Name of the work** Vijayawada Division :BZA -VSKP Section: Construction of Proposed 2 lane ROBs in lieu of LC.No.422 between Medapadu and Samalkot Stations, LC.No.426 between Samalkot and Pithapuram Stations & LC.No.439 between Ravikampadu and Annavaram Stations **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.** 168,93,61,889.66 **EMD [Rs.]** 3,37,87,300.00 **Completion period (in Months)** 18 **Defect liability period (in Months)** 48 **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria** B.II (d)Any "Railway/Metro/Road Bridge Work having steel composite/Bowstring girder and/or PSC girder in super structure".

Sl.No 3 **e-Tender No.** CONST-CAO-RSP-26-006 **Name of the work** Secunderabad Division - Kazipet - Balharsha Section - Construction of Public Foot Over Bridge with Both side ramps (for Pedestrain and Two/Three Wheeler vehicle movements) in lieu of LC NO.13 between Uppal and Hasanparthy stations. **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.** 11,01,76,703.42 **EMD [Rs.]** 22,03,500.00 **Completion period (in Months)** 12 **Defect liability period (in Months)** 48 **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria** B-5: Any work consisting of steel fabrication and erection of FOB or Steel / Composite girder Bridges or ROB with steel composite girder or Industrial Shed or PF shelter (steel) or Microwave /HT tower or replacement of steel members / repairs on steel girder Bridges or Steel Sleepers over girder Bridges.

Sl.No 4 **e-Tender No.** CONST-CAO-RSP-26-007 **Name of the work** GTL Division: Renigunta(RU) - Gooty(GY) section: Proposed construction of new Road under Bridge in lieu of LC No. 179 at Gooty Station yard. **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.** 27,77,93,553.89 **EMD [Rs.]** 55,55,900.00 **Completion period (in Months)** 12 **Defect liability period (in Months)** 48 **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria** A3: Any Civil Engineering work consisting of construction of bridge involving Box pushing / pipe jacking technique or bridge work involving casting and launching of PSC Slab/PSC Girder/PSC Box.

Sl.No 5 **e-Tender No.** CONST-CAO-RSP-26-008 **Name of the work** Guntakal Division: Katpadi - Tirupati Section: Construction of 2 lane Road Over Bridge (Railway portion) between Katpadi and Bommasamudram Stations **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.** 6,05,86,697.16 **EMD [Rs.]** 12,11,700.00 **Completion period (in Months)** 12 **Defect liability period (in Months)** 48 **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria** B-1A. Major Bridges with Steel Composite Superstructure Any Civil Engineering work consisting of construction of steel and/or composite girders bridge on substructure with (a) open/pile/well foundation or (b) pile/well foundation or (c) well foundation.

• Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers will be considered. • Tender conditions /other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at **ireps.gov.in** which can be downloaded, view modification, if any and can be participated through the website as mentioned. • All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit EMD through online payments/ BG only. • The tender notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of CAO/ Construction/RSP, South Central Railway which can be seen on all working days. • The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto. • All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit along with their offer.

Visit our site at "www.ireps.gov.in"

Dy. CE/Con/RSP/ Secunderabad

TENDER NOTICE No. 41 _DRM_W_ HYB_26 dt. 02/04/2026 PUB017

On behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager/Works, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites Open Tenders for the following works through **e-procurement** up to 15.00 hours of **30/04/2026.**

Tender No. 41_DRM_W_HYB_26 **Name of the work** Hyderabad Division : 1) Proposed construction of new control office and SCADA building at Hyderabad Bhavan compound in Hyderabad Division 2) Provision of 24x7 Central Monitoring System setup at Divisional Head Quarters and 3) Provision of facilities for centralized control center including SCADA at new SCADA building of HYB Bhavan **Approx Value Rs.** 20,64,18,272 **EMD Rs.** 41,28,400

For further details visit the website www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager /Works/Hyderabad

TENDER NOTICE For **Tender No. 01-OEW-26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB, 02-ST -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB, 03-PA-26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB.** PUB018

Sr.DEE/M/HYB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following Tenders **Closing date. 30-04-2026, 15:00.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Sl.No 1 **Description of work: Tender No. 01-OEW -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB:** Hyderabad Division: Replacement of LT OH lines with UG cables covering service buildings / Colonies etc. in SLGD, MLY, NLGD Jurisdiction. **Approx. Cost (₹)** ₹3,42,51,845/- **EMD (₹)** ₹6,85,000/- **Completion period** 12 Months **Date of Closing** 30-04-2026

Sl.No 2 **Description of work: Tender No. 02-ST -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB:** Hyderabad division: Provision of 24x7 Central Monitoring System setup at Divisional Head Quarters in connection with the work of South Central Railway- Upgradation of KAVACH version 3.2 to 4.0 in low density routes in the existing KAVACH territory- Electrical arrangements **Approx. Cost (₹)** ₹1,50,00,514/- **EMD (₹)** ₹3,00,000/- **Completion period** 6 Months **Date of Closing** 30-04-2026

Sl.No 3 **Description of work: Tender No. 03-PA -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB:** Hyderabad Division: Provision of CCTV Surveillance System at 17 Goods Sheds- Electrical arrangements **Approx. Cost (₹)** ₹91,93,939/- **EMD (₹)** ₹1,83,900/- **Completion period** 12 Months **Date of Closing** 30-04-2026

Website particulars www.ireps.gov.in

Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen: Office of the Sr.DEE/M/HYB, Hyderabad Bhavan, Secunderabad-500071

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Maintenance/Hyderabad

Open e-Tender Notice No. DRM/Works/BZA/13/2026 dt.06.04.2026 PUB020

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tenders for the following works up to **15-00** hours and the date mentioned against each.

Sl. No. 1 **Tender No.** E-08-EAST-BZA-2026 **Details of Work**: **Name of work** BZA Division: GDR-BZA & BZA-VSKP sections: procurement of PSC special sleepers-8 sets for re-railing ramps in vijayawada division. **Period of completion** 04 (Four Months) **Tender value Rs.** 38,72,678./- **E.M.D.** Rs 77,500./- **Date of closing** 17/04/2026

Sl. No. 2 **Tender No.** E-09-EAST-BZA-2026 **Details of Work**: **Name of work** SW-I : Repairs to Corroded Rain Water Gutters, Roof Sheets of COPs, Painting of COPs, FOBs and Service Buildings, and Repairs to Water Pipelines and Water Pedestals at Stations under SSE/Works/GDV Section SW-II : Repairs to COP's, Brightening of COP's, FOB's and Station Name Boards at Stations in SSE/Works/BVRM section. **Period of completion** 12 (Twelve Months) **Tender value** Rs. 4,34,27,782./- **E.M.D.** Rs. 8,68,600/- **Date of closing** 28/04/2026

1) Tender conditions/other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above works, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at **"www.ireps.gov.in".** 2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website **"www.ireps.gov.in".** before the date of tender closing to note any changes/corrigenda for any tender. 3) The Tender Notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Divisional Railway Manager (Works), S.C.Railway, Vijayawada and ADEN sub-divisional offices of Vijayawada Division which can be seen. 4)The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Visit our site at "www.ireps.gov.in"

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Vijayawada

A021

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

---

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Notice No. eT-East-WAT-04-2026 Dt.: 31.03.2026

NAME OF THE WORK : SUPPLY OF WELDING PORTIONS FOR 60 KG / 60 EI-R260 RAILS BY A.T/SKV PROCESS (SINGLE SHOT CRUCIBLE TECHNIQUE) UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / EAST / WALTAIR

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 55,37,639.88, **EMD :** ₹ 1,10,800.00, **Completion Period of the Work :** 06 (Six) Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 22.04.2026

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : **www.ireps. gov.in**

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / Waltair

PR-17/R/26-27

EAST COAST RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No.: DYCEGSUWAT ENGG20260012, Dated : 18.03.2026

NAME OF WORK : CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD OVER BRIDGE NO. 460 WITH SPANS : 1 X 42.0M CG + 3 X 18.0M CG + 3 X 30.0M PSC GIRDER + RE WALLS, & FOOT OVER BRIDGE IN LIEU OF CLOSING OF MANNED LEVEL CROSSING AT KM. 812/11-13 BETWEEN VIZIANAGARAM (VZM)-NELLIMARLA (NML) STATIONS OF WALTAIR DIVISION ON EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 46,53,05,619.64, **EMD :** ₹ 24,76,500/-, **Completion Period of the Work :** 24 (Twenty Four) Months.

Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1500 hrs. of 17.04.2026.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering.

The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions.

Dy. Chief Engineer (GSU)/ Waltair

PR-04/CJ/26-27

कार्यालय क्षेत्रीय प्रबन्धक
उत्तर प्रदेश वन निगम
संगम प्लेस, चतुर्थ तल, सिविल लाइन्स, प्रयागराज-211001
दूरभाष - +91-532-2427536, ई-मेल - rmall@upfc.in

वर्ष 2026 में हरे तेन्दूपत्ता की अग्रिम बिक्री हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना का सारांश

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि वर्ष 2026 सीजन हरे तेन्दूपत्ता लाटों की अग्रिम बिकी किये जाने हेतु षष्ठम ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। आनलाईन षष्ठम ई-निविदा प्रारम्भ करने की तिथि **13.04.2026** को समय **11.00 AM** से प्रारम्भ होकर आनलाईन षष्ठम ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत किये जाने की अन्तिम तिथि दिनांक **15.04.2026** को **3.30 PM** बजे तक केवल उ0प्र0 वन निगम की वेबसाइट **www.upforestcorporation.co.in** एवं ई-तेन्दूपत्ता पोर्टल **http://upfctendupatta.in** में आनलाईन ई-निविदा दी जा सकती है। जो अंतिम तिथि को **सायंकाल 4.00 बजे** खोली जायेगी।

ई-निविदा हेतु वर्ष 2026 के लिये तेन्दूपत्ता के विनिर्माता/व्यापारी को उ0प्र0 वन निगम के विक्रय प्रभाग, दुद्धी, वाराणसी एवं झाँसी कार्यालय में अथवा ऑनलाइन माध्यम से पंजीकरण कराना आवश्यक है। समस्त इच्छुक निविदाकारों को ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट पोर्टल **www.upforestcorporation.co.in** एवं ई-तेन्दूपत्ता पोर्टल **http://upfctendupatta.in** पर दिये गये प्रक्रिया के अनुसार ई-निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु पंजीकृत होना अनिवार्य है।

निविदा हेतु निविदा सूचना, लाट सूची तथा अन्य परिशिष्टों सहित दिनांक **03.04.2026** को केवल उत्तर प्रदेश वन निगम की वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।

पत्रांक: 36/तें0प0 अग्रिम बिक्री 2026
दिनांक: 02.04.2026

क्षेत्रीय प्रबन्धक, प्रयागराज

JAPIT
Jharkhand Agency for Promotion of Information Technology
(An Autonomous body under Department of Information Technology & e-Governance, Govt of Jharkhand)
Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel – I, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand
Phone. 0651-2401044, 2401047 email: japit_doit@rediffmail.com

Notice Inviting Tender

SN	Item	Description
1	Project Title	Tender cum Auction Document For Disposal of Scrapped IT & Non -IT Equipment from Jharkhand State Data Centre (JHSDC 2.0)
2	Tender Ref. No.	JAP-IT/AUC-01/2026
3	Contact Person, Address and Email	The CEO, Jharkhand Agency for Promotion of Information Technology (JAP-IT), Ground Floor, Engineers hostel 1, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi -834004. Tel: 0651 -2401044, Email: japit_doit@rediffmail.com
4	Selection Method	Qualifying Stage followed by Two -stage Financial: Initial Lot-wise Financial Bid followed by Forward Auction on the State e-Procurement Portal.
5	Date of download of tender document	07/04/2026 from 5:00 PM
6	Material Inspection Window	15/04/2026 to 17/04/2026 (Visit time between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM)
7	Date for sending Pre-Bid Query as per tender format	20/04/2026 till 6.00 PM
8	Pre-Bid Meeting onsite at JAP - IT	21/04/2026 at 3:00 PM
9	Start Date for Submission of Bids online	24/04/2026 at 11:30 AM
10	Last Date for Submission of Bids online	29/04/2026 till 03:00 PM
11	Date of Technical Bid Opening	30/04/2026 till 03:30 PM
12	Date of Financial Bid opening	To be Informed Later
13	Date of Forward Auction	To be Informed Later
14	Bid Validity Period	180 Days
15	Cost of Tender Document	**Rs. 2,500/-** (Two Thousand and Five Hundred Rupees only) non-refundable through online e-Procurement System
16	EMD	**Rs. 10,000/ -** (Ten Thousand Rupees only) refundable through online e-Procurement System

Note:

I. JAPIT reserves the right to amend, modify, or change any part of the bidding schedule at any time. Bidders are advised to regularly visit the Jharkhand e-Procurement portal (https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/) for updates, corrigenda, and notifications.

II. Bids must be submitted strictly as per the date and time specified in the Fact Sheet on the https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/. Bids received after the prescribed date and time shall be summarily rejected and shall not be considered for further evaluation.

III. Bidders are advised to submit their bids well before the closing date and time. JAPIT / Government of Jharkhand shall not be responsible or liable for any delay or failure in bid submission due to technical issues, system errors, network failures, or connectivity problems at the Bidder's end or on the https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/.

IV. JAPIT reserves the right to cancel, withdraw, or annul the bidding process, either in part or in full, at any stage, without assigning any reason thereof, and without incurring any liability or obligation to any Bidder.

PR 376772 Information Technology(26-27)D

SD/- (OSD, JAP-IT)

MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
Ministry of MSME Govt. Of India
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, GOVT. OF INDIA
KIADB Industrial Estate, Devanahalli, Bengaluru

2 DAYS GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATION ON FOOD BUSINESS AND SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING

Course Duration 2 Days (ONLINE) Date: 11 & 12 April 2026 Time : 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Course Content: High-demand food business opportunities in Dehydration, Business Setup & Mandatory Licenses, Smart & Sustainable Packaging, Food Processing & Packaging Machinery, Export Documentation, Compliance (APEDA, USFDA, EU), Drafting & Documentation Business Agreements, Vendor & Buyer Contracts, Litigation & Regulatory Support, Pricing & Digital Sales – Product Positioning, Costing & Profit Analysis, Government Schemes & Financial Support – PMFME, PMEGP, NABARD, APEDA, Startup India & MSME Initiatives for Businesses and Startups,

Fees : Rs.3,540/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)

Coordinator: 9818676612, 9818528498, 9686564246
Government of India certificate will be awarded

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU · thehindu businessline · FRONTLINE · SPORTSTAR · The Hindu Young world · THE HINDU

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT
THE HINDU
South India's No.1 English daily
Hyderabad : 040-27155005
98497 93373
97040 74747
95023 25317
98852 80564
email : advthyd@thehindu.co.in

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT
COLLECTORATE :: MAHABUBNAGAR
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION
FORM - VI
(See Sub rule (1) of rule-19 and Section - 11(1) of the Act-30/2013)
No. Rev/G1/LAG/0005/2026-G-Section Dated:17.03.2026

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana / District Collector that an extent of total **Ac. 0.16 Gts.,** of land is required in the **Kothur Village of Midjil Mandal,** Mahabubnagar District for public purpose, namely for excavation of Distributory — 50 canal under Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme. **The Government vide G.O.Ms.No.51, Irrigation & CAD (LA R&R/A2) Department dt. 25.07.2017 exempted the Mahatma Gandhi Lift Irrigation Scheme from the application of the provisions of Chapter — II & III** of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013. Therefore Social Impact Assessment study has not been carried out as required U/s 4 (1) of the said Act. No families are likely to be displaced due to the Land Acquisition. The Additional Collector (Revenue) is appointed as Project Administrator for the purpose of Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the affected families.

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the **Kothur** Village of **Midjil Mandal** of Mahabubnagar District a piece of land measuring, more or less **Ac.0.16 gts** of standard measurement, whose detailed description is as following, is under acquisition:

Village: Kothur Mandal: Midjil District: Mahabubnagar

S.No	Sy. No.	Dry / LD / Wet	Type of Land	Area proposed under Acquisition (in acre) Ac. Gts.	Name & Address of Person interested	Boundaries				Trees	Structures
						N	S	E	W		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	269	Dry	Patta	0.10	Cheepiri Sailu S/o Balaiah	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	269	Dry	Patta	0.06	Cheepiri Satyanarayana S/o Balaiah	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total :				0.16							

This notification is made under the provisions of Section 11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 (Act No.30 of 2013) to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Mahabubnagar & Special Deputy Collector LA R&R, Unit - II, Irrigation Project, Mahabubnagar on any working day during the working hours. The District Collector, Mahabubnagar / Collector - cum -appropriate Government is pleased to authorize the Special Deputy Collector LA R&R, Unit - II, Irrigation Project, Mahabubnagar and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section (12) of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transactions or cause any transactions of land i.e. sale/ purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section (15) of the Act before District Collector, Mahabubnagar.

Sd/- Special Deputy Collector LA R&R Unit-II, Irrigation Projects Mahabubnagar
Sd/- Additional Collector (Rev) Mahabubnagar
Sd/- District Collector Mahabubnagar

DIPR RO NO. 07/LA-PP/ADVT/PUB/2026-27

సంచాలకులు, స్త్రీ మరియు శిశు సంక్షేమశాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్, గుంటూరు

ఈ-ప్రొక్యూర్మెంట్ టెండర్ నోటీసు

సంచాలకులు, జిల్లా స్త్రీ మరియు శిశు సంక్షేమ శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్, గుంటూరు వారి పరిధిలో గల **28** జిల్లాలను **4** యూనిట్స్/జోన్స్‌గా విభజించి అందులోని గర్భవతులు, బాలింతలకు బాల సంజీవని పథకము అమలు చేయు నిమిత్తము అవసరమగు **రాగి పిండి, బెల్లం, వేరుశనగ చిక్కి, ఎండు ఖర్జూరాలు మరియు అటుకులు,** అదేవిధంగా ట్రైబల్ ఐ.టి.డి.ఎస్ ప్రాజెక్టుల పరిధిలో గల గర్భవతులు, బాలింతలకు బాల సంజీవని గిరిజన పథకము ద్వారా **మల్టీ గ్రైన్ ఆటా, రాగి పిండి, బెల్లం, వేరుశనగ చిక్కి, ఎండు ఖర్జూరాలు** ఒక సంవత్సర కాలం సరఫరా చేయుటకు ఈ-ప్రొక్యూర్మెంట్ ద్వారా టెండర్స్‌ను తేది: **05.04.2026** నుండి కోరబడుచున్నవి. వివరములు **www.eprocurement.ap.gov.in** పోర్టల్‌నందు టెండర్ షెడ్యూల్లో పొందుపరచబడినవి.

పూర్తి వివరముల కొరకు కార్యాలయము నందు సంప్రదించగలరు.

Sd/- M.Venu Gopal Reddy, IAS
DIRECTOR

DIPR No. 5010PP/CL, Dt: 05.04.2026

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
REVENUE DEPARTMENT
Gazette No. 65 Date: 25.03.2026,
Collector File No.G1/446/2026 Date: 24.03.2026,
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR,RANGAREDDY DISTRICT
No.G1/446/2016 Dated : 30-03-2026
ERRATA TO PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

The District Collector Ranga Reddy District has issued Form-C Notification to acquire land to an extent of Ac.101.21gts pertains to Lemoor Village of Kandukur Mandal for public purpose and published on **Dated : 29-03-2026**,U/s.11(1) of LA Act of 2013 in **Sakshi** Telugu News paper and The **Hindu** English News Paper.The Preliminary Notification is amended as mentioned below:

For Notification published on 29.03.2026	Read as		
1.Draft Form-C Notification	1. Form-C Notification		
Sd/- Tahsildar Kandukur Mandal	Sd/- Special Grade Deputy Collector & Revenue Divisional Officer, Kandukur Division	Sd/- Additional Collector (Rev) Ranga Reddy District	Sd/- Collector Ranga Reddy District

DIPR RO.NO:24/LA-PP/ADVT/AGENCY/2026-27

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
SHAMSHABAD ZONE
O/o Superintending Engineer (M) Shamshabad Zone, GHMC
Corrigendum No: 01/SE/Corrigendum/2026-27 Dt: 04.04.2026

It is here by informed that the following changes are made in the Tender Documents

NIT No	Name of the Work	Estimate Amount (in lakhs)	Required Document Sl. No	Existing Condition	Revised Condition	Existing Last Date & Time for receipt of bids	Read as Last date & Time for receipts of Bids	Contact. No.
03/SE/SHSB/GHMC/2025-26, Dt: 28.03.2026	Providing of lane marking and sign boards for road safety in Adibatla Circle-15, GHMC **(for Item. No. 08 in Existing NIT and Tender ID: 690515)**	72.00	13	Availability of key and critical equipment (Line Marking Machine Invoice)	The Agency shall have access to a lane marking machine either Owned / Leased / through MOU. In case of Lease Agreement or MOU, the same shall be executed on or after the date of tender notification and shall be valid for the entire contract period.	09.04.2026 @ 3.00 PM	10.04.2026 @ 3.00 pm	97013 65510
	Providing of lane marking and sign boards for road safety in Bandangpet Circle-16, GHMC **(for Item. No. 09 in Existing NIT and Tender ID: 690524)**	105.00	10	Availability of key and critical equipment (Line Marking Machine Invoice)	The Agency shall have access to a lane marking machine either Owned / Leased / through MOU. In case of Lease Agreement or MOU, the same shall be executed on or after the date of tender notification and shall be valid for the entire contract period.	09.04.2026 @ 3.00 PM	10.04.2026 @ 3.00 pm	

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (M) Shamshabad Zone, GHMC

DIPR R.O.No.175-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt. 06.04.2026

ADVERTISEMENT

Navnirman Ke 9 Varsh | Law & Order

Safer Uttar Pradesh: 9 Years of Law & Order Reforms

Nine Years of Decisive Governance Delivering Safety, Stability and Public Confidence Across the State

> "Today, there is no fear, tension, chaos or threat of riots in the state."
> - **Yogi Adityanath**, Chief Minister, U.P.

A TRANSFORMED STATE: Over the past nine years, Uttar Pradesh has undergone a significant transformation in law and order, driven by strengthened policing, effective governance, efficient policy execution, and enhanced institutional capacity, emerging as a model of improved security, governance, and public trust.

From a period once marked by curfews, fear, and disruptions during festivals, the state today reflects greater social harmony, where celebrations such as Navratri, Ramzan, Eid, and Alvida prayers take place peacefully.



TOWARDS A FEAR-FREE SOCIETY

Peaceful Celebrations, Restored Trust

- Festivals are now celebrated with greater confidence and minimal disruption
- Stronger inter-community harmony has enabled peaceful observance across religious groups.
- Citizens increasingly access public spaces freely, even during major events.

Earlier, public life during festivals was often overshadowed by apprehension and administrative strain. Today, Uttar Pradesh reflects confidence, where public participation in cultural and religious events has significantly increased.

ROBUST LAW & ORDER SYSTEM

Zero-Tolerance Policy in Action

- Significant decline in communal and caste-related disturbances
- Targeted operations against repeat offenders and organized crime networks

Major Enforcement Outcomes

- 267 criminals neutralized, 10,990 injured during police encounters
- 22,306 rewarded criminals jailed
- 85,118 booked under the Gangster Act
- 977 detained under the NSA

Economic Crackdown on Crime

- ₹14,580 crore worth of illegal property confiscated
- ₹4,137 crore seized from mafia networks

Crime Reduction Since 2016

- Dacoity reduced by **90%** ↓
- Robbery reduced by **85%** ↓
- Murder reduced by **70%** ↓
- Riots reduced by **62%** ↓
- Rape reduced by **53%** ↓
- Kidnapping for ransom reduced by **47%** ↓
- Dowry death reduced by **19%** ↓

STRENGTHENING THE FORCE

Massive Recruitment & Capacity Building

- 9 lakh+ government jobs generated
- 2.19 lakh police personnel recruited
- Training capacity increased 10 times
- 60,244 personnel trained within the state

Women in Policing: 20% reservation in recruitment ■ 19,839 women personnel recruited ■ 3 women PAC battalions formed

Earlier constraints in training infrastructure required external support. Today, Uttar Pradesh independently trains its police force at scale, reflecting institutional self-reliance.

MODERN POLICING & INFRASTRUCTURE

Institutional Reforms

- Police Commissionerate system operational in 7 major cities
- Cyber police stations established across all 75 districts
- Forensic labs increased from 4 to 12

Technology Integration

- Yaksha App (AI-based crime tracking enabling real-time monitoring and faster investigation)
- UPCOP App offering 27 citizen services
- Crime Analytics Portal (FICCI Award 2025)

PUBLIC SAFETY & RESPONSE SYSTEM

UP 112 Emergency Response

- Over 3 crore emergency calls handled with average response time under 7 minutes (6.41 minutes)

Surveillance & Monitoring

- 12.61 lakh CCTV cameras installed
- 9,864 crimes solved through surveillance inputs



WOMEN SAFETY: A PRIORITY

Mission Shakti Impact

- Women help desks established in all police stations
- 40,000 personnel trained

Reported cases declined between September-December 2025

- Rape ↓ 33.92%
- Kidnapping ↓ 17.03%
- Dowry deaths ↓ 12.96%

Support Systems

- Women Power Line 1090
- Anti-Romeo Squads
- Women & Child Security Organization

Focused interventions, combined with institutional accountability, have significantly improved safety outcomes for women across urban and rural areas.

LEGAL & JUDICIAL STRENGTHENING

Operation Conviction

- 1,25,985 accused convicted
- 79 death penalties
- 10,414 individuals sentenced to life imprisonment

Fast Track Justice

- 81 Fast Track Courts made permanent for women-related crimes
- 212 temporary Fast Track Courts under the NIO Act

Fast-track courts have improved case disposal rates, contributing to faster justice delivery

SPECIALIZED FORCES & OPERATIONS

STF Achievements

- 7,627 criminals arrested
- Narcotics worth ₹1,421 crore seized

ATS Actions

- Individuals linked to terror activities apprehended
- 186 illegal foreign nationals detained

CYBER & MODERN SECURITY

- 87,850 cyber crime cases registered
- Financial fraud recoveries exceeding ₹382 crore through cybercrime interventions
- 65,608 personnel trained in cyber security

INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION

Expansion aimed at improving accessibility and response coverage across districts

- 134 new police stations
- 73 cybercrime police stations
- 75 Anti-Human Trafficking police stations
- 78 women counseling centers

1090 Women Power Line	**1098** Child Help Line	**181** Women Helpline	**108** Ambulance Service	**1076** CM Helpline
102 Ambulance Helpline Pregnancy • Infants	**112** Police emergency service	**1930** Cyber Helpline	**101** Fire brigade service	



Uttar Pradesh today stands as a benchmark in law and order, where governance, technology, and public trust converge to create a secure and progressive society. This transformation reflects a sustained commitment to justice, safety, and inclusive development, reinforcing the confidence of citizens in the system.

Security, Stability and Trust: The Foundation of a Developed Uttar Pradesh

CM launches Basar Saraswati temple redevelopment works

Revanth and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti lay foundation stones for several development works and inaugurate projects; govt. allocates ₹225 crore for redevelopment of Basar temple which is set to host the Godavari Pushkaralu in June 2027

P Sridhar
NIRMAL

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, flanked by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, performed 'bhoomi puja' for the much-awaited redevelopment of the historic Gnana Saraswati temple at Basar in Nirmal on Monday.

Basar, an abode of Goddess Saraswati, is renowned for 'Aksharabhyasam (initiation into learning). The temple town, located on the banks of the Godavari, is set to host the Godavari Pushkaralu (the once-in-12-year event to worship the river), in June 2027.



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy along with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and others at the groundbreaking ceremony for Basar temple in Nirmal on Monday. PTI

Comprehensive plan

As part of a major initiative aimed at the grand transformation of the Basar temple, the State government allocated ₹225 crore for the redevelopment of the temple. The comprehensive redevelopment plan envisages expansion of the Sanctum and *ardha mandapam*, construction of a 9-storey *Rajagopuram* in the north, 7-storey towers in other directions, among other temple development works.

The key features of the master plan for temple redevelopment include infrastructure upgrade for enhancing pilgrim amenities while preserving the temple traditions, the temple sources said. The master plan was prepared in consultation with the Sringeri Sharada Peetham.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister arrived in Basar along with his wife Geetha Reddy and performed special puja at the historic temple. He also performed the 'Aksharabhyasam' of his grandson at the abode of Goddess Saraswati.

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ministers Konda Surekha and J. Krishna Rao, Rajya Sabha member Vem Narender Reddy, Adilabad MP G. Nagesh and Nirmal MLA A. Maheshwar Reddy, among others were present.

The CM also laid the foundation stone for the ₹200 crore Young India Integrated Residential School, Mudhole, and released a coffee table book on the history and cultural heritage of Nirmal district.

Under the vision of 'Praja Palana' (People's Governance – Path of Progress) programme, the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister laid the foundation stones for several development works and inaugurated projects, fulfilling the promises made during the *padayatra*.

Revanth inaugurates new building for school

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday virtually inaugurated a newly constructed building for Telangana Minorities Residential School and Junior College Adilabad Girls 2.

The building constructed under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) is one of the 54 buildings sanctioned for Telangana.

The new facility has been developed with the objective of strengthening educational infrastructure and ensuring better access to quality education for girl students in Adilabad, TGMREIS president and vice-chairman Mohammed Faheemuddin Qureshi said in a statement, extending his thanks. It was stated that construction of 21 buildings, of the total sanctioned units, was complete.

No personal agenda, only people's welfare, says Bhatti

V. Geetanath
PIPRI (ADILABAD)



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka addressing a public meeting as part of the 'Prajapalana Pragati Pranalika' in Pipri, Bazarhathnoor Mandal, Adilabad, on Monday. NAGARA GOPAL

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Monday asserted that the Congress government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has fulfilled '99%' of the promises and guarantees made to the people before the elections.

Addressing a massive public meeting at Pipri in Adilabad district, held amid sweltering heat, to mark the third anniversary of his *People's March*, when he was a Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader, he said the government was committed to spending every paisa solely on public welfare.

"We are running a humane government. None of us has a personal agenda – not the Chief Minister, not myself, nor our Cabinet colleagues. People's needs and aspirations are our only agenda," Mr. Vikramarka said.

Impact of schemes

Drawing a contrast with past governments, he said that unlike political parties that forget their promises after coming to power, the Congress leadership had listened to people's grievances during public outreach programmes while in the Opposition and continued the same approach after assuming office. He said mechanisms had been put in place to assess the impact of welfare measures on people's lives.

"Both the Chief Minister and the Ministers hail from villages and are well aware of the hardships faced by farmers and the poor. We are working as servants of the people, not as feudal lords enjoying power. The foundation stones laid today for various works reflect our responsibility towards the people," the Deputy CM remarked.

Highlighting various welfare initiatives, he cited the establishment of integrated schools for children from all communities under one roof, the breakfast and mid-day meal scheme for students, free bus travel for women, ₹1 lakh crore in interest-free loans to self-help groups, the Rythu Bharosa scheme, free power up to 200 units and other programmes.

Mr. Vikramarka pointed out that the government had allocated ₹10,000 crore for the free bus scheme for women alone, while up to 4.5 lakh two-bedroom houses were being constructed at an estimated cost of more than ₹5,000 crore across constituencies.

Additional funds

District in-charge Minister Jupally Krishna Rao and Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) and president Mahesh Kumar Goud also addressed the gathering. Adilabad MP G. Nagesh, Boath MLA Anil Jhadav and Mancherial MLA Premsagar Rao urged the government to sanction additional funds for roads, irrigation projects, sports facilities and degree colleges in the region.

INBRIEF

Thunderstorm forecast in 11 districts today

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a thunderstorm forecast in 11 Telangana districts on Tuesday. According to the IMD's latest bulletin, thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and gusty winds are very likely to occur at isolated places in Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanumakonda, Jangaon and Siddipet districts. Hyderabad and its surrounding areas for the next 24 hours will see partly cloudy sky.



TGCHE briefs Governor on status of State universities

Telangana Council of Higher Education chairman V. Balakista Reddy and Secretary Sriram Venkatesh on Monday called on Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla to apprise him of the initiatives taken up and status of the universities. Mr. Reddy explained that major actions included syllabus revision in line with contemporary academic and industry requirements, introduction of interdisciplinary courses, and collaborations with industry partners and institutions to promote academic and skill development. The briefing also included the challenges the universities are facing, particularly in the areas of faculty recruitment, infrastructure constraints, and the prevailing academic and administrative situation.



Prominent television artistes join BJP in presence of State party chief N. Ramchander Rao in Hyderabad on Monday. RAMAKRISHNA G

BJP optimistic about coming to power in TG, says Nitin Nabin

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The BJP's national leadership believes that the party is emerging as the sole alternative in Telangana and is optimistic about coming to power in the State, BJP national president Nitin Nabin said on Monday.

Mr. Nabin is believed to have made these remarks while calling on Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao on the occasion of the party's foundation day.

Mr. Nitin Nabin expressed confidence in the party's growth in Telangana and conveyed his desire for the BJP to strengthen itself further and emerge victorious in the upcoming elections.

He urged party leaders and workers to reach out to the people and seek their blessings.

Earlier, Mr. Rao hoisted the party flag at the BJP State office and called upon every worker to become a voice of the people and protect democracy. He said each worker should act as a stakeholder in building a strong, self-reliant *Viksit Bharat* under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He noted that the BJP has grown into the world's largest political organisation owing to the selfless sacrifices and dedication of millions of workers over the decades. Foundation Day, he said, was an occasion to reaffirm the party's commitment to the ideology of 'Nation First'.

KTR: India can no longer 'copy-paste' development models from other nations

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD



Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president K.T. Rama Rao participating in a Fireside Chat at the prestigious Columbia University in New York.

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president and former Minister K.T. Rama Rao emphasised that over the past decade, India has made remarkable progress in building strong physical and digital infrastructure.

India has been ahead of many developed nations in adopting telecommunications technologies such as 3G, 4G and 5G, but now the country was now at a critical juncture and no longer has the luxury of 'copy-pasting' development models from other countries.

Participating in a Fireside Chat at the prestigious Columbia University in New York, Mr. Rama Rao shared his insights on India's economic trajectory, artificial intelligence (AI), entrepreneurship, unemployment and the evolving global job landscape.

Highlighting the disruptive impact of Artificial Intelligence, Mr. Rama Rao warned "The threat from AI is real and imminent. Governments and societies are not fully prepared for this transition."

Speaking on India's startup ecosystem, Mr. Rama Rao highlighted Hyderabad as a model of success. He explained that the city's growth as an innovation hub is driven by a strong ecosystem comprising incubators, co-working spaces, mentors and investors, which has led to the emergence of several unicorn startups.

"Fostering entrepreneurship requires more than policies, it demands a comprehensive and collaborative ecosystem that nurtures innovation at scale."

Mr. Rama Rao described India's large youth population as both a strength and challenge. He noted that unemployment cannot be addressed merely by creating opportunities, but requires building a skilled workforce aligned with industry needs.

He called for a mindset shift among youth, encouraging them to become entrepreneurs and job creators rather than relying solely on employment opportunities. The event witnessed participation from Columbia University students, intellectuals and members of the Indian diaspora.



T. Harish Rao

'Koheda fruit market land worth ₹3k cr. being diverted'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao accused the Congress government of attempting to divert nearly 200 acres of land earmarked for the proposed Koheda Fruit Market to private interests, alleging that land worth close to ₹3,000 crore was being targeted at the cost of thousands of farmers.

Mr. Rao said, "This is not a party issue; this is a farmers' issue," and appealed to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the Agriculture Minister to safeguard the interests of lakhs of farmers. He said that when he was Marketing Minister, land acquisition was completed and ₹10 crore was paid as compensation to farmers. The project was formally notified through and ₹350 crore was deposited in a bank account under GO 216 for construction.

A Detailed Project Report worth ₹1,000 crore was also prepared, envisaging not only a fruit market but integrated flower and fish markets to cater to needs for the next 100 years. "Land, funds and planning are all ready. Instead of starting construction, the Congress government is trying to sell this land," he alleged.

He claimed that the land was sought to be transferred to the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation and eventually handed over to 'close associates' of the ruling dispensation.

Govt. should repay ₹22,315 cr. loans and other commitments this fiscal: CAG

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

The State government will have to repay over ₹22,315 crore during the current financial year.

Of the quantum of loans, repayment of market borrowings constitutes a major chunk of ₹19,785 crore followed by loans taken from Nabard to the tune of ₹1,047 crore in addition to repayment of ₹892 crore pertaining to compensation and bonds issued by the government from time to time. The loan quantum remains equally heavy during the next financial year 2027-28 when the government will have to repay ₹19,502 crore, according to the maturity profile of the internal debt in the form of borrowings and other liabilities.

Expenditure of ₹892 crore on account of maturing bonds would continue till 2031-32, while repayment of loans obtained from Nabard will also continue till the same time.



> This is an indirect form of 'ever greening' the existing loans in that the government will repay the loans which reach maturity using the proposed loans
>
> **GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL**
> Finance department

Impact on account of repayment of market borrowings will come down for a couple of years 2028-29 and 2029-30 when the government has to remit ₹4,461 crore and ₹3,449 crore respectively but the long gestation loans with maturity starting from 2031-32 will again pose a burden on the economy with payment of over ₹8,000 crore to be made annually thereafter.

The maturity profile of the internal debt indicated in the Finance Accounts report released by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India recently indicates the pressure on the State's finances to repay the borrowings by the previous government.

Opt for borrowings

The government has indicated in the budget documents of the current year that it will opt for borrowings of over ₹80,000 crore from different sources, including market borrowings of ₹73,383 crore. "This is an indirect form of 'ever greening' the existing loans in that the government will repay the loans which reach maturity using the proposed loans," a senior official told *The Hindu*.

Of the borrowings proposed during the current fiscal, the government would spend a major amount for repayment of the matured loans, and the remaining would be used for capital works.

INBRIEF



Improve pilgrim management at Sabarimala, court tells TDB

The Kerala High Court has issued a list of directives to the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) to improve pilgrim management at the Sabarimala temple during the 2026-27 Mandala Makaravilakku season.The court sought steps to address infrastructural works, transport logistics, utility provisioning,and all other allied activities. If all preparatory works are completed at least two months ahead of the season, the pilgrimage can be safely conducted safely, the Bench said.

Karnataka Police convene meeting with gym owners

In the wake of Hindutva outfits holding protests saying that gymnasiums in Hubballi-Dharwad have become 'Love Jihad' centres after cases of harassment of two girls came to light, Police Commissioner N. Shashikumar on Monday chaired a meeting of owners of gymnasiums and gym trainers. During protests, Hindutva outfits have raised several issues pertaining security measures in gymnasiums. The Commissioner also heard grievances of the gym owners.

Naidu unveils 100-day plan to take Srikakulam excess water

Stating that his government will give top priority to water utilisation, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday outlined an ambitious plan aimed at taking the surplus water in the projects in Srikakulam to as far as Anantapur. Participating in 'Jaladhara - Water Security & Responsibility of Water Users Associations' in Yadiki of Anantapur district, he launched a 100-day action plan for conserving water and enriching the State's water resources.

BJP and LDF are anti-people, share unholy nexus: Rahul

Congress leader says PM Narendra Modi and Pinarayi Vijayan manifest 'arrogant' leadership styles and that the Centre has not let agencies probe the Kerala CM because of political convenience

The Hindu Bureau
PALAKKAD/THRISSUR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi slammed the BJP-led Union government and the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala, alleging an "unholy nexus" between the two and accusing them of sharing "authoritarian, anti-people" approach to governance.

Addressing a United Democratic Front (UDF) rally in Palakkad on Monday, Mr. Gandhi described the electoral contest in Kerala as one between the UDF and a combined front led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.



Puppet politics: Rahul Gandhi says both the Prime Minister and the Kerala CM share an authoritarian approach. K.K. MUSTAFAH

He said both leaders were driven by a conviction that they alone should govern, pointing to personality-centric campaigns and what he described as "arrogant" leadership styles. Mr. Gandhi alleged that the LDF had deviated from its ideological moorings and was instead pursuing "corporate-oriented policies". Substantiating his allegation of a BJP-Left understanding, he questioned why Central investigative agencies had taken no action against the Chief Minister or his family, while Opposition leaders faced relentless scrutiny. Mr. Gandhi said Mr. Modi uses Mr. Vijayan's alleged corruption to control him.

Amit Shah leads BJP foundation day in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Union Home Minister Amit Shah hoisted the Bharatiya Janata Party's flag in Thiruvananthapuram as part of its 47th foundation day celebrations on Monday. Later, Mr. Shah participated in a National Democratic Alliance poll campaign at Haripad.

Pinarayi says poll promises fulfilled; baseless claim, counters Satheesan

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday said that nearly 97% of the 900 promises made in the 2021 election manifesto have either been fulfilled or are in advanced stages of implementation, as the Left Democratic Front (LDF) presented its '10th-year progress report'.

Highlighting key achievements, the Chief Minister said that LIFE Mission has completed 5 lakh houses and 64,006 families have been lifted out of extreme poverty, making Kerala the first State in India to achieve this milestone.

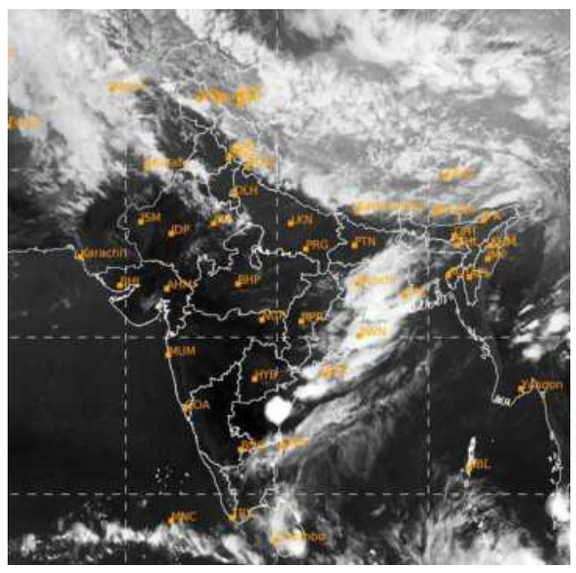
The government also enacted the One House Protection Law to prevent the seizure of houses belonging to economically weaker families. Welfare support for inmates of orphanages and a Senior Citizens Commission has been established, he said.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan termed the claims made by Mr. Vijayan in the 'progress report' baseless and misleading. Mr. Satheesan said that the original 328-page report has now come down to 24 pages.

The LDF government took 10 years to construct 5 lakh houses for the poor. The LDF failed to keep its election promise that the social security pension would be hiked to ₹2,500 per beneficiary. The government also did not keep its promise that the support price of rubber would be hiked to ₹250 per kg, the Congress leader said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Muzaffarabad and Arunachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.8	22.2	Kozhikode	—	34.8	26.6
Ahmedabad	—	36.4	22.7	Kurnool	—	39.5	28.2
Aizawl	26	32.5	15.6	Lucknow	—	33.4	17.6
Allahabad	—	36.0	20.4	Madurai	19	36.0	24.1
Bengaluru	—	34.9	22.8	Mangaluru	—	33.7	25.2
Bhopal	—	34.0	19.4	Mumbai	—	31.3	22.9
Bhubaneswar	0.2	34.8	22.5	Mysuru	—	35.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	31.9	14.9	New Delhi	—	33.3	17.7
Chennai	—	33.6	29.0	Patna	—	34.4	23.6
Coimbatore	—	35.4	24.2	Port Blair	—	32.5	24.6
Dehradun	—	29.8	16.3	Puducherry	—	34.9	27.3
Gangtok	—	20.2	12.8	Pune	—	34.7	19.3
Goa	—	33.4	23.0	Raipur	0.5	36.7	25.1
Guwahati	—	34.8	19.4	Ranchi	—	31.3	18.0
Hubballi	—	35.0	17.0	Shillong	—	23.2	14.8
Hyderabad	—	37.2	26.8	Shimla	26	21.8	8.7
Imphal	0.7	29.7	15.7	Srinagar	3	19.9	6.4
Jaipur	—	33.2	20.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	37.1	27.9
Kochi	—	32.0	27.6	Tiruchi	35	36.7	22.0
Kohima	—	23.0	16.4	Vijayawada	—	37.8	27.8
Kolkata	0.6	35.3	23.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.6	27.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.77	..75	51	 57	...126	.....
Bengaluru	...7	..56	32	 88	...111	.....
Chennai	.16	..11	32	 26	57	.....
Delhi	.25	..23	42	... 173	...216	.....
Hyderabad	.13	..16	21	 94	72	.....
Kolkata	.25	..36	63	 50	66	.....
Lucknow	...8	..46	44	 65	93	.....
Mumbai	...6	..72	..8	 34	62	.....
Pune	..—	..72	87	 63	82	.....
Visakhapatnam	.13	..31	16	 51	91	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Meghalaya recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 283 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Three from A.P. killed in road accidents

The Hindu Bureau
KHAMMAM

A couple died in a road accident when the car they were travelling in was hit by a speeding lorry at Konijerla in Khammam district early on Monday.

The deceased were identified as U. Veeraju (46), and his wife Veerashailaja (36), natives of East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh. They were travelling to Hyderabad along with their son when the accident occurred. The boy suffered a leg injury.

In a separate incident, a lorry cleaner, Bodeshwara Rao (33), a resident of Andhra Pradesh's Anakapalli, was killed when the lorry overturned on a causeway in Khammam district.

Man, three of family arrested for killing twin daughters in Karimnagar

The Hindu Bureau
KARIMNAGAR

A deep-rooted conspiracy has emerged in the gruesome murder of four-year-old twin sisters in Jubilee Nagar near Karimnagar on Friday, with the police arresting their father, his parents and brother on Monday.

A detailed investigation, backed by the post-mortem report, unravelled the conspiracy behind the chilling double murder, exposing the deeply entrenched patriarchal mindset of the accused.

The victims, four-year-old twins Geethamshi and Geethanvika, were allegedly killed by their father, Kachu Srisailam (28), a private employee, who drowned them in an agricultural well at Jubilee Nagar on Friday. The incident sparked outrage among villagers, who demanded the harshest punishment for the accused, terming the crime heinous.



Karimnagar Police Commissioner Gaush Alam presenting the accused before the media on Monday.

Acting on credible information, a police team led by Karimnagar Rural Circle Inspector A. Niranjan Reddy apprehended the four accused – Srisailam, his parents Ashok and Lavanya, and his brother Rakesh – from Gopalpur village on Sunday.

Police said Srisailam allegedly committed the crime due to his aversion to the girl child and an obsessive preference for a son, reportedly at the behest of his parents and brother.

He had allegedly pressured his wife, Maunika, to undergo an abortion after scanning tests confirmed that the twin foetuses were female. However, she refused. According to police, the four accused hatched the murder plot, with Srisailam executing it.

He allegedly pushed his daughters into an open well. While Geethanvika drowned immediately, Geethamshi struggled in the water. Srisailam then jumped into the well and drowned her.

He later attempted to cover up the crime by portraying it as an accidental drowning. However, local farmers grew suspicious of his behaviour and confronted him.

Re-verify 279 rejected postal ballots in Sringeri, orders HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday directed the Returning Officer (RO) to re-verify the 279 rejected postal ballots polled in the elections for Sringeri Assembly constituency in April-May 2023.

Recounting ballots

Justice R. Nataraj passed the order while partly allowing a petition filed by defeated BJP candidate D.N. Jeevaraja, who had challenged the legality of the election of the Congress' T.D. Raje Gowda, who had won by 201 votes.

The RO, depending upon the outcome of the re-verification of 279 rejected postal ballots, will have to undertake recounting of the postal ballots, the court said.

Meanwhile, the court kept the order for reverification in abeyance for two weeks on a plea made on behalf of Mr. Rajegowda to enable him to appeal to the apex court against the order. Mr. Jeevaraja sought a direction from the court to declare Mr. Gowda's election as void as per the provisions of the Representation Of People Act, 1951 and the handbook for ROs issued by the Election Commission of India for alleged malpractices, election offences, unethical acts and indulgences, etc.

Alternatively, a direction from the court was sought for recounting of the votes polled in accordance with law and declare the results afresh.

'Data, cybersecurity skills shaping hiring'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Digital, data and cybersecurity skills are emerging as foundational capabilities for employability and workforce growth, while industry-recognised certifications and diversity-led skilling are increasingly shaping hiring confidence across organisations, according to NIIT India Skills Gap Report 2026, a nationwide study conducted in partnership with YouGov.

The report, which was released recently, drew responses from 700 recruiters, CXOs, senior leaders and academic heads, spanning industries such as IT/ITeS, BFSI, manufacturing, healthcare, e-commerce, EdTech, government, FMCG, telecom and auto.

Across the hiring ecosystem, digital and data skills consistently rank among the top three most critical capabilities for the next 3-5 years across all cohorts surveyed – students, employees, recruiters, CXOs and academia, according to the report.

As organisations integrate AI into business operations, hiring signals are becoming more precise and outcome-driven. The study reveals that 38% of respondents agree that employers increasingly value certifications and micro-credentials beyond traditional degrees, reflecting a clear move away from degree-only hiring norms.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS, NEW DELHI)

NOTIFICATION

Rc.No.A2/1340/2025 Date: 06.04.2026

ADDENDUM TO PUBLIC NOTICE
(UNDER SECTION 3G (3) & (4) OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY ACT 1956)

Earlier public Notices have been published in the newspapers under section 3G(3) of NH act, 1956 inviting claims for the notified lands under section 3(D)(2) of NH Act, 1956 vide Gazette No.'s shown in the table below:

S.No.	3D Gazette	News Paper Name	Publication date
1.	SO. No. 294 (E) dated 17.01.2023 [No.280 dated 17.01.2023]	Hans India (English daily) & Mana Telangana (Telugu daily)	08.03.2023
2.	SO. No. 3307 (E) dated 24.07.2023 [No.3165 dated 24.07.2023]	Hans India (English daily) & Mana Telangana (Telugu daily)	26.02.2024
3.	SO. No. 5423 (E) dated 22.11.2023 [No.5195 dated 22.11.2023]	Hans India (English daily) Mana Telangana (Telugu daily)	29.01.2023

It is observed that Certain Structures / Trees & other property details of the lands notified have not been included in the above publications. Hence, now the missing structures along with details of the Owner / Interested person is herewith listed in the below schedule.

All the persons having interest in the said structures/assets are requested to submit their claims or objections, if any, along with supporting documents, before the undersigned within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this Addendum. Claims/objections received after the stipulated time shall not be entertained.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land along with structures, falling within alignment of NH-163G in the in the State of Telangana

District: Khammam
Note: The physical copy of this notification is also available at the office of CALA/PIU/RO and land owners may also see the notification there.

Sd/- The CALA &
Revenue Divisional Officer Khammam

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
TELANGANA HOUSING BOARD

Notification No.LIG/Flats/Allotment/EE/Wgl/2026 **Date:02-04-2026**

ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO FULFILL YOUR DREAM AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE

1. Telangana Housing Board proposes the sale of residential LIG Flats located at Sriram Hills, Khammam, on an "As Is Where Is" basis.
2. The allotment shall be made through a transparent lottery system.
3. The monthly income of the applicant, for eligibility under the Lower Income Group (LIG Units), shall be Rs.25,000/- to 50,000/- per month
4. Income Certificate to that effect should be submitted after the allotment.
5. The applicants should be eligible only from Khammam District.

Sl. No.	Locality	Particulars	No. of Flats	Plinth Area (Sft.)	Fixed Cost (Rs.)
1	Sriram Hills, Bonakal Road, Khammam	Blocks A, B, C & D (G+2)	126	450.00	9,90,000.00

EMD / Token Advance: Rs. 1,00,000/- payable at any Mee Seva Centre in Telangana.

Last date for submission of online application with EMD / Token Advance: 18.04.2026 through any Mee Seva Centre in Telangana

Date of Drawal of lottery and Venue : 22-04-2026 at 11.30 AM at Sriram Hills, Bonakal Road, Khammam

For Site details Contact AE – 73962 62782, EE – 99893 34835

The No. of flats along with details and other conditions can be seen at Telangana Housing Board website: **tghb.cgg.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Vice Chairman & Housing Commissioner,
TGHB : Hyd.

DIPR R.O.No.14-PP/CL-AGENCY/2026-27 Dt: 06-04-2026

Illogical acts

Malda gherao to protest the SIR adjudication vitiates Bengal elections

The gherao of seven judicial officers in Malda on April 1 by a mob marks a disturbing escalation in what has been a fevered election season in West Bengal. The Supreme Court of India condemned it as a "calculated" attempt to disrupt the adjudication process. The ECI has referred the probe to the National Investigation Agency, and the incident has become a flashpoint in the confrontation between the Trinamool Congress (TMC)-led State government and the ECI over the Special Intensive Revision exercise and its aftermath. Election-related violence has largely become a thing of the past in most States, but not in West Bengal, where violence is endemic during any election. This is partly due to the intensity of political contestation. During the era of Left Front dominance, elections were battlegrounds for "area dominance" between the Left and the TMC. The State pioneered panchayati institutions in India, which led to significant politicisation at even the local level. With a largely rural economy and little industrialisation, electoral contests were also about who controlled the power to distribute patronage. Today, the Left Front is a shell of its former self and the polity is dominated by contests between the TMC and the BJP; the TMC using what some academics term a "franchise model of politics,", leveraging the charisma of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to foster a patronage system with local satraps, and the BJP seeking to import a similar model but with a Hindutva emphasis. This new political contest has brought its own forms of violence.

This year, the contest has been complicated by the SIR. The process has dragged on even after the revised roll, with 7.04 crore electors, down from 7.6 crore in 2024, was released. Close to 60 lakh electors are still being parsed for "logical discrepancies" with roughly 40% of adjudicated cases resulting in rejections. Judicial officers, working under the Court's oversight, have been clearing this backlog – an exercise that would never have reached this stage had the ECI not relied on flawed software to filter enumeration requests. The Court has allowed appellate tribunals for persons whose names have been rejected, but there is uncertainty over whether these will conclude before polling. With tempers running high over what appears to be significant disenfranchisement – electors and political leaders in affected areas allege that the deletions have disproportionately hit the minority Muslim community – the resort to illegal methods of protest such as the Malda gherao has vitiated the election process. A more electorate-friendly approach to the SIR by the ECI, along with effective interventions by the Court, could have avoided much of the public anger. West Bengal's political leaders must tamp down the rhetoric, not inflame it.

Arrest the grief

Livelihood issues are at the heart of illegal sand mining in central India

The National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary in central India protects a lotic ecosystem across an area straddling three States. Its existence is crucial for the critically endangered gharial, the red-crowned roofed turtle and the endangered Ganges river dolphin. All three species depend on sand to survive, especially the river's sandbars and sandbanks. Yet, organised crime and state paralysis have been stealing away just that sand, prompting the Supreme Court of India to call the local sand-mining mafia "modern dacoits". The mafia erupted to meet the demand for sand during North India's construction boom, and has been able to exploit gaps in jurisdiction among the three States – Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh – despite the Court and the National Green Tribunal (NGT) banning the activity. State governments have also abetted this ploy by passing the buck on acting against the mafia. Between 2017 and 2024, tractor trolleys laden with illegally mined sand mowed down forest guards and police officers while miners also shot at police during raids. The police reported that miners had also begun using local villagers to track the movement of patrol vehicles using mobile apps and GPS. By 2023, reports indicated that mining syndicates in the Gwalior-Chambal region were using semi-automatic weapons, often outgunning the local forest departments.

Frustrated with having failed to staunch the bleeding, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan attempted to legalise sand mining in certain districts inside the sanctuary. Madhya Pradesh submitted proposals for limited mining in two districts but resistance from the NGT stalled its plans, and the State subsequently withdrew them. Rajasthan followed with a similar proposal in March this year only for the Court to block it. Traditional agriculture is difficult in the Chambal ravines, leaving many young men to turn to mining sand for a living. The mafia recruits them as foot soldiers, leaving forest officials to face 'public anger' when they militate against the mafia. The Court took *suo motu* cognisance of Rajasthan's measure, with Justice Sandeep Mehta, last week, 'reminding' the State of the National Security Act and the State-specific Goonda Act. The Court's frustration is understandable. But given the recent troubled history of green governance, where it has played regulator, there is merit in the Court disciplining the regulator rather than replacing it. The lesson from Chambal's violent history is that force alone cannot quiet an economy feeding on grievance. Sweeping crackdowns will deepen local resentment and entrench the same social cover that sustains the syndicates. Lasting change will come only from restoring lawful livelihoods and credible, even-handed enforcement.

To mark World Health Day on April 7, a set of articles on the Editorial and Opinion pages that highlights key health issues

A disturbing step for rights, dignity and mental health



Dr. Kavita Arora

Senior psychiatrist with over 25 years of clinical practice and lived-experience expertise, Founding Cohort member of India Mental Health Alliance (IMHA), Co-Founder of Children First, and adviser and trainer in gender-affirming mental health practices across several Indian institutions

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 has caused deep confusion, perplexity, and, over the past two weeks since its introduction, apprehension and fear. In trying to make sense of both the intent and the possible implications of the amendment, these days have raised more questions than they have provided satisfactory answers. At the core is the question, "Who owns my gender and therefore my gender identity?"

For the majority of men and women who happen to be cisgender, life hardly ever brings us to a point where we are faced with this as a question. There is no 'evaluation' that we need to undergo. Whether it is a form at a hospital, clinic, bank, or workplace, we claim our gender ourselves by ticking a box. We simply state our gender, not expecting anyone to question the obvious. However, for gender diverse and transgender individuals, this is what is proposed henceforth. This violates the foundational principles of dignity, autonomy and mental well-being.

From progression to regression

In 2014, the Supreme Court of India delivered a historic judgment in *NALSA vs Union of India*, recognising transgender persons as a legitimate gender identity. It was a watershed moment for jurisprudence, public policy and governance because it rested on a simple and powerful principle: gender identity is self-identified. Just as any individual declares themselves a man or a woman without external verification, transgender persons, too, were reaffirmed as the final and only authority on their gender identity. This principle is rooted not only in human dignity and autonomy but also in constitutional morality under Articles 14 (Equality before Law), 15 (non-discrimination), 19 (Freedom of Expression) and 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty).

In 2019, Parliament passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act. While parts of it were criticised by the community, it remained aligned with *NALSA* on the cornerstone issue of self-identification. Indeed, it acknowledged the community's long history of discrimination and exclusion, and sought to prohibit discrimination, ensure access to education and health care, extend welfare measures such as housing, skill development and employment support. These welfare schemes, in our minds, as allies and health-care practitioners, represented an attempt to build an enabling framework rather than a restrictive one.

Much of the work being done at both the health-care training and education levels, as a result of the 2019 Act, requires sensitisation drives to ensure that curricula and training for health care and allied professions are sensitive to gender-affirming practices, and to make welfare schemes more widely known and implementable. In these six years, all stakeholders had just about started to align themselves with the global standards that the 2014 judgement and the 2019 Act both validated.

The Transgender Amendment Bill threatens welfare access and instils fear and humiliation for an already vulnerable population

The amendment to the 2019 Act – which was notified in the Gazette on March 30, 2026 – fundamentally reverses the NALSA judgment. It replaces self-identification with medical and bureaucratic gatekeeping, redefining who is 'allowed' to call themselves transgender. Under this amendment, a transgender person must appear before a medical board; undergo an assessment to 'prove' their gender identity; wait while the board forwards its recommendation to the District Magistrate, and obtain a certificate declaring them transgender.

There is no medical or evaluative biomarker for gender identity. No external knowledge or proof of any sort can determine the deeply held and personally felt experience of one's gender identity. There would have been no need for trans individuals to "come out "at all if that had been the case.

This is the accepted truth in medicine and health care across the globe.

Therefore, it is perplexing that the Amendment talks about determining and validating someone's gender through a process in which the answer to the question "what is my gender?" has to be given by complete strangers.

This raises many issues that seem to present challenges at many levels.

Medical boards – many of which do not exist at the district level – are already overburdened even for urgent health-care needs. In the absence of criteria, as well as time and process, it is likely that boards may fall back on arbitrary, invasive or abusive examinations, including the possibility of genital inspection. This stems arguably from the traditional way of "assigning "gender at birth by looking at the genitals of a newborn child by a doctor or another adult. This is far from what we know to be the understanding of gender identity for gender diverse and trans individuals.

Extrapolating this method to an adult and making it mandatory is in direct and complete violation of dignity, privacy and bodily autonomy. I cannot imagine any circumstance that would make me wish to approach this premise for myself as an adult cisgender woman. The very thought of such a scrutiny by a board of strangers, would probably create anticipatory mental distress and make me actively avoid approaching such a premise.

Instead of improving welfare access, the amendment will likely shrink it, deter individuals from approaching the state, and reintroduce fear and humiliation into an already vulnerable population.

Mental health fallout, crisis in the making

The transgender community already faces extreme vulnerability. Data show that 99% of transgender persons have faced social rejection; 52% have faced harassment or violence in educational spaces; 57% of trans women report experiencing physical or sexual violence at least once, and transgender adolescents have suicide attempt rates estimated between 13% and 50%, far above the national average.

Against this backdrop, introducing additional layers of suspicion, verification and scrutiny is not just insensitive. It is unsafe. As a mental-health practitioner and an ally for the trans community, I am deeply concerned.

Not just prospective; what is concerning is the uncertainty for thousands of transgender individuals currently enrolled in health-care services, whose access may now be questioned or invalidated in the face of the ambiguity about supporting the gender exploration and gender journey of an individual. This is not merely a procedural shift; it has the potential of developing rapidly into a public mental-health emergency.

The amendment introduces a clause that criminalises 'undue influence' in helping someone identify as transgender, with penalties up to 15 years of imprisonment. For mental-health practitioners, psychologists, lawyers and educators, this creates an unprecedented ethical and legal risk. In many families, gender-identity journeys create tension or disagreement. Community-based organisations, trans-affirmative mental health practitioners and services are frequently accused of 'encouraging' adolescents simply for acknowledging their lived reality. Under this amendment, such allegations could become criminal charges.

This will discourage health-care practitioners from providing essential, evidence-based care; challenge community-based organisations to remain as allies, and push transgender persons away from formal health care and heighten mental distress that will likely remain unsupported.

Additionally, the amendment collapses distinctions between transgender, intersex and hijra identities, erasing cultural, social and biological differences. Trans men remain nearly invisible in the framework, further marginalising them.

An appeal for reflection and action

The current amendment risks undoing a decade of progress across law, governance, health systems and institutional practice. If misuse has occurred – even if limited to the 0.01% that the government suggests – the solution lies in audits, verification protocols and administrative strengthening – not in policing gender identity or forcing medicalisation.

To uphold constitutional values, protect mental health, and ensure administrative feasibility, this amendment must be reconsidered. We owe each individual in India the assurance that governance frameworks do not deepen fear, stigma, or exclusion for any community.

Climate change as a public health emergency



Dr. Naresh Trehan

Chairman and Managing Director, Medanta

When we talk about climate change, the conversation almost always veers toward rising sea levels or extreme weather events. Some may even talk about the economic disruption that these natural disasters can and do cause. However, few, if any, touch upon another dimension of climate change: the broad-spectrum medical crisis that changing planetary patterns can trigger, as climate change intensifies every disease we already know and opens the door to those we have yet to face.

Nowhere is this more visible than in India. Increasingly frequent and severe waterlogging due to excess rain in cities such as Mumbai is creating ideal conditions for waterborne infections including cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and leptospirosis. Recurrent waterlogging overwhelms sanitation infrastructure, contaminates clean water supplies, and leaves urban populations exposed to serious illnesses.

Conversely, drought-prone regions are facing worsening water scarcity, forcing communities to rely on unsafe water sources, thereby increasing the burden of diarrhoeal diseases as well as chronic dehydration.

Expanding disease risk

Meanwhile, shifting seasonal patterns are driving a rise in infections, allergies and vector-borne diseases, as changing temperatures and rainfall cycles disrupt established trends and prolong pollen seasons. Disease windows are expanding, and their geographic reach is steadily widening, quietly accelerating climate-driven spread. Communities with no prior exposure lack immunity, while health-care systems in these regions remain underprepared to respond at scale. One major example of this is the exponential growth of mosquito-borne diseases, as rising temperatures have made previously inhospitable regions suitable for this insect. The impact on dengue patterns is already measurable in Delhi-NCR. The number of cases traditionally peaked in September but now peaks in November, as warmer and rainier conditions sustain mosquito populations for longer periods.

India faces growing health crises from climate change impacts

Malaria, once largely confined to endemic pockets of the Gangetic Plains and the warm, humid regions of central India, is now being reported in cooler areas such as Himachal Pradesh, where it historically had minimal presence.

Climate change threats

Climate change also triggers rising air pollution. As summers become increasingly hotter, greater reliance on air conditioning drives higher energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions contain elevated levels of $PM_{2.5}$ – microscopic pollutants that penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream – exerting widespread effects across multiple organs in the body, particularly the lungs, heart and kidneys.

Fine particulate matter penetrates deep into the lungs, causing inflammation, reduced lung function, and exacerbating respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

These particulates can also damage blood vessels, accelerate atherosclerosis, and increase the risk of hypertension, heart attack and stroke. The kidneys are equally vulnerable, and chronic exposure can impair kidney function, reduce filtration efficiency, and contribute to the progression of chronic kidney disease.

Greenhouse gases also trap more heat in the atmosphere, creating a feedback loop that amplifies the very crisis we are trying to manage through air conditioners and other cooling appliances. This heat stress forces the heart to work harder to regulate the body's temperature, increasing strain on the cardiovascular system. This can trigger complications such as hypertension, heart attack, and stroke. These conditions disproportionately affect people without adequate shelter, such as manual labourers who spend long hours working outdoors in extreme conditions.

Parts of the country, such as Odisha, Telangana, and Vidarbha, are reporting a rising number of heat-stroke-related deaths. In addition, rising night-time temperatures in urban pockets such as Delhi-NCR and Mumbai are eliminating the critical recovery window that the human body relies on to cool down after prolonged daytime heat exposure.

Infant health outcomes are also increasingly at risk – exposure to extreme heat and air pollution has been linked to preterm births and low birth weight among newborns.

Impact on food security

The health consequences of climate change also extend into food systems and nutrition. Extreme weather events and unseasonal rain disrupt crop cycles and reduce agricultural productivity, contributing to food shortages. The declining nutritional quality of food crops, combined with rising prices, further compounds the crisis, creating a hidden burden of micronutrient deficiencies and chronic malnutrition, especially among children.

Rising temperatures can also cause a decline in milk production, as cattle affected by heat stress compromise infant and child nutrition. These cascading effects on food security translate directly into weakened immunity and greater vulnerability to disease particularly among children and the elderly.

The warnings have existed for decades, but were largely overlooked. Climate change is no longer a distant threat – for public health in India, it is already a present reality. It is a multifaceted challenge. Treating it as purely environmental overlooks its profound human cost. Recognising it as a medical emergency is the first step toward responding with urgency.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Yo-yo dieting

I wish to draw attention to a growing public health concern fuelled by social media: the dangerous trend of "yo-yo dieting". Today, the Internet is saturated with unverified information that traps individuals in a vicious cycle of rapidly losing and regaining weight, posing severe risks to their long-term well-being. There are health issues associated with this on-and-off dieting culture, the main being the lack of proper nutrition. Undertaking fad diets without a fundamental knowledge of nutritional science leads to critical deficiencies. As an avid marathon runner who understands the importance of physical endurance, it is alarming to see people sacrificing vital muscle mass under the misguided belief that they are losing fat.

Anshu Parashar,
New Delhi

CSK, then and now

It is sad to see Chennai Super Kings struggling in IPL 2026 as well. There is a lack of powerplay intent, and a difficult transition to a new-look squad. CSK is not the same side it was a few years ago. Sadly, for the 'Whistle Podu Army', the signature roar is subdued.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Reinforcing the case for a One Health approach

Global health risks demand a One Health approach grounded in coordination and scientific collaboration to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response



Ramya Kannan

When the 1995 film *Outbreak*, starring the inimitable Dustin Hoffman, was released to audiences worldwide, it seemed like surreal science fiction, pitched at the very edge of the realm of possibility. The pacy film profiled the desperate race to contain an imaginary zoonotic virus, *Motaba*, that jumped to humans as a result of anthropogenic activity – deforestation and trade in wild animals – spreading across nations like a forest fire.

The movie, though dramatic, served as a prescient illustration of a crisis that was to visit the world, nearly a quarter of a century later: the COVID-19 pandemic.

Interestingly, the film also stood out for its early portrayal of the core principles of One Health – long before the term was even coined. Since then, though, One Health, which draws on the interconnectedness between humans, animals and the environment, has emerged as a key concept gaining traction among nations, though practical implementation has progressed at a nearly glacial pace.

From fiction to reality

This year's World Health Day message – "Together for health. Stand with science" – underlines the essentiality of adopting a One Health approach to protect animals, the environment, and humans. It also highlights the critical role of scientific collaboration and the use of evidence in crafting policy. As *Outbreak* outlines cinematically, there is a permanent state of conflict between different departments, arms of the government, and even nations, that come in the way of working synchronously to better tackle health crises.

As John S. Mackenzie and Martyn Jeggo indicated in their 2019 editorial in *Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases*, the term 'One Health' was first officially used in 2003-2004, associated with the emergence of severe acute respiratory syndrome. With the spread of avian influenza H5N1, it gained ground. A significant contributor was the 'Manhattan Principles,' derived at a 2004 Wildlife Conservation Society meeting, which recognised the link between human and animal health and the threats diseases pose to food supplies and economies.

The authors explained: "It has become increasingly clear over the past three decades that the majority of novel, emergent zoonotic infectious diseases originate in animals and that the principal drivers of their emergence are associated with human activities, including changes in ecosystems and land use, intensification of agriculture, urbanisation, and international travel and trade."



Swift action: Post-COVID, the Indian government fast-tracked collaborative positions to address future crises. K. MURALI KUMAR

Today, international wisdom acknowledges that a pathogen unknown to mankind can suddenly emerge, wreak havoc on populations, and threaten the stability of the world faster than one can say 'One Health'.

According to the One Health Commission: "One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of people, animals and ecosystems." The approach it advocates involves mobilising multiple sectors, disciplines and communities to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems.

The COVID-19 pandemic, in some senses, was the fulcrum that convinced even reluctant nations of the world to invest in One Health, demonstrating visibly what the lack of coordination; and on the other hand, seamless coordination can do. It was the collective sharing of SARS-CoV-2 genetic data and the study of human genetic factors in COVID-19 susceptibility that drove the international vaccine development effort. The WHO Pandemic Agreement, adopted on May 20, 2025, is a legally binding international treaty aimed at enhancing global prevention, preparedness, and response to future pandemics. It focuses on equity, establishing a Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing system to ensure rapid pathogen data sharing and equitable access to vaccines and treatments.

Internationally, One Health is led by the Quadripartite collaboration – including WHO, FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the World Organisation for Animal Health. In October 2022, they launched the One Health Joint Plan of Action.

Post-COVID, the Indian government fast-tracked collaborative positions to address future crises. It mobilised the National One Health Mission as a collaborative initiative designed to integrate human, animal, and environmental health sectors. It avowedly aims to enhance pandemic preparedness, disease surveillance, and zoonotic disease control.

With increasing evidence emerging of stressors from climate change and how these affect the natural ways of the world, it has become clear that addressing the effects of extreme climate events is essential. While several national initiatives exist to drive India ahead on this path, continuous monitoring, evaluation, and interim mitigation programmes are urgently needed.

In this context, some State-led initiatives present inspired examples for replication. These include Odisha's pioneering Climate Budget to track climate-resilient development expenditures, Kerala's participatory carbon-neutral plan in Meenangadi, and Tamil Nadu's Green Climate Company and Cool Roof Project in Chennai.

Coordinated solutions

The One Health Summit in Lyon, France, currently under way, in time for World Health Day, will focus on the main factors contributing to infectious and non-communicable diseases, such as zoonotic reservoirs, vectors, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), sustainable food systems, and exposure to pollution. It hopes to foster international and interdisciplinary dialogues about global challenges, particularly with reference to co-operation, propose solutions to strengthen health systems, and rethink global institutional frameworks that will align with One Health goals.

Welcoming increasing political consensus on One Health, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in 2023: "A One Health approach makes public health sense, economic sense and common sense." Indeed, the only thing that makes sense in an increasingly interconnected world is an approach that recognises and acts on these connections.

ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in

Standing for medical science, together with AIIMS

Democratising world-class healthcare by expanding medical education, correcting regional imbalances, and ensuring accessible, affordable, and equitable care for all Indians



M. Srinivas

Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi

For over a billion Indians, world-class healthcare is no longer a distant dream centred in New Delhi; it is now a reality closer to their homes. Over the past decade, the Government of India has pursued a coherent strategy to make healthcare accessible, affordable, and consistent for every Indian, irrespective of where they live. This transformation marks a shift from a model in which medical excellence, the beacon of hope, was concentrated in one city to one in which it is distributed across every region, working as a unified national system.

Medical education

The journey toward equitable healthcare begins with the creators of care – our doctors. India has witnessed a rapid expansion in medical education infrastructure to meet the needs of the country. Since 2014, MBBS seats across India have surged from around 50,000 to approximately 1,20,000. Similarly, postgraduate seats have expanded from around 30,000 to roughly 80,000. By significantly increasing the number of medical colleges and specialty seats, the government has ensured a steady pipeline of healthcare professionals.

The instrument of this structural transformation is the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). Launched with the explicit mandate of correcting regional imbalances in tertiary healthcare, PMSSY has gained unprecedented momentum since 2014. Of the 22 AIIMS approved under the scheme, the majority were sanctioned and operationalised in the last decade.

The strategy was clear: establish institutions of the highest national standing in regions that needed them most. These are not mere satellite campuses; each is an Institute of National Importance (INI), mandated to deliver world-class clinical care, education, and research, the trinity mission of AIIMS.

The impact on patient care has been staggering. In the last few years alone, the new AIIMS have collectively treated crores of outpatients and millions of inpatients. AIIMS New Delhi, the first AIIMS, recorded approximately 50 lakh OPD consultations in a single year. Services that once required patients to travel hundreds of kilometres are now available locally. This has led to a substantial reduction in Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE), preventing millions of families from falling into poverty due to catastrophic health costs.



By significantly increasing the number of medical colleges and specialty seats, the government has ensured a steady pipeline of healthcare professionals. GETTY IMAGES

The AIIMS expansion sits within a broader architecture of reform. While AIIMS ensures the availability of care, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY guarantees affordability by providing financial protection to over 55 crore citizens. Complementing this is the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDM).

The new AIIMS institutions have consistently topped the charts for the highest ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) registrations and have utilised the "Scan and Share" facility to reduce wait times, ensuring that patients' health records follow them seamlessly across the country.

The evolution of these institutes is supported by a unique "handholding" model. AIIMS New Delhi, as the "Mother AIIMS," has played a pivotal role in mentoring new institutions, supporting them in establishment, recruitment, teaching, learning, and fostering research collaboration. This ensures that the "AIIMS Brand" of excellence is maintained and the "AIIMS work culture" is propagated.

This collaboration reached a milestone in January 2026, when directors and deans from all operational AIIMS gathered at AIIMS New Delhi to sign a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Pan-AIIMS Research Consortium. This framework formalises joint clinical trials and shared patient data focused on India's specific epidemiological priorities, cancer, metabolic disorders and the integration of AI in medicine.

Government commitment

With an allocation of around ₹11,000 crore for PMSSY in the Union Budget 2026-27, the commitment to health remains steadfast. The Government of India is not merely expanding services; it is democratising tertiary medical services. This is what equitable healthcare looks like in practice – a system where the quality of care is determined by clinical need, not by a patient's geographical location or income. AIIMS New Delhi, supported by the government's annual budget of around ₹5,500 crore, continues the legacy of the trinity mission: patient care, medical education, and medical research.

What TB reveals about India's urban health system

Tuberculosis shows how gaps in India's urban health systems, combined with socio-economic disenfranchisement and migration, continue to exclude the vulnerable from timely care



Aruna Bhattacharya

Medical anthropologist and public health expert specialising in urban health systems, based in Bengaluru

Tuberculosis rarely appears overnight. It develops slowly at the intersection of impoverishment, precarious livelihoods, and fragile health systems. Each case tells a larger story – not just about infection, but about the conditions in which people live and the systems meant to protect them. On World Health Day, TB serves as a stark reminder that if "Health for All" is to mean anything, it must include those whose health risks are produced by the way our cities' systems are built and governed.

Nearly 35% of the population now lives in urban areas, and cities continue to expand as people arrive in search of work, education, and opportunity.

Urban risks

Urban India is often assumed to have better healthcare infrastructure than rural areas. Yet cities also concentrate risk. Overcrowded housing, poorly ventilated workplaces, long working hours, pollution, informal employment and weak social support systems create conditions that drive poor health outcomes. For infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, these are not peripheral concerns – they are central.

India continues to bear the largest burden of tuberculosis globally, accounting for nearly one-fourth of the world's TB cases. In India, where exposure is common, infection alone does not necessarily lead to disease. For most people, the immune system contains it. Disease develops when vulnerabilities converge: malnutrition, overcrowding, physically demanding work, untreated co-morbidities and delayed access to care.

TB can therefore be read as a proxy indicator of how well health and social systems function.

Missed opportunities

TB unfolds through a series of missed opportunities. Early symptoms often go unrecognised or untreated. Delays in diagnosis and interruptions in treatment increase the risk of transmission, severe illness, and drug resistance. Each stage represents a point where effective public health systems could intervene. Where nutrition support, social protection, adequate housing, and accessible primary healthcare are in place, TB is more likely to be detected early and treated successfully. Conversely, rising TB incidence, treatment interruptions and multi-drug-resistant TB often point to deeper failures in surveillance, follow-up, pharmaceutical regulation, and the broader systems that sustain health.



Health crisis: India continues to bear the largest burden of tuberculosis globally, accounting for nearly one-fourth of the world's TB cases. FILE PHOTO

TB can no longer be framed only as a disease of the poor; it is increasingly an urban public health challenge. In a pathways study of multi-drug-resistant TB patients in Mumbai (Bhattacharya et al., 2019), people often navigated complex and prolonged care-seeking journeys, moving between multiple providers before receiving the correct diagnosis and treatment. Delays, fragmented care and financial burdens not only worsened outcomes but also prolonged transmission within households and communities.

These are not isolated stories.

Urban primary healthcare remains fragmented and unevenly distributed. While the National TB Elimination Programme provides diagnosis and treatment through designated centres, a large proportion of urban residents seek care from private providers. Data integration between public and private sectors remains incomplete, making continuity of care difficult.

Migration adds another layer of exclusion. Migrants frequently change residences, move between worksites, or travel back to their home. Many lack documentation linked to their current residence or stable access to social protection. This can disrupt treatment, delay care, and make follow-up difficult.

The geography of services also matters. Informal settlements, peri-urban industrial zones, and construction clusters often remain underserved by accessible primary healthcare, reliable transport, and essential public services.

This is where the language of health as a right becomes critical. If health is indeed a right, access to care cannot depend on whether a person has address proof, speaks the dominant language, or is settled enough to fit neatly into administrative categories. The promise of "Health for All" cannot be realised through systems designed primarily for stable, documented, and visible populations.

TB, then, is more than a disease to be controlled. It is a diagnostic tool for the health of our systems. If India is serious about building healthier cities, healthcare must be portable, primary care strengthened, and disease control programmes integrated with neighbourhood-level services.

Ending TB will require building urban systems that make health possible – when 'health for all' starts not only when people fall sick, but for those not visible to policy and for those whose labour sustains the city while their health remains marginal to its planning.

From Page One

SC rejects Bengal's plea to delay locking of rolls

Senior advocate Dama Seshadiri Naidu, appearing for the Election Commission, said the verification exercise of all objections would be completed by April 6 night and a supplementary list published.

"Due to the enormous effort of the judicial officers, we have attained the closure of 60 lakh objections challenging logical discrepancies. Now, we have to draw a line and freeze the electoral roll. Persons aggrieved would be able to file appeals. The appellate tribunals would formulate their own procedure based on the principles of natural justice and a final order would be delivered. That may however take a month or 60 days... How can the tribunals work when so much pressure is put on them," Justice Bagchi asked.

'Appeals may cross lakhs'

Justice Bagchi pointed out that the number of appeals may cross lakhs in the next several days. "Each and every person would love to have his case decided at the earliest. Nineteen tribunals racing to finish by April 15 would only create chaos," he said.

The apex court left it to the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court to form a committee, which would frame a procedure of functioning for the 19 tribunals. The Bench ordered the tribunals to become functional immediately.

Referring to the issue of lengthy queues outside appeal filing centres, Chief Justice Kant asked why people cannot file appeals online. "Online is cheaper than offline," he said.

In a connected hearing, the court pulled up the West Bengal Chief Secretary, who had gone incommunicado despite repeated calls for aid by the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court on April 1. The Chief Secretary, along with the Director-General of Police, appeared online and apologised to the court. "Lower yourself a bit so that ordinary minions like the Chief Justice of the High Court can access you," Justice Joymalya Bagchi told the two officials.

Chief Justice Kant said the bureaucracy drew their obstinacy from being "pampered".

Iran intel chief killed as Trump's deadline looms

Major General Khademi, who spent much of his career in the intelligence apparatus of the IRGC, was promoted to be the chief when his predecessor Mohammad Kazemi was killed last year in an airstrike in Israel's 12-day war against Iran.

This meant the intelligence chief was in his role during nationwide protests in January which according to rights groups were suppressed by forces including the Revolutionary Guards in a crackdown that left thousands dead.

That month the U.S. Treasury sanctioned the Major General, saying that under his leadership the Guards' intelligence arm "has played an instrumental role in violently suppressing protests".

The Guards' intelligence branch, it added, "has underpinned the Iranian security forces' national campaign of mass violence, arbitrary detentions, and intimidation aimed at crushing Iran's protest moment".

The Guards had already been hit before the killing of Major General Khademi. Their commander in chief, Mohammad Pakpour, was killed on the first day of the war on February 28 but then replaced by former interior minister Ahmad Vahidi.

The chief spokesman of the Guards, the head of its naval branch and the head of its Basij militia division have also been killed.

But several key figures have survived and the Islamic republic has shown resilience in rapidly replacing killed leaders and also keeping up the war against the U.S. and Israel.

9 policemen get death in custodial death case

"Mere life sentence was not sufficient. The judgment should serve as a deterrent and should prevent recurrence," the judge said, and awarded the maximum sentence on the convicts. He said all of them were equally involved in the brutal attack on Jayaraj and Benicks. The judge also imposed a total fine of over ₹1 crore on the convicts. The judge found the police personnel guilty of murder and other offences under the Indian Penal Code.

The Tamil Nadu government, in its report, submitted that custodial deaths cannot be tolerated and the Central government had sought maximum punishment for the convicts.

Criminal conspiracy

The CBI said the investigation revealed that Jayaraj was picked from his shop on June 19, 2020, and lodged at the Sattankulam police station in pursuance of a criminal conspiracy hatched by the police personnel. On information, Benicks rushed to the police station to inquire about the arrest of his father. He objected to his father being beaten up.

Following an altercation, the two were wrongfully confined at the police station and beaten up to "teach them a lesson on how to behave with the police".

The CBI said Jayaraj and Benicks were subjected to brutal torture by the police personnel knowing that it was sufficient to cause their death. During the investigation, it was revealed the traders had not violated the COVID-19 lockdown rules, a charge on which the police had detained them.

EC issues directive on political ads in newspapers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, the Election Commission (EC) on Monday said that no political party, candidate, organisation, or individual should publish any political advertisement in newspapers on the day of polling or a day prior to voting unless the content has been pre-certified by the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) at the State or district level. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, and Puducherry will go to the polls in April, while byelections will be held in six States.

Individuals or contesting candidates can apply for certification with District MCMC. All registered political parties headquartered in a State or a Union Territory can apply for certification with the State-level MCMC, the EC said.

Applicants seeking precertification for advertisements in print media must apply to the MCMC no later than two days prior to the proposed date of publication. The MCMCs shall also keep a strict vigil on suspected cases of paid news in the media and take suitable action, the EC said.

PM Modi hails BJP workers battling 'hostile conditions'

Prime Minister pays tribute to workers who sacrificed their lives in line of duty; says party is addressing challenges such as demographic shifts, illegal infiltration, corruption, dynastic politics

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid tribute to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, stating that even when faced with "hostile environments" in States such as West Bengal and Kerala, the party cadre continue to toil selflessly for the country.

Addressing the workers at the BJP Foundation Day event through video conferencing, Mr. Modi said against all the odds, through sheer diligence and unwavering resolve, they had brought the party to where it stands today.

"Many of our party workers have even had to sacrifice their lives. We have seen how violence has been turned into a political culture in States like Bengal and Kerala. Even in such circumstances, BJP workers continue to work fearlessly, with a spirit of service to the country," he said.

"While effectively addressing current challenges, we are preparing the country for the future, such as demographic shifts, illegal infiltration, corruption, dynastic politics, and a colonial mindset... a serious ongoing nationwide discourse is going on in issues such as Uniform Civil Code and 'One Nation, One Election'," the Prime Minister said. He said the party's ultimate goal was a developed and self-reliant India.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addresses a meeting on the occasion of the 44th foundation day in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

Mr. Modi said under new BJP president Nitin Nabin, the party was working with full energy and a new approach in the five election-bound States.

"Today, we have established a new paradigm in Indian politics: the principle of 'nation first'," he said. He said the BJP delivered exactly what it promised, citing the example of women's reservation. "We are now working with full energy to ensure that the upcoming elections are held in complete alignment with the spirit of the *Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam* [Saluting Women's Power]," he said.

Mr. Modi paid tribute to the party's founders and senior leaders, including Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Deendayal Upadhyaya, Nanaji Deshmukh, Kushabhau Thakre, Jana Krishnamurthi, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia, Sunder Singh Bhandari, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, P. Parameswaran, and Kabindra Purkayastha.

Recounting the party's early days, Mr. Modi said despite scarce resources, "brutal repression of Emergency", and "relentless attempts to ostracise the BJP", the party workers strove ceaselessly and endured hardships to connect with the masses.

Analysing the reasons behind the party's success, he said at the core was its steadfast principles and commitment. Attributing the workers' "pure intent and unblemished integrity" to the foundational influence of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), he said the party has built a robust organisational structure.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Nabin said said Mr. Modi has consistently moved forward by upholding the party's key tenets of nationalism, *antyodaya*, and good governance.

Assam CM says Khera's charges have Pakistan link

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday accused the Congress of unleashing a "foreign-influenced misinformation campaign" against him and his wife Riniki Bhuyan Sarma ahead of the Assembly election.

The "serious allegations" against his wife hurled by Congress leader Pawan Khera on Sunday had a Pakistan link, he said.

Mr. Sarma told presspersons that his wife had lodged a First Information Report (FIR) with the Crime Branch of the Assam Police against Mr. Khera and others for claiming she possesses the passports of three countries, including two Islamic nations; owns a luxury property in Dubai; and has investments worth millions in Wyoming, U.S.

Mr. Khera relied on "fraud and fabricated" documents accessed from a Pakistani social media group to target him via his wife, Mr. Sarma said.

"During our research, we found that the entire material of yesterday's (Sunday's) press conference was supplied from a Pakistani social media group," Mr. Sarma said.

SC directs CBI to probe 'contracts awarded' to Pema Khandu's family

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to commence a preliminary inquiry into allegations that Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu's family was awarded public contracts worth ₹1,270 crore over 10 years from January 2015 to December 2025 in a direct conflict of interest.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, in a judgment, disposed of a petition filed by NGOs Voluntary Arunachal Sena and Save Mon Region Federation with an order to the CBI to submit a comprehensive status report on its inquiry within the next 16 weeks.

The petitioners alleged that there was rampant corruption and nepotism, dispensing with a transparent and open tender system in the award of contracts for 10 years between January 2015 and December 31, 2025.



Pema Khandu

The court directed the CBI to commence its preliminary inquiry within two weeks of this judgment. The court clarified that the purpose of the preliminary inquiry was to independently look into the veracity of the allegations, and should not be construed as a comment on the merits of the case and prejudice anyone.

"The preliminary inquiry and consequential investigation, if any, would cover the award of public contracts, work orders in the State of Arunachal Pradesh from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2025, including works placed on record in these proceedings," the judgment directed.

Contracts within family

Significantly, the apex court directed the CBI to "particularly examine" awards made to Mr. Khandu, his brother Tsering Tashi, stepmother Rinchin Drema, and individuals/firms related to them.

The court directed the CBI to look into various aspects of the award of the public contracts, including the procurement process, reasons for dispensing with open tender, questions of compliance with applicable statutory requirements, availability and custody of records, flow of funds and payments, and other connected aspects necessary to ascertain if any illegality or cognisable offence was disclosed.

The judgment said the CBI would not be precluded from looking into transactions outside the 10-year period from 2015-2025 to the limited extent necessary for tracing other connected circumstances that bear upon the transactions during that decade.

The court said the Arunachal Pradesh government, its various departments and authorities must cooperate fully with the CBI.

The Bench directed the State Chief Secretary to designate a nodal officer in one week to work in coordination with the CBI. The departments concerned should also follow suit and appoint nodal officers to liaison with the Central probe agency and grant them full access to any records relevant to the investigation.

Sharad Pawar among 19 new Rajya Sabha members sworn in

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

NCP(SP) leader Sharad Pawar and Union Minister Ramdas Athawale were among 19 newly elected members who took oath in the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

The oath was administered by Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan in the presence of Deputy Chairman Harivansh and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. Floor leaders of various parties were also present during the ceremony.

The members were a mix of those who won renomination and first-timers among the 19 who took oath. DMK leader Tiruchi Siva who entered the Rajya Sabha in 2000 will be beginning his fifth term.

The new members include five from Maharashtra, six from Tamil Nadu, five from West Bengal and three from Odisha. The oath was taken in multiple languages – Marathi , Hindi, Tamil, English, Bangla and Odia.



Sharad Pawar

Maya Chintaman Ivnate of the BJP's Maharashtra unit was the first to take oath, followed by Mr. Pawar, who entered the House in a wheelchair. This is Mr. Pawar's third term. Ramrao Sakharam Wadkute (BJP), Jyoti Nagnath Waghmare (Shiv Sena) and Mr. Athawale (RPI-A) also took oath as members from Maharashtra.

Chhattisgarh HC awards life imprisonment to Amit Jogi in 2003 Jaggi murder case

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh High Court sentenced Amit Jogi – the son of former Chief Minister, the late Ajit Jogi – to life imprisonment after convicting him of the murder of a Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader in 2003.

The case pertains to the killing of businessman-politician Ramavatar Jaggi in Raipur at a time when Ajit Jogi was the Chief Minister of the State. In 2007, 28 people were convicted in the case by a trial court, but Amit Jogi was acquitted as he was given the benefit of the doubt.



Amit Jogi

The High Court in its order said that the evidence made it amply clear that Amit Jogi was the mastermind of the entire conspiracy and he was also having the commanding position, being the son of the then Chief Minister.

The court came down heavily on the trial court for acquitting Amit Jogi, calling its judgment palpably illegal, contrary to the evidence available on record and without any concrete basis.

"It is pertinent to note that the learned Trial Judge has unnecessarily attempted to distinguish the role of accused – Amit Jogi –from that of the other co-accused. The finding that the co-accused acted independently to please Amit Jogi, without his knowledge, and in a manner not contemplated by him, is unsustainable. On the contrary, evidence indicates that the plan to eliminate the NCP office bearers originated from Amit Jogi himself," the order said.

RS Chairman, LS Speaker reject Opposition notice seeking CEC's removal

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman C. P. Radhakrishnan and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla have rejected a notice submitted by 193 Opposition MPs across both Houses seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. No specific reasons were cited for the rejection.

The notice, submitted on March 12, was signed by 63 Rajya Sabha members and 130 Lok Sabha members. The 10-page document accused the CEC of being "subservient" to the executive and alleged the "deliberate abuse of power

The notice was signed by 63 Rajya Sabha members and 130 Lok Sabha members

and position of a constitutional office", among other charges.

While there was no mention of the notice from the Chair of either House during the ongoing Budget Session, the Secretaries-General of both Houses issued bulletins on Monday stating that after a "careful and objective assessment of all relevant aspects and issues involved", the notice had not been admitted. The Chairs cited Section 3 of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. Section 3 empowers the Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chair, after "due consultation" and "consideration of available material," to either admit or refuse such a motion.

Reacting to the bulletins, Trinamool's floor leader in the Rajya Sabha, Derek O'Brien, pointed to the absence of any definitive reason for rejecting the notices. "BJP keeps mocking our great Parliament. SHAME," he wrote on X.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh told *The Hindu*, "We know what happened to the last Chairman of the Rajya Sabha who accepted a petition moved by Opposition MPs."

ASSEMBLY POLLS

‘Why Modi silent on Pak. Minister’s Kolkata threat?’

On Monday, Pakistan dominated the political discourse in West Bengal with senior Trinamool Congress leaders including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee highlighting a recent remark by Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Asif to call for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s resignation.

Addressing a public meeting in Nadia, she referred to Mr. Asif’s remark that Kolkata would be attacked if the two countries came to blows again. She wanted to know why Mr. Modi had not responded to the remark when he addressed a meeting in Cooch Behar on Sunday.

“How can a Pakistani Minister talk about targeting Kolkata? Why didn’t Modi come out and say anything yesterday?... If they talk about attacking Kolkata, we will not accept it,” Ms. Banerjee said.



Mamata Banerjee waves at a gathering during an election campaign in Murshidabad. PTI

‘Stalin, Cong. in understanding with the BJP’

Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee on Monday alleged that the BJP had entered into a “tacit understanding” with the Congress and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, claiming that many IAS and IPS officers from West Bengal had been sent to the southern State as poll observers, hampering development work in her State.

She claimed that though five States are going to the polls simultaneously, the Election Commission transferred around 500 officers in West Bengal in comparison to a handful in other poll-bound States.

“You [BJP] must be having some tacit understanding with the Congress and Stalin,” she alleged. “They are placing own officers in prominent positions here to ensure their free movement,” she said. PTI



When Amit Shah comes here, he only talks about Bangladeshi infiltrators. But the BJP doesn’t drive them out... It only plays politics in their name

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE
Congress president

‘Take action over R.G. Kar victim’s mother’s remarks’

Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee wrote to the Election Commission, asking the poll body to take action against R.G. Kar victim’s mother Ratna Debnath for allegedly using derogatory language against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during her campaign as the BJP candidate from Panihati.



Peace came to Assam after many sacrifices. It is important to keep Congress away for continued peace and development

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister



Tea tribes are a major electoral determinant in over 35 of Assam’s 126 seats across the tea-growing belts. PTI

Assam election verdict hinges on parties reading the tea leaves right

Abdus Salam
GUWAHATI

The battle for the votes of the “tea tribes” has animated the Assam Assembly election campaign as it enters the home stretch. The seven-million-strong community, including Adivasis who were brought by British planters from central India as well as those no longer associated with tea plantations, account for almost 20% of the voters in the State. The demand for Scheduled Tribe status for the OBC community has become the talking point, heightened by the visits of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren to constituencies with tea tribe concentration.

On Sunday in the Bishwanath constituency, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi issued a targeted appeal. “We will provide ₹450 as daily wages to tea workers and grant Scheduled Tribe status to six communities [including tea tribes],” the Congress leader said, alleging that previous promises made by the current government had not been fulfilled.

Mr. Soren was in Bishwanath the same day campaigning for Teharu Gour of the Jai Bharat Party, who is contesting on Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) ticket. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma “welcomed” his Jharkhand counterpart, saying the latter would get an opportunity to witness first-hand Assam’s rapid development, especially in tea garden areas.

Influential community

A major electoral determinant in over 35 of the State’s 126 seats across the tea-growing belts of eastern, northern, and southern Assam after delimitation, and influential in around 10 more, the tea tribes have been rewarded with eight candidates each by both the major players. The JMM is contesting 18 seats.

Several constituencies are set to witness direct BJP-Congress fights between prominent leaders from the tea tribe community. The Opposition is trying to capitalise on the stalled ST status. The Congress made explicit mention of it in its ‘Raijor Istahar (people’s manifesto)’ released on April 2, while Mr. Soren, in his rallies, makes sure to point out that most of the ethnic groups of the tea tribes are recognised as STs in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, while Assam continues to classify them as OBCs.

The BJP’s *Sankalp Patra*, released on March 31, touts grant of land rights to over 3.5 lakh tea garden families and promises to raise minimum daily wages to ₹500 in a phased manner after having increased it by ₹30 effective April 1. On the contentious ST status, the party sought to do a balancing act by promising to “actively pursue the Central government” to implement the recommendation of an Assam Group of Ministers (GoM) “while safeguarding constitutional, social and economic rights of existing ST communities”.

While the community has gradually veered towards the BJP since 2014, the Congress is betting on the Assam government’s “failure” on the wages and reservation fronts.

“Their guarantees to increase wages to ₹351 and ST status have failed,” Mr. Pran Kurmi, the Congress contestant from Titabor, told *The Hindu*.

“We lost 20-25 seats in Upper Assam by thin margins in 2021 but the alliance with Raijor Dal and Assam Jatiya Parishad is working in our favour this time,” he added.

‘It may not be an overwhelming win, but Cong. is clearly ahead in Kerala’

This election is a straight fight between LDF and UDF, says Congress leader and Thiruvananthapuram MP; BJP is a zero-seat party in Kerala Assembly and even if they get one or two or at most three seats — none of which is by any means certain — they cannot be relevant in govt. formation, he adds

INTERVIEW

Shashi Tharoor

S. Anandan
Dhinesh Kallungal



S. ANANDAN

Congress Working Committee member Shashi Tharoor spoke to *The Hindu* on Monday, a day before public campaigning for the Kerala Assembly election ends, about the Congress’s prospects, development agenda, internal dynamics in the party, the need for a change in governance in Kerala, and his forecast for the BJP’s showing in the polls. Edited excerpts:

Did the Congress’s decision to field defected leaders from other parties cause any resentment within its rank and file?

We can all have opinions about the choice, but what’s encouraging is that everybody has now rallied behind. It’s no secret that many of us may have had different views about some of the decisions. But it’s truly welcome that there’s been no backbiting, no absenteeism from the polls, no one griping to the media, and above all, no rebels. So, we are all out there in strength and unity.

What is the sense that you are getting from the ground?

For me, I get the impression that there is support in favour of the United Democratic Front (UDF). It may not be an overwhelming win, but we are clearly ahead, and majority of the voters are in a mood for change. I know that leaders have been talking about 85 to 100 seats. But in the end, what matters is securing a comfortable majority to run an effective government.

In 2011, it was almost a close call for the UDF.

Yes, that was very close, and I certainly hope it will be less close this time. And indications, including some polls, suggest a better number this time.

What are the issues projected in your campaign?

I speak about what an individual candidate can contribute and seek votes in order to bring a UDF government to power to end the 10 years of LDF (Left Democratic Front) misrule. For example, the disastrous financial health of the State is worrying. NITI Aayog has released a report ranking 18 major States in terms of financial management, and Kerala came 15th. This buttresses my argument that the Kerala model has been turned into a debt model by the State government.

I point out this repeated habit of borrowing and the fact that they spend more on debt servicing and pensions than on development. We need a different approach that generates revenue, and it can’t be by taxation. Trying to find solutions through lotteries, remittances, and liquor taxes will not help the State in the long run. We have clear ideas.

Further, we desperately need to open up the State for business in a genuinely business-friendly way. Perhaps Kerala is the only State in the country where every file has to be signed by four people before anything moves.

We should open up investment in sectors such as AI, robotics, and machine learning. Port-led development is a potential area because of our long coastline. We should also take advantage of the Centre’s new law that permits private investment in space tech.

Reforming the higher education sector is another priority area. As an ageing society, we can also specialise in the care of old people and become a model for the rest of India in how to manage ageing.

In terms of development, the Left in Kerala is often criticised for no longer being the old Left, and for adopting neoliberal policies lately.

First of all, they have not created the institutional structures needed to truly convince private sector investors to come in.

The truth is that the Left has a serious credibility problem because, when they were in the Opposition, they were the most destructive Opposition imaginable with protests and hartals.

So even if they are now trying to adopt positive policies, their credibility has not allowed them to attract any major investment to the State.

But you have been in the dock in the past for supporting the State government’s initiatives...

I did support them when the startup ecosystem report said that Kerala has witnessed the most growth in startups. But it turned out that their claims were exaggerated. And therefore, I subsequently recanted it.

A few weeks ago, there was a debate in the Congress about the prospective Chief Minister.

It will be decided after consultation with the elected MLAs, and ultimately by the High Command, which is how the party functions.

Is the BJP likely to make significant gains this time, particularly in Thiruvananthapuram – your Lok Sabha constituency, which includes Nemom, the Assembly segment the party won in 2016?

The BJP is a zero-seat party in the Kerala Assembly and this election is a straight fight between LDF and UDF. Even if they are able to get one or two or at most three seats – none of which is by any means certain – they cannot be relevant in government formation.

Do you think the BJP will improve its vote share?

When I first came here, the party had a 6% vote share. Today, they have around 12%, and have gone up to as much as 19% in recent parliamentary elections. Clearly, Mr. Modi has been a big factor in this growth. But, a Parliament election is about who rules in Delhi. In Kerala I don’t see them going past the 12% level in the Assembly polls and their NDA partners can’t take them much higher.

(For full interview, visit: newsth.live/ShashiTharoor)

‘HC should have taken steps to restrain Assam Chief Minister’

The pejorative ‘Miya’ was never part of public rhetoric, but Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma boasts he will not allow ‘Miyas’ to rest and shall harass them, says writer and civil society activist

INTERVIEW

Hiren Gohain

Abdus Salam
GUWAHATI



RITU RAJ KONWAR

At 87, writer and activist Hiren Gohain, one of Assam’s foremost public intellectuals, shows no sign of slowing down. The Assam Nagorik Sanmilani, a citizens’ collective led by him and retired IPS officer Harekrishna Deka, was at the forefront of calls for Opposition unity and seeking judicial intervention over a “sustained pattern of hate speeches” by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

He discussed issues foregrounding the Assam election campaign with *The Hindu*. Edited excerpts from the interview:

You were an adviser to Raijor Dal during its early days before dissociating yourself. Why then did you issue appeals for the Opposition to come together this time?

I used to be adviser but Akhil Gogoi [Raijor Dal chief] refused to have any truck with the Congress, which allied with the AIUDF and other parties in the previous poll. Since I was supporting the alliance, I felt it unethical to remain with Akhil Gogoi and resigned.

Things have changed a lot since then. We had an all-Assam citizens’ convention in Guwahati last year and told parties they could draw strength from each other and the electorate is much more likely to support such an alliance than individual parties. To our delight they agreed, but it took a pretty long time.

Has the political discourse today touched a new low? We have never heard the pejorative term ‘Miya’ being bandied about so freely in the past as now.

During the Assam Movement, some diehard supporters used the word among themselves. But it was never a part of the public rhetoric. The Chief Minister [Himanta Biswa Sarma] goes on saying I am not going to allow the ‘Miyas’ to rest and I shall harass them as much as I can, this is why I became CM. Imagine a Chief Minister saying something like this!

As part of a group of concerned citizens, you moved the courts over the alleged hate speeches. The next High Court hearing is scheduled for April 21.

Since this is the incumbent CM, the court should have said something about it. Some steps should have been taken to restrain him in the meantime. The hearing has been postponed to a very safe date.

There hasn’t been much forward movement since the 2019 National Register of Citizens excluded 19.06 lakh people...

This has been begging for an answer for a long time. Neither has the government accepted it nor rejected it on some rational ground... The NRC is sound. There is no evidence of mismanagement. The BJP says there are lakhs of Bangladeshis in the NRC and they are going to correct it. They should bring evidence.

The citizenship issue raises the question, who is an indigenous Assamese that Clause 6 of the Assam Accord seeks Constitutional protections for?

That is a riddle I have not been able to solve. There is a sense among people that some are more native than others but it’s a question of citizenship. There is scope for migrants from other States to settle here. Are they indigenous? No. It is a very complicated term and concept. It cannot be applied in legal terms.

(For full interview, visit: newsth.live/HirenGohain)

‘Erasure of CM’ from BPF’s posters raises eyebrows in Assam

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI



Poster of a BPF candidate in the Gossaigaon constituency, which borders West Bengal.

A picture, as an adage goes, is worth a thousand words. In poll-bound Assam, an erased picture is said to be worth a thousand sentences.

Soon after its seat-sharing deal with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in March, the Bodoland People’s Front (BPF) put up posters of its candidates strategically across 11 constituencies it is contesting from in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

The BJP is contesting from the remaining four seats in the BTR.

The BPF rules the Kokrajhar-headquartered Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), which governs the BTR comprising five districts and 15 Assembly constituencies. The Bodos, a Scheduled Tribe, are the single-largest community in the BTR.

The BPF’s posters bore photos of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, BTC chief Hagrama Mohilary, and the local candidate. However, a few days later, the Front allegedly replaced the posters, especially in Muslim-dominated areas, with the Chief Minister’s photo missing from the fresh posters.

Dhanjit Das, a political commentator based in western Assam’s Barpeta district, explained the “CM erasure”. He said the BPF largely rode on the support of Muslims.

“According to ground-level assessments, Muslims began moving away from the BPF after it aligned with the BJP. The BPF is facing a challenge in seats where Muslims can swing the outcome, and this could be a gain for the UPPL,” Mr. Das said.

“Muslims in the BTR felt betrayed after the BPF-BJP marriage, but everything depends on whether the UPPL, Congress, and other parties can cash in on the sentiments,” Jamsher Ali, based in western Assam’s Bongaigaon district, said.

The BPF is also believed to have rubbed Christians across the BTR the wrong way by befriending the BJP.

INBRIEF



EC to deploy 3,000 armed personnel for Bengal polls

To ensure peaceful polling in West Bengal, the EC has decided to deploy 3,000 armed police personnel from other States, mostly from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, supplementing the already substantial presence of Central forces for the first phase of elections slated for April 23, a senior official said on Monday. "Given the sensitivity of the elections, it has been decided to augment the existing forces with around 3,000 armed police personnel from other states," the official told PTI. The commission has already planned the deployment of 2,400 companies of central forces across the state, he said. PTI

Church vandalised in Odisha over sexual assault allegations

A mob vandalised a church in a village in Odisha's Keonjhar district, alleging that a visually challenged girl had become pregnant after being sexually assaulted by a man from the Christian community. "The victim and the accused belong to the same village. The girl's distant uncle, who is alleged to have committed the crime, is currently working in Tamil Nadu. Early on Monday morning, when no one was inside the church, some miscreants took out chairs and an almirah and set them on fire," said Kamal Panda, Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Keonjhar. The police said the area was communally sensitive and they were maintaining a close vigilance to prevent any escalation into wider violence.

'New Bangladesh-India ties will avoid mistakes of past'

Bangladesh has left era of Sheikh Hasina behind, says adviser to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman; calls for frequent exchanges at the level of political parties and officials to deal with difficult issues

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh wants to build a relation with India that will be focused on "people-to-people" ties and that will not be limited to individuals and political parties, said a senior official of the current government led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Monday.

Humayun Kobir, Foreign Affairs Adviser to Prime Minister Rahman, said the "new" relation between the two sides will avoid the repeat of "past mistakes".

"Our bilateral relation should be focused on people-to-people ties so that it will not be focused on individuals. This is what we want and this is also what India desires. We want to ensure this relation avoids the mistakes of the past," Mr. Kobir said. The remarks were made after Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma called on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Monday. Briefing the media after the meeting, Mr. Kobir said the two sides discussed energy cooperation through the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline.



Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma pays a courtesy call on Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman in Dhaka on Monday. ANI

India had sent 5,000 tonnes of high-speed diesel on March 10 and the two sides are in talks to deal with the energy crunch that is growing in Bangladesh against the backdrop of the U.S.-Israel war against Iran. Mr. Kobir is expected to accompany Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman during his visit to India that is scheduled to start on Tuesday. This will be the first Foreign Minister-level visit from the Bangladeshi side since the fall of the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5, 2024 in a student-people uprising.

Mr. Kobir said Bangladesh has left the era of Sheikh Hasina behind and added, "We have to create a new space for a new relation because Hasina-India relation will no longer be possible. Hasina is a spent force in Bangladesh and her influence is non-existent." He said that the two sides should do more frequent exchanges at the level of political parties and officials to deal with "difficult issues" so that misunderstandings are avoided.

High-level meetings

Officials here said that the visit of Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman remains on track and that he is expected to arrive here on Tuesday for a visit that will include a number of high-level meetings. The two sides have kept a tight lid over the preparations for the talks in view of the delicate nature of the ties that are yet to fully recover from the setbacks suffered during the interim government because of the presence of Ms. Hasina in India and frequent mob attacks on the Indian missions and visa centres in Bangladesh.

The Dhaka daily *Prothom Alo* reported on Monday that apart from the Ganga water treaty's renewal and energy cooperation, the Bangladeshi team is expected to raise the need for removal of restrictive measures that India had imposed on the use of Indian sea and airports for Bangladeshi export items during April-June 2025. That apart, Mr. Khalilur Rahman and Mr. Humayun Kobir are also likely to press India for reducing border firing against Bangladeshi civilians.

While India says such actions are aimed at criminal gangs and smugglers, Bangladesh maintains that such gangs need to be apprehended and subjected to judicial processes and should not be fired at.

Three authors pulled up by SC over NCERT chapter seek hearing

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Three educationists "blacklisted" by the Supreme Court for preparing a controversial chapter on "Corruption in judiciary" in a Class 8 social science textbook of the National Council for Educational Research and Training have said they are no "fly-by-night academics" and command "street cred".

Author and scholar Michel Danino, educationist Suparna Divakar, and legal researcher Alok Prasanna Kumar on Monday urged the court to hear them.

The court had said the three either did not possess "reasonable, informed knowledge about the Indian judiciary and/or deliberately misrepresented the facts in order to project a negative image of Indian judiciary before Class 8 students who are of an impressionable age".

"Consequently, we direct the Government of India, State governments/Union Territories, universities and public institutions receiving government funds to disassociate the three of them forthwith and not to assign any responsibility which incurs, fully or partially, public funds," the court had directed. It passed the order without issuing notice to the three educationists or hearing them.

"... We believe we have something to say," senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for Mr. Kumar, submitted.

'Collective process'

"We are giving a context and the pedagogy that has come in the National Education Policy, including other issues. I was there when it was said that the judiciary is being singled out. Classes 6, 7 textbooks deal with issues, obstacles, hurdles, challenges faced by the legislature, the Election Commission and the executive... We want to show the process followed. These are not fly-by-night academics. These are academics with a lot of street cred," Mr. Sankaranarayanan submitted.

Senior advocate J. Saideepak Iyer, appearing for Ms. Divakar, said the sum of their submissions was that the preparation of the chapter was a collective process and no individual had sole say or final authority. Senior advocate Arvind Datar appeared for Mr. Danino, and requested the Bench to hear them.

"We definitely propose to hear the three of them," Chief Justice Surya Kant responded.

Serpentine lines outside tribunal centres in Bengal as voters queue up to get reinstated

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Massive lines were seen outside tribunal centres in at least two districts of West Bengal as electors whose names were deleted during the special intensive revision (SIR) process queued up to get their names back on the voter lists ahead of the polls. Fresh protests erupted in the Basirhat area of North 24 Parganas alleging wrongful deletion of names.

With only three weeks to go for the West Bengal Assembly election scheduled for April 23 and 29, concerns over alleged voter deletions and disenfranchisement are intensifying across the State.

In Purba Bardhaman's Katwa, serpentine lines were seen outside the Sub-Divisional Office as residents waited since early morning to submit their appeals to the local administration to consider reinstating their names on the electoral rolls. Similar queues were also reported from Barasat outside the District Magistrate's office in North 24 Parganas.



People line up to submit their petitions before the special tribunal in Nadia after their names were deleted from the poll rolls. PTI

Central forces were seen trying to control the crowd at Katwa, where the SDO office premises and the whole neighbourhood were filled with people waiting to meet the authorities. Chaos and confusion unfolded as hundreds of appellants waited for hours.

"We had names on the 2002 list, we submitted all documents, including passport and Aadhaar, still our names were deleted. We also appeared at the hearing, but our names were deleted," one of the residents outside Barasat DM's office told mediapersons. Others waiting in the long lines reported similar stories.

Protests erupt

In Basirhat, protests erupted after people alleged that nearly 700 voters were wrongfully deleted from three booths in the area. Angry protesters blocked roads and burnt tyres to voice their concerns over the wrongful deletions.

Commenting on the rising concerns, senior Trinamool Congress leader and Beleghata candidate Kunal Ghosh said voters were left in the dark about their voting rights. "People are in a state of extreme uncertainty. We are with the people. I tell people that if they are legal voters, then the fight to get their names back on the final list will continue," Mr. Ghosh said.

"We had already said that almost 1 crore illegal voters will be removed, and the issue is headed that way. Once the list is declared, the picture will become clear," senior BJP leader and Kharagpur Sadar candidate Dilip Ghosh said.

Just last week, seven judicial officers were held hostage in north Bengal's Malda by locals alleging wrongful deletion of names from voter lists.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the gheraoing of judicial officers was a challenge to the Supreme Court's authority. Both the BJP and Trinamool accused each other of "orchestrating" the episode. The National Investigating Agency is investigating.

Modi is using the women's reservation law for electoral gains, say Congress leaders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of making a "U-turn" on the implementation of the women's reservation law, the Congress on Monday said Mr. Modi was attempting to use the issue for electoral gains ahead of the Assembly elections in several States.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said the Prime Minister, while campaigning in Assam, had appealed for unanimous support to the *Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam*, 2023, which provides for 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, during the special session of Parliament, even though the measure had already been passed



Jairam Ramesh

unanimously in September 2023 and the Congress had demanded its implementation from the 2024 election itself.

"But the Modi Govt introduced a condition that the reservation will come into effect only after delimitation and census is completed. This is Article 334-A that had got inserted then. Now all of a sudden to divert public attention from the grave economic crisis and in order to influence voters in the five states the PM has decided that Article 334-A should be amended to do away with delimitation and census pre-requisite," he said. "He has woken up after 30 months and done another U-turn," he added.

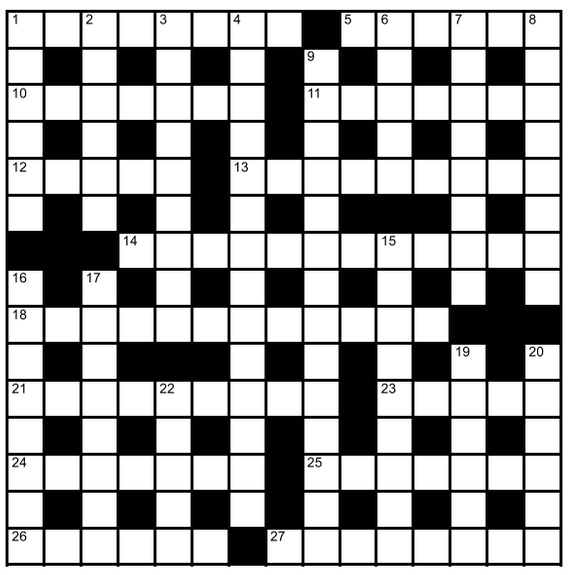
In a separate post, Congress MP Manickam Tagore claimed that the government was keen on carrying out delimitation on the basis of the 2011 Census to avoid the caste census data, as "it will show: Other Backward Classes are the largest social group in India. And the natural democratic demand will be: 1. Proportional representation for OBCs 2. Sub-quota for OBC women within the 33% reservation," Mr. Tagore said in a post on X.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 14761

(set by Dr. X)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Stretched slowly at first and exercised (8)
5 Heavenly body of model, extremely elegant (6)
10 Cold drink with favourite yeast cake (7)
11 Old Greek soldier's drunk in party, tottering essentially (7)
12 Visit halfway houses around Finnish city (5)
13 Mother resents untidy mess (5,4)
14 British dramatist performed hard role after drinking beer (6,6)
18 Ugh! Womaniser ruined first party at home (12)
21 Slyly beginning to reveal offences in the real lives of film actors (3-6)
23 Put down mask after end of pandemic (5)
24 American poet of note in independent American university (7)
25 Lights in rear of building site malfunctioned (7)
26 Reeds around a waterway (3,3)
27 Devilish fellow knocking out model in home (8)

Down

1 Small boy going close to nurse (6)
2 Thugs in drains ultimately get away (6)
3 Incriminate rogue and Latin American model involved in murder (9)
4 Impromptu poem about needless curbs (14)
6 England's opener charges, cuts and runs (5)
7 Comment about deli's latest cake and chocolate made with hazelnuts (8)
8 See 16
9 Depth of modernist Hindi novel (5,9)
15 Clean hands in hotel after eating cake on vacation (9)
16/8 What camera crew will do to dream big (5,3,3,5)
17 Where ball lifted vigorously over umpire's head will be? (8)
19 Stung in Tibet, injured by scorpion's tail (6)
20 Treacherous person's wife left to have peace of mind (6)
22 Diabetic repents eating pancake (5)

SUDOKU

			1	8			4	
4		7	9					3
		3			7			
7					4			2
	2		3		9		8	
3			8					9
			6			5		
5					2	1		8
	1			5	8			

No.SS6843 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

D	E	C	A	D	E		C	A
R	P	E	T		O		O	
E		T		G		E		U
S	L	I	M		P	R	E	S
E	N	T	I	N	G		P	
E		N		N		R		N
C	H	E	S	T	S		A	N
C	H	O	R	E	D		I	
I			I		C		Y	
L		L		E	N	T	E	R
T	A	I	N		G	E	E	S
E		X			O			U
P	U	P	P	Y		C	U	S
T	O	M	E	R	S		N	
L		C		S		H		
E	U	R	O	P	E	A	N	
I	N	S	E	C	T		S	
S		R		E		R		C
I		B	U	S	I	N	E	S
S	E	S		R	A	T	S	
A		O		A		S		T
U		A		L	O	N	E	L
Y		S	Y	M	B	O	L	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	8	9	1	7	4	5	2	3
7	4	2	6	5	3	9	1	8
3	1	5	8	9	2	6	7	4
1	9	3	4	6	8	2	5	7
8	5	7	2	3	9	1	4	6
4	2	6	5	1	7	3	8	9
2	7	1	3	4	6	8	9	5
5	3	4	9	8	1	7	6	2
9	6	8	7	2	5	4	3	1

FAITH

Misery alone awaits misers

In his canto on futile wealth in Tirukkural, Tiruvalluvar highlights the futility of hoarding material wealth. Valluvar says, "A grudging miser thinks wealth is all in all. He heaps, helps none and he is reborn a miser." In fact, there have been instances when hoarders of wealth have come to their senses due to the timely guidance of gurus and spiritual leaders, said P. Swaminathan.

Bhagawan Ramana Maharshi attracted millions of devotees to his ashram in Tiruvannamalai due to the wisdom with which he turned the devotees from their fixation on the impermanent things in life, to a more meaningful life. There lived a rich man who amassed wealth through usury practice. He never parted with a rupee for anyone and regardless of what hardships the person who borrowed from him faced, the miser demanded high rate of interest. Even as he got richer each day, karma came calling. He was afflicted with a skin disease, which grew rapidly, like his wealth. The man wanted a cure for his skin disease but none of the medical professionals he approached could help him. On the advice of a relative, he surrendered to Ramana Maharshi, seeking relief from his disease. In his inimitable style, the saint said, "Lending money for interest is against dharma. Give away your wealth amassed from exorbitant interest rates to charity." The miser agreed. The saint further instructed him to stay in goshala for 48 days, cleaning cow sheds and catering to the cattle round the clock. The miser went to the task willingly. As the days passed, the disease gradually left him and there was no trace of it after 48 days. Adhere to dharma, let go of non-dharmic way of life and be guided by your guru.

INBRIEF



Indian refiners postpone maintenance shutdowns

Indian refiners have postponed maintenance shutdowns of their units to meet local fuel demand, a government official said on Monday. Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation were among the companies that had planned to shut units at some of their refineries for routine maintenance, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the federal oil ministry said. However, Nayara Energy will shut its 4,00,000 barrels per day Vadinar refinery for maintenance from April 9, she said. Nayara was originally scheduled to shut the refinery for a month-long maintenance last year. REUTERS

NMDC shares in limelight on steep hike in iron ore prices

NMDC's shares were in the limelight on Monday in the wake of the State-owned miner announcing a steep increase in iron ore prices. As per the latest revision, announced and effective April 5, the price of Baila Lump has been increased ₹500 per tonne to ₹5,300. The same quantity of Baila Fines will now cost ₹4,500 as against ₹4,050 previously. NMDC shares closed 4.45% higher at ₹81.45 each on the BSE. The iron ore prices are freight on road/rail (FOR) prices that are exclusive of royalty, DMF, NMEDT, cess, Forest Permit Fee, transit fee, GST, environmental cess and other taxes, NMDC said.

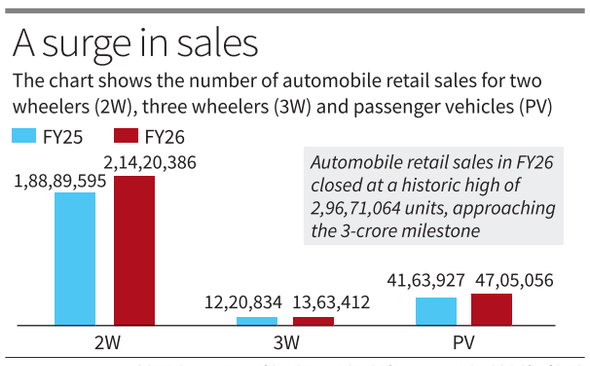
Aurobindo Pharma Board okays ₹800 cr. share buyback

Aurobindo Pharma's Board has approved the generic drugmaker's proposal to buyback more than 54.23 lakh equity shares at ₹1,475 each. The buyback price is at a premium of more than 10% from the previous trading day's (April 2) closing price of ₹1,335.95. The buyback, for an aggregate amount of ₹800 crore, is proposed to be made from all shareholders/beneficial owners, including promoters and members of the promoter group, who hold equity shares as of the record date, on a proportionate basis through the "tender offer" route, the company said following the Board decision on Monday.

Automobile dealers turn 'constructively' cautious as war rages

For April, near-term demand environment stays broadly constructive, though it enters a measured transition after a strong year-end: FADA

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI



After putting up a stellar performance in FY26, including that of March 2026, automobile dealers now remain "constructively cautious" about the future as the war in West Asia is threatening growth, according to FADA.

"The broader operating environment is clouded by the West Asia situation. Our survey reveals that 53.2% of dealers have experienced some form of supply or dispatch disruption linked to the ongoing conflict, with 17.1% reporting significant delays of three or more weeks," the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) said on Monday.

"While the impact has been most pronounced in the CV segment, PV and 2W dealers have also flagged selective variant-level delays. We are watching this closely," it said.

On the fuel-price front, 36.5% of dealers have reported that rising or expected fuel prices are "moderately to significantly" affecting customer purchase decisions. "This is a real friction point that bears monitoring, not because it will derail demand, but because it can elongate decision cycles and shift customer preference further toward CNG and EV options," it added.

Near-term demand

For April 2026, FADA said "the near-term demand environment remains broadly constructive, though it enters a phase of measured transition after a strong year-end."

"Our survey indicates 50.56% of dealers expecting growth in April, with 40.15% expecting flat performance, a reading that reflects not pessimism but the natural recalibration that follows a record-setting March," it said.

Seasonal factors

Stating that seasonal factors will shape the month, it said April marks the start of a new financial year, which traditionally brings a brief reset as OEM schemes adjust, fresh inventory arrives, and the consumer re-calibrates post year-end purchase urgency. The marriage season should support demand in select northern and western markets, while Akshaya Tritiya in certain regions will provide an additional buying trigger," it said.

"On balance, April should deliver steady performance – potentially softer than March on account of base and seasonality, but supported by residual momentum, a reasonably healthy pipeline, and stable financial conditions. The key variable will be the trajectory of the West Asia situation and its pass-through to fuel prices, supply availability, and overall consumer confidence," FADA said.

"FADA hence remains constructively cautious, structurally optimistic, but operationally watchful for the near-term," it added.

Historic high sales

FADA also announced that FY26 automobile retail sales closed at a historic high of 2,96,71,064 units, up 13.30% YoY, approaching the 3-crore milestone.

Two-wheelers at 2,14,20,386 units saw a 13.4% growth, PVs surged 13% at 47,05,056 units, tractors grew 18.95% at 10,50,077 units, CVs grew 11.74% at 10,60,906 units, three-wheelers saw 13,63,412 units sold, a growth of 11.68%, while construction equipment (CE) declined 11.7% to 71,227 units YoY.

"Apart from total vehicle retail, five of six vehicle categories set all-time annual records; Tractors crossed 10 lakh and CVs returned above 10 lakh for the first time since FY19; 2W surpassed its pre-COVID peak," FADA said.

Wipro secures $1 billion contract from Olam Group

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU


Srini Pallia

Wipro Ltd. on Monday said it bagged an eight-year contract worth $1 billion from Olam Group, a Singapore-based food and agribusiness firm in which State-owned investment firm Temasek Holdings has a majority stake.

Wipro said as part of the contract it would acquire Olam Group's IT and digital services business, Mindsprint, for $375 million, in an all-cash deal. Mindsprint would become a wholly owned subsidiary of Wipro, subject to regulatory approvals and closing conditions. The acquisition process is expected to close by the end of Q1 FY27.

Srini Pallia, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director said, Wipro's strategic engagement with Olam Group was an important step in expanding its farm-to-fork capabilities and scaling the impact of Wipro Intelligence across the food and agri-business industry. "We aim to unlock growth opportunities, catalyse innovation, and drive market-ready transformation for Olam Group and our global clients across the industry," Mr. Pallia added.

"As Olam Group accelerates its journey towards being more agile, future-ready, and in line with our priorities under the reorganisation plan to sharpen focus on core businesses and maximise shareholder value, we are bringing together the strengths of Mindsprint with Wipro," said Sunny Verghese, Co-Founder and Group CEO of Olam Group.

Wipro would deploy its capabilities across Olam Group's 'farm-to-fork' value chain, delivering industry-specific solutions that align with the Group's business priorities.

Focus would be on areas such as farming, forecasting, trading, supply chain operations, and customer engagement, with the goal of improving operational effectiveness, strengthening resilience, and supporting long-term growth at scale, according to the filing. Terming the deal "one of its largest strategic transformation engagements," he said.

Wipro would deliver end-to-end transformation services to Olam Group through a consulting-led and AI-powered approach.

"This is an important transaction. It shows Wipro is committed to get back to growth. It helps strengthen Wipro in its transformation business. It also shows that there will be more carve outs and GCC sales," said Peter Bendor-Samuel, Founder and Executive Chairman, Everest Group, a Dallas-Texas-based tech research firm.

For Wipro, "This deal is about entrance into food and agriculture, a more consulting mindset, and a good foot hold into Singapore," said Ray Wang, Principal Analyst and Founder, Constellation Research, based in California.

Olam Group supplies food, ingredients, feed and fibre to almost 22,000 customers globally and employs 40,000 people.

Markets rebound amid correction in crude prices

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply on Monday after falling in early trade following a correction in crude oil prices amid reports of ceasefire efforts in the ongoing West Asia war.

Nifty rose 1.12% to 22,968.25 points as crude oil prices declined 2%, while Sensex increased 1.02% to 74,106.85 points. This is the third consecutive rally.

The gain was widespread with over 2,511 stocks advancing among the 3,345 stocks that traded on the NSE.

Almost all the sectoral indices were up by up to 2.3%. Brent Crude futures price stayed at $109 a barrel, but fell 2.34% on Monday from the previous session. Last week, oil prices rose by a marginal 0.1% after declining 3.14% the week before.

The prices have dipped 8% in April so far, but on a high base of a 63.3% increase in March.

Investors hopeful

While investors are hopeful of a quick end to the war or at least a ceasefire, Israel had reportedly attacked Iran's South Pars petrochemical plant again, after Indian markets closed for trading.

"Nifty has never risen for more than three trading sessions since the U.S.-Iran war began in late February. This streak will come to an end if Nifty extends the pullback for one more session. Trading activity was somewhat subdued, with NSE cash market volumes dipping 1% compared with the previous session," said Vinay Rajani, Senior Technical Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

'16 India-flagged vessels in Persian Gulf, 2 LPG vessels en route India'

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

There are 16 Indian-flagged vessels operating in the Persian Gulf with 433 seafarers onboard, Mukesh Mangal, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways told the media.

"The Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping) is closely monitoring the situation," he added.

The senior official informed in the last two days, two Indian-flagged LPG vessels, Green Sanvi and Green Asha, have safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz with the former carrying about 46,650 MT and latter 15,405 MT.


Indian-flagged LPG have safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz.

Green Sanvi is expected to reach its destination in India April 7, whilst Green Asha, on April 9.

More gas for fertilizers

Allocation of natural gas to the fertilizer industry has been raised from 70-75% to 90% based on average monthly usage in the past six months.

Other industrial and commercial sectors, including city-gas distributors, would get an additional 10% allocation, taking the total allocation to 90% from the March 9 order from 80%. The additional allocation would be a boost to the fertilizer sector ahead of the Kharif season and is expected to shield from spot market purchases.

C. Shikha, Joint Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, said India's 222 lakh metric tonne (LMT) of buffer stock of wheat and 380 LMT of rice "is enough to take care of [the country's] PDS requirements as well as emergency requirements."

'Comfortable' stocks

She said domestic availability of edible oil was 'comfortable' adding that imports from key partners, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Argentina and Brazil "continue steadily".

To tackle LPG deficit, Jindal uses syngas in furnaces

Press Trust of India
New Delhi

Jindal Steel on Monday said it has deployed syngas in galvanising and colour coating line furnaces to counter the shortage of natural gas, LPG and propane, enabling the company to sustain operations amid supply disruptions.

Syngas, or synthesis gas, is a clean-burning fuel that offers a way to turn waste and biomass into valuable energy, acting as a circular energy source. The switch allowed the firm to mitigate fuel constraints.

GUJARAT ENERGY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
GETCO
REGISTERED & CORPORATE OFFICE, SARDAR PATEL VIDYUT BHAVAN,
RACECOURSE, VADODARA – 390 007
www.getcogujarat.com

TENDER NOTICE NO. ACE (P&C): TN - 01: 2026-27

[A] PROCUREMENT: E-3059, 3074, 3086, 3098: - (1) Purchase of Emergency Restoration System (ERS) for 400KV and suitable to use for 220kV/132kV/66kV class transmission line as per Technical specification and as per BOM attached as Annex. against Tender No. CE (P&C)/ I/ E-3059/ ERS/ 400 KV class Transmission Line/2025-26., (2) Various Class Lightning Arrestors for year 2025-26 and 2026-27 as per latest technical specification on Firm price basis., (3) Various CT-PT & NCT for year 2025-26 as per Specification against tender No.: CE (P&C)/ I/ E-3086/ CT-PT & NCT / 2025-26., (4) Purchase of 3 Nos. of Mobile Test Vans with Integrated Testing Kits for GETCO.

[B] CIVIL: ACE (P&C)/ Contracts/ Civil - 604, 605, 606, 607:- (1) Construction of a Multi-Storey Building including Civil & Structure for GETCO Corporate Office at 220kv Gotri Substation, Gotri Road, Vadodara., (2) Construction of various store room buildings, stacking platforms, WBM road, precast compound wall, Water tank, septic tank and soak pit, Parking shed, security cabin etc. and demolition of old quarter building at 66 kV Ghanteshwar S/S under Rajkot Construction Division under Gondal Circle., (3) Construction of Control Room Building, Foundations, pre cast Cable Trench, precast Compound Wall, RCC Road & misc civil works etc at 66 kV Tankariya S/S. Ta. Kalayanpur and Dist. - Dev bhoomi Dwarka, Jamnagar Circle., (4) Construction of Compound wall , control room extension and renovation of existing CR bldg. with paint, Metal spreading, WBM Road, OHWT dismantle and other miscellaneous works at 66 kV Ambaliyara SS Under Dhansura AM division Under Himatnagar Circle.

[C] LINE: ACE (P&C)/ Contracts/ E-421, 432, 442, 443, 445, 445–A, 446/ TL/ Uprating/ UG/ 66kV, 765kV/ S&L, E:- (1) Supply, Laying, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 66kV 1CX630 sqmm XLPE Cable with Poly AL-Poly / Aluminium Corrugated construction on EPC basis for various lines in Anjar circle in Rajkot Zone., (2) Supply, Laying, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 66kV 1CX630 sq.mm XLPE Cable with Poly AL-Poly / Aluminium corrugated construction on EPC basis for Various lines in Jamnagar Circle in Rajkot Zone., (3) Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of conversion of (i) 66kV Halvad - Soladi line (ii) 66kV Dhrangadhra - Hirapur line (iii) 66kV Dhrangadhra - Bavli line (iv) 66kV Surendranagar-Wadhwan -Rajsitapur line (v) 66kV Limbdi - Sayla line (vi) 66kV Limbdi - Chornia line (vii) 66KV Chornia - Khandiya line with ACSR DOG conductor into equivalent HTLS conductor (equivalent weight of ACSR DOG conductor with higher ampacity) of Surendranagar Circle., (4) Supply, Laying, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 66kV,1CX630 sqmm XLPE Cable with Poly. Al./Aluminium construction on EPC basis Various lines under Navsari Circle.,(5) Supply, Laying, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 66kV 1CX630 sq.mm XLPE Cable with Poly AL-Poly / Aluminium Corrugated construction on EPC basis for various lines in Nadiad circle in Mehsana Zone., (6) Design, Supply,Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 765kV D/C Pachchham-Saykha line having route length 140.85 km with Hexa ACSR Zebra conductor (WZ-3 Coastal) on turnkey basis., (7) Supply, Laying, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 66kV,1CX630 sq.mm XLPE Cable with Poly. Al. / Aluminium construction on EPC basis Various lines under Jambuva Circle in Bharuch Zone.

[D] SUBSTATION: ACE (P&C)/ Contract/ E-388, 403:- (1) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 132kV Feeder Bays on EPC Basis (Excluding Civil Works) under Option-1 of Deposit Work for M/s Western Railways – Part-A: 02 Nos. FB at 220kV Jambuva (GETCO) S/S for 132kV Jambuva (220kV)–Itola TSS Line & Part-B: 02 Nos. FB at 220kV Godhara (GETCO) S/S for 132kV Godhara (220kV)–Godhara TSS Line., (2) Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 220kV & 66kV equipment's & materials on turnkey basis including civil works for 220/66kV Ramsan (Near Thavar) AIS substation, Tal. Deesa, Dist. Banaskantha under Palanpur Circle.

Above tenders are available on website www.getcogujarat.com (for view and download only) & tender.nprocure.com (For view, download and online tender submissions).
Note: Bidders are requested to be in touch with our websites till opening of these tenders.

I/c. Additional Chief Engineer
(Procurement & Contracts)
Date:07/04/2026

Role of independent directors vital: SEBI

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Independence does not translate into action in Indian corporates' perspective, said Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Chairman, SEBI.

He underscored the importance of independent directors in ensuring ethical conduct of firms saying 'conversation must now move beyond who sits on the board to how effectively they are able to contribute once they are there."

"Independent directors are there not only for compliance and pointing fingers at the management but also for supporting and finding solutions through accountability. They need to bear this responsibility in mind," he said at an event here. Also, there was need to fill skill gaps in independent directors.

Mr. Pandey also listed steps to boost transparency in corporate govern nance. The comments assume significance in light of the abrupt resignation of Atanu Chakraborty as chairperson of HDFC Bank reportedly on account of major corporate governance slippages.

No stay on Adani's JAL buy, NCLAT to decide pronto: SC

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

SC restrained firm's monitoring panel from taking 'major policy decisions' sans the NCLAT's nod

The Supreme Court declined to stay the implementation of the Adani group's ₹14,535-crore bid to buy debt-ridden Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. (JAL), but restrained the firm's monitoring committee from taking any 'major policy decisions' without prior nod of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

A Bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi asked mining giant Vedanta Ltd., which is opposing the resolution plan and Adani Enterprises Ltd. to raise contentions and counter claims before the NCLAT which will start final hearing on April 10.

The SC asked the NCLAT to decide the plea and the counter petition expeditiously by hearing them on an 'out of turn basis' on the dispute over the acquisition of JAL by Adani group.

"In view of the fact the company appeals are now listed for final hearing at the NCLAT on April 10, we see no reason to interfere with the impugned order. However, having regard to the nature of the issue, we request the NCLAT to hear the appeal on an out-of-turn basis on the date fixed or immediately on the next working day if arguments do not conclude," SC said.

The NCLAT on March 24 declined interim stay over Vedanta's plea against orders passed by the NCLT okaying Adani Group's bid.



Interesting display: Visitors at a stall at the summit held in Chennai on Monday. R. RAGU



Stimulative discussion: A participant interacting with a panellist during a session. R, RAGU



Nurturing young minds: Professor Ashok Jhunjhunwala speaking with students. R.RAGU



Rapt attendtion: Participants listening to panellists during a session. R. RAGU

'Govt.'s semiconductor mission will promote research'

Though India accounts for nearly 20% of the world's semiconductor design engineers, it doesn't have its own design firms, says Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary, Electronics and IT Ministry, at the *The Hindu* Deep Tech Summit; the India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 will expand beyond the first phase to include research and development, equipment manufacturing and skilling, he adds

Sahana Mira S.
CHENNAI



(From right) Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Electronics and IT; S. Ponnusamy, Registrar, SRM; L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group; Paneerselvam Madanagopal, CEO, MeitY Startup Hub; B. Govindarajan, CEO, Royal Enfield India; and C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice-Chancellor, SRM Institute of Science and Technology; at the summit on Monday. R. RAGU

The Union government has undertaken various measures, including a policy push, to promote deep tech in India, said Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and CEO of the India Semiconductor Mission, in Chennai on Monday.

He was addressing the audience during the inaugural ceremony of *The Hindu* Deep Tech Summit 2026 hosted by The Hindu Group, in association with the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST).

"Semiconductors form an industry with many verticals. Though India accounts for nearly 20% of the world's design engineers, we don't have our own design companies, which is a challenge. The India Semiconductor Mission has a few verticals to address, and we started with design, manufacturing, and packaging," Mr. Sinha said. "To further deepen this conversation, we are now working towards developing a complete ecosystem under the India Semiconductor Mission 2.0. This will expand beyond the first phase to include materials, research and development, chemicals, gases, equipment manufacturing, and skilling," he added.

L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group, said deep tech is no longer confined to laboratories and research papers.

He said it is shaping economies, redefining industries, and influencing the way people live, work and think. "From semiconductors and artificial intelligence to advanced materials and space technologies, the next decade belongs to those who can engineer the future, not just imagine it," he added.

C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice-Chancellor, SRMIST, said that universities have been sending out talented graduates but not always solutions. He said that the functioning of universities needs to be shaped from an academia perspective.

'Bridge the gap'

"A deep tech summit like this will eventually bridge the gap between intellectual potential on campuses and the expected impactful solutions for the global challenges. The questions we need to ask is, 'Are we really equipping our students on how to build, what to think? Do we have sufficient infrastructure for laboratories for students and faculty to explore beyond what is prescribed in the curriculum and are we opening up to industries?'" he said.

Panneerselvam Madanagopal, CEO, MeitY Startup Hub, which operates under the Ministry, said that the need for industry-academia collaboration is extremely critical.

"Mentoring, market access, and money are the support that we provide at MeitY Startup Hub. But the challenge today in India is we have a lot of me-too start-ups. We need to look for fundamentally strong companies which are worthy of investment, solving real problems, and driving change in the ecosystem," he added.

B. Govindarajan, CEO of Royal Enfield India, spoke about the role of deep tech in the automobile industry. He also said that there was immense opportunity for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) too, with about six crore MSMEs performing well in India. "For the young minds who are into research and innovation, funding is not a challenge – both Indian industries and the government are ready to support ideas that solve real-world problems," he said.

The industry partner for the event is Madras Management Association. The Knowledge partners are IHFC-Technology Innovation Hub of IIT Delhi; Ivy Club-Chennai; Sathguru Catalysing Success; 2C Stem Steering Technology Management; BIRAC, BioNest; Niti Aayog Atal Innovation Mission; and DPIIT #startupindia. The Ecosystem partner is Startup Singam.

Future will be built through collaboration, say experts

Siddhi Nawar
CHENNAI



(From left) Nitin Nagarkar, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Medical, SRMIST; Thirumalai Srinivasan, Director, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, SRM; Suresh Vijayaraghavan, CTO, The Hindu Group; Kannan Vijaya Raghavan, President, Society for Technology Management; and Dinesh Kumar Sundaravelu, CEO ,Tamil Nadu Research Park Foundation, at the summit in Chennai on Monday. R. RAGU

The opening panel of *The Hindu* Deep Tech Summit, 2026, held in collaboration with the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), set the tone for a day of forward-looking conversations on technology and its role in shaping India's future.

Titled "The Deep Tech Decade: engineering the next revolution", the session – organised at Feathers, A Radha Hotel, on Monday – brought together voices from academia and industry. The session was moderated by Suresh Vijayaraghavan, Chief Technology Officer, The Hindu Group.

The panel concurred that India stands at a decisive moment. "The time is right for our country to pitch in," said Nitin Nagarkar, pro Vice-Chancellor of Medical Sciences at SRMIST, describing a phase in which deep technologies, from artificial intelligence to robotics, will move beyond labs to touch everyday life.

Deep tech's impact

For Thirumalai Srinivasan, director of entrepreneurship and innovation at SRM, the next decade will be anchored by two sectors: semiconductors and renewable energy. Together, he suggested, they could position India not just as a participant but as a global manufacturing hub.

Others widened the lens. Dinesh Kumar Sundaravelu, CEO at the Tamil Nadu Research Park Foundation, pointed to the rise of multi-stakeholder partnerships, where governments, start-ups and institutions collaborate across geographies, from metros to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, to accelerate innovation.

At the centre of the discussion was a single, recurring idea: convergence.

Kannan Vijaya Raghavan, president at the Society for Technology Management, said that no discipline can operate in isolation any more. Breakthroughs, whether in drug discovery or medtech, now sit at the intersection of biology, engineering, computing and clinical sciences, he said. "Individual sciences cannot create products today," he noted.

Industry and academia

Relating the inter-disciplinary convergence to the evolving role of universities, Mr. Srinivasan emphasised the need for the academia to embrace failure as part of the process, while industry must step in to guide ideas toward real-world outcomes.

That journey, from lab to market, remains one of the biggest challenges. While foundational research often begins in universities, translating it into viable products requires funding, incubation and regulatory support. Panellists called for stronger "translational ecosystems" and more flexible, sandbox-style regulations to enable faster experimentation. The role of government, they agreed, is critical, not just in funding but in shaping policy and talent pipelines. As India transitions from a service-led economy to a product-driven one, the need for a new kind of workforce is becoming clear.

"Gone are the days when a degree alone defined talent," Mr. Srinivasan observed, pointing to a future where adaptability and skillsets will matter more than formal qualifications.

As the discussion drew to a close, there was a broad agreement on where the biggest disruptions will unfold: healthcare, biotech and semiconductors. Yet, the larger takeaway was less about sectors and more about systems. India's deep tech future, the panel suggested, will not be built in silos, but through collaboration, convergence and a willingness to rethink how innovation itself is done.

'Industry looks at the short term, academia at the long term'



(From left) Gowri Kailasam, CEO, Rane Madras Limited, SLD & LMCD; Prasad Maganti, CEO, vTitan; T.R. Parasuraman, GD Naidu Chair Professor, SRMIST; Dinesh Arjun, CEO, Raptee; and John Xavier, tech editor; at the event. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

At *The Hindu* Deep Tech Summit 2026, a candid conversation unfolded around a familiar yet unresolved question: why does the gap between academia and industry persist?

A session titled "The Symbiotic Lab: Re-Engineering Academic Research for Industrial Agility" brought together key experts. The session was moderated by John Xavier, Tech Editor, *The Hindu*.

For T.R. Parasuraman, GD Naidu Chair Professor at SRMIST and former president and wholetime director of Toyota Industries Engines India Pvt. Ltd, the contradiction is structural. "Industry looks at the short term, academia at the long term," he said, pointing to a mismatch that often leaves ideas stranded at the proof-of-concept stage. In a country powered by nearly 6.8 crore MSMEs, this disconnect is not just academic; it directly shapes India's manufacturing ambitions.

Yet, the tone was not pessimistic. Panellists agreed that the past decade has seen a quiet but important shift. Dinesh Arjun, CEO of EV motorcycle startup Raptee, talked about how entrepreneurship itself has evolved over the past decade. "Commercialisation was not even part of student thinking earlier," he noted.

Gowri Kailasam, CEO of Rane Madras Limited- SLD & LMCD, offered a candid industry view: companies are often racing to solve immediate problems but fail to define them clearly. "We don't take the time to articulate today's problems, yet expect answers from academia," she said. Universities, in contrast, tend to focus on futuristic research that may not translate into immediate applications.

What is needed, several panellists suggested, is a middle ground – one built on co-creation rather than transaction. Prasad Maganti, CEO vTitan, said that research and development can no longer be optional and that industries must actively identify problems across their operations and work with academia to solve them. Structural solutions were also on the table. Mr. Parasuraman proposed a hub-and-spoke model – clusters of centres of excellence that MSMEs can access for testing and innovation, supported by larger firms and the government. Others pointed to simpler fixes: informal collaborations, shared facilities and stronger exchange programmes.

Commercial viability key to deep-tech investment: expert

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI



(From left) Venu Gopal Chintada, Partner, Sathguru Catalysers; S. Anil Kumar, Founder & CEO, Jodi365.Com; Vaishali James, Co-founder, Sangatna Angels; M.V. Subramaniam, partner, JULY Ventures; and Sindhu Hariharan, Chief of Bureau, *The Hindu businessline* at the summit. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Determining the right time for a deep-tech venture to receive investment is crucial. According to M. V. Subramaniam, a partner at JULY Ventures, investors prioritise the "technology readiness level" of a start-up. He emphasised that a company becomes a viable investment opportunity only when it has achieved commercial viability, meaning it has a product or service that customers are willing to pay for and is ready for broader commercial engagement.

Mr. Subramaniam shared this insight during a panel discussion titled "From IP to IPO: The Investor's Blueprint for Scaling 'Made-in-Lab' Deep Tech" at *The Hindu* Deep Tech Summit 2026. The session was moderated by Sindhu Hariharan, Chief of Bureau at *The Hindu businessline*. Venu Gopal Chintada, partner at Sathguru Catalysers, said any technology worth backing must have global relevance. "It has to be contemporary, and with AI coming in, things are getting a lot more competitive. The technology must solve a problem that is not marginal but game-changing," he said.

Responding to a question on how early-stage deep tech ventures, especially those led by women, can get started, Vaishali James, co-founder of Sangatna Angels, said that it is about transitioning from lab to market. "What works in a lab does not necessarily work in a market. The main question is commercial viability – are people willing to pay for it? That is extremely critical," she said. She added that when it comes to deep tech for women, there are gender disparities in funding within the ecosystem.

'Perception bias'

"There is a huge perception bias as well, where women are often asked risk-related questions. The friction for women entrepreneurs is far higher than for men," she said.

To a question about what needs to change at the college level, particularly whether there should be awareness of entrepreneurship over placements, S. Anil Kumar, founder & CEO of Jodi365.com, said that there needs to be a mindset shift. "How many students, as they enter colleges think about building something that could become a business? We need to encourage internships, experiential learning, and move away from rote learning," he said.

On whether India can produce a global deep-tech company, Mr. Chintada said the country is well-positioned as the largest consumer market.

"'Make in India' for the world is happening and will continue. We are in a transition phase in technology adoption, especially with AI being integrated into many aspects of what we do," he said.

DEEP TECH SUMMIT



Detailed analysis: Members of start-ups at the Pitchfest Zone at the summit on Monday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN



Closer look: Visitors looking at a model bike at a stall at the summit held in Chennai on Monday. R. RAGU



Special attraction: Visitors entering a stall at the tech expo showcase during the summit on Monday. R. RAGU



Inquisitive mind: A participant asking a question to a panellist at the summit. R. RAGU

Youngsters must take up challenges: Jhunjhunwala

IIT-Madras Professor speaks on a wide range of topics, including his return to India in the 1980s, key principles behind success of IIT Madras Research Park, dos and don'ts of entrepreneurship, need for solutions for everyday problems, and two kinds of mentorship for any start-up; highlighting that entrepreneurship is about risks and there are chances of failures, he urges youth to work hard

Dennis S. Jesudasan
CHENNAI

What was originally planned as a fireside chat between Ashok Jhunjhunwala of IIT-Madras and The Hindu Group CEO L.V. Navaneeth, at *The Hindu* Deep Tech Summit 2026, turned out to be a motivational session packed with energy and optimism, inspiring technocrats, entrepreneurs, academics and start-ups.

The session, titled "From Lab to Nation: How India Can Build A Global Deep Tech Ecosystem", covered a wide arc of time – from Professor Jhunjhunwala's return to India in the 1980s, the key principles behind the success of IIT Madras Research Park (IITMRP), dos and don'ts of entrepreneurship, the need for solutions for everyday problems, two kinds of mentorship for any start-up and others.



Quick tips: Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Institute Professor, IIT-Madras, and Chairman, Immersive Technology and Entrepreneurship Labs, in conversation with L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group. R. RAGU

When asked what initially convinced him that India needed a completely different model, Professor Jhunjhunwala recalled his return from the U.S. in 1981 and the absence of interaction between industry and academia. Along with a bunch of students, he started building things for the industry.

And was the industry forthcoming? "I also realise that you have to actually reach the top person in the industry. They have the vision to take risks. If you go from below, you will not be able to do that," he said.

Curious about the IITMRP model, which is often cited as one of the most successful industry-academy collaboration models in the country, Mr. Navaneeth sought to understand the key principles behind its design and asked what lesson should other universities learn from it. "First of all, we looked at IIT Madras Research Park as a start-up. Yes, you can take seed money from somewhere, but beyond that, a strong business model must drive that. So, beyond the seed money, you are not going to get any grant. Beyond the seed money, you have to raise money by either venture capital or loans. For that, your business plan has to be very strong and the banks have to be convinced," said Professor Jhunjhunwala.

The other important thing for such an institute, he added, was: "We cannot have interference either from the government or even from the institute."

Professor Jhunjhunwala recalled how a newspaper article published his quote, which helped him get his first cheque of ₹1 lakh from the chairman of WS Industries. Hard work of one year led to building a prototype, he said, and further recalled how the chairman used the prototype to bring down the cost and emphasised that it was the kind of acumen that business leaders have.

Regarding real-world challenges, the Professor cited how rain affected vehicular traffic on his way to the summit. "And we haven't found a solution. Who is going to solve this problem? It is we who have to solve it. So, today I am building a consortium of scientists around the country, along with eight to 10 start-ups. So, we will find a technology solution."

On entrepreneurship, Professor Jhunjhunwala said he usually asks start-up enthusiasts for their background. "Basically, I ask them two things. First, I start getting to know them and their family and try to understand their economic situation and family obligations. I want to understand whether they are in a position to take risks. Because entrepreneurship is about risk." The second thing he asks them is about failures.

He told Mr. Navaneeth, "There are two kinds of mentorship that any start-up needs. One is a technology mentorship, where they have a technical problem to solve, and the people in technology can help them mentor that. The second is a business mentorship. Anybody who has run a business, who has gone through the difficulties of handling cash flows."

For the youngsters, he had this to share: "Take up the challenge. Work hard. This is what you have been trained for. You can do wonders."

'Govt. to create deep-tech infrastructure with industry'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Offering a glimpse into the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0, Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and CEO of the India Semiconductor Mission, on Monday said the government was working to support the establishment of facilities for chemicals, gases, materials, and equipment manufacturing in India.

"ISM 2.0 is totally focussed on these verticals," Mr. Sinha stated during a fireside chat, "From Assembly to Electronics Excellence: India's Semiconductor Ambitions", at the two-day Deep Tech Summit 2026 organised by The Hindu Group in association with the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) in Chennai.



Future course: Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in conversation with Aroon Deep, Principal Correspondent, *The Hindu*. R. RAGU

Observing that setting up semiconductor manufacturing is not an easy task, Mr. Sinha, in conversation with Aroon Deep, Principal Correspondent at *The Hindu*, said the industry has multiple ingredients and every ingredient has a very precise implementation process or engineering process that is required to set that up.

Flagging certain challenges faced by companies, he said the companies are overcoming those problems with the support of the government which fully understands that ecosystem has a very important role.

Equipment, technology partners, and supply chain partners are important, he pointed out. "We are trying to support setting up of a facility for chemicals, gases, materials, and equipment manufacturing in India. So, the next leg of ISM 2.0 will focus entirely on these verticals."

Deep tech is very capital intensive and needs a lot of infrastructure, says the Semiconductor Mission CEO

Observing that other three verticals of design, manufacturing, and packaging will continue, Mr. Sinha said: "Besides, these kinds of ecosystem development efforts will start. Parallelly, we will also start working on specific technology development oriented R&D."

Skilling will be a thrust area going forward, he underlined.

Replying to a query, Mr. Sinha said the government's role was to create opportunities and to provide infrastructure and also underlined the importance of industry's participation. "We all know that deep tech is very capital intensive and it needs a lot of infrastructure in terms of lab facility, testing facilities and many more. The government will create that along with the industry," he said. So, the industry which is looking for a real-time solution to integrate in their product lines or to solve some problems that they are facing, is also a very important partner in all this, he added.

Attracting talent

"The industry and government will have to create a platform where the academia and industry researchers, innovators can come together," stated the senior IAS officer. Once it is established as a centre of excellence, it will start attracting talent from everywhere. And that is when it becomes an organisation where deep tech kind of solutions will be generated and then it will continue the journey," Mr. Sinha said.

On the need for the industry to do six sigma manufacturing in terms of quality control and build indigenous design, the official said: " Electronics is basically very, very focused towards reliability. And once your systems are reliable, then your market access will further increase. In semiconductor chips, yield is a parameter." Six sigma was a symbol indicating that one has to control their process, he said. "You have to optimise that process. You have to analyse the defect lines and then improve it to near to perfection level."

Start-ups take the boardroom at the Deep Tech summit



Centre stage: Entrepreneurs pitch their ideas at a session styled like a live funding round on Monday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Siddhi Nawar
CHENNAI

Innovation stepped out of presentation decks and into a high-stakes boardroom at the summit on Monday. In a session styled like a live funding round, entrepreneurs pitched not just ideas, but conviction-laying bare their origin stories, market potential and the capital they needed to grow. The narrative for these founders move beyond ideas to ask the hardest question: who will back them to scale?

The boardroom pitches brought together a diverse cohort of founders, from deep tech and mobility to health and AI, each attempting to bridge the gap between invention and investment. There was no shortage of ambition. Start-ups like Chittam, Edio Innovations and Pulse Lavage showcased solutions rooted in real-world inefficiencies, while ventures such as Torus Motion and Reflow Technologies leaned into engineering and sustainability. Others, including OrzuLife, Mikaela.ai and Tamirobot, reflected a growing shift toward AI-led and automation-driven ecosystems. Even student-led teams and early-stage innovators stepped forward, signalling how deeply entrepreneurship has permeated academic spaces.

But what set the session apart was its tone. This was not a showcase but, it was scrutiny. Founders were expected to articulate not just what they were building, but why it mattered, who would pay for it, and how fast it could scale. Numbers- valuation, revenue, runway- sat alongside narratives of persistence and problem-solving.

Across the table sat a formidable panel of investors, operators and ecosystem leaders, including Kalpana Sastry, Balakumar Thangavelu, Satish Ganeshan, Chandrasekhar Kupperi, Anil Kumar, Aravind Suresh, Vaishali James, Gowtham Suresh, Senthil Kumar Rajendran, Krithik Abiram Govindan, Sridhar Bharathway, Gaurav Nirwan, Ananth Kumar, M.V. Subramanian, Kalairsi Periyasamy and Venugopal Chindata. Their role was not just to evaluate, but to challenge – probing assumptions, stress-testing business models and pushing founders to think beyond prototypes.

What emerged was a clear pattern: The strongest pitches were not necessarily the most complex; they were the most grounded. Founders who demonstrated clarity of market need, a viable path to revenue and an understanding of scale stood out. The questions, often sharp, circled back to fundamentals.

CSR initiatives must focus on high-impact projects: experts

Geetha Srimathi
CHENNAI

Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives must move beyond compliance-driven spending and focus on high-impact projects that address pressing social challenges, experts said at a session at *The Hindu* Deep Tech Summit 2026.

The panel titled 'The New Philanthropy: CSR as a Catalyst for Inclusive Deep Tech Ecosystems' brought together Kumar Anurag Pratap, VP, Digital Inclusion & Sustainability Leader and CSR Head; Sanjay Sampath, CEO, Green Curve Consulting; Aditi Gaitonde, Manager - People Experience (CSR Lead), EPAM; Balakumar Thangavelu, Head, CSR, Cognizant; and Radhika Ramesh, COO, Villgro. The session was moderated by Rohit Batra, Vice President (Head), Commercial Projects, IHFC (Technology Innovation Hub of IIT Delhi).



(From left) Kumar Anurag Pratap, VP, Digital Inclusion & Sustainability Leader, CSR Head; Sanjay Sampath, CEO, Green Curve Consulting; Aditi Gaitonde, Manager - People Experience (CSR Lead), EPAM; Balakumar Thangavelu, Head CSR, Cognizant; Radhika Ramesh, COO, Villgro and Rohit Batra, Vice - President (Head) Commercial Projects, IHFC on Monday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

'Shared purpose'

CSR cannot be approached as a purely transactional exercise focused only on funding, Mr. Pratap said, arguing that organisations seeking support must instead build meaningful, long-term relationships with corporate partners. Mr. Pratap likened CSR partnerships to relationships that evolve through dialogue and shared purpose rather than immediate financial transactions, and that once such a connection is established, support is more likely to follow organically.

On the question of funding for research and development, Mr. Sampath said commonly cited figures, such as CSR spending on R&D being around 1%, may not be entirely accurate.

Informal estimates from industry discussions suggest the amount could be significantly higher, but there is a lack of rigorous, publicly available studies to substantiate these claims, he said.

Ms. Ramesh said that investments in incubators and social impact organisations should be viewed as R&D within the CSR ecosystem. "Funding that goes to incubators and impact-focused NGOs is, in many ways, R&D," she said. She noted that such solutions are tested in real-world settings through pilot projects, with CSR funding helping to "de-risk" them and assess their impact, scalability and viability.

Responding to a question on whether CSR is being used innovatively or remains limited to low-risk, high-visibility projects, Mr. Thangavelu, said the sector cannot be viewed uniformly. "It is difficult to generalise," he said, noting that some companies treat CSR as a "checklist activity", while others use it for branding. At the same time, he said, organisations where philanthropy is culturally embedded are more likely to back innovation and long-term solutions. R&D projects.

On shifting mindsets within the CSR ecosystem, Ms. Gaitonde said organisations need to first understand the perspectives of both start-ups and CSR decision-makers. "Try and understand where they're coming from," she said, suggesting that start-ups engage more closely with incubators, including those at institutions such as IITs and IIMs, to better navigate the ecosystem.

She urged organisations to identify what drives CSR partners. "Find your hook," she said, noting that aligning with a company's priorities can help initiate partnerships.

HAIFA

Four bodies recovered from site of Iranian strike, say Israel rescuers



AP

Four people were killed in the Israeli port city of Haifa after what Israeli media said was an Iranian missile strike that hit a residential building late on Sunday. The bodies were recovered from beneath the rubble following hours of search-and-rescue operations, the Israeli military said on Monday. AFP

KUWAIT CITY

Falling debris from Iranian strike injures six, says Kuwait Ministry



REUTERS

An Iranian attack on a residential area in Kuwait injured six people on Monday, the country's Health Ministry said. "Falling projectiles and debris hit a residential area in the northern region after an Iranian aggression," it said. Overnight from Sunday to Monday, Kuwait had also said it was responding to similar attacks. AFP

HOUSTON

Artemis II breaks Apollo 13's record as humans travel farther into space



AFP

The four astronauts embarking on NASA's lunar flyby became on Monday the humans to travel furthest from our planet, as they get set to view areas of the moon never before seen by the naked eye. the Artemis II team surpassed the distance record of (400,171 kilometres set by Apollo 13 in 1970. AFP

CAIRO

At least 10 killed in Israeli airstrike near Gaza school as truce strains



REUTERS

An Israeli airstrike killed at least 10 people outside a school housing displaced Palestinians on Monday, health officials said, in the latest violence overshadowing the fragile U.S.-backed Gaza ceasefire deal. Before the strikes, Palestinians clashed with an Israeli militia, who they said raided the school in an attempt to abduct people. REUTERS

Lebanon says Israeli strikes hit southern region, Beirut

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

An Israeli strike hit Beirut's southern suburbs on Monday as Israel's Army said it was targeting Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah, while Lebanon reported broad strikes in the country's south.

Video footage showed smoke billowing after the strike on the southern suburbs, a Hezbollah stronghold which has largely emptied of residents after repeated Israeli attacks and evacuation warnings.

Israel's Army said it was "striking Hezbollah terror targets in Beirut", after saying it would target the area.

The Israeli Army said on Sunday that in recent days, it had struck two Al-Amana petrol stations "which were controlled by Hezbollah and served as significant financial infrastructure" supporting the group's activities.

In south Lebanon, the Health Ministry said four people were killed in a raid, near the city of Nabatiyeh. The state-run National News Agency (NNA) also reported deadly strikes elsewhere in the country's south and east.

Lebanon says 1,497 people have been killed since the war erupted, including 57 health workers.

Strait of Hormuz will never return to its old status: IRGC

The Guards say they have made plans to establish a new security architecture in the Gulf based on the principle that the region's security and stability must be guaranteed by the littoral states

Stanly Johny

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Monday that the Strait of Hormuz, a critical international waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman, has undergone "irreversible strategic changes" and will never return to its previous status.

"The era of foreign hegemony over this critical waterway is definitely over," the IRGC Navy said in a statement. Recent regional developments have established a new reality so that the U.S. can no longer dictate terms in Iran's immediate maritime environment, it said.

"The Strait of Hormuz will never return to its previous status, especially for the U.S. and the Zionist regime," the IRGC said, adding that Iran would continue to defend its sovereignty and the security of the Persian Gulf.

The IRGC statement came hours after U.S. President Donald Trump put out an expletive-ridden post on social media asking Iran to open the Strait. "Tuesday will be Power Plant Day, and Bridge Day, all wrapped up in one, in



Firm stand: The Guards say the U.S. cannot dictate terms in Iran's maritime environment after recent regional developments. AFP

Iran. Open the F*** Strait, you crazy b****, or you'll be living in Hell," the U.S. President said. Mr. Trump in the past had issued several deadlines to Iran to reopen the Strait or face severe bombing.

On Sunday, Mr. Trump said the U.S. was in talks with Iran and a deal could be possible by April 6, threatening to "blow up everything" if a deal is not reached.

New plans

The IRGC said the Guards have made plans to establish a new indigenous security architecture in the Persian Gulf based on the principle that the region's security and stability must be guaranteed by the littoral states. "These preparations include enhanced naval deployment, advanced monitoring systems, and coordinated rapid-response capabilities, all designed to safeguard Iran's territorial waters and ensure the uninterrupted flow of energy through the strait," the Guards said.

Iran's Foreign Ministry on Monday dismissed Mr. Trump's ultimatum. "Washington's supposed pursuit of diplomatic engagement with Tehran runs counter to continuing its crimes against the Iranian nation and threatening the nation with even more war crimes," Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said. He added that the U.S. Special Operations forces raid in Iran on Sunday to rescue an airman of an F-15E fighter that was shot down over Iran was a cover "to steal enriched uranium".

Unanswered questions

There are "many questions and uncertainties" about the operation," he said. "The area where the American pilot was claimed to be present in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province is a long way from the area where they attempted to land or wanted to land their forces in central Iran," Mr. Baghaei said. "The possibility that this was a deception operation to steal enriched uranium should not be ignored at all."

An Iranian army spokesperson said Iran's ongoing attacks would continue until "the enemy is brought to a point of genuine remorse". "The Islamic Republic of Iran's system stands with authority, has responded to threats, and in some cases has been able to reciprocally operationalize threats against the opposing side," Brig. Gen. Mohammad Akramiathe said in a statement. "The opposing side has, in fact, been defeated."

Trump says Iran could be 'taken out' in one night

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S President Donald Trump on Monday told reporters that Iran could be taken out in one night, "and that night might be tomorrow night", warning Tehran it had to make a deal by Tuesday night or face the consequences.

Mr. Trump had earlier vowed to enforce a Tuesday night deadline for Iran to agree to a ceasefire deal or face broad attacks on power plants and other critical infrastructure.

"The entire country can be taken out in one night, and that night might be tomorrow night," he told a White House press conference.

Asked about accusations of war crimes if the U.S. widens attacks against Iran's bridges and power plants, Mr. Trump responded, "No, not at all." Asked why Iranians would want him to carry out the threat, he said citizens are "willing to suffer...in order to have freedom."

Truce proposal

Mr. Trump also said the proposal offered by Iran was inadequate.

"They made a proposal, and it's a significant proposal. It's a significant step. It's not good enough," Mr. Trump said.



Tall claims: President Donald Trump speaks with reporters during a news conference at the White House on Monday. AP

Mr. Trump said the five-week conflict could end quickly if Iran does "what they have to do."

"They have to do certain things. They know that, they've been negotiating I think in good faith," he said.

U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth told the briefing that the largest volume of strikes since day one of the operation against Iran would take place on Monday and warned Tuesday would have even more.

Mr. Trump, joined by senior national security advisers, described in detail the operation to recover a downed American airman over the weekend from Iranian territory.

He said the unidentified airman was hiding in mountains and kept climbing in order to improve the chances for recovery. "It was like finding a needle in a haystack," Mr. Trump said. Hundreds of American forces were involved in the search and recovery mission and to prevent the Iranians from finding him first, he said.

CIA director John Ratcliffe, who joined Mr. Trump at the event, said the agency had engaged in a "deception campaign" to convince the Iranians the airman was somewhere else.

The pilot, shot down on Friday, was recovered on Sunday morning.

Mr. Hegseth said the lost airman used an emergency transponder to show where he was and his first message was: "God is good."

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump also threatened an unspecified media outlet with jail time if it does not reveal the person who leaked information about the U.S. pilot who went missing in Iran.

(With inputs from Associated Press, Reuters)

Israel hits key petrochemical terminal in Iran's South Pars

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel Defence Minister Israel Katz announced on Monday that Israel had conducted a "powerful strike" on Iran's largest petrochemical complex, with the operator saying it was assessing the damage from the attacks.

The complex in the Pars region services Iran's South Pars natural gas field –the largest known gas reserve in the world–which it shares with Qatar, and which Israel had previously hit last month.

The military "just carried out a powerful strike

Israel and the U.S. also carried out a wave of attacks on Iran, killing more than 25 people

on Iran's largest petrochemical facility, located in Asaluyeh–a central target responsible for about 50% of the country's petrochemical production", Mr. Katz said in a statement.

Israel carried out a similar strike on the Mahshahr Petrochemical Special Zone in the southwestern Khuzestan province on Saturday, a local Iranian official said.

"At this point, the two facilities, which together account for roughly 85% of Iran's petrochemical exports, have been taken out of operation and are no longer functioning," Mr. Katz said, calling it "a severe economic blow".

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel was "systematically eliminating the Revolutionary Guards' money machine".

Israel and the U.S. also carried out a wave of attacks on Iran, killing more than 25 people on Monday. Iran responded with missile fire on Israel and its Gulf Arab neighbours.

Rights group files 'genocide' plaint against Myanmar

Agence France-Presse
JAKARTA

Rohingya representatives and a rights group filed a complaint with Indonesia's Attorney-General against Myanmar's President-elect General Min Aung Hlaing for alleged rights abuses, the prosecutor's office in Jakarta said.

Myanmar's military, which grabbed power in a 2021 coup, has for decades been accused of rights abuses, mostly targeting the country's ethnic minorities including the Rohingya.

U.S. lawmakers slam 'blockade' in Cuba visit

Agence France-Presse
HAVANA

Two U.S. Democratic lawmakers have met Cuba's President in the first congressional visit since Washington imposed an oil blockade against the island, a measure they denounced as "economic bombing."

U.S. Representatives Pramila Jayapal and Jonathan Jackson concluded a five-day trip to Cuba on Sunday as President Donald Trump has stepped up pressure on the communist government.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel on Monday posted photos of his meeting with the lawmakers on X. Mr. Diaz-Canel said that during the meeting he denounced "the criminal harm" caused by the U.S. blockade as well as Washington's "threats of even more aggressive actions."

The Cuban leader, who confirmed in March that U.S. and Cuban officials had held talks, reiterated his government's willingness to "engage in serious and responsible bilateral dialogue, and finding solutions to existing differences."

In a statement, the U.S. lawmakers said the de facto blockade imposed by Mr. Trump in January was "illegal" and "causing untold suffering to the Cuban people."

"This is cruel collective punishment–effectively an economic bombing of the infrastructure of the country–that has produced permanent damage. It must stop immediately," the statement said.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE COASTAL MANAGEMENT (NCSCM)
(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
Anna University Campus, Chennai - 600 025, INDIA
Ph: (+91) 44 22200600, Fax: (+91) 44 22200700, email:careers@ncscm.res.in

Advt. No: HR 01 / 2026
Advertisement for the selection of Project Staff
Walk-in-Interview

NCSCM requires 1 No. of Junior Research Fellow (JRF) in one of its project on contractual basis. Further details relating to application procedure, eligibility criteria, interview dates, etc., may be obtained from the website
https://ncscm.res.in/career/

-Director, NCSCM

Government of Andhra Pradesh
Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society (APFPS)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP No.: APFPS-ITPU/KNL/001 **Issue Date: 06.04.2026**

APFPS invites proposals for Procurement of Plant, Design, Supply & Installation of Tomato and Multi Fruit Pulp Processing Unit at Sy. No.63/3 of Dudekonda Village, Pattikonda Mandal, Kurnool District, through e-Procurement portal **https://apeprocurement.gov.in.** Last date for submission of bids is **21.04.2026.** For more details visit **https://apfps.ap.gov.in, Ph. 9100039591.**

DIPR 5016PP/CL, Dt.06-04-2026 **Sd/- CEO, APFPS**

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB

RECRUITMENT NOTICE
(Advt. No. CUPB/26-27/002 Dated 04.04.2026)

Online applications are invited from prospective & eligible candidates for following Teaching Posts on Regular basis:

- **Professor**
- **Associate Professor**
- **Assistant Professor**

Last Date to apply online: 27.04.2026 (upto 05 PM)
Visit **www.cup.edu.in** for more details **REGISTRAR**
VPO Ghudda, District-Bathinda-151401 (Punjab), Email: recruitment@cup.edu.in
विज्ञापन का हिंदी रूपान्तर विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।

MALKAJGIRI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
O/o The Superintending Engineer (Projects), MMC, HMDA Building, 1st Floor, Tarnak, Hyderabad.
Tender Notice No. 1/SE(Projects)/MMC/2026-27, Dt: 07.04.2026

Item No.:	Name of Work	Estimate Amount
1.	"Construction of RK Puram ROB Deposit work" under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) / Turnkey Basis	Rs. 26.18 Crores
	Total	Rs. 26.18 Crores

S.No.	Events	Date & Time
1.	Start date	07-04-2026 from 04.00 PM
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting	13-04-2026 at 03.00 PM Location: O/o Chief Engineer (Projects), MMC 1st Floor, HMDA Complex, Tarnaka, Hyderabad
3.	Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids	16-04-2026 upto 03.00 PM
4.	Opening of Technical bid	16-04-2026 after 04.00 PM
5.	Opening of Price bid	17-04-2026 after 04.00 PM

Note: The Bidders are advised to visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in to download Bid Document and EPC project Tender Drawings. Any Queries can be addressed to seprojectsmmc@gmail.com
Address of the officer concerned Sri.P.V Krishna Rao, SE(Projects), 9515074641. Superintending Engineer (Projects), Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation, 1st Floor, HMDA Complex, Tarnaka, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.**

DIPR R.O.No.188-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt. 06.04.2026 Sd/- **Superintending Engineer, (Projects) MMC**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521
No. CEE/T&P/SE-2/2026-27/108-23 **Date: 06-04-2026**

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works against following enquiry numbers on **Partial Turnkey basis.**

Sl.No	Enquiry Numbers and Name of the Works
1.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3591**
	Providing 2x150MVA, 220/66kV and 1x12.5MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers at existing **220kV Ayyanahalli Switching Station** and construction of associated transmission lines for a distance of 220kV-**0.49kms** and 66kV– **40.755kms** in H.B. Halli Taluk, Vijayanagara District along with construction of 02 nos. of Terminal Bays in U.P.Halli sub-station, 01 no. of Terminal Bay in HB Halli sub-station, 01 no. of Terminal Bay in Venkatapura sub-station and 02 nos. of Terminal Bays in Bachigondanahalli sub-station.
2.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3590**
	Establishing **2x150 MVA, 220/66/11kV and 1x12.5MVA,** 66/11kV sub-station at **Dyagerahalli** in Sira Taluk, Tumakuru district along with construction of associated 66kV lines for a distance of **28.784kms** along with construction of 2 nos. of 66kV Terminal Bays at Bevinahalli sub-station and 2 nos. of 66kV Terminal Bays at Ranganathpura sub-station.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL" or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 10.04.2026 @ 15:00hrs. Last date & time for receipt of Bids and any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.,)
Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL,
9th Floor, Indhana Bhavana, A.R Circle, Bengaluru-560009.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

It could have been different had I contributed more: Ruturaj



K. MURALI KUMAR

CSK skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad took full responsibility for his side's loss against RCB. Since 2025, it was CSK's 13th loss in 17 matches. "Great fight by Sarfaraz Khan, Jamie Overton, Prashant Veer, and to some extent, Shivam Dube. If I had contributed more, maybe it could have been different. It was definitely on me."

BONDING

Samson going through the process of connecting with the team: coach



K. MURALI KUMAR

It's difficult when you've been at [another] franchise for some time. There is still an element of belonging, and he's going through the process of connecting with this team. There's a little bit of work to be done off the field to make bonds tighter, but he's fine — CSK head coach Stephen Fleming on new recruit Sanju Samson.

CLASS PLAYER

I don't think anyone doubted Rohit's performances: Mhambrey



RITU RAJ KONWAR

MI bowling coach Paras Mhambrey hailed the holistic impact of senior opener Rohit Sharma in the team. "I don't think anyone doubted Rohit's performances. We look at it in terms of what he brings to the table, other than the cricket. His expertise, his experience, his chats with the bowler and batters," said Mhambrey.

SHOWERING PRAISE

Mukesh has led really well, Ngidi has been excellent: Jamieson



R.V. MOORTHY

Delhi Capitals medium-pacer Kyle Jamieson praised Mukesh Kumar's leadership skills and Lungi Ngidi's top performances. "They have been outstanding. Mukesh has led really well in the bowling department while Ngidi has been excellent. The early intent with the ball has set the tone for the rest of the innings," Jamieson said.

Deja vu as rain has final say at Eden

The KKR-PBKS match in Kolkata is abandoned for the second successive year; both teams get a point each; Bartlett impresses in his short burst

IPL-19

Shayan Acharya
KOLKATA

The build-up was perfect. Shah Rukh Khan attended his first match of the season while fans turned up in decent numbers to cheer for Kolkata Knight Riders despite the team's recent struggles.

But, weather gods had other plans as the IPL 2026 fixture between KKR and Punjab Kings was washed out here on Monday.

Strange call

Despite predictions of rain, KKR opted to bat, and it was reeling at 25 for two in 3.4 overs when the showers arrived, halting play barely 17 minutes into the game at Eden Gardens.

Coming off two consecutive defeats, KKR took the field without the injured Varun Chakaravarthy and Sunil Narine.

Middle-order batter Rovman Powell and pacer Navdeep Saini were drafted into the XI.

It was another disappointing start for KKR as neither opener Finn Allen nor No. 3 Cameron Green managed to settle, both caught behind off pacer Xavier Bartlett.



Playing spoilsport: Persistent rain meant the match could not be resumed despite the best efforts of the groundstaff. K.R. DEEPAK

Next assignment

KKR: April 9 vs. LSG
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

PBKS: April 11 vs. SRH
New Chandigarh, 3.30 p.m.

With skipper Ajinkya Rahane and Angkrish Raghuvanshi attempting to rebuild, rain forced the players off the field.

There was initial hope of a restart as the groundstaff swiftly covered the square and outfield.

But as the evening wore on, the rain intensified and gust of wind swept across the ground. Sheets of rain lashed the square, the stands gradually emptied as spectators sought shelter, and puddles began to form despite the covers remaining firmly in place.

With no improvement in conditions, match referee Javagal Srinath had no other option but to call off the contest.

Both teams were awarded a point each.

Incidentally, when the two sides met at the same venue last year, that match too was washed out.

A year later, it was a similar story.

Suryavanshi-Bumrah match-up the centre of attention as RR meets MI



Battle ready: It will be interesting to see Suryavanshi's approach against Bumrah. AFP & RITU RAJ KONWAR

Pranay Rajiv
GUWAHATI

These are still early days in IPL 2026. Teams are still working out their strengths, figuring out weaknesses and honing in on a winning strategy.

For Rajasthan Royals, this opening assessment has been a satisfying exercise, having won its first two games.

The latest of those triumphs saw the side outlast Gujarat Titans by six runs in a high-scoring thriller, with pacer Tushar Deshpande delivering a nerveless final over.

On Tuesday, the Royals will have their cricketing faculties further examined as they host Mumbai Indians at the Barsapara Stadium here.

The opening salvo, though, hasn't been a satisfactory one for MI. After bettering Kolkata Knight Riders in its first game, the five-time champion stumbled against Delhi Capitals in the second.

The much-vaunted MI batting line-up fell flat against the Capitals, as it eked out a below-par total of 162, which was overhauled with ease.

MI sorely missed the presence of skipper Hardik Pandya, who sat out of the game due to illness. Luckily for MI, the Indian all-rounder has recovered and will return to lead the side against the Royals, as confirmed by bowling coach Paras Mhambrey.

Meanwhile, Riyan Parag has enjoyed a fruitful start to his stint as the Royals' full-time captain. The 24-year-old's on-field calls, particularly with bowling choices, have been sharp and game-clinching.

The centre of attention in the Royals line-up, though, is teenage sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi. The left-handed opener has batted with unbridled confidence, whipping up stormy starts in both games of the season.

If there is a sub-plot to look out for on Tuesday, it could be the potential first-ever in-game meeting between Suryavanshi and Jasprit Bumrah.

The enticing prospect of the high-on-confidence 15-year-old going up against arguably the best bowler of this generation will only add sparkle to an already exciting contest.

Parag is young, but his cricketing mind is better than that: Lahiri

Pranay Rajiv
GUWAHATI

Rajasthan Royals performance coach Siddhartha Lahiri heaped praise on captain Riyan Parag for the side's winning start to IPL 2026.

Royals outclassed Chennai Super Kings in their tournament opener here before pipping Gujarat Titans away from home as Parag began his stint as permanent captain on a high. "The credit goes to the captain. Even though he is young, his cricketing mind is better than that. It is because he is calm and composed under pressure. Even last year, when he wasn't the [full-time] captain, he never buckled under pressure," said Lahiri on Monday, on the eve of Royals' clash against Mumbai Indians.

Lahiri pinpointed the execution of the final over in Royals' win against Titans, when Tushar Deshpande defended 10 runs, as an example of Parag's tactical acumen.

Big move

"Giving the ball to Tushar was a very big move. Before the first ball [of the final over], third-man was pushed back. And if you see how Rashid Khan played that ball, it would have been a four if third-man was up."

Despite the strong start to the IPL campaign, Lahiri believes it is important for the Royals to stay grounded and stick to their plans.

Early days

"I think it's still very early days for us. We have just played two games, and we have done well. It's a long season. So we can't get excited. Our biggest challenge would be to stay level and just keep following the simple processes that we have been doing," added Lahiri.



Parag. AFP

Today's match

RAJASTHAN ROYALS vs MUMBAI INDIANS

Guwahati, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: **30**

RR **14** | MI **16**

PREVIOUS MEETING

MI won by 100 runs, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Padikkal proves his value as an elite all-format batter

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Prior to 2026, Devdutt Padikkal's best strike-rate in the IPL was 150.60 (2025). That number was a significant upgrade from his previous best of 130.50 from 2023.

But in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's twin victories this season, Padikkal has struck at a whopping 201.81 and made two half-centuries.

After fine campaigns in the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy (543 runs at an average of 60.33) and Vijay Hazare Trophy (725 runs at 90.62), the 25-year-old's effort will only burnish his growing reputation as an elite all-format batter.

"It's a lot of hard work and self-belief that has helped me get here," Padikkal said about unlocking his T20 potential.

"It wasn't easy initially. I had to change from the foundation onwards, considering the type of cricket I wanted to play growing up. But RCB has been great in guiding me."

The standout features have been Padikkal's acceleration and shot-making range. Against CSK on Sunday, on a lax pitch, he was 16 off 15 balls at one stage. He ended up with 50 from 29, setting the stage for Tim David's murderous, unbeaten 25-ball 70.

There was a dextrous clip over short-fine off Jamie Overton, a beautiful dance down the track to launch Noor Ahmad over long-on, and an expert reading of a slower delivery from Shivam Dube to send it over wide long-off.

"Even last season, we had a couple of games [at Chinnaswamy] where we struggled early on," Padikkal said.

"We had a conversation that we needed to preserve wickets because when the ball gets older, it's easier to bat.

"We were not three or four down by the 10-over mark [vs. CSK], and once we managed that, we could just go at every ball".



Growing in stature: The standout features of Padikkal's batting have been his acceleration and shot-making range. K. MURALI KUMAR

'It's about marrying skill and game sense'

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

To lose the first three games in an IPL season is a hellish scenario. But it is not quite a death-knell.

Mumbai Indians lost its first four matches in 2015, and still claimed the trophy. In 2024, Royal Challengers Bengaluru won just one of its first eight fixtures, and yet made it to the playoffs.

But for the Chennai Super Kings faithful, these will bring little succour, for it is not just about the defeats but the manner of them. CSK lost to Rajasthan Royals by eight wickets, to Punjab Kings by five, and to RCB by 43 runs. In the T20 universe, these are like distances between the earth and the moon. "It was a tough night," CSK head coach Stephen Fleming said after the loss to RCB. This season, CSK has bet big on young batters like Kartik Sharma (19), Prashant Veer (20) and Ayush Mhatre (18), and Fleming was confident that their potential will eventually shine through.

"It's going to be a really good core of Indian batters. You're going to get a bit of inconsistency and also some brilliance. It's about marrying skill with a bit of game sense, and that does take time".

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Punjab Kings	3	2	0	1	5	0.637
Royal Challengers	2	2	0	0	4	2.501
Rajasthan Royals	2	2	0	0	4	2.233
Delhi Capitals	2	2	0	0	4	1.170
Sunrisers Hyderabad	3	1	2	0	2	0.275
Mumbai Indians	2	1	1	0	2	-0.206
Lucknow Super Giants	2	1	1	0	2	-0.542
Kolkata Knight Riders	3	0	2	1	1	-1.964
Gujarat Titans	2	0	2	0	0	-0.424
Chennai Super Kings	3	0	3	0	0	-2.517

Noor's poor returns add to CSK's growing list of worries

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

One of the striking images of the IPL mega auction in 2024 was Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming flashing all his 10 fingers to point out that his team would shell out ₹10 crore for Noor Ahmad.

Fleming successfully doubled the initial ₹5 crore bid after the Gujarat Titans exercised its 'Right to Match' card. The Afghanistan tweaker, in turn, repaid that faith by scalping 24 wickets, the second-highest, last season. He was the silver lining for the five-time champion in what was an otherwise forgettable campaign.

However, in 2026, the script has flipped, and Noor's poor returns from the three games have compounded the problems for CSK. The 21-year-old left-arm wrist-spinner has so far leaked 111 runs in 10 overs without taking a wicket. It has meant that the Super Kings have looked flat in the middle overs, allowing the opposition to run amok.

In Sunday's fixture against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Noor struggled with his length. He landed it short as Tim David went after him, slamming a hattrick of sixes in the 17th over. His length was a bit off in the game against the Punjab Kings as well, and Cooper Connolly and Prabhsimran Singh got on top of him.

Former CSK player Vidyut Sivaramakrishnan noted that Noor might be suffering from lack of support from the other end. "Last year, he had Ravindra Jadeja and R. Ashwin in the side and could bowl with a lot of freedom. This year, he has to lead the attack, and maybe he is just growing into that role," said Vidyut. "He is trying that back of length to restrict the batter to a single, but it hasn't worked. He has a quick arm action and gets good pace off the pitch. So if he can sort out his length and slow it down a bit, he can be effective," he added.

Noor came into the tournament in slightly worrying form. During the T20 World Cup, he failed to knock over any batter in his two outings. The last competitive game in which he took a wicket was in January, against the West Indies in a T20I.

CSK will hope Noor can get out of this rut soon and give a fillip to an already thin bowling attack.



Great expectations: Super Kings had bought Noor for a whopping ₹10 crore in the mega auction in 2024. IPLT20.COM

INBRIEF



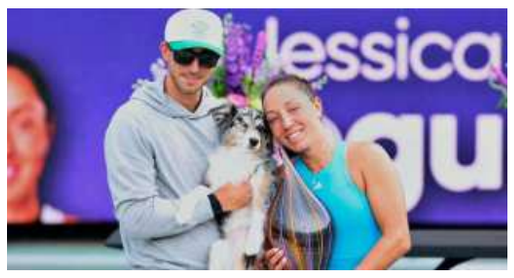
Lalit enters Greco-Roman final in Asian wrestling

Lalit provided India a fine start by entering the Greco-Roman 55kg final on the opening day of the Asian wrestling championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Monday. The 23-year-old Lalit got past Japan's Mizuki Araki 9-8 in the quarterfinals and upset China's Worlds bronze medallist Huoying Shi 11-3 to set up a summit clash with Uzbekistan's Ikhtiyor Botirov. Aman (77kg) and Sunil Kumar (87kg) remained in podium contention by making it to the bronze-medal matches in their respective weight classes.



Paul battles past Burruchaga to win Houston title

American fourth seed Tommy Paul saved three match points before scoring a battling three-set victory over unseeded Argentine Roman Burruchaga to win the ATP Houston US men's clay court championship on Sunday. Paul, 28, held his nerve in a nail-biting third set to dig out a 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 win in 2hr 40min to claim the fifth ATP title of his career.



Pegula retains Charleston Open crown with ease

Jessica Pegula clinched back-to-back victories at the WTA Charleston Open clay court tournament on Sunday, routing Ukraine's Yuliia Starodubtseva in straight sets to claim her second title of the year. The top-seeded American sprinted to a 6-2, 6-2 victory in 1hr 22min for the 11th title of her career.

Samson, Bumrah in the fray for ICC men's PoTM award

The International Cricket Council on Monday announced the men's Player-of-the-Month nominees for March 2026. Two Indian heroes from the T20 World Cup triumph, Sanju Samson and Jasprit Bumrah, along with South Africa's Connor Esterhuizen are in the running for the monthly honour.



Sha'Carri Richardson wins Stawell Gift in record time

US sprint star Sha'Carri Richardson surged through the field on Monday to win Australia's prestigious Stawell Gift race, clocking the fastest time in its history. Held on grass over 120m at a slight gradient in a small rural town outside Melbourne, athletes are handicapped according to form and start off varying marks. Richardson reined in runners who had up to a 9m head start. She crossed the line in 13.15s to become only the third woman to win the race from scratch – starting at the back of the field.

LIVE TELECAST

IFL: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 4 & 6.30 p.m.
ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

India looks to ride on home support to reach Billie Jean King Cup playoffs

Despite the absence of the injured Shrivalli and Vaidehee, skipper Uppal feels there is enough depth in the team; Zeel drafted in as replacement

TENNIS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The players and venue would be different but India would be hoping to repeat its result from the last year when the team takes on Thailand in its opening tie of the Billie Jean King (BJK) Cup at the DLTA Stadium on Tuesday.

The six-team Asia/Oceania Group I competition, to be played in a single round-robin format, will be the second straight year India is hosting the event. India, which finished second behind New Zealand in Pune in 2025 to advance to the playoffs, will be hoping to do so again.



All set: Uppal, third from left, will hope that Sahaja, Ankita, Zeel, Rutuja and Vaishnavi rise to the occasion and help India qualify for the playoffs. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

It won't be easy, however, with Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, who went unbeaten in all her five matches last year and was awarded the BJK Heart award for her performances, out with injury.

New Zealand, Thailand and Korea have returned this year along with Mongolia and Indonesia with the latter expected to be a tough opponent and the former an unknown quantity the team captain and former Davis Cupper Vishal Uppal is wary of.

While Shrivalli pulled out with a back spasm, reserve player Vaidehee Chaudhari injured her ankle during training on Thursday but Uppal insisted there was enough depth in the team without revealing his team combinations.

Zeel Desai has been called up as a replacement, the 27-year-old withdrawing from the semifinals of the $15,000 ITF event in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar to join the side at the last minute.

Ankita-Rutuja for doubles

Top-ranked Indian Vaishnavi Adkar, Sahaja Yamalappalli, Ankita Raina and Rutuja Bhosale complete the side with the last two, the most experienced, expected to shoulder the doubles challenge while leaving the singles to the youngsters.

"I'm happy having a problem picking players for a tie than one where I don't have players, that's a good problem to have, it tells you there's depth," Uppal said on the eve of the competition.

India's biggest challenge will be from Indonesia, led by the highest-ranked player in the field, World No. 41 Janice Tjen, and doubles specialist Aldila Sutjiadi.

New Zealand, also remains a threat with doubles specialist Erin Routliffe in its ranks despite the absence of Lulu Sun.

Tuesday's matches (3 p.m. onwards):
India vs. Thailand (centre court), New Zealand vs. Indonesia (court 1), Mongolia vs. Korea (court 2).

'Favourite' Bayern arrives in Madrid

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Vincent Kompany's Bayern Munich visits Real Madrid on Tuesday in the Champions League quarterfinals high on confidence and looking like Europe's most complete side, bolstered by the likely return of superstar striker Harry Kane.

Despite Madrid's prestige and troupe of attacking stars, Bayern is arguably the favourite to lift the trophy.

In Tuesday's other quarterfinal, a hurting Arsenal will take on Sporting CP.

Mikel Arteta has urged the shell-shocked Gunners to embrace a test of their character as they seek to recover from a pair of defeats. Arteta's side suffered a shock 1-2 loss at Southampton in the FA Cup quarters, a fortnight after losing 0-2 to Man City in the League Cup final.



Real Madrid's Mbappe. AFP

Quarterfinal first-leg
Real Madrid vs. Bayern Munich; Sporting CP vs. Arsenal (both at 12.30 a.m., Wednesday).
Barcelona vs. Atletico Madrid; Paris Saint-Germain vs. Liverpool (both at 12.30 a.m., Thursday).

Preeti, Arundhati and Priya make the finals

BOXING

Sports Bureau

Three Indian women, including Preeti Pawar (54kg), who shocked Paris Olympics bronze medallist Im Aeiji, entered the finals while Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain lost in the semifinals of the Asian boxing in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) on Monday.

Olympian Preeti beat Korean Im 5-0 to set up a summit clash with Huang Hsiao-wen of Chinese Taipei.

Priya (60kg) and Arundhati Choudhary (70kg) won their respective last-four bouts against local favourite Namuun Monkhor and Uzbek Oysha Toirova with 5-0 and 4-1 margins respectively.

Two-time World champion Nikhat (51kg) suffered a 0-5 defeat against Olympic champion Wu Yu, while Ankushita Boro (65kg) bowed out 0-3 to Olympics bronze medallist Nien-Chin Chen.

Olympic medallist Lovlina (75kg) and Pooja Rani (80kg), beginning from the last-four stage, lost to Uzbekistan's Aziza Zokirova and Kazakhstan's Nadezhda Ryabets with 0-5 and 1-3 margins respectively.

The results:
Semifinals: Women: 51kg: Yu Wu (Chn) bt Nikhat Zareen 5-0.
54kg: Preeti Pawar bt Im Aeji (Kor) 5-0.
60kg: Priya bt Namuun Monkhor (Mgl) 5-0.
65kg: Nien-Chin Chen (Tpe) bt Ankushita Boro 3-0.
70kg: Arundhati Choudhary bt Oysha Toirova (Uzb) 4-1.
75kg: Aziza Zokirova (Uzb) bt Lovlina Borgohain 5-0.
80kg: Nadezhda Ryabets (Kaz) bt Pooja Rani 3-1.

Vlasic is international ambassador for TCS World 10K

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Double Olympic medallist Blanka Vlasic will feature as the international event ambassador for the Tata Consultancy Services World 10K Bengaluru 2026, it was announced on Monday.

High jumper Vlasic won silver at Beijing 2008 and followed it up with a bronze at Rio 2016. She also claimed two gold medals at the World Championships (2007 and 2009).

Her personal best of 2.08m, achieved in 2009, is the third-highest clearance in women's high jump history.

"Being associated with an event that brings thousands of people together through running is truly inspiring and energising. Running is a sport that keeps us physically active and mentally strong, and it continues to play a vital role in shaping the athletics community," said Vlasic.



Vlasic.

Martinez back with a bang as Inter outplays Roma

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MILAN

Inter Milan took a big step towards winning the Serie A title by thrashing Roma 5-2 on Sunday, ending a late-season wobble and moving nine points clear at the top of the table.

The return of Lautaro Martinez, who scored twice after nearly two months out injured, and a first club goal since early February from Marcus Thuram helped Inter emphatically end a mini-slump.

Inter had collected eight points from its five league matches played since Martinez suffered a calf injury against Bodo/Glimt in the Champions League.

Hakan Calhanoglu's swerving rocket on the stroke of half-time and a second league goal of the season from Nicolo Barella made sure of a win which was also another blow to Roma's Champions League hopes.



Early strike: It took barely two minutes for Martinez to put Inter ahead. AP

A different team

Inter is a different team with captain Martinez, and the Argentina striker put the home side ahead from Thuram's neat pass with barely two minutes on the clock at the San Siro.

Calhanoglu's ferocious strike from more than 30 metres put Inter back ahead on the stroke of half-time, just as Roma seemed to be heading into the tunnel level following Gianluca Mancini's header in the 40th minute.

That goal galvanised Inter which came out for the second half as fast as it did for the first, and the match was as good as over 10 minutes after the restart thanks to Martinez and Thuram.

At the other end of the table Cremonese slipped into the relegation zone after being beaten 2-1 by Bologna while Pisa slid closer to the drop with a 1-0 home defeat against Torino.

The results:
Serie A: Cremonese 1 (Bonazzoli 90+1-pen) lost to Bologna 2 (Joao Mario 3, Rowe 16).
Inter Milan 5 (Martinez 2, 52, Calhanoglu 45+1, Thuram 55, Barella 63) bt Roma 2 (Mancini 40, Pellegrini 70); Pisa 0 lost to Torino 1 (Adams 80).
LaLiga: Valencia 2 (Rodriguez 12, 90+3) lost to Celta Vigo 3 (Moriba 56, Lopez 60, Swedberg 81).
Real Oviedo 1 (Vinas 32) bt Sevilla 0; Alaves 2 (Martinez 44, Boye 90+1-pen) drew with Osasuna 2 (Rosier 4, Budimir 80-pen).
Bundesliga: Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Burkardt 66, Kalimuendo 69) drew with Cologne 2 (Kaminski 70, Castro-Montes 83).
Union Berlin 1 (Ilic 52) drew with St Pauli 1 (Pereira Lage 25).

This is an advertisement for information purpose and is not a prospectus announcement.

ICL FINCORP LIMITED

SECURED, REDEEMABLE NON-CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURES NCD

CREDIT RATING ACUITÉ BBB-/ STABLE

ICL Join ICL, Grow with us
ICL Fincorp

UP TO DOUBLE RETURNS IN 72 MONTHS*
*BASED ON AN EFFECTIVE YIELD OF
12.25%
ON CUMULATIVE BASIS UNDER OPTION X, 72 MONTHS, TDS AS APPLICABLE.

ISSUE OPENS ON: APRIL 10, 2026 (FRIDAY) ISSUE CLOSES ON: APRIL 24, 2026 (FRIDAY)*

The Issue shall remain open for subscription on Working Days from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time), during the period indicated above, except that the Issue may close on such earlier date or extended date as may be decided by the Board of Directors or Debenture Issue Committee of our Company, subject to relevant approvals (subject to a minimum period of two working days and a maximum period of ten working days from the date of opening of this Issue). In the event of an early closure or extension of the Issue, our Company shall ensure that notice of such early closure or extension is given to the prospective investors through an advertisement in a national daily newspaper and a regional daily newspaper in Tamil Nadu where the registered office is located, with wide circulation on or before such earlier date or extended date of closure. Application Forms for the Issue will be accepted only from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) or such extended time as may be permitted by the Stock Exchange, on Working Days during the Issue Period. On the Issue Closing Date, Application Forms will be accepted only between 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and uploaded until 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) or such extended time as may be permitted by the Stock Exchange.

Issue Structure: (For detailed Issue Structure refer Prospectus dated March 27, 2026)

Face value	: ₹ 1,000 each	Minimum application size : ₹ 10,000 (10 NCDs) & in multiples of 1 NCD thereafter	
Tenure (months)	: 13, 24, 36, 60 and 72		
Schemes	: 10 schemes with 10 ISINs	Payout options : Monthly, Annually & Cumulative	

THE ISSUE

PUBLIC ISSUE BY OUR COMPANY OF 10,00,000 SECURED, REDEEMABLE, NON-CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹1,000 EACH, ("NCDS") AT PAR, FOR AN AMOUNT UP TO ₹5,00,000 THOUSAND ("BASE ISSUE SIZE") WITH AN OPTION TO RETAIN OVERSUBSCRIPTION OF UP TO ₹5,00,000 THOUSAND, AGGREGATING UP TO ₹10,00,000 THOUSAND, (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "ISSUE SIZE").
THE ISSUE IS BEING MADE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (ISSUE AND LISTING OF NON-CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES) REGULATIONS, 2021, AS AMENDED, THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND RULES MADE THEREUNDER TO THE EXTENT NOTIFIED AND THE SEBI MASTER CIRCULAR AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME. THE ISSUE IS NOT PROPOSED TO BE UNDERWRITTEN.

	OPTION IV	OPTION III	OPTION II	OPTION I
COUPON RATE: (MONTHLY OPTIONS)	11.50% PER ANNUM 60 MONTHS	11.00% PER ANNUM 36 MONTHS	10.50% PER ANNUM 24 MONTHS	10.00% PER ANNUM 13 MONTHS

*T&C Apply

*Indicating coupon rates for monthly options only. Refer Prospectus dated March 27, 2026 to view effective yield for monthly, annually and cumulative options.

To Know More: Visit Nearest ICL Fincorp Branch | To Download Application: Visit www.iclfincorp.com
For Enquiries: Call +91 85890 20137, +91 85890 20186

Capitalised terms not defined herein shall have the same meaning as assigned to such terms in the Prospectus dated March 27, 2026 ("Prospectus").
DISCLAIMER OF THE ISSUER: ICL Fincorp Limited ("Company"), subject to market conditions, and other considerations, is proposing a public issue of secured redeemable non-convertible debentures ("NCDs") and has filed a prospectus dated March 27, 2026 ("Prospectus") with the Registrar of Companies, Tamil Nadu at Chennai ("RoC"). BSE Limited ("BSE") and Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The Prospectus is available on the website of the Company at www.iclfincorp.com, on the website of BSE at www.bseindia.com, on the website of the lead manager at www.vivro.net and on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. Investors proposing to subscribe in the Issue should invest only on the basis of the information contained in the Prospectus. Investors should note that investment in the NCDs involves a high degree of risk and for details in relation to the same, refer to the Prospectus, including the section titled 'Risk Factors' and 'Material Developments' beginning on page 17 and 107 respectively of the Prospectus.
LISTING: The NCDs offered through the Prospectus are proposed to be listed on BSE Limited ("BSE" or the "Stock Exchange") and BSE shall be the Designated Stock Exchange. Our Company has received an 'in-principle' approval from BSE vide their letter no. DCS/PT/PI-BOND/34/25-26 dated March 25, 2026.
GENERAL RISK: Investment in non-convertible securities is risky, and investors should not invest any funds in such securities unless they can afford to take the risk attached to such investments. Investors are advised to take an informed decision and to read the risk factors carefully before investing in this offering. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of the Issuer and the Issue including the risks involved. The Issue has not been recommended or approved by any regulatory authority in India, including the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"), the Reserve Bank of India ("RBI"), any registrar of companies or any stock exchange in India nor do they guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the Prospectus.
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE Limited should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by BSE Limited nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Prospectus. The investors are advised to refer to the Draft Offer Document/Offer Document for the full text of the Disclaimer clause of the BSE Limited.
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE ELECTRONIC PLATFORM: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by the BSE to use their network and software of the Online system should not in any way be deemed or construed as compliance with various statutory requirements applicable to the Issuer and/or the Issue. The Issuer is solely responsible for making all applicable statutory and regulatory compliances pertaining to the Issue. BSE does not in any manner warrant, certify or endorse the correctness or completeness of any of the compliance with the statutory and other requirements; nor does it take any responsibility for the financial or other soundness of this Company, its promoters, its management or any scheme or project of this Company.
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF INDUSTRY PROVIDER: All information contained in the Industry Report has been obtained by Fitch Solutions India Advisory Private Limited from sources believed by Fitch Solutions India Advisory Private Limited to be accurate and reliable. Although reasonable care has been taken to ensure that the information therein is true, such information is provided "as is" without any warranty of any kind, and in particular, makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, timeliness, completeness of any such information nor does give any guarantee and/or assurance of its credibility of being fit for a particular purpose and object. All information contained therein must be construed solely as statements of opinion and not any recommendation for investment. Fitch Solutions India Advisory Private Limited shall not be liable for any losses incurred by users from any use of the report or its contents.
NAMES OF THE SIGNATORIES AT THE TIME OF SIGNING THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF SHARES SUBSCRIBED FOR BY THEM AT THE TIME OF SIGNING THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION: Given are the names of the signatories of the Memorandum of Association of the Company and the number of equity shares subscribed at face value of ₹10/- each by them at the time of signing of Memorandum of Association: 1. Amarchand Kothari (10 equity shares allotted), K. Badal Kumar (10 equity shares allotted), K. Ashok Kumar (10 equity shares allotted), Mahaveer Chand Kothari (10 equity shares allotted), K. Ashok Kumar Jain (10 equity shares allotted), Mahaveer Chand Kothari (10 equity shares allotted), K. Ashok Kumar Jain (10 equity shares allotted) and Jain (10 equity shares allotted). Mahaveer Chand Kothari (10 equity shares allotted), K. Ashok Kumar Jain (10 equity shares allotted) and Jain (10 equity shares allotted). Mahaveer Chand Kothari (10 equity shares allotted), K. Ashok Kumar Jain (10 equity shares allotted) and Jain (10 equity shares allotted). Mahaveer Chand Kothari (10 equity shares allotted), K. Ashok Kumar Jain (10 equity shares allotted) at the time of incorporation of the Company aggregating to 100 Equity Shares of face value of ₹10/- each.
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF ACUITÉ: An ACUITÉ rating does not constitute an audit of the rated entity and should not be treated as a recommendation or opinion that is intended to substitute for a financial adviser's or investor's independent assessment of whether to buy, sell or hold any security. Ratings assigned by ACUITÉ are based on the data and information provided by the issuer and obtained from other reliable sources. Although reasonable care has been taken to ensure that the data and information is true, ACUITÉ, in particular, makes no representation or warranty, expressed or implied with respect to the adequacy, accuracy or completeness of the information relied upon. ACUITÉ is not responsible for any errors or omissions and especially states that it has no financial liability whatsoever for any direct, indirect or consequential loss of any kind, arising from the use of its ratings. Ratings assigned by acuité are subject to a process of surveillance which may lead to a revision in ratings as and when the circumstances so warrant. Please visit our website (www.Acuite.in) for the latest information on any instrument rated by ACUITÉ. Please visit https://www.Acuite.in/faq.htm to refer faqs on credit rating.
DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF RBI: It is to be distinctly understood that the valid certificate of registration dated June 9, 2016 under section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. A copy of the Prospectus has not been filed with or submitted to the Reserve Bank of India ("RBI"). It is distinctly understood that the Prospectus should not in any way be deemed or construed to have been approved or vetted by RBI. RBI does not accept any responsibility or guarantee about the present position as to the financial soundness of the issuer or for the correctness of any of the statements or representations made or opinions expressed by the issuer and for discharge of liability by the issuer. RBI neither accepts any responsibility nor guarantee for the payment of any amount due to any investor in respect of the proposed NCDs.

Reg. Office: Plot No. C308, Door No. 66/40, 4th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai- 600 083, Tamil Nadu, India.
Corp. Office: ICL Fincorp Limited, Main Road, Irinjalakuda, Thrissur-680121, Kerala, India.
Branches: Kerala | Tamil Nadu | Andhra Pradesh | Telangana | Karnataka | Maharashtra | Odisha | Gujarat | West Bengal | Goa | Delhi | Rajasthan iclfincorp



Who is blowing hot, who is blowing cold... the early trends

Old warhorses, dazzling young talent, unscathed and misfiring teams — the IPL saw it all in 10 days of action; how the struggling sides crack the right combination will determine their fortunes in the 'middle overs'

S. Shrivathsan

Moments after 'man mountain' Tim David blasted the ball over long-off during the lop-sided Royal Challengers Bengaluru-Chennai Super Kings contest in Bengaluru, the description on the digital board read: 'Next station: MG Road.'

Even the ball knew or was made aware of where it was heading, but CSK, given the sorry state of affairs it is in, continued a destination-less travel on the night.

It was, however, not the case with the early pacesetters – RCB, Rajasthan Royals, Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings – who came away unscathed from the first week of riveting action. Some teams are finding their feet while a few others are under mounting pressure to open their respective accounts in the 19th edition, whose 'PowerPlay' has delivered plenty of talking points.

Super Kings anything but that

CSK is once again looking like a pale shadow of the team that ruled the league with five titles. Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad appears clueless, the bowling unit is listless, and the problems are endless after three consecutive defeats.

The most concerning part is the manner in which the Super Kings have folded, without an iota of fight in each of the losses. What is the current team's identity and where has the so-called 'CSK spirit' gone? These are questions lingering in the minds of the franchise's faithfuls, including those who donned the yellow jersey with pride.

After Ruturaj's men surrendered meekly to PBKS in Chennai, R. Ashwin, a two-time IPL title-winner with CSK, struggled to hold back his emotions. "The Super Kings have been found wanting. It is difficult to watch from outside. Do you know what kind of team CSK once was?" Ashwin expressed pain while speaking on his *YouTube* channel.

"I watched the match straight from the commentary box. There were drooping shoulders by the 12th over (in Kings' 210-run chase that ended with eight balls to spare). I felt disappointed watching that. There are a lot of inexperienced players; you could tell that from the atmosphere and body language. I felt very sad," said the former India off-spinner.

The injuries to the talismanic M.S. Dhoni, Dewald Brevis and Nathan Ellis have compounded the issues, but the think-tank cannot escape criticism for its below-par work.

Indian stars out

CSK was not the only franchise that felt the absence of an Indian star in the opening week. Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya and Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill joined the absentees list with sickness and spasm respectively.

Both were sorely missed - while MI went down to DC in Delhi for its first defeat of the season, GT was pipped by RR in a high-scoring thriller in Ahmedabad and remained winless. The sooner Hardik and Gill return to where they belong, the better it is for their respective teams.

The signs are positive for the Mumbai outfit as Hardik was cleared for selection for the away encounter against Royals in Guwahati on Tuesday (April 7).

Old is gold

At a time when a lot of ink is being spilt on fitness, old warhorses Rohit Sharma (MI, 38 years old), Virat Kohli (RCB, 37), Mohammed Shami (Lucknow Super Kings, 35) and Yuzvendra Chahal (PBKS, 35) have shown that they still have it in them to conquer the league.

Kohli got into the groove in the home victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad and Rohit treated the Wankhede crowd with a 'Hitman' special in the scalp of Kolkata Knight Riders. Kohli believed that spending enough time away from the sport had done him a world of good.

"With the kind of scheduling we have had over the last 15 years, there was a risk of being burnt rather than being undercooked (he plays only one format in international cricket). So, the breaks help me mentally; I stay fresh and excited. When I come back to play, I am able to give my 120%. As long as I am physically fit and mentally excited, things will come together nicely. I want to keep performing and putting in the work for the team," Kohli said.

Shami and Chahal, currently not part of the national set-up, have made the ball do the talking. The veteran pacer sent out a strong message to his former employer when he delivered a devastating spell of 4-0-9-2 in the triumph over SRH in Hyderabad.

As for Chahal, the wily leg-spinner remarkably did not concede a four or a six during his three-over effort in the boundary-laden CSK-PBKS clash. This was after the tweaker led a splendid bowling performance in the defeat of Titans in New Chandigarh.

Kings batter Shashank Singh expressed his admiration for Chahal's cricketing smarts. "Yuzi is a very smart guy. When you talk to him about the pitch, he tells you how exactly it behaves. We obviously trust him because he is very smart. When he is bowling, he uses those angles and stuff," Shashank said of the experienced campaigner.





Misses and hits: Chennai Super Kings was all at sea in its first few matches while Lucknow Super Giants' Mohammed Shami, Delhi Capitals' Sameer Rizvi, Punjab Kings' Cooper Connolly and Mumbai Indians' Rohit Sharma produced match-winning performances for their franchises.
K. MURALI KUMAR, R.V. MOORTHY, EMMANUAL YOGINI & SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR





Despite good bowling acts, the runs keep flowing in a tournament that heavily favours the willow-wielders. The batters, in general, are in eleventh heaven - 11 matches into the 19th edition, the 200-run mark has already been breached 11 times.

The 200-run barrier

On five occasions - twice in Bengaluru and once each in Mumbai, Chennai and Ahmedabad - both teams involved in a match got past the 200-run barrier.

PBKS head coach Ricky Ponting was of the opinion that IPL enthusiasts greatly enjoyed watching run-scoring sprees. "Hopefully we get good pitches across the country. I think that is what the fans want to see; they want to see a lot of runs being scored. To me, that is one of the reasons why the Impact Player rule was brought in. It has probably made batting easier than ever for some of the boys," Ponting said ahead of PBKS' season-opener.

Baffling calls

Poor squad construction and baffling calls made while deciding the make-up of the match-day XII have forced some teams to be one-dimensional.

For instance, when SRH's bowling pack was crying for a match-winner, the franchise decided to bolster its already-stacked batting department with the ₹13 crore capture of Liam Livingstone. With regular skipper and pace spearhead Pat Cummins unavailable until at least the middle of this month, Sunrisers are enduring a tough time with the ball.

It must also be mentioned that there seems to be competition among a few sides to find out which team is making the worst decisions!

While Super Kings replaced an injured player with another injured player - Spencer Johnson has come in for Ellis but will be match-fit only towards the end of April - LSG ended up playing Capitals without its lead spinner, Digvesh Rathi. Then there is KKR, which is struggling to find the right balance after being informed that Cameron Green is not allowed to bowl now.

The sides at the top end of the points table have hugely benefitted from the dazzling displays of some of their young batting guns.

Impact Player

DC's Sameer Rizvi has lived up to the tag of 'Impact Player' so far, bagging back-to-back Player-of-the-Match awards after being substituted in. The 22-year-old bailed Capitals out of trouble against Super Giants with a measured knock in Lucknow, before steering his team to a businesslike victory over MI on its own patch. "I worked on all my weaknesses. I used to have problems facing fast bowlers, so I worked on that aspect throughout the year. The hard work is paying off now, and I am batting well. It is true that when a batter is in his zone, he sees the ball differently compared to others. But I try to play according to the situation," said Rizvi. Following the departure of Sanju Samson, who had been the face of the franchise, the trio of Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel has stepped up for RR. So has Devdutt Padikkal for Royal Challengers with successive half-centuries.

For PBKS, Priyansh Arya and Cooper Connolly have produced a match-winning knock each, much to the delight of skipper Shreyas Iyer and Ponting.

As we enter the 'middle overs' of IPL 2026's 'first innings', there is a lot of excitement in store.

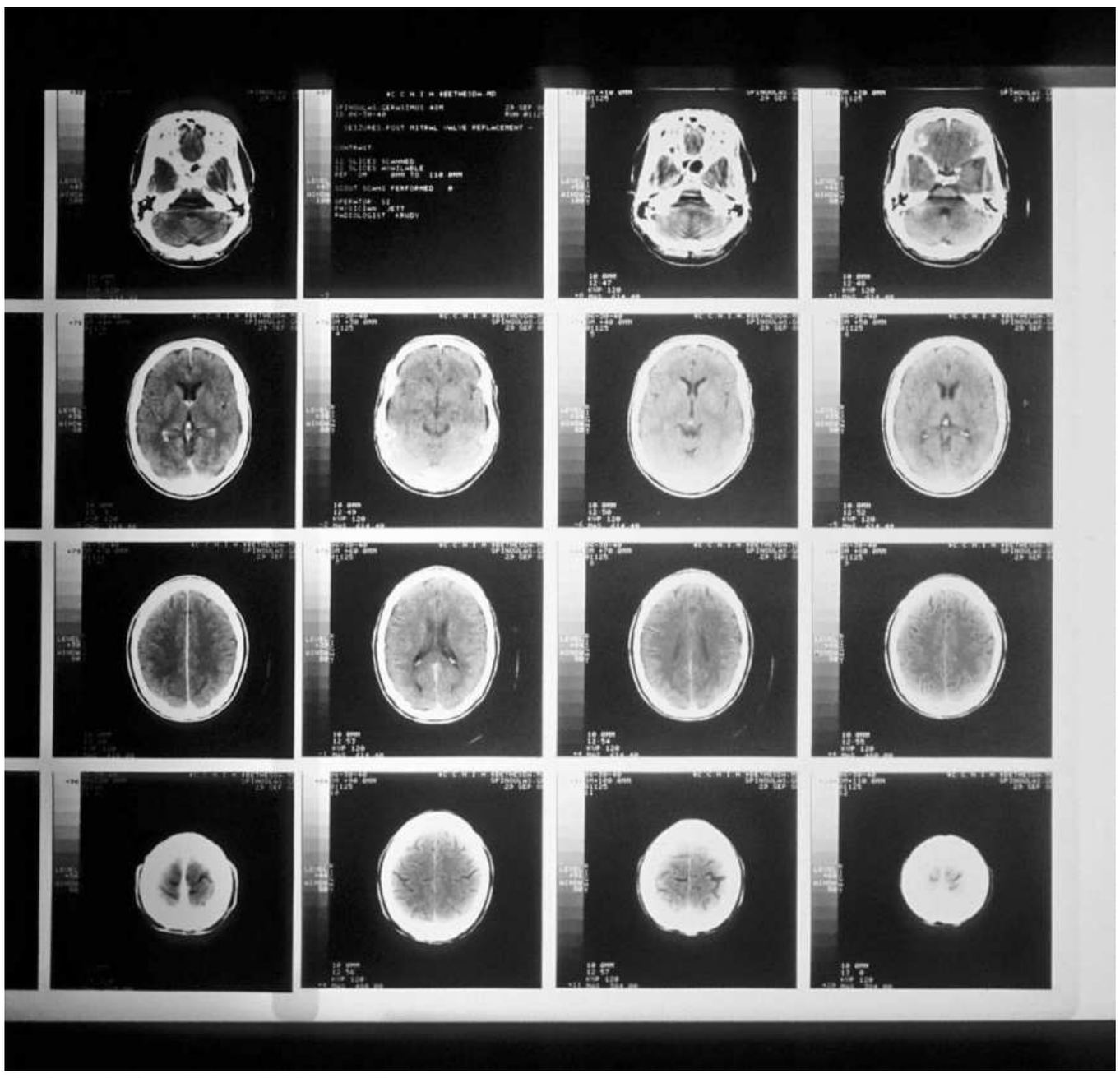
THE GIST

- CSK was not the only franchise that felt the absence of an Indian star in the opening week. Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya and Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill joined the absentees list with sickness and spasm respectively
- Old warhorses Rohit Sharma (MI, 38 years old), Virat Kohli (RCB, 37), Mohammed Shami (Lucknow Super Kings, 35) and Yuzvendra Chahal (PBKS, 35) have shown that they still have it in them to conquer the league
- The sides at the top end of the points table have hugely benefitted from the dazzling displays of some of their young batting guns

Psychedelics are revealing how the brain builds the sense of self

Psychedelics can temporarily 'loosen' the brain patterns that support the feeling of a 'me', allowing researchers to watch that system reorganise itself in real time; the emerging evidence points less to transcendence than to flexibility: a reminder that the experience of self is dynamic, not fixed

Anirban Mukhopadhyay



A head x-ray taken by a computer-assisted tomographic scanner. USNCI

Many people have reported moments when the sense of being a distinct self 'loosens'. Among astronauts, it is called the overview effect while deep-sea explorers report a similar shift sometimes called the underview effect. Both involve sudden changes in perspective in which the usual boundary of 'me' briefly softens, as if the vastness they encounter is mirrored inwardly and the distance between self and world is momentarily absent.

This dissolution often translates into shared experiences of oneness and interconnectedness with the outside world.

The 19th century Indian teacher Ramana Maharshi treated this instability not as an anomaly but as something to examine directly. Continuing a long philosophical tradition, he invited people to look for the 'I' in their own experiences – in the body, sensations, and thoughts – and notice that none of them fully captures the true nature of the self.

Such inquiry explores experience from the inside, a subjective, first-person view. Modern science, by contrast, examines the brain processes that accompany experience from the outside, making these inner shifts harder to access directly.

Only recently, however, has a new experimental tool offered a way to observe what happens in the brain as the sense of self begins to shift. Psychedelics can temporarily 'loosen' the brain patterns that support the feeling of a 'me', allowing researchers to watch that system reorganise itself in real time.

The brain in action

To study what happens when the sense of self weakens, an international team of researchers turned to a fast-acting psychedelic compound called N,N-Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) in a laboratory study with 27 volunteers. DMT produces a brief and intense shift in awareness that often includes a loss of the usual feeling of being a separate 'me'.

In the experiment, published in *The Journal of Neuroscience* on January 14, volunteers received DMT while researchers recorded their brain activity using electroencephalography (EEG) to track rhythmic electrical patterns across the scalp.

In normal conditions, one of the brain's dominant rhythms is the alpha wave – a slow oscillation linked to inward focus. This rhythm helps regulate internally focused processing. Importantly, this rhythm is not the self itself but one neural signature associated with how the brain maintains a coherent sense of self over time.

During the DMT experience, that pattern began to loosen. Alpha rhythms weakened and lost coordination. Overall brain activity also shifted away from its usual organisation. And the more this rhythm weakened, the more strongly participants reported losing their ordinary sense of self.

The findings suggest that specific brain processes are involved in maintaining aspects of the felt sense of self. When neural patterns associated with maintaining a stable sense of 'me' loosen, the organisation of that experience can temporarily shift.

Neuroscientists describe the waking brain as operating in a delicate balance between structure and flexibility. This regime is sometimes called criticality. In this state, brain networks are organised enough to remain coherent while still adapting to new information. Under the influence of DMT, that balance shifted towards a quieter, less coordinated mode. As the organising rhythm weakened, the brain activity associated with maintaining a coherent self-model also shifted.

But what shifts in these experiments is not something transcendental, like in the philosophical traditions of India and China. Dan Zahavi, professor of philosophy at the University of Copenhagen, cautioned that the self is not a single thing that can simply vanish. "It involves multiple layers," he explained, including bodily awareness, lived experience, and personal narrative, "and altering how those layers are organised is not the same as erasing identity". Neuroscience, in this view, is observing temporary changes in how the self is structured rather than its elimination.

At a more practical level, Jeff Greenberg, professor of psychology at the University of Arizona noted that a stable sense of self plays an important role in everyday functioning, including supporting emotional regulation, planning, and continuity. Brief disruptions can be informative, he added, but they should not be mistaken for a lasting loss of identity.

Self, mortality, emotional acceptance

If a brief disruption of the brain's self-model can reveal how fragile the feeling of 'me' really is, the question naturally arises whether that insight changes how we face impermanence or the transient nature of the world.

Psychologists have long shown that reminders of death can influence the way we behave, in part because the sense of self is a continuous, bounded self and acts as a psychological anchor, keeping change and mortality at a distance.

In a study published recently in *Psychopharmacology*, researchers asked whether repeated ego-softening might reshape how people relate to death by comparing 54 long-term ayahuasca users, each with at least nine lifetime uses and averaging around fifty uses, to 53 people who had never taken psychedelics. Participants completed psychological measures assessing death anxiety, avoidance, and emotional attitudes towards impermanence.

The ayahuasca group reported less fear and anxiety about death, were less likely to avoid thinking about it, and were more comfortable with the idea of impermanence. The researchers found that this pattern was best explained by what they called "acceptance of impermanence", an emotional ability to stay open to change – rather than religion, personality or general mindfulness.

Yair Dor-Ziderman, research director at the University of Haifa, Israel, and lead author of the study, said this was striking because popular narratives often assume psychedelic experiences reduce fear of death by changing one's beliefs.

Instead, he explained, the data pointed to a different mechanism: not adopting a comforting metaphysical story but developing "a more flexible emotional relationship to uncertainty, dissolution, and loss". The emotional acceptance of change rather than belief or personality best explained the difference between the groups.

To clarify what that kind of acceptance entailed, M. Samir Hossein, a psychiatrist and thanatologist, noted that fearing death less was not the same as accepting impermanence. Fear, he explained, could diminish in defensive ways like distraction or reinterpretation whereas acceptance reflected a deeper shift in how a person related to loss and change in everyday life.

"Fear can quiet down without disappearing but acceptance reorganises how we live with impermanence."

The findings suggest that specific brain processes are involved in maintaining aspects of the felt sense of self and when neural patterns associated with maintaining a stable sense of 'me' loosen, the organisation of that experience can temporarily shift

Prof. Greenberg cautioned that studies of this kind are correlational and rely heavily on self-report measures, making it difficult to determine whether psychedelics themselves produce lasting changes in how people relate to death. Larger, more controlled research will be needed to clarify if there is a causal link.

"But if someone who is in need thinks one of these approaches might help, I would not discourage them from trying," he said.

Meditation and the brain's defences

The ayahuasca findings point towards a broader possibility: that such shifts may not be unique to psychedelics but reflect a more general capacity of the brain to relax its defensive stance, in general and toward death.

In one February 2025 study involving magnetoencephalography – a brain-imaging method similar to EEG that tracks small magnetic signals produced by neural activity – Dr. Dor-Ziderman and another team of researchers compared how meditators and meditation-naïve participants responded to death-related words.

The participants repeatedly saw words paired with images of their own face or a stranger's, while the brain's rapid 'surprise' signal – a built-in response that appears when something unexpected happens – was measured in real time.

In most people, reminders of mortality triggered an automatic defensive pattern.

When death-related words were paired with self-images, the 'surprise' signal weakened, suggesting the brain was dampening the association before the conscious gains awareness, effectively filtering out the implication that "death applies to me".

Experienced meditators showed a different response. Their brains registered the same death-related cues without that suppression. Rather than reflexively filtering the signal, neural activity indicated the information was processed more directly, pointing to a reduced automatic defence linking death and self.

Dr. Dor-Ziderman interpreted this shift as reflecting a change in how the embodied self is represented. Ordinarily, he explained, the brain models the self as a stable object that must be protected, especially when confronted with mortality. Meditation repeatedly exposes practitioners to experience as an unfolding process: sensations arise and pass, agency fluctuates, and the sense of being a fixed 'someone' loosens.

In this context, death is processed less as a catastrophic contradiction and more as another expression of change, allowing the brain to encounter existential cues without automatically reinforcing defensive boundaries.

A common pattern

None of these results implies that ego dissolution is inherently beneficial or that altering the sense of self is a universal remedy for existential distress. Dr. Dor-Ziderman cautioned that not all disruptions of self-experience operate at the same level.

Acute psychedelic states may reshape concepts and emotions whereas deeply rooted perceptual defenses – including those tied to mortality – likely require sustained training and repeated evidence for the brain to revise them. The studies also rely on different methods, populations, and interpretations, so they can't establish straightforward cause-effect claims.

What the findings do point to, however, is a clearer view of how the brain might construct its sense of self. Moments when that sense loosens – whether in orbit, in meditation or under carefully studied conditions – reveal what feels like a fixed boundary is actively maintained and can shift. The emerging evidence points less to transcendence than to flexibility: a reminder that the experience of self is dynamic, not fixed.

In that light, as Dr. Dor-Ziderman put it, acceptance of impermanence is less about adopting a belief than "developing an emotional stance toward change", the capacity to remain open to endings without reflexively turning away. The idea echoes a long-standing contemplative insight – known in Buddhist thought as 'anicca', for instance – a doctrine asserting that all conditioned existence, physical and mental, is in a constant state of flux, arising and passing away.

Modern neuroscience doesn't quite resolve the mystery of the self – yet. But it does suggest that learning, whether through experience or training, to hold that 'me' a little more lightly may change how the mind responds to temporariness.

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from New Delhi. anirban.genetics@south.du.ac.in)



Challenges for reproducibility extend across social and behavioural sciences. UNSPLASH

Questions arise on replicability of social science research

Press Trust of India

A seven-year-long project in the U.S. that analysed 3,900 claims from research papers in social sciences has revealed that results from about half the papers examined for reproducibility were precisely reproducible as they yielded the same result when the same analytical method was applied to the same data.

The findings help provide a picture of scientific credibility in the social and behavioural sciences.

A random selection of 600 papers published between 2009 and 2018 in 62 journals and spanning across social and behavioural sciences was analysed for reproducibility, researchers, including those from the U.S.-based Center for Open Science Charlottesville, said.

The scientific issue of 'reproducibility crisis' points to how about 60-70% of scientists cannot reproduce results from their own or others' experiments described in journal-published and peer-reviewed studies, especially those in economics, political science, cognitive science and psychology, among other fields.

The analysis of 3,900 claims from research papers in social sciences has revealed that results from about half the papers examined for reproducibility were precisely reproducible

"We assessed 143 out of the 182 available datasets and found that 76.6 papers (53.6 %) papers were rated as precisely reproducible and 105.0 (73.5%) were rated as at least approximately reproducible," the authors wrote.

Irreproducible outcomes can occur due to coding mistakes, transcription errors or a faulty record-keeping, many of which are unintentional and all of which are unwelcome, they said in one of a series of papers that published findings from the US' SCORE programme in the journal *Nature*.

The 'Systematizing Confidence in Open Research and Evidence (SCORE)' project is run by the Center for Open Science.

More than 850 researchers contributed towards evaluating 3,900 claims from social and behavioural sciences papers published between 2009 and 2018, with findings summarised across nine papers, according to the Center for Open Science website. Results from SCORE provide important insights into the "current state of scientific credibility in the social and behavioural sciences", it says.

Another study examined 100 papers for 'analytical robustness', the same dataset can be analysed in different justifiable ways to answer the same research question, potentially challenging the robustness of empirical science, researchers said.

For one claim per study, at least five experts independently re-analysed the original data, they said. 34% of the independent reanalyses yielded the same result as was originally reported, indicating that the common single-path analyses in social and behavioural research should not be assumed to be robust to alternative analysis, the authors said. They recommended using practices that explore "this neglected source of uncertainty".

A third study replicated 274 claims, redoing an experiment to collect fresh data, from 164 papers across 54 journals.

Replication helps discover regularities in nature – a central aim of science, they said. They found that for 55% of the claims and 49% of the papers, replications showed a statistically significant result in the original pattern.

The authors "observed that challenges for replicability extend across social-behavioural sciences, illustrating the importance of identifying conditions that promote or inhibit replicability."

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of new 5G sites deployed by Airtel in eastern U.P.

4,300 Bharti Airtel on Monday said it has deployed more than 4,300 new 5G sites across eastern Uttar Pradesh in the last 12 months. The large-scale network expansion was undertaken across 48 districts of the U.P. East circle, covering 34 million people across urban centres, growth towns and remote rural villages. PTI

Percentage increase in Sri Lanka's cooking gas prices

23 in per cent. Sri Lanka on Monday raised the prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by nearly a quarter, blaming higher global prices triggered by the Iran war. Colombo has warned that a prolonged war could undermine efforts to emerge from its economic meltdown of 2022. The increase in cooking gas prices on Monday is on top of an eight per cent hike last month. AFP

Number of armed officers to be deployed for West Bengal polls

3,000 To ensure peaceful polling in West Bengal, the EC has decided to deploy 3,000 armed police personnel from other States, mostly from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, supplementing the presence of central forces, for the first phase of elections slated for April 23, a senior official said on Monday. PTI

Orders facilitated by Govt. e-Marketplace in 2025-26

5.03 in ₹ lakh crore. Public procurement platform Government e-Marketplace (GeM) facilitated transactions worth ₹5.03 lakh crore in 2025-26, down 7.4 per cent from the previous fiscal, a senior official said on Monday. GeM CEO Mihir Kumar said the decline can be attributed to a reduced contribution from the coal ministry. PTI

Annual wind capacity addition achieved by India during FY26

6.05 GW According to a ministry statement, India achieved its highest-ever annual wind capacity addition of 6.05 GW during FY26, crossing the landmark of 5.5 GW capacity addition in FY 2016-17. With this addition, India's cumulative installed wind power capacity has crossed 56 GW, the ministry said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu X.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Are students ready for CBSE's AI push?

The CBSE curriculum on Computational Thinking and AI aims to build foundational computational skills. However, concerns remain over the extent of students' grade-appropriate cognitive abilities, which are prerequisites for all subjects. A child who cannot read at grade level is likely to face challenges with AI learning too

EXPLAINER

Aasif Iqbal J.

The story so far:
On April 1, 2026, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a new CBSE curriculum on Computational Thinking and Artificial Intelligence for students from Classes 3 to 8.

How does the curriculum build AI knowledge among children?
For Classes 3 to 5, there is no AI content. The focus is entirely on Computational Thinking (CT): pattern recognition, decomposition, abstract thinking, and algorithmic reasoning. These skills are not taught as a separate subject. They are embedded into subjects such as Mathematics and The World Around Us (TWAU), through worksheets and activity-based resource books. Fifty hours are allocated annually.

AI enters in Class 6. Students are introduced to foundational AI literacy alongside advanced CT skills. By Class 8, the curriculum covers the AI project lifecycle, data fairness, and real-world applications. One hundred hours are allocated annually for Classes 6 to 8. Throughout, the curriculum avoids dependence on any specific platform or device. Unplugged learning is built-in for schools with limited infrastructure.

How does the curriculum intend to achieve its goal?
The initiative is designed to develop foundational computational thinking skills: logical reasoning, problem-solving, and pattern recognition. It will familiarise students with the role of artificial intelligence in everyday life, starting from the 2026-27 academic session.

The curriculum document states that learning standards for CT are integrated into Mathematics, Science, Language, and Social Sciences in the lower classes. CT is not a standalone subject sitting beside language. It is designed to be delivered through language. The resource book for Classes 3 to 5 consists of additional questions and activities embedded into existing textbook chapters. Every puzzle, pattern exercise, and decomposition task is mediated through text that a child must read, interpret, and respond to in writing.



Classroom goals: The learning outcomes for Classes 3 to 5 include: solving puzzles and daily-life problems through visual representations and analysing given information. GETTY IMAGES

The learning outcomes for Classes 3 to 5 include: solving puzzles and daily-life problems through visual representations, interpreting texts, and analysing given information. The assessments for this stage include written tests involving CT questions and puzzles, group activities, and teacher observation journals.

Are our students prepared for it?
Meaningful learning is based on LSRW – Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing. These are not soft skills. They are the cognitive infrastructure through which a student processes information, builds understanding, and communicates thought. Every subject sits on top of this foundation. So does Computational Thinking and AI.

The CT curriculum for Classes 3 to 5 is, at its core, a literacy instrument. A child who cannot read at grade level will not experience it as a thinking exercise. They may experience it as a reading barrier.

The Annual Status of Education Report 2024 (ASER), published by Pratham, surveys children across rural India. More than half of Class 5 children in government schools cannot read a Class 2-level text. The ASER reading task has remained unchanged since 2006: can a child read a simple story written for a seven-year-old? After five years of schooling, more than half of Class 5 children cannot clear that bar.

It can be argued that the domain of CBSE is largely urban, and private school students will not have too many problems. But the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024, the Ministry of Education's own national assessment goes against that. The survey covered nearly 23 lakh students across approximately 88,000 schools, including government, aided, and private schools. At Grade 3 level, urban and suburban students in private schools fared poorly compared to their rural counterparts. Students in State government schools scored higher in both Language and Mathematics. The students walking into CBSE classrooms this academic year are not exempt from this crisis. They are in the middle of it.

What are the challenges?
The CT curriculum's aims state that it seeks to develop cognitive capacities: logical thinking, critical thinking, and analytical reasoning. These depend on comprehension as a prerequisite. Abstract reasoning cannot be developed in a child who cannot understand the text presenting the reasoning task.

At Class 6, for instance, CT assessments move to project presentations, reflective journals, and written assignments. Teachers are expected to create rubrics to evaluate student performance. This is where AI concepts are also introduced for the first time. A child who spent Classes 3 to 5 struggling to read the CT resource book will arrive at Class 6 without the computational thinking foundations those years were supposed to build. The pipeline breaks quietly, and it breaks early. We will discover the failure at Class 6, the same way we discovered the reading failure through ASER: through data.

The curriculum document also notes that from Class 6 onwards, evaluations will focus on project presentations and assigned tasks. Each of these requires a level of written and oral articulation that is built on years of strong LSRW practice. Without that practice, the assessments become a test of literacy deficits rather than computational thinking ability.

(Aasif Iqbal J. is an author, educator, and former COO of iamneo Edutech Private Limited. He has served for 15 years in the technology and education sector. Views expressed are personal.)

THE GIST

- On April 1, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a new CBSE curriculum on Computational Thinking and AI for students from Classes 3 to 8.
- For Classes 3 to 5, the skills are embedded into existing subjects. From Class 6 onwards, students are introduced to foundational AI and advanced CT skills. By Class 8, the curriculum covers the AI project lifecycle, data fairness, and real-world applications.

Understanding India's internet censorship regime

An internet user's experience in India depends on the ISP, which determines their access to content

Karan Saini

The experience an Internet user has in India is closely tied to the Internet Service Provider (ISP) they choose. Perceived differences are not limited only to pricing and quality of service, but also to how much of the Internet a user can access, which changes from one ISP to another. This is because ISPs in India – much like everywhere else – block websites in response to government and court orders. However, implementation is not uniform across ISPs, and blocklists vary widely.

Sections 69A and 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, empower the government to issue blocking orders to ISPs and intermediaries. The licensing agreement for ISPs explicitly requires that they "block Internet sites [...] as identified and directed by the Licensor." ISPs are confidentially bound to the blocking orders they receive and implement.

Protocols and implementation
The Internet is made up of protocols like the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), Transport Layer Security (TLS), and Domain Name System (DNS) among others. When an ISP receives a blocking order, it is free to implement it through any or all of these protocols. DNS is the first layer a user interacts with when trying to access a website and is responsible for translating names like example.com to addresses that browsers can understand. When an ISP wants to block a domain at the DNS layer, it configures its servers to return a false answer. This technique is called DNS poisoning. A user's request for example.com doesn't end up at the actual address for the website, but to whatever address the ISP has pointed it to instead.

Most Indian ISPs rely primarily on DNS blocking as it is cheap to implement and requires no deep packet inspection.

What the data shows
To understand the scale of website blocking in India, I queried the DNS servers of six major and regional ISPs to test the censorship of 294 million domains. These tests were carried out over many months in 2025. The study quantifies what previous qualitative research on Internet censorship in India has shown. Despite receiving the same blocking orders, not all ISPs block the same websites.

Out of the total 43,083 blocked domain names found by the study, only 1,414 were blocked by all six ISPs. This is caveated by the fact that some of the ISPs surveyed may be using other protocols to block these domains, which the study does not cover. What is clear however is that at least on the DNS layer, domains are treated inconsistently based on the category of content they host. Piracy, peer-to-peer file sharing, pornography and gambling websites make up the majority of what is blocked, yet blocks are not consistently enforced across ISPs. For domains hosting terrorism and militancy content, blocking consistency across ISPs goes up dramatically. Perfect consensus can be seen in certain sensitive cases, such as the blocking of China's Weibo.com or the website of Srinagar-based publication The Kashmir Walla, showing that some orders are treated more seriously than others. Along with this, almost all ISPs appear to engage in arbitrary blocking in some form.

While highlighting only some notable blocks, the study shows the haphazard way in which both regional and national ISPs are currently implementing blocking orders. In the absence of a standardised framework or guidelines, ISPs are left to their own devices, resulting in an inconsistent blocking landscape.

Inconsistency is not the only problem however. The regime is needlessly opaque. An ideal system would see disclosure of blocked domains from the source, with exceptions only for sensitive matters such as those concerning national security and websites hosting child sexual abuse material.

(Karan Saini is an independent security researcher from New Delhi.)

THE GIST

- ISPs in India block websites in response to government and court orders. However, implementation is not uniform across ISPs, and blocklists vary widely.
- For domains hosting terrorism and militancy content, blocking is more consistent across ISPs, with near consensus in certain sensitive cases. At the same time, almost all ISPs appear to engage in some form of arbitrary blocking.

KEYWORD



GETTY IMAGES

From myths to language: examining the renaming of Kerala

The Union Government's recent approval of the proposal to rename Kerala as Keralam prompts a re-examination of the term's historicity, including its founding legend, the context of the United Kerala Movement, and arguments for the linguistic purity of 'Keralam'

Sarath Pillai

The all-party support for changing the name of Kerala to Keralam and the Union Government's recent approval of the proposal raises questions about the historicity of the term Kerala. The historical difference between the terms is ambiguous at best. From a linguistic perspective, both Kerala and Keralam refer to a place/land. Hermann Gundert's Malayalam dictionary (1872) mentions both Kerala and Keralam while defining the term "keram" (coconut tree). One common definition of both terms is also "the land of coconut trees." Gundert takes a traditional view of Keralam as the land that lies between Gokarnam and Kanyakumari and mentions the legendary text "Keralolpatti" (The Origin of Kerala). The founding legend of Kerala is associated with Sage Parasurama (an incarnation of Visnu) who slew 21 generations of Kshatriyas and flung the blood-strained axe to the ocean, carving out a strip of coastal land called Kerala or Keralam (according to mythology). The history of the origins of Kerala has attracted historical scrutiny even as it is hard to determine its historical veracity. It is likely that at least some portions of the text are of latter-day origins and a response to the European ascendance on the Malabar coast. The historicity of the text is less important than how it has been received and what place it occupies in the historical, temporal, and spatial imagination of the Malayalis.

The entanglement of myth and legend with history is not specific to Keralolpatti or any such legendary texts. What is important, however, are words and terms that encapsulate Malayalis' interaction with history and legends of Kerala. Could one say that the word "Keralam" has more historicity and cultural essence than the term "Kerala?" If yes, where do we trace that historicity and essence from? Is it going to be another set of texts or myths or legends that some consider to be more authentic and true representation of the history and culture of the region?

The historical context

Despite the founding legends of Kerala, if one looks at the modern history of the region from the 18th century to the 1950s, the region was a collection of native states, with the dominant ones being the states of Travancore and Cochin. Travancore was not a linguistically homogenous state; a considerable section of its population in the southern districts spoke Tamil who were also dominant in the administrative and commercial sectors of the state. The resurgent Malayali nationalism of the 19th and 20th century Travancore was rooted more in language and culture than in territorial identity. This linguistic sense of Malayali-ness was in turn instrumentalised to seek government offices and keep the growing significance of Tamils in Travancore at bay. Tamil Brahmins (sometimes called as Pattars) were seen as inferior to Malayali Brahmins (Namboodiris) and as foreigners in the state.

Is it possible to trace the existence of a territorial identity shaped by the imaginations around Kerala or Keralam among the inhabitants of the princely states of Travancore or Cochin in the 18th or early 19th century? If so, what conceptions of state and sovereignty could such an imagination engender in the 19th century? Arguably, we know very little about the potential of a Kerala state from the 19th century history of these states. However, when we come to the first half of the 20th century, the rising anti-Tamil and anti-British sentiments on the one hand and the growing influence of nationalism and communism on the other enabled conditions for cross-territorial affinities in newfound ways. Travancore, a pre-eminent princely state with significant strides in economic and social spheres and led by a Tamil Dewan, C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar, had a fraught relationship with the United Kerala (Aikya Kerala) Movement. Part of the reason for this was the volatile constitutional debates at the all-India level that left the future of the princely states undecided. As late as June 1947, the legal position of the states was sound, and it was generally believed that they would be able to retain independence in some form. Travancore's hallowed tradition of independence from both domestic and foreign powers (its Dewan claimed the state was neither conquered by the Mughals nor by the Europeans) was seen as a guarantee for its future existence as an independent country or a federal unit as opposed to Cochin or the poor British district of Malabar (part of Madras Province). Many factions of Travancore leaders, including the leaders of the Revolutionary Democratic Party (a communist party), at one time or the other were open to the idea of an independent Travancore. By the mid-1940s, United Kerala Movement had become a major political force in what is now Kerala. Kerala Varma, the aging ruler of Cochin, declared himself to be the patron of the movement much to the dismay of Travancore who imagined a separate existence from Cochin.

An identity based on language

Did the distinction between Kerala and Keralam matter to the leaders of the United Kerala Movement? If one examines the historical sources and nomenclature of the time, we see a preponderance of the term Kerala. The term Aikya Kerala itself has Kerala (Aikya Keralam was also a popular term) in it as did many publications of the time. Part of the reason why this distinction would have mattered the least is because Kerala was to be primarily an identity based on language rather than territory. That is, there was no pre-defined land of Kerala or Keralam that lent legitimacy to the demand for a united Kerala. Rather, Kerala was to be constituted by the people who spoke Malayalam on the western coast of India. This conception of Kerala did not fully align with the legend of Kerala's origin either, for southern tip of India, Kanyakumari, which was seen as part of Kerala in the founding myth, was no longer seen as a viable unit of Kerala by the 1950s due to the preponderance of Tamil speakers in that region. Moreover, if the distinction between the terms were of such importance, it should have had an impact in the naming of Kerala in 1956.

As Kerala or Keralam was not conceived as a pre-defined land of antiquity for the Malayalis in the 1940s and 1950s and that the historical and cultural distinction between the terms are not at times clear, the recent proposal for name change forces us to revisit the history of language, culture, territory, and state-formation in Kerala. Is Kerala an Anglophone term as opposed to Keralam, a properly Dravidian term? If so, how does one explain the fact that founding myths and legends of Kerala also uses the word Kerala indiscriminately and interchangeably with Keralam? Even if scholars come out in aid of the cultural and linguistic purity of the term Keralam, how do we account for the historical and conceptual repertoire of English language in a highly literate State like Kerala? How foreign is English language in a State where it existed as a medium of instruction and administrative language for many decades even before independence.

The fact that founding myths and texts lend equal legitimacy to Kerala (as seen in Keralolpatti, or terms like Keraliyan and Keralaputra, the latter used in Ashokan edicts) one the one hand, and that the political discourses and mobilisation that led to the formation of the State (which was indeed led by Malayalis) did not hinge so much on this distinction makes it all the more imperative for us to understand how history and historical forgetting are important in equal measure for claiming new regional identity.

(Sarath Pillai is an Assistant Professor of Modern South Asian History at the University of Calgary, Canada.)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Did you watch the test matches?"

"I watched only the 'lowlights'."

"The lowlights? Oh, you mean the highlights. You're right, though. Considering the way our team played, there were no highlights. Only lowlights."

"Watching our lousy players in action only resulted in my blood pressure going up. I am planning on sending the doctor's bill to Tendulkar and Co."

"That's a good idea. I think for the sake of all cricket fans in our country, the Cricket Board should pull the plug on test matches."

"Pull the plug? What does it mean?"

"What would happen if you were to unplug your TV set?"

"If I were to remove the plug from the socket? The TV wouldn't work, that's all."

"Exactly! When you pull the plug on something, you prevent something from happening or continuing. It's an expression used in informal contexts."

"So when you pull the plug on something you are putting an end to it."

"That's right!"

"Can I say many states have pulled the plug on the mid-day meal scheme?"

"I guess you could. The Chief Minister pulled the plug on the road widening project.'

"'The company had to pull the plug on the deal because they realised their partners didn't have the necessary capital."

"If all that they wanted was money they should have gone to our cricket players. They have been making a lot of money for doing nothing lately."

"Please, don't mention cricket."

"Sorry. We seem to have gone into a tailspin ever since ...."

"....tailspin? What are you talking about?"

"This is an expression used by pilots. When a pilot loses control of the plane and it begins to fall with the back portion, that is, its tail, spinning in a wider circle than the front..."

"....I suppose that is called a tailspin. But what is the connection...."

"....when you say someone's life has gone into a tailspin, it means that the individual's life has fallen apart."

"In other words, like the pilot, the individual has lost control of his/her life."

"I guess you could say that. After the divorce, Govind's life went into a tailspin."

"When Satish was denied the promotion, his life went into a tailspin. Does that sound O.K?"

"Sounds good to me. Did you know that Sunitha has...."

"....please, I don't want to get depressed listening to why someone's life has gone into a tailspin. Let's talk about something cheerful. How was the food at the party last night?"

"For some reason the hostess got Rama to help her with the cooking."

"Oh, no!"

"Oh, yes. And as you know, asking Rama to cook is the kiss of death for any dinner party."

"The kiss of death? Sounds interesting. But what does it mean?"

"Sometimes, you do something and it results in everything being ruined. You don't ruin it intentionally, but it happens. This is the kiss of death. It is usually defined as an action that causes something to fail or be spoiled."

"So, what you are saying is that Rama's cooking ruined the party?"

"Exactly! "

Published in The Hindu on March 14, 2000

Word of the day

Impugn:
attack as false or wrong

Synonym: challenge

Usage: *The court refused to impugn the order without substantive evidence.*

Pronunciation: https://newsth.live/NcMENR/impugn

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪm'pju:n/

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

World Health Day is celebrated on April 7 every year. Test what you know about this day.

Kesavan N.

QUESTION 1
What was campaign for the World Health day in 2025?

QUESTION 2
What is the summit being held in Lyon from April 5 to 7, 2026?

QUESTION 3
What is the theme of the Global Forum of WHO Collaborating Centres, which is to be held from April 7 to 9, 2026?

QUESTION 4
What is the theme for this year's World Health Day?

QUESTION 5
In collaboration with which institute did the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) develop and publish the regional guidance document *Responding to outbreaks of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens in healthcare facilities: guidance for the Western Pacific Region*?



Visual question: Name this institute supporting WHO's work on obesity prevention, nutrition, and physical activity, and since which year. WIKIPEDIA

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In 1953, the U.S. CIA and the U.K.'s MI6 backed Iranian monarchists against Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh. Mosaddegh was eventually removed and the Shah Reza Pahlavi was reinstated. Name the operation. **Ans: Ajax**

2. Salvador Allende, a Marxist who had been democratically elected, died during a military assault in Chile led by General X. X then assumed power in a regime that became infamous for its human rights abuses. Name X. **Ans: Augusto Pinochet**

3. Military officers in the Armed Forces Movement in Portugal overthrew the authoritarian Estado Novo regime in 1974, in a peaceful coup. Name the coup, which was named for a flower that the soldiers placed in the barrels of their guns. **Ans: Carnation**

4. In 1991, hardline members of the Communist Party, called the '____ of _____', led a coup against Mikhail Gorbachev. Fill in the blanks. **Ans: Gang of Eight**

5. General Min Aung Hlaing and the military overthrew the national leadership of Y in Myanmar in 2021 and seized power following a general election they claimed was fraudulent. Name Y. **Ans: Aung San Suu Kyi**

Visual: This leader led a coup in 1952 that overthrew King Farouk of Egypt and turned the country into a republic. **Ans: Gamal Abdel Nasser**

Early birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Prem Nath Tiwari | L. Lalith Reddy | Shahzada Kohinoor

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