WEDNESDAY
January 14, 2026

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INTER-DEPARTMENTAL BODY

Panel formed to fight 'digital arrests', SC told

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CANINE ATTACKS

SC moots liability for feeders over dog bites

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'CRITICAL CONDITION'

Nipah suspected in 2 West Bengal patients

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CHAMPARAN TO AMBEDKAR

Importance of the colour blue

Blue has been linked with the struggles of the marginalised

OPINION » PAGE 9



SECOND ODI TODAY

Men in Blue look to seal series against NZ

SPORT » PAGE 15

A.P. govt. removes Additional Retail Excise Tax on bars

The Hindu Bureau
AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh government has withdrawn the Additional Retail Excise Tax (ARET) levied exclusively on liquor supplied to bars, bringing parity with retail shops and correcting a long-standing pricing anomaly.

Principal Secretary, Excise Department, Mukesh Kumar Meena issued the orders on Tuesday, following approval of recommendations made by a Group of Ministers (GoM).

The decision comes after a comprehensive review of excise policies implemented between 2019 and 2024 and the formulation of a "Way Forward" for future excise years.

A GoM was constituted in August 2024 to recommend a new, comprehensive excise policy covering retail trade, liquor pricing and taxation. The GoM, which met periodically, discussed the issue of ARET in its meeting held on December 22, 2025.

The government noted that prior to November 2019, the invoice price of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and Foreign Liquor (FL) supplied by APSBCL depots was uniform for bars and retail outlets. However, the introduction of ARET exclusively for bars from November 2019 resulted in higher prices for bars, leading to market distortions and lack of uniformity in taxation. Accepting the GoM's recommendations, the government decided to amend the AP Excise (Grant of Licence of Selling by Bar and Conditions of Licence) Rules, 2025, removing the levy of ARET on IMFL and FL purchased by bar licensees from APSBCL depots.

SC questions EC on voter roll deletions, citizenship

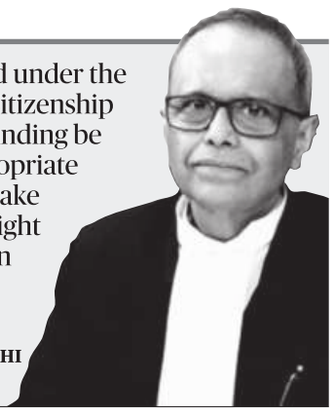
Top court asks poll body if its decision to remove voters from electoral rolls could lead to an investigation into their right to remain in India; EC says voters excluded in SIR have right to appeal

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Election Commission (EC) whether an Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)'s decision to strike a person off the electoral rolls after an "inquisitorial" enquiry into his citizenship under the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise could be referred to by the Centre to commence an investigation into the individual's right to remain in India or be deported.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, a member of the Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, asked whether EROs could exclude a person from the electoral rolls even before the Centre took a final call to "strip him of the colour of citizenship".

> Is it required under the scheme of Citizenship Act that his [ERO's] finding be referred for an appropriate decision?... can you take away his [a voter's] right till a decision is taken by the Central government?
>
> **JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI**
> Supreme Court judge



The questions from the court gained significance as draft electoral rolls published in nine States and three Union Territories, including West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, witnessed the deletion of nearly 6.5 crore names in the second phase of the SIR process.

The queries from the Bench followed submissions made by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi that Article 326 (the right of adult Indian citizens to vote), the Representation of the People Act, and the Registration of Electors Rules of 1960 collectively empower the EC, through the EROs, to conduct an inquisitorial enquiry into citizenship for specific purposes.

Mr. Dwivedi said the poll body was entitled to verify citizenship for the purpose of inclusion on the electoral rolls. It was for the Union government to decide if a person would stay on in India or be deported.

"He [ERO] can enquire. But after he records a finding, is it required under the scheme of Citizenship Act that his finding be referred for an appropriate decision and steps by the Central government? And till then... can you take away his right till a decision is taken by the Central government stripping him of the colour of citizenship?" Justice Bagchi asked.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Delivery platforms to stop 10-minute service after Ministry's appeal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delivery platforms Blinkit, Zepto, Zomato, and Swiggy are learnt to have decided to remove the 10-minute delivery system from their applications after an intervention by Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

Gig and platform workers went on a one-day strike on December 31 and one of their demands was to end the delivery of items in 10 minutes, citing accidents and health issues. A senior official said Mr. Mandaviya had raised the issue at a meeting held with the aggregators last week.

The Ministry sources told *The Hindu* that Blinkit has removed the 10-minute delivery promise from its branding and others are expected to follow suit in the coming days.



Gig workers had cited health issues, accidents to discontinue 10-minute delivery. FILE PHOTO

"They told the Minister that it [10-minute delivery] is being made possible through warehouses at various locations and not by putting pressure on workers. However, Minister urged them to to stop this branding practice considering the health and welfare of delivery workers and the companies agreed," the official said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

NEARBY



Naidu launches slew of projects in Naravaripalle

TIRUPATI
Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu arrived with family at Naravaripalle on Tuesday for Sankranti, and launched several projects. » Page 6

Kolleru Lake comes alive with winged visitors

KOLLERU (ELURU DISTRICT)
Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary recorded 96,195 birds of 116 species during January first week. » PAGE 6

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

SC differs on sanction to try public servants

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday delivered a split verdict on the legality of a provision in an anti-corruption law which mandates prior sanction before prosecuting public servants.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna concluded that Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, was plainly unconstitutional, while Justice K.V. Viswanathan, the puisne judge on the Division Bench, said that sanction must be decided by an independent authority such as the Lok Pal or the Lok Ayukta.

Policy paralysis

Justice Viswanathan said the mere possibility of abuse of an otherwise valid provision cannot be a ground for declaring it unconstitutional. He compared striking down Section 17A to "throwing the baby out with the bathwater".

"If honest public servants are not given a basic assurance that decisions taken by them will not be subjected to frivolous complaints, it is the nation that will suffer. Public servants will resort to a play-it-safe syndrome, and that will result in policy paralysis. The panacea of striking down will turn out to be worse than the disease," Justice Viswanathan wrote in his opinion.

He directed that an independent inquiry of the facts of a corruption complaint would be ideal before a grant of sanction.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Trump tells Iran protesters to 'take over institutions'

Stanly Johny

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday doubled down on his threat of intervention in protest-hit Iran, telling anti-government protesters to "take over institutions" and that "help is on its way".

Mr. Trump also said that any country that does business with Iran will face a tariff rate of 25% on any trade with the U.S., amid the biggest anti-government protests Iran has seen in years. "This Order is final and conclusive," Mr. Trump said in a social media post without providing any further detail.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 14
RELATED REPORTS ON » PAGES 10 & 13



38 houses of Konda Reddi tribe gutted in a hamlet in Kakinada district

The Hindu Bureau
KAKINADA/VIJAYAWADA

At least 38 thatched houses belonging to members of the Konda Reddi tribe were reduced to ashes in a fire reportedly triggered by a short circuit at Sarlanka village in Routhulapudi mandal of Kakinada district on Monday night.

No casualties of inhabitants or cattle were reported. Most of the inhabitants were away, attending a weekly shandy ahead of the Sankranti celebrations, when the fire broke out.

According to reports, a short circuit in the village electricity supply caused the fire which spread to nearby thatched houses. Those present in the village could not communicate about the incident to the authorities concerned on time due to absence of mobile network.

The destroyed houses belonged to 56 families.



The remnants of a house destroyed in the fire at Sarlanka village in Kakinada district on Monday night. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

No casualties reported; CM directs comprehensive assistance to affected families

The Kakinada district police are engaged in relief operations.

Deeply tragic: Naidu

Meanwhile, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held an urgent review with Ministers and senior officials to assess the relief measures.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

Festive ready



Rooster fight arenas looking all set ahead of the Sankranti festivities at Uppuluru, on Tuesday. K.V.S. GIRI

Abolition of Additional Retail Excise Tax on bars welcomed

There will be no price difference between retail liquor shops and bars for the same liquor going forward; the move will help create a competitive tourism and hospitality environment, says ASHA

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The abolition of Additional Retail Excise Tax (ARET) being levied on bars in Andhra Pradesh has come as a major relief to the owners. A G.O. (Ms. No. 24) signed by Principal Secretary, Prohibition and Excise Department, Mukesh Kumar Meena was issued to this effect on Tuesday, removing the Special Additional Retail Excise Tax that had been in force since November 2019.

Henceforth, there will be no price difference between retail liquor shops and bars for the same liquor.

It has been decided to issue a new notification as per excise laws and to make necessary amendments to the 2025 bar license rules. The Director of Excise, Commissioner of Distilleries and APSBCL officials will be responsible for implementing these changes. These orders come into effect from January 13.

Happy owners

Bar owners are happy that unlike in the past when liquor was supplied to bars at higher prices compared to retail shops, they would not face difficulties in business now, as the move will reduce costs.

Members of the Andhra Pradesh Star Hotels Association (ASHA) welcomed the government's decision and called it progressive and industry-friendly.

Association president R. V. Swamy expressed gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, saying that the move would help them create a competitive tourism and hospitality environment in the State.

Referring to the key highlights of the G.O., Mr. Swamy said it would help boost tourism and hospitality through microbreweries. "The decision to permit microbreweries not only within municipal corporations but also within 5-km radius, in designated tourism centres and in 3-Star and above hotels irrespective of location, is a landmark reform," he said.

Mr. Swamy said it would attract premium hospitality investments, promote beer tourism and experiential dining, create new employment opportunities and position Andhra Pradesh as a preferred destination for global and domestic tourists.

He said the government's decision to remove the ARET levied exclusively on bars and restore price parity between bars and retail shops corrects a long-standing anomaly and ensures uniformity in taxation, transparent pricing and a level playing field for hospitality businesses.

He said the decision was bound to enhance tourism inflow, hotel occupancy, investor confidence, employment generation and Andhra Pradesh's image as a hospitality-friendly State.

Court allows closure of APSSDC case against CM

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

A court in Vijayawada on Tuesday approved the petition filed by Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department (A.P.-CID) to close the A.P. State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) case against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and other accused.

Mr. Naidu was the Leader of Opposition when he was arrested by the CID on September 9, 2023, for his alleged role in the misappropriation of funds of APSSDC and the CID had then put the loss to the exchequer at ₹371 crore.

The case was registered during the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) regime and Mr. Naidu was named Accused Number 37 in the case. Mr. Naidu was lodged at the Rajamahendravaram Central prison for nearly 50 days before being granted bail by the court.

In the 2024 elections, Mr. Naidu-led NDA government backed by BJP and Jana Sena Party (JSP) came to power and the CID later filed a petition seeking closure of the case. The CID, in its petition, described the registration of case as a 'mistake of fact'.

In its orders issued on January 12, the ACB court in Vijayawada accepted the submission of the CID. The orders of the court read, "In the result, the final report filed by the CID in Cr No 29/2021 is ACCEPTED.

Mr. Naidu was the Leader of Opposition when he was arrested by the CID on September 9, 2023, for his alleged role in the misappropriation of funds of APSSDC

The proceedings are closed as 'MISTAKE OF FACT' against all the accused."

Taking strong exception to the development, YSRCP PAC member and former Minister Sake Sailajanath strongly condemned the closure of the case against Mr. Naidu, calling it unconstitutional, dangerous, and a direct assault on democratic institutions.

Speaking to the media in Anantapur, he claimed Mr. Naidu was using power to systematically erase the criminal cases registered against him.

Mr. Sailajanath alleged that in the Skill Development Scam, ₹371 crore of public money was diverted through shell companies and Central agencies including the Enforcement Directorate had filed cases, arrested accused, and seized assets.

He appealed to the Governor and the High Court to intervene immediately to protect institutions and the rule of law, and made it clear that YSRCP would continue its legal fight against the closure of these cases.

Convenors for CETs appointed

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) appointed Convenors for conducting the Common Entrance Tests (CETs) for the academic year 2026-27.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Council secretary B. Tirupati Rao said Professor of Mechanical Engineering from JNTU-Anantapur B. Durga Prasad will be the Convenor of APECET (Lateral entry to Diploma holders in Engineering), Professor of Computer Science and Systems Engineering, Andhra University, M. Shashi will be the Convenor of APICET (MBA and MCA), and Professor of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Andhra University, P. Mallikarjuna Rao will be the Convenor of APPGECET (M. Tech and M. Pharm).

Professor of Law, Sri Padmavati Mahila Viswa Vidyalayam, T. Sita Kumari, will be Convenor of APLAWCET (LLB and LLM), Professor of Education from Dravidian University, D. Srinivas Kumar, will be the Convenor of APEDCET (B.Ed), Professor of Organic Chemistry from Sri Venkateswara University, V. Padmavathi, will be the Convenor for APPGCET (MA, M. Sc, M. Com), Professor of Mechanical Engineering from JNTU-Kakinada, N. Mohan Rao, will be Convenor of APEAPCET (Engineering) and (Agri and Pharma).

Private bus operators warned against fleecing passengers



Passengers rushing to get inside a bus at Pandit Nehru Bus Station in Vijayawada on Tuesday. K.V.S. GIRI

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Transport M. Ramprasad Reddy on Tuesday (January 13) issued a stern warning to private bus operators against fleecing the passengers by collecting excess fares from them during the Sankranthi festival season.

In a statement, the Minister said if a private bus operator was found to be increasing bus fares in violation of the rule book, his vehicle would be seized. He said despite the festival rush, the government had decided to continue the free bus travel facility for women during the festival season. No additional bus fares would be charged by the AP State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC), he said, adding that it was a festival gift from the government to the people of the State.

The Minister said the authorities concerned had taken adequate measures to ensure smooth travel for passengers going to their native place during the festival season and extended them warm Sankranti wishes.

Cargo services

The APSRTC, meanwhile, has launched Cargo Promotion Month, from December 20 to January 19, 2026, to promote its cargo services.

To provide a boost to the ongoing drive, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of APSRTC Ch. Dwaraka Tirumala Rao visited the RTC cargo office located in the arrival block of the Pandit Nehru Bus Station (PNBS), Vijayawada on Monday and dispatched the book "Don't Lose you Mind, Lose your Weight" authored by Rujuta Diwakar, to all the district officers and Executive Directors of the APSRTC zones through the delivery service, paying from his own pocket ₹ 20,000 towards the cost of the books and the cargo services.

Mr. Tirumala Rao urged the APSRTC employees to actively contribute to the success of the Cargo Promotion Month by creating awareness and encouraging increased use of the RTC cargo door-delivery bookings.

The programme was attended by APSRTC Executive Director (Engineering) G.V. Ravi Varma, cargo wing officials and other officials.

INBRIEF

'YSRCP, BRS trying to create discord between A.P. and TG'

Swachh Andhra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram accused the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of conspiring to create discord between the two Telugu-speaking States for 'narrow political gains. Addressing the media at the TDP central office at Mangalagiri on Tuesday, Mr. Pattabhiram said that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had always stood for cooperation and mutual development of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. "Mr. Naidu has been consistently maintaining that Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are like two eyes to him," he said. Recalling that former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had once remarked in the Assembly about reducing the Polavaram project height by a metre, he alleged that then A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had not only failed to oppose it but had praised KCR instead. Mr. Pattabhiram accused the two parties of acting in tandem, citing reciprocal displays of political bonhomie, including banners and public statements.



Police organise sports, rangoli contests ahead of Sankranti

Eluru police conducted sports and rangoli competitions in villages across the district as part of Sankranti celebrations on Tuesday. The police, in association with Yuvasakthi organisation, conducted rangoli competitions for women at Kolleru and Gudivakalanka villages. Jangareddygudem Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Susmitha. R. inaugurated the rangoli competitions at Rajiv Nagar. Police organised volley ball competitions for youth at Lingapalem village and Polasanapalli village in Bhimadole mandal, said Eluru district Superintendent of Police (SP) K. Pratap Shiva Kishore. Meawnhile, fun games, ethnic food festivals, running competitions, 'gangireddula' feats were conducted at many places in Krishna and NTR Districts on Tuesday.



MA&UD Minister P. Narayana inaugurating road laying works at Karlapudi village in Palnadu district on Tuesday.

MA&UD Minister lays foundation for road works at Karlapudi

The Hindu Bureau
AMARAVATI

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Narayana on Tuesday (January 13) laid the foundation stone for road construction works at Karlapudi village in Amaravati mandal. He participated in the programme along with local MLA Bhashyam Praveen.

The foundation was laid for the construction of a 2.9-kilometre road connecting Karlapudi and Anantavaram. The Minister directed the contracting agency to complete the road works within a week, stressing the need for speedy execution to address long-pending local demands.

The road project gained urgency after farmers, whom the Minister met during the launch of Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) 2.0 a day earlier, requested immediate construction of the road. Responding to their request, Mr.Narayana said that he ordered preparation of estimates and entrusted the works to a contract agency without delay.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said land pooling is underway for several projects in Amaravati. On the very first day, farmers from three villages in Amaravati mandal contributed around 1,000 acres, completing nearly 25% of land pooling in those villages. He congratulated the farmers for voluntarily giving their land and appreciated the MLA for actively persuading them.

Mr. Narayana said key projects such as the Inner Ring Road and the International Sports City are essential for Amaravati's development. The MLA stated that 80% land pooling would be completed within a month, after which the master plan design would be finalised and tenders called. He assured that internal roads in plots allotted to farmers would be completed on priority.

Indrakeeladri to host Sankranti festivities with 'Bommala Koluvu', cultural events

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri announced grand celebrations to mark Makara Sankranti this year.

As part of the celebrations, traditional Bhogi bonfires will be lit in a ceremonial manner on January 14 (Wednesday) at 5 a.m. near Sri Mahaganapati Swamy temple on Indrakeeladri.The ritual symbolises the traditional observance of Bhogi during the harvest season.

A special attraction of the festivities will be the age-old Telugu custom of 'Bommala Koluvu' (traditional doll display). The 'Bommala Koluvu' will be organised from January 14 to January 16 on the seventh floor of Maha Mandapam, located opposite the Rajagopuram.



Kanaka Durga temple EO V.K. Seena Naik, Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna and others having Annaprasadam, on Tuesday.

Devotees will be able to visit and view artistic doll arrangements depicting various forms of the Goddess and traditional themes. Additionally, cultural and Vedic programmes including Gangireddula performances, Haridasu devotional singing, and other folk art forms will be held in the temple premises from January 14 to 16.

Meanwhile, temple Executive Officer (EO) V.K. Seena Naik urged the devotees to participate in the Sankranti celebrations. The newly-constructed Goshala shed at Veda Pathashala in Poranki village, under the temple administration, will be inaugurated on January 14 at 11:45 a.m., he said.

The EO also said that the Devasthanam Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi), Trust Board members and special invitee Brahmam conducted a comprehensive review of the 'Annadanam' (free food) programme.

Ambedkar Gurukulams open for admissions

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The APSWREIS invited applications from eligible boys and girls for admissions into Class V and Junior Intermediate and existing vacancies in Class VI to X in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Gurukulams. Aspiring students and parents can visit the website https://apgpcet.apcfss.in for details.

Timings
VIJAYAWADA

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14	
RISE 06:39	SET 17:54
RISE 02:48	SET 14:04
THURSDAY, JAN. 15	
RISE 06:39	SET 17:55
RISE 03:41	SET 14:52
FRIDAY, JAN. 16	
RISE 06:39	SET 17:55
RISE 04:34	SET 15:43

Vijayawada Weather	max	min
Machilipatnam	31	22
Guntur Town	31	21
Vijayawada City	31	21

Vijayawada City Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant and hazy.

Vijayawada City Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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SCR to run special trains to clear extra rush for Sankranti

Officers told to focus on crowd management at railway stations and onboarding of trains, field supervisors asked to be vigilant at the booking counters and deploy Railway Protection Force for the safety of passengers at the stations

The Hindu Bureua
VIJAYAWADA



Passengers getting ready to board a train as they head home for the Sankranti festival, at Vijayawada Railway Station. FILE PHOTO

To clear the extra rush of passengers during Sankranti festival, South Central Railway (SCR) is operating special trains from various destinations.

Train no. 07480 Cherlapalli-Kakinada Town will depart from Cherlapalli at 10 a.m. on January 19 and reach Kakinada Town at 9.30 p.m. on the same day. Train no. 07481 Kakinada Town-Cherlapalli will depart at 11.15 p.m. on January 19 and reach the destination at 11.45 a.m. on the next day.

The special trains will stop at Nalgonda, Miryalguda, Piduguralla, Sattenapalle, Guntur, Vijayawada, Kakaluru, Akividu, Bhimavaram Town, Tanuku, Rajahmundry and Samalkot stations in both the directions.

Train no. 07482 Cherlapalli-Tirupati will depart from Cherlapalli at 4 a.m. on January 18 and reach Tirupati at 7 p.m. on the same day. Train no. 07483 Tirupati-Cherlapalli will leave Tirupati at 12.50 p.m. on January 18 and reach the destination at 11.45 a.m. on the next day.

The special trains will halt at Jangoan, Kazipet, Warangal, Kesamudram, Mahabubabad, Dornakal, Khammam, Madhira, Vijayawada, Tenali, Chirala, Ongole, Nellore, Gudur, Venkatagiri, Srikalahasti and Renigunta stations in both the directions.

The special trains will consist of first AC, second AC, AC II Tier, AC III Tier, sleeper class and general second class coaches, said SCR Vijayawada Division public relations officer Nusrat M. Mandrupkar.

Train no. 07479 Anakapalli-Cherlapalli will depart Anakapalli at 10.30 p.m. on January 18 and reach Cherlapalli at 11.30 a.m. on the next day. Train no. 07477 Cherlapalli-Anakapalli will depart at 12.40 a.m. on January 19 and reach the destination at 9 p.m. on the same day. Train no. 07478 Anakapalli-Cherlapalli will depart at 10.30 p.m. on January 19 and reach Cherlapalli at 11.30 a.m. on the next day.

Special trains 07477 and 07478 will stop at Nalgonda, Miryalguda, Piduguralla, Sattenapalle, Guntur, Vijayawada, Gudivada, Kaikalur, Akividu, Bhimavaram Town, Tanuku, Nidadavolu, Rajahmundry, Samalkot, Annavaram, Tuni and Elamanchili stations, and consists of AC 2 tier, AC 3 tier, sleeper and general coaches.

Janasadharan trains

SCR is also operating Janasadharan unreserved special trains between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam.

Train no. 08567 Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada will be operated on January 14, 16, 17 and 18. Train no. 08568 Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam will run on January 14, 16, 17 and 18. The Janasadharan special trains will halt at Duvvada, Anakapalli, Elamamchili, Tuni, Annavaram, Samalkot, Rajahmundry, Nidadavolu, Tadepalligudem, Eluru, Gannavaram and Vijayawada stations in both the directions.

Similarly, Train no. 07475 Hyderabad-Vijayawada will leave Hyderabad on January 18 and 19 at 6.10 a.m. and reach the destination at 1.40 p.m. on the same day. Train no. 07476 Vijayawada-Hyderabad will depart at 2.40 p.m. on January 17 and 19 and reach the destination at 10.35 p.m. on the same day.

These special trains will halt at Secunderabad, Cherlapalli, Bhongir, Jangoan, Ghanpur, Kazipet, Warangal, Nekonda, Kesamudram, Mahabubabad, Dornakal, Khammam and Madhira stations in both the directions, said SCR Chief Public Relations Officer A. Sridhar.

Meanwhile, SCR General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, who reviewed the handling of Sankranti festival rush, directed the officers to focus on crowd management at railway stations and onboarding of trains.

Mr. Srivastava instructed the field supervisors to be vigilant at the booking counters and deploy Railway Protection Force for the safety of passengers at the stations.



INBRIEF

Kothapet police recover gold jewellery worth ₹5 Lakh

In a swift operation, Kothapet police in Guntur district recovered a bag containing gold jewellery worth nearly ₹5 lakh and returned it to a woman passenger within three hours of receiving a complaint. According to police in a statement here on Tuesday, the incident occurred on January 12 when a woman, travelling with her small children, boarded an autorickshaw and alighted near Gandhi Park but inadvertently left behind a bag containing gold ornaments in the auto. After scrutinising several vehicles, the police identified the auto using traffic police registration details and traced the driver.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (January 14, Wednesday), the following articles are available:

- Is the government seeking phones' source code? **newsth.live/sourcecodegovtpro**
- What an edible insects stall revealed about acceptance, 'normal' food **newsth.live/edibleinsects**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

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CREDIT RATINGS: CARE: CARE AAA; Stable | Crisil: Crisil AAA/ Stable | ICRA: [ICRA] AAA (Stable)

About PFC
- A Maharatna, profit making Government of India undertaking under the Ministry of Power
- Infra Financing NBFC with ₹ 5,61,208.71## crore in loan assets
- Nodal Agency for implementing various Govt. of India schemes in the Power Sector

Key Features of NCD
- Listed & Tradeable
- Allotment on first come first serve basis@
- Minimum Application Size ₹10,000/-, except for Zero Coupon NCDs issued at discount
(Refer section "Issue Related Information" on page 73 of the Tranche I Prospectus)

TRANCHE I | ISSUE OPENS ON: JANUARY 16, 2026
ISSUE CLOSES ON: JANUARY 30, 2026#

Please scan this QR code to view the Tranche I Prospectus

*For further details, refer to section titled "Issue Related Information" on page 73 of the Tranche I Prospectus. ^With respect CBDT notified Zero Coupon Bonds, the Series III NCDs are being issued on discount. For further details on taxation, please see "Statement of Possible Tax Benefits" on page 37 and "Material Contracts and Documents on page 140 of the Tranche I Prospectus. @Allotment in the public issue of debt securities should be made on the basis of date of upload of each application into the electronic book of the stock exchanges (i.e. NSE and BSE). However, on the date of oversubscription and thereafter, the allotments should be made to the applicants on proportionate basis.

#The Tranche I 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 as indicated above, except that the Tranche I Issue may close on such earlier date or extended date in accordance with Regulation 33A of the SEBI NCS Regulations. For further details, please refer to the chapter titled "Issue Related Information" on page 73 of the Tranche I Prospectus.

DISCLAIMER: Power Finance Corporation Limited ("Company"), subject to market conditions, and other considerations, is proposing a public issue of secured, rated, listed, redeemable non-convertible debentures ("NCDs") and has filed the Tranche I Prospectus dated January 9, 2026 ("Tranche I Prospectus"), and Shelf Prospectus dated January 9, 2026 ("Shelf Prospectus"), (collectively the "Prospectus"), with the Registrar of Companies, Delhi and Haryana, at New Delhi ("RoC"), National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") and Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The Prospectus is available on the website of the Company at www.pfcindia.co.in, on the website of NSE at www.nseindia.com, on the website of the lead managers at www.nuvama.com, www.akgroup.co.in www.tipsons.com, and https://www.trustgroup.in/, and on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. Investors proposing to participate in the Tranche I 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" beginning on page 18 and "Material Developments" beginning on page 240 of the Shelf Prospectus. The Issuer and the Lead Managers accept no responsibility for statements made otherwise than in the Prospectus or in the advertisement or any other material issued by or at the instance of the Company and that anyone placing reliance on any other source of information would be doing so at their own risk.

For Detailed Disclaimers refer: https://pfcindia.co.in/ensite/Home/VS/10345

Capitalised terms used herein and not defined specifically shall have same meaning as ascribed in the Shelf Prospectus and Tranche I Prospectus.

Standalone Figures as on September 30, 2025

IndianOil
CIN-L23201MH1959GOI011388
Pipelines Division
(Expression of Interest)
Hiring of covered warehouse at CGD Vizag
Download Period: 21 days from date of publication of EOI
Bid Submission: 21 days from date of publication of EOI
Contact Person:
1.Mr Sreelal M S, Senior Manager (CGD)
Mob: 7598720965
Email: sreelalms@indianoil.in
2.Mr Santosh Kalepu, Manager (CGD)
Mob: 9985591592
Email: kalepus@indianoil.in
For more details visit https://www.iocl.com/suppliers-notices. Any Corrigendum/Addendum/Notice etc. with regards to this advertisement will be made available on the website www.iocl.com only.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT
Vijayawada : 0866-2553033/44
Guntur : 83414 43366
Ongole : 98481 70977
W.Godavari : 96429 93433
Tirupati & Kadapa : 97041 06892
Nellore & Anantapur : 98497 93093
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2025 Intake

JSS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) MYSURU
NAAC GRADE A++

PURSUE CAREER IN
PSYCHOLOGY
STAY AHEAD WITH EDUCATION

Admission Notification: 2025

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), Mysuru, invites online application for entrance test & admission to following RCI regulated programs for 2025-26 admission.

Sl.	Courses	Intake
1	MA Clinical Psychology (2 years)	10
2	Professional Diploma in Clinical Psychology (1 year)	10

As per the eligibility criteria prescribed by the RCI, candidates aspiring to appear for the JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER) entrance examination may submit their applications online through the official website:www.jssuni.edu.in. Comprehensive details regarding the entrance test & other relevant information will be provided in the information brochure available on the JSS AHER website.

The Date of Entrance test & admission will be Notified on the website: www.jssuni.edu.in

Apply by: 30th Jan, 2026 (Friday)

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research
JSS Medical Institutions Campus, S.S. Nagara Bannimantap
Mysuru, Karnataka, ☎: 0821-2548014/416/400
: +91 99808 41859 : admissions@jssuni.edu.in

ADMISSION TO MBA AT IITs
(Two-Year Full-Time Programme)
Learn the Art and Science of Management at IITs
IITs use CAT score* to shortlist candidates for their MBA programmes.

For details, visit the websites of the respective IITs

Institute	Website
SJMSOM, IIT Bombay	https://www.som.iitb.ac.in
DMS, IIT Delhi	https://dms.iitd.ac.in/
DMSIE, IIT(ISM) Dhanbad	https://www.iitism.ac.in/management-studies-and-industrial-engineering
SOB, IIT Guwahati	https://www.iitg.ac.in/sob/
SME, IIT Jodhpur	https://iitj.ac.in/schools/en/School-of-Management-&-Entrepreneurship
DoMS, IIT Kanpur	https://iitk.ac.in/doms/
VGSoM, IIT Kharagpur	https://som.iitkgp.ac.in
DoMS, IIT Madras	https://doms.iitm.ac.in/
DoMS, IIT Roorkee	https://ms.iitr.ac.in/
SOM, IIT Mandi	https://som.iitmandi.ac.in/

* IIMs have no role either in the section process or in the conduct of the programme at IITs

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

KARNATAKA SHEEP AND WOOL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.,

Kuri Bhavana, Veterinary College Campus, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560024, Ph. No.: 23414295, 23413294

No:KSWDCL/Shepherd Kit/2025-26 Date: 12.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Limited invites Tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for **SUPPLY OF KITS REQUIRED FOR MIGRATORY SHEPHERDS.** Interested tenders can participate through website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For further details, can contact office of Managing Director, Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Limited, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560024. Full tender documents may be viewed from the above website from 12.01.2026 onwards. Last date for uploading the document is 11.02.2026.

Sd/- Chairman and Managing Director,
Tender Approval Committe,
Karnataka Sheep and Wool
Development Corporation Limited

DIPR/CP/5007/CCL/2025-26

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI

SRI PADMAVATHI CHILDREN'S HEART CENTRE, (S.V.PRANADANA TRUST) TTD, TIRUPATI.

NOTIFICATION

1) e-Tender invited for the supply of **PARA MEDICAL STAFF** for a period of One year from the date of award of the contract. The tender documents will be available for download from **13-01-2026 @ 03.00 pm**, and the last date for receipt of bids is **27-01-2026 @ 11.00 am.** Interested and eligible bidders may submit their bids as per the terms and conditions specified in the tender notice.
For more information, please visit **www.tirumala org** or **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/.**

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.361) Date:13-01-2026 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI

SRI PADMAVATHI CHILDREN'S HEART CENTRE, (S.V.PRANADANA TRUST) TTD, TIRUPATI.

NOTIFICATION

1) e-Tender are invited for the supply of **PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS** for a period of One year from the date of award of the contract. The tender documents will be available for download from **13-01-2026 @ 03.00 PM**, and the last date for receipt of bids is **27-01-2026 @ 11.00 AM** Interested and eligible bidders may submit their bids as per the terms and conditions specified in the tender notice.
For more information, please visit **www.tirumala.org** or **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/.**

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.362) Date:13-01-2026 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001. **E-Mail id:** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Phone:** 0435-2432322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.65,38,169/- (Rupees Sixty Five Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Nine only)** as on **11-01-2026** together with further interest to be charged from **12-01-2026** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. Sree Venkateswara Traders, (Represented by Mr. G. Chandra Sekar as its Proprietor), No.20/36, Gandhi Bazar, Old Town, Anantapur - 515001. No.2) Mr. G. Chandra Sekar, S/o. G. Ramaiah, No.21/35, D.Nos.211 to 21 End, Bacha Rao Street, Anantapur - 515001. No.3) Mrs. G. Malleswaramma, W/o. G. Chandra Sekar, No.21/35, D.Nos.211 to 21 End, Bacha Rao Street, Anantapur - 515001.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to Our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mr. G. Chandra Sekar, S/o. G. Ramaiah)

Anantapur Registration District & Sub-Registration District and the Property situated within Anantapur Municipal Limits (Srinivasa Merchants Welfare Association complex) and the Property particulars are as follows : Ward No: Old : 19, New : 19, Present : 13, S.Nos.77/1, 187/1, 187/2 Extent Ac.0.79 Paiki, Extent Ac.0.20, S.No.77/3, Extent Ac.0.77, Full Extent 0.77, S.No.74/1, Extent Ac.0.56, Full Extent Ac.0.56, S.No.74/2A Extent 2.10 Paiki, Extent Ac.0.93, S.No.187/1, Extent Ac.0.51, S.No.187/2, Extent Ac.0.28, Paiki 0.59, Paiki 0.21.22, Total 2.67.22 Paiki, Extent 0.01.465, H.S 0.005, Shop No.15, Present D.No.19-4-592, Asst. No.1001046402, Extent : 70.91 Yds. Bounded by : East : 28 feet Cement Road, West : Open place of Sri Subramanyeswara Saw Mill, North: Shop No.14, South : Shop No.16. Measurements : East to West : 27¾ feet or 8.46 metres, North to South : 23 feet or 7.01 metres, 638.25 Sq.feet.

Reserve Price : Rs.34,00,000/-
(Rupees Thirty Four Lakh only)

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. G. Chandra Sekar, S/o. G. Ramaiah)

Anantapur Registration District & Sub-Registration District and the Property situated within Anantapur Municipal Corporation limits and the property particulars are as follows Ward : Old : 4, New : 8, Present : 12, At Present : Nil, Old T.S.No.1999/3B4A, Extent Ac.1.11.25 Paiki Extent Ac.0.05.17, Plot No.5, Door No.Old : Nil, New : Nil, Present : 12/72/E1, At Present D.No.12/169, Asst. No. Old : Nil, New : Nil, Present Asst. No.11844, At Present Asst No : 1001005982, L.P No.125/81, Extent : 105 Sq.Yds. Boundaries : East : Plot Nos.8 and 9, West : 30 feet Road, North : Open Place sold to P. Ramanjineyulu in the same number, South : Plot No.6 of K. Kondapp and the remaining place of A. Jayasree. Measurements : East to West : Northern Side : 60 feet or 18.29 metres, East to West : Southern Side : 60 feet or 18.29 metres, North to South : Eastern Side: 16 feet or 4.88 meters, North to South : Western Side : 15½ feet or 4.72 metres.

Reserve Price : Rs.68,00,000/-
(Rupees Sixty Eight Lakh only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
23-02-2026	**City Union Bank Limited, Anantapur Branch,** No.15/703, Kamala Nagar, Sreekandam Circle, Opp. Junna Iron Mart, Anathapur - 515001. Telephone No.08554-279777, Cell Nos : 9396643830, 8925887173.

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Anantapur Branch, No.15/703, Kamala Nagar, Sreekandam Circle, Opp. Junna Iron Mart, Anathapur - 515001. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact : **Telephone No.08554-279777 , Cell Nos : 9396643830, 8925887173. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 13-01-2026 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

THE SOUTH INDIAN BANK LTD: REGIONAL OFFICE, VIJAYAWADA

D No: 54-18/37/3-1, 1st floor, Sri Sai Venkata Krishna Nilayam, Radio Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh -520008 Email:ro1021@sib.co.in

Ref: RO/9021/ REC/GEN/133/25-26 **Date:13.01.2026**

E - AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Borrowers: 1.M/s Sree Matha Enterprises, 59 13 39 Pinnamaneni Polytec Road, Gayatri Nagar Vijayawada, Krishna Andhra Pradesh 520008, **Also at:** H. No. 59a-16-5/1, Rtc Colony, Vijayawada - 520008, **Also at:** 59A-16-5/1, RTC colony, Vijayawada - 520008, **Also at:** Hotel Viman, Plot no 105, Besides Union Petrol Pump, Nidamanuru, Vijayawada - 521104, **Also at:** Door No. 64-1-8, Krishnaveni school road, Raghavanagar, Patmatalanka, Patmata ,Vijayawada – 520010

2. Deepthi Saggurthi @ Kancharla Deepthi (Also Legal heir of Mortgagor) 59A-16-5/1,RTC colony,Vijayawada urban,Vj Polytechnic,Vijayawada-520008, **Also at:** Door No. 64-1-8,Krishnaveni school road,Raghavanagar, Patmatalanka, patmata ,Vijayawada-520010

3. KVVS Ram Prasad @ Kunapareddy Veera Venkata Satya Ram Prasad, Door no.8-171, Ramalayam bazar,prasadampadu, Enikepadu, vijayawada-521108, **Also At** Door no.20-124 (new),8-170(old),Prsadampadu,Enikepadu,Vjayawada-521108

Guarantor: 4. Ms. K Rajeshwari @ Velaga Raja Rajeshwari, 5-6-59/86/9, Tammina Krishna Street, 3rd Lane, Lambadipeta, Vijayawada – 520001, Legal heir of Mortgagor

5. Kancharla Praneeth Kumar, S/o Late Kancharla Venkateswara Rao, D.No.64-1-8, Raghava Nagar, High School Road, Patamata Lanka, Vijayawada, NTR District Andhra Pradesh -520 010

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower/guarantor that the below described immovable property mortgaged to The South Indian Bank Ltd, Branch Vijayawada (Secured Creditor), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The South Indian Bank Limited (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "as is where is" basis, "as is what is" and "whatever there is" condition on **03.02.2026** for recovery of an amount of **Rs. 4,33,27,044.86 (Rupees Four Crores Thirty Three Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand & Forty Four and Paise Eighty Six Only)** with regard to the credit facilities in the account M/s Sree Matha Enterprises as on 12.01.2026 with future interest, costs and expenses etc. thereon due to The South Indian Bank Limited, Branch Vijayawada (Secured Creditor), from the above mentioned Borrower/guarantor(s).

Name of Property Owner: **Kancharla Rushendra Mani**

Description of property: All that part and parcel of land admeasuring 258 Sq. yards along with Building thereon bearing No.64-1-18, Krishnaveni School Road along with all other constructions, improvements, easementary rights existing and appurtenant thereon situated in Re. Sy No. 68/13 (S No. 202) Patamata Village, Vijayawada Taluk, Krishna District and owned by Kancharla Rushendra Mani more fully described in Settlement Deed no 1650/1975 dated 20-05-1975 of Sub Registrar Office - Patamata Vijayawada and bounded on the North by Property of K. Rushendra Mani, South by Property of M Nageshwara Rao, East by Road and West by Property of Anne Subba Rao.

Nature of possession	Physical Possession
Reserve Price	**Rs.2,17,80,000/- (Rupees Two Crores Seventeen Lakhs Eighty Thousands Only)**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs.21,78,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Only)** EMD shall be deposited on or before **02.02.2026 by 04.00 PM**
Bid Increment amount	Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)
Date and time of auction	**03.02.2026 from 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon** (With 5 minute unlimited auto extensions till sale is concluded)
Encumbrances known to the Bank	Nil

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in web portal of South Indian Bank Ltd, (Secured Creditor) website i.e. www. southindianbank.com. Details also available at https://bankauctions.in. For any further clarification with regards to inspection of property, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of bids, kindly contact South Indian Bank Ltd on 08500223939/ 090002 97130

Date:13.01.2026
Place : Vijayawada

Authorised Officer
(Chief Manager)

UNION BANK OF INDIA
ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH

Door No. 26-15-150, Union Bank Building, Changalraopeta, Visakhapatnam 530001. Ph: 0891-2537782, E-mail: ubin0817295@unionbankofindia.bank.in

[RULE - 8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Visakhapatnam,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 a **demand notice dated 28.10.2021** issued by Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India, Maddilapalem Branch, on calling upon the **Borrowers/Guarantors: (1). M/s. Sri Sai Surya Enterprises, rep. by its proprietor Mr. Ambati Suryanarayana,** Shop No. 7 & 8, Beside Bhoolakamata Temple, New Venkojipalem, Visakhapatnam, AP-530022. **(2). Mr. Ambati Suryanarayana (Proprietor),** Flat No. 302, D.No.47-49-9, Pratap's Paradise, Santhipuram, Akkayapalem, Visakhapatnam, AP-530016 to repay the amounts mentioned in the notices being **Rs. 72,48,896.06 (Rupees Seventy Two Lakhs Fourty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred ninety Six and Six Paise Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower as well as the guarantors having failed to repay the full amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this day **12.01.2026.**

The Borrower/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Visakhapatnam** for the amounts **Rs.72,48,896.06 (Rupees Seventy Two Lakhs Fourty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred ninety Six and Six Paise Only)** + interest and other charges thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that Undivided and un specified land admeasuring 40.50 sq.yards out of total land admeasuring 7937.60 sq.yards along with the residential Flat No. 502 with plinth area of 1000.00 sq.ft (Incuding common areas) situated at 4th Floor, Block No.ll, "SKYLARK TOWERS" apartments building, Nearest Door no. 2-16-83, NALLAPADU Village within limits of SRO Nallapadu, Guntur Municipal Corporation, GUNTUR belongs to Mr. Ambati Suryanarayana, S/o. Sambasiva Rao alias Sambayya. **The Site is Bounded by: East:** Property of Chebrolu Gandhi Chowdary, **South:** Road, **West:** Property sold by Ch Ramaiah to others, **North:** Property belongs to son's of P. Venkataramiah. **The Flat is Bounded by: East:** Common Corridor, **South:** Open to sky, **West:** Open Space, **North:** Stair case & Open to sky.

(Note: The possession Notice dated 04.06.2022 is stands withdrawn)

Date : 12.01.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Guntur **Union Bank of India**

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

 # 31-31-21, Sri Narayana Bhavanam, Saibaba Street, Dabagardens, VISAKHAPATNAM-20

Between: **S.A.550/2024**

M/s. Sri Priyanka Raw & Boiled Rice Mill, reptd. by its Partner Sri Pidaparthi Bala Bhaskara Reddy and another …Applicants

And

The Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, ARM Branch,Circle office, Ring Road, Vijayawada-08 & 2 others …Respondents

NOTICE To,

R-3: M/s. Muktha Organics, 1st Floor, D.No.133-18-4146, Revenue Ward No.57, Guntur Inner Ring Road, Opp. to Sri Kanaka Durga Temple, Gorantla, Guntur, A.P-522034.

NOTICE/SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED

Whereas the applicants instituted an application for set-asiding the actions of the respondents 1 and 2 i.e 1) The Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, ARM Branch, Circle office, situated at D.No.54-15-4B, 2nd Floor,Lakshmi Avenue, Srinivasa Nagar Bank Colony, Ring Road, Vijayawada-520 008, (A.P) and 2) The Branch Manager, Canara Bank, Ongole-II Branch, Ongole, Prakasam District (A.P) you are shown as 3rd respondent. You are hereby summoned to appear and file your counter before this Tribunal at **10:30 A.M.**, or such time immediately thereafter according to the convenience of Tribunal on **28-01-2026** to answer the same.

You are directed to collect the annexure on your appearance before the Tribunal. If you intend to file any documents, you may file the same with a list along with the counter.

You should file your registered address and a memo of appearance when you enter appearance before the Tribunal either in person or by a Pleader/Advocate duly instructed to show cause as to why the relief sought for, should not be granted.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceedings will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this 2nd day of December, 2025.

Signature of the Officer
Authorized to issue Notice/Summons

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH

AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No.Tender Online – RWCCESNG-28 of 2025-26, Letter No.4358 /Dtd.31.12.2025

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work : **Roads**
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-28 of 2025-26	15.01.2026 2:00 PM	31.01.2026 5:00 PM	30.01.2026 5:00 PM	01.02.2026 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

- Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

O-1918: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH

AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No.Tender Online – RWCCESNG-29 of 2025-26, Letter No.4409 /Dtd.02.01.2026

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work : **Bridges**
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-29 of 2025-26	16.01.2026 11:00 AM	31.01.2026 5:00 PM	30.01.2026 5:00 PM	01.02.2026 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

- Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

O-1933: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.**

CLASSIFIEDS MART

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విజయవాడ – హైదరాబాద్ నేషనల్ హైవే ఫేసింగ్ తో నందిగామ సమీపంలో DTCP & 80% బ్యాంకు లోన్ తో ప్లాట్లు కలవు గజం: 7999/-
9030746514
7893674352

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నెల్లూరు, వెంకటాచలం, కృష్ణపట్నం పోర్ట్ రోడ్డు, నందు ఏదైనా పరిశ్రమను స్థాపించడానికి ఎంతో అనుకూలమైన 6 లైన్ల కార్గో రోడ్ (Cargo Road) ఫేసింగ్ కలిగిన 5.50 ఎకరాల భూమి అమ్మకానికి సిద్ధంగా ఉన్నది. ఈ ప్రాంతంలో అనేక పామాయిల్ పరిశ్రమలు, వేర్‌హౌస్‌లు (Ware Houses), ట్రాన్స్‌పోర్ట్ హబ్‌లు మరియు ఇతర పరిశ్రమలు ఉన్నాయి. జాతీయ రహదారి నెం. 5 మరియు నెల్లూరు నగరానికి చాలా సులభమైన రవాణా సౌకర్యం కలదు.
CONTACT
9848871289

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- PROVISION OF 100 kV TRANSFORMER
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- LAVISH PARKING AREA
- HIGH FOOTFALL, WIDE ROAD FRONTAGE

EXCELLENT FOR CLOTHING STORES & RETAIL SHOWROOMS



PROPERTY DETAILS
CONTACT: 8519982908

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my clients intend to purchase an extent of Acre 0.42 cents of agricultural land in R.S No's. No.110/13C and R.S No. 110/13D situated at Tallapalem village, Tallapalem Gram Panchayat, Machilipatnam Mandal, Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh, as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Vendor	R. Sy. Nos.	Extent
1	Sri. Posina Venkateswarlu	110/ 13C	0.14 cents
2	Mrs. Posina Sivaparvathi	110/ 13D	0.28 cents

It is therefore notified that any person or persons having claim against or in respect of the Said Property or part thereof by way of sale, mortgage, exchange, charge, lease, sub lease, tenancy, lien, inheritance, gift, family arrangement, trust, bequest, maintenance, possession, easement, license, joint venture, development rights, pledge, loans, advances, guarantees, attachment or any rights under an order or decree passed by any Court of law or revenue or statutory authority or any other right or interest whatsoever and howsoever and/or are in possession of the original title deeds for whatsoever reason hereby are required to make the same known in writing to us at our below mentioned office address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice hereof along with the copies of all the documents on the basis of which such claims are made, or else the said sale will be completed, without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived and abandoned for all intents and purposes and shall not be binding. No claims shall be entertained after 30.01.2026.

SIRIVISETTY NAGADHARANATH
ADVOCATE
Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

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THE HINDU
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BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

Sub: Providing Electrical Infrastructure to the Regularized IP sets who have paid Rs.10,000/- & Other Deposits and anticipated 20% of IP consumer who have paid only Rs.50/- prior to 22-09-2023 will be paying Rs.10,000/- & Other Deposits in FY 25-26 (As per BESCOM SR 2023-24) on Partial Turnkey basis (25 KVA Distribution Transformer will be supplied by BESCOM) under item wise fixed rate contract on percentage quoting basis.

Sl. No.	INDENT No.	Name of the Sub Division/Section	Category	Approx Amount Put to Tender(Rs)
1	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN782	Tumkur CSD-1	Others	₹3223358/-
2	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN783	Tumkur CSD-2	ST	₹4829215/-
3	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN784	Huliyurdurga	Others	₹6676743/-
4	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN785	Kunigal	Others	₹17515228/-
5	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN786	Davanagere Rural S/D Unit 1	CAT-II(A)	₹1971617/-
6	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN787	Davanagere Rural S/D Unit 2	Others	₹7309914/-
7	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN788	Davanagere Rural S/D Elebethur section	Others	₹9688795/-
8	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN789	Davanagere Rural S/D Kukkawada section	SC	₹9350566/-
9	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN790	Jagalur S/D Jagaluru unit 1	SC	₹9962800/-
10	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN791	Jagalur S/D Jagaluru unit 2	Others	₹9826630/-
11	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN792	Jagalur S/D Bilichodu Section	CAT-II(A)	₹9618836/-
12	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN793	Jagalur S/D Pallagatte	CAT-II(A)	₹9215466-
13	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN794	Davanagere div, Sokke Section	Others	₹7985656/-
14	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN795	Santhe bannur S/D Santhebenur Section	Others	₹19959388/-
15	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN797	Santhe bannur S/D Basavapatna Section	Others	₹9922851/-
16	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN799	Santhe bannur S/D Tyavanagi Section	Others	₹3845697/-
17	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN800	Santhe bannur S/D Devarahalli Section	Others	₹9930770/-
18	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_ INDEN801	Santhe bannur S/D Kerebilachi Section	SC	₹4759181/-

Time Schedule: (1) Availability of Bid documents : 1**9-01-2026 @ 17:00 Hrs** onwards. (2) Pre-Bid meeting : **28-01-2026 @ 11:00 Hrs.**(3) Last date for submission of Queries: **31-01-2026** before **17:00 Hrs.**(4) Last date for bid submission : **05-02-2026** @ **17:00** Hrs. (5) Opening of Technical Bids : **07-02-2026** @ **11:00** Hrs. (6) Pre-Bid meeting Venue: Office of Chief Engineer(Ele), O & M Zone, BESCOM, Turuvanur Road, Opp RTO Office, Chitradurga.

The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the KPP portal from the website **https://kpppusers@karnataka.gov.in** E-procurement Help Desk: Phone No: +91-8046010000, +91-8022631200 E-mail: support@ihelpdsk.com

Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on KPP portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the e-procurement during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Ele).,
O & M Zone, BESCOM
CHITRADURGA.

For electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

(MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
Ground & 1st Floor, 31-31-21, Sai Baba Street, Narayan Bhawan, Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam-530020

FORM No. I.T.C.P 17

(See rule 53 of the Second Schedule to the Income-tax Act, 1961)

NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION

R.P. No. 9 of 2024 in OA No. 463 of 2020

UCO Bank, Main Branch Arundelpet, Guntur District.
Versus
M/s ANR Cotton Traders & others

(CD-1) M/s ANR Cotton Traders, Rep. by its Managing Director Sri. Alapati Gopala Krishna, S/o Sri. Nageswara Rao and its Partner Sri. Alapati Ravi Kumar, S/o Sri. Nageswara Rao, both are R/o Door No. 2-1-64, Stambalagaruvu Village, Near Ramalayam, Guntur District-522002.
(CD-2) Sri. Alapati Gopala Krisna, S/o Sri. Nageswara Rao, Door No. 2-1-64, Stambalagaruvu Village, Near Ramalayam, Guntur District-522002.
(CD-3) Sri. Alapati Ravi Kumar, S/o Sri. Nageswara Rao, Door No. 2-1-64, Stambalagaruvu Village, Near Ramalayam, Guntur District-522002.
(CD-4) Sri. Manchikalapudi Srinivasa Rao, S/o Sri. Narasimha Rao, Flat No. GF-2, Sai Prakash Apartment, 1st Lane, Vidhya Nagar, Guntur District-522007.
(CD-5) Smt. Alapati Mohini Devi, W/o Sri. Alapati Gopala Krisna, Door No. 2-1-64, Stambalagaruvu Village, Near Ramalayam, Guntur District-522002.

Whereas in execution of Recovery Certificate dated **09.01.2024 in O.A No. 463/2020** for **Rs. 18,42,41,346/- (Rupees Eighteen Crore Forty Two lakhs Forty One thousand three hundred and forty six)** along with pendentailite and future interest **@ 10.60% p.a.** compounded with monthly rests from **18.08.2020** till realization/ date of payment and the cost become due against you forwarded by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Visakhapatnam, the undersigned has ordered the sale of the under mentioned immovable properties.

You, the Certificate Debtors/ Defendants above named, are hereby informed that on or after fifteenth day from the date of service of this notice has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said properties or any portion thereof.

It is ordered that you, the said Certificate Debtors, are hereby prohibited and restrained until further order of the undersigned, from transferring or charging the under mentioned properties in any way and that all persons be, and that they are hereby prohibited from taking any benefit under such transfer or charge.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTIS

Item No. I: (Property belongs to CDRs-2&3 i.e. **Sri. Alapati Gopala Krisna and Sri. Alapati Ravi Kumar,** covered by Registered Will (Shown as Item No. 4 in this Will) Document No. 65/2002 in Book No. III dated 21.09.2002)
Guntur District, Nallapadu Sub-Dist., Guntur Municipal Corporation area, Stambalagaruvu, Nallapadu Village, D.No.235/A, in which an extent of 426 Sq. Yds of site in which constructed an RCC Daba Building bearing Dr. No.2-1-64 with Assessment No. 967/1, 967/2 and 968 is being **bounded by: East:** Property belongs to Alapati Venkateswarlu and others, **West:** Property belongs to Kalari Veera Raghavaiah, **North:** Municipal Bazaar, **South:** Municipal Road.

Item No. II: (Property belongs to CDR-4 i.e. **Sri. Manchikalapudi Srinivasa Rao,** covered by Registered Sale Deed bearing Document No. 8079/2009 dated 22.12.2009 registered at SRO-Guntur).
Guntur District, Guntur Sub-District, New Guntur Municipal Corporation Limits, Guntur Village, D No. 579, in an extent of Ac. 9.16 Cents of land in which an extent of Ac. 2.29 Cents of land in which an extent of Ac. 0.42 Cents of land out of which an extent of 1524 Sq. Yds or 1274.26 Sq.mtrs of site Nearest Dr. No. 15-15-79 is being **bounded by: East:** Property belongs to Manchikalapudi Srinivasa Rao, **West:** Property belongs to Kurra Koti Rathamma and others, **North:** Property belongs to Athota Seetha Ramaiah, **South:** Property belongs to Manchikalapudi Srinivasa Rao.

Item No. III: (Property belongs to CDR-2 i.e **Sri. Alapati Gopala Krisna,** covered by Registered Sale Deed bearing Document No. 8080/2009 dated 22.12.2009 registered at SRO-Guntur)
Guntur District, Guntur Sub-District, New Guntur Municipal Corporation Limits, Guntur Village, D. No. 579, in un extent of Ac. 9.16 Cents of land in which an extent of Ac. 2.29 Cents of land in which an extent of Ac. 0.42 Cents of land out of which an extent of 504 Sq.yds or 421.40 Sq.mtrs of site is being **bounded by: East:** Property belongs to Manchikalapudi Srinivasa Rao, **West:** Property belongs to Gudi Veera Swami Naidu, **North:** 30 feet wide road and property belongs to other, **South:** Property belongs to Manchikalapudi Srinivasa Rao.

Item No. IV: (Property belongs to CDR-5 i.e **Smt. Alapati Mohini Devi,** covered by Registered Gift Settlement Deed bearing Document No. 1471/2003 dated 29.03.2003 registered at SRO-Nallapadu)
Guntur District, Nallapadu Sub-District, Guntur Municipal Corporation area, Pedapalakaluru Grama Panchayati area, Pedapalakaluru Village, D. No. 371/C, an extent of Ac. 1.33 Cents of land, D No. 367/B3, an extent of Ac. 2.25 Cents of land, totaling to an extent of Ac. 3.58 Cents of land in which an extent of Ac. 1.79 Cents or 0.72495 Hectares of land is being **bounded by: East:** 90 Links wide Circar Donka, **West:** Property belongs to Mannava Bharatamma and others, **North:** Property belongs to Alapati Lakshmi Samyuktha, **South:** Turakapalem Roadway Donka.

(Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal, Visakhapatnam on the day 2nd January, 2026).

(Avasarala Anil)
Recovery Officer-1
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Visakhapatnam.

Government of Andhra Pradesh
Swachha Bharat Mission (Urban)
MA&UD Department
Swachha Andhra Corporation
e-procurement Tender Notice

Sl.No.	NIT No.	Name of work
1.	NIT. No.71,72,73 & 74 /SAC/SBM (U)/ CE/SWM/2025-26, Dt.13.01.2026	Legacy Waste Land Reclamation through Bio-Remediation and Bio Mining in Kurnool, Nellore, Hindupur & Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh.

The above bid can be downloaded on "**ap e-procurement**" portal from **17.01.2026 04:30 PM** and due date submission of Bid is on **21.01.2026 upto 05:00 PM**. Bid opening on at **21.01.2026 05.30 PM**. Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** for details.

2.	NIT. No.75 /SAC/ SBM (U)/CE/ PSRU/2025-26, Dt.13.01.2026	Request for proposal (RFP) For the Establishment of Technical Support Units (TSUs) at the 46 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the state for monitoring and improving the performance of ULBs and for monitoring SBM (Urban) 2.0 projects & Swachh Survekshan

The above bid can be downloaded on "**https://www.sac.ap.gov.in/**" portal from **14.01.2026 04:30 PM** and due date submission of Bid is on **27.01.2026 upto 5.00 PM**. Bid opening on at **27.01.2026 05:30 PM**. Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** for details.

Sd/- Managing Director, SAC, Vijayawada

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Office: Stores & Purchases Dept., K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.

No: BMTC/CO/COSP/TENDER/13/2025-26 Date: 13.01.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

BMTC Invites Tender for Procurement of the following Goods & Services through KPP Portal:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Last date for bid submission in KPP Portal
		Short-Term Tender	
1	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0249	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and maintenance of motion based light motor vehicle simulator.	24-01-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.
2	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0250	Procurement of Tyres, Tubes & Flap Sets, Tubeless Radial Tyres & Extra Tubes & Flaps.	24-01-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.
		Regular Tender	
3	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0251	Procurement of General Items like Car Washing Hose pipe, Aluminium door handle, Door lock LH & RH etc.	02-02-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
4	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0252	Procurement of Aluminium Pop Rivets.	02-02-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
5	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0253	Procurement of Industrial Gases.	02-02-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
6	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0254	Procurement of Fan Belts.	02-02-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
7	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0255	Procurement of FIP Spares.	20-02-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
8	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0256	Procurement of Curing Envelopes.	03-02-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
9	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0257	Procurement of Photocopier Paper A4 size 80GSM.	03-02-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
10	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0258	Procurement of LED Roof Lamp Assembly.	03-02-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
11	BMTC/2025-26/ IND0259	Procurement of Auto Electrical items.	20-02-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.

The above mentioned tender details can be obtained from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further any addendum/corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, other tender terms and conditions etc. will be uploaded/published through kpp portal only.

Note: Interested Bidders need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information visit BMTC Central Office or log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES AND PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO STATE INFORMATION COMMISSIONERS OF TAMIL NADU INFORMATION COMMISSION

Applications are invited for the posts of Two State Information Commissioners in the Tamil Nadu Information Commission. Interested persons may send their application in the prescribed form along with the relevant documents by Speed Post / Registered Post and also by e-Mail so as to reach the following address on or before **5.00 PM on 27.01.2026**

Justice K.B.K.Vasuki (Retd.),
Chairperson, Search Committee,
Second Floor, Catholic Center, No.108, Armenian Street, Parry's – Chennai 600 001.
E-mail ID: chairperson2026@gmail.com

Application form and other details can be downloaded from **www.tn.gov.in/job_opportunity.php.**

DIPR/48/DISPLAY/2026

Chairperson,
Search Committee.

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RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru – 560080

Advt. No. 01/2026 dt. 09.01.2026

The Raman Research Institute, funded by the Government of India, is a premier institute engaged in research in basic sciences. More information about the Institute, the fields of research and other details can be viewed at its website **https://www.rri.res.in.**

The Institute is inviting applications for various faculty positions in Pay Level 12, 13 and 13A.

For more details, please visit -
https://www.rri.res.in/opportunities/research-faculty-positions

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LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Geeta Samajam was the original name of which Tamil publishing house closely associated with Kaviarasu Kannadasan's works?
2. Which satirical science-fiction novel by Douglas Adams opens with the destruction of Earth to make way for a hyperspace bypass?
3. The opening line, 'All children, except one, grow up,' introduces which children's classic by J. M. Barrie?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit https://newsth.live/LFLQUIZ to take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Salman Rushdie | 2. The Famous Five
3. The War of the Worlds

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Mithun Singh, Faridabad | 2. Salma Shaji, Trivandrum
3.Renijoe.A, Coimbatore

KALYANA KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Stores & Purchase Department, Central Offices,
Sarige Sadana, Main Road, Kalaburagi-585 102.
Mobile No. 77606 86172 (COSP), 77609 92029 (S.O)

No. KKRTC/CO/COSP/ 11 /2025-26. Dated:13 .01.2026

TENDER INVITING NOTICE (THROUGH KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

Tenders through kpp portal (pre-qualification & commercial) are invited for supply of following items.

Sl. No.	Tender No. & Date	Tender Nomenclature	Estimate Value (Rs.)	Last date for submission of tender
1	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0119/ CALL-6 Dtd:13.01.2026	Procurement of Fuel Injection pipes	0.41 Crores	28.01.2026 at 15.00 hrs
2	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0125/ CALL-5 Dtd:13.01.2026	Procurement of Oil Seals	0.90 Crores	28.01.2026 at 15.00 hrs
3	KKRTC/2025-26/IND0150/ CALL-4 Dtd:13.01.2026	Procurement of Chassis Spares	0.42 Crores	28.01.2026 at 15.00 hrs
4	KKRTC/2025-26/IND0166/ CALL-3 Dtd:13.01.2026	Procurement of Steering Components	1.72 Crores	28.01.2026 at 15.00 hrs
5	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0126/ CALL-3 Dtd:13.01.2026	Procurement of Wiper Motors, Arms & Blades	1.75 Crores	28.01.2026 at 15.00 hrs
6	KKRTC/2025-26/IND0176/ CALL-2 Dtd:13.01.2026	Procurement of Fan belts	0.38 Crores	28.01.2026 at 15.00 hrs
7	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0101/ CALL-4 Dtd:13.01.2026	Procurement of Piston Assembly and ring sets	0.89 Crores	28.01.2026 at 15.00 hrs
8	KKRTC/2025-26/SE6262/ CALL-2 Dtd:05.01.2026	Selection of vender for supply and Maintenance of CCTV cameras in existing buses of KKRTC on monthly rental basis	1.32 Crores	07.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs
9	KKRTC/2025-26/SE6363/ CALL-3 Dtd:05.01.2026	Selection of vender for deployment and Maintenance of AIS-140 compliant Vehicle Location Tracking(VLT) device with Emergency Button(s) on rental basis	4.20 Crores	07.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs
10	KKRTC/2024-25/IND0093/ CALL-3 Dtd:07.01.2026	Procurement of SMF Battery for UPS	0.79 Crores	12.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs

All the details of Tender, Registration, Tender form documents etc. are available at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ mail to cospnekrtc@gmail.com or support@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. Further, any addendum /corrigendum related to changes in terms and conditions of tender, specification and calendar of events etc. will be uploaded only through KPP portal.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/965/KSMC&A/2025-26

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Eligible deserving candidates are required to submit the application in prescribed proforma available on MITS-DU website along with required processing fee and testimonials on or before **04:00 p.m. on 31.03.2026** to the office of the **Vice Chancellor, MITS-DU Gwalior**. Please visit the MITS-DU website **www.mitsgwalior.in** for application proforma and detailed information.

(Dr. R. K. Pandit)
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From Page One

38 houses of Konda Reddi tribe gutted

He described the incident as a "deeply tragic event" and directed authorities to provide comprehensive assistance to all the affected families.

Minister for Home V. Anita and other officials briefed the Chief Minister on the relief work under way. Each affected family would receive immediate financial aid of ₹25,000 starting Tuesday, they said.

Mr. Naidu directed that new houses be sanctioned for every family that lost its home and that until the construction is completed, the victims should be provided with temporary accommodation, food, and all necessary support. Special camps should be held to provide them important documents like Aadhaar cards, destroyed in the fire. District-level officials and Ministers must closely monitor the relief operations to ensure timely assistance, the Chief Minister said.

Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy termed the incident "extremely distressing" and urged the government to provide immediate shelter and food for the victims. He demanded an ex-gratia payment of ₹1 lakh to each affected family and sanction of new houses. Until permanent homes are constructed, the victims should receive all necessary assistance, including temporary housing, he said.

Kakinada MP (Rajya Sabha) Sana Sateesh and Prathipadu MLA Varupula Satyaprabha visited the village, which shares border with Anakapalli district.

INBRIEF

A.P. Red Cross signs MoU to strengthen Thalassemia care

The A.P. Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has signed an MoU with Bengaluru-based NGO, Sankalp India Foundation, on Tuesday to strengthen healthcare services for children suffering from Thalassemia and sickle cell disease. The MoU was signed between foundation president Rajath Agarwal and A.P. Red Cross general secretary A.K. Parida, in the presence of A.P. Red Cross chairman Y.D. Rama Rao. The MoU aims to establish a network of Thalassemia and sickle cell daycare centres in the State. The initiative focuses on improving hemoglobinopathy care, enhancing early detection and prevention, and supporting long-term treatment and cure efforts, particularly for children from economically weaker sections.

Sharmila slams govt. for delay in Maha Shakti scheme

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Y.S. Sharmila on Tuesday criticised the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh for what she called a 'failure' to implement the Maha Shakti (Aadabidda Nidhi) scheme even after nearly two years in power. In a message posted on social media platform 'X', Ms. Sharmila alleged a complete lack of sincerity on the part of the government towards women's empowerment. She accused it of delaying the scheme by giving vague assurances tied to festivals such as Deepavali and Sankranti. "Aadabidda Nidhi is among the important 'Super Six' guarantees, aimed at providing ₹18,000 per year to women aged 18 to 59," she said, adding that assurances of boosting income levels of women had not translated into action.

Naidu inaugurates slew of projects as Sankranti fest begins in hometown

CM participates in ground-breaking ceremony of ₹126.06-crore water project, inaugurates road laid with ₹77 lakh and a skill development centre constructed at a cost of ₹1.4 crore

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu had a busy schedule at his ancestral village of Naravaripalle near Tirupati on Tuesday.

Though the Nara family came to their native village to celebrate Sankranti, Tuesday, however, saw the Chief Minister taking part in a slew of inaugurations of new projects and facilities.

Mr. Naidu took part in the Sankranti festivities too, along with his wife Nara Bhuvaneswari, his son and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh and daughter-in-law Nara Brahmani among others.

After declaring the food basket programme open, Mr. Naidu launched millet tiffins and inspected the stalls selling snacks made of cereals grown through natural farming methods.

The family members interacted with the villagers and conveyed Sankranti greetings to the general public. They watched the 'Rangolis' painted all over the village and appreciated the womenfolk.



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, his wife N. Bhuvaneswari, son and HRD Minister N. Lokesh and daughter-in-law N. Brahmani during the Sankranti celebrations at Naravaripalle on Tuesday.

Mr. Naidu's grandson and Mr. Lokesh's son Nara Devansh joined the children from the neighbourhood and participated in the sports and games events, including sack race, lemon and spoon, musical chairs.

Later, the Chief Minister distributed prizes to the winners of the competitions organised as part of the Sankranti celebrations.

Mr. Naidu participated in the ground-breaking ceremony of a ₹126.06 crore project that envisages bringing water from the Handri-Neeva branch canal to Kalyani dam and filling of Mulapalle, Kantimadugu, Venkatrayuni Cheruvu and Nagapatla tanks.

Mr. Naidu also inaugurated a road laid at a cost of ₹77 lakh, connecting Seshachala Lingeswara Swamy temple with A. Rangampeta-Bhimavaram main road.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated a skill development centre built at a cost of ₹1.4 crore, a 33/11 kv semi-indoor substation worth ₹4.27 crore, the Community Health Centre at Naravaripalle, which has been upgraded from 30 beds to 50 beds, amenities complex built for patient attendants at SVR Ruia Government General Hospital at a cost of ₹45 lakh. He announced to extend the Sanjeevani project, a public health initiative, to Chittoor district.

MLAs Pulivarthi Nani (Chandragiri), Arani Srinivasulu (Tirupati), Kalikiri Muralimohan (Puthalapattu), TUDA Chairman C. Divakar Reddy, and Collector S. Venkateswar were among those present during the programmes. Mr. Naidu extended 'Bhogi' greetings to the public.

Union govt. releases ₹567.4 crore to A.P. for healthcare sector

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA



The funds are part of ₹2,600 cr. allocated by 15th Finance Commission, says Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav.

The Union government released the fifth and final instalment of ₹567.4 crore to Andhra Pradesh for the current financial year, Minister for Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare Satya Kumar Yadav has said.

According to an official release on Tuesday, the funds are part of the ₹2,600-crore grant allocated by the 15th Finance Commission for the development of the healthcare sector in the State.

Out of ₹567.40 crore, ₹233.45 crore has been allocated for the construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres. An amount of ₹218.11 crore is set aside for strengthening diagnostic infrastructure at PHCs and ₹55.89 crore has been allocated for establishing Health and Wellness Centres in rural areas and ₹52.71 crore for providing the same services in urban areas.

During a meeting, the Minister reviewed funds allocated to Health Department for this fiscal year and the expenditure incurred during the first three quarters from April to December, 2025.

The officials informed the Minister that until Monday, excluding the latest instalment that came later in the evening, ₹2,033 crore was released under the 15th Finance Commission, of which ₹1,896 crore had been expended.

Of the total funds released, ₹1,108 crore (43%) was received during the 19-month tenure of the NDA government, while only 57% was received during the previous government's tenure, according to the release.

Of the total expenditure of ₹1,896 crore so far, ₹902 crore (48%) was made during the NDA government's tenure.

The Minister noted that the department identified the lapses that resulted in a delay in securing the total amount of funds allocated to the State under the 15th Finance Commission.

The remaining funds were released on Monday after the Union government was satisfied with the proper utilisation of funds by the NDA government, the Minister said.

YSRCP seeks White Paper on funds spent on irrigation in Seema

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The YSRCP on Tuesday demanded that the government release a White Paper detailing the funds spent on irrigation projects in Rayalaseema region, alleging that claims of massive expenditure were far from facts.

YSRCP spokesperson S.V. Satish Kumar Reddy questioned Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu's assertion that ₹8,000 crore had been spent on Rayalaseema projects. He said the government must come clean by publishing a White Paper, outlining project-wise expenditure and physical progress in the region.

Referring to the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme (RLIS), he said the project was designed to supply water to the drought-prone region by drawing water from Srisailam at a lower level.

Mr. Satish Kumar Reddy demanded that the government take an all-party delegation to Rayalaseema and showcase the development works corresponding to the claimed ₹8,000 crore expenditure by January 19.

State to scale up energy efficiency measures in government departments

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand has emphasised that energy efficiency and conservation must be the core priority of governance, highlighting their role in reducing power demand, cutting public expenditure, and advancing the State's sustainability goals.

Mr. Vijayanand chaired the 15th Executive Committee and 4th State Level Steering Committee meeting of the Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Mission (APSECM) virtually from the Secretariat on Tuesday.



Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand emphasises the importance of strengthening energy auditing for industries. FILE PHOTO

The meeting was attended by senior officials from APGENCO, APTRANSCO, APEPDCL, APCPDCL, NREDCAP, Transport, Urban and Rural Development, Industries, Technical Education departments, and other allied agencies.

During the meeting, the officials reviewed ongoing initiatives including Demand Side Management programmes, Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme, Standards & Labelling activities, and market surveillance.

Referring to the Super ECBC building in Sagar Nagar of Visakhapatnam, the Chief Secretary noted that such projects serve as models for energy-efficient construction and called for stronger ECBC enforcement across Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). Highlighting public awareness, Mr. Vijayanand directed the APSECM to expand Energy Clubs in schools and educational institutions and recommended the establishment of Energy Conservation Cells in all government departments and autonomous bodies.

He emphasised the importance of strengthening energy auditing for industries, MSMEs, and municipalities, as well as implementing efficiency measures in government hospitals, water pumping stations, and public buildings.

Kolleru comes alive as winged wonders descend

The wildlife sanctuary recorded a total of 96,195 birds belonging to 116 species during the first week of January, reaffirming its status of the wetland as one of most important wintering grounds in South India, says DFO

G.V.R. Subba Rao
KOLLERU (ELURU DISTRICT)

Since the first days of January unfolded, Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary has transformed into a living and breathing tapestry of wings, calls, and silent glides.

As the winter sun rose gently over the vast wetland, revealing a sanctuary alive with movement, the seasonal reunion of resident birds and long-distance travellers who had crossed continents to find refuge in its waters became more vivid.

As dawn broke over the lake, small flocks of Ashy Prinia (*Prinia socialis*) darted through reed beds, their quiet presence contrasting sharply with the overwhelming dominance of the wetlands' signature



Migratory birds flock to Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary in Eluru district this winter season. K.V.S. GIRI

species, the Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*).

With a recorded population of 1,004 birds, the openbills formed dense feeding congregations, turning mudflats into scenes of relentless activity.

Ducks dominated open water expanses. Mixed flocks of Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*), Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*), and other Anatidae species collectively ran into several thousands, rising in synchronised waves whenever disturbed, a living demonstration of wetland harmony.

The wetland's ecological depth is reflected not only in abundance but also in rarity. Just three birds of Baillon's Crake (*Zapornia pusilla*) were sighted, a reminder that Kolleru also shelters species that thrive away from attention.

Nearby, Black Ibis (*Pseudibis papillosa*) moved deliberately through shallow waters, while elegant Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) added iridescence to the winter palette.

Kolleru came alive with Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*), counted at an impressive 699, their constant motion mirroring the dynamic pulse of the sanctuary. Ground-level drama unfolded as Yellow-wattled Lapwings (*Vanellus malabaricus*) defended territories with sharp alarm calls.

Migratory shorebirds made their seasonal claim on the lake's fringes. Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa lapponica*) probed the mud with tireless precision, accompanied by Wood Sandpipers (*Tringa glareola*) and Common Sandpipers (*Actitis hypoleucos*), reinforcing Kolleru's role along the Central Asian Flyway.

Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial) B. Vijaya Suneetha told *The Hindu* that Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary recorded a total of 96,195 birds belonging to 116 species during the first week of January, reaffirming its status as one of South India's most important wintering grounds.

The migratory birds will continue to flock at the sanctuary till Maha Sivaratri festival. As the temperatures will start rising thereafter, the migratory birds would fly back to their native places, she said.

QR-based footwear management system introduced at Tirumala

G.P. Shukla
TIRUMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has introduced a QR code-based, state-of-the-art footwear management system, promising lasting relief to one of the most persistent inconveniences faced by pilgrims.

TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary on Tuesday inaugurated the newly installed QR-enabled footwear counter at the Tarigonda Vengamamba Anna Prasadam Complex.

Addressing the media, Mr. Chowdary said the initiative offers a permanent solution to the chaotic handling of footwear at the hill shrine.

Modelled on airport-style luggage counters, the system was first introduced as a pilot project at Vaikuntham Queue Complex-2. Its success prompted the TTD to expand the facility, with eight such counters now operational in Tirumala.



TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary inspecting a newly introduced footwear management facility at Tirumala on Tuesday.

Devotees depositing their footwear receive a QR-coded slip containing comprehensive details such as the number of pairs, size, rack number, box number and exact storage location. Scanning the slip instantly displays the precise location, enabling staff to retrieve the footwear swiftly and accurately.

The impact has been transformative, with nearly 99% of devotees now reclaiming their footwear, in sharp contrast to earlier times when unorganised heaps led to 70% to 80% being abandoned.

The project is being implemented by Coromandel International Limited as part of its CSR initiative. Mr. Chowdary urged devotees to use the designated counters.

Coromandel International Limited senior vice-president K. Satyanarayana and TTD officials were present.

INBRIEF



All set for Makaravilakku festival at Sabarimala

With just hours to go for the Makaravilakku festival at Sabarimala, the hill temple and its surroundings are fully geared up to receive the surge of pilgrims. According to K. Jayakumar, Travancore Devaswom Board president, nearly one lakh pilgrims are currently camping at the Sannidhanam and nearby areas, even as devotees continue to arrive via the Erumely forest route. The police have been placed on high alert to manage the heavy rush.

BJP supports move to officially rename Kerala as 'Keralam'

The BJP State unit has extended its support for the move to officially change the name of the State from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam.' In a recent statement, BJP State president Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the party would fully support all the steps taken by the State government to officially maintain and protect the name and identity of 'Keralam,' which is closely associated with the Malayalam language heritage of the State.

Rahul sent to police custody for three days in rape case

The Judicial First Class Magistrate Court in Thiruvalla on Tuesday granted the Crime Branch three days' police custody of Palakkad MLA Rahul Mamkootathil, who is currently in judicial remand following his arrest on rape charges on Sunday. Officials said the custody period was from 12.45 p.m. on Tuesday to 5 p.m. on Thursday. The police escorted Mr. Mamkootathil to the court from the sub-jail at Mavelikara under heavy police escort amid raucous street protests.

CPI(M) veteran joins Cong. ahead of elections in Kerala

Aisha Potty's defection has sparked speculations about a potential high-stakes electoral battle in Kottarakara, a constituency which she represented till 2021, in the Assembly elections

The Hindu Bureau
KOLLAM



Former MLA P. Aisha Potty joined the Congress on Tuesday citing a profound sense of neglect by the CPI(M). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

P. Aisha Potty, a three-term former MLA and one of CPI(M)'s well-recognised woman leaders, officially joined the Congress on Tuesday, bringing the curtains on a three-decade-long association with the Left party.

The defection has sparked speculations about a potential high-stakes electoral battle in Kottarakara, which Ms. Potty represented till 2021, in the upcoming Assembly elections. Addressing the presspersons after her induction by senior Congress leaders, the 67-year-old leader offered a poised justification for her exit. Ms. Potty said she had distanced herself from CPI(M) activities since March 2023, citing a profound sense of neglect.

"If you feel you are no longer needed in a place, it is time to say goodbye," she stated, adding that she holds no malice towards party workers or the majority of the leadership, but there is no going back.

Ms. Potty earned the title of 'giant killer' in 2006 when she unseated the Kerala Congress leader R. Balakrishna Pillai, ending his dominance.

Cong. keeps cards close to chest on talks with KC(M)

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress appeared to maintain an enigmatic position on Tuesday on whether it had opened talks with the Kerala Congress (M), an LDF ally, about a possible defection to the UDF in the Assembly election year in Kerala. Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said that the "UDF is poised to expand its base stunningly".

Police book 73, including news channels, for online harassment of Telugu film actor

Lavpreet Kaur
HYDERABAD

Seventy-three accused, including individuals, social media handles and news channels, have been booked by the Cyber Crimes wing of the Cyberabad police on Monday for online abuse, sexual harassment, criminal intimidation and defamation of Telugu film actor Anasuya Bharadwaj.

In her complaint dated January 12, the actor stated that the sequence of events began on December 22, 2025, when Telugu actor Sivaji made derogatory remarks at a public event about women's clothing. On December 23, pressperson approached her for her reaction where she expressed her view in favour of individual freedom.

The situation escalated the next day after actor Sivaji named her at a press meet while discussing her views.

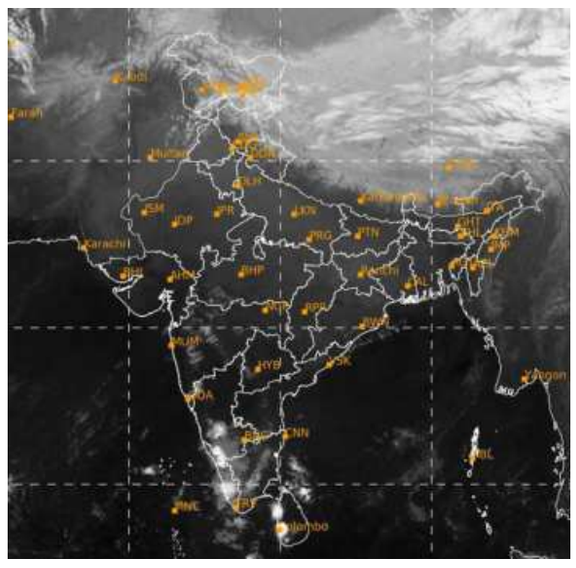
She alleged that several media outlets and content creators then amplified the issue by deliberately targeting her.

She said the online abuse later escalated into direct threats against her and her family. The complaint includes 73 specific URLs aired and numerous social media handles accused of posting profanities and sexually harassing content.

The Telangana Police have constituted a Special Investigation Team to probe cases relating to the circulation and telecast of defamatory, obscene and sexually coloured content against a serving woman IAS officer, following complaints of character assassination, violation of privacy and online harassment.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi. Dense fog likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.8	13.0	Kozhikode	—	33.0	24.3
Ahmedabad	—	30.0	16.0	Kurnool	—	33.0	21.4
Aizawl	—	26.1	13.9	Lucknow	—	21.7	5.6
Allahabad	—	23.0	6.4	Madurai	8	28.4	21.5
Bengaluru	—	28.5	18.1	Mangaluru	—	32.6	24.4
Bhopal	—	27.0	10.2	Mumbai	—	32.3	20.0
Bhubaneswar	—	28.5	12.4	Mysuru	—	29.0	18.0
Chandigarh	—	15.2	2.8	New Delhi	—	21.6	3.0
Chennai	—	31.4	23.8	Patna	—	21.7	10.9
Coimbatore	—	27.0	20.2	Port Blair	—	29.4	21.1
Dehradun	—	19.8	6.5	Puducherry	0.6	29.4	22.9
Gangtok	—	18.2	8.1	Pune	—	33.0	19.4
Goa	—	33.9	20.2	Raipur	—	28.3	14.3
Guwahati	—	27.0	11.7	Ranchi	—	21.4	7.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	17.0	Shillong	—	18.4	7.4
Hyderabad	—	30.3	20.6	Shimla	—	17.0	5.0
Imphal	—	24.3	11.5	Srinagar	—	13.2	-4.9
Jaipur	—	23.4	10.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.9	23.8
Kochi	—	31.4	25.6	Tiruchi	0.6	27.3	21.0
Kohima	—	16.8	6.0	Vijayawada	—	30.7	21.4
Kolkata	—	24.7	14.2	Visakhapatnam	—	29.1	20.7

(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	.83	..98	.59	...161	...167	
Bengaluru	...5	..19	.37	...133	...146	
Chennai	.22	5	.12	...111	87	
Delhi	.27	..57	.82	...436	...408	
Hyderabad	.10	..43	108	64	70	
Kolkata	...7	102	.56	...151	...128	
Lucknow	...9	..46	.90	...186	...317	
Mumbai	...7	..77	.15	...199	...197	
Pune	..—	..50	.77	...220	...177	
Visakhapatnam	...8	..66	.22	71	...119	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 384 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 9

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

Respond to petition on Dharmasthala deaths: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday sought the State government's response on a PIL petition, which has sought a direction to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for registering separate First Information Reports (FIRs) based on claims by the petitioner on the unnatural death of 74 unknown persons in Dharmasthala village between 1990 and 2021.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the order on the petition by the mother of a 17-year-old, who was raped and murdered near Dharmasthala in 2012.

It has been stated in the petition that the girl's mother on October 11, 2025, submitted a representation to the SIT, which was constituted by the State government in July 2025 for probing the alleged complaints of mass burials, indicating that no proper procedure was followed in at least 74 instances of unnatural death reports registered in Dharmasthala between 1990 and 2021.

Fresh probe sought

In her representation to the SIT, the petitioner had claimed that bodies in these 74 instances were buried within 24 hours of the death indicating that no procedure as per the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C) and the Karnataka (Investigation of Unnatural Deaths and Conduct Inquests), Rules, 2004, was followed, and hence require a fresh investigation.

'Century-old treasure' found in Gadag

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI



Gold ornaments and other articles that were found during excavation at Lakkund in Gadag district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gold ornaments and other articles found by a family during excavation for a house construction at Lakkundi village in Gadag district, known for its ancient architectural monuments, are said to be well over 100 years old, according to initial assessment.

Prajwal, the young boy from the Ritti family which is constructing the house, who first noticed a container with about half-a-kilogram of gold ornaments, has been praised for his honesty and the vice-president of B.H. Patil Education Society has announced that the institution would support the boy's education.

The "treasure", kept in a copper container, was found at a depth of five feet when workers were excavating for the foundation of the house. The container was found on Saturday and Prajwal had alerted the local authorities, who in turn had alerted the district administration and the Archaeological Department. Soon after, the authorities had barricaded the site and had stopped the work.

Archaeologist Ramesh Mulimani had said that discovery was "unlikely to be a treasure. Minister.K. Patil also visited the site where the "treasure" was found.

On Tuesday, Minister for Law, Justice, Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation and Tourism H.K. Patil visited the site. He said that the family would be extended all necessary help in building the house and the family's request for a job would be considered.

Siddaramaiah accuses BJP-led Centre of dismantling MGNREGA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing the BJP-led Union government of "dismantling" the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) and replacing it with a new framework that alters the rights-based employment guarantee, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said MGNREGA was repealed out of "allergy" to Mahatma Gandhi's name.

"The Centre has scrapped MGNREGA and brought in a new law called VB-G RAM G. Gandhiji's name itself causes them an allergy," he said, calling for a sustained, people-led mass movement from the village to the State level until the new Act is withdrawn. Addressing a Congress preparatory meeting for the "MGNREGA Bachao Sangram" campaign in Bengaluru, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the earlier law enabled rural workers to demand work and wages, and noted that 12.16 crore workers – including 6.21 crore women – had been employed under MGNREGA since its inception during the UPA era.

He alleged that the new framework shifted financial burdens to States and diluted panchayat-level planning.

"MNREGA was enacted during Manmohan Singh's tenure to make the right to work a basic right for the rural poor. Along with employment guarantee, landmark laws like the Right to Food, Right to Information, Right to Education and Forest Rights Act were introduced to address unemployment, hunger and the problems of forest dwellers.," he said.

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GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
O/o. The Superintending Engineer, PIPHW Circle, Dowlaiswaram.
No.04/2025-26, E-Procurement Tender Notice Dt.08.01.2026
1) Name of work: PIPHW- Investigation, Survey, Preparation of Designs & Drawings and Execution of Essential Contingent Works of Polavaram Irrigation Project-1) Formation of Right side diversion road from Polavaram to Spillway, 2) Formation of left side connecting roads from Gap-I to PIPLMC, 3) Construction of protection works to the AGLB including Protection works of Gandiposamma Talli temple, 4) Control Room for Spillway & Connectivities, Buildings, Electrical Substation and other ancillary works of Polavaram Irrigation Project and O & M for a period of 5 years and also defect liability period of 2 years (LS System). **Value of work (approx) and time for completion: Rs.51488.00 Lakhs, 18 Months. 2) Bid Document Available period:** From 12.01.2026 @ 11.00 AM to 29.01.2026 @ 04.00 PM. **3) Bid submission closing Date:** 29.01.2026 upto 05.00 PM. **4) Technical bid opening** (PQ): 30.01.2026 @ 11.00 AM. **5) Opening of commercial Bid:** 02.02.2026 @ 11.00 AM. Further details: **http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
Sd/-R.Ramachandra Rao, 08.01.2026
Superintending Engineer
PIPHW Circle, Dowlaiswaram.
DIPR 18800/CL, Dt.13-01-2026

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. www.elcot.tn.gov.in |+91 44 2855 6100| spltender@elcot.in
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No. ELCOT-ST-CT02-2025-0059
ELCOT invites tender for **"Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of CCTV Systems for IGR 3.0 project under Lease cum Service model for a period of 5 years".** For complete details, please visit **https://elcot.tn.gov.in** or **www.tntenders.gov.in.** Pre-bid meeting: **22.01.2026, 11 AM.** Mandatory product demonstration: **10.02.2026, 11 AM.** Last date for submission of e-bids: **16.02.2026, 3 PM.** For queries: **spltender@elcot.in.**
DIPR/222/Tender/2026 Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

TIDEL PARK LTD.
(An ISO 9001/14001 Company)
No.4, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Taramani, Chennai – 600 113
Ph: 044-2254 0500 / 501
E-mail: md@tidelpark.com, tenders@tidelpark.com; Website: www.tidelpark.com
Tender No: TIDEL/2025-2026/21 14.01.2026
TIDEL Park Limited invites "E-Tender for construction of IT Office/Commercial (Mixed Use) Building (Ground Floor + 9 Floors + Terrace) including Civil Construction, HVAC, Electrical HT/LT, Elevator, IBMS, Fire Protection, Plumbing, Structural Façade, Landscaping, STP, WTP and Other Allied Development Works at Hosur, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu."
For more details and participation in the above e-Tender, please visit the website **www.tntenders.gov.in**. Last date for online submission of duly filled in tender documents is **3.00 p.m. on 12.02.2026.** TIDEL Park Limited reserves the right to accept /reject any one/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
DIPR/252/TENDER/2026 MANAGING DIRECTOR

ANDHRA PRADESH INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LTD (APIIC)
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking)
APIIC Towers, Plot No-1, IT Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur (Dist), AP-522503
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
APIIC invites Expression of Interest for Engagement of System Integrator/Technology Partner for Assessment of Existing Oracle ERP & Recommendation of Approach/Suitable Technology for a comprehensive IT Solution for APIIC.
EoI document available on www.apiic.in from : 14-01-2026
Last date for EoI Submission : 04-02-2026 upto 3.00 PM
Sd/- Chief General Manager (MIS),
APIIC LTD., Mangalagiri



KALAIMAGHAL SABHA
Registration No. 16/1984
Door No. 17/48, North Usman Road, T.Nagar, Chennai – 600 017
Phone Numbers : 044-28158024/25 Cell Number: 99440 98552
E-Tender cum E – Auction of the Properties belonging to Kalaimaghal Sabha
(As per the Orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras)
As per the Orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in Case No: W.A 472 of 2024, the following properties of Kalaimaghal Sabha is brought under auction and sale through website **https://tntenders.gov.in** (E-Tender cum E-Auction) on "as is where is basis".

Kalaimaghal Sabha - Thiruvarur and Coimbatore Districts					
Lot No	Revenue District	Village Name	Survey No.	Total Extent Acre / Cent	Total Extent Sq.ft
1	Thiruvarur	Kurungkulam	143/13	4.25	-
2	Coimbatore	Bilichi (E-W)	605/2	0.52	-
3	Coimbatore	Bilichi (E-W)	600/2	0.41	-
4	Coimbatore	Ganapathy	1138	-	2588.81
5	Coimbatore	Thirumalaiyampalayam North	140/1B2, 143/1A2	12.35	-
6	Coimbatore	Angalakurichi	194/2	1.11	-
7	Coimbatore	Angalakurichi	210/1	4.83	-
TOTAL				23.47	2588.81

Tender Reference No : Kalaimaghal Sabha/Letter No.70(A1)/2026
Tender Id : 2026_IGR_643070_1
https://tntenders.gov.in
- The above e-tender cum e-auction process will take place in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Hon'ble Madras High Court in W.A.No.472/2024.

Last date and time for submission of tender documents: 12.02.2026, 12.00 Noon
Date : Chennai
Place : 14.01.2026
DIPR/214/Tender/2026
Special Officer,
Kalaimaghal Sabha, Chennai

More for later

Chancellor Merz's India visit signals a wider engagement with the EU

Amid tensions on several other foreign policy fronts, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz was the first of several high-level visitors to Delhi to strengthen India-Europe ties. Preparations are on for the EU-India Summit later this month, when the Presidents of the European Commission and Council will attend the Republic Day parade; plans for French President Emmanuel Macron's visit – he will attend the AI summit in February – are also being finalised. The meet between Chancellor Merz and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ahmedabad was about more than bilateral relations. It was about reaffirming elements of talks with the EU to conclude a long-awaited trade agreement, as Germany is its biggest economy, as well as exchanging notes on geopolitical turmoil, especially the U.S.'s actions. The leaders also attended a business council meeting, where they pitched more investments. With trade passing $50 billion in 2024-25, Germany remains India's largest trading partner in Europe. While the talks are understood to have been substantive, the outcomes were in essence a series of "Joint Declarations of Interest (JDI)" and MoUs. Among the JDIs signed, several deal with cooperation on strategic issues, including a Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap to promote collaborations and technology partnerships in defence equipment. This is seen as a precursor to the enabling agreements for defence purchases that India and Germany have been discussing but have yet to sign on to.

Where India and Germany have a less common view is on the Ukraine war, and the European contention that India must curtail its relationship with Russia. Chancellor Merz may have overstepped as he sought to portray India's German defence relationship as a means to reduce its "dependence" on Russian hardware. The statement was refuted by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri later. While Germany and the EU are also hoping for a closer dialogue with India on the Indo-Pacific, Germany's bilateral trade with China, pegged at $287 billion in 2024-25, has not diversified and China is Germany's largest trading partner. It is therefore doubly significant that Chancellor Merz made India his first stop in Asia. The two sides also have differences over the upbringing of five-year-old Ariha Shah, who was taken away by German child services in 2021 over allegations that her Indian parents abused her. Despite India's appeals, Ms. Shah continues to live in German foster care, with only periodic consular and parental visits, and little sustained exposure to Indian culture or languages. The case of an individual may seem less important, but should be resolved without further delay.

Language of harmony

The rights of linguistic minorities must be protected in every State

The Malayalam Language Bill, 2025, which seeks to promote the language and passed by the Kerala Assembly, is being opposed by leaders in Karnataka. The concern that minority languages in the State, particularly Tamil and Kannada, would be adversely affected is misplaced and arises out of misunderstanding of the provisions. The Bill's objective is to provide for the "adoption of the Malayalam language as the official language of the State of Kerala and for Malayalam to be used for all official purposes, to provide for the use of the Malayalam language in all sectors in Kerala, subject to the provisions of the Constitution of India", and to advance the overall progress and enrichment of the language. The Bill proposes the adoption of Malayalam as the first language for schoolchildren and measures to promote the language in various sectors, from the judiciary to IT. The Bill states that Tamil and Kannada linguistic minorities in notified areas may correspond with the State Secretariat, Heads of Departments, and local State offices in their respective languages, and replies shall be issued in those languages; and that students whose mother tongue is not Malayalam may pursue education in other available languages in State schools, in accordance with the National Education Curriculum. Additionally, students from other States or foreign countries studying in Kerala whose mother tongue is not Malayalam are exempt from writing Malayalam examinations at the classes IX, X, and higher secondary levels.

An earlier version of the Bill, passed in 2015, was languishing for the Centre's clearance for 10 years. After the Centre returned the Bill following a Supreme Court of India decision that Bills cannot be indefinitely delayed, the State passed the current version. The Centre, ostensibly, has a policy of promoting all Indian languages, as do several States. As long as such measures are undertaken alongside those for the protection of the rights of linguistic minorities, no other State or the Centre should have any objection. Most States, including Kerala and Karnataka, have multiple linguistic communities. The linguistic division of States was only an approximation, and language borders have weakened due to migration. Language policies at the national and regional levels must account for these realities rather than pursuing a blind cultural agenda of Hindi or any single language promotion. To be clear, all these languages must have their rightful places in administration and the public sphere. To achieve that objective without allowing hostilities between communities is a challenge of nation-building. Mechanisms such as the Inter-State Council, which has been dormant, must be invested with more authority, and wider, good-faith conversations across linguistic groups promoted.

Decisive new factors in the Iranian conundrum



Mahesh Sachdev

is a retired Indian Ambassador specialising in West Asia and oil affairs

The recent civic unrest in Iran has been enveloped in a media fog and has polarised binary narratives, making an objective analysis difficult. Yet, given Iran's geopolitical importance and economic potential, such a granular exercise is required, particularly as it lies in India's extended proximity.

The genesis of the ongoing crisis lies in the increasingly dire eco-political conditions. It began on December 28, 2025, when a group of Tehran merchants ("Bazaari") staged a shutdown to protest the frequent devaluation of the market value of the rial, the national currency. While the rial's official exchange rate to a dollar was 42,000, the market rate was nearly 35 times lower at 1.45 million, having fallen 20,000 times since the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Its 45% decline in 2025 made importing essential commodities such as rice, sugar and edible oil and selling them in the rial at officially controlled prices, unprofitable.

Subsequently, other disaffected sections of the population, such as unemployed youth and low-paid employees, also joined the stir, making it a country-wide anti-government movement. Arson, vandalism and anti-establishment violence were reported. On January 13, authorities disclosed that over 2,000 people had died during the unrest, blaming the casualties on unnamed "terrorists".

Crises and the official playbook

Since the founding of the Islamic Republic in 1979, the authorities have perfected a four-stage playbook for dealing with recurring mass civic unrest, as seen in the election fraud in 2009, petrol price hike in 2019 and Hijab protests in 2022 – none of which succeeded. In the first phase, stern police action is taken to contain the law-and-order problem. If the agitation persists, a "good-cop, bad-cop' routine is played: while some high officials warn of enemy conspiracies, others exude sympathy for the "legitimate grievances", offering talks and concessions. Social media is locked down. The third stage involves weeks of attrition, seeding confusion, splitting the organisers and holding pro-government rallies. These three stages normally succeed in tapering off the protests. Thereafter, the leading protesters are rounded up and sentenced exemplarily with long prison terms or even execution. During all this time, the western media plays the role of an agent provocateur to the hilt.

The current melodrama now seems to be entering the third phase. Over the next four months, a token 10 million rials ($7), as a monthly handout, will be directly transferred to all citizens to mitigate inflation. The funerals of the security personnel killed and pro-establishment rallies were accompanied by a denunciation of foreign attempts to hijack the agitation.

The Pasdaran (Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps or IRGC) and the army have stayed loyal, condemning the agitation as a continuation of the 12-day Israel-United States war of June 2025 against Iran. The oil industry, the mainstay of the national economy, has stayed unaffected, and the governing elite has also not splintered. Moreover, no alternative leadership has emerged among the protesters.

> The genesis of Iran's ongoing crisis lies in growing and dire eco-political conditions, but it has also shown up new systemic vulnerabilities

The dynamics in Iran, foreign threats

Although the establishment seems to have managed to overcome the protest, the outbreak has exposed new systemic vulnerabilities. First, the Bazaari strike against the clergy-led regime was unprecedented. In Iran's modern history, the Bazaaris have been an influential bellwether lobby, at times forcing Iranian rulers to retract. Their withdrawal of support doomed the Shah in 1979. Their informal symbiosis with the clergy initially permitted profiteering from unfettered imports at a preferred exchange rate and selling domestically at market rates.

However, during the past two decades, this bromance has cooled. The economic conditions worsened mainly due to the U.S.'s "maximum pressure" sanctions. Further, they were also squeezed by the IRGC and the Bonyads (various ostensibly charitable foundations for war veterans, widows and orphans), muscling into lucrative sectors of trading, manufacturing and contracting. While Iran's President, Masoud Pezeshkian, recently claimed resolution of the merchants' grievances, the details have not been made public. It remains to be seen if the omnipotent IRGC, currently crucial to government survival, would agree to roll back their businesses.

Second, while Tehran may have tactics to curb protests, the ruling elite lacks eco-political levers to fix the root causes of the recurring social convulsions. The Iranian leadership's steadfast pursuit of a nuclear and missile programme and support to regional proxies diverts scarce economic resources and triggers western economic sanctions, causing social angst.

Over two-thirds of Iranians were born after the Revolution and have different aspirations than their gerontocratic politico-theocratic leadership. They see the affluence of their Gulf Arab neighbours and hold the leadership responsible for their abject penury. They also notice the kleptocracy and corruption in the top echelons of power. Moreover, with radicals in control of the clergy, parliament and judiciary, and a relatively powerless executive, significant social groups, such as women and non-Shia minorities feel alienated. While the managed election of a moderate President in 2024 raised hopes, these have been belied due to regional turmoil.

Third, the foreign abatement of the agitators has become mainstream, with U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu openly encouraging them with military threats to punish the Iranian regime and possibly replace it. However, they lack any smart and easy options, and the outcome of any precipitous foreign action cannot be guaranteed. In 1980, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein attacked Iran to exploit the post-Islamic revolutionary chaos, only to see all Iranians unite against foreign aggression. Moreover, Iran's Shia majority has a long tradition of glorifying martyrdom and sacrifice, making them more inured to foreign military threats.

Despite its losses during the June 2025 military bout with Israel and the U.S., Iran retains sufficient retaliatory capability to thwart a repetition. Tehran's options include targeting U.S. interests in the geoeconomically sensitive and febrile region, making the Gulf Arab states wary about paying for a U.S. military misadventure.

Moreover, when driven to a corner, Iran could close the Strait of Hormuz, raising global oil prices. Mr. Trump has often criticised his predecessors for dragging the U.S. into "endless wars" and has so far avoided having "boots on the ground", preferring surgical airborne strikes and smart economic coercion. Although he has been emboldened by his tactical success against President Nicolás Maduro Moros of Venezuela, there is a clear realisation that the multiplicity of power centres in Iran makes military decapitation a risky and even counter-productive endeavour.

Instead, Mr. Trump is veering toward non-kinetic measures such as cyberattacks and the imposition of secondary punitive tariffs on the countries trading with Iran, encouraged by the outcome of a similar exercise in curbing Indian imports of Russian crude. Their efficacy remains uncertain as Iran has long been subject to Israeli cyberattacks and has a well-oiled sanctions-busting machinery in place, from marshalling cryptocurrencies to dark oil-tankers smuggling crude to China and dhows to Dubai (the world's largest trans-shipment port just 150 kilometres across the Persian Gulf).

Despite U.S. pressure, China and the United Arab Emirates are Iran's top two trading partners, with respective bilateral commerce estimated at $40 billion and $30 billion last year, totalling over half of the entire Iranian foreign trade. The proposed secondary sanctions by the U.S. may not curb such trade but only obfuscate it. Still, as a diversionary tactic, Tehran has offered to reopen talks with Washington.

Impact on India

The notion that turmoil in Tehran is inconsequential for India is misplaced. First, any conflagration in Iran would affect the security and stability in the Gulf, where India has substantive stakes in terms of diaspora, oil supplies, remittances and trade and investments.

Second, it would allow Pakistan to project itself as a dubious security arbiter to both Iran and the Gulf Arabs and earn brownie points with the White House. India also needs Iran to access Afghanistan and Central Asia. Third, after Iran, South Asia has the largest number of Shias, with their number in India estimated at around 25 million. They are natural stakeholders in what happens to their Iranian co-confessionals. Lastly, once four decades of western sanctions are lifted, the resuscitation of the Iranian economy would provide lucrative opportunities for India, particularly as Tehran has long pursued its version of Atmanirbharta.

India must focus on AI and its environmental impact



Amar Patnaik

is a lawyer and founding partner of A&N Legal Solutions LLP, a former CAG bureaucrat and a former Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) takes up much discussion in sectors that range from health care to agriculture. But concerns about its impact on the environment have not attracted much discussion. According to an OECD working paper, "Measuring the Environmental Impacts of Artificial Intelligence Compute and Applications", the development of AI algorithms comes with certain environmental costs such as an increased carbon footprint which exacerbates climate change-related challenges. The report says that the global ICT industry (including hardware such as televisions) is estimated to be responsible for 1.8%-2.8% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; other calculations have a figure as high as 2.1%-3.9%.

It is worth noting that data about the carbon footprint of AI models and their use are not always authentic. A Google report (August 2025) claims that a single text AI prompt consumes electricity of only 0.24 watt-hours. What may seem to be low levels of electricity consumption has also drawn criticism for the report's incomplete and misleading conclusions.

Impact on the environment

In September 2024, an issue note by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on the environmental impact of the full AI life cycle, said that house AI servers may utilise 4.2 billion cubic meters (bcm) to 6.6 bcm of water in 2027, leading to water scarcity. The note also refers to a study which indicates that training a single Large Language Model (LLM) can generate almost 3,00,000 kilograms of carbon emissions.

Similarly, a study, "Energy and Policy Considerations for Deep Learning in NLP" (June 2019), has assessed that the training of a single large AI model entails the emission of over 6,26,000 pounds of carbon dioxide. This is equivalent to emissions caused by five cars in their lifespan. A look at the energy consumption in the use of ChatGPT, a widely used AI virtual Assistant, helps understand how AI algorithms impact the environment and contribute towards climate change. According to a study, "Navigating New Horizons" (UNEP, July 15, 2024), any request made through ChatGPT leads to energy consumption that is 10 times more than what it would be through a Google search.

> There are several AI sustainable practices that India can adopt

Solutions, the world versus India

In 2021, UNESCO released its "Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence", which emphasised recognising the "negative impacts of AI on societies, environment". These non-binding recommendations were adopted by around 190 countries. The United States and the European Union (EU) appear to be the prominent jurisdictions that have proposed legislation dealing with the environmental impact of AI, as the Artificial Intelligence Environmental Impacts Act of 2024 and The European Union's resolution on harmonized AI rules.

Since there are global conversations about the carbon cost of AI use and deployment, India also needs to recognise the environmental costs of developing AI models. Current discussions now on AI and climate change are on how AI can help protect the environment, but without going into the demerits of developing large AI algorithms.

The first step to address this challenge is to carry out an exercise to measure the environmental impacts of developing and deploying AI models. In India, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is mandatory as in the EIA Notification, 2006. While an EIA is often conducted to evaluate projects concerning the environment such as river water projects, its scope can be extended to include assessing the impact of development of AI algorithms on the environment.

The government could also focus on the establishment of measuring standards in order to assess AI's impact. It can be done by involving stakeholders such as tech companies that are developing large-scale AI algorithms, think tanks, and non-governmental organisations that are working toward reducing carbon footprints and mitigating other environment-related challenges. This will help in building consensus on terminology, standards, and consistent indicators and reporting requirements, ultimately leading to informed policy decisions.

Another essential exercise is data collection which can be done by deploying sustainability metrics such as GHG emissions, energy, water and natural resources consumption that are utilised by AI algorithms. Environmental costs beyond energy, such as the impacts on freshwater and land use, could also be evaluated.

As a part of disclosure standards

The government can also explore the possibility of making the environmental impact of developing and deploying AI models as part of environmental, social and governance (ESG) disclosure standards by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Security and the Securities and Exchange Board of India. It can take inspiration from the EU, as its Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) framework requires the disclosure of emissions data from data centres and high compute activities, which includes training of LLMs.

The focus should shift to including AI as a part of solutions toward global sustainability goals. There are several AI sustainable practices that can be adopted to mitigate the adverse impact of AI on the environment such as deploying pre-trained models, using renewable resources to power data centres, and reporting AI-specific estimates.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Iran and Trump

Iran lies at the heart of a foreign-policy paradox that reveals how topsy-turvy Donald Trump's 'MAGA' has become.

Washington's stance toward Tehran — marked by sanctions, open threats and episodic brinkmanship — reflects sustained pressure from the Netanyahu government to treat Iran as a permanent adversary rather than a state to be engaged. This stance has coincided with Iranian claims of foreign intelligence meddling, including allegations involving the CIA and Mossad, particularly as recent protests appear to have lost momentum. Whatever the veracity of these claims, they underscore how coercion has displaced diplomacy.

Iran appears to be determined to prove that it is no Venezuela.

President Trump has been strikingly candid in his disregard for international law — at times suggesting he does not need it, and similarly dismissive of the United Nations except when its veto serves immediate ends. In this sense, his presidency reads as an accumulation of America's harsher traditions, echoing the unilateralism of Andrew Jackson, the secrecy of Richard Nixon and the interventionism of the Bush years. And on top of it, one has Mr. Trump's obsession to win a Nobel Peace Prize.

Well, 'MAGA' thus promises renewal but delivers inversion: restraint recedes, power prevails, and irony completes the turn.

M. Jameel Ahmed,
Mysuru

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

The importance of blue



T.M. Krishna

Carnatic musician and author.
This is an edited excerpt from his latest book, 'We the People of India: Decoding a Nation's Symbols,' Context/Westland. ₹899

In India, the colour blue has an age-old association with the struggles of the marginalised. In early 1859, peasants in Bengal, who had been exploited by white planters for decades, took a cue from a magistrate's notice that made the sowing of indigo non-obligatory, and for the first time refused to cultivate the plant. Though many historians have termed the protests that ensued as non-violent, some others say that besides non-cooperation, peasants attacked factories and defended themselves against armed goons sent by the planters. The Bengali bourgeoisie were careful not to antagonise the British government. This fence-sitting by the intellectuals may have been one of the reasons why this 'blue movement', which sustained for over a year, remained local and anti-planter, and did not develop into a larger anti-colonial campaign. Nearly 60 years after this episode, the indigo blue came back into focus. But this time, it was as the launch pad for an entirely new method of anti-colonial activism. One that played a pivotal role in freeing us from the colonial yoke in 1947.

The Champaran Satyagraha

Gandhi's first experiment with satyagraha, or civil disobedience, in India was in Champaran, Bihar, in 1917. Champaran was full of indigo plantations. The tenants of the plantation were bound by law to plant indigo on a portion of their land. 'This system was known as the tinkathia system, as three kathas out of twenty kathas (which make one acre) had to be planted with Indigo,' Gandhi noted. The tenants lived in oppressive conditions, and landlords used force and extortion to make sure they remained subjugated. Even when the price of indigo began falling, they had no choice but to grow the crop.

Gandhi first went to Champaran on the invitation of Rajkumar Shukla, an agriculturalist. He studied the problem, listened to the voices of the tenants, and mobilised public participation for a peaceful agitation. His overtures to the office-bearers of the planters' association were rudely rebuffed; he was an outsider.

Still, Gandhi's investigations were having an impact and made the government uneasy. He was issued a notice to leave Champaran, but he stayed on. Then the administration issued him a summons. The night before Gandhi was to appear in court, crowds gathered around the house where he was staying. The following day, the court was overflowing. In his characteristic style, Gandhi said, 'In my humble opinion it is a question of difference of opinion between the Local Administration and myself. I have entered the country with motives of rendering humanitarian and national service. I have done so in response to a pressing invitation to come and help the ryots, who urge they are not being fairly treated by the indigo planters ... As a law-abiding citizen my first instinct would be, as it was, to obey the order served upon me. But I could not do so without doing violence to my sense of duty to those for whom I have come. I feel that I could just now serve them only by remaining in their midst....'

Ambedkar's suit

But the dark blue of indigo soon faded from memory. It needed Ambedkar to bring it back into the public imagination. Ambedkar statues have him attired in a blue suit, holding the Constitution in one hand and urging us to move forward. There are many theories about how the association between blue and Dalit movements came about. Ambedkar's suit was a social statement and the choice of blue possibly just his preference. Some associate blue with the expanse of his vision and the non-discriminatory nature of the sky itself. Blue is also considered the colour of equality, representative of the working class. Buddhist and folklore associations with the colour blue have also been pointed out.

Could there have been another reason for the choice of blue? In his *Riddles of Hinduism: An Exposition to Enlighten the Masses*, Ambedkar reviewed what the *Puranas* had to say on the origin of the varna system. He quoted from John Muir's translations of some sections of the *Mahabharata* and the vulgate version of *Harivamsha*.

From the *Mahabharata*: 'The colour (varna) of the Brahmans was white; that of the Kshatriyas red; that of the Vaishyas yellow, and that of the Sudras black.'

From *Harivamsha*: 'The Brahmans, beautiful (or, dear to Soma), were formed from an imperishable (akshara), the Kshattriyas from a perishable (kshara), element, the Vaisyas from alteration, the Sudras from a modification of smoke ... Hence in the world men have become divided into castes, being of four descriptions, Brahmans, Kshattriyas, Vaisyas and Sudras ...'

That the colours blue and black are used as interchangeable shades was not important in these correlations. The scholar Nick Allen demonstrates that equivalences between certain colours and people's social functions, nature and even appearance are found in many cultures. These cultural associations also reveal that people at the lowest rung of society are invariably allocated dark colours, very often blue or black. Allen calls black a 'non-colour' which is connected with the semiotics of inferiority and otherness. This makes me wonder if his choice of blue was influenced by the association of this colour with shudras.

The blue chakra is at the literal heart of the Indian flag, holding within itself the strength of the Dalit community and the spirit of civil disobedience. It is a reflection of our right to assemble peaceably and without arms. An assertion that we will assemble to protect our rights and ally with all those society forgets to notice. It is also a reminder of our unkept promises.

The dark blue of indigo, which was related to the Champaran Satyagraha, soon faded from memory. It needed Ambedkar to bring it back into the public imagination

The UDF's ray of hope in an uphill battle

Local body poll results give it momentum, but Assembly polls could be challenging

STATE OF PLAY

Biju Govind
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The local body elections held in Kerala last December have breathed new life into the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF), which has struggled to reclaim power from the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)]-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) following the latter's unprecedented victories in consecutive State Assembly elections.

The UDF garnered 38.81% of the vote, compared with the LDF's 33.45% and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s 14.76%. Others (minor parties, independents backed by rival fronts, and rebels) got 13.03%.

The Congress alone secured 29.17%, ahead of the CPI (M)'s 27.16%. Buoyed by this two-percentage-point lead, the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee convened a Lakshya Leadership Summit in Wayanad on January 4-5. The summit focused on unity, discipline, and a target of over 100 out of 140 seats in the 2026 Assembly elections.

Key strategies include early candidate selection with a 50% quota for women and youth, and a focus on winnability, overseen by the Central Screening Committee chaired by All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Madhusudan Mistry. The Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, V.D. Satheesan, unveiled 'Mission 2026', a campaign that includes a State-wide yatra beginning February and the division of Kerala into three strategic campaign regions. The party has emphasised strengthening its social media presence and focusing on governance solu-



tions in the economy, and in health and agriculture, apart from expanding its alliances beyond traditional bases. In New Delhi, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, will preside over a strategy session. This will be followed by a 'mahapanchayat' in Kochi on January 19, bringing together newly elected local body representatives and marking the campaign's unofficial launch.

While the prospects seem favourable for the Congress, which has been out of power for a decade in Kerala, Assembly elections demand a different playbook compared to local body polls. The Congress will struggle to sustain anti-incumbency momentum amid ongoing internal rivalries – multiple leaders are vying for the Chief Minister's post in the event of the UDF coming to power. Many believe that the Congress leadership has been unable to rebut the CPI(M)'s allegations about its proximity to Jamaat-e-Islami Hind. The Indian Union Muslim League, the Congress's largest and most organised ally, is demanding greater electoral space. This comes at a time when the Congress is trying to woo back the Kerala Congress(M), which defected to the LDF before the 2021 Assembly polls.

The Congress can only counter the LDF's bid for a third term with a carefully crafted pro-incumbency narrative, especially since the LDF has been showcasing large-scale development projects under the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board, celebrating the State's achievement in eradicating extreme poverty, and unveiling a range of welfare schemes.

The most unpredictable factor is the emergence of the NDA as a third force. The BJP's victory in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation polls showed its meticulously designed electoral strategy. The BJP is now targeting specific Assembly segments in the Thiruvananthapuram and Alappuzha districts; and reaching out to the Christian community to win seats in Thrissur. The party is now focusing on seats it can win. More critically, it is keen to defeat the Congress and its allies rather than facilitate their return to power by splitting votes, as was the case in the past.

The Congress's path to power is therefore fraught with obstacles. The local body results, while encouraging, may prove a false dawn. What Kerala's electorate rewards in local body polls, which are often based on hyper-local issues, does not automatically translate to Assembly preferences. Governance track records, alliance arithmetic, and leadership credibility carry greater weight. The Congress leadership must be aware that the CPI(M)'s organisational machinery, as seen in the party's vote share, remains intact. The CPI(M) could bounce back from its electoral setback.

Unless the Congress can swiftly resolve its internal discord, present a unified leadership face, and put forth an alternative vision beyond merely riding the anti-incumbency sentiment, it risks squandering what may be its best opportunity in a decade to return to power in Kerala.

Big mandates, bigger responsibilities: trends in elections

Large electoral mandates raise high expectations, which many parties and alliances in India have struggled to meet over time

DATA POINT

Sanjay Kumar
Arindam Kabir

Whenever voters hand a party or an alliance a big mandate, they also have very high expectations from the government. India's electoral history shows that many parties or alliances have struggled to live up to that responsibility for long. Let us look at some of the examples where voters have given a party or an alliance a big mandate and what has followed.

In the 1984 Lok Sabha elections, held after Indira Gandhi's assassination, Rajiv Gandhi led the Congress to one of the biggest victories in Indian electoral history, crossing 400 seats in the 541-member House. This result reflected a mix of sympathy, hope around a young new leader, and a desire for stability **(Table 1)**. Yet, the mandate faded quickly. Within five years, in the 1989 general election, the Congress suffered a significant dent in its seat tally. It has never again reached an outright majority like it did in 1984.

After the Emergency and the JP movement, voters placed faith in a new alternative, in the Janata Party in 1977. In north India, and particularly in Uttar Pradesh, the Janata alliance swept all the Lok Sabha seats, virtually wiping out the Congress in the State and signalling a huge shift in public mood.

But sharp internal conflicts and unstable governance meant that the experiment did not last. By 1980, the Janata government had collapsed and voters brought the Congress back **(Table 2)**.

In Assam, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), a party which emerged from the Assam Movement, captured power in the 1985 Assembly elections by winning 65 out of 126 seats. This was an extraordinary achievement for a new regional party led mainly by young student leaders of the movement **(Table 3).** Over the decades, however, organisational weakness, splits, and competition steadily reduced its footprint. Today, the AGP survives largely as a junior ally in State politics.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won 63 out of 70 Assembly seats in Delhi in 2020. The mandate, built on an anti-corruption plank and promises of better schools, health care, and basic services, was one of the most decisive ones in any State in recent years.

However, in the 2025 Assembly polls, the AAP failed to retain its earlier dominance. Several senior leaders lost their seats. The result showed that even parties built just around politics of welfare and development can be punished when alternative narratives gain ground.

The CPI(M)-led Left Front governed West Bengal continuously for more than three decades and the CPI(M) still won 176 of 294 seats in the 2006 Assembly elections **(Table 4).** This period gave the Left deep organisational roots and a reputation for stability and a socialist model of governance. However, Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress swept to power in 2011, cutting the Left down to around 40 seats. Similarly, in Tripura, the once-dominant front has not recovered since **(Table 5).**

The Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF)'s electoral journey tells a similar tale **(Table 6)**. After consistently polling above 50% votes and sweeping successive Assembly elections from 1999 to 2009, the party's 22-seat victory in 2014 with around 55% vote share marked its last comfortable mandate. The emergence of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) as a credible challenger, along with growing anti-incumbency, eroded this hegemony.

In 2019, the SDF's vote share remained competitive but the party got just 15 seats. The SKM crossed the majority mark, ending the SDF's uninterrupted 25-year stint in power. The subsequent defection of 10 SDF MLAs to the BJP and two to the SKM further weakened the organisation. By the 2024 Assembly elections, the SKM had captured 31 of 32 seats with over 58% of the vote, while the SDF was reduced to a single seat, its worst performance since 1999.

The BJP in Gujarat has not only retained its vote bank but has also expanded it in the last few elections, especially after 2014 **(Table 7).** This can partly be attributed to the support the State party unit receives from the Central government and Central government institutions, but it is clear that the BJP has successfully deployed cultural nationalism, welfare, and popular politics to its advantage. Furthermore, its ability to gauge the popular sentiment of the majority and respond accordingly has played a crucial role in sustaining such a large voter base.

In Bihar, the Janata Dal (United) recorded one of its best performances in the 2010 Assembly elections. It had strong backing for its governance and development narrative and its leader, Nitish Kumar, enjoyed support.

However, in the 2015 Assembly elections, its individual tally fell significantly even though the new Mahagathbandhan as a whole defeated the BJP. The 2025 Assembly elections gave a big mandate to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in Bihar **(Table 8).** This was in contrast to the 2020 Assembly elections when the NDA won the election with a very small majority.

The Trinamool Congress has been in power in West Bengal for the last 15 years with its vote share touching about 49% **(Table 9).** It will be interesting to watch how it performs in the 2026 Assembly elections. Will it be able to keep the momentum going?

Sanjay Kumar is a Professor and political analyst. Arindam Kabir is a Researcher with Lokniti-CSDS. Views are personal and do not reflect the views of the organisation

Momentum no more

The data for the charts were sourced from the Election Comission of India



■ In the 1984 LS elections, Congress won more than 400 out of 541 seats. In the 1989 elections, Congress's performance suffered. It never again reached an outright majority

Table 1

Congress's vote share	
Year of election	Vote share (%)
1980	42.7
1984	48.1
1989	39.5

Table 2

Janata Party vote share	
Year of election	Vote share (%)
1977	41.3
1980	18.97
1984 (JNP)	6.66

Table 3

Asom Gana Parishad (AGP)	
Vote share of AGP in Assam (%)	
1985	35.2
1991	17.93
1996	29.7
2001	20.02
2006	20.39
2011	16.29
2016	7.76
2021	7.78

Table 4

Left Front's collapse in West Bengal and Tripura	
CPI(M)'s vote share in West Bengal (%)	
1977	35.46
1982	38.49
1987	39.3
1991	36.87
1996	37.92
2001	36.59
2006	37.13
2011	30.08
2016	19.75
2021	4.71

Table 5

CPI(M)'s vote share in Tripura (%)	
1977	47
1983	46.78
1988	45.82
1993	44.78
1998	45.49
2003	46.82
2008	48.01
2013	48.11
2018	42.22
2023	24.62

■ The Left Front governed WB and Tripura for decades. The TMC and BJP are now in power in the respective States

Table 6

Vote share of SDF in Sikkim	
Year of election	Vote share %
1999	52.32
2004	71.09
2009	65.91
2014	55.03
2019	47.03
2024	27.37

Table 7

Vote share of BJP in Gujarat (%)	
1990	26.69
1995	42.51
1998	44.81
2002	49.85
2007	49.12
2012	47.15
2017	49.05
2022	52.5

Table 8

In Bihar, the winning alliance's vote share		
Election year	Winning alliance	Vote (%)
2005 (October)	NDA	36.11
2010	NDA	39.07
2015	MGB	41.84
2020	NDA	37.26
2025	NDA	46.56

In Bihar's 2010 polls, the JD(U) was the largest party to form the government. In 2025, however, the NDA won 46% of the votes

Table 9

Vote share of TMC	
Year	Vote share (%)
2011	38.93
2016	44.91
2021	48.02

Trinamool Congress swept to power in 2011, cutting the Left down to 40 out of 294 seats in West Bengal

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 14, 1976

Pugwash meet opens: call for abolition of nuclear weapons

Madras, Jan. 13: A short speech by the Pugwash President Nobel Laureate, Prof. Dorothy Hodgkin, in which she expressed the interest of the scientific community in the abolition of nuclear weapons, and indeed of all other weapons, and in the re-building of society on equitable lines, heralded the opening of the week-long deliberations of the 25th Pugwash Conference at the spacious Ball Room in Taj Coromandel here.

She said India had a very special place in the history of the Pugwash Movement in as much as the late Prime Minister Nehru organised a Committee of Scientists to explain nuclear energy which preceded the actual Russell-Einstein Manifesto from which the dating of the Movement was usually made.

Prof. Dorothy Hodgkin recalled how the late Dr. Radhakrishnan, when he was India's envoy in Moscow and also a Professor of Philosophy of Eastern Religions at Oxford, had urged her to visit the Soviet Union for contacts with her scientist counterparts in that country for a thaw in the cold war which was then at its peak. She actually made the visit three years later.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FROM THE JANUARY 13, 1926 ISSUE AS THERE WAS NO ISSUE ON JANUARY 14, 1926

The literary institute, Namakkal

The Secretary writes: The Literary Institute, Namakkal was started in the year 1876. From small beginnings, the Association has grown in its usefulness. The rules of the Association are so framed that even a poor man may become a member of the same – the least subscription being Rs. 4 per month. About 5 years ago, the Association thought of expanding the library attached to it and thus making the Association more useful to the public. With this end in view, private efforts were made and are being made even now to make additions to the library which contained only 100 volumes in the beginning and the efforts so far made increased the number of volumes to about 500 in number. Want of funds stands in the way of further improvements.

From Page One

SC questions EC on voter roll deletions

Mr. Dwivedi said a decision has to be taken "then and there".

"The consequence the other way would be that even though the ERO has found that he is not a citizen, he would continue in the electoral roll and vote. Once a shadow is cast on his citizenship, as long as it is not perverse or arbitrary, he needs to stand out. Nothing is perfect, but we have to chase the utopia of perfection as closely as possible," Mr. Dwivedi responded.

The senior counsel said persons excluded from the electoral roll under the SIR had the right to appeal.

"These things happen. The whole electoral exercise cannot be halted or modified for the sake of some persons. Of course, if the order [of exclusion] is perverse on individual facts, it would have to go. We are not entitled to wait until the final or ultimate decision [by the Centre], which may go one way or the other. He can file an appeal, and if the ERO order is set aside, he can be put back," Mr. Dwivedi submitted.

"Your argument is that non-citizens are not entitled?" Chief Justice Kant queried.

The EC counsel said citizenship and delimitations were the cornerstones of electoral process.

Mr. Dwivedi said various statutes, including the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, mandated citizenship from applicants.

Delivery platforms to stop 10-minute service

The government source added that the move is aimed at ensuring greater safety, security, and improved working conditions for gig workers. Accordingly, Blinkit has informed the Ministry that the company's principal tagline has been revised from "10,000+ products delivered in 10 minutes" to "30,000+ products delivered at your doorstep."

General secretary of Indian Federation of App-Based Transport Workers Shaik Salauddin welcomed the intervention of the government and the subsequent decision of the platforms and said it was a significant and much-needed step in protecting the lives and dignity of gig and platform workers.

"The 10-minute delivery model forced delivery partners into dangerous road behaviour, extreme stress. We welcome and thank Mr. Mandaviya for listening to workers' voices and intervening decisively in the interest of their safety," he said .

Aam Aadmi Party MP Raghav Chadha, who had voiced the problems faced by gig workers in Parliament last month, posted on his X handle: "Satyamev Jayate. Together, we have won..."

"I am deeply grateful to the Central Government for its compassionate intervention in enforcing the removal of the "10-minute delivery" branding from quick-commerce platforms," he added.

SC differs on sanction to try public servants

The case will now be referred to the Chief Justice of India to be placed before a Bench of three judges.

"A fine balance has to be maintained between the need to protect a public servant against mala fide prosecution on the one hand and the object of upholding the probity in public life by prosecuting the public servant against whom prima facie material in support of allegation of corruption exists, on the other," Justice Viswanathan observed in his opinion.

He said the Lokpal had the authority to conduct an inquiry into even an allegation of corruption made against the Prime Minister of the country.

"If Section 17A is invalidated on the ground that prior approval should not exist at all, the immediate consequence would be that any complaint alleging corruption in official decision-making could straightaway result in a police inquiry or investigation," Justice Viswanthan reasoned.

Trust-building with China on, but LAC vigilance essential, says Army chief

General Dwivedi says interactions between the two countries have generated a sense of urgency and mutual acceptance to keep the border calm; reiterating India's long-standing position on Shaksgam Valley, he says New Delhi considers the 1963 agreement between Pakistan and China illegal

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Emphasising the need for sustained alertness along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday said that even as both India and China were working to enhance the "trust factor" between their militaries, constant vigilance remained essential to maintain border stability.

Referring to recent diplomatic and military engagements, he said a significant understanding was reached on October 21, 2024. "Before that, the two top leaders met in Kazan (Russia), followed by another meeting in Tianjin (China). In between, we have had Special Representative-level talks and Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination meetings," he said, adding that India's Defence Minister and External Affairs Minister had each held two meetings with their Chinese counterparts. According to the Army chief, these interactions generated a sense of urgency and mutual acceptance on both sides to keep the border calm and quiet.



Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi at the annual press conference on Tuesday in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The Army chief underlines the need for India to establish a dedicated rocket-missile force

"The first step is to keep communication channels open. We now have talks at various levels so that minor issues are resolved locally and do not escalate into major problems," he noted.

On the Shaksgam Valley, General Dwivedi reiterated India's long-standing position, stating that New Delhi considered the 1963 agreement between Pakistan and China illegal.

Illegal pact

"Any activity in the Shaksgam Valley is not approved by us. The Ministry of External Affairs has already issued a statement on this," he said, adding that India did not accept the joint statement issued in China on CPEC 2.0 and viewed it as an illegal action by the two countries.

Highlighting future capability development, the Army chief underlined the need for India to establish a dedicated rocket-missile force. "Today, rockets and missiles have become intertwined. If we want to achieve the desired impact, both can deliver it," he said. Pointing to similar forces created by Pakistan and China, General Dwivedi said such a capability was "the need of the hour" for India.

He noted that the Army had successfully tested the Pinaka rocket system with a range of 120 km and had signed additional contracts to extend its range to 150 km, with plans to reach 300 km-450 km.

"You must have also heard about systems like Pralay and BrahMos," he added, signalling a strong push towards enhancing India's long-range precision-strike capability.

'Operation Sindoor ongoing, blunders to be dealt with firmly'

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Operation Sindoor remains ongoing, and any misadventure by the adversary will be dealt with effectively, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi said on Tuesday, issuing a firm warning to Pakistan.

The Army chief said that the anti-terrorism operation had sent a strong deterrent message by successfully destroying seven of the nine identified targets and puncturing the long-standing nuclear rhetoric of the adversary.

Security assessment

Providing an update on the security situation, the Army chief said that since May 10, the situation along the Western front and in Jammu and Kashmir had been sensitive but firmly under control.

In 2025, security forces eliminated 31 terrorists, nearly 65% of whom were of Pakistani origin. The figures include the three perpetrators of the Pahalgam terror attack, who were neutralised during Operation Mahadev.

Tri-service synergy

The General noted a sharp improvement in the internal security environment, stating that the number of active local terrorists had now come down to a single digit, while fresh recruitment had become almost non-existent, with only two cases reported in 2025

Describing Operation Sindoor as a model military response, he said it was "the best example of tri-service synergy under a clear-cut political directive and full freedom to act or respond."

Kuki-Zo groups agree to join Manipur govt. with conditions

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The participation of 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs in the Assembly is key if elected government is restored

Kuki-Zo tribal groups said on Tuesday that they had resolved to join the popular government in Manipur, provided the Union and the State governments give a written commitment to support the negotiated political settlement for a Union Territory with legislature under the Constitution.

At a meeting attended by the United People's Front and Kuki National Organisation (KNO), the Kuki-Zo insurgent groups in Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact with the government, five MLAs and two representatives of the Kuki-Zo Council, a civil society group, in Guwahati on Tuesday, it was resolved that the "commitment must be executed in a time-bound manner, specifically within the current Assembly tenure", which ends in February 2027.

The resolution passed by the tribal bodies on Tuesday assumes significance as this is the first time the tribal bodies have agreed to join the State government since ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and the Meitei people erupted on May 3, 2023. Post-violence, the SoO groups and the MLAs demanded a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo people.

Manipur was placed under President's Rule on February 13, 2025 and the 60-member Assembly which has 37 MLAs from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is under suspended animation.

The Hindu reported on January 7 that as the President's Rule in Manipur completes a year on February 13, hectic parleys are on by the Union government to restore the popular government in Manipur. In all, there are 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs in the Assembly, including seven from the BJP, and their participation is key if elected government is restored.

Trump's latest 25% tariff warning brings India-Iran ties under renewed strain

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India's ties with Iran have come under renewed pressure after U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Tuesday that "any country" having trade ties with Tehran would face a 25% tariff if it sought to do business with the U.S.

Government sources told *The Hindu* that India was preparing to bring down its trade with Iran in the current financial year, citing "external economic factors".

The developments have come even as India still last weekend, was getting ready to host Iran's president Masoud Pezeshkian for the upcoming BRICS summit, which India will host this year as it marks the 75th anniversary of establishment of India-Iran diplomatic ties.

The U.S. policy on increasing pressure on Iran has also put a question mark on the expected visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Syed Abbas Araghchi to New Delhi later this month. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar announced India's vision for BRICS 2026 on Tuesday, saying that as BRICS Chair, India would highlight that the intergovernmental organisation is capable of absorbing "global shocks". India's policy on Iran will be keenly watched as the Islamic Republic is a member of BRICS of which India has been a founding member.

At both bilateral and multilateral levels, the India-Iran relation was expected to see multiple high points this year as India was getting ready to broaden its presence in Iran's Chabahar port, which is of crucial importance for both India's connectivity plans with Central Asia and Russia as well as for its newly unfolding partnership with the anti-Pakistan Taliban administration in Afghanistan. Iran joined BRICS as a full member on January 1, 2024, as the grouping expanded by including Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates at the 2023 summit in South Africa.

Officials said that as a member of the BRICS, Iran's President may not face legal hurdles while travelling to India for the summit.



Iran Foreign Minister Syed Abbas Araghchi is expected to visit India this month.

Jaishankar holds talks with Rubio

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar spoke on phone to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio focusing on cooperation in trade, critical minerals, nuclear energy, and defence. He said he had a "good conversation" with Mr. Rubio and they agreed to remain in touch.

Treat inclusion of disabled persons as an advantage: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday urged corporates and investors to consider the inclusion of persons with disabilities not just as a mere "compliance issue" but also as a "strategic advantage" that would enhance their business performance, resilience, and social impact.

The judgment, co-authored by a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K.V. Viswanathan, is the second in two months with which the Supreme Court is stepping in to highlight that business corporations not only do lead a profit-only existence but also have a constitutional duty to contribute to the society and environment.

On Tuesday, the Bench exercised the court's extraordinary constitutional powers under Article 142 to direct Coal India Limited to give Sujata Bora, who has multiple disabilities, a supernumerary post with a separate desk and specially-designed computer at its North Eastern Coalfields office in Assam.

I&B Ministry collaborates with Netflix for project

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India on Tuesday marked the culmination of "Inspiring Innovators-Naye Bharat Ki Nayi Pehchaan", in collaboration with the Netflix Fund for Creative Equity.

In partnership with Graphiti Studios, the initiative promotes socially relevant innovation via storytelling, the Ministry said.

Send more IPS officers to Centre, Union Home Secretary tells States despite SC order

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan has written to the States to send more Indian Police Service (IPS) officers on Central deputation.

The deputation is to fill middle to senior positions in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Central Police Organisations (CPOs), including the Central Bureau of Investigation and the National Investigation Agency.

The letter sent to the States in the first week of January comes though the Supreme Court on October 28, 2025, dismissed a review petition filed by the Centre against the court's May 23, 2025, ruling to "progressively reduce" the deputation of IPS officers in the senior administrative grade or up to the rank of Inspector-General in the CAPFs.



Govind Mohan

At present, 20% posts in the rank of Deputy Inspector-General (DIG) and 50% in the rank of Inspector-General (IG) in the CAPFs are reserved for IPS officers. The court's decision is meant to reduce the IPS dominance in the CAPFs.

Posts vacant

As on December 23, of the 188 posts at the DIG/IG level that are reserved for IPS officers in the CAPFs such as the BSF and the CRPF, 36 posts are vacant.

The letter by Mr. Mohan said 40% of senior duty posts in each cadre are earmarked as Central Deputation Reserve. "However, some of the States/cadres do not send sufficient number of nominations for deputation. Many a time, the States send more names of senior IPS officers, but do not propose the names for appointment to the posts of Superintendent of Police to Inspector-General. It would, therefore, be appropriate if a conscious attempt is made by the States to forward the nominations of officers for deputation in such a manner that officers of different levels/ranks are adequately and proportionately represented as well as every eligible officer gets an opportunity to serve at the Centre," the letter stated.

"Sometimes State governments withdraw the names of officers from offer, subsequent to their selection to a post or do not relieve them for taking up the assignment at the Centre. This results in considerable delay in their placement at the Centre and adversely impacts the entire process of selection, deputation and cadre management," it said.

Governor's Rule in Mizoram tribal council extended

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Mizoram Governor Vijay Kumar Singh extended Governor's Rule in the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) for six more months, citing continuing political uncertainty.

The Council of Ministers said that there was no justification in extending Governor's Rule, as the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) enjoyed a clear majority.

APPEAL



I am **Ashmitha,** 9 years old suffering from "Refractory Germ Cell Tumour". I have to undergo Chemotherapy and Surgery at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research** Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is **Rs. 6,00,000/-**. Our family is very poor and we cannot afford this huge expenditure. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/ M.O/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No:60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

Ashmitha

BJP-EC seeking more voter deletions in State: Mamata

Bengal CM says CEC must answer how he can delete half of electorate, decide who forms govt.; voters whose names appeared on draft rolls summoned to explain 'logical discrepancies', she adds

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Continuing her tirade against the Election Commission for the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said that if poet and freedom fighter Rabindranath Tagore had been alive, even his name would have been deleted from the voter list.

"The CEC must answer how he can delete half of the electorate, and decide who forms the government [in West Bengal]," she said, coming down heavily on Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

The Chief Minister reiterated that prominent citizens of the State – including Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, Bengali poet Joy Goswami, and three-time Trinamool Congress MP Dipak Adhikari, aka Dev – have received a summons during the SIR. She had also made this point in one of her five letters to the CEC.


West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addressing a press conference on special intensive revision of electoral rolls. PTI

'Declared dead'

Beyond prominent names, the Trinamool Congress also presented 10 people, who were allegedly declared dead in the draft electoral rolls, during a rally in Cooch Behar. "All of them were born and brought up in Cooch Behar, but they were declared dead by the BJP's stooge Election Commission," alleged Trinamool general secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

Even some of those whose names appeared on the draft roll after the first phase are now being summoned to explain "logical discrepancies" in their enumeration forms. This was not part of the original SIR verification process, the Chief Minister said, claiming that it was "included as an afterthought to add to deletions".

The Trinamool Congress chief claimed that the"BJP-EC nexus" is planning to remove another one crore names from the final electoral rolls.

About 58 lakh voters' names were deleted during the first phase of the SIR in West Bengal.

Ms. Banerjee said that a BJP leader had been arrested at Taldangra in Bankura district with thousands of forms relating to the SIR. "The BJP has now escalated this assault on democracy by ferrying in people from other States, loading vehicles with thousands of Form 7, and coercively submitting them to engineer the mass deletion of genuine voters," the Trinamool Congress posted on social media.

Somnath temple a symbol of nation's enduring faith and traditions: Amit Shah

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that the Somnath temple's centuries-long history of destruction and reconstruction reflected the resilience of India's civilisational ethos rooted in *Sanatana Dharma*. He described the temple as a symbol of the nation's enduring faith and traditions.

Speaking at a public programme in Mansa town of Gandhinagar district, Mr. Shah said invaders who had attempted to raze the temple had vanished with time, while the temple continued to stand on the same coastal site in Gir Somnath district as a symbol of enduring belief.

Referring to the inauguration of the "Somnath Swabhiman Parv" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, Mr. Shah said the year-long observance marked a millennium since Mahmud of Ghazni's attack on the temple in 1026. He noted that though the temple had been destroyed multiple times, it continued to be rebuilt and remained a prominent monument of faith.


Recalling history: Union Home Minister Amit Shah during an event in Gandhinagar on Tuesday. PTI

Somnath corridor

The Home Minister said a grand Somnath corridor was being developed under the leadership of the Prime Minister, reinforcing the site's historical and cultural significance. Mr. Shah said the "Somnath Swabhiman Parv" would be observed across the country through programmes aimed at deepening public awareness of India's spiritual and cultural heritage.

He recalled the role played by leaders such as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, K.M. Munshi, the Maharaja of Jamnagar, and former President Rajendra Prasad in rebuilding the temple after Independence, describing their efforts as an assertion of national self-respect.

During the event, Mr. Shah inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth ₹267 crore, including a sports complex in Mansa, his native town.

Nabin likely to be elected BJP president on January 20

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party has set in motion the process of formalising the election of its national working president, Nitin Nabin, as the president of the party.

The election is likely to be held on January 20. All Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled States as well as State unit presidents and national office-bearers have been asked to be present in Delhi for the nomination, to be held on January 19 and for the formal election the next day.

Three sets of nominations will be filed nominating Mr. Nabin for the national president's post. One set will have the signatures of more than 20 elected BJP State chiefs. Another will have the signatures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP leaders Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, and J.P. Nadda. The third will have the signatures of the members of the BJP National Council.

Communist Party of China delegation calls on senior RSS leader in New Delhi

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A delegation of the Communist Party of China, led by Vice-Minister Sun Haiyan, met Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale here on Tuesday.

The meeting went on for around an hour at Keshav Kunj, the RSS head office in the national capital.

This came a day after the delegation met the senior Bharatiya Janata Party leadership here and the two organisations discussed at length the means to advance inter-party communications. Sources in the RSS said that the meeting had been scheduled on a "request" by the CPC delegation.


Dattatreya Hosabale

"Sangh [leaders] meet everyone, and it believes in dialogue. They requested and we met," a senior RSS leader said, while adding that the meeting had no specific agenda as the two sides held an informal discussion over tea.

"They discussed RSS's organisational structure and our functioning," he said.

The meeting came up despite the RSS not inviting the Chinese envoy for the recent centenary year celebrations of the organisation. The envoy was also not invited for the lecture series by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, held in New Delhi and Bengaluru, which were attended by diplomats from several countries.

Earlier meetings

The meeting between the CPC leaders and the RSS, the BJP's ideological parent, happened for the first time in more than a decade. In 2009, under the leadership of then RSS spokesperson Ram Madhav, a delegation of BJP and RSS leaders visited Beijing.

Besides, a CPC delegation had paid a visit to Keshav Kunj, in the past.

Congress accuses BJP of 'double standard' over the meet, seeks transparency

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Noting that a delegation from the Communist Party of China has called on BJP and Sangh leaders, the Congress on Tuesday questioned the ruling party's double standard with regard to China.

It sought disclosure of the agenda and outcomes of what it described as closed-door meetings.

Addressing a press conference, Congress leader Pawan Khera accused the BJP-led government of pursuing a "soft" policy towards China, alleging that this had weakened India's strategic position and compromised national interest.

Referring to the Galwan Valley clash, Mr. Khera said the Prime Minister's subsequent remarks had effectively given China a "clean chit", emboldening Beijing's assertive posture along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). He alleged that despite continued Chinese military build-up in eastern Ladakh, the Centre had failed to restore the pre-May 2020 status quo.


Pawan Khera

Mr. Khera also cited remarks by Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Rahul R. Singh, who had acknowledged Chinese military support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, and asked whether the issue had been discussed during the BJP-CPC interactions.

"China has been trying to alter our map and you respond by banning an app," he said.

The Congress leader accused the government of failing to take Parliament into confidence on China-related issues, despite what he termed repeated territorial infringements.

He demanded full transparency from the government on its China policy, including public disclosure of the agenda, minutes and outcomes of all meetings between representatives of the CPC and BJP or RSS.

Held formal meeting with Chinese party team openly, says BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Party leader Tuhin Sinha also alludes to 'improved situation' between the two countries

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday responded to the Congress's criticism of its leaders meeting with a Communist Party of China delegation the previous day, stating that it was a "formal meeting" held "openly", and alluded to an "improved situation" between the countries.

BJP spokesperson Tuhin Sinha was responding to Congress leader Pawan Khera's remarks.

"It was a process of a formal meeting. A formal meeting takes place when a situation improves. We do it very openly," Mr. Sinha said. "We do not secretly sign any MoU which we cannot explain for years," he added, in an apparent reference to the Congress reportedly signing an MoU with the CPC in 2018.

"Recently, flights resumed. Trade talks are also going on," Mr. Sinha said, explaining the meeting by saying "things had improved" between India and China.

Mr. Sinha said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had "lost his right" to question the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's foreign policy since he had made a baseless claim that Indian soldiers had been "thrashed" by Chinese soldiers in the Galwan Valley clash. "Mr. Gandhi should not be compared with our people," he said.

Cong. to launch 'demand for work' campaign to mobilise MGNREGA workers soon

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress is set to launch the *Kaam Maango Abhiyan* (Demand for work) campaign at the end of this month to mobilise workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). As part of the initiative, party functionaries will help at least 10 workers in each gram panchayat who need employment to formally raise a demand for work.

The move is part of a larger programme titled "MGNREGA *Bachao Sangram*" (Save MGNREGA movement), which the Congress describes as a nationwide struggle to restore the "constitutional rights to work, wages, and accountability".

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the campaign aims to reach 2.5 lakh gram panchayats and crores of people. "The government has run a bulldozer over the MGNREGA scheme, which is the lifeline for crores of people in India," he said in a post on X, urging people to join the campaign.


Voicing dissent: Congress workers staging a protest in Noida as part of the party's nation-wide 'MGNREGA Bachao Sangram'. PTI

The party has also launched a website – www.mgnregabachao.in – where people can join the movement and sign a petition addressed to President Droupadi Murmu. The petition states: "We strongly protest against recent changes to MGNREGA that weaken its core promise of guaranteed employment and rural empowerment. MGNREGA is a constitutional Right to Work for crores of families and must not be diluted. Our demands: restore the guarantee of work; fix minimum wage at ₹400 per day; empower Panchayati Raj Institutions. We urge your immediate intervention to protect the spirit and intent of MGNREGA."

It has set up a coordination committee to monitor the programme, with Ajay Maken as convener and Mr. Ramesh, Sandeep Dikshit and Priyank Kharge as members.

SC allows withdrawal of Savarkar portraits plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed a retired civil servant to withdraw his petition seeking the removal of the portrait of Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar from public buildings, including Parliament.

A Chief Justice Surya Kant-led Bench criticised the petitioner for wasting the time of the court with such "frivolous petitions".

APPOINTMENT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), which is the country's apex organization for training and research on various aspects of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development is implementing a National level Project for setting up of a School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR) at NIRDPR under RGSA. NIRDPR invites online applications from eligible candidates for the following contractual positions:

Sl. No	Name of the Position	No. of Positions	Remuneration
1	**Senior Capacity Building Consultant** Backlog Vacancy (OBC-2, ST-2) Current Vacancy (SC-1,UR-05)	10	Rs.75,000/-pm
2	**Capacity Building Consultant** Backlog Vacancy (OBC-28, ST-8, SC-19) Current Vacancy (OBC-4, EWS-03, UR-26)	88	Rs.60,000/- pm

For Job Profile, Eligibility Criteria, Online submission of application and other details please visit: **http://career.nirdpr.in/**
Last date for submission of online application is **29.01.2026**
Advt.No.37/2025
File No: File No: NIRDPR/CPRDPSSD /SoEPR/Finance&Other-2023; Comp.no. 15311
Sd/-
Assistant Director Administration (Section-I)

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
Tender No.ENG/CE/1523/NDC3/2024/375 Dt.08.01.2026
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH DOCK COMPLEX-3 (NDC-3) BERTH FOR HANDLING DRY BULK CARGO ON CAPTIVE BASIS
INVITATION OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)
Paradip Port Authority (PPA) invites applications from interested Applicants in accordance with the RFQ document which may be downloaded from the CPP Portal (https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app). Last date and time of submission of RFQ Applications is 24/02/2026 till 1400 hours.
Executive Engineer (C),
Project Implementation Office, PPA.
PPA/PR/64/2025-2026, dt.12/01/2026

The Director (Life Sciences & Pharma)
Telangana Life Sciences Foundation
3rd Floor, HGCL Office Building, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 032
Contact: +91-99668 86231, Email: head-btic-tls@telangana.gov.in
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender Notification No. TLSF/PROC/2025-26/AMRCOE/05 & 06 Dt: 13.01.2026
To combat global threat of drug-resistant infections, Telangana Life Sciences intends to establish Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) Centre of Excellence (CoE) at Genome Valley Phase-II, Bio Pharma Hub (1 Bio), Plot No. 6/B, Kolthur Village, Muduchintalapally Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri (Dist.) – 500 078, Telangana. Accordingly, invites Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from reputed agencies/firms for procurement of-
1. Molecular and Microbiological Lab Equipment on "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning" on turnkey basis.
2. Analytical Lab Equipment on "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning" on turnkey basis.
NIT can be downloaded from **https://tender.telangana.gov.in** from 13.01.2026 15.00 hours onwards. Last date for submission: **27.01.2026** upto **15:00** hours (IST)
DIPR R.O. No. : 1058-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26, Date: 13-01-2026.
Sd/- Director

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC –SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA-524124
Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
No:SHAR:CMGCIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-15/25-26 Dt: 13.01.2026
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for following works;

Name of Work	Tender No	Estimate Cost
PU water proofing at Admin building, Keepakam, SDSC SHAR	T/C-25-058	₹ 20.14 Lakhs

Tender documents can be downloaded up to **27.01.2026**, **14:30** hrs. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro**
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar,
New Delhi – 110029
FELLOWSHIP ENTRANCE TEST (FET) - 2025
NOTICE
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the next **Fellowship Entrance Test** for Indian and International students on **14th March 2026**.
The online applications are being invited from **14th January 2026** to **03rd February 2026** at NBEMS website:
https://natboard.edu.in/viewnbeexam?exam=fet
Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
• Helpline Portal on applicant login page
• Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

INBRIEF



Himachal CM to raise apple import duty issue with Centre

Amid the rising concern among apple growers over the reduction in duties on apples imported from New Zealand to India, as part of a new free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Tuesday said he would firmly raise the issue before the Union government to protect the interests of the local growers. In Shimla, chairing a meeting with representatives of progressive orchardists of the State, the Chief Minister listened to their concern over the Centre's move of slashing import duty on New Zealand apples from 50% to 25%, which the growers assert would severely impact their livelihoods.

Army activates counter-drone measures at LoC in Rajouri

The Army on Tuesday activated counter-unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones along the Line of Control (LoC) following multiple drone sightings in the Pir Panjal Valley's Rajouri district. Drones were sighted along the LoC, and the Indian Army activated counter-drone measures, official sources said. Drone sightings were reported in Rajouri's Chingus and Manjakote between 7 p.m. and 7.35 p.m. Security forces opened fire at the drones. "Later, the drones disappeared. The situation is under watch," officials said. Earlier this week, about five drone sightings were reported in the Jammu division.

SC says it will impose 'heavy compensation' for dog bites

The top court says that attacks often have 'lifelong' consequences, and questioned why those feeding stray dogs should not assume responsibility by keeping the animals within their homes

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday indicated that it would impose "heavy compensation" on States and also fix accountability on individuals feeding stray dogs in cases involving dog-bite injuries or fatalities. The court underlined that such attacks often had "lifelong" consequences, and questioned why those feeding stray dogs should not assume responsibility by keeping the animals within their homes or premises.

A Bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and N.V. Anjaria also observed that municipal authorities could no longer shirk accountability, as their failure to comply with statutory obligations under the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, had exacerbated the crisis.

"For every dog bite, for every death, we are likely to fix heavy compensation to be paid by States for not making the requisite arrangements and not doing anything. And we will also fix liability on dog feeders. You take them to your house, keep them. Why should they be allowed everywhere... frightening people, biting and chasing? Remember that the impact of a dog bite is lifelong," the Bench said.



The top court says municipal authorities can no longer shirk accountability. FILE PHOTO

Plan of action

However, the judges clarified that they were not seeking to dilute the ABC Rules but were instead calling for accountability for prolonged non-compliance with statutory mandates. They indicated that both the Centre and the States would be required to place on record whether any concrete plan of action existed to address the stray-dog menace.

"We need to call upon them to answer what they have done, why they have not done so, and what their plan of action is... The problem has multiplied manifold. We only want the implementation of these statutory provisions," Justice Nath said, addressing a large number of senior advocates appearing for animal rights groups.

The judges also expressed their dissatisfaction with the pace of the arguments, observing that the proceedings were taking on the character of a public debate.

"Nobody is allowing us to pass orders, and everyone is simply arguing. We are on the fourth day, and arguments are not concluding.... We are not saying the ABC Rules are bad or that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act should go. We want the implementation of statutory provisions. But allow us to work and proceed further," the Bench said.

The oral observations were made during the top court's ongoing *suo motu* proceedings aimed at framing a national framework for stray dog management and addressing the persistent non-compliance of municipal authorities with the ABC Rules. The court said that it would continue hearing the matter on January 15.

Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, appearing for an animal shelter, submitted that the ABC Rules, which endorse the Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release model, reflected Parliament's wisdom and were intended to be implemented in "letter and spirit".

Two with suspected Nipah infection in West Bengal critical

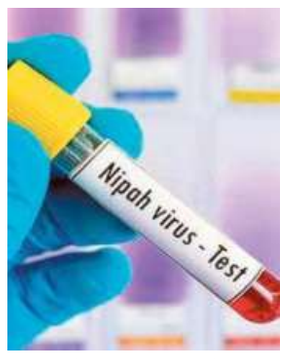
Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The two patients who were suspected of being infected by Nipah virus in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal remained in a critical state on Tuesday. They are undergoing treatment at a private healthcare facility in Barasat city, the same hospital where both patients worked.

Sources told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that one of the patients had tested positive for Nipah, and the report for the other patient was awaited. The two showed Nipah-like symptoms when their samples were tested at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences-Kalyani. The samples were then sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune for reconfirmation.

One of the patients has reportedly gone into a coma, while the other person remained in ventilator support on Tuesday. Reportedly, both patients were on duty in the hospital for the past few days. They had fever during these days after which they were admitted.

Both private and public hospitals in West Bengal are preparing for any adverse rise in the number of cases. The IDBGH (Infectious Diseases and Beleghata General Hospital) in Kolkata has prepared a unit for Nipah virus patients, officials said on Tuesday. An expert committee has been formed, helpline numbers have been launched, and a standard operating procedure (SOP) has been developed for all hospitals.



Hospitals in West Bengal are preparing for any adverse rise in the number of cases.

"Do not panic but stay alert. We have already started contact tracing and an SOP has been developed and deployed," West Bengal Chief Secretary Nandini Chakraborty had said on Monday.

Contact tracing has begun across North 24 Parganas, Purba Bardhaman, and Nadia, because the two patients had returned from Bardhaman's Katwa town recently.

Equality in society has to start in school, says Supreme Court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

> The statutory design [of the RTE Act] is normatively ambitious. It envisages elementary education for all children, across the spectrum of class, caste, gender and economic position, in a shared institutional space. It makes it possible... for the child of a multi-millionaire or even of a judge of SC to sit in the same classroom... as the child of an autorickshaw driver or a vendor
>
> **SUPREME COURT JUDGMENT**



The Supreme Court, in a judgment on Tuesday, said that equality in society had to start in school, where the child of a multi-millionaire or a Supreme Court judge had to sit shoulder-to-shoulder with a child of an autorickshaw driver or a street vendor.

A Bench headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha elaborated that the obligation of the government under the Right to Education Act (RTE) to ensure that neighbourhood schools admit children belonging to weaker and disadvantaged sections has an "extraordinary capacity to transform the social structure of our society".

"The statutory design [of the RTE Act] is normatively ambitious. It envisages elementary education for all children, across the spectrum of class, caste, gender and economic position, in a shared institutional space. It makes it possible, normatively and structurally, for the child of a multimillionaire or even of a judge of the Supreme Court of India to sit in the same classroom and at the same bench as the child of an autorickshaw driver or a street vendor," Justice Narasimha, who authored the judgment, wrote.

The top court's judgment rose from the bitter experience of the petitioner, Dinesh Biwaji Ashtikar, who was quietly snubbed off when he had approached a neighbourhood school to admit his children for free and compulsory elementary education in 2016.

"It is his case that, even though information through RTI indicated that seats were available, the neighbourhood school did not respond," Justice Narasimha narrated.

The judge observed that educating "young India" and achieving "equality of status" demanded an earnest implementation of the constitutional right under Article 21A to free and compulsory education, followed by the statutory mandate of the 2009 Act.

'National mission'

"Ensuring admission of such students must be a national mission and an obligation of the appropriate government and the local authority. Equally, courts, be it constitutional or civil, must walk that extra mile to provide easy access and efficient relief to parents who complain of denial of the right," the Supreme Court declared.

Inter-departmental panel formed to combat 'digital arrests': govt. to SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Union government has swung into action to combat digital arrests, which has deprived citizens, mostly elderly and the vulnerable, of thousands of crores of hard-earned money, by forming an inter-departmental committee chaired by its Special Secretary (Internal Security) Ministry of Home Affairs. The committee has held multiple meeting, and representatives of the online platforms Google, WhatsApp, Telegram and Microsoft attended the latest.

The government has informed the Supreme Court, which is hearing the case on January 13, in a status report that inputs to combat digital arrest scams have been received from the Department of Telecom (DoT) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).



The committee would guide enforcement agencies examine real-time issues and provide inputs. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

The high-level inter-departmental committee (IDC) was formed on December 26, and has officials from multiple agencies to "comprehensively examine all facets of the issue of digital arrests".

Chaired by the Special Secretary (Internal Security), the IDC has representations at the level of Joint Secretary and and above, officers from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology(MeitY), DoT, Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Law & Justice, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, RBI, Central Bureau of Investigation, National Investigation Agency, Delhi Police, and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), with its Chief Executive Officer acting as the member-secretary.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani would attend the meetings of the IDC on a regular basis.

The IDC was formed after a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant had directed inter-departmental Ministerial consultations, under the guidance of the Attorney General, to clear the way to end the bane which has affected a large populace.

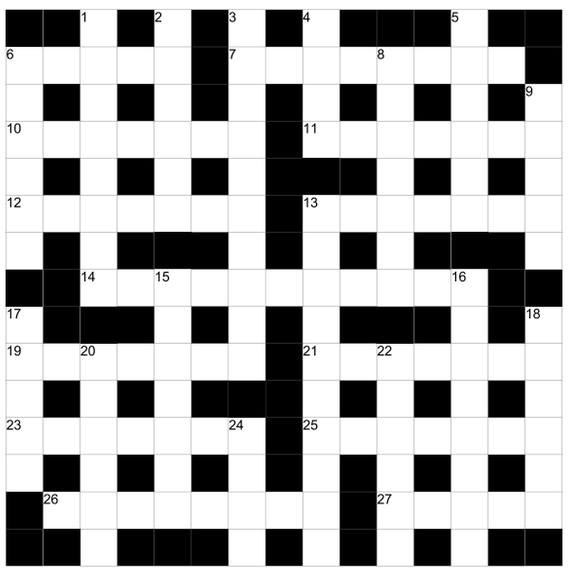
The Centre said the IDC would examine and guide enforcement agencies examine "real-time issues"; identify relevant legislations, rules, circulars and implementation gaps, suggest corrective measures and provide inputs for further directions, as may be required, by the Supreme Court.

TH CROSSWORD + 14691

(set by Mythical)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

6. Members of Parliament sent back message online (5)
7. Ordered tunics, extremely chic and short (8)
10. Naughty kid falling off dickey seat somehow finds precious stone (4,3)
11. Knight abandoning folk and a lady? That's right! (7)
12. Greek character charges plagiarists (7)
13. Welcome revolutionary writer joined by supporter at church (7)
14. Admired Rose (11)
19. Some diplomat! He is truly a rationalist (7)
21. Dismiss a small-time cheater essentially in card game (7)
23. This could endanger perhaps when pin's finally removed (7)
25. Bank branch faced with strike (7)
26. The blue ocean set frequently shown on TV (8)
27. Secures loose openings, checks kitchen shutters primarily (5)

Down

1. Basmati rice cooked without soaking it methodically at first — that could be the source of digestive problems (8)
2. Consumer court checks legal claim (6)
3. Fools supported by school, auditor's suggested review (10)
4. An extremely common issue — ultimately a problem for teenagers (4)
5. Bill joins American secret service — it has several branches? (6)
6. Goes cycling around California to get away (6)
8. People discourage one going out for a little alcohol (7)
9. Fast-moving ships (5)
13. Remove vital parts from tea-service needing repair (10)
15. Most strait-laced companion for Archbishop (7)
16. Kill injured asp seen in trench (8)
17. Occasionally visited Coal Region for consignment (5)
18. Accountant cuts up plant (6)
20. Reportedly mended shoes like stilettos (6)
22. Smart doctor gets into line deviously (6)
24. Prepared Arabic cheese (4)

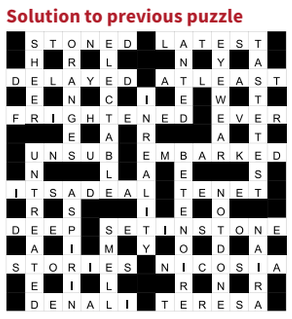
SUDOKU

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

No.SS6761 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Lohri: let darkness vanish

Lohri is a very significant religious and cultural festival celebrated across north India. Offering thanksgiving to the Sun God, Lohri heralds the end of the dark, dreary winters and the beginning of warm days. It also signifies cleansing oneself of inner darkness and seeing the light of divinity. Anthropologically, it is related to the agricultural calendar. It heralds the harvesting of Rabi crops. It is linked to the solar calendar, said Prof. Kumool Abbi. It marks the movement of the Sun from Makar (Capricorn) to the north, signifying the last day of the month of Paush. A bonfire is lit and oblations are offered to the sacred fire. Sesame, peanuts, popcorn, puffed rice and jaggery are offered.

The fire is considered to be alive and pure. A solemnisation of marriage or the birth of a male child is celebrated. The festival of Lohri signifies abundance, bounty, prosperity, fertility, symbolising joy, brightness, warmth, continuity, copiousness; above all, it is a celebration of community spirit.

Lohri is a precursor to the festivals of Maghi, Pongal and Bihu throughout India. The Sikh religion commemorates the sacrifice of 40 *muktas* and the Maghi Mela at Muktsar. Lastly, the festival of Lohri invokes many legends, the most popular being the one linked to Punjab's Robin Hood, Dulla Bhatti; an outlaw during the reign of Akbar, he is credited with saving the honour of two Hindu Brahmin girls and got them married on Lohri. The sight of children going around homes, chanting *Sundri Mundri ho, tera kaun vichara ho, Dulla Bhatti wala ho*, asking for Lohri, is an integral part of the Punjabi folklore.

INBRIEF



Bharat Coking Coal IPO subscribed 146.81 times

The initial public offering of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd got subscribed a massive 146.81 times on the final day of bidding on Tuesday, led by heavy investors' participation. The ₹1,071-crore IPO received bids for 50,93,44,51,200 shares against 34,69,46,500 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The portion meant for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) attracted a whopping 310.81 times subscription. Non-institutional investors' quota fetched 258.04 times subscription. PTI

Amagi raises ₹805 cr. from marquee anchor investors

Amagi Media Labs said it had raised ₹805 crore from marquee anchor investors including SBI MF, ICICI Prudential MF and HDFC MF ahead of its ₹1,789-crore public issue, which opened for subscription on Tuesday. The company allotted 2,22,95,799 equity shares to 42 anchor investors at ₹361 per share. The top three domestic mutual funds - SBI MF, ICICI Prudential MF, and HDFC MF - had picked up around 40% of the total anchor book, it said.

CloudSEK raises $10 million from Connecticut Innovations

Cybersecurity company CloudSEK on Tuesday said it had raised $10 million (about ₹90 crore) from Connecticut Innovations, the strategic venture capital arm of the State of Connecticut. CloudSEK co-founder and CEO, Rahul Sasi, said the investment not only amplified the company's global trajectory but also symbolised the rise of Indian cybersecurity innovation on the world stage. The firm has raised the funds at an enterprise valuation of close to $200 million. PTI

Trump's latest tariff threat on Iran to have little impact on India

India's trade with Iran declined significantly after 2019 following U.S. sanctions against that country, while overall trade levels have been small

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's overall trade scenario is not likely to face much of an impact if it were to stop trading with Iran in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's new threat of a 25% tariff on any country doing business with Iran, official data showed.

However, it could temporarily impact some sectors such as rice, tea, fresh fruits, and essential oils, as per the data.

"Effective immediately, any Country doing business with the Islamic Republic of Iran will pay a Tariff of 25% on any and all business being done with the United States of America," Mr. Trump posted on Truth Social early morning on January 13.

Mr. Trump's actions are in reaction to the Iranian government's apparent crackdown on protestors in that country.

India has a history of stopping or reducing trade with Iran in response to U.S. actions. India's trade with Iran declined significantly after 2019, following the sanctions imposed on that country by the U.S. However, even prior to this, the overall trade levels had remained relatively small, with the two countries largely engaging with each other in a few sectors.



Firing line: Trump's actions are in reaction to the Iran government's apparent crackdown on protestors in that country. REUTERS

According to trade experts, if India were to stop trading with Iran, while some sectors might feel short-term pain, Iran's share is small enough that India will soon be able to find alternatives. Others say that most of what India exports to Iran can be classified as humanitarian products, and so it remains to be seen whether they will be counted as "doing business" with that country.

"As we all know that the trade with Iran is outside the sanctions imposed by U.S., given the humanitarian nature of most of these products," the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said in a statement. "And therefore, FIEO is of the view that the impact of additional 25% tariff imposed by U.S. on any country doing business with Iran will almost have no impact on India."

An analysis by *The Hindu* of the latest trade data with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that Iran accounted for 0.26% ($764.5 million) of India's total exports in FY26 up to November 2025. This share has been falling consistently since FY20, when Iran's share in India's exports was 1.1%.

Of India's exports to Iran, a whopping 61% ($756 million) in 2025-26 so far was basmati rice. If India were to stop exporting to Iran in response to the U.S. tariff threats, this is a sector that could face some pain as basmati rice exports to Iran made up 13.1% of India's total basmati rice exports this year.

The other sectors that might feel an impact are tea, with Iran making up 5.6% of India's tea exports, essential oils (5.4%), and fresh fruits (5.3%).

Iran's share in India's total imports stood at 2.7% in FY17, and was 0.04% as of November 2025.



Large serving: Iran continues to be one of India's most significant destinations for basmati rice. KAMAL NARANG

Rice exporters seek Commerce Ministry's help to clear payments

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rice exporters sought the Union Commerce Ministry's help on Tuesday to clear pending dues from importers in Iran amid growing civil unrest in that country, one of the major importers of basmati and other varieties of Indian rice. While Iran continues to be one of India's most significant destinations for basmati rice, the current financial year has seen growing stress on order flows, payment cycles, and shipment schedules due to the prevailing instability in the country, the Indian Rice Exporters Federation (IREF) has said in an advisory issued to its members.

The IREF's office-bearers met senior Commerce Ministry officials and apprised them of the situation. The IREF said in a release that the immediate fallout of the situation in Iran is evident in Indian markets too, where basmati prices have softened sharply within days.

"Exporters must exercise heightened caution, particularly with respect to credit exposure and shipment timelines," the IREF's statement said. India exported 5.99 lakh tonnes of basmati rice worth $468.10 million to Iran during April-November of the 2025-26 financial year, according to the IREF. The prices of popular domestic basmati rice varieties, including 1121, 1509, and 1718, have fallen by about ₹5 in a week.

"Iran has historically been a pillar market for Indian basmati. However, the current internal turmoil has disrupted trade channels, slowed payments and dented buyer confidence," the IREF's national president Prem Garg said in the statement.

"Importers have conveyed their inability to honour existing commitments and remit payments to India, creating uncertainty for exporters," the IREF said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,628	-0.30
US Dollar	90.23	-0.06
Gold	1,45,000	0.27
Brent oil	65.81	3.76

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2158.50	-13.10
Adani Ports	1428.60	-14.90
Apollo Hosp	7311.50	43.00
Asian Paints	2886.30	-10.10
Axis Bank	1262.00	-12.20
Bajaj Auto	9554.00	63.00
Bajaj Finserv	2011.20	12.30
Bajaj Finance	949.00	-2.90
Bharat Elec	413.70	-4.00
Bharti Airtel	2026.90	-17.10
Cipla	1448.30	-16.90
Coal India	428.90	-3.40
Dr Reddys Lab	1191.30	-24.20
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7404.00	-32.00
Eternal Ltd.	294.55	9.30
Grasim Ind	2774.20	-32.50
HCL Tech	1665.00	-2.60
HDFC Bank	937.35	0.40
HDFC Life	748.50	-6.15
Hindalco	936.30	16.15
Hind Unilever	2389.50	-16.70
ICICI Bank	1437.00	23.90
IntGlobeAvi	4759.50	-90.50
Infosys	1599.00	3.10
ITC	334.70	-3.70
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	284.60	-3.65
JSW Steel	1178.10	-4.60
Kotak Bank	2132.60	-0.70
L&T	3887.40	-131.60
M&M	3661.50	-20.50
Maruti Suzuki	16426.00	-156.00
Max Healthcare	1028.20	14.50
NestleIndia	1318.70	6.30
NTPC	337.90	0.45
ONGC	243.78	8.07
PowerGrid Corp	258.80	0.25
Reliance Ind	1452.80	-30.40
SBI Life	2082.40	-15.60
State Bank	1028.45	13.30
Shriram Finance Ltd.	979.05	6.25
Sun Pharma	1728.70	-7.30
TataConsumerProduct	1189.40	-2.90
Tata Steel	182.57	-0.67
TCS	3268.00	28.40
Tech Mahindra	1614.80	28.70
Titan	4239.20	7.60
Tata Motors PV	349.75	-0.80
Trent Ltd.	3921.90	-134.50
UltraTech Cement	12044.00	-54.00
Wipro	264.20	1.10

Zydus drug for Menkes gets U.S. FDA nod

Sentynl Therapeutics Inc, wholly owned by Zydus Lifesciences, has received U.S. FDA approval for Zycubo (copper histidinate) for treatment of Menkes disease in paediatric patients.

PV sales climb 5% in CY25 on GST, rate cut

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Passenger Vehicle PV) segment clocked highest-ever sales in a calendar year (CY) at 44.90 lakh units in CY25, growing 5% year-on-year driven by Q3 offtake, as per data from Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

This segment also posted its highest-ever sales of 12.76 lakh units in Q3 of 2025-26, registering a growth of 20.6%.

"This robust performance was supported by improved affordability following the GST rate reduction, benefits from personal income tax relief and successive repo rate cuts by the RBI, easing financing costs and a renewed sense of optimism among buyers, which together helped in boosting consumer demand in this festive quarter," SIAM said.



For December, PV local sales grew 29% YoY to 3,49,170 units.

"Growth during the year has been broad-based across segments with PV, commercial vehicles and three-wheelers recording the highest-ever sales," said Shailesh Chandra, president, SIAM.

Looking ahead, the industry expects the positive momentum to continue well into 2026.

British Columbia's Eby, Puri hold talks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri met Premier of the Canadian province of British Columbia David Eby to discuss the prospects for LNG projects in the region, cooperation in green hydrogen, LPG imports, critical minerals, and aspects related to energy sector.

"Held excellent discussion on fruitful India-Canada partnership as India moves ahead with momentum towards attaining energy self-sufficiency, green transition and Net Zero targets under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Mr. Puri posted on social media,

Mr. Eby is leading a trade mission to India and would be meeting government and business leaders in New Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh and Bengaluru. The objective is to "promote British Columbia's business, critical minerals and sustainable wood products, supporting work to build a more independent economy," read a government statement.

The outreach forms part of a larger diversification effort emanating from Ottawa as the North American country reels under "unjustified tariffs from the U.S."

Canada's Minister for International Trade Maninder Sidhu also met Mr. Puri to discuss bilateral hydrocarbon trade between the two nations in November last year. The bilateral hydrocarbon trade scaled to $226.45 million in FY2024-25 and held "substantial upside potential", Mr. Puri had mentioned then.

PFRDA sets up expert panel on assured NPS payouts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a bid to explore methods to avert market risks and provide steady income, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) said it constituted an expert committee to develop a framework for assured payouts under the National Pension Scheme (NPS).

The 15-member panel, chaired by M. S. Sahoo, former Chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), would comprise members from the legal, actuarial, finance, insurance, capital markets and academic fraternities.



M.S. Sahoo

The panel would be required to deliberate on the operational design for execution in terms of defining lock-in periods, withdrawal limits, pricing mechanism and fee structure; provide for consumer protection by carving out standardised procedures to prevent mis-selling and address subscribers' expectations about the nature of assurance, among other things.

In a consultation paper last September, the PFRDA noted from the subscribers' perspective, as a 'mark-to-market' defined contribution scheme, NPS "leaves certain key questions unanswered, namely, adequacy of corpus and predictability of retirement income due to factors like market volatility, contribution persistency and investment choices."

Human + AI will define the future of work by 2027: study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Human + AI will define the future of work and nearly all HR leaders (97%) anticipate that by 2027, the nature of work will be shaped by humans working alongside AI rather than engaging with it only intermittently, showed a Nasscom-Indeed study.

As per the study, this trend signalled a shift from AI being a supplementary tool to becoming an integral part of everyday roles, workflows and decision-making processes.

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - TENDER NOTICE
Office of The Chief Engineer (Commercial &Tariff), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
Inviting Short term tender for the procurement of power during peak hours of **18.00 Hrs to 22.00 Hrs for 01.02.2026 to 15.05.2026.**
DEEP Portal Reference No - **KSEBL/Short/25-26/ET/131 dtd 08.01.2026.**
Submission of RfP (online digitally signed Non Financial Technical Bid and IPOs) - **19.01.2026, 02.00 pm.**
For more details visit **www.kseb.in** Ref : **PR/MC1/F375/2026**

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES ZONE, UDAIPUR
Near Akashvani, Chetak Circle, Udaipur (Rajasthan) 313001
Phone no.: 0294-2414794 Email: - aceudaipur2019@gmail.com
No.-ACE/Actt.III/Udaipur/F. /2025-26/21297 Dated:- 31/12/2025
E-NIT No. 13/ 2025-26
(WRD2526A0606)
Bids for the following work are invited from interested bidders upto 6:00 PM, dated 03-02-2026

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated. Cost of Work (Rs. In lacs)
1.	Rehabilitation of Jetpura Irrigation Sub Project, District Bhilwara	1156.99

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/ wrd
UBN: WRD2526WLOB02083
Additional Chief Engineer
Water Resources Zone, Udaipur
DIPR/C/286/2026

MAHARAJA SURAJMAL BRIJ UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, CHAK SAKEETRA KUMHER BHARATPUR
NIB No. :- Exam/2025-26/4000 Date :- 09/01/2026
CORRIGENDUM TENDER NOTICE
PRE & POST EXAMINATION
TENDER NOTICE No. 27
Maharaja Surajmal Brij University, Bharatpur invited E-bid for pre & post examination work (Semester and annual System Examination) for two sessions 2025-26 & 2026-27 vide order no. 2242 dated 16/12/2025. The bid may be downloaded from 17-12-2025 (12:00PM).
A corrigendum regarding the tender has been issued on vide order no. 3978 dated 07/01/2026. The same may be seen on **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** or **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or University website **http://msbrijuniversity.ac.in** /notice board.
NIB No. : BUB2526A00013, UBH NO- BUB2526SLOB00050
Raj.Samwad/C/25/17538 **Registrar**

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Description of work	Due date
252613 006823	Procurement of Hydrogen Peroxide 50% for Unit - I and Unit - II	27.01.2026
252613 006893	Procurement of DAF Chemicals (Flocculants & Coagulant) for De-Inking Plant.	29.01.2026
252613 006930	Imported Limestone for Soda Recovery Plant.	30.01.2026
252623 003924	For Supply of Electric Operated Forklifts for Tissue Paper Machine (TM#5) at TNPL Unit - II.	27.01.2026
252623 003938	Procurement of Cooking Aid for Continuous Digester for Pulp Mill of TNPL Unit - II.	02.02.2026
252623 003939	Procurement of Burnt Lime for SRP of TNPL Unit - II.	03.02.2026
252623 003940	Procurement of Surface Sizing Agent for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	04.02.2026
252623 003948	Bleached Softwood Kraft Pulp (BSKP) FSC MIX for Unit - II.	28.01.2026
252623 003949	BCTMP Hardwood 70 - High Yield Pulp for Unit - II.	29.01.2026
252623 003950	BCTMP Hardwood 80 - High Yield Pulp (Low Tensile) for Unit - II.	30.01.2026
252613 006976	Procurement of Caustic Soda Lye for Unit - I and Unit - II.	27.01.2026
252613 006995	Procurement of Sulphuric Acid for Unit - I and Unit - II.	23.01.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/196/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
WBSETCL Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 Web: www.wbsetcl.in
NIT No.: CE/CTD/WBSETCL/Procurement/25-26/09 Date: 14.01.2026
E-Tender is invited for supply and delivery of 3P4W 0.2S class DLMS complied ABT Meter along with associated items as per technical specifications. Bid documents can be downloaded from **14.01.2026, 06:00 P.M.** and bids shall be submitted (online) up to **03:00 P.M., 17.02.2026.**
Visit the following websites - www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.
ICA- 1912(3)/2026

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
O/o The Superintending Engineer (H-CITI & SNDP), GHMC, Hyderabad
Tender Notice No. 15/SE (H-CITI & SNDP)/GHMC/2025-26, Dt: 12.01.2026

Item No.:	Name of Work	Estimate Amount
1.	"Construction of 6 lane bi-directional Grade Separator for through traffic covering three junctions namely Mailardevpally, Shamshabad Road & Katedhan junctions under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC)/Turnkey Basis"	Rs. 345.00 Crores
	Total	Rs. 345.00 Crores

S.No.	Events	Date & Time
1.	Start date	16-01-2026 from 03.00 PM
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting	23-01-2026 at 03.00 PM Location: O/o Chief Engineer (H-CITI), GHMC 6th Floor, GHMC Head Office Tank Bund, Hyderabad
3.	Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids	03-02-2026 upto 03.00 PM
4.	Opening of Technical bid	03-02-2026 after 03.30 PM
5.	Opening of Price bid	04-02-2026 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 sep2szghmc@gmail.com Address of the officer concerned Sri.B.L.Srinivas Rao, SE (H-CITI & SNDP), 9154768808. Superintending Engineer (H-CITI & SNDP), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.** Sd/- **Superintending Engineer, (H-CITI & SNDP) GHMC**
DIPR R.O.No.13617-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 13.01.2026

MBM UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR
No. : MBMU/OIC/2025-26/1292 Date :- 09/01/2026
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids are invited from interested eligible and experienced vendors/suppliers for the supply/provision of the following items/services at MBM University, Jodhpur. All other particulars of the bid may be visited on the portal **sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.mbm.ac.in.**
1. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00069 Tender No.49/2025-26 for "Supply of Air Conditioner 2 Ton", in MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹2.75 Lakh. rupees and last date of bid submission 16.01.2026, 12:00 Noon.
2. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00070 Tender No.50/2025-26 for "Supply of Furniture Items for Centre of Excellence for Non-Conventional Energy" in MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹03.02 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 16.01.2026 12:00 Noon.
3. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00071 Tender No.51/2025-26 for "High Performance Computer Systems for Department of Architecture & Town Planning" (UNDER PM-USHA)" with estimated amount ₹08.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 16.01.2026 12:00 Noon.
4. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00072 Tender No.52/2025-26 for "Procurement, Installation and Commissioning of Firewall and Server Equipment's" with estimated amount ₹60.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 19.01.2026 12:00 Noon.
5. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00073 Tender No.53/2025-26 for "Purchase and installation of Water Cooler & Water Purifier for Petroleum Department" with estimated amount ₹06.50 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 16.01.2026 12:00 Noon.
6. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00074 Tender No.54/2025-26 for "Selection of Firm/Agency for Manufacturing of Bricks with Admixture Including Supply of Manpower, Raw Materials and Construction" with estimated amount ₹04.60 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 16.01.2026 12:00 Noon.
7. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00075 Tender No.55/2025-26 for "Data Acquisition Systems for Mechanical Department" at M B M University, Jodhpur. (Under Pm-Usha)" with estimated amount ₹20.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 19.01.2026 12:00 Noon.
8. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00076 Tender No.57/2025-26 for "Purchase Computer Software 10 Unit for Department of Architecture and Town Planning" with estimated amount ₹15.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 19.01.2026 12:00 Noon.
9. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00077 Tender No.60/2025-26 for "Supply of Smart Board/ Interactive Panel"" with estimated amount ₹03.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 16.01.2026 12:00 Noon.
10. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00078 Tender No.61/2025-26 for "SUPPLY OF EXAMINATION ANSWER SHEET" with estimated amount ₹03.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 16.01.2026 12:00 Noon.
11. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00079 Tender No.62/2025-26 for "SUPPLY OF EXAMINATION COPIES PACKING BAGS" with estimated amount ₹04.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 16.01.2026 12:00 Noon.
12. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00080 Limited Tender No.06/2025-26 for "Desktop and Printer with scanner and photocopy" with estimated amount ₹01.50 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 16.01.2026 12:00 Noon.
Raj.Samwad/C/25/17537 **OIC-Central Store**

YANGON

Myanmar pro-military party claims most seats in junta-run election



AP

Myanmar's dominant pro-military party, USDP, on Tuesday claimed a majority of elected lower house seats in the country's junta-run polls, which democracy watchdogs say will prolong the armed forces' grip. With Aung San Suu Kyi jailed and her party banned, critics say the election ensures the junta's dominance. AFP

PARIS

France's Le Pen says had 'no sense' of any offence as appeal trial opens



REUTERS

French far-right leader Marine Le Pen said at the opening of an appeals trial on Tuesday that she had "no sense" of having committed any offence. A French court had found her, as well as the party itself, guilty of operating a "system" from 2004 to 2016 using European Parliament funds to employ RN staff in France. AFP

WASHINGTON

Republican congressman proposes Bill to make Greenland 51st state



AFP

A Republican congressman introduced a Bill on Monday to annex Greenland and make it the 51st U.S. state as President Donald Trump threatens to seize the autonomous Danish territory. Mr. Trump has said the U.S. will take Greenland "one way or the other," floating the idea of buying the territory or taking it by force. AFP

WASHINGTON

'U.S. disguised military aircraft used in boat strikes as a civilian plane'



AFP

The Pentagon disguised a military aircraft as a civilian plane to attack an alleged drug smuggling boat last year, killing 11, the *New York Times* reported on Monday. The alleged move could violate international laws, which prohibit combatants from "feigning civilian status...a war crime called 'perfidy'," it said. AFP

Trump 'cancels' talks with Iran officials, asks protesters to 'take over institutions'

The U.S. President, who ordered the bombing of Iran in June, tells protesters that 'help is on the way'; 'any country doing business with the Islamic Republic will pay a tariff of 25% on all business being done with the U.S.', he adds; Norway-based group claims 734 people were killed in protests

Stanly Johny

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday doubled down on his threat of intervention in protest-hit Iran, telling protesters that "help is on its way", a day after he claimed that Iranian officials had reached out to Washington for talks amid ongoing protests and a security crackdown in the Islamic Republic.

"Iranian patriots, keep protesting – take over your institutions. Save the names of the killers and abusers. They will pay a big price," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post. "I have cancelled all meetings with Iranian officials until the senseless killing of protesters stops. Help is on the way," he added, without explaining what kind of "help" he is offering.

On Monday, Mr. Trump said in another social media post that he would impose 25% tariff on Iran's trading partners. "Effective immediately, any country doing business with the Islamic Republic of Iran will pay a Tariff of 25% on any and all business being done with the United States of America. This Order is final and conclusive," Mr. Trump said.

Iran's main trading partners are China, Turkiye, the UAE and Iraq. Turkiye and the UAE are close American allies.



Donald Trump, who joined Israel in bombing Iran in June 2025, had earlier threatened to attack Iran again if protesters were killed. AFP

Mr. Trump, who joined Israel in bombing Iran in June 2025 during the 12-day war, had earlier threatened to attack Iran again if protesters were killed. "If Iran shoots and violently kills peaceful protesters, which is their custom, the United States of America will come to their rescue. We are locked and loaded and ready to go," Mr. Trump said on January 2. Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, had responded to Mr. Trump, saying "U.S. interference in this internal matter would mean destabilizing the entire region".

What began as a protest by traders over falling currency and hyperinflation has spread into a nationwide protest in Iran. The authorities have imposed an Internet shutdown, and cracked down on what they call "rioters and terrorists" on Saturday. State media have reported that dozens of security personnel were killed by "rioters". According to Norway-based Iran Human Rights, at least 734 people were killed during the protests.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, in an interview with *Al Jazeera*, said the government was in talks with the protesters and the Internet was shut down only after "we confronted terrorist operations". In response to Mr. Trump, he said: "We are prepared for any eventuality and we hope Washington will choose a wise option. It doesn't matter which option they choose, we are ready for it."

At least 100 children killed in Gaza since ceasefire, says UN

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA



James Elder

At least 100 children have been killed by Israeli air strikes and ground forces in Gaza since the start of a tenuous ceasefire three months ago, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

The UN children's agency UNICEF said that at least 60 boys and 40 girls had been killed in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territory since early October.

"More than 100 children have been killed in Gaza since the ceasefire," UNICEF spokesperson James Elder told presspersons in Geneva.

"That's roughly a girl or a boy killed here every day during a ceasefire," he said, speaking from Gaza City. "These children are killed from air strikes, drone strikes. They're killed from tank shelling. They're killed from live ammunition. They're killed from quad copters."

"We are at 100 – no doubt," he said, adding that the true number was likely higher. "A ceasefire that slows the bombs is progress but one that still buries children is not enough," he added.

Reached 'general consensus' with U.S. on trade deal: Taiwan

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI



Lai Ching-te

Taiwan has reached a "general consensus" with the United States on a trade deal, the democratic island's negotiators said on Tuesday, after months of talks.

Taiwan and the United States began negotiations in April to hash out a trade deal after U.S. President Donald Trump slapped a 32% tariff on Taiwanese exports, which was later lowered to 20%, as part of his sweep of measures against dozens of trade partners.

Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te has pledged to boost investment in the United States and increase defence spending as his government tries to further reduce the levy on its shipments, as well as avoid a toll on its semiconductor chip exports. Taiwan's trade surplus with the U.S. was the seventh highest of any country in 2024, reaching $73.9 billion.

Russia launches yet another strike on Ukraine's power grid

Associated Press
KYIV

Russia launched a second major drone and missile bombardment of Ukraine in four days, officials said on Tuesday, aiming again at the power grid amid freezing temperatures in an apparent snub to U.S.-led peace efforts as Moscow's invasion of its neighbour approaches the four-year mark.

Russia fired almost 300 drones, 18 ballistic missiles and seven cruise missiles at eight regions overnight, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

One strike in the northeastern Kharkiv region killed four persons at a mail depot, and several hundred thousand households were without power in the Kyiv region, Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Kyiv has grappled with severe power shortages for days, although Mayor Vitali Klitschko said Monday night's strikes caused the biggest electrical outage the city has faced so far.

On Monday, the U.S. accused Russia of a "dangerous and inexplicable escalation" of the fighting at a time when the Trump administration is trying to advance peace negotiations.

Meanwhile, Russian air defences shot down 11 Ukrainian drones overnight, Russia's Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

Syrian Army tells Kurdish forces to withdraw from area east of Aleppo

Agence France-Presse
ALEPPO



Buses carrying displaced residents as they return to the Sheikh Maqsoud neighbourhood in Aleppo, Syria, on Tuesday. AP

Syria's Army told Kurdish forces on Tuesday to withdraw from an area they control east of Aleppo after dislodging fighters from two neighbourhoods in the city in deadly clashes last week.

The move raises fresh concerns of further fighting between the two sides, as Syria's Islamist government seeks to extend its authority across the country and progress stalls on integrating the Kurds' de facto autonomous administration and forces into the central government.

In Qamishli, the main Kurdish city in the country's northeast, thousands of people demonstrated against the Aleppo violence, some burning pictures of Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, also known as Abu Mohammad al-Jolani.

Syrian state television published an army statement with a map declaring a large area east of Aleppo city a "closed military zone" and said "all armed groups in this area must withdraw to east of the Euphrates" River.

The area begins near Deir Hafer, around 50 km east of Aleppo and extends to the Euphrates further east, as well as towards the south.

On Monday, Syria accused the U.S.-backed, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) of sending reinforcements to Deir Hafer and said it sent its own personnel there in response.

The SDF is the de facto army of the Kurds' semi-autonomous administration and controls swathes of the country's oil-rich north and northeast, much of which it captured during Syria's civil war and the fight against the Islamic State group.

The SDF denied any build-up of its personnel around Deir Hafer.

THE HINDU GROUP

WHEN INSTITUTIONS PROMOTE EXCELLENCE

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MILESTONE

Harmanpreet second player to reach 1,000 runs in WPL



EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mumbai Indians skipper Harmanpreet Kaur became the second player after Nat Sciver-Brunt to reach the milestone of 1,000 runs in the WPL. The 36-year-old achieved the feat during her match-winning unbeaten 71 against Gujarat Giants. Sciver-Brunt leads the tally with 1,101 runs followed by Harmanpreet (1016).

MATTER OF CONCERN

Need to improve our PowerPlay bowling: Capitals captain Jemimah



PTI

Delhi Capitals captain Jemimah Rodrigues said the team's bowling in the PowerPlay needed improvement in the WPL. "I think definitely our PowerPlay bowling. We need to get our plans more sorted. But again, it's tough to bowl when Sophie Devine is in such great form," she said after Capitals' loss to Gujarat Giants.

QUESTION OF RELEVANCE

Limited games make ODI series like this important, says Nicholls



VIJAY SONEJI

NZ's Henry Nicholls said having a limited amount of one-day cricket between global events makes such ODI series "more important than ever." He said with next ODI WC nearly two years away and "there not being as much one-day cricket between major events, I think that makes these series even more important".

NOT THE BEST START

Venus loses in the first round of Hobart International



AP

Venus Williams lost 4-6, 3-6 to Tatjana Maria in the first round of the Hobart International on Tuesday, less than a week before her appearance at the Australian Open. The 45-year-old Venus received a wild-card entry for the first Grand Slam event of the year. She also lost her first-round match at Auckland last week.



In total control: Harmanpreet hit her second successive fifty and took MI home. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Harmanpreet-Carey show wins it for MI

The two put on 84 off 43 balls for the unbroken fourth wicket in the team's highest successful chase and make it eight in a row against Giants

WPL-4

Shayan Acharya
NAVI MUMBAI

When Harmanpreet Kaur walked out to bat, Mumbai Indians was struggling at 37 for two, and the target of 193 seemed far away.

But the skipper led from the front with an unbeaten 43-ball 71 as Mumbai Indians overcame early jitters to pull off a seven-wicket win against Gujarat Giants in a Women's Premier League fixture on Tuesday.

As a near-packed D.Y. Patil Stadium chanted her name, a calm and composed Harmanpreet forged two key partnerships – 72 off 44 deliveries with Amanjot Kaur for the third wicket followed by an unbroken 84 off 43 balls with Nicola Carey – as the defending champion pulled off its highest chase in the tournament.

While Amanjot hit a flurry of fours before falling to Sophie Devine, Harmanpreet and Carey ensured that there were no further dents. The two guided the team to a second straight win and inflicted an eighth successive loss on Giants in head-to-head encounters.

As the Giants bowlers failed to defend a big total, it was indeed heartbreak for Bharti Fulmali. Her unbeaten 15-ball-36 run cameo had guided Giants to 192 for five. The MI bowlers operated well in the middle overs before Bharti (36 n.o., 15b, 3x4, 3x6) and Georgia Wareham (43 n.o., 33b, 4x4, 1x6) put on an unbroken 56-run partnership off 24 balls for the sixth wicket to turn things around for Giants. They also became the first team to register 180-plus scores in three consecutive matches in the competition.

The Gujarat outfit retired out a struggling Ayushi Soni – a first in the tournament – in the 16th over. That turned out to be a masterstroke as Bharti came in and breathed life into the innings.



Purple patch: Carey continued her fine show. EMMANUAL YOGINI

She survived a couple of reviews before dealing in fours and sixes. After scoring 15 of the 16-run over by Carey in the 19th, she smashed Amanjot all over the park in the final over.

Bharti plundered 18 out of the 23 runs conceded by Amanjot as she entertained the crowd with power-hitting. But, her efforts went in vain.

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT GIANTS

Beth Mooney c & b Kerr 33 *(26b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Sophie Devine c Kamalini b Ismail 8 *(4b, 2x4)*, Kanika Ahuja c Carey b Matthews 35 *(18b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Ashleigh Gardner lbw b Carey 20 *(11b, 4x4)*, Georgia Wareham (not out) 43 *(33b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Ayushi Soni retd. out 11 *(14b)*, Bharti Fulmali (not out) 36 *(15b, 3x4, 3x6)*; Extras (lb-4, nb-1, w-1): 6; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs) 192.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-22 (Devine, 2.4 overs), 2-64 (Mooney, 6.3), 3-97 (Gardner, 9.2), 4-99 (Kanika, 10.1), 5-136 (Ayushi, 15.6).

MI BOWLING

Ismail 4-0-25-1, Matthews 3-0-34-1, Carey 4-0-36-1, Kerr 4-0-40-1, Amanjot 4-0-48-0, Sanskriti 1-0-5-0.

MUMBAI INDIANS

G. Kamalini st. Mooney b Renuka 13 *(12b, 2x4)*, Hayley Matthews c Devine b Kashvee 22 *(12b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Amanjot Kaur c Gardner b Devine 40 *(26b, 7x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 71 *(43b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Nicola Carey (not out) 38 *(23b, 6x4)*; Extras (b-4, lb-4, w-1): 9; Total (for three wkts. in 19.2 overs): 193.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-20 (Kamalini, 2.5), 2-37 (Matthews, 4.5), 3-109 (Amanjot, 12.1).

GIANTS BOWLING

Renuka 4-0-39-1, Kashvee 4-0-33-1, Rajeshwari 2-0-22-0, Devine 3.2-0-29-1, Wareham 2-0-23-0, Tanuja 3-0-29-0, Gardner 1-0-10-0.

Toss: MI; **PoM:** Harmanpreet.

Mumbai Indians won by seven wickets with four deliveries to spare.

Today's match

UP Warriorz vs. Delhi Capitals

Navi Mumbai, 7.30 p.m

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 6

UPW 2 | DC 4

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Focus on the XI as Men in Blue hope to seal series

NZ IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
RAJKOT

The Men's T20 World Cup will commence on February 7. And the next ODI assignment that will truly shift Indian men's cricket's focus towards the 2027 ODI World Cup is nearly five months away. With little at stake, the least India can do in the remaining two ODIs against New Zealand – starting with the second match here on a festive day – is offer game-time to as many reserves as possible.

It will therefore be interesting to see whether Nitish Kumar is the only forced change or whether the team management opts for a broader rotation policy across departments. The Indian think-tank was already considering giving Nitish a rare ODI outing; Washington Sundar's side strain has all but sealed his third ODI cap.

Ahead of the series opener, captain Shubman Gill had indicated that the pace-bowling group would be rotated. It will be interesting to see if Arshdeep Singh is handed an opportunity at the expense of Prasidh Krishna. Both Nitish and Arshdeep had extended spells during India's optional floodlit net session along with Ayush Badoni who has been called up as Washington's replacement.



Fingers crossed: Nitish, right, is almost certain to take the field while Jurel is likely to remain on the sidelines. VIJAY SONEJI

There is also the question of whether head coach Gautam Gambhir is inclined to extend rotation to the top three. With Rohit Sharma, Gill and Virat Kohli forming a settled top-order, Yashasvi Jaiswal has been left out. Gambhir himself faced a similar scenario as a player when he, Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag were rotated as openers during the 2012 tri-series in Australia.

It remains to be seen if India experiments with top-order rotation – if not here, then in Indore – to hand Jaiswal an opportunity. While Jaiswal took it easy, Dhruv Jurel – the reserve 'keeper-batter – had a long vigil in the nets on Tuesday. That said, few batters would willingly sit out a match on what promises to be a belter at the Niranjan Shah Stadium.



Gill. VIJAY SONEJI

While India weighs combinations and personnel, New Zealand will hope to once again punch above its weight. Despite fielding a largely inexperienced bowling unit, the Black Caps pushed India to the brink in Vadodara. Michael Bracewell's side will be keen to find answers to the Kohli question. The maestro is in imperious form, having registered five consecutive 50-plus scores – including two hundreds – in his last five ODI outings.

The teams (from): India: Shubman Gill (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul (wk), Shreyas Iyer (Vice-capt.), Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Siraj, Harshit Rana, Prasidh Krishna, Kuldeep Yadav, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Nitish Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ayush Badoni.

New Zealand: Michael Bracewell (Capt.), Adithya Ashok, Kristian Clarke, Josh Clarkson, Devon Conway, Zak Foulkes, Mitch Hay (wk), Kyle Jamieson, Nick Kelly, Jayden Lennox, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Michael Rae, Will Young.

Match starts at 1.30 p.m.

Jadeja needs to raise his game on home turf

Amol Karhadkar
RAJKOT

The Niranjan Shah Stadium at Rajkot has been Ravindra Jadeja's home ground for a quarter of a century.

But it's a different homecoming for Jadeja this time around. Having retired from the T20Is and recalled to the ODI set-up at the expense of Axar Patel, the 37-year-old will have to make a significant contribution to consolidate his position in the format.

In the four ODIs India has played since his return to the 50-over format in November, Jadeja made vital contributions with the bat against South Africa before having an odd failure against the Kiwis in Vadodara on Sunday. But it's his bowling that has let him down. He has picked up a solitary wicket at an average of 213 and an economy rate of 6.26.

For a bowler with immaculate control, Jadeja will know that he hasn't lived up to the potential so far this home season. No wonder then that the veteran all-rounder not only had a brief stint with the willow on Tuesday but also rolled his arm over.

India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak, who was Jadeja's senior teammate for Saurashtra, backed the southpaw to come good during Wednesday's second ODI.

"Ravindra has already played here, so it's great for him to be in Rajkot," Kotak said.

"A lot of support for him obviously. I don't think I should be talking about anyone's future. I will still tell you that Ravindra is fit, he is performing and as long he is performing and enjoying the game, any player would want to play and do well for India and the team".



Leaving no stone unturned: Jadeja not only had a brief stint with the willow but also rolled his arm over on Tuesday. VIJAY SONEJI



Fully committed: Kohli and Rohit are deeply involved in the team's way forward, says the Indian batting coach. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Rohit, Kohli discuss ODI plans with Gambhir: Kotak

Amol Karhadkar
RAJKOT

India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak on Tuesday played down speculation about an alleged communication breakdown between senior batters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma and head coach Gautam Gambhir, stressing that the experienced duo remains deeply involved in discussions around team planning.

"The amount of experience they (Rohit and Kohli) have, they can share a lot of ideas with other players and they do discuss. They discuss with Gautam about the ODI format, about the matches we have, our plans going to South Africa (for the World Cup)," Kotak said while addressing the media here on Tuesday.

"Most of the time, I am there and if I am listening, they definitely share the experience and I always see them talking. Obviously, in social media, you see a lot of things which I try to avoid seeing."

Kotak was responding to a query on how the team management is handling Kohli and Rohit operating as single-format specialists at a time when ODIs are the least played format in international cricket.

He explained that given their stature and experience, the duo requires minimal external guidance, particularly when it comes to preparation and workload management.

"Both of them are so senior and so experienced. They definitely make plans. They want to practice at all the venues. If they feel they need to, they go a couple of days in advance. And they practice because they both also have been such outstanding players for India," Kotak said.

"Planning-wise and all, they are brilliant. They know what they need to do.

"They know what their body needs, not only batting, even fitness, whatever requirements they have, so they are thorough professionals. I don't think they need to be told they need to do this or that".

Jugraj's hat-trick does it for Tigers

HIL-MEN

Sports Bureau
RANCHI

Jugraj Singh scored his first hat-trick of the season to ensure a commanding 5-3 win for the Shrachi Bengal Tigers against Tamil Nadu Dragons in the Men's Hockey India League on Tuesday. The win took Tigers to the fourth spot.

While Jugraj became only the second player to get a hat-trick after HIL GC's Kane Russell, who has three to his credit so far, goals from Sukhjeet (33rd minute) and Abhishek (55th minute) helped the Tigers' cause. Adrohit Ekka, Thomas Sorsby and Blake Govers found the target for Dragons.

Bengal Tigers was quick to get off the blocks, but didn't find success.

However, an infringement by the defenders saw Dragons give away a penalty stroke in the 11th minute. Jugraj, the top-scorer in the previous edition, kept the ball low and came up with a fierce shot to beat goalkeeper David Harte to put his team ahead.

The result: Shrachi Bengal Tigers 5 (Jugraj 11, 43 & 45, Sukhjeet 33, Abhishek 55) bt Tamil Nadu Dragons 3 (Adrohit 36, Sorsby 48, Govers 51).



Jugraj.

INBRIEF



Mbappe absent from training as coach Arbeloa takes charge

Striker Kylian Mbappe was absent as Real Madrid coach Alvaro Arbeloa took charge of his first training session on Tuesday, after replacing Xabi Alonso at the helm of the Spanish giant. Arbeloa was appointed on Monday, and his first game is against Albacete in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday, in which French forward Mbappe is unlikely to feature. "Things didn't go as I would have liked," Alonso, who was replaced after less than eight months at the helm, posted on Instagram. "Coaching Real Madrid was an honour and a responsibility. I'm grateful to the club, the players and above all, the fans for their confidence and support".

Kyrgios stands by decision to skip Australian Open singles

Nick Kyrgios was feted like a rockstar at an exhibition event in Melbourne on Tuesday, but remained adamant a decision not to play singles at the Australian Open was the right one. The 2022 Wimbledon finalist last week ruled himself out of contention for a wildcard as he makes a comeback after an injury-ravaged three years. The Australian showman will instead focus on doubles at the Grand Slam tournament, which starts on Sunday. Swiss three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka and Australians Jordan Thompson and Chris O'Connell were awarded the last three wildcards.

Vidarbha makes short work of Delhi, sets up semifinal clash with Karnataka

Rathod, Taide shine in the team's 76-run victory; Prabhsimran, Anmolpreet star in Punjab's power-packed performance against Madhya Pradesh

HAZARE TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

An efficient Vidarbha outclassed Delhi by 76 runs in the Vijay Hazare Trophy quarterfinal at the BCCI CoE (2) ground here on Tuesday.

Vidarbha batting fired first, with Yash Rathod (86), Atharva Taide (62) and Dhruv Shorey (49) playing their part to take the side to 300 for nine.

The Delhi reply was stunted early when fast bowler Nachiket Bhute dismissed key batters Priyansh Arya (28) and Nitish Rana (0) off successive balls. Priyansh looked in good touch, until he feathered a delivery going down leg. Rana's ambitious upper cut landed in the safe hands of R. Samarth at third-man.

Off-spinner Harsh Dubey then went through the middle-order, leaving Delhi at 123 for five. Anuj Rawat (66, 98b, 7x4) hung around as Delhi's last hope. The southpaw was circumspect even as the asking rate rose to 10 an over. Rawat's plan to leave the big-hitting to the end failed, as he top-edged a slower ball from Praful Hinge to cover in the 43rd over.



Exhilarating stuff: Rathod and Prabhsimran were in their element coming up with aggressive half-centuries for Vidarbha and Punjab in their respective quarterfinals. K. MURALI KUMAR

In the other quarterfinal at the BCCI CoE (1), Punjab whipped Madhya Pradesh by 183 runs. After being put in to bat, Punjab played with positive intent from the go and piled up 345 for six. The top-three - Harnoor Singh (51, 71b, 7x4, 1x6), Prabhsimran Singh (88, 86b, 10x4, 2x6) and Anmolpreet Singh (70, 62b, 8x4, 2x6) - provided the perfect start.

Nehal Wadhera (56, 38b, 8x4, 1x6) and Ramandeep Singh (24 n.o., 15b, 1x4, 1x6) had the licence to go for the kill at the death.

Madhya Pradesh had perhaps expected the pitch to aid seamers, as it did at this venue on Monday. But with the sun out, unlike overcast conditions seen the previous day, it was the batters who called the shots.

Madhya Pradesh caved in meekly on a friendly pitch, falling to 83 for six inside 20 overs. Expectations were high when captain Venkatesh Iyer joined Rajat Patidar at the fall of the third wicket, but Venkatesh lasted all of two balls. Venkatesh played down the wrong line to seamer Sanvir Singh, and was adjudged leg-before.

When Patidar was sent back trying to up the scoring rate, the writing was on the wall for Madhya Pradesh.

Karnataka will face Vidarbha in the semifinal here on Thursday while Punjab battles Saurashtra on the same day.

The scores: Punjab 345/6 in 50 overs (Harnoor Singh 51, Prabhsimran Singh 88, Anmolpreet Singh 70, Nehal Wadhera 56) bt Madhya Pradesh 162 in 31.2 overs.

Vidarbha 300/9 in 50 overs (Atharva Taide 62, Dhruv Shorey 49, Yash Rathod 86) bt Delhi 224 in 45.1 overs (Anuj Rawat 66, Nachiket Bhute 4/51).

A day of upsets; Lakshya bests Ayush

INDIA OPEN SUPER 750

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

On a day that saw a slew of retirements and upsets, Lakshya Sen stayed in the hunt for the year's first title with a comprehensive 21-12, 21-15 win against compatriot Ayush Shetty in the opening round of the Yonex-Sunrise India Open Super 750 event here on Tuesday.

It was one of the few things that went on expected lines on day one of the competition. Lakshya, the last Indian winner here in 2022 when it was still a Super 500 event, raced to an 11-3 lead against Ayush, playing in his maiden India Open. The youngster was barely able to move his feet and was unable to control the shuttle and his shots as Lakshya mixed his own, making his opponent struggle to reach the shuttle.

It was 17-6 before Ayush finally found some rhythm, reeling off six straight points to show some fight but Lakshya closed out the game. The 20-year-old showed more fight in the second game, taking a 5-2 lead and staying level till the interval but ran out of steam to bow out in 36 minutes.

In the women's section, the Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand duo made a 21-15, 21-11 winning start to its campaign against Ornnicha Jongsathapornparn & Sukitta Suwachai of Thailand. Hariharan Amsakarunan and M.R. Arjun, too, advanced to the second round in the men's doubles.



Facile win: Gayatri and Treesa outplayed Jongsathapornparn and Suwachai. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

But there were quite a few upsets elsewhere, with Canada's Brian Yang sending fourth seed Chou Tien Chen packing 21-19, 21-11, his compatriot Victor Lai defeating Toma Junior Popov 21-12, 16-21, 21-8, and Chi Yu Jen upsetting Frenchman Alex Lanier 21-17, 21-19. Japan's seventh seed Kodai Naraoka, meanwhile, retired trailing 5-7 in the second game after losing the first to Kenta Nishimoto, as did China's World No. 11 Fang Jie Gao against Manami Suizu of Japan.

Top results: Men: Lakshya Sen bt Ayush Shetty 21-12, 21-15; Brian Yang (Can) bt Tien Chen Chou (Tpe) 21-19, 21-11; Victor Lai (Can) bt Toma Junior Popov (Fra) 21-12, 16-21, 21-8; Yu Jen Chi (Tpe) bt Alex Lanier (Fra) 21-17, 21-19.

Doubles: Sabar Karyaman Gutama & Moh Reza Pahlevi Isfahani (Ina) bt Zhi Ray Chen & Yu Chieh Lin (Tpe) 21-13, 21-8; Hariharan Amsakarunan & M.R. Arjun bt Yew Sin Ong & EeYi Teo (Mal) 21-15, 21-18.

Women: Ratchanok Intanon (Tha) bt Riko Gunki (Jpn) 21-19, 21-15; Mia Blichtfeldt (Den) bt Pin-Chian Chiu (Tpe) 21-19, 21-11; Beiwen Zhang (USA) bt Line Christophersen (Den) 21-17, 21-11. **Doubles:** Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand bt Ornnicha Jongsathapornparn & Sukitta Suwachai (Tha) 21-15, 21-11; Lok Lok Lui & Hiu Yan Tsang (Hkg) bt Priya Konjengbam & Shruti Mishra 21-11, 22-20, 24-22.

Mixed: Hiroki Midorikawa & Nami Matsuyama (Jpn) bt Dhruv Rawat & Maneesha K. 21-9, 21-10.

It's definitely not the start I wanted: Ayush

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Ayush Shetty had been prepared for a tough outing against senior pro Lakshya Sen but the youngster admitted his own performance in the straight-game defeat in the opening round of the India Open on Tuesday left a lot to be desired.

"It's definitely not the start I wanted. Really disappointed with the performance today, I definitely wanted to do very well in my first home event. But I have one more chance at the World Championships, hope to change the tide there," Shetty admitted.

"I think I conceded a very big lead early on but Lakshya was controlling the shuttle very well, they were really fast today. I think the momentum shifted as soon as he levelled the scores in the second game. I was under a bit of pressure also as he was really pushing the pace as well. He has a very good defence and attack and has a lot of variations also," he added.

On his part, Lakshya admitted the conditions were challenging but hoped things would get better going forward.

"I didn't expect it to be too tricky but I think it will get better from the second round. We thought the hall is big so the shuttle will travel slow but that was not the case. There was a little bit of wind also from both sides so it took some time to get adjusted. He also started playing really well so it was important to be quick on the feet" he said.



Tricky affair: Lakshya said the win against Ayush was not easy. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Blichfeldt complains about conditions again, BAI refutes claims

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

A new year and a new venue for the India Open have brought some old complaints, with Danish player Mia Blichfeldt reiterating that the conditions at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium left a lot to be desired.

Blichfeldt, who had slammed the conditions last year as well in a social media post, appreciated the playing arena but insisted the hygiene and weather were a challenge. "I had hoped it would be better than the other hall, but it is still very dirty, really unhealthy conditions for all players. Yesterday [Monday], when I came to the courts, birds were flying around and creating a mess." Blichfeldt also complained of the intense cold conditions, something most players have been concerned about.

Delhi is facing a more-than-usual severe winter. The competition has been moved from the KD Jadhav hall to the larger main stadium as a test event for the World Championships in August.

Blichfeldt, however, appreciated the playing arena and the efforts being made to improve things.



Blichfeldt. FILE PHOTO

"The arena is really good. I like to play in conditions like this. I am sure the association and the volunteers are doing their best and hoping it's going to be better during the World Championships."

BAI secretary Sanjay Mishra countered Blichfeldt's complaints. "Only one player has had a problem, while others have appreciated the facilities. Her compatriot Viktor Axelsen has been coming for almost a decade and has won here multiple times. As for the cold, we are using heaters as well to make things comfortable, but the weather is not in our control. The reason we are holding this event here is to make sure there are no issues during the World Championships. We are making note of every small thing to ensure they are taken care of by then," Sanjay told *The Hindu*.

BCB won't budge from its demand for shifting T20 WC games out of India

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

The ICC on Tuesday "requested" the Bangladesh Cricket Board BCB to reconsider its demand of shifting the country's T20 World Cup matches out of India but the BCB has refused to back down, reiterating its security concerns.

In a statement, the BCB said the board's position remains unchanged despite the ICC's reluctance to entertain its request and both parties will continue to "explore possible solutions".

The BCB has written to the ICC multiple times demanding that Bangladesh's World Cup games be shifted out of India due to security concerns, but considering that the schedule for the T20 showpiece beginning February 7 is finalised, the world body is unlikely to relent.

"While the ICC highlighted that the tournament itinerary has already been announced and requested the BCB to reconsider its stance, the Board's position remains unchanged. Both parties agreed that discussions will continue to explore possible solutions," the BCB said.

"The BCB remains committed to safeguarding the well-being of its players, officials and staff while engaging constructively with the ICC to address the matter," said the BCB after its officials attended the video conference with the ICC.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Indian Open, Eurosport, 10 a.m.

India vs New Zealand: 2nd ODI, Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 1.30 p.m.

HIL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 5 & 7.30 p.m.

WPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 11 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Thursday)

Serie A: DAZN, 11 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Thursday)

Juventus routs Cremonese, stays fourth

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
TURIN

Juventus kept hold of fourth spot in Serie A on Monday after cruising to a 5-0 win over Cremonese and continuing its revival under Luciano Spalletti.

Three ahead at half-time through Gleison Bremer, Jonathan David and Kenan Yildiz, a Filippo Terracciano own goal and strike from Weston McKennie made sure of a comprehensive fifth win in six league matches for Juve.



On target: Yildiz nets Juventus' third goal. AP

Juve is level on 39 points with champion Napoli and Roma, and just four behind league leader Inter following a dominant display in Turin.

However Inter, Napoli and second-placed AC Milan all have a game in hand due their participation in the Italian Super Cup in Saudi Arabia, with those matches to be played on Wednesday and Thursday.

In LaLiga, Marcos Alonso scored from the penalty spot with two minutes remaining to give Celta Vigo a 1-0 win over Sevilla and condemn the home side to a fourth straight defeat.

The results: Serie A: Genoa 3 (Colombo 7, Frendrup 75, Ostigard 78) bt Cagliari 0; Juventus 5 (Bremer 12, David 15, Yildiz 35, Terracciano 48-og, McKennie 64) bt Cremonese 0.

LaLiga: Sevilla 0 lost to Celta Vigo 1 (Alonso 88-pen).

Australia captain Healy to retire after the India series

The 35-year-old wicketkeeper-batter has been playing for her country for the past 16 years; taking over as full-time skipper in 2023, she led the side to a historic 16-0 whitewash of England last year

CRICKET

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Australia captain Alyssa Healy said on Tuesday she will retire from cricket in March after the team's home series with India, ending a storied career.

The 35-year-old wicketkeeper-batter has been playing for her country for the past 16 years since making her debut as a teenager in 2010.

She has played almost 300 matches across all formats, blasting more than 7,000 runs and effecting 275 dismissals.

"It's with mixed emotions that the upcoming India series will be my last for Australia," said Healy, whose husband is Australia pace spearhead Mitchell Starc.

"I'm still passionate about playing for Australia, but I've somewhat lost that competitive edge that's kept me driven since the start, so the time feels right to call it a day.

"Representing my country has been an incredible honour and I'm grateful for one last series in the green and gold."

Taking over as full-time Australia captain in 2023 from Meg Lanning, Healy famously led the side to a historic 16-0 whitewash of England last year.

One of the most destructive batters and finest wicketkeepers in world cricket, she has been part of eight-World Cup-winning campaigns.



All-time great: Healy, one of the most destructive batters and finest stumpers, has been part of eight World Cup-winning campaigns. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

"Alyssa is one of the all-time greats of the game and has made an immeasurable contribution both on and off the field over her 15-year career," said Cricket Australia chief Todd Greenberg. "On behalf of Australian cricket, I'd like to thank Alyssa and congratulate her on an incredible career that has inspired so many and changed the game for the better."

Healy, the niece of Australian Test great Ian Healy, was in the commentary box during the Australian men's recent 4-1 Ashes thumping of England and is expected to transition to a broadcasting career.

The February-March series with India features three T20Is, two one-dayers and a one-off Test in Perth. Healy will only play the ODIs and the Test.

Decision on hosting RCB's home matches at Chinnaswamy Stadium in the coming week

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

A final decision on whether defending Indian Premier League champion Royal Challengers Bengaluru will play its home matches at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium is likely to be made in the coming week.

Ever since the Maharashtra Cricket Association put out a press release earlier this month thanking RCB for a recce of the MCA stadium in Pune, there have been heightened rumours about the franchise shifting its matches out of the Garden City.

The M. Chinnaswamy Stadium has been in the dock ever since 11 people died in a stampede during RCB's title-winning celebrations on June 4, 2025. Hosting matches there is conditional to the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) implementing the recommendations of the Justice Michael D'Cunha report, formulated as part of the investigation into the tragedy.



In the spotlight: A view of the M. Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Recently, the State government denied permission to hold Vijay Hazare Trophy matches citing non-compliance, which meant Virat Kohli played two games for Delhi behind closed doors at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in the city's outskirts.

Even Karnataka's upcoming Ranji Trophy match against Madhya Pradesh from January 22 will be held at the Alur Grounds.

Vinay Mruthyunjaya, KSCA's official spokesperson, told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that talks were ongoing with RCB and that there was no official confirmation about the franchise's matches moving out of Bengaluru.

"We will be able to provide an official statement next week," he said. "With regards to the Ranji Trophy match, Chinnaswamy Stadium was never in the picture because a lot of preparatory work is going on."

Kuttappa back as men's boxing team head coach

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Dronacharya awardee C.A. Kuttappa has returned as the head coach of the Indian men's boxing team for a third stint, the Boxing Federation of India confirmed on Tuesday.

The Services man replaces SAI Rohtak coach Dharmender Yadav, who was appointed last year. Dharmender, however, will continue to be part of the men's coaching setup.

Kuttappa had served as head coach during the Tokyo and Paris Olympics.

AIFF finalises ISL charter

FOOTBALL

Neeladri Bhattacharjee

The AIFF finalised the Indian Super League charter, starting with the 2026-27 season, on Tuesday. The charter has now been sent to all clubs for feedback.

Planned for a 20-season cycle, the ISL will be run by a governing council and a management committee. The council – chaired by AIFF president/vice-president – will comprise 22 members, 14 of whom will be from each of the clubs, and three will be from the commercial partner.

The AIFF president/secretary general, vice-president and treasurer will complete the roster, along with two independent members, one nominated by the AIFF and another by the clubs.

The committee will run ISL's local operations under the council's supervision.

The AIFF secretary general/deputy secretary general will chair this committee and will also have the head of competitions and the head of strategy from the federation.

The committee's eight remaining spots will be for ISL clubs (five) and the commercial partner (three). Among club representatives, three will be mutually selected by majority (by all clubs), and two will be from the top two teams in the season prior (can change annually).

The tenure of each member of the council (excluding club representatives unless there is a change in control of the club) and committee will be for three ISL seasons, commencing from the season before which they are appointed.

No club representative should be on the committee for two terms unless they have served a cooling period of three seasons between such terms.

▼ Planned for a 20-season cycle, the ISL will be run by a governing council and a management committee

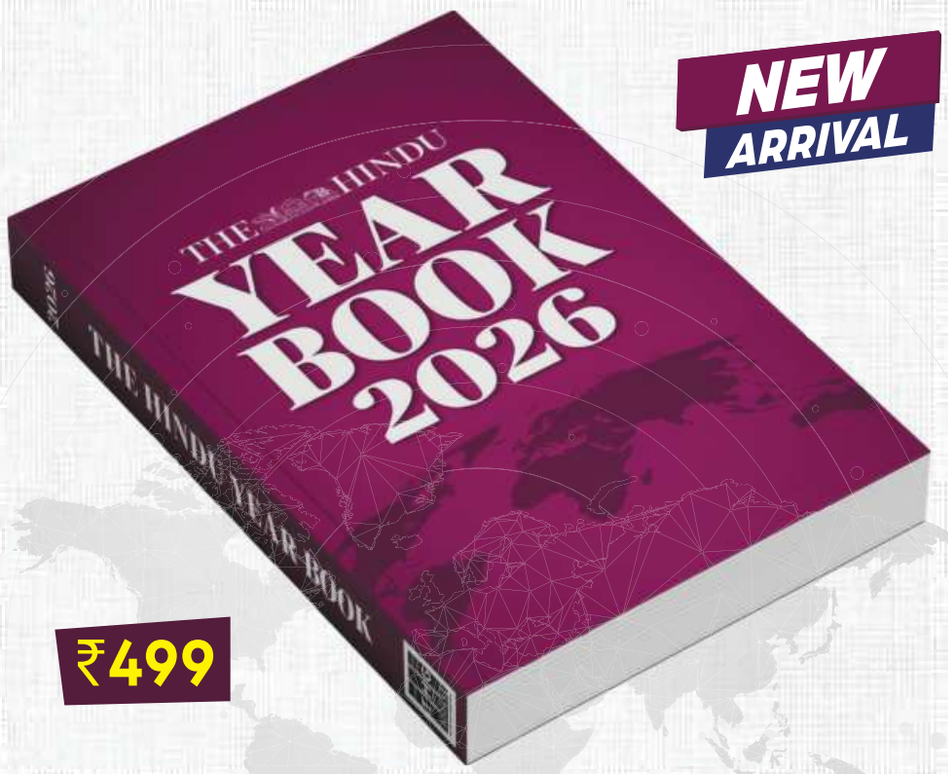
THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

The Hindu Year Book 2026

provides chronological, contextual, and factual information on the key events that occupied public attention **between January and December 2025.**

It features a Calendar of Events with Profiles of People, and Data on India and the World. Expert essays cover critical topics such as like AI and the Indus Waters Treaty, while dedicated sections analyse global governance, economy, and sports through evocative photographs and factual reporting.



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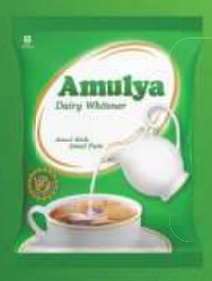
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Kohli 2.0 — free-flowing, exhilarating and still the run(ning)-machine

His reputation as the ultimate master of the chase is no secret; it's not that he doesn't put a price on his wicket anymore, it's just that he has voluntarily chosen to redefine his approach



GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

Virat Kohli has been around for so long that you'd think he doesn't have any more surprises in store. But in the last few weeks, he has revealed a new, different avatar that is as much a reflection of where he thinks he is at in his cricketing career as anything else.

It doesn't bear elaborate repetition that Kohli is now only a one-format international - he has been so since last May, when he added Test retirement to Twenty20 International *sanyas* after the victorious World Cup campaign in the Americas in June 2024. He will still play 20-over cricket, for Royal Challengers Bengaluru in a couple of months' time, but on the country vs country spectrum, it is only the 50-over format for Kohli to reiterate his greatness and his genius.

Kohli has terrific – slightly downgraded from stunning in Tests after a largely unfulfilling final few years that dragged his average down to a still impressive 46.85 – records in all three formats at the highest level, but in the one-day variant, he has been the unquestioned lord and master since his India debut in August 2008. There has hardly been an extended spell of frugal returns and low impact. Those so inclined will insist that he cracked the 50-over code very early in his career and has made the most of his early smarts. Those slightly less charitable might allude to the one-day game as being the easiest of the three widespread versions, though what's easy for one might not necessarily be for another.

Kohli's reputation as the ultimate master of the chase is no secret. No target, it would seem, is beyond India's reach till the battler from Delhi is in the middle, calculating and recalibrating and planning and working out the finer details, all with effortless ease. He has pulled off the so-called impossible so many times, with that attention to the minutest of factors that have allowed him to build exponentially through the innings and then explode with practised flair towards the end, when too his famed speed between the wickets has been his steadfast ally.

There is a new avatar of Kohli now, a more free-flowing version that is at once exhilarating and educative. Exhilarating, because the 38-year-old is no longer content to *just* build towards a frenzy, educative because he has taken on a new challenge to rouse himself into action at this late stage of what has been a magnificent run in international cricket. Kohli has decided that the days of conservatism at the start of an innings need to be buried in the past. He has therefore been a more proactive force right from the get-go, looking to impose himself on the bowling and immediately seeking to transfer whatever pressure might have been created from the fall of the first wicket back on to the opposition.

He can do that because, well, he is Kohli. He doesn't charge the bowling on a wing and a prayer, attempting to smack the cover off the ball because, well, that isn't Kohli. But from risk-averse whilst bedding in, he has embraced greater enterprise, making a concerted push to call the shots at a time when the bowlers might otherwise have begun to think that they had a little edge by having dismissed one of Rohit Sharma or captain Shubman Gill.

The change of tack owes itself to perhaps more than just one reason. It's not that Kohli doesn't put a price on his wicket anymore, it's just that he has voluntarily chosen to redefine his approach because he is convinced that's what is in the best interests of the team. In an oblique sort of way, that's a huge show of confidence in the batters to follow - Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul, Axar Patel/Ravindra Jadeja, and Hardik Pandya whenever he is available and/or selected. Kohli no longer feels he has to be around to finish off the chase, or that taking early risks will set the side back so badly that it will be unable to recover. At the same time, because he is so much at home in the one-day game, because he knows his game inside out and because he is so good at sizing up conditions and the bowling so quickly, he is also aware that the damage he can do by building on the gains or otherwise of the opening salvo is unquantifiable.

In the last 10 months alone, Kohli has both finished chases and fallen to an aerial stroke with the finish line still some distance away. The former is something everyone has come to expect of the former captain; the latter will continue to come as a surprise till such time that Kohli walks out to bat because he has spoiled Indian supporters by being at the end far too often.

Let's take the Champions Trophy in Dubai last February-March as the starting point of an admittedly limited sample size of 12 innings. In his dozen forays to the batting crease, Kohli has reeled off three hundreds and four half-centuries. The first of those centuries came, almost inevitably, against Pakistan in Dubai. Kohli walked in at 31 for one after the fifth over with India chasing 242 for victory, and duly got the job done, striking the winning four off Khushdil Shah that also took him to his 51st three-figure knock in ODIs.

A little over a week later, in the semifinal against Australia, India faced a more demanding ask - 265. Australia have been India's *bete noires* in the knockout stages of ICC events too many times for the quarterfinal victory in the 2011 World Cup to stand out as consolation. This was the first knockout outing between the sides since the Aussies shattered a billion hearts into a zillion pieces in Ahmedabad in the final of the 2023 World Cup. India had overcome the Aussie challenge in the Super Eights of the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean alright, but this was a knockout game, this was payback time in the same 50-over format.

Kohli's entry point was identical to the Pakistan game - India were 30 when Gill was dismissed off the last ball of the fifth over. The stakes can never be anything but sky-high when India face off against Pakistan, but there was a different feel to the semifinal. It was Australia, pesky, annoying and a bugbear of sorts. At stake was a place in the final. So Kohli bedded down, cautious and controlled and singularly risk-free. His 100 not out against Pakistan, off 111 deliveries, contained seven fours; 84 against Australia came off 98 deliveries with only five fours when, with India needing 40 off 44 with six wickets in hand on a tricky if not hugely demanding surface, Kohli uncharacteristically threw his hand away.

Picking leggie Adam Zampa's googly, Kohli backed himself to deposit the ball over long-on but perhaps his over-keenness contributed to him lobbing the ball to the fielder at the boundary. Kohli was furious with himself and spent a few anxious moments on the balcony with the rest of his mates until the calm of Rahul and fire of Pandya got India home.

An aberration, we told ourselves, a word that we fell back on when, in the first of three ODIs against South Africa in Ranchi in November, he smacked two sixes inside the first 10 overs.

Little did we know then that this was the revamped Kohli that had decided to reveal itself. Ranchi was treated to seven sixes as Kohli hammered 135 off 120 deliveries. Not in a chase, but while batting first. Kohli isn't a reluctant six-hitter, but he isn't in the Rohit league - who is, actually? In his first 293 ODI innings, Kohli had 152 sixes - on an average, 0.52 sixes per knock. The last four, against South Africa and now New Zealand, have already yielded 13.

"I back myself to counterattack now rather than just trying to play the situation in because some ball has your name on it," he rationalised after his 91-ball 93 in Vadodara on Sunday when, again to everyone's surprise, he was out playing in the air with victory still 67 away and one of the batters to follow (Washington Sundar) a doubtful starter. "So, there's no point waiting around for too long. But at the same time, you don't play outrageous shots. You still stick to your strengths, but you back yourself enough to put the opposition on the back foot." And that's where the genesis of the slightly rejigged iteration lies - the desire to dominate, to wean away any potential pressure that comes with the loss of a wicket, to stamp his authority from the off even if it means there is a little more danger of being dismissed early in the piece compared to the past. In so many ways, it is an acknowledgement from the man himself that he doesn't feel the need to bear the cross all the time because there is enough depth and experience and quality and mettle in the others to follow. That's not to say that Kohli is shirking responsibility or has suddenly chosen to go all rogue and gung-ho. It's another step in the journey of evolution, a process that Kohli is still committed to despite 557 appearances and more than 28,000 runs at the highest level.

Kohli embarking on this adventure, for that's what it truly is, is a testament to his zest to keep pushing himself and a humbling reminder to the mere mortals that the road to progress should not ever come to a dead end. He could so easily have coasted in the wake of his well-founded reputation and continued to be the celebrated chasemeister that instils such dread in all comers, and no one would have even blinked. But after so many bites at the cherry, Kohli still isn't content merely coasting. Then again, that's what we should have expected of a phenomenon to whom setting benchmarks and standing out as the example to emulate are second nature.

THE GIST

- He has terrific records in all three formats at the highest level, but in the one-day variant, he has been the unquestioned lord and master since his India debut in August 2008
- In the last 10 months alone, the Delhi batter has both finished chases and fallen to an aerial stroke with the finish line still some distance away
- Kohli embarking on this adventure, for that's what it truly is, is a testament to his zest to keep pushing himself and a humbling reminder to the mere mortals that the road to progress should not ever come to a dead end



New avatar: Kohli has decided that the days of conservatism at the start of an innings need to be buried in the past.
VIJAY SONEJI

What an edible insects stall revealed about acceptance, 'normal' food

Despite their nutritional and environmental benefits, people are increasingly moving away from insect-based foods; urbanisation has created both physical and cultural distance from such practices; many younger generations that have grown up or settled in cities are often unaware that insects are eaten across several parts of India

Sahanashree R.
BENGALURU

Why does the idea of eating insects provoke discomfort, even before taste or nutrition enters the conversation? At an edible insects stall during a food mela at the Science Gallery, Bengaluru, this question surfaced repeatedly as visitors negotiated curiosity, disgust, and the boundaries of what they considered "normal" food.

Many assumed they were encountering a foreign idea. "This is eaten in other countries, right?" was a common question at the stall, curated under the exhibition theme 'Calorie'. Few realised that eating insects has long been part of food cultures within India itself.

Entomophagy, the practice of eating insects, is often imagined as something that happens elsewhere, outside India. Yet insects have been consumed across several Indian States for generations. This is particularly visible in parts of Northeast India, such as Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, where insects are eaten seasonally and sold in markets like Dimapur's Mava Market.

At the stall, visitors were offered cricket cookies, chilli garlic crickets, and fried silkworms. Curiosity often preceded commitment: nearly 60% of those who tasted the insects were trying for the first time. For many, the experience was marked by uncertainty followed by surprise. "It was my first time eating insects, so I didn't know what to expect," said a student who tried the fried silkworms. "But it turned out to be a good experience."



Protein source: Entomophagy, the practice of eating insects, is often imagined as something that happens elsewhere, outside India. Yet insects have been consumed across several Indian States for generations. SAHANASHREE R.

THE GIST

- Many insect species are rich in protein, vitamins, and micronutrients, with a much higher proportion of their body mass being edible
- They also require significantly less land, water, and feed to produce the same amount of protein as from poultry
- Insect-based foods are seasonal, familiar, and often tied to specific occasions and generations in the areas where it is consumed
- Making insect-based foods more acceptable is as much about form and familiarity as it is about nutrition

Taste makes a difference

Taste, more than curiosity, seemed to shift perception. One visitor described the silkworm as tasting "like overcooked kidney beans", while another, who tried both chilli garlic crickets and silkworms, noted the contrast clearly: "The cricket had more flavour. The silkworm had a more eggy texture."

Beyond perception, insects are often framed as an efficient source of calories and protein in a world facing growing food demands. As populations increase and food systems strain under climate and resource pressures, edible insects are frequently cited as a sustainable alternative protein source.

Many insect species are rich in protein, vitamins and micronutrients, with a much higher proportion of their body mass being edible, around 80%, compared to about 55% for poultry. They also require significantly less land, water and feed to produce the same amount of protein. For instance, crickets need far fewer resources than conventional livestock such as sheep or broiler chickens, making them an efficient source of protein from a production standpoint.

Yet despite these nutritional and environmental benefits and despite insects being part of many food cultures, people are increasingly moving away from them. Urbanisation has created both physical and cultural distance from such practices. Many younger generations who have grown up or settled in cities are often unaware that insects are eaten across several parts of India, sometimes even within their own home States.

Insects are often framed as an efficient source of calories and protein in a world facing growing food demands; as populations increase and food systems strain under climate and resource pressures, edible insects are frequently cited as a sustainable alternative protein source

Distance and disconnect

During conversations at the stall, insect-eating was frequently framed as something "indigenous" acknowledged but distanced. It was seen as belonging to rural communities rather than to urban food cultures. In this framing, eating insects became less about nutrition and more about class: it did not fit into dominant ideas of modern, aspirational food.

Ironically, in the regions where these practices continue, insect-based foods are neither novel nor marginal. They are seasonal, familiar, and often tied to specific occasions and generations. Yet from an urban lens, these foods are frequently dismissed as backward, revealing how ideas of progress shape what is considered acceptable to eat.

Some visitors recognised this disconnect. "People should start overlooking the typical stereotypes and experiment more," said a working professional, reflecting on how discomfort often precedes experience. Others framed the hesitation against sustainability concerns. "It's a sustainable protein source that is cost-effective to produce and with low environmental impact," noted another visitor, pointing to the gap between environmental awareness and everyday food choices.

Even among visitors who were open to the idea, acceptance was often accompanied by hesitation. Questions emerged not just about taste or sustainability, but about sufficiency and substitution. "I'm wondering how filling this would be as a complete meal," one visitor said. "I don't know if it can really replace the food groups we have now."

Others echoed this caution. "I don't see it becoming a staple food," a student visitor noted, while still describing the stall as "a good initiative for public health." Alongside this, some visitors raised ethical questions about knowledge and credit. "If this practice is being promoted," one remarked, "it's important to acknowledge the communities and regions it comes from."

Low-pressure spaces

The stall did not resolve these questions; it was not meant to. Instead, it made visible the assumptions, hesitations and hierarchies that shape what we call food. It raised quieter, more uncomfortable questions: why some foods are embraced while others are dismissed, why sustainability is easier to discuss than to practise, and why foods familiar to many communities still feel unfamiliar in urban spaces.

From my perspective, making insect-based foods more acceptable is as much about form and familiarity as it is about nutrition. At the stall, insects were intentionally offered in different formats, both ground into cookies and served whole, flavoured with garlic and chilli. Presenting insects in processed forms appeared to lower psychological barriers, allowing visitors to engage with taste and texture without the immediate discomfort often associated with whole insects. Public-facing experiments like food stalls can play an important role in this process by creating low-pressure spaces where curiosity can precede judgement.

As Priyadarsanan Dharma Rajan, who works on edible insects, noted, his lab, the Insect Biosystematics and Conservation (IBC) Laboratory at ATREE, is increasingly focusing on developing sustainable ways of rearing insects. Establishing standardised rearing protocols allows insects to be produced at scale rather than harvested from the wild, reducing pressure on natural populations while ensuring consistency, safety and nutritional quality. In this sense, changing how insects are produced may be as important as changing how they are perceived.

(Sahanashree R. is Project Associate, IBC Laboratory, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru. sahana.shree@atree.org)

BIG SHOT



Quiet innovation: The icosahedron 'blades' of a GeoWind wind turbine, designed for high efficiency and low noise, are shown at Consumer Electronics Show 2026, an annual trade show, in Las Vegas, U.S., on January 4. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

Onward and moonward

Q: What is the NASA Artemis II mission?

A: Artemis II is the first crewed mission of NASA's Artemis programme. It will be the first time humans will travel to the vicinity of the moon since 1972. The 10-day flight will test the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and the Orion spacecraft to ensure all life-support and navigation systems are safe for future lunar missions.

On January 9, NASA said the mission was in its final preparation stages. The earliest targeted launch date is February 6, 2026. NASA has also identified launch windows across February, March, and April 2026. The rocket stack is expected to be rolled out to Launch Pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Centre in mid-January for the final tests.

Artemis II has a four-person crew. The commander is Reid Wiseman; the pilot, Victor Glover; and Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen are the mission specialists. Mr. Hansen is from the Canadian Space Agency, the rest are from NASA.

Rather than land on the moon, the crew will fly in a hybrid free-return trajectory. Specifically, after liftoff onboard the SLS, the Orion spacecraft will orbit the earth twice to check life support and manual handling capabilities. Then, it will travel around 10,300 km beyond the far side of the moon, after which gravity will pull the spacecraft back towards the earth for a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean.



(From left) Astronauts Jeremy Hansen, Victor Glover, Reid Wiseman, and Christina Koch, who will be part of Artemis II. NASA

This mission is a critical test flight. If it is successful, NASA will greenlight Artemis III, which aims to land astronauts on the lunar South Pole.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Delhi's coldest temperature in January in three years

3 in degree Celsius. The maximum temperature for the day is expected to settle around 20 degrees Celsius. Cold wave conditions are likely to persist over Delhi on Wednesday as well. Delhi's air quality deteriorated to the 'very poor' category with the Air Quality Index (AQI) settling at 337. PTI

Songs "promoting gun violence" removed from digital platforms

67 These songs promoting 'gang lifestyle' and glorifying weapons and violence have been removed from digital platforms, the Haryana Police said in a statement. Official sources said some songs sung by Haryanvi rappers are among the 67 songs, which were removed in the past one year. PTI

Number of children killed in Gaza since the tenuous ceasefire

100 At least 100 children have been killed by Israeli airstrikes and ground forces in Gaza since the start of a tenuous ceasefire three months ago, the UN said. An official at Gaza's health ministry has reported a higher figure of 165 children killed during the ceasefire. AFP

Number of police personnel deployed for Mumbai civic polls

25,000 More than 25,000 police personnel will be deployed across Mumbai to oversee polling and vote counting for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation elections. The security cover includes senior officers. PTI

Number of new orders booked by Boeing in the last year

1,175 Boeing bounced back in 2025 to deliver the most planes since 2018 and beat rival Airbus in net orders for the first time in seven years in a sign of a turnaround for the U.S. planemaker after a series of crises. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Is the government seeking phones' source code?

What is the issue around the government seeking source code data from companies? What is source code, and why don't companies want to give access to it? Will keeping the code open for review risk security threats and cyberattacks? What has the government said?

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

The story so far:
The newswire agency *Reuters* reported that the Indian government was contemplating a requirement for smartphone makers to disclose their source code to third party testing agencies, and make this code open for review. A further requirement the agency reported was that phone makers would have to notify the government before pushing major software updates to user devices. The Union government has downplayed the nature of these conversations, and refuted the source code demand allegation.

What is source code?
Source code is the core repository of software programmes and their associated digital assets that drives a digital system. While some parts of the code, especially of Android phones, is open to begin with, there are significant modifications and adaptations that phone manufacturers make to that codebase. Also, each firm jealously guards the technology driving these respective changes. Source code is kept secret not just for commercial reasons, but also as a security measure. If a software system's complete inner workings are visible to a malicious attacker, then the system is at risk of being probed for weaknesses that can be exploited, and can lead to data breaches and other types of cyberattacks.

Why is such a demand controversial?
It is highly unusual for source code of any kind of system to be disclosed outside a company, except perhaps in sensitive fields like defence, and that too in specific countries. Apple Inc., for instance, has not disclosed its source code to the Chinese government, even as the firm has carved out policies specific to that country to make user data stored on the cloud potentially more accessible in response to legal requests.



REUTERS

These reports have come shortly after a bruising episode for the government; just weeks before, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) was at the receiving end of massive political and public pushback due to an order it sent to smartphone manufacturers to "pre-install" the spam reporting app Sanchar Saathi. There were widespread concerns that the app could be used for snooping at worst, and represent a security threat by a third party attacker at best. This was also a demand global smartphone makers generally don't entertain.

But source code disclosure would be a far more intrusive demand, as it would require smartphone makers to essentially expose their entire code base to a third party. Cyber attackers that find and take advantage of software vulnerabilities often do so with aspects of computer systems that are visible externally; internal visibility would greatly amplify the risks of such vulnerabilities being found, especially if the source code includes detailed documentation on a system's inner workings. As such, mobile phone operating systems, even if they are running on open source Android, do not expose every detail of their actual implementation.

Is the Indian government demanding that source code be made public?
In 2023, the National Centre for Communication Security (NCSS), under the DoT, finalised a document called an Indian Telecom Security Assurance Requirement (ITSAR) for "consumer equipment". ITSARs are technical standards used in the Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecommunication Equipment (MTCTE) framework, a key bureaucratic step for importing telecom gear into India.

The MTCTE framework stems from the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2017. However, shortly after the Telecommunications Act, 2023 was passed, the DoT and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) decided that the MTCTE regime should be done away with for smartphones, which already go through a certification process for India administered by the Bureau of Indian Standards. A senior MeitY official told *The Hindu* that since the baton had now been passed to the IT Ministry, the discussions were picking up where the DoT had left off. A press statement by MeitY stated that the IT Ministry was keeping an "open mind" and would decide on what was best for the country and for consumers. The India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA), which represents some smartphone firms, also downplayed the seriousness of the discussions.

The Internet Freedom Foundation, a digital rights advocacy group, pushed back on that denial, pointing out that the meetings the government was holding were not transparently conducted, and that the ITSARs remain public.

"If the government claims these proposals do not exist, it must explain the specific documentation currently hosted on its own website and also disclose the minutes of meetings," IFF said in a statement.

"IFF asserts that "stakeholder consultation" cannot be limited to closed-door meetings with big tech giants. If the PIB's claim that "no final regulations have been framed" is true, then the government should have no hesitation in releasing the current draft of the ITSAR for public scrutiny immediately. We reassert the need for transparency and an open public consultation."

THE GIST

- Source code is the core repository of software programmes and their associated digital assets that drives a digital system.
- It is highly unusual for source code of any kind of system to be disclosed outside a company, except perhaps in sensitive fields like defence, and that too in specific countries.
- *Reuters* reported that the Indian government was contemplating a requirement for smartphone makers to disclose their source code to third party testing agencies, and make this code open for review.

Are India's small towns being increasingly urbanised?

Are small towns an alternative to the over-accumulation witnessed in the country's metro cities?

Tikender Singh Panwar

The story so far:
India continues to narrate its urban future through the loud vocabulary of megacities. But a quieter and far more consequential transformation is unfolding. Of India's nearly 9,000 census and statutory towns, barely 500 qualify as large cities. The overwhelming majority are small towns, with populations below 1,00,000. This proliferation of small towns is a structural product of India's capitalist development – and of its crisis.

How have small towns proliferated?
From the 1970s through the 1990s, capital accumulation was organised through metropolisation. Large cities became the primary sites for industrial production, state investment, infrastructure, and labour absorption. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and later Bengaluru and Hyderabad became spatial fixes for capitalism by absorbing surplus labour; concentrating consumption; and by creating conditions for accumulation. However, today, India's metros have run into the classic problem of over-accumulation. Land prices have detached from productive use, infrastructure systems are stretched beyond repair, and rising costs have become unbearable for working groups.

It is in this moment that small towns have emerged. Across India, one can see this shift. Towns like Sattenapalle in Andhra Pradesh, Dhamtari in Chhattisgarh, Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh, Hassan in Karnataka, Bongaigaon in Assam, or Una in Himachal Pradesh are now logistics nodes, agro-processing hubs, warehouse towns, construction economies, service centres and consumption markets. They absorb migrant workers pushed out of metros and rural youth with few agrarian options. These small towns are not outside the urban process; they are fully inside it. Small towns are urbanised under conditions of capitalist stress – cheaper land, pliable labour, weaker regulation, and minimal political scrutiny.

Are small towns a better alternative?
They offer no inherent emancipatory promise. What is unfolding is not inclusive growth but the urbanisation of rural poverty. Informal labour dominates – construction workers without contracts, women in home-based piecework, and youth trapped in platform economies with no security. In towns like Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh or Raichur in Karnataka, one sees new hierarchies hardening: real estate brokers, local contractors, micro-financiers and political intermediaries are controlling land and labour. This is where policy failure becomes glaring. India's flagship urban missions remain deeply metro-centric. AMRUT, even in its expanded version, effectively excludes most small towns from meaningful infrastructure investment. Water supply and sewerage projects are designed for large cities, while small towns survive on fragmented schemes and temporary fixes. The result is predictable: tanker economies flourish, groundwater is mined indiscriminately, and ecological stress deepens. Moreover, governance remains the weakest link. Small-town municipalities are underfunded and understaffed. Planning is outsourced to consultants unfamiliar with local realities and participation is reduced to procedural hearings.

What next?
The first step is political recognition. Small towns must be acknowledged as the primary frontier of India's urban future. Second, planning must be reimagined. Town-level plans must integrate housing, livelihoods, transport and ecology, rather than replicate metropolitan templates. Third, small towns need empowered municipalities, transparent budgets, and institutional space for workers' collectives, environmental actors and cooperatives. Finally, capital must be disciplined. Platform economies and digital infrastructures need regulation to ensure labour rights, local value retention and data accountability.

Tikender Singh Panwar is a member of the Kerala Urban Commission.

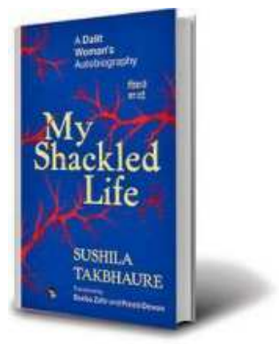
THE GIST

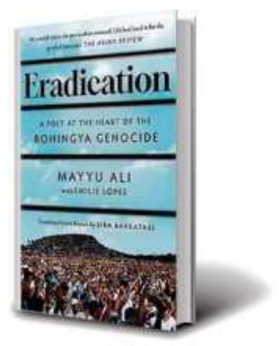
- Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and later Bengaluru and Hyderabad became spatial fixes for capitalism by absorbing surplus labour; concentrating consumption; and by creating conditions for accumulation.
- India's flagship urban missions remain deeply metro-centric. AMRUT, even in its expanded version, effectively excludes most small towns from meaningful infrastructure investment.
- Small towns must be acknowledged as the primary frontier of India's urban future.

BIBLIOGRAPHY









In remembrance: Noted author and social activist Mahasweta Devi. PTI

Festschrift for Mahasweta Devi: three books by marginalised voices

In her centenary year — Mahasweta Devi would have turned 100 today — we read three writers, Sushila Takbhaure, Rakshit Sonawane and Mayyu Ali, who chronicle their lives of oppression. Their stories would have struck a chord with a writer who always kept an eye out for the dispossessed

Sudipta Datta

Mahasweta Devi always looked out for the poorest of the poor. The writer and activist, who would have turned 100 on January 14, 2026, spent her life seeking a life of equality and justice for the dispossessed, particularly Adivasis, and the impoverished people of urban and rural India.

She wrote several books, *Aranyer Adhikar* (Rights of the Forest), *Hajar Churashir Ma* (Mother of [prisoner number] 1084), *Rudali*, *Titu Mir*, *Chotti Munda and his Arrow*, anthologies of short stories which include tales like 'Draupadi/Dopdi', 'The Breast Giver' and more.

Drawn to people who were forced to lead a "subhuman existence", she wrote about people with no access to education, health care, and income. In 1997, when Mahasweta Devi was honoured with the Ramon Magsaysay Award, she said: "My India still lives behind a curtain of darkness. A curtain that separates mainstream society from the poor and the deprived."

Mahasweta Devi passed away in 2016, but her chronicles will always feel urgent and contemporary as long as there is oppression and injustice in the world. She also always encouraged people to tell their story – the manner in which she played a role in Manoranjan Byapari becoming a writer and narrate his life as a Dalit in Bengal is well-documented.

The three books we feature in this article, by Sushila Takbhaure, Rakshit Sonawane and Mayyu Ali, would have struck a chord with a writer who always kept an eye out for the marginalised.

A Dalit and a woman

Sushila Takbhaure foregrounds the Dalit experience and women's concerns in her work. Her autobiography, *My Shackled Life*, translated by Deeba Zafir and Preeti Dewan from the Hindi 'Shikanje ka Dard', is first off all, as rightly noted by the translators, an act of courage. And this is the first autobiography in Hindi by a Dalit woman writer to be translated and published in English, thus reaching a wider audience. Kannada, Telugu, Marathi translations are in the works.

In the preface to the Hindi edition, she explains why she chose to call her autobiography, 'Shikanje ka Dard'. "Merely speaking of the 'shikanja – the vice of caste and patriarchy – would have been inadequate; what pressed upon me to tell was the pain [dard] that 'shikanja' inflicted."

In general, she writes that women encounter far greater challenges than men. Her book expresses the pain of being both Dalit and a woman. Sushila was born in 1954 in Banapura, a village in Madhya Pradesh, where "discrimination based on caste was widespread, and untouchability was deeply entrenched." What made her life different though is that her parents and grandmother valued education and ensured that all the children – there were several – studied as far as their resources allowed.

But life was harder for girls, and it seemed that they existed only to do housework. "What was worse, not only men but women too reinforced patriarchy by giving preference to sons." Sushila refused to give in and persevered with her education against all odds, even going on a hunger strike to ensure that her father and brothers agreed to her college admission.

Her life took another turn when she got married to a much older man, Sunderlal Takbhaure, from Nagpur who was a high school teacher. She writes in detail about everyday humiliations, but also her immense joy at being able to pursue her education and earning a PhD degree. Her purpose, she says, is to show how education can become a tool of liberation for women.

The die is caste

Rakshit Sonawane tells the story of Avinash Gaikwad who grew up in a one-room hut in the slums of Mumbai, and how he clawed his way out of poverty and caste discrimination. The story, *Scum of the Earth: A True Story From the Margins* (HarperCollins), mirrors his own.

Sonawane grew up in a slum, worked in a factory and at the port but continued his studies alongside. He got a postgraduate degree in literature, besides studying law and journalism, and finally became a reporter in 1985.

His protagonist, Avinash, never forgets the story about his father, Dagadoo, who was beaten for asking for leftover puranpoli, a Marathi delicacy. Dagadoo joined Ambedkar's social revolution to fight caste oppression and moved to Mumbai, with the belief that his son would have a better life with education. Avinash didn't disappoint his parents. Once he had a job, he began teaching students for free on Sunday, telling them to never discriminate on the basis of caste, gender, class or religion. He didn't want to adopt illegal means to earn a little extra just because he had "experienced poverty, illiteracy, humiliation and injustice."

Sonawane documents the urban Dalit experience, in which comments like "the caste system is a thing of the past" or that "the caste system was just a division of labour" were commonplace. To each, Avinash patiently explained that casteism was alive and kicking in forms both obvious and subtle.

Against a genocide

In the country he hails from, Myanmar, poet Mayyu Ali's existence is not recognised; in fact, the word 'Rohingya' is prohibited. Mayyu and his family fled to Bangladesh when the atrocities against the Rohingya began. But life wasn't any easier in the refugee camps. Yet, he never stopped writing poems, dedicated to his people. "I want to be their voice," he told Emilie Lopes. Together, they wrote *Eradication: A Poet at the Heart of the Rohingya Genocide* (Pan Macmillan India), translated from French by Siba Barkataki.

"The earth orbits with two different worlds;/The hell and heaven/I left one, to discover other," Mayyu writes in 'A New Heaven'. He had experienced the worst that man can do – "the scent of death, the sound of bullets, the taste of erasure, the sight of blood flowing over the bodies of my brother."

In 2021, as he opened the door to his new apartment in Toronto, he finally realised he was free. Though he has been forced to live in hiding, he has promised himself that he will never forget to be the voice of his people. The publication of *Eradication* is proof of that.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Mahasweta Devi was a Bengali writer whose literature and social work championed the rights and dignity of India's marginalised communities. A quiz on the icon

Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1
Name the birthplace of Mahasweta Devi.

QUESTION 2
What was the title of Mahasweta Devi's first published novel?

QUESTION 3
What is the English translation of her novel *Aranyer Adhikar*?

QUESTION 4
Which distinguished international award did she receive in 1997 (Hint: the article above carries the answer)?

QUESTION 5
Which prestigious Indian literary prize did she win in 1996?

QUESTION 6
Her short stories were notably translated into English by which scholar?

QUESTION 7
Which civil award did she receive in 1986 from the Government of India?



Visual question:
Which 1974 novel by her was adapted into this 1998 movie directed by Govind Nihalani?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. By legitimising the Somaliland administration, Israel is said to be pursuing these two strategic objectives. **Ans: Establish a military base to counter the Houthis; facilitate forced transfer of Palestinians**
2. The STC is backed by this West Asian country whose leader recently fled the country. **Ans: United Arab Emirates; Aidarous al-Zubaidi**
3. The modern political identity of Somaliland traces back to this moment of sovereignty in 1960. **Ans: British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland gained independence and unified briefly as the Somali Republic.**
4. Before unification in 1990, the official name of South Yemen was this. **Ans: People's Democratic Republic of Yemen**
5. Somaliland declared independence in this year. **Ans: 1991**
6. This 2019 accord sought to reconcile southern separatists with Yemen's government. **Ans: Riyadh Agreement**
Visual: This ancient site is known for its well-preserved rock art. **Ans: Laas Geel caves**
Early Birds: Sonali Das| Dodo Jayaditya| Sudhir Thapa| Sumana Dutta| Jagrati Shukla



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"What does collateral damage mean?"

"You have been listening to NATO's spin doctors, have you?"

"Spin doctor? Who is a spin doctor?"

"A spin doctor is a spokesperson for the government. He is employed by the government to..."

"...does it always have to be the government?"

"No, it doesn't. The person can be hired by an organisation, a politician, a political party...."

"I see. And this person's job is to ..."

"...provide information to the public in such a way that the person or the organisation that the spin doctor is representing is seen in good light."

"And in order to create this favourable impression, does a spin doctor have to lie at times?"

"He has to be economical with truth."

"Economical with truth? Doesn't it mean the same thing as lying?"

"It does. But 'Jaya is economical with truth' sounds better than 'Jaya is a liar', doesn't it?"

"It certainly does. Now tell me, how do I use the term spin doctor in a sentence?"

"Rubin has been hired by Clinton to be one of his spin doctors."

"I think Promod will make an excellent spin doctor. Can I say that?"

"You certainly can."

"What do spin doctors do when things become difficult? Lie? Or do they...."

"...they give you a lot of baloney."

"A lot of what?"

"B..a..l..o..n..e..y. Sometimes, the word is spelt b..o..l..o..n..e..y. The 'a/o' in the first syllable is like the 'a' in 'China' and 'about'. The 'o' in the second syllable is pronounced like the 'o' in 'so', 'go' and 'no'. The final 'ey' rhymes with the 'ey' in words like 'honey' and 'money'."

"And the stress is on the second syllable 'lo', I suppose?"

"Exactly. Do you know what it means?"

"Isn't it some sort of meat?"

"Yes, that's right. Baloney is meat. People have baloney sandwiches. But when somebody says something and you respond by saying 'baloney', you mean that what the person has said is nonsense or rubbish. Let me give you an example. When asked how they would bring down the prices, the experts gave us a lot of baloney."

"When somebody says something which is hard to swallow, can I say, 'Don't give me all that baloney'."

"You certainly can. The plot of the movie that I saw was pure baloney."

"Never mind! Now, coming back to the original question. What does collateral damage mean?"

"That's NATO's way of saying when they bombed Belgrade, they accidentally killed innocent civilians."

"And the civilians killed are the collateral damage?"

"That's right! Collateral damage is an expression which is used by the military quite a bit. It's interesting isn't it? When Serb forces kill civilians in Kosovo, NATO calls it an atrocity. But when ...."

"...NATO planes bomb trains in Yugoslavia and kill civilians, it is not an atrocity, but 'collateral damage'."

Published in The Hindu on April 20, 1999.

Word of the day

Abstruse:
difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge

Synonyms: deep, recondite

Usage: *Some of the classic novels are too abstruse for the younger generation.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/abstrusepron

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əbˈstuːs/

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