

INBRIEF



Resolution sought on pending arrears of govt. employees

Leaders of the Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee (A.P. JAC) Amaravati met Finance Minister P. Keshav on Wednesday to address the pending Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) payments for State government employees and pensioners. The delegation, led by A.P. JAC Chairman Bopparaju Venkateshwarlu, submitted a representation at the Secretariat, urging immediate resolution of hurdles that have delayed payments.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (January 22, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- Should corruption charges need prior sanction? newsth.live/corruptionexp
- Study probes the vast gap between early stars and adult achievers newsth.live/gapstars

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.

Governments should invest in disease prevention than treatment: AMA president

Focussing on disease prevention will entail strengthening of health infrastructure in a country, increasing the number of physicians and taking up awareness campaigns, says Dr. Mukkamala

Nellore Sravani
VIJAYAWADA

Investing in prevention of a disease, instead of spending on its treatments, should be the order of the day, and it is high time that governments realise this, said American Medical Association president Bobby Mukkamala.

Dr. Mukkamala, head and neck surgeon, who was elected president of the American Medical Association in June, 2025, and became the first person of Indian heritage to be holding the position, has his roots in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. While his father, Mukkamala Apparao, is from Buddhavaram, his mother, Mukkamala Sumathi is from Thotlavalluru. Both of them are doctors, who moved to the U.S. after



American Medical Association president Bobby Mukkamala

completing their MBBS in India.

In a telephonic conversation with *The Hindu* on Tuesday Dr. Mukkamala, who was in Vijayawada last week, said, "Every country has two options: either invest in disease prevention or in its treatment. We tend to do the latter. But, it is really important that we

understand that investing in disease prevention will not only save lives of many, but is also more economical."

Focussing on a disease prevention would entail strengthening of the health infrastructure in a country, increasing the number of physicians and taking up awareness campaigns, Dr. Mukkamala said.

"More importantly, there needs to be a cultural change. We need to have continuous conversations about how to prevent cancer or diabetes or a stroke to save lives," he said.

Pointing out that the life expectancy in the U.S. has been stagnant for a while due to multiple factors, Dr. Mukkamala hoped that India would not go down the wrong path by assuming that the curve of life expectancy would always grow.

Rare inscription found at Vinukonda

Sambasiva Rao M.
AMARAVATI

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found a rare image inscription depicting mythological double-headed bird – Gandabherunda (a form of Lord Vishnu) – at a temple in Vinukonda in Palnadu district of Andhra Pradesh, shedding fresh light on the region's medieval history.

Director (Epigraphy) in the ASI K. Munirratnam Reddy told *The Hindu* that the figure of Gandabherunda with some inscriptions on a stone slab was found inside the sanctum sanctorum of the Narasimhaswamy temple in Vinukonda. The inscription is written in Telugu language and script dates back to Saka 1399, Hemalambi year, Karthika Sukla 10, corresponding to Thursday, October 16, 1477 CE.

The Gandabherunda carving itself indicates the cultural prominence of the region at that time, the Director observed adding that it is a rare feature in Hindu religion. "This temple must have been one of



The Gandabherunda inscription found at Vinukonda Narasimhaswamy temple in Palnadu district.

the famous Vaishnava temples at that time. Because, only great temples generally have this kind of Gandabherunda carvings," Mr. Munirratnam Reddy said.

According to the epigraphical record, the temple, its sikhara and the mandapa in front of the Sri Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy temple were constructed by Sagi Gannamanayini. The identification was made with inputs from a sculptor, Oppicharla Lakshmanachary, and a senior assistant in Revenue department Thurimella Srinivasa Prasad, from Darsi, Mr. Reddy added.

DYFI seeks immediate steps to fill vacant posts in State power utilities

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The State committee of the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) demanded that the Andhra Pradesh government immediately initiate recruitment to fill vacant engineering posts, including Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE-Electrical) positions in AP-Transco, AP-Genco, and A.P. Discoms, as well as engineering vacancies in various other

departments across the State.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the DYFI State president Y. Ramu and State secretary G. Ramanana said that lakhs of unemployed engineering graduates had been waiting for recruitment notifications for nearly a decade, but successive governments had shown complete apathy towards their plight.

They said there were more than 2,000 vacant

AEE posts in these three power utilities alone, and thousands of vacancies existed in other departments. However, not a single recruitment notification had been issued so far, which they termed as extremely deplorable.

They recalled that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had given a clear assurance last year that recruitments would be undertaken in the power utilities. However, the go-

vernment failed to keep its promise, they said, and expressed concern that the failure to honour these assurances has pushed engineering youth into severe distress.

Many candidates had borrowed lakhs of rupees to spend on coaching, books, and exam preparation, they said, adding that with recruitments not taking place, they are now faced huge financial losses, besides mental stress and anxiety.

CFL alleges financial irregularities in SPDCL procurements

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Centre for Liberty (CFL) Chairman A.B. Venkateswara Rao alleged serious financial irregularities in procurements done by the A.P. Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL).

In a complaint which will be submitted to the A.P. Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) here on Thursday, Mr. Venkateswara Rao stated that excess payments for transformers caused a total avoidable loss of approximately ₹14.65 crore, and the SPDCL awarded contracts to specific vendors on

nomination basis instead of an open and transparent tender process.

Mr. Rao also alleged the utility paid significantly higher prices than neighbouring States in the purchase of Star-2 transformers and ordered expensive Star-5 transformers for agricultural use, which provides no benefit for agricultural power supply patterns.

Probe sought

He requested the APERC to disallow those costs mentioned by the SPDCL in its Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) filing for 2026-27 and order an investigation.

**LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**
Guntur Area Office: D.No: 6-21-21, Ground Floor, Gogula House, 9/2, Arundalpet, Guntur-522002. Ph: 0863-2254743, 9704653695

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued Demand Notice to following Borrowers/Mortgagors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, the Borrowers/ Mortgagors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken **PHYSICAL POSSESSION** of the following properties in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) and U/s 14 of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules.

S. No.	Loan No. / Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrower	Description of Immovable Property	Reserve Price (Rs.)	EMD (10% of Reserve Price):	Bank details (EMD to be transferred to)
1)	Loan A/c No: 710800008636 Mr. Balaji Nayak Badavath (Borrower)	Property Address Schedule A: All the piece and the parcel of the property bearing sale deed No: 2376/2020, Guntur District, Koritepadu Sub Division, Gorantla Grama Panchayat, Guntur Municipal Corporation, bearing Flat No.504, Fourth Floor, K. Linga Reddy Towers Apartment, Plot Nos.1,2, & D No.134, 10th Line, Balaji Nagar Main Road, Guntur to Amaravathi Road, Gorantla, Guntur Municipal Corporation, A P-522 034, with an extent of 836.1/4 Sq.yds or 699.2137 Sq.mtrs of site, on which Undivided share of land 41.8125 Sq.yds or 34.960 Sq.mtrs of site.	Rs. 34,70,000/-	Rs. 3,47,000/-	Beneficiary Name: LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD Branch Name: HDFC BANK Account Number:- LHLVLW710800008636 IFSC Code:- HDFC0000109 Property Id:- VW710800008636
Bounded as Follows: East: 30'ft wide Road, South: Plot No.4, West: Vacant Site, North: Remaining Property of Vendor.					
Schedule-B: K. Linga Reddy Towers Apartment, Flat No.504, Fourth Floor, 2BHK Flat with 1060 Sq. feet (Plinth + Common Area & Car Parking). Bounded as follows: East: Open Space, South: Common Corridor for this flat and Flat No.502, West: Common Corridor, North: Open to sky.					
2)	Loan A/c No: 710800007842 Mrs Triveni Bai Vadite, Mr Balaji Kethavath (Borrowers)	Property Address Schedule A: All the piece and the parcel of the property bearing Sale Deed No: 5716/1997, Guntur Dist, Guntur Sub-district, Guntur Municipal Corporation, R.Agraharam, Old Door No.26-20-238/A, New H.No.958-244, Old Ward No.17, Block No.2, TS No.45, Back side of SP Bungalow, 8th Line, Sivaram Nagar, Opp. Venkateswara Towers, with an extent of land 172.30 Sq.yards or 144.01 Sq.mtrs. Bounded as Follows: East: Municipal Corporation Road, South: Property of Patibandla Nageswara Rao, West: Property of Patibandla Nageswara Rao, North: Property of Thotakura Aithayya.	Rs. 1,01,00,000/-	Rs. 10,10,000/-	Beneficiary Name: LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD Branch Name: HDFC BANK Account Number:- LHLVLW710800007842 IFSC Code:- HDFC0000109 Property Id:- VW710800007842

Website of e-Auction <https://bankauctions.in>
Date & time of Inspection of Property & Photo Copies of Property Documents 18.02.2026 from 10.30 AM to 4.00 PM
Last date of submission of Tender/online Bid 24.02.2026 before 5.00 PM (online mode only)
E-AUCTION Date and Time 25.02.2026 from 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM
Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LIC HFL invites OFFERS in Online mode to purchase the said properties on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".
TERMS & CONDITIONS OF THE AUCTION SALE ARE AS FOLLOWS :
(1). E-Auction is being held on 'As is where is Basis', 'As is what is Basis', 'Whatever there is' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis', and will be conducted "Online". The E-Auction will be conducted through LIC-Housing Finance approved E-auction service provider "M/s. 4Closure". (2). The intending bidders should register their names at portal <https://bankauctions.in> and get their user-id and password free of cost. Prospective bidders may avail online training on E-Auction from the service provider M/s. 4Closure, **Contact Person: Mr. T. Jayaprakash Reddy, Mob No: 8142000064, Email Id: prakash@Bankauctions.in & info@bankauctions.in.** (3). For detailed terms and Conditions of the sale and full description of the property please refer to the website of approved e-auction service provider "M/s. 4Closure" at <https://bankauctions.in>. (4). For any further details please contact Ph No: 97046 53695 & 97040 20357.
* All other terms & conditions of the auction are mentioned as Annexure 2 in the Official Website - <https://online.lichousing.com/eauction/>
Date: 21.01.2026, Place: Vijayawada **Sd/- Authorised Officer, LIC Housing Finance Ltd**

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

**THE HINDU**
South India's No.1 English Daily

Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Department of Agriculture, AP invites bids for selection of Agencies for Procurement of Equipment for DNA-Based Seed and Seed Health Testing at Center of Excellence, Amaravati, Procurement of Fertilizer and Pesticide Testing Equipment for DIALLs, and Automation of Quality Control Laboratories in Andhra Pradesh. For other details please visit www.agriculture.ap.gov.in or www.tender.approcurement.gov.in
Sd/- Dr.Manazir Jeelani Samoon, IAS
Director of Agriculture
DIPR 4759P/CL, Dt:21/01/2026

**Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd**
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
4456 - M	SE / P&A / TTPS	IP52 rails and its fixing accessories for stacker and Reclaimer machines track path on conveyor 54

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.intenders.gov.in
DIPR/374/Tender/2026

**Odisha Police**
Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack
Tel. : 0671-2304001, Website : www.police.odisha.gov.in ,
RFP No. 33-RFP-Viscometer-2025-2026
Date : 21.01.2026; Email : dirtsfl.orpolo@nic.in
Online Bids through e-Tender Portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> are invited from the eligible bidders for Request For Proposal (RFP) of Viscometer during the current financial year, 2025-26 as per the particulars mentioned below.

Sl.No.	Name of Item	Approximate quantity
1	33-RFP-Viscometer-2025-2026	01 No

Events	Date
RFP Issue Date	21.01.2026
RFP Submission Due Date and time	02.02.2026
Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	03.02.2026
Bid to RA enabled	Yes
Tender Document fee {(Non-refundable Rs.590/-{(Rs.500/-+18% GST (Rs.90/-)})}	In favour of A.I.G. of Police (Prov.), Odisha, Cuttack payable at Cuttack. (Demand Draft)
EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) Rs:10,000/- (Ten thousand only)	In favour of A.I.G. of Police (Prov.), Odisha, Cuttack payable at Cuttack, (Demand Draft)

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

A.I.G. of Police (Provisioning,) Odisha, Cuttack.
(Tender Calling Authority)

D-306:

**LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**
Vijayawada Area Office: #27-10-1/1, First Floor, Umiya Nivas, Attarattaiah Street, Governorpet, Vijayawada-520002 .

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued Demand Notice to following Borrowers/Mortgagors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, the Borrowers/ Mortgagors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken **PHYSICAL POSSESSION** of the following properties in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) and U/s 14 of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules.

Loan No./Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower	Description of the Immovable Property	Reserve Price	EMD (10% of Reserve Price)	Bank details (EMD to be transferred to)
Loan No – 7114400008914 Ms. GOLLA UMA MAHESWARI Vijayawada Area Office Contact: 9951534212, 9704020357.	Property Address Schedule A: All that piece and the parcel of the property bearing sale deed No: 2182/2021 DATED 03/04/2021, Krishna district, Gannavaram Sub Registrar Ilaka, Gannavaram Mandal, Gannavaram Grama Panchayat Area, Gannavaram Grama Rs.No.390/2, Ward No.8, Near Do.No.8-166, The Immovable Residential Property named "PEE KAYS EXPRESS VENUE" admeasuring with an extent of 439.94 Sq.yds or 367.83 Sq.mtrs, on which undivided share of land 54.92 Sq.yds or 45.91 Sq.mtrs of site.	Rs 39,00,000/-	Rs 3,90,000/-	Beneficiary Name: LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED COLLECTION A/C VIJAYAWADA. Branch Name: HDFC BANK Account Number:- LHLVLW711400008914 IFSC Code:- HDFC0000109
Bidding increment fixed for Rs.10,000/-				

Bounded as Follows: 1st Item: East: Property of Chanamolu Venkata Narayana and others. **South:** Property of Co-Operative and others Mill, West: Panchayathi Road, North: Property of Gudapati jaya ree. **Schedule B:** "PEE KAYS EXPRESS AVENUE, Flat No.FF-2, 1st Floor, 1060 sq.ft (Including Common Area and plinth area) and 100 sq.ft car Parking Bounded as follows: East:, Open Space.South:, Open Space, West: Open Space, North: Corridor, Stair Case and lift

Website of e-Auction	https://bankauctions.in
Date & time of Inspection of the Property & Photocopies of property documents	18.02.2026, 10:30 am to 4 pm
Last date of submission of Tender/Sealed Bid	24.02.2026 up to 5.00 pm
E-Auction Date & Time	25.02.2026; 11 am to 1.00 pm

Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LIC HFL invites OFFERS in online mode to purchase the said properties on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE ARE AS FOLLOWS
1.E-Auction is being held on 'As is where is Basis', 'As is what is Basis', 'Whatever there is' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis', and will be conducted "Online". The E-Auction will be conducted through LIC-Housing Finance approved E-auction service provider "M/s.4Closure", (2). The intending bidders should register their names at portal <https://bankauctions.in> and get their user-id and password free of cost. Prospective bidders may avail online training on E-Auction from the service provider M/s.4Closure, **Contact Person: Mr. T. Jaya Prakash Reddy, Contact No. 8142000064, Email Id: prakash@Bankauctions.in & info@bankauctions.in**
3.For detailed terms and Conditions of the sale and full description of the property please refer to the website of approved e-auction service provider "M/s.4Closure" at <https://bankauctions.in>.
4.For any further details please contact Ph.No.9951534212, 9704020357.
All other terms & conditions of the auction are mentioned as Annexure 2 in the Official Website - <https://online.lichousing.com/eauction/>
Date :21.01.2026, Place:Vijayawada **Sd/- Authorized Officer, LIC Housing Finance Ltd**

**Classifieds**
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AUTHORISED SPACE SELLERS NETWORK

LOCATION	AUTHORISED SPACE SELLERS	CALL FOR ADVERTISEMENTS
Anantapur	: Sree Communications	Cell : 99519 44588
Kadapa	: Sree Putta Ads	Cell : 97017 52420
Kurnool	: The Neo Vision Ads	Cell : 94405 03019
Nellore	: Chandini Communications	Cell : 98491 88889

Advertisement Material Deadline
Classifieds Mart : Weekdays 6.00 P.M.
Property Plus : Friday 7.00 P.M.
Sunday Classifieds : Friday 7.00 P.M.

Concern over poor state of irrigation in Rayalaseema region

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Rythu Coolie Sangham and Rayalaseema Irrigation Projects Committee visited the irrigation projects in the Rayalaseema, including Velugodu Reservoir, Madras Canal, Banakacharla Cross Regulator and SRBC Canal, on Wednesday.

The leaders expressed concern over the deteriorating state of irrigation projects in Rayalaseema.

Rythu Coolie Sangham state president Jhansi and Rayalaseema Irrigation Projects Committee president Bojja Dasharatharami Reddy said there was a gross mismatch between official announcements by the government and ground realities about water supply to Rayalaseema.

Despite the Telugu Ganga Project being launched over 40 years ago to irrigate 2.75 lakh acres in Kur-nool and Kadapa districts as well as to supply drinking water to the then Madras city (now Chennai),

the project's current state is extremely disappointing, they said.

The delegation reported inadequate canal capacity, unfinished construction works, and obstructions along critical waterways, preventing the movement of water even for 20,000 acres.

Key issues include incomplete aqueducts over the KC Canal on the SRBC Canal, delays in Banakacharla Cross Regulator works and diversion of water to unintended areas, which undermine both irrigation and historic water management systems.

Ms. Jhansi demanded immediate allocation of ₹20 crore to remove blockages and ensure smooth water flow from Srisailem Reservoir to balance reservoirs such as Gorakallu, Mailavaram, Paidipalem, and Chitravati. She urged the government to move beyond statements and take concrete action to utilise natural resources efficiently in Rayalaseema region.

‘Complete 2 lakh rooftop solar connections by May’

Chief Secretary asks officials to intensify awareness campaigns and calls for simplified approval, faster commissioning of rooftop solar systems; highlights fast-tracking renewable energy projects

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand on Wednesday directed Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) to complete 2 lakh rooftop solar connections by May 2026 under the PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana in line with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision of promoting household energy self-reliance.

Reviewing the progress of rooftop solar and feeder solarisation projects at a meeting in Tirupati, the Chief Secretary instructed APSPDCL and NREDCAP to ensure effective field-level monitoring for quality execution and long-term performance.

He emphasised fast-tracking renewable energy projects and electric vehicle (EV) charging infras-



Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand reviews progress of rooftop solar and renewable energy projects with APSPDCL and NREDCAP officials in Tirupati on Wednesday.

structure with clear timelines and accountability.

Stressing consumer-centric implementation, Mr. Vijayanand called for intensified awareness campaigns, simplified approval procedures, and faster commissioning of rooftop solar systems.

He said that meter in-

stallations should be carried out promptly without causing inconvenience to consumers and warned that any lapses would invite strict action. Divisional Engineers and Assistant Divisional Engineers will be held personally accountable for deficiencies or consumer complaints.

Durga temple devotees warned of fraud calls

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamyvarla Devasthanam EO V.K. Seena Naik on Wednesday warned devotees not to fall prey to fraudulent phone calls made in the temple's name.

In a statement, the E.O. highlighted that some individuals have recently contacted devotees, claiming to represent the temple and offering special services or gifts. Reports suggest that callers are attempting to convince devotees that they will send “silk saree” offering to the deity or conduct special pujas in their name. Mr. Naik clarified



For temple services, puja bookings or donations, devotees have been advised to use only the temple's official website or the government's 'Mana Mitra' WhatsApp service, as well as authorised temple information centres. FILE PHOTO

that the temple does not make personal phone calls to devotees, and no such services are being offered. “These are cyber frauds

designed to extort money from unsuspecting devotees,” Mr. Naik said, urging the public to remain vigilant.

Sri Panchami to be celebrated tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamyvarla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri will celebrate Sri Saraswati Devi Jayanthi (Sri Panchami) on January 23, and hold special sun worship throughout the Magha month from January 19 to February 17.

Sri Panchami, observed on Magha Shuddha Panchami, marks the birth of Goddess Saraswati. The

management announced that the processional idol of Goddess Kanaka Durga would be adorned as Sri Saraswati Devi. A mass Aksharabhyasam ceremony for 500 students will be conducted for free.

Kanaka Durga temple Executive Officer V.K. Seena Naik said that students in their school or college uniforms with valid ID cards can avail free darshan from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on January 23.

SRM faculty gets training in AI at CMU

The Hindu Bureau
AMARAVATI

A faculty team from SRM University-A.P. has returned from a visit to Carnegie Mellon University, the U.S., bringing back insights on AI, interdisciplinary research and student-centric pedagogy. The delegation comprised Saleti Sumalatha, M. Naveen Kumar and Ashu Abdul from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, and Sunil Chinnadurai from the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering.

INBRIEF



Pawan visits kin of JSP activist killed in accident

Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party (JSP) president Pawan Kalyan on Wednesday visited the family of party activist Chandu Veeravenkata Vasantha Rayalu in Pedachandala village, who lost his life in a road accident last year. Mr. Pawan Kalyan condoled with the family members – Vasantha Rayalu's wife Nag Pushpavathi, son Sitaramaraju and daughter Jahnavi – and lauded their decision to donate Vasantha Rayalu's organs after he was declared brain-dead. Mr. Pawan also presented them with a cheque for ₹5 lakh in insurance claim and also took special note of Jahnavi's hearing and speech challenges, instructing officials to provide assistance through the TTD Shravan Project to support her education and rehabilitation.

Awareness run on World Cancer Day on February 1

The Manipal Hospital, Vijayawada, is planning to organise an awareness run in the city on February 1 to mark World Cancer Day and to raise awareness on cancer prevention, early detection and healthy living. According to a press note from the management, hospital Director J. Ramanjaneya Reddy and Radiation Oncology consultant Rama Krishna met Director-General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta on Wednesday at his office and requested him to flag off the run. Later, the DGP unveiled a poster and a shirt for the run, which will begin at 5 a.m. from the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation Stadium.

P.B. Siddhartha College to host hackathon on Jan. 30, 31

The Department of Data Science and AI in P. B. Siddhartha Arts and Science College, Vijayawada, is organising a ‘24-hour Hackathon’ on January 30 and 31. A poster of the event was released by college principal Meka Ramesh, convener and joint secretary of Siddhartha Academy N. Lalitha Prasad, director Vemuri Baburao, college dean Rajesh C. Jampala and head of the data science department K. Udayashree on Wednesday. Mr. Ramesh said innovative ideas and projects are invited in AI, Machine Learning, App Development, Internet of Things (IoT) and Open Innovation. Those interested can contact Sandeep Kumar at 7416153019.

Timings
VIJAYAWADA

THURSDAY, JAN. 22
RISE 06:39 SET 17:59
RISE 09:01 SET 21:09

FRIDAY, JAN. 23
RISE 06:39 SET 17:59
RISE 09:38 SET 22:01

SATURDAY, JAN. 24
RISE 06:39 SET 18:00
RISE 10:15 SET 22:55

Vijayawada Weather max min
Machilipatnam 30 19
Guntur Town 32 16
Vijayawada City 30 19

Vijayawada City Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Vijayawada City Tomorrow
31°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to prevail.

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

‘Pinnelli incident being politicised’

The Hindu Bureau
AMARAVATI

Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy on Wednesday said the recent incident in Pinnelli in Palnadu district was being politicised by the YSRCP despite it being a purely personal dispute. Addressing mediapersons

at Secretariat, he said the incident occurred due to personal enmity between two individuals, Salman and Pethuru. He condemned attempts to give the incident a political colour. Mr. Parthasarathy said communal tensions in Hyderabad and factional violence in Rayalaseema

had been firmly curbed under the leadership of CM N. Chandrababu Naidu. He pointed out that Pinnelli remained peaceful between 2014 and 2019, and that personal disputes between the two individuals began only during a procession in 2019 under YSRCP rule.

APPOINTMENTS

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CALICUT**
NIT Campus P.O., Calicut, Kerala – 673601, India
NOTIFICATION FOR FACULTY RECRUITMENT
NIT Calicut invites applications from PwBD candidates for Faculty position at Pay Level 10 (7th CPC) in Various Departments.
Phase-02 : Notification No.: NITC/P02/456/FR/SD/PwBD/2026
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CM YK A VI-VIE

INBRIEF



V-P says Indian start-ups can solve global challenges

Highlighting challenges such as climate change and the ethical use of artificial intelligence, Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan said Indian start-ups were well-positioned to emerge as global leaders in developing solutions. He said India was racing towards becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047 and that the nation's youth would play a decisive role in realising this vision. He was speaking at the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the CMR Institute of Technology on Wednesday.

Man's death following social media trial: accused arrested

The police on Wednesday arrested Shimjitha Musthafa, a Vadakara native who was booked for abetting the unnatural death of Govindapuram native U. Deepak after a video shot by her went viral on social media accusing Deepak of sexual misconduct during a bus journey. She was absconding after the police registered a case against her under Section 109 (abetment to suicide) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. (Suicide Prevention Helpline: Disha - 1056, 0471-2552056)

ED freezes assets worth ₹1.3cr. in Sabarimala gold theft case

The ED on Wednesday froze eight immovable properties of Unnikrishnan Potti, the prime accused in the Sabarimala gold theft case, valued at approximately ₹1.3 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. A 100-gram gold bar was also seized from the premises of Smart Creations, Chennai, the ED said in a statement. A preliminary probe revealed that sacred gold-clad artefacts were misrepresented in official records as "copper plates".

BJP to host 'Ekatma Manavata Diwas' from tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The BJP's State unit is gearing up to host the 'Ekatma Manavata Diwas' at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation Stadium in Vijayawada on January 23 and 24, as part of its initiative to recall the historic 'Jana Sangh National Conference' held at the venue in 1965.

Addressing the media on Wednesday after visiting the stadium complex, party State general secretary N. Ramesh Naidu said Vijayawada was a historic place that had shaped India's ideological direction based on dharma. He said the governance model of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and current Prime Minister Narendra Modi was rooted in 'Integral Humanism' (Ekatma Manav Darshan), the philosophy of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

He said NDA leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan, had been invited, while BJP National general secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santhosh and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy would attend.

BJP State general secretary S. Dayakar Reddy emphasised India's emergence as the world's fourth-largest economy under Mr. Modi's leadership, and called for indigenous policy frameworks. He recalled that the 1965 conference had called for India's nuclear capability, and similar discussions led to the abrogation of Article 370.Organisers had arranged an exhibition recreating the 1965 meet.

Kerala Minister apologises for 'polarisation' remark

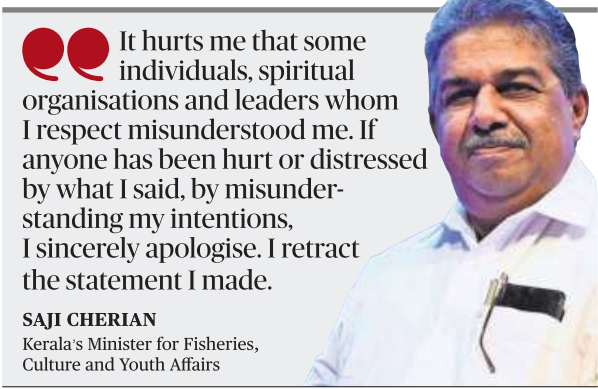
Saji Cherian says he is 'hurt by the fact that a campaign' is being carried out by 'distorting' his words; Congress says the issue will not end with a press release, calls for strict action against him

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Minister for Fisheries, Culture and Youth Affairs Saji Cherian on Wednesday apologised for his statements on Malappuram and Kasaragod districts that kicked up a political controversy in Kerala.

The Minister had made a statement in Alappuzha on Sunday stating that communal polarisation was evident in the recently held local body polls as seen by the names of those who had won in the Malappuram district panchayat and the Kasaragod municipality.

In a statement issued from the Minister's office, Mr. Cherian said he was



It hurts me that some individuals, spiritual organisations and leaders whom I respect misunderstood me. If anyone has been hurt or distressed by what I said, by misunderstanding my intentions, I sincerely apologise. I retract the statement I made.

SAJI CHERIAN
Kerala's Minister for Fisheries, Culture and Youth Affairs

"hurt by the fact that a campaign" was being carried out by "distorting" his words to make it seem as if these were directed against a particular group.

"The propaganda campaign is aimed at hurting the secular stance that I have adopted and maintained in my life till now.

An attempt is being made to tarnish my public life, which has been spent in working for all people equally, regardless of caste or religion, by tying it to communalism. As a CPI(M) worker who has consistently and strongly responded to attacks on minorities across the country,

Church raises alarm over attacks on Christians

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

As the BJP steps up its outreach to the Christian community ahead of the Kerala Assembly elections, the Catholic Church has expressed grave concern over recurring attacks on Christians in north India.

The Church's official mouthpiece *Deepika* carried a strongly worded editorial on Wednesday, condemning what it described as a rise in violence against

Christians in BJP-ruled States. Titled 'Cow Dung Force-Feeders,' the editorial referred to a recent incident in Odisha in which a Christian pastor was allegedly forced to consume cow dung during a prayer meeting.

"A group of anti-national elements left the scene shouting 'Jai Shri Ram' after forcing the pastor to eat cow dung," the editorial said. It also criticised the Centre for its silence, stating that such incidents

could be prevented "within 24 hours" if there were political will. "While such incidents have not occurred in Kerala, heightened vigilance is essential," it added.

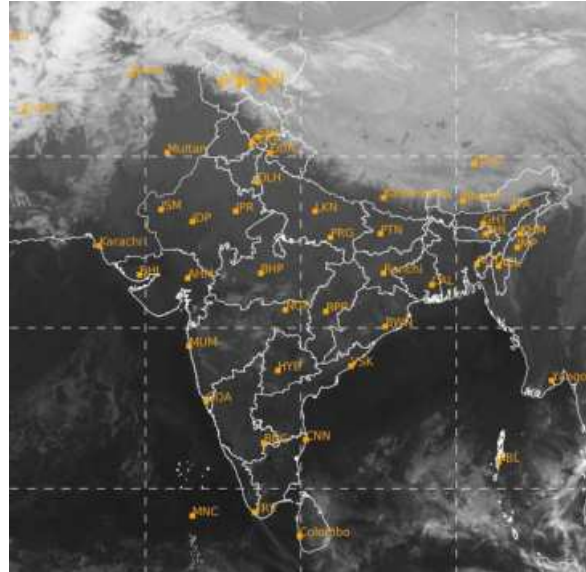
The editorial further alleged that anti-conversion laws enacted by BJP-led governments have emboldened Bajrang Dal activists, leading to the humiliation and assault of the pastor. "Poisonous rhetoric prepares communal minds. Those who claim they will prevent commu-

I have taken an uncompromising stance against communalism in my public life for the past 42 years. I have also faced many hardships as a result of all this," he said. "It also hurts me that some individuals, spiritual organisations and spiritual leaders whom I respect misunderstood me. If anyone has been hurt or distressed by what I said, by misunderstanding my intentions, I sincerely apologise. I retract the statement I made," he added.

Reacting to the statement, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Sunny Joseph said, "This issue will not end with a press release. The CPI(M), which has tried to protect him, has to take action against him," he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala		28.1	12.5	Kozhikode	.....	32.7	24.0
Ahmedabad		29.5	17.0	Kurnool	.....	32.0	17.0
Aizawl		25.5	9.0	Lucknow	.....	25.5	10.0
Allahabad		27.8	10.1	Madurai	.....	32.1	18.0
Bengaluru		27.8	14.7	Mangaluru	.....	31.8	20.0
Bhopal		26.6	10.8	Mumbai	.....	32.1	18.3
Bhubaneswar		32.3	13.2	Mysuru	.....	29.0	13.0
Chandigarh		24.0	5.3	New Delhi	.....	24.2	7.0
Chennai		30.5	21.5	Patna	.....	25.0	13.0
Coimbatore		30.4	18.4	Port Blair	.....	30.5	25.0
Dehradun		24.2	7.7	Puducherry	.....	29.7	19.0
Gangtok		16.5	7.8	Pune	.....	30.9	17.0
Goa		33.2	19.4	Raipur	.....	29.8	16.0
Guwahati		26.9	13.7	Ranchi	.....	25.1	8.0
Hubballi		30.0	12.0	Shillong	.....	16.4	7.0
Hubabad		28.2	18.2	Shimla	.....	18.7	6.0
Imphal		24.3	4.7	Srinagar	.....	13.6	2.4
Jaipur		25.0	10.6	Thiruvananthapuram	.....	33.7	21.8
Kochi		30.0	23.4	Tiruchi	.....	30.3	18.0
Kohima		18.2	7.0	Vijayawada	.....	30.0	18.0
Kolkata		28.0	15.2	Visakhapatnam	.....	31.0	19.5

Pollutants in the air you are breathing										Yesterday
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE				
Ahmedabad	102	98	33	107	157	107	157	In	operation	
Bengaluru	5	21	38	149	138	149	138	at	4.00 p.m.,	
Chennai	8	16	54	161	141	161	141	Haryana	Gurugram,	
Delhi	26	82	72	366	370	366	370	recorded	an	
Hyderabad	7	33	32	119	115	119	115	overall	air quality	
Kolkata	9	145	58	287	232	287	232	(AQI)	score of 358	
Lucknow	8	43	58	165	199	165	199	indicating	an unhealthy	
Mumbai	39	111	59	112	148	112	148	level of	pollution in	
Pune	82	28	259	172	172	82	259	contrast,	Shillong,	
Visakhapatnam	6	89	21	202	215	6	89	Meghalaya	recorded a	
								healthy	AQI score of 29	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: 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.
NO₂: 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.
PM_{2.5} & 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

Packers and movers



Road show: Farmers carrying haystack on a tractor on the outskirts of Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. K.V.S. GIRI

Medical teams to study factors leading to maternal, infant deaths

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

An action plan will be in place soon to bring down the number of maternal and infant deaths in Andhra Pradesh, according to Minister for Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare Satya Kumar Yadav.

In a statement on Wednesday, Mr. Satya Kumar said, as part of the plan, a team of three doctors, including a paediatrician, gynaecologist, and a doctor specialising in preventive medicine, had been constituted at the district level to investigate factors contributing to the deaths.

The team would identify if there were any gaps in medical services being pro-

vided to pregnant women, new mothers and infants.

With the support from the World Health Organisation and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the medical experts would assess the services, following guidelines stipulated by the Union government in the 'India Newborn Action Plan' framework, he said.

The teams formed in every district would visit all government hospitals and inspect the services being provided to women and children of up to five years, and also gather feedback from the patients.

Based on these, the teams would submit a report to the Health Department, following which an action plan would be for-

mulated at the district and State levels to ensure that the shortcomings were addressed and not repeated, the Minister said.

At present, the infant mortality rate (IMR), which measures deaths of infants happening under one year, in Andhra Pradesh is lower than the national IMR.

"In the State, out of every 1,000 live births, 19 are dying," the Minister said, adding that at the national level, the rate was 25 for every 1,000 live births.

Giving details, the Minister said that out of 19 deaths, 16 were happening in the first 28 days of birth, which was called the neonatal period.

On Wednesday, a workshop was organised for the medical experts

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

The high-power Telangana Rising delegation led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has successfully convinced marquee investors attending the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos to invest in the State, explaining the proactive policies and potential advantages put in place by the State government.

The Chief Minister participated in a series of meetings with renowned firms since his arrival in Davos, explaining them about the vision and road map of his government's pursuit to make Telangana a \$3 trillion economy in two decades.

False marriage promise is not criminal if relationship fails: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The newly-introduced offence under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which criminalises sexual intercourse by employing deceitful means, including a promise of marriage, punishes deceit, fraud and exploitation, but not disappointment, failed affection or the collapse of a relationship, said the High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday.

"Section 69 [of BNS] criminalises sexual intercourse by employing deceitful means including a promise of marriage, without intention of fulfilment. The provision, though newly introduced, cannot

be interpreted in a manner that allows it to become an instrument of retroactive criminalisation of consensual relationships upon the mere recital of promise," the court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while quashing a criminal case against an advocate by a woman accusing him of broken marriage promise after having sexual relationship with her. In her complaint, the woman said that she had initially approached the advocate in a cheque dishonour case, and he had a relationship with her, promising marriage. But, the accused said that the complaint was a concocted story. The court, based on docu-

ments on the past and the present relationship of the complainant and other complaints lodged by her, said that "the complaint bears a strong imprint of manipulation and of an attempt to convert private discord into public prosecution". "... it becomes difficult to comprehend, far less accept, how the complainant could credibly assert that she consented to sexual relationship on a promise of marriage, when she appears to have been in a subsisting marital relationship or at the very least, in a continuing domestic association, and is also mother of two children, one about 13 years old and the other about four years," the court observed.

CM promotes Telangana's road map to become a \$3 trillion economy in Davos



Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy with delegates at the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026 in Davos. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Impressed by the presentation, several firms including Google, Unilever and others gave investment commitments entering into memorandum of understanding with the State government.

One of the biggest in-

vestment assurances was from the renowned ductile iron pipe manufacturer Rashmi Group, which proposed a steel plant with an investment of ₹12,500 crore capable of generating 12,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Another major achievement of the delegation was the setting up of a Global Capability Centre (GCC) by L'Oreal, a world leader in beauty, make-up and cosmetics, in the city. While GCC's specialising in med-tech and other areas are a common feature, L'Oreal has come up with the idea of setting up a first-of-its-kind GCC dealing exclusively with beauty tech.

The Chief Minister had a fruitful interaction with domestic giant Tata Group chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran, explaining him about the investor and industry-friendly atmosphere in the State and the proactive long-term policies ushered in for all-round development of the State.



Apparently tired of Mr. Ravi's repeated violations of the convention, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has favoured a constitutional amendment to do away with the practice of commencing the first Assembly session of the year with the Governor's address. Articles 87 and 176 of the Constitution require the President and Governors to make special addresses to Parliament and State legislatures, in the new year. About 35 years ago, President Venkataraman had repeatedly recommended to Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi and Chandra Shekhar that the practice be deleted through an amendment as he called it a "British anachronism" and a "meaningless formality". This suggestion should be viewed in line with the thinking of the regime at the Centre, which seems to have taken upon itself the task of repealing "outdated colonial laws". The language of the two Articles was borrowed from the rules of the House of Commons. Nothing would be lost if the Articles are scrapped, as the President and the Governors still retain their right to address the legislature under Articles 86 and 175. Importantly, Governors should not assume powers and functions that are not envisaged under the Constitution and should set an example of respecting the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

The benefits of cross-border CBDC payments could outweigh costs

Cross-border payments are a significant channel for black and laundered money. Any attempts to bring further transparency to such flows are welcome. Blockchains are excellent instruments for this purpose. They form transparent and immutable records of transactions and can be coded to provide relevant details such as the points of origin and destination. A BRICS agreement on such a payment infrastructure could further mandate that payments be linked to national identity numbers or tax departments. CBDC payments would also help ease some of India's stickier international payments issues. Payments to Russia and Iran, for example, will become easier since the SWIFT network is not available to either country. On the other hand, exactly such payments and the related move away from the dollar will inevitably anger President Donald Trump. He has already warned of additional tariffs on BRICS countries should they move away from the dollar. That said, with 50% tariffs in place, India needs to see whether incremental tariffs will actually hurt. The benefits of cross-border CBDC payments could still outweigh the costs.

On the meaning of proven misbehaviour, the Court in *M. Krishna Swami vs Union Of India and Ors.* (1992) says “every act or conduct or even error of judgments or negligent acts by higher judiciary per se does not amount to misbehaviour. Wilful abuse of judicial office, wilful misconduct in the office, corruption, lack

is former Secretary
General, Lok Sabha

The operation of a serious constitutional provision for removing an unworthy judge can still be thwarted

This procedure needs closer examination. The Act does not mention the conditions of admissibility of the motion, which is the case in respect of all motions and resolutions under the Rules of Procedure of the Houses of Parliament. It may be noted here that the Speaker/Chairman while admitting or disallowing the motion under this Act is not performing the duty as the Presiding Officer of the House. On the contrary, he acts as a statutory authority and thus performs a statutory Act. Still, the basic conditions of admissibility of the motion need to be spelt out. Otherwise, the action of disallowing the motion

Therefore, the provision which gives the Speaker/Chairman an option to disallow the motion needs to be revisited.

is a Legal Researcher at Enfold Proactive Health Trust, where she works on issues related to child rights and juvenile justice in India

Evidence is now emerging that the transfer system is fraught with arbitrariness, procedural complexity and confusion. By requiring assessment of whether a child “knew the consequences” of an act or possessed the “mental capacity” to commit it, the framework shifts attention away from developmental stages and lived circumstances towards an abstract notion of blame. Besides, no tools exist that can

The Private Member's Bill has the potential to reshape India's juvenile justice framework, with implications for fairness and rehabilitation

However, according to National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) statistics, in 2023, 31,365 cases were registered against Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), which constituted 0.5% of all crimes registered that year. Further, of the 40,036 CICLs apprehended in 2023, 79% (31,610) were between ages 16 to 18 years, with those aged between 12 and 16 constituting the remaining 21% (8,426). The NCRB data thus directly contradicts any claim that younger adolescents, specifically those between 14 to 16 years, are the driving force behind an increase in serious crime. The proposal also reflects a flawed understanding about how children enter the criminal justice system.

If the goal is to respond meaningfully to serious harm, the answer lies not in withdrawing protection, but in investing in the strengthening of institutions and communities meant to support children before harm occurs. Recasting such systemic failures as justification for the harsher treatment of CICLs does not solve the problem. It merely transfers its consequences onto those who are least equipped to bear them.

The Governor of Tamil Nadu is only strengthening the perception of him being a reservoir of recalcitrance. The ruling BJP at the Centre, as usual, has maintained a stoic silence. This sort of 'solid support' only encourages the Governor to continue being the way he is. Also, the

claims of his office that the address had “numerous unsubstantiated claims and statements” has been proven wrong by *The Hindu* (“Data discrepancies in Lok Bhavan’s statement on Governor’s address”, January 21). Will it not be in the fitness of things if there is in-depth discussion on whether it is necessary at

When an ordinary citizen

disrespects the Constitution, is he not branded as an anti-national and punished? Has not Governor Ravi violated Article 176 of the Constitution not just once but many times? Why is there no action against him by the BJP government?

Tharcus S. Fernando,
Chennai

It is deplorable that there are some Governors who refuse to read the customary address and even alter the Cabinet-approved policy address. Governors meddling in the functioning of States has become routine. It was the Congress then and the BJP now, that have been misusing the

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

Why AI infrastructure matters more

India's artificial intelligence debate is often dominated by applications – automation, productivity tools, chatbots, and efficiency gains. But the Government of India's recent white paper, “Democratising Access to AI Infrastructure”, makes a crucial intervention: the future of AI in India will not be decided by algorithms alone, but by who has access to the infrastructure that powers them.

At its core, the paper argues that compute power, datasets, and AI model ecosystems are becoming foundational economic assets. In a world where AI capabilities are increasingly concentrated among a handful of global corporations, access to infrastructure determines who innovates, who governs, and who merely consumes.

For India, this is not a technical issue. It is a question of competitiveness, inclusion, and sovereignty.

A public good
The paper makes a compelling case for treating AI infrastructure as a form of digital public utility. Just as roads enable commerce and electricity enables industry, AI infrastructure enables modern innovation, governance, and research. This infrastructure has two interlinked layers. The first is physical: data centres, GPUs, high-performance computing clusters, and energy systems. The second is digital: datasets, model repositories, governance frameworks, and access protocols.

India today faces a stark imbalance. While it generates nearly 20% of global data, it hosts only around 3% of global data centre capacity. This asymmetry means Indian researchers, start-ups, and public institutions often rely on foreign compute and platforms.

India's policy intent is strong. Initiatives such as the IndiaAI Mission, National Supercomputing Mission, AIRAWAT, and emerging national GPU clusters reflect a



Pravin Kaushal
is director-Mrikal (AI/Data Centre) and a young alumni member, Government Liaison Task Force, IIT Kharagpur

The central insight of the white paper is simple but profound: AI access is destiny. Nations that control and democratise AI infrastructure will shape innovation; those that do not will remain dependent

clear recognition that AI infrastructure must be strategically developed.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) plays a central role in this vision. Platforms such as AI Kosh, Bhashini, and TGDEx demonstrate how shared, standards-based systems can democratise access to data and models while ensuring interoperability and accountability.

The risk of concentration
Globally, AI infrastructure is becoming increasingly centralised. A small number of firms control advanced chips, large-scale compute, and frontier models. This concentration creates high entry barriers and amplifies market power.

For India, the risk is not only economic but strategic. Dependence on external AI infrastructure can constrain domestic innovation, weaken bargaining power, and expose sensitive sectors to external vulnerabilities.

The white paper's insistence on sovereign AI infrastructure does not imply isolationism. Rather, it advocates for shared access pathways that allow Indian innovators to compete globally while retaining control over critical systems.

One of the paper's most important contributions is its emphasis on sustainability. As India expands AI capacity, energy efficiency and renewable integration are no longer optional – they are essential. Without careful planning, AI infrastructure could exacerbate environmental stress, particularly in water and power-constrained regions.

The paper rightly calls for energy-efficient architectures, advanced cooling systems, and alignment with India's renewable energy goals.

The scale of AI infrastructure required cannot be delivered by the State alone. The white paper highlights public-private partnerships (PPPs) as a critical lever for expanding regional data

centres, GPU clouds, and sovereign AI capacity. Well-designed PPPs can combine public oversight with private efficiency – provided governance frameworks are clear, transparent, and aligned with public interest.

AI adoption in India remains uneven. Mature sectors such as finance, e-commerce, and IT have moved faster, while agriculture, healthcare, education, and public services lag behind. Democratised AI infrastructure can help correct this imbalance. Affordable access to compute and datasets can enable precision agriculture, diagnostic tools, language technologies, and citizen-facing public services – especially in regional and vernacular contexts.

This is where India's DPI approach offers a global template: shared infrastructure that enables innovation without privileging only the largest players.

Finally, the white paper underscores that access must be trust-centric. A phased, modular policy approach – grounded in clear governance standards – allows innovation to scale without eroding citizen trust.

Access is destiny
The central insight of the white paper is simple but profound: AI access is destiny. Nations that control and democratise AI infrastructure will shape innovation; those that do not will remain dependent.

India has the opportunity to chart a third path – neither laissez-faire concentration nor State monopolisation, but public-good infrastructure enabled by DPI, partnerships, and trust-based governance.

The question is no longer whether India will adopt AI. The real question is whether AI in India will remain the privilege of a few – or become a shared capability that powers inclusive growth, resilient governance, and digital sovereignty.

That choice will be made not in code, but in infrastructure.

A tactical thaw in Kerala politics

SNDP and NSS warm up to each other, bringing identity politics to the centre

STATE OF PLAY

Hiran Unnikrishnan
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With just over a couple of months to go for the Kerala Assembly elections, and coming hard on the heels of a fiercely contested local body poll, the State's political chessboard is being swiftly rearranged. At the centre of this churn is a development that would have seemed improbable even a year ago: the visible thaw in relations between the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam and the Nair Service Society (NSS).

For the two Hindu community organisations that wield decisive influence across large swathes of southern and central Kerala, the symbolism of this emerging bonhomie is as potent as the electoral arithmetic. If this alignment holds, it would represent the most serious attempt at Hindu community convergence in over a decade.

The last attempt to stitch together a Grand Hindu Alliance between 2012 and 2014 had failed. It collapsed under bitter disagreements between these very same bodies over caste-based reservations and the Devaswom Recruitment Board. The bitterness of that rupture lingered for almost a decade, making the present display of warmth all the more striking. Beneath the cordiality, however, still lies a fundamental uncertainty over how they intend to reconcile positions shaped by sharply diffident social and political standings. For now, the convergence appears tactical.

In reality, the rapprochement did not materialise overnight. The leadership of the NSS and SNDP had been edg-

ing closer for over a year. The turning point came in September last year with the Global Ayyappa Sangamam at Pampap, organised by the Left Democratic Front government ostensibly to deliberate on the future course of development at the hill shrine.

But what has clearly accelerated the public expression of this alignment is the emergence of a common adversary in Opposition leader V. D. Satheesan. The general secretaries of both organisations, G. Sukumaran Nair and Vellappally Natesan, have made little effort to hide their hostility toward Mr. Satheesan since he assumed office. This discontent came to the fore after Mr. Satheesan criticised controversial remarks by the SNDP leader, widely seen as targeting the Muslim community in Malabar. From there, the divisions became sharper, and the alignment unmistakably public. After all, both organisations have long harboured concerns over a perceived rise of Muslim influence in Kerala's political arena.

The projection of the LDF as enjoying the confidence of two of Kerala's most influential Hindu community organisations has sparked speculation that the CPI(M) played a quiet role in nudging the SNDP-NSS rapprochement. The move is widely seen as a counterweight to the steady consolidation of Muslim votes in Malabar and Catholic votes

in central Travancore behind the Congress-led United Democratic Front. Viewed through this prism, the timing of senior CPI(M) leader A.K. Balan's remark that Jamaat e Islami would control the Home portfolio under a UDF government appears anything but incidental. This prattern found continuity when Cultural Affairs Minister Saji Cherian drew pointed attention to the identity of candidates fielded by the Indian Union Muslim League. The CPI(M) and the LDF have maintained a studied silence, as if to allow the narrative to gain traction without formal endorsement.

For the UDF, which rides high on its local body election gains under Mr. Satheesan's leadership, this evolving chemistry between the NSS and SNDP is an unwelcome complication. Not just the Congress, but even the IUML has chosen restraint. After a decade out of power, the UDF's strategy is clear: allow anti-incumbency to do the heavy lifting, consolidate its social coalition, and avoid detonating new fault lines on the eve of the Assembly polls.

Whether the coming together of these two Hindu community organisations, which together represent roughly 35% of Kerala's Hindu population, will convert into a proportionate electoral swing remains an open question. Large sections within these communities are already anchored to entrenched political loyalties. The National Democratic Alliance also commands a significant share of this social space.

What is already beyond doubt, however, is that identity politics is no longer hovering at the margins. It is fast-moving to the very centre of Kerala's high-stakes electoral contest.

Trump's Greenland quest unravels NATO and EU ties

The battle for the Arctic territory heats up as EU leaders mull a €93 billion 'trade bazooka' to counter Washington's ultimatum

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

In 1946, the U.S. put a price on Greenland for the first time. The country's then-president, Harry Truman, offered Denmark \$100 million in gold, which Copenhagen refused. More than half a century later, Donald Trump, another U.S. president, has doubled down on his quest for U.S. control of Greenland. But this time, the stakes are much higher.

Data show that Mr. Trump's Greenland endeavour, which he considers important for national security, could undermine years of U.S. diplomacy with its largest trade partner and investor – the EU – and has also unsettled the world's longstanding military alliance, NATO.

Last weekend, Mr. Trump threatened to impose a 10% tariff on eight European countries – Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the U.K., France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Finland – when they opposed his quest for Greenland. He also said this would increase to 25% by June 1 until a deal is reached with Washington.

With an ally turning against itself, Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen noted that “Europe won't be blackmailed”. Reports state that EU leaders are mulling over a 93 billion euro (\$107.7 billion) package of tariffs on U.S. imports and are considering deploying the ‘trade bazooka’ – a term used to describe the EU's plan to take on political bullying and blackmailing.

For instance, French President Emmanuel Macron had already called for the Anti-Coercion Instrument (ACI), which will restrict the U.S.'s access to the European market in terms of imports, investment, and even corporations. Ironically, the Bazooka idea was officially introduced in 2023 after Lithuanian goods were blocked by China, the very country that Mr.

Trump claims will take over Greenland. This ripple could have a much larger effect.

The EU is the U.S.'s largest trade partner, and the U.S. is the EU's biggest export partner. But escalating tariffs could tip the scales towards China, already the biggest source of the EU's imports (**Chart 1**). Europe is also the U.S.'s largest investor, accounting for over 50% of all FDI into the country. It is also the largest recipient of U.S. FDI, which could take a hit if ACI is deployed (**Chart 2**).

The escalating pressure on Europe, including his posts on Truth Social showing Greenland as part of the U.S., has unsettled the NATO allies. The U.S., one of the founding members of NATO, is obliged to protect Greenland, which is a part of NATO under Denmark.

Individual defence spending aside, the U.S. has made contributions to the organisation amounting to at least 15% of NATO's common budget each year (**Chart 3**).

However, by claiming to make Greenland part of the U.S. “in one way or the other”, President Trump has significantly undermined the Treaty and the European region, which holds significant U.S. military bases.

Mr. Trump has defended his claim, saying it is in the best interests of the world for the island to be part of the U.S., but data show that it is a deal that no one wants.

Within the island, the inhabitants have already contended that they'd rather be with the Danish kingdom than become a part of the U.S. A poll conducted by Verian last year showed that 85% oppose leaving the Danish Kingdom to be part of the U.S.

Data also show that more than 54% Americans do not support the U.S. taking over Greenland, across all political affiliations – Democrats and Republicans.

Besides, Greenlanders' choice to stay with the Danish Kingdom rather than the U.S. can be attributed to various factors (**Chart 4**).

Alliance on thin ice

The data for the charts were sourced from Eurostat, OECD factsheets, and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

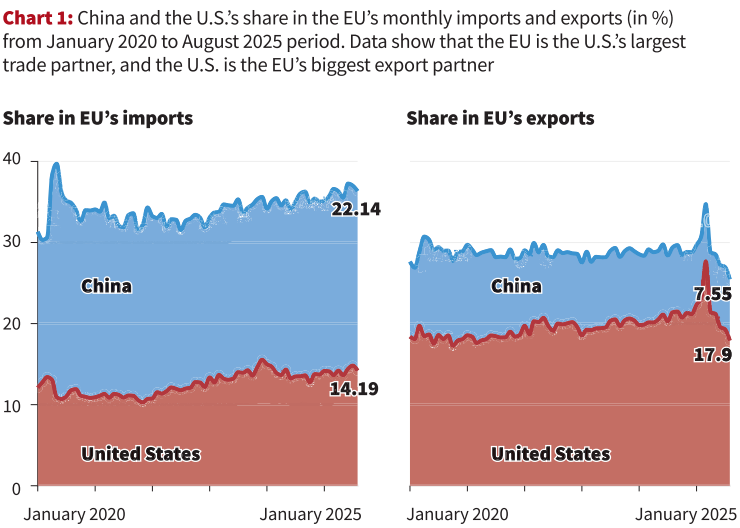


Chart 2: Europe's share of United State's total outward and inward Foreign direct investment

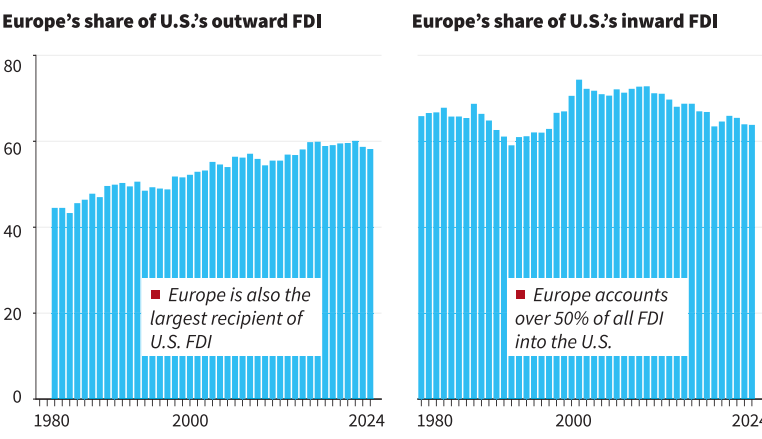


Chart 4: The chart compares the U.S. and Denmark across various select social factors

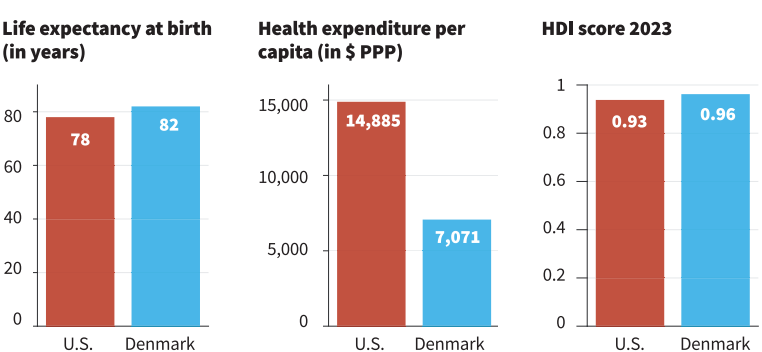
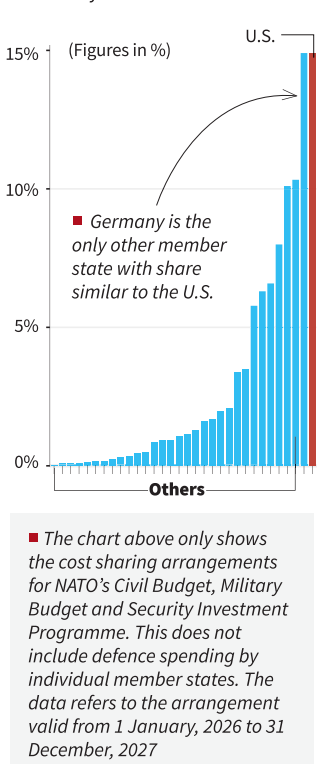


Chart 3: Contribution by member states to NATO's common budget. The U.S.'s contributions to the common budget amounted to at least 15% in the latest year



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 22, 1976

Gulf controversy over new name subsides

New Delhi, January 21: There is considerable relief in Delhi that the unfortunate controversy that has developed between Iran and the adjoining Arab countries over the name of the Persian Gulf is being amicably settled without transforming it into a major political dispute.

The Information Ministers of the Arab countries in the Gulf region, who recently met in Abu Dhabi to discuss the arrangements for setting up a local news agency decided to call it the “Arabian Gulf” news service.

The Iranian Government took objection to this attempt to rename the Persian Gulf by giving a neo-chauvinistic overtone to it. But happily the Governments of the concerned Arab countries are reported to have assured Iran that the Ministers meeting acted without instructions.

The Iranian Government had threatened to break off diplomatic relations with these countries if they persisted in their attempts to ignore the facts of both history and geography, and indulge in an act of propaganda. The issue figured in the Iranian Parliament and the Foreign Minister was able to mollify the feelings of members by disclosing the assurances given by the concerned Arab countries of the Gulf region.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 22, 1926

Coinage for Irish free state

London, January 21: Some opposition will have to be surmounted before “Pingin” or penny and “Leat Coróin,” or half-crown are finally sanctioned. The new Free State coins, which retain their present fractional value of sterling consist of 75 per cent fine silver and are thus intrinsically not more valuable than British coins, but the sterling basis of the currency is unaltered. British notes will still be used and generally recognised. The purpose of the change is purely sentimental. The coins bear a harp and the head of Griffith. Dublin newspapers oppose this development, both on the ground that it will create an economic barrier between the North and the South, and also between Ireland and Great Britain. *The Irish Times* says that if a distinctive coinage is inevitable, arrangements should be made with neighbours whereby silver coins will be interchangeable as in the case of Australia and South Africa.

A VJ-VJE

No appeals filed after Bihar SIR, no re-election needed: CEC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As controversy continues over the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Wednesday said no appeals were filed after the “purification of the electoral rolls” and no re-polls were required in Bihar.

The first phase of the exercise was conducted in the State ahead of last year’s elections.

Delivering his inaugural address at the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management, 2026, Mr. Kumar said that a “pure” voters’ list was the key to strengthening democracy.

“Pure electoral rolls, including every elector as per law, are essential to strengthen democracy and for all the elections to be held based on the electoral rolls,” he said.

He said the electoral rolls in Bihar were revised amid intense public scrutiny, adding, “From purification of rolls to the conduct of elections, a great level of efficiency was achieved by the local poll machinery.”

“You will be amazed with the efficiency of the BLOs, the Electoral Registration Officers and the Chief Electoral Officer of Bihar that out of 75 million electors, the number of appeals were zero,” he said.

IICDEM-2026 is the largest conference of its kind ever hosted by India in the field of democracy and election management.

‘Logical discrepancies’ in Bengal SIR defy science, EC informs SC

Some electors are linked with unusually high numbers of children, many instances are scientifically impossible to entertain as valid mapping, it says; EC objects to criticism that ‘logical discrepancies’ are just another way to disenfranchise electors

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has said many instances of “logical discrepancies” found on the electoral rolls of West Bengal defy science.

Two electors were found with more than 200 children, seven with more than 100 children, 10 with more than 50 children, and another 10 with more than 40.

“Some electors are linked with unusually high numbers of children... Many such instances are scientifically impossible to entertain as valid mapping,” the EC stated in an affidavit to the Supreme Court on the conduct of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise in West Bengal.

“Mapping” is the technical term used by the EC to link an elector’s lineage with the 2002 electoral roll. The poll panel said it had decided that cases in which six or more electors had mapped themselves to a single person would merit “greater scrutiny with regard to the validity of linkage”.

The EC affidavit showed that in 4,59,054 instances, electors were found to have more than five children, while 2,06,056 electors were linked to more than six children.

“In 2019-2021, as per the NFHS-5 survey, the average household size in India is 4.4. This denotes that on



Long wait: People standing in queues at a centre during hearings for the special intensive revision of electoral rolls at Balurghat in Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal. PTI

average, each family consists of two-three children. However, in some cases, the number of electors linked to one person is more than 50,” the EC, represented by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi and advocate Eklavya Dwivedi, noted.

A 50-year gap between parents and children has also been flagged as a logical discrepancy. The poll panel reasoned that the fertility rate for women becomes negligible after 45 years of age.

The EC vehemently objected to criticism by petitioners that “logical discrepancies” were just another new category found to disenfranchise electors.

“Discovery of a logical discrepancy merely leads to issuance of a notice for verification. The elector will have to clarify the discrepancy and/or produce necessary documents to the satisfaction of the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO),” the EC said.

It denied “field reports” cited by petitioners, including the Trinamool Congress leaders such as Dola Sen, that affected voters were women electors and minorities and that 90% of the cases were related to “failure of the algorithm”.

The affidavit detailed that the draft electoral rolls published on December 16, 2025, saw the exclusion of 58 lakh voters due to reasons such as absence, death, permanent shifting of ordinary residence and duplication of entries. The EC said these exclusions ought not be considered as “deletions”.

The poll body said “non-inclusion” on the draft rolls was preceded by a house-to-house survey. Those excluded would be given an opportunity of hearings. There were no “centralised software-based deletions of voters from the electoral rolls”.

The SIR was conducted with the aid of 80,681 BLOs, more than 7,000 AEROs, 294 EROs and over 4000 micro-observers in West Bengal. The notice phase started on December 16, 2025 and would continue till February 7, 2026.

“The linkage with previous SIR electoral rolls was done manually to ensure that all electors having linkage with the previous SIR electoral rolls are segregated for inclusion in the final electoral roll. Those who cannot be linked are issued notices. Upon issuance of notice, in

case the elector has been erroneously left out, he or she can furnish the extract of linkage with the previous electoral roll, and in that event, his or her name is bound to be included in the final electoral roll,” the EC clarified.

The poll panel underscored that only mappings found to be incorrect, or suffering from grave irregularities, or not linked to electoral rolls of 2002 would be scrutinised.

Defending the use of digital communication, it further said that sending instruction on WhatsApp or conveying them through video-conferencing was undeniably speedy modes of communication. “Nothing is showing that instructions issued through digital mode are in conflict with SIR,” the EC said, countering submissions that such practices dented transparency.

The EC strongly objected to the presence of political parties’ booth-level agents (BLAs) at the verification hearings.

“Hearings are quasi-judicial and only for the persons concerned. Presence of BLAs would be obstructive and the hearing process would be delayed unnecessarily. There are six national parties and two State parties in West Bengal... Presence of eight BLAs in the hearing between the ERO and the prospective elector would turn chaotic, considering the charged atmosphere,” the EC reasoned.

Around 3.26 crore U.P. voters could get SIR hearing notices

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Around 3.26 crore of the 12.55 crore voters in Uttar Pradesh whose names appeared on the draft electoral list at the conclusion of the enumeration phase of the special intensive revision (SIR) process could be sent notices asking them to attend hearings.

Of the 3.26 crore, the names of nearly 1.04 crore could not be mapped to the 2003 voter lists when the previous SIR had been conducted, while 2.22 crore had “logical discrepancies” in mapping, sources in the State Chief Electoral Office told *The Hindu*.

Those who could not be mapped to the 2003 lists must appear before the Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) or Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) specified in the notices and submit any of the 12 documents mandated by the Election Commission (EC) to prove their age, citizenship, and place of residence.

Those who received notices regarding logical discrepancies will also have to attend the hearings and provide the requisite documents. Some of the logical discrepancies that have been flagged are an age gap of less than 15 years between parents and their children; one parent being mapped with more than six children; an age gap of less than 40 years with grandparents; and mismatch in names.

However, sources said that discrepancies regard-

Of the 15.44 crore voters on the earlier 2025 list, 12.55 crore names were retained on the draft list

ing mismatch in names would be first reviewed by the booth-level officer. If the mismatch was only due to spelling mistakes or other minor differences, then the elector would not be required to submit documents.

Of the 15.44 crore voters on the earlier 2025 list, 12.55 crore names were retained on the draft list published on January 6.

With the publication of the draft list, the month-long claims and objections phase got under way and the final list would be published on March 6.

The draft list in Uttar Pradesh was published after a 62-day enumeration phase of the SIR, which had seen three extensions to end on December 11. The first extension was for 15 days till December 26, the second till December 31 and finally, January 6.

The 2.89 crore names deleted were the highest for any State in absolute numbers.

Out of these, 46.23 lakh voters (2.99%) were found to be deceased, 2.17 crore (14.06%) had either permanently migrated or were not available during the verification process, and another 25.47 lakh (1.65%) were found to be registered at more than one place.

Mozambican rights activist to get Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mozambican rights activist and humanitarian Graca Machel has been selected for the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2025, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust announced on Wednesday.

The decision was taken by an international jury chaired by former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon.

Ms. Machel was chosen for her “path-breaking work” in the fields of education, health and nutrition, economic empowerment and humanitarian action, carried out under difficult circumstances, the Trust said in a statement.



Graca Machel

The award carries a cash prize of ₹1 crore along with a citation and a trophy.

Describing her as a distinguished African stateswoman and human rights advocate, the trust said Ms. Machel’s life’s work has been rooted in the struggle for self-determination and the protection of vulnerable communities.

Congress flags ‘erosion of worker’s rights’, to hold national meet today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Alleging that the rights of rural workers are being eroded by replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, the Congress on Wednesday announced a national-level dialogue on the issue during which workers from across the country would bring a fistful of soil from their work sites.

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said a national conference organised by the “MGNREGA *Bachao Morcha*” will be held on Thursday and it would be addressed by Congress president Malli-



SANDEEP DIKSHIT
Congress leader

karjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

‘Arriving with soil’

“Today, ahead of this conference, workers from across the country are arriving with soil from their respective workplaces,” Mr Ramesh said on X.

Earlier, at a press conference, Sandeep Dikshit, chairperson of the Rach-

During the COVID period, the MGNREGA scheme became a lifeline for crores of people. MGNREGA had truly earned a place in people’s hearts

natmak Congress, shared details of the programme.

“During the COVID period, the MGNREGA scheme became a lifeline for crores of people. MGNREGA had truly earned a place in people’s hearts. In the context of MGNREGA being replaced with a new Act, we held discussions with various organisations that have long been working for the

rights of farmers and labourers. One single point emerged consistently from all these conversations and discussions: people’s rights are being snatched away,” Mr. Dikshit said.

He accused the Narendra Modi government of destroying the entire process where panchayats decided and worked for their prosperity and development. He said workers from across the country are gathering on Thursday to share their experiences.

“All these people have played an important role in nation-building through their hard work and with the support of MGNREGA,” Mr. Dikshit said.

“They will interact with us, share the story of their struggle and the strategy ahead,” Mr. Dikshit said.

Face ‘corrupt power’ with courage: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday held a meeting with district presidents of the party from Haryana and Uttarakhand as part of the Congress’s ‘Sangathan Sri-

jan Abhiyan’ (organisation rejuvenation campaign).

Mr. Gandhi said that while the prevailing “empire of corrupt power” posed a major challenge, party workers must face these obstacles with courage and strengthen the organisation.

BJP accuses Rahul of paying only lip service to SC representation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday accused the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, of paying lip service to the issue of proportional representation for the Scheduled Castes (SC) and other communities in the Congress.

The allegation followed a video clip circulating on social media in which former Punjab Chief Minister and Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi was purportedly heard, at a recent meeting, seeking grea-

Poonawalla cites Channi’s recent comments to target Rahul Gandhi on the issue

ter SC representation in the party.

Addressing a press conference, BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said that while the Congress leader spoke vociferously about a caste census, Mr. Gandhi’s own party leader, Mr. Channi, was “saying that they are not getting justice there”. “Even within the party, you are not

able to do the work of a popular leader or deliver social justice... Channi-ji has exposed the gap between Rahul Gandhi-ji’s principles and words, and his actions and statements,” Mr. Poonawalla said.

Mr. Poonawalla also criticised infighting within Congress units, citing instances in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. “The Congress keeps fighting against itself. It is a fragmented party. This is what happens when Rahul Gandhi is its leader,” he said.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS, (Construction & Maintenance) CIRCLE, SALEM
TENDER NOTICE
TENDER NOTICE NO. 53 / 2025-26 / HDO, Dated : 20.01.2026

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received upto **07.02.2026 - 11.00 AM** hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Salem Circle for **One CRIDP Work (SLM-132) and Four CRIDP (CMRDP) Works for the year 2026-27**, pertaining to Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri (H) C&M Divisions.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents, receiving date and all other details are available in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in> from **22.01.2026** onwards. If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H),
C&M, Salem Circle.

DIPR/344/Tender/2026

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
MADURAI HIGHWAYS, (CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE
TENDER NOTICE
T.N. No: 56 / 2025-26 / HDO / Dated: 19.01.2026

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received upto **07.02.2026, 11.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Madurai Circle under **CRIDP Works – 2026-27 works pertaining to Ramanathapuram (H) C&M Division**.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **22.01.2026** onwards in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in>. If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H),
C&M, Madurai Circle

DIPR / 351 / Tender / 2026

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.26/ 2025-2026/ D1 / Dated: 20.01.2026

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu sealed **Item Rate tender** in Two cover system through online only will be received upto **07.02.2026 11.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), NABARD and Rural Roads, Tirunelveli circle for **Construction of One Bridge work under CRIDP for the year 2026 – 2027** pertaining to **Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Division**, which was approved in G.O.(Ms) No.06 Highways and Minor Ports (HF2) Department dated. 14.01.2026.

Details such as Name of work, approximate value of work, online EMD, documents to be uploaded, critical dates and all other details related to the work will be available from **22.1.2026 onwards** in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in> If any changes / Corrections / Amendments etc related to this tender arises, it will be published on the above Government website only.

**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H),
NABARD AND RURAL ROADS,
TIRUNELVELI-2**

DIPR/359/TENDER/2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture, Min. of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India, invites online bids (Two-Bid System) through CPPP for Civil Construction Works for Establishment of BMC at Kanyakumari District.

For details and tender process, visit: <https://v2.rgca.co.in>.

Last Date: 11.02.2026 (18.00 hrs).

Director, RGCA

CAIRO

Israeli attacks kill 11 Palestinians in Gaza, including three journalists



Israeli forces on Wednesday, in separate incidents, killed at least 11 Palestinians in Gaza, including two 13-year-old boys who were collecting firewood, three journalists and a woman, hospitals reported from the war-battered enclave. The military said one strike came after it spotted “suspects” operating a drone. AP

NARA

Gunman gets life imprisonment for assassination of Japan ex-PM



A man charged with killing Japan’s former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was found guilty on Wednesday and jailed for life, as the judge declared the daylight assassination “despicable and extremely malicious”. The shooting more than three years ago forced a reckoning in a country with little experience of gun violence. AFP

AL-HOL

Syrian govt. takes control of camp housing families linked to IS group



Syrian government forces on Wednesday took full control of the sprawling al-Hol camp housing thousands of people linked to the Islamic State group after a truce between the government and Kurdish fighters. The capture of the camp came a day after the SDF withdrew from the facility that they had been running for years. AP

NEW DELHI

NASA astronaut Sunita Williams retires after 27-year stellar career



NASA astronaut Sunita Williams has retired from the space agency, capping a stellar 27-year career during which she completed three missions aboard the International Space Station and set various human spaceflight records. Ms. Williams also completed nine spacewalks and was the first person to run a marathon in space. PTI

Trump calls for ‘immediate’ talks on Greenland but rules out use of force

The U.S. President’s return to Davos was marked by a hardline speech on his quest to acquire the Arctic region for ‘national and international security’ reasons; Macron pitches for NATO exercise in the territory, blasts ‘unacceptable’ tariff threats

Agence France-Presse
DAVOS

U.S. President Donald Trump demanded immediate talks on acquiring Greenland in a headline speech at Davos on Wednesday, but said that while the United States possessed “unstoppable force” it would not use it to take the Arctic island from Denmark.

Mr. Trump’s quest to take control of Greenland, which he said was needed for national and international security, dominated his address to the World Economic Forum as he returned for the first time in six years.



Man and maelstrom: U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland. AP

“It’s the United States alone that can protect this giant mass of land, this giant piece of ice,” Mr. Trump told a packed audience of global political and business leaders.

“That’s the reason I’m seeking immediate negotiations to once again discuss the acquisition of Greenland by the United States.” Denmark has “a choice,” he said.

“You can say yes, and we will be very appreciative. Or you can say no and we will remember. A strong and secure America means a strong NATO.”

But Mr. Trump appeared to rule out the threat of military action against fellow NATO member Denmark.

“We probably won’t get anything unless I decide to use excessive strength and force where we would be, frankly, unstoppable, but I won’t do that,” Mr. Trump said, adding that it was probably the “biggest statement I made.”

“I don’t have to use force. I don’t want to use force. I won’t use force.”

NATO chief Mark Rutte told Davos on Wednesday that “thoughtful diplomacy” was needed.

Meanwhile, France called on Wednesday for a NATO exercise in Greenland “and is ready to contribute to it”, French President Emmanuel Macron’s office said. Mr. Macron had warned at Davos on Tuesday against U.S. attempts to “subordinate Europe”, and blasted Mr. Trump’s “unacceptable” threats to impose tariffs on allies over Greenland.

Greenland’s Prime Minister said on Tuesday that his tiny population of 57,000 must be prepared for military force.

‘Will not yield’ to pressure from the U.S., says Starmer

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Under pressure to toe a harder line with regard to U.S. President Donald Trump’s actions to acquire Greenland, U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he would not yield to pressure on the Arctic island, while also defending the 2025 U.K.-Mauritius treaty on the Chagos Archipelago.

“I will not yield... Britain will not yield... on our principles and values on the future of Greenland under threats of tariffs,” Mr. Starmer told the U.K. House of Commons during the weekly Prime Ministers Questions (PMQs) on Wednesday.

However, Mr. Starmer said he would continue to engage with Mr. Trump on the issue and “simply hurtling at the first opportunity into a trade war” would harm working people and businesses across the U.K.



Firm hand: U.K. PM says he will continue to engage with Donald Trump and defends the treaty on the Chagos Islands. AFP

ings to regain sovereignty in the face of pressure from the ‘Great Powers’, during a speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Tuesday.

Mr. Trump has repeatedly spoken of his appreciation for Britain and for Mr. Starmer, but the relationship has come under strain in recent days, with Mr. Trump threatening tariffs on the U.K. and other European countries.

an average cost of £101 million per year.

Mr. Trump’s latest position on Chagos was different from his earlier position of support, Mr. Starmer told MPs in Parliament.

“He deployed those words yesterday for the express purpose of putting pressure on me and Britain, in relation to my values and principles on the future of Greenland,” he added.

U.K.-Mauritius deal

Earlier this week, Mr. Trump called the U.K.-Mauritius deal an act of “great stupidity” and “great weakness” on Britain’s part, despite giving the agreement the go ahead earlier in 2025.

The deal involves the U.K. recognising the sovereignty of Mauritius (a former colony) over the archipelago, which contains the island of Diego Garcia, home to a U.S.-U.K. airbase.

The U.K. would have control over Diego Garcia by leasing it for 99 years at

“He wants me to yield on my position, and I’m not going to do so,” Mr. Starmer said as he chided Leader of the Opposition Kemi Badenoch for expressing her opposition to the Chagos during a geopolitically fraught moment. (Ms. Badenoch supported Mr. Starmer’s position on Greenland).

Mr. Starmer reiterated his position that using tariffs “to pressurise allies” was “completely wrong” and that the future of Greenland was for Greenland and Denmark alone to decide.

A Carney doctrine for a third way in global politics

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George

As Prime Minister, Mark Carney has been trying to advance a new framework for Canada’s identity and engagement with the world. In his speech at Davos on January 20, Mr. Carney outlined a new agenda for the world – a “third path”. The suggestion seems to be to steer clear of the emerging rivalry between the U.S. and China, premised on what he called a “values-based realism”, citing Finnish President Alexander Stubb.

Mr. Carney stands out among Western leaders for acknowledging the limits of the claims of the liberal international order. His framework is relevant for other middle powers, including and particularly India. His speech comes soon after he visited Beijing and announced a strategic partnership with China, in a turnaround in the frosty ties between the two countries. “In a world of great-power rivalry, the countries in between have a choice: compete with each other for favour or combine to create a third path with impact,” he said.



Carney acknowledges the limits of the claims of the liberal international order.

ing to frame the current flux in the global order as a battle between democracy versus authoritarianism. Mr. Carney – an avowed liberal in social and economic policies – offers fresh thinking and a new direction for other countries to deal with the uncertainties. “On Arctic sovereignty, we stand firmly with Greenland and Denmark and fully support their unique right to determine Greenland’s future,” Mr. Carney said.

The self-styled ‘reformers’ in India have always argued that New Delhi lost out because of its hesitation to integrate with the U.S.-led order. India historically tried to avoid the subordination that comes with integration even while seeking better relations with the West, and particularly the U.S. India has also been noticing the vulnerabilities of countries that totally integrated their financial systems or defence capabilities with the U.S.

Call for cooperation

What could well be a preview of a Carney Doctrine is relevant for India, with strategic autonomy at its core, in a new era of great-power rivalry. But strategic autonomy is not antitheti-

cal to global cooperation and it need not be isolationism according to Mr. Carney. “The question for middle powers, like Canada, is not whether to adapt to the new reality – we must. The question is whether we adapt by simply building higher walls or whether we can do something more ambitious,” he said in his call for more cooperation among them.

Mr. Carney counted India among his priorities in this outlook. “In the past few days, we have concluded new strategic partnerships with China and Qatar... We’re negotiating free-trade pacts with India, ASEAN, Thailand, the Philippines and Mercosur.”

These partnerships of middle powers could be the ambitious framework, by enhancing mutual cooperation against the hegemons. Middle powers share vulnerabilities which get leveraged by big powers. “... when we only negotiate bilaterally with a hegemon, we negotiate from weakness. We accept what’s offered. We compete with each other to be the most accommodating... This is not sovereignty. It’s the performance of sovereignty while accepting subordination,” said Mr. Carney. He said his approach to Beijing would be “calibrated”, but the partnership would grow.

Critics see contradictions in Canada’s actions and Mr. Carney’s rhetoric. But that exactly is the loss of autonomy and weakening of sovereignty that he spoke about. Mr. Carney is speaking from experience. “Middle powers must act together because if we’re not at the table, we’re on the menu,” he said. India too has experience, though it is not speaking.

U.S., Iran issue threats of broadscale conflict

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday reiterated a warning that Iran would be wiped “off the face of this earth” if Tehran ever succeeded in assassinating the U.S. leader.

In a heated exchange of threats, Iran and the United States both threatened broadscale wars if the leaders of either country are assassinated.

“I have very firm instructions. Anything happens, they’re going to wipe them off the face of this earth,” Mr. Trump said, in response to a question on Iran’s threats on the 79-year-old’s life.

Earlier on Tuesday, in response to any threats facing Ayatollah Khamenei, Iranian General Shekarchi was quoted as saying Mr. Trump already knew Tehran would not hold back if the tables were turned.

ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Vijay Nityam, Corporate Office, ITI College Road, Vijayawada - 520 008

Tender Notice No: CGM/PROJ/VJA/ 5K ADNK DIV /SIP-17/2025-26
Bids through apeprocurement.gov.in are invited from eligible bidders for "Providing of 3-Ph supply to villages having population above 5000 in 13 Villages of Addanki Division, Bapatla Circle of APCPDCL by erecting 11KV lines, 3-Ph DTRs and Connected LT lines for Socio economic upliftment of rural villages on Partial turnkey basis". The Tender information will be made available in AP e-procurement Portal from **22.01.2026 from 18:00 Hrs.,** Last date for Bid submission online is **28.01.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.** e-mail: apcpdclpiu@gmail.com
Sd/- Chief General Manager/Projects, APCPDCL: Vijayawada

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PWD ZONE KOTA
No.:3471

NIT No.41/2025-26
Notice Inviting Bid
NIB No. PWD2526A5057

Date: 08.01.2026

Bids for कोटा मुहल्लाय वर नवीन व्यावसायिक भवन व अतिरिक्त चेबरो का निर्माण कार्य PWD Zone Kota are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 pm, 23.02.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eprocrajasthan.gov.in>) (<http://pppr.raj.nic.in>) of the Rajasthan and <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 13000.00 lacs.**

(1 No. work)
UBN No. PWD2526WLOB20275

Addr. Chief Engineer PWD Zone Kota
DIPR/CP/611/26

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संगमग कोटा
क्रमांक - 3481

निविदा सूचना संख्या 42/ पीएमजीएसवाई/ 2025-26
NIB No. PWD2526A5062

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना- चतुर्थ चरण (बैच- प्रथम वर्ष 2025-26) के तहत स्वीकृत सड़कों का निर्माण कार्य के निम्नलिखित कार्यों में पांच साल की मरम्मत के लिए 3 पैकेज हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हों, से निर्धारित प्रारंभ में ई-प्रोक्चुरमेंट प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बंधित विवरण वेब साईट <http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in> पर <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> पर <http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। पैकेजवाईज यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है :- **UBN No. 1. PWD2526WLOB20302, 2. PWD2526WLOB20303, 3. PWD2526WLOB20304**

इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेब साईट <http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in> पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।

(निशु गुला) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, स.नि.वि. संगमग-कोटा
DIPR/CP/669/26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC –SHAR SRIHARIKOTA-524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender Notice No. SHAR / CMD/ E/ F 2587206 / 2025-26
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

Sl. No.	Brief Name of work	Value (Rs)
1	Realization of new 132 kV Substation and modification of HT distribution network at SDSC SHAR.	5007.71 Lakhs

Last date for sale (Tender documents can be downloaded) up to **12/02/2026, 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

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.		
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/TA/4843/2025-26		Dt:20.01.2026
1	Sinking of 6.5 inch dia new borewell and energization of new pumpset , 50mm dia pipe and 4/6 sqmm SM cable with necessary accessories at various locations of Chikpete Assembly Constituency coming under AEE(BW&PS-2) Sub Division (Total 10 Nos.)	Rs. 112.26 Lakhs Rs. 1,68,500/-
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/TA/4845/2025-26		Dt:20.01.2026
2	Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE(BW&PS-1-1) Sub Division (O&M-3 Total 65 Nos.) (2nd Call).	Rs. 3,04,20,000/- Rs. 4,56,300/-

For all the above works, Last date for receipt of tenders : **07.02.2026 upto 16:00 Hrs.**
Technical bids will be opened on: **09.02.2026 at 16.00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Design & QA)

The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/JA/5141/2025-26

Top seeds Alcaraz and Sabalenka pass stern tests to reach the third round

The Spaniard overcomes some heavy hitting from Hanfmann while the Belarusian overcomes a stutter in the opening set to get past Bai; easy for Gauff, Paolini and Andreeva; Zverev survives an injury scare to progress with a four-set win; Yuki-Goransson pair eases through in its opener

AUSTRALIAN OPEN
Agencies
MELBOURNE

Carlos Alcaraz withstood a barrage of big hitting from familiar foe Yannick Hanfmann in the Australian Open second round on Wednesday, with fellow top seed Aryna Sabalenka also enduring some shaky moments before sealing her progress.

Alexander Zverev's advance was stalled by rain showers, an injury scare and feisty Frenchman Alexandre Muller in the evening session, but the men's third seed prevailed in four sets to safely reach the third round.

His equivalent in the women's draw, Coco Gauff, earlier made short work of Olga Danilovic, while inform seventh seed Jasmine Paolini and eighth seed Mirra Andreeva also romped through their contests.

After a comfortable win in the opening round, top seed Alcaraz was given more of a workout by Germany's World No. 102 Hanfmann on a sunbathed Rod Laver Arena but rose to the challenge and moved on 7-6(4), 6-3, 6-2.

"I knew he was going to play great," Alcaraz, 22, said. "I knew his level. We came through the Challen-

Day 4
in numbers

1 Gauff has lost just one of her last 16 matches (vs. Shnaider, Toronto 2024) against left-handed opponents

1 Andreeva becomes the youngest woman to claim two bagels at the Australian Open since Kournikova in 2000

AO
australian open

3 The 18-year-old Andreeva is the youngest woman to reach three consecutive third rounds since Vaidisova (2005-2007)

4 Andreeva is just the fourth player since the turn of the century (after Sharapova, Vaidisova and Gauff) to register 30 or more wins at Grand Slams before turning 19

8 She has more wins at the Melbourne Major (9) than any active player before turning 19

14 Gauff is one of four women (Sabalenka, Swiatek and Svitolina the others) to be unbeaten in the second round at Slams since 2022 (minimum 10 appearances)

17 Davidovich Fokina goes past Paul and Khachanov for the most five-setters played at Majors since 2020

22 Alcaraz is undefeated at Grand Slams against opponents ranked outside the top-100

25 Only Serena (26) and Swiatek (27) have won 25 Grand Slam matches as WTA No. 1 in fewer matches than Sabalenka (28)

78 The time Alcaraz took to win the first set against Hanfmann, his longest opening set at Slams

91 Only three men (Djokovic, Nadal and Zverev) have won more matches at Grand Slams than Medvedev since his ATP debut in 2016

THURSDAY'S PICKS

Women
2-Swiatek vs Bouzkova
4-Anisimova vs Siniakova
5-Rybakina vs Gracheva
6-Pegula vs Kessler
9-Keys vs Krueger

Men
2-Sinner vs Duckworth
4-Djokovic vs Maestrelli
5-Musetti vs Sonogo
8-Shelton vs Sweeny
9-Fritz vs Kopriwa

Compiled by Anirudh Velamuri

gers together, I've played him. It was tougher than I thought at the beginning and I didn't feel the ball that good."

"It was coming like a bomb," the Spaniard said of Hanfmann's power. "Forehand, backhand, serves.

I had to be ready for those. "I'm really happy that I got through a difficult first set ... and I played a really good level at the end of the match and get through."

Sabalenka's issues in the opener on the main show-court came out of the blue,

the Belarusian racing to a 5-0 lead against China's Bai Zhuoxuan before losing three games in a row.

The World No. 1 re-focused and proceeded to mow down Bai the rest of the way, running out a 6-3, 6-1 winner to stay on track

for her third title at Melbourne Park.

American title contender Gauff was at her ruthless best as she crushed Danilovic 6-2, 6-2 in bright sunshine but evening rain meant Italian Paolini had to swap courts to complete her 6-2, 6-3 demolition of Magdalena Frech.

Former finalist Daniil Medvedev dug deep to register a 6-7(9), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Quentin Halys.

In doubles, Yuki Bhambri, partnering Sweden's Andre Goransson, advanced to the second round with a straight-sets win. The 10th-seeded Indo-Swedish pair defeated wild card entrants James Duckworth and Cruz Hewitt 6-3, 6-4 in a contest that lasted 57 minutes on Court 13.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Second round: 1-Alcaraz (Esp) bt Yannick Hanfmann (Ger) 7-6(4), 6-3, 6-2; 32-Moutet (Fra) bt Zheng (USA) 3-6, 6-1, 6-3, 2-0 ret'd.; 19-Paul (USA) bt Tirante (Arg) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; 14-Fokina (Esp) bt Opelka (USA) 6-3, 7-6(3), 5-7, 4-6, 6-4; 10-Bublik (Kaz) bt Fucsovics (Hun) 7-5, 6-4, 7-5; 6-De Minaur (Aus) bt Medjedovic (Srb) 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-2, 6-1; 3-Zverev (Ger) bt Muller (Fra) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. 26-Norrie (GBR) bt Nava (USA) 6-1, 7-6(3), 4-6, 7-6(5). 18-Cerundolo (Arg) bt Dzumhur (BIH) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; 13-Rublev (Rus) bt Faria (Por) 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5; 11-Medvedev (Rus) bt Halys (Fra) 6-7(9), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; 25-Tien (USA) bt Shevchenko (Kaz) 6-2, 5-7, 6-1, 6-0; 29-Tiafoe (USA) bt Comesana (Arg) 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

Doubles: First round: 10-Yuki

(Ind) & Goransson (Swe) bt Duckworth (Aus) & Cruz Hewitt (Aus) 6-3, 6-4.

Women: Second round: 1-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Bai (Chn) 6-3, 6-1; Potapova (Aut) bt 28-Raducanu (GBR) 7-6(3), 6-2; 17-Mboko (Can) bt McNally (USA) 6-4, 6-3; 14-Tauson (Den) bt Kudermetova (Uzb) 6-3, 3-6, 7-5; 3-Gauff (USA) bt Danilovic (Srb) 6-2, 6-2. 19-Muchova (Cze) bt Parks (USA) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; 12-Svitolina (Ukr) bt Klimoviciova (Pol) 7-5, 6-1; 23-Shnaider (Rus) bt Gibson (Aus) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; 8-Andreeva (Rus) bt Sakkari (Gre) 6-0, 6-4; 7-Paolini (Ita) bt Frech (Pol) 6-2, 6-3; 29-Jovic (USA) bt Hon (Aus) 6-1, 6-2.

Fallen seed: Women: 28-Raducanu.

Glad I could finish the chase against MI: Jemimah

WPL-4
Vivek Krishnan
VADODARA

Jemimah Rodrigues' stint as Delhi Capitals skipper hasn't had the smoothest of beginnings.

Having won one and lost three of the first four games, the contest against Mumbai Indians at the Kottam Stadium on Tuesday was a must-win for DC.

It responded with an all-round performance to clinch a seven-wicket victory, led notably by Jemimah's unbeaten 51 off 37 balls in a chase of 155.

After making a couple of brisk contributions without kicking on, the 25-year-old was glad that she could stay put till the end to get the job done against MI.

"In the second and the third game, I had those im-

perfect innings by getting quick runs. But yes, one thing I could work on was to finish the innings. I thought about that.

"I wouldn't say I wasn't contributing to the team. And the team never made me feel that way. But yes, I know there was a lot more expected from me. And I was glad I could do it today," said Jemimah.

Explaining her decision to bat at No. 4 or 5 in the games so far, she said: "To be honest, I wanted to bat at No. 3. But as a captain, I cannot think about myself.

First priority
"I need to put the team first. And when I thought from the team's perspective, I felt Laura Wolvaardt was better at three.

"I am versatile in playing spinners, and hitting those gaps from the first ball."

Leading from the front: For Jemimah, it is about putting the team's interests first. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUEL YOGINI

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

M.K.SANKARAN (78), Retired Junior Engineer-Printing, The Hindu, Madurai passed away on 20-January-2026. Address: 2, Mahilampoo Street, Sri Ram Nagar, Sammatipuram, Madurai - 625016. Contact: 90038 56582

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TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI IT DEPARTMENT e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Adv. No: 20/TTD-11021(91)/5/2026-JT-TD 20-01-2026.

Online e-tenders are invited through NIT141/EDPM/TTD/TPT/2025-26 for "Engaging Service Provider on QCBS mode of selection for Social Media Management in CPRO Department, TTD for 2026-28" •Schedule downloading start date: 23-01-2026 •Schedule downloading end date & last date for bid submission: 10-02-2026 upto 1.00 PM & 3.00 PM. For tender notice visit <http://www.tirumala.org>. For participation in the e-tender log onto <https://tender.aeprocurement.gov.in> or log <https://www.aeprocurement.gov.in>.

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC(Adv.No.369) Date:21-01-2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MAHATRANSCO
Mahatransco State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/169-2025-26

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) (Inclusive of all Taxes) Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0604/0126 2nd Call [7000038581] for Design, Supply, Installation, testing & Commissioning of Station RTU, FRTU/ Remote IO module and other allied equipment's for the visibility of 132/110/100kV, 250 Nos. of MSETCL Sub-substation to SLDC & ALDC.	Rs. 6343.02 Lakhs 25,000.00 + GST	10.02.2026 18:00 Hrs 10.02.2026 18:15 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr-VI)
Email: 1) C.E. (CPA) 2) S.E.(CPA) 3)C.E.(O&M) 4)E.E.(VI)
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai
Tel. No.: 022-69852720
Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@gmail.com, eegrp6@mahatransco.in.
For further details visit our website <http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in>.
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in.
So bidders are requested to check the website.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

THE ODISHA STATE POLICE HOUSING & WELFARE CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
JANAPATH, BHOINAGAR, BHUBANESWAR-22.
Ph: 0674-2541545, 2542921, E-mail: ophwc.od@od.nic.in, Website: www.ophwc.com
e-procurement notice No.- 25/OPHWC/2025-26
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC), Odisha, Bhubaneswar invites Percentage rate bid in Double Cover system in **ONLINE MODE** only, for the works as detailed below:

	1 Nature of work	Building works
2	No. of Works	08 Nos.
3	Value of Tender	Rs.2.53 Cr. to Rs.38.99 Cr.
4	Class of Contractor	'B' Class to 'Super' Class
5	Cost of Bid document (To be paid online)	Rs.11,800.00
6	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	Dt. 22/01/2026 to Dt. 11/02/2026 up to 5.00 P.M
7	Last date /time of Receipt of Bids in the Portal	Dt. 11/02/2026 up to 5.00 P.M
8	Date of Opening Bid	Dt. 12/02/2026 at 10.30 A.M.
9	Date of Technical Presentation (among qualified bidders only)	Date & Time will be notified after opening of the Technical Bid.
10	*The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can also be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender shall not be published in Newspaper and can only be seen in the said website. *The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids and terminate the tender process without assigning any reason thereof. Sd/- Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC) N.B.-The quoted rate should be all inclusive but excluding G.S.T. as applicable Under works contract. CAD-3075;	

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CIRCLE

TENDER NOTICE
T.N.No.43/2025-26/HDO/Dated:20.01.2026

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage tender through online** will be received up to **07.02.2026, 11.00 hours** (Server Time) by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M Tiruchirappalli Circle, Tiruchirappalli-20, in **CRIDP 2026-2027 Scheme Two works pertaining to Perambalur (H) C&M Division.**

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **22.01.2026** onwards in the Government website **<https://tntenders.gov.in>**. If any changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.
Superintending Engineer (H), C&M Circle, Tiruchirappalli -20.

DIPR/307/Tender/2026

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, NEW PUBLIC OFFICES, NRUPATUNGA ROAD, BANGALORE-560 001, Phone : 080-22211086 / 22212137, Fax: 22210117
WEB SITE : (<http://www.schooleducation.kar.nic.in>)

No: DPI-CPIOPRO(OTH)/50/2025-PRO SEC E-2015323 **Date: 21.01.2026**

SHORT TERM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CALL-2 NOTIFICATION

Director (Primary Education), Office of commissioner, Department of School Education, Bangalore hereby invites short term request for proposal for the preparation of Detailed Project Reports on infrastructure improvement of Government Schools in the State of Karnataka by interested bidders.

1 RFP Reference No.	DPI/2025-26/SE0419/CALL-2
2 Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	21/01/2026 onwards
3 Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.	27/01/2026 5:30 PM
4 Date and time of Pre-bid Meeting	27/01/2026 11:00 AM, at the following venue: Office of Commissioner, School Education, First floor, New public office Building, Nrupatunga road, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru.
5 Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal	30/01/2026 5:00 PM
6 Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP Applications	31/01/2026 5:10 PM
7 Place of Opening of RFP Applications	Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.
8 Date and time of presentation for methodology on the project	03/02/2026 12:00 PM
9 Address for Communication	First floor, New public office Building, Nrupatunga road, K.R Circle, Bengaluru -560001, Email: primarydpi@gmail.com , Contact: 080-22270072.

1.Tender documents may be downloaded from the web site <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>
2. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.
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I, Harijana vetti Anil Kumar S/o H.Sivanna R/o 1-194A Edu-labalapuram (V),515122, Sri Satya Sai Dist A.P., was changed my Name from **HARIJANA VETTI ANIL KUMAR (Old Name)** to **Y.ANIL KUMAR (New Name)** due to personal reasons.,

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HIL can be a great training ground for the World Cup

The Belgian shot-stopper feels teammate Mohith is special and predicts a bright future for him; he also hopes to make it to the 2028 Olympics after the showpiece event at home

INTERVIEW

Vincent Vanasch

K. Keerthivasan

Belgium’s Vincent Vanasch is one of the world’s top goalkeepers now and one of the most experienced ones. A World Champion (2018), Olympic gold medallist (Tokyo 2020-21), European champion (2019), and three-time FIH Goalkeeper of the Year (2017-2019), the 38-year-old Belgian brings vast experience to the field.

A four-time Olympian with over 270 international caps, Vanasch now plays in the Hockey India League for JSW Soorma HC. He praised his young teammate H.S. Mohith: “He is fantastic – focused, skilled, and able to take advice on board. His reflexes are excellent, and if he trusts himself, he will go far.”

Looking ahead, Vanasch is excited for the FIH men’s World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands this August. Far from contemplating retirement, he said, “After the World Cup, it’s only two years until the Los Angeles Olympics 2028. Why not push for one more and play my fifth Olympics?” *Excerpts:*

How different is Hockey India League when compared to other leagues, especially European leagues?

It’s really special, to be honest. You come here, you have maybe two weeks with the team and then it starts and especially this year the season is shorter than last year.

So, every game counts. There is more intense pressure. If you make a mistake, you need to get back on track quickly. You have seven games and then it’s the playoffs, so it’s pressure but really nice, too, because I think when you can turn it into positive pressure, it becomes a privilege.

How do you feel when you take to the pitch facing some top quality drag-flickers and any particular

names that you would like to share?

I’m always happy to be on the highest stage with so many good drag-flickers. To be honest, it’s a privilege for me to train with teammate and captain Harmanpreet Singh because he’s one of the best. It’s one of his superpowers. There is Jip Janssen of The Netherlands. Unfortunately, he is not here. You have New Zealand’s Ken Russell, who plays for HIL GC and then there is my compatriot Tom Boon, who plays for Ranchi Royals. And you have Belgium’s Alexander Hendrickx, who plays for Vedanta Kalinga Lancers. It’s quite nice that most of the guys are here in HIL where I can face them because it’s great practice, I think, for the World Cup. And I think it’s good to compete at the highest level of the competition, with the best players in the world competing.

Your thoughts on teammate H.S. Mohith?

Mohith is fantastic. I met him last year with Soorma HC. I’m that type of a goalkeeper who’s going to share everything with my teammates and



To be honest, it’s really nice to play such a big tournament like a World Cup in my country. I know everything is going to be well organised as well. And it’s special to play in front of your crowd

especially him. I will share my techniques, I will share my knowledge, will always share a piece of advice when I see something. That’s why we analyse together the corners and the

shooters or the games in general. And I give him also some sessions. It’s quite nice to share everything together. And when I heard the news that he was selected for the Azlan Shah tournament in Malaysia in November last year, I was happy because he’s that typical goalie who’s going to be really focused on his task and always going to become better. And he can implement a lot of advice that I give. And he has a lot of skills on the pitch. His reflexes are good. He needs to trust himself that he’s going to go far.

Soorma has seen few ups and many downs in HIL so far? What went wrong and how do you plan to bounce back?

And like I said, the league is shorter. We lost the first two matches in Chennai. Any defeat puts you under pressure. But then we took two points against last year’s finalist Hyderabad Toofans, which is a really good team with a good set of players. The win gave us a boost and confidence that we can beat everyone in this league. We need to take points. It is important but at the same time it’s imperative we don’t put

too much pressure on ourselves. At the end, we have to show our qualities on the field. And our qualities are to play together as a team. It’s not the individuals, who are going to make a difference. But, as one team, we can do something big.

The World Cup is happening in your country (Belgium) and The Netherlands. Will it be your farewell tournament? And how are you looking forward to the competition?

To be honest, it’s really nice to play such a big tournament like a World Cup in my country. I know everything is going to be well organised as well. And it’s special to play in front of your crowd. With regards to this being my final tournament, I don’t know yet, but let’s see because I’ve been playing almost 20 years for the national team. If we can end with a gold medal at the World Cup, that would be great. But after the World Cup, it’s only two years for Los Angeles Olympics 2028. So, why not push for two more years and play my fifth Olympics?

Belgium has been one of the consistent teams in World Cups. In the last World Cup in 2023, Belgium finished runner-up. What are the expectations and how is the team preparing?

The team has changed. A lot of players quit playing but they were really experienced players. I think seven of them (might be out of the team). So, we lost a lot of experience in our team. But we have new guys, young kids coming in the team and filling those gaps. We can see they need some experience and that’s why we play a lot of tournaments like the Pro League. We want those players to take up the responsibilities that we give them.

We want them to take the initiative, knowing why they are in the team, knowing their qualities, knowing what they can do with the ball and off the ball, of course, and make sure that they become better players. I hope they will improve a lot and become a better version of themselves on and off the pitch.



Study probes the vast gap between early prodigies and adult achievers

Sayantana Datta
SRI CITY

Climates of the years past: a quiz on palaeoclimatology

The team also acknowledged that among other issues, the groundwater storage trends might be off for small deltas due to limitations in the GRACE data, that the sediment flux data aren't up to date, and that, "although the 40 deltas represent a substantial portion of global delta area and population, they are not globally representative".

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of snatching incidents reported in Delhi in 2025

5,406 Even as the Delhi Police boasts a high rate of cracking cases in crimes such as murder, Delhi witnessed an average of 15 snatching incidents every day last year, with snatching and extortion remaining among the least-solved crimes. PTI

Number of weather-related deaths from 1970 to 2025

2.3 In million. More than 2.3 million people died from weather-related events between 1970 and 2025, according to an AFP analysis of EM-DAT, a global disaster database run by the Belgium-based Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). AFP

Number of journalists killed by Israel since October 2023

220 Gaza's civil defence agency said an Israeli strike on Wednesday killed three journalists. Media watchdog Reporters Without Borders said that Israeli forces killed at least 29 Palestinian journalists in Gaza between December 2024 and December 2025. AFP

Amount likely to be allocated for dog shelters by the MCD

10 In ₹ crore. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is likely to allocate ₹10 crore in its upcoming Budget for expanding three proposed dog shelters. The proposed allocation in the 2026-27 Budget Estimates will be used for upgrading infrastructure at upcoming shelters. PTI

Section of Ukraine's capital which does not have electricity

60 In per cent. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that around 4,000 buildings in Kyiv were still without heating and that most of the capital was cut off from electricity after Russian strikes earlier in the week. AFP

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Should corruption charges need prior sanction?

What does Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 mandate? Why was there a split verdict on deciding whether Section 17A was constitutionally valid? What do earlier rulings by the Supreme Court state? What are the systemic reforms needed to tackle corruption among public officials?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

A two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court has delivered a split verdict on the constitutional validity of Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (PCA, 1988) that requires prior approval from the appropriate government before investigation into any offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant in discharge of official functions.

What is the PCA, 1988?

The Central government had constituted a committee on prevention of corruption under the chairmanship of K. Santhanam in 1962. The Santhanam committee submitted its report in 1964. It resulted in the strengthening of laws dealing with bribery and criminal misconduct. Finally, a comprehensive act was enacted to consolidate the law relating to prevention of corruption in the form of PCA, 1988.

The PCA, 1988 provides for punishment with respect to offences committed by public servants while performing public duties. 'Public servant' includes any government or local authority employee, any Judge, any person who holds an office by virtue of which he is required to perform a public duty etc. 'Public duty' means a duty in the discharge of which the government, the public or the community at large has an interest. The type of offences punishable under the PCA, 1988 include bribery, undue advantage without consideration, criminal misconduct etc.

What is Section 17A?

Section 19 of the PCA, 1988 requires prior sanction from the appropriate government before prosecution of a public servant in a court of law. However, it was felt that there needs to be a distinction in dealing between intentional



GETTY IMAGES

corruption and decisions taken in good-faith that could potentially go wrong. Officers become reluctant to take bold and timely decisions because of fear of wrongful prosecution. In order to address this issue, the Parliament inserted Section 17A through an amendment of the PCA in the year 2018.

This section requires prior approval from the appropriate government for initiating an inquiry or investigation into any alleged offence committed by a public servant which is relatable to any recommendation made or decision taken by a public servant in discharge of official function or duties.

What were earlier rulings?

In *Vineet Narain versus Union of India* (1998), the Supreme Court struck down an executive order, referred to as 'Single Directive', issued to the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI), that required prior sanction of the designated authority before initiating investigation against certain categories of public servants. Subsequently, in 2003, Parliament amended the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (DSPE Act), that governs the functioning of the CBI. Section 6A was added to this Act that required prior approval of the Central government to initiate any investigation against officers at the rank of Joint Secretary or above. This was also struck down by the SC in *Dr Subramaniam Swamy versus Director, CBI* (2014) as violative of Article 14 of the Constitution that guarantees equality before law.

What is the current split verdict?

The current verdict of a division Bench of the Supreme Court is on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by the Centre for

Public Interest Litigation (CPIL) against the Union of India. Justice K. V. Viswanathan held that the requirement of obtaining prior approval before initiating investigation was necessary in order to protect honest officers from vexatious and frivolous complaints. His judgment cautioned that a 'play-it-safe syndrome' may set in the bureaucracy if such a protection was not available. However, he held that the constitutional validity of Section 17A would be sustained only if the approval is provided by an independent agency and not by the government itself. His order read Section 17A in conjunction with Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 and held that the approval should be provided by the appropriate government based on a binding opinion given by Lokpal and Lokayuktas in respect of Central and State government employees respectively.

Justice B. V. Nagarathna on the other hand held that Section 17A was unconstitutional and tantamount to 'Old wine in new bottle' that was struck down in earlier cases by the court. She held that Article 14 requires intelligible differentia and rational nexus to the legislative object, and that Section 17A fails on both counts. She held that adequate protection for honest officers in the form of prior sanction from the government before prosecution by a court is already available under Section 19 of the PCA.

This matter will now be heard by a larger Bench for a conclusive decision. Meanwhile, there are two systemic reforms that are warranted. First, there must be swift disposal of cases and handing over punishments for guilty public servants that would act as a deterrent against corruption. Second, penalty may be imposed for false and malicious complaints. This would act as a deterrent against habitual and vexatious complaints.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified.' He currently trains at Officers IAS academy. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

▼ The PCA, 1988 provides for punishment with respect to offences committed by public servants while performing public duties.

▼ Section 19 of the PCA, 1988 requires prior sanction from the appropriate government before prosecution of a public servant in a court of law.

▼ In *Vineet Narain versus Union of India* (1998), the Supreme Court struck down an executive order, referred to as 'Single Directive', issued to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), that required prior sanction of the designated authority before initiating investigation against certain categories of public servants.

What is behind China's latest military drills around Taiwan?

How did the U.S. react? How is Taiwan furthering its own military capabilities?

Femy Francis

The story so far:

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) conducted a military exercise around Taiwan from December 29-30, 2025. This is the second such drill of the year, with the aim being to safeguard China's sovereignty and national unity, and to serve as a warning to Taiwanese separatist forces and foreign interference, China's Ministry of National Defence (MND) said.

What are the latest military drills?

The military drill codenamed 'Justice Mission-2025' focussed on the sea and combat readiness of the troops, comprehensive superiority, blockade of key ports and territory, and three-dimensional external line deterrence using land, sea, and air forces. A press release by China's Ministry of National Defence reported that on day one the most tactical air drills with 130

sorties were conducted, of which 90 crossed the Taiwan Strait centreline. The second day focused on long-range rocket firing, with 10 rockets landing in Taiwan's contiguous zone, which is the closest it has ever been. China claims Taiwan as its breakaway province, and its Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the mission a deterrence against "separatist forces."

What about other drills near Taiwan?

The first such military exercise was conducted in 2022 after U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan. China deployed carrier groups, nuclear submarines and fired 11 missiles into the water near Taiwan. The next time was in April 2023, when the then-Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen visited the U.S. and met then U.S. Speaker Kevin McCarthy. In August, 2023, another smaller-scale drill was held against then-Taiwanese Vice President William Lai Ching-te's diplomatic trip to the Americas. Furthermore, large-scale

military exercises happened in the East China Sea after William Lai Ching-te of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won the Presidential election. In April 2025, the 'Strait Thunder-2025A' drill focused on advancing, deterrence, closure, destruction and paralysis as stated by PLA Eastern Theatre Command.

Justice Mission-2025 comes in light of the Trump administration's arms sale deal worth \$11 billion with Taiwan. The package, yet to be approved by the U.S. Congress, includes self-propelled howitzers, advanced rocket launchers and other missiles.

What has been Taiwan's response?

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council called these drills "provocative and coercive military actions." To further advance its military capabilities, Taiwan proposed a multi-layered air defence system called the 'T-Dome.' This advancement is steady but slow, as Taiwan lacks a unified action plan to develop its military infrastructure.

This is due to the incongruence between the two major parties of Taiwan, with both currently holding political offices. While the DPP has the majority in the Executive Yuan, the highest administrative body, the Legislative Yuan is led by the opposition Kuomintang (KMT) and the Taiwan People's Party (TPP) together. The DPP strongly pushes for Taiwan independence and the protection of its sovereignty from China. But any defence legislation is thwarted by the opposition, KMT and TPP.

How did external actors respond?

While the U.S. underplayed the drills, other countries expressed concerns. The EU Commission believed that these drills increase cross-strait tensions and endanger international peace and stability. China's MND clearly noted that the presence and increasing involvement of foreign interference as one of the reasons for the exercise. The U.S. arms sale deal with Taiwan is an important development in light of which these drills happened. Similarly, the recent statement made by Japan's newly elected Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi have escalated tensions in the East Asian region. Ms. Takaichi declared that a Chinese military attack on Taiwan constitutes a survival-threatening situation for Japan. China found Ms. Takaichi's comments egregious and demanded a retraction.

Femy Francis is Project Associate, China Reader, at NIAS.

THE GIST

▼ The military drill codenamed 'Justice Mission-2025' focussed on the sea and combat readiness of the troops, comprehensive superiority, blockade of key ports and territory, and three-dimensional external line deterrence using land, sea, and air forces.

▼ The first such military exercise was conducted in 2022 after U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan.

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CM
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