



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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'Don't think there will be any sadness', says Aussie captain Alyssa Healy ahead of her final int'l appearance in Test against India



THE WIDER PERSPECTIVE



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“WE DON’T TREAT OUR VIEWERS LIKE THEY CAN’T HANDLE COMPLEXITY”



When RT India was launched by President Putin in December last year, it was both a significant moment for Russia-India ties and the local news landscape too. RT isn't your average newcomer, but a global heavyweight of media with decades of history.

RT states its mission clearly: news with an edge, made for those who want to question more, covering stories ignored by mainstream conversations. This clearly resonates with its global audience. The channel's content reaches 950 million people across 100 countries: from RT en Español being the most popular international news channel in Latin America, to RT Arabic being one of the most trusted and visited news websites in West Asia.

Over the years, RT has collaborated with leading international media figures and prominent voices, including broadcasting legend Larry King, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, Pulitzer Prize winner and Emmy-nominated journalist Chris Hedges, former President of Ecuador Rafael Correa, legendary football coach José Mourinho, and American news anchor Rick Sanchez among others.



RT India now brings its iconic non-mainstream take on current affairs with a specialised service operating out of the national capital region. Building on 20 years of reporting from every corner of the globe, it brings international stories and trends into India's perspective - and what it means for its economy, security, energy, tech, trade and diplomacy.

RT India makes a point of saying it does not treat its viewers like they can't handle complexity. The reporting is built for depth and conversation - not shouting matches. It brings in guests who've actually been in the room - people who know the score - so the audience can see the moving parts behind the headline.

And there's another layer to RT's pitch to India. Too often the country is seen through a particular frame in global mainstream coverage, and reduced to stereotypes. The channel wants to beam India's transformation outward instead: from innovations and ambitions to voices and debates.

It's also worth noting: RT didn't walk into India as an unknown name. It had already started building recognition through flagship productions like Let's Talk Bharat, hosted by Anupam Kher, and Imperial Receipts with Dr. Shashi Tharoor - a ten-episode series taking on historical amnesia, led by the politician, diplomat, and Chair of India's Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs.

The channel has launched two brand new shows for its programming:

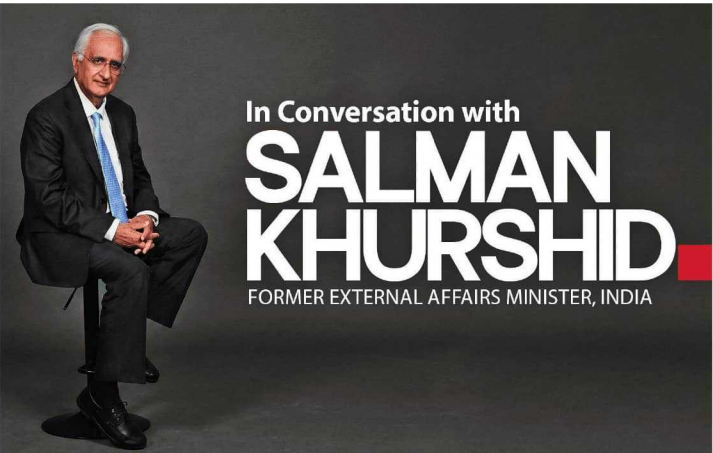


INDIA, RUSSIA AND THE WORLD

India, Russia and the World with Runjhun Sharma is your weekly podcast - a deep dive into the most pressing global issues through the lens of India and Russia.

Two civilizational powers. The world's largest democracy, India, and the world's largest nation, Russia - like chess pieces navigating a shifting global board.

Hosted by Runjhun Sharma, Head of News at RT India, the show draws on her years of covering foreign policy and high-level engagements from New Delhi, Moscow and beyond. For too long, Western narratives have shaped global and Indian discourse, often sidelining voices that do not fit a single mold. But the world has evolved. And the conversations must evolve with it. Every Thursday.



IN CONVERSATION WITH SALMAN KHURSHID

In Conversation with Salman Khurshid is not just another interview show - it is dialogue shaped by experience. Because foreign policy is not just theory. It is lived through experience. Hosted by India's former External Affairs Minister and one of the country's most respected legal minds, Salman Khurshid, the show offers a rare window into how the world is understood by those who have helped shape it. A seasoned statesman steps into the role of host - drawing on his decades at the heart of diplomacy, law, and international negotiations. This is not an interview. It is a conversation you don't want to miss. Fresh episodes twice a month, on Tuesdays on RT India.





THE TIMES

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STALIN-LED TN GOVT BARS 'POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL & COMMUNAL' ACTIVITIES IN PVT SCHOOLS AFTER SEVA BHARATI CAMP ALLOWED IN CUDDALORE 12

INDIA SURVIVE BETHELL BLITZ, HEAD TO AHD FOR FINAL RECKONING

Team India has a golden opportunity to heal the wounds of Nov 19, 2023 — the ODI World Cup final, lost to Australia — as it heads to the same venue, Ahmedabad, for Sunday's final against NZ

➤ **Sanju Samson**, fresh from his heroics against West Indies, was on **15 when England skipper Harry Brook dropped a dolly**. Samson made England pay, slamming a **quickfire 89 off 42 balls**

➤ **Shivam Dube** chipped in with 43 off 25 as India surged to 253/7, a **world record in a T20 WC knockout match**. Along the way, **India broke the record (76) for most sixes hit by a team in any WC**

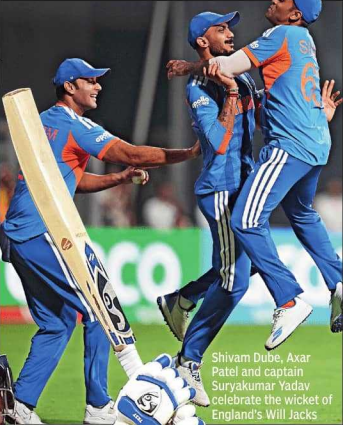
➤ The English came out swinging, and persisted despite losing wickets. **Brooks's nightmare continued** as Axar Patel took a **stunning**

catch to dismiss him for 7

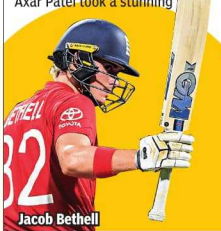
➤ **Jacob Bethell** hit 3 consecutive sixes off Varun as he raced to his 50 off 19 balls, the **fastest half-ton ever by an English player in a T20 WC**. He got good support from Will Jacks, who made 35 off 20 balls, before **Axar pulled off another stunner**, lobbing the ball to Dube for a relay catch before going over the rope

➤ Bethell battled on to bring up a **superb century off 45 balls** as tension mounted. But Tilak caught Sam Curran right on the boundary as Bethell began to run out of support

➤ With 30 to get off the last over, **Bethell was run out desperately going for a non-existent second run**. Jofra Archer bashed 19 off 4 balls but England's gallant chase **finally fell short by 7 runs**



Shivam Dube, Axar Patel and captain Suryakumar Yadav celebrate the wicket of England's Will Jacks



Jacob Bethell



Sanju Samson

FULL COVERAGE
P 23

India finally condoles killing of Iran's Khamenei; mins talk

Meeting Today With Visiting Dy Fgn Minister?

Sachin.Parashar @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Foreign secretary Vikram Misri signed the book of condolence — on behalf of the Indian govt and people — opened at the Iranian embassy on Thursday, following the killing of Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei on Feb 28, amid criticism over India's silence.

External affairs minister S Jaishankar spoke to his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi, and posted about the "telecon" on X, without elaborating. Araghchi had said earlier in the day that the Iranian warship destroy-



Foreign secy Vikram Misri at the Iranian embassy on Thursday

ed by a US submarine was a guest of the Indian Navy.

The two sides may have their first high-level contact since the war began, on Friday, with Tehran seeking a meeting for visiting deputy foreign minister Saeed Khatibzadeh. It is learnt that Misri may meet the minister who is in India for the Raisina Dialogue.

➤Signed on day one, P 17

No issue can be resolved just through conflict: PM

New Delhi: After a meeting with Finland President Alexander Stubb, PM Narendra Modi said Thursday both countries were in agreement that no issue can be resolved solely through military conflict. Whether in Ukraine or West Asia, India and Finland will continue to support efforts aimed at the early end of

➤Modi, Macron discuss need for dialogue, P 17

conflict and restoration of peace, said the PM after the meeting that saw the two countries upgrade their relations to a strategic partnership in digitalisation and sustainability.

The two countries also signed an MoU for partnership in migration and mobility



PM Modi with President Stubb

and agreed to set up a joint task force on 6G. On global issues, the focus was on Russia's war in Ukraine. Modi said India and Finland both believe in the rule of law, dialogue, and diplomacy. THEH

➤See **INSIDE FLAP**

Qatar fallout: GAIL says LNG supplies may be hit

New Delhi: State-run GAIL India Thursday said its supplies from Petronet LNG may be hit due to curtailments from QatarEnergy, even as govt is in talks with Australia and Canada to purchase gas, reports Atul Mathur.

On Wednesday, Petronet had informed stock exchanges about the force majeure notice from QatarEnergy which was forced to stop production after a strike by Iran, affecting nearly a fifth of global supplies. It had issued notices to GAIL, IndianOil and Bharat Petroleum, which have agreements with the LNG player.

"GAIL is currently assessing the situation with respect to any supply curtailment that may need to be imposed on its downstream customers. Notwithstanding the

Sensex recovers 900pts, ₹ gains 55p

Sensex regained a portion of the 2,300-point loss recorded in the two previous sessions and gained 900 points (1.1%) at 80,016 points Thursday, after Iran's foreign minister said the country was ready for talks with the US. The rupee, too, recovered 55 paise to close at Rs 91.6 per dollar. **P 21**

above, LNG supplies to GAIL from other sources/suppliers are currently unaffected. At this stage, the potential impact of the ongoing force majeure situation cannot be quantified," the PSU said in an exchange filing.

➤Alternative supplies', P 21

After sinking of 1 Iran ship, another seeks Lanka refuge

Surendra.Singh @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A day after a US submarine sank the Iranian warship IRIS Dena carrying 130 personnel in international waters off the Sri Lankan coast, killing 87 sailors, Iran's foreign minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi warned that the US would "regret" the torpedo attack. He said the frigate had come to India as a "guest of the Indian Navy" for an exercise last month.

Even as he issued the warning, another Iranian warship has moved toward Lankan waters seeking refuge.

Official sources in India emphasised IRIS Dena was targeted in international waters, and it happened after the conclusion of the International Fleet Review and subse-



Iran has warned the US would regret IRIS Dena (above) sinking

quent MILAN exercise on Feb 25. The frigate was around the international shipping lane when it was attacked.

Indian Navy on Thursday said it joined search and rescue operation after learning about a distress call from IRIS Dena. The Navy said it promptly launched search and rescue efforts with a long-range maritime patrol aircraft at 10 am on Wednesday to augment Sri Lanka's efforts.

➤Lanka rescued 32, P 17

US court: Cos are entitled to tariff refunds

A federal judge in New York has ruled that companies that paid tariffs struck down last month by Supreme Court are due refunds. Judge Richard Eaton of the US Court of International Trade wrote that "all importers of record" were "entitled to benefit" from the Supreme Court.

The court order says that refunds are not limited to select plaintiffs. The federal government collected more than \$130 billion in the now-defunct tariffs through mid-Dec. The Supreme Court had found those tariffs to be unconstitutional under the emergency powers law. AGENCIES

Over 60% turnout as Nepal votes in 'historic' polls powered by Gen Z

Vishant.Agarwala @timesofindia.com

Kathmandu: As Nepal went to the polls on Thursday, the country's Gen Z voters — many of whom participated in the Sept protests that reshaped the country's politics — turned out in large numbers for the snap parliamentary elections, with students and young workers queuing outside polling booths set up in schools, temples, and community gathering spaces. Many travelled for days across the Himalayan country to reach their constituencies.

Kathmandu's roads were largely empty after the Election Commission of Nepal



Women vote at a polling station in Kathmandu on Thursday

enforced its routine election-day vehicle ban, leaving voters to walk the last stretch to polling stations.

Acting chief election com-

missioner Ram Prasad Bhandari said preliminary turnout stood slightly above 60% at 5pm, adding the figure was expected to rise once data from remote and mountainous districts arrived. The 2022 turnout was 61.4%. "Gen Z voters appeared pleased with the conduct of the polls and their enthusiasm has been striking. Their passion for voting was high," he said.

Nepal's parliament has 275 seats, of which 110 are allocated through proportional representation, meaning the final nationwide tally may take several days as ballots arrive from distant regions.

➤Peaceful polls', P 16

Rising op costs, fares add to West Asia flight nightmare

10-12% Hike In Gulf Fares Unavoidable, Say Airlines

Saurabh Sinha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The expanding war in West Asia is giving twin nightmares to airlines — especially Indian ones due to the closure of Pakistan airspace to them — and passengers stuck here and abroad.

Connectivity remains the primary concern as bringing Indians stranded overseas safely home is the highest priority. AT's legacy Dreamliners) and Airbus A350s to fly from Delhi to Leh, enter China passing a waypoint called Hotan, and then take the Central Asia route to the west — bypassing the entire war zone.

“The B787-9s and A350s have additional oxygen storage which allows them a longer time to descend to 10,000 feet by flying out of the high-terrain region in case of single-engine failure. All studies have been done and this has been found technically feasible,” said a person familiar with the deliberations.

AI has made a strong case for getting clearance for the Hotan route, saying it will rid it of the “constant nuisance” of Pakistan airspace closure. Western airlines like Lufthansa and United are not impacted much by the



Connectivity remains the primary concern as bringing Indians stranded overseas safely home is the highest priority

Emirates resumes 'reduced schedule'

New Delhi: Emirates on Thursday said it was “operating a reduced flight schedule until further notice” thanks to the “limited reopening of airspace”. Among the destinations being served are Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram. **TNN**

30 flights to & from B'uru cancelled

Bengaluru: Passengers were stranded as 30 flights to and from Gulf countries (14 arrivals and 16 departures) were cancelled on Thursday, reports **Nithya Mandyam**. Some services operated with adjustments. Emirates flight EK566 from Dubai reached Bengaluru with 358 flyers and left with 203 as EK567.

West Asian crisis when it comes to flights to and from India thanks to Pakistan airspace being open to them.

The increase in operating costs of carriers has led to a rise in ticket prices, with demand-supply mismatch adding to the fire. For instance, an Indian studying in Ireland who came to New Delhi in Feb to attend his grandfather's last rites now faces fares of up to Rs 4 lakh to return to college.

A senior executive at an Indian airline said: “Insurance costs for flights to West Asia have soared by as much as Rs 30 lakh to 40 lakh for a wide body's return trip and Rs 90 lakh to Rs 1 crore for a wide body's return journey. Aviation turbine fuel price this month was hiked by 6%. The rupee keeps crashing to

new all-time lows. We have to take much longer routes. Our costs have gone through the roof. The flights to West Asia hardly have any passengers and are full on the way back.”

With flights reduced and huge uncertainty over operations, airlines say they are having a tough time selling tickets. “We are unable to sell inventory on these flights in advance and filling up aircraft on short notice is leading to low flight loads, resulting in a higher cost of operation,” an executive said.

“Pakistan airspace closure started on April 24, 2025, and operating costs for Indian carriers with substantial western operations like AI Group and IndiGo have risen since then. We have been asking for fiscal relief like from excise or GST,” said an official.

No panic buying yet but crowds surge at fuel stns

Kolkata: Fuel stations in parts of Kolkata and Howrah witnessed unusually long queues during evening peak hours this week as motorists rushed to fill up tanks amid rumours of an impending petrol shortage or a steep price hike, reports **Krishnendu Bandyopadhyay**.

Dealers said sporadic bouts of panic buying occurred during the evening commute. At several outlets, motorists queued up asking for ‘tank-full’ refills, leading to serpentine queues and waiting times stretching beyond an hour in some cases.

The surge in demand came despite repeated assurances from oil marketing companies that adequate fuel stocks were available.

Arun Singhania, president of West Bengal Petroleum Dealers' Association, said there was no evidence of widespread panic buying.

Family seeks govt help to bring sick kid back from Iran

Jaipur: A family in the Walled City area has appealed to govt to evacuate their six-year-old granddaughter from Iran's Qom district, citing her fragile health, reports **Shoeb Khan**.

Habib Zehra has been anxiously tracking news updates as her daughter, Hina Taqvi, son-in-law Hasan Abbas and granddaughter Maryam remain in Qom, reportedly witnessing heavy missile attacks. The family says they have been unable to contact them since the afternoon of Feb 28. The last message they received from Hina read: “Pray for us.”

Maryam suffers from a serious neurological condition that requires frequent hospitalisation and specialised care. With tensions rising, the family fears access to treatment could be disrupted.

Rahul questions PM's 'silence' on warship sinking in 'our backyard'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said PM Narendra Modi's silence in the wake of “conflict” and the sinking of an Iranian warship showed that the PM had “surrendered strategy sovereignty”. The opposition party also slammed govt for “undoing” the foreign policy painstakingly built over the last seven decades.

Rahul said the world had entered a volatile phase and “stormy seas” lay ahead, with oil supplies and 40% of Indian imports transiting through the Strait of Hormuz under threat.

“The conflict has reached our backyard, with an Iranian warship sunk in the Indian Ocean. Yet the PM has said nothing. At a moment like this, we need a



Rahul Gandhi said the world had entered a volatile phase and 'stormy seas' lay ahead. 'At a moment like this, we need a steady hand at the wheel,' he said

steady hand at the wheel. Instead, India has a compromised PM who has surrendered our strategic autonomy,” he said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the PM's silence after the sinking of the Iranian ship was India's guest showed “Modi govt's reckless abdication of India's strategic and national interests”. He also questioned the “absence” of maritime rescue and relief when 38 Indian-flagged commercial ships along with 1,100 sailors were stuck in the conflict-hit region.

He said govt had also not made public the plan to deal with rising oil prices and limited reserves, especially after agreeing with the US to stop import from Russia. One crore Indians were in Gulf region countries and there were desperate messages from medical students seeking help, he said.

“Clearly, Modi's surrender is both political and moral. It demeans India's core national interests and destroys our foreign policy carefully built and followed by successive govts over the years,” Kharge said.

Blaming India for US strike on Iran frigate illogical, says BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Blaming India for the US strike on Iranian naval vessel IRIS Dena was both illogical and misleading, BJP said on Thursday as Congress took a swipe at govt over the attack on the warship that was returning after participating in a naval exercise in India.

BJP noted that the strike occurred around 250 nautical miles from the Indian coastline, well beyond the country's territorial waters and outside its maritime jurisdiction. Holding India accountable for an incident between the US and Iran in international waters was both factually incorrect and diplomatically untenable, it said.

“Under international maritime law, a country's responsibility does not extend to every incident that takes place in the broader oceanic region merely because it is geographically nearby. India shares maritime proximity with many countries across the Indian Ocean, but proximity cannot be conflated with control or accountability,” BJP's Amit Malviya said.



BJP noted that the strike on the vessel occurred beyond India's territorial waters. 'Proximity can't be conflated with control or accountability,' Amit Malviya said

He said events taking place in international waters, especially those involving third countries, fell outside India's legal or operational domain.

“Attempts to drag India into this episode ignore the basic principles of maritime jurisdiction and appear driven more by speculation and political narrative than by facts. India neither controls activities in international waters nor is it a party to actions undertaken by other sovereign nations there. In short, geography does not equate responsibility,” he said.

BJP sources expressed dismay over Congress's criticism. “Those who claim to be the ‘natural party of governance’ cannot be expected to be so ignorant of the basics of international law,” said a senior party functionary.

Ending Ukraine war in everyone's interest, UNSC seat for India crucial: Finland prez

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India and Finland both asserted on Thursday that ending the Russia-Ukraine war was “in everyone's interest” and called for reform in United Nations. Finland President Alexander Stubb said a seat in UN Security Council for India was of utmost importance.

“We also share the view that reform of global institutions is not only necessary, but urgent in order to address growing global challenges. Furthermore, eliminating terrorism in all its forms remains our shared commitment,” PM Narendra Modi said.

In a joint statement, both leaders agreed to continue to support efforts towards the achievement of a “comprehensive, just, and lasting peace” in Ukraine through dialogue and diplomacy, based on the principles of UN Charter and international law, including independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Modi said the world was passing through a phase of instability. “India and Europe, two major diplomatic pow-



PM Modi and Finland President Alexander Stubb agreed to continue to support efforts towards 'a comprehensive, just and lasting peace' in Ukraine through dialogue and diplomacy

ers of the world, are entering a golden phase in their relationship. Our growing cooperation is imparting new strength to global stability, development and shared prosperity,” he said.

“We have conflict in both regions, in West Asia and also, of course, in Ukraine. And for us, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has lasted for too long,

Stubb: India a model for strategic autonomy

Finnish President Alexander Stubb, during his keynote address at the Raisina Dialogue 2026 on Thursday, highlighted India's rising global influence, calling it a model for strategic autonomy and proactive international engagement, stating that Europe had “been taught a lesson by India that passivity is not a strategy”. Praising India for not isolating itself despite not being part of a formal alliance, Stubb underscored India's proactive engagement in world affairs. **AGENCIES**

four years. We agreed that ending the war is in everyone's interest,” said Stubb.

Finland has emerged as an important destination for Indian professionals, particularly in technology and innovation sectors. “To connect the innovation ecosystems, today we have concluded a comprehensive Migration and Mobility Agreement with Finland,” said Modi.



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China cuts economic growth target to 4.5%-5% for 2026, lowest since 1991, amid weak consumption, ongoing property crisis, global trade tensions; to boost defence spending by 7%, P 20

US tests unarmed Minuteman III ICBM, dubbed 'doomsday missile', with range of 13,000km, from California's Vandenberg Space Force Base. Says launch scheduled years ago and is 'not in response to world events'

Social media influencer and critic of pro-Khalistani extremism Nancy Grewal, 45, stabbed to death at her residence in Ontario. Her mother, in Jalandhar, claims she used to get death threats, P 16

Lakshya Sen storms into men's quarterfinals of All England Open Badminton Championships with gritty win against Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus 21-19, 21-23, 21-10, P 22



'Always wished to be in both Houses': Nitish files RS papers

JD(U) Workers Vandalise Office, Allege BJP Plot

Madan.Kumar@timesofindia.com

Patna: Nitish Kumar filed Thursday nomination papers for Rajya Sabha, brushing aside objections from family members and unrest within JD(U) in a move widely seen as signalling the approaching end of his record tenure as Bihar chief minister.

The decision makes it clear that there will be a transition in Patna, potentially paving the way for a BJP-led govt.

JD(U) functionaries and relatives said party president Nitish, 75, faced strong resistance at home before proceeding. "Not only his son Nishant but the entire family tried to convince Nitishji right through the night so that he does not go to Rajya Sabha at this juncture, but he remained adamant on his decision," said the CM's brother-in-law Anil Kumar.

DECKS NOW CLEAR FOR A BJP-LED GOVT IN BIHAR?

There has been a desire in my heart to become a member of both Houses of Bihar legislature as well as both Houses of Parliament. In keeping with this aspiration, I seek to become a member of RS...

— Nitish Kumar | Bihar CM

For past two decades, Nitish govt's commitment and dedicated leadership for welfare of the people of Bihar has freed the state from jungle raj... His dignified presence (in RS) will further strengthen NDA's resolve of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'

— Amit Shah | Union home minister

Nitish ji has been made to mount the horse like a groom but the wedding vows will be taken with someone else

— Tejashwi Yadav | JD



Nitish Kumar, flanked by Union minister Amit Shah and state deputy chief minister CM Samrat Choudhary, files his nomination papers for RS polls

► Spotlight on Nishant, cadre clamour for him, P 14

Nitish hasn't quit as CM yet, though political circles expect that step once parliamentary formalities conclude.

He filed his papers accompanied by Union home minister Amit Shah, who flew in from New Delhi. "Throughout his political journey serving as MLA, MP, CM, and Union minister, Nitish Kumar has maintained an unblemished

► 5 seen as frontrunners for CM's post, P 14

public life," Shah said, adding that his tenure as CM will be remembered as a "golden era" as he "has been instrumental in advancing Bihar's development in multiple sectors".

"Nitish Kumarji worked to liberate Bihar from the jungle raj," Shah said. "All NDA partners welcome Nitish Kumarji upon his entry into Rajya Sabha."

► 'Sushant babu' sets a tough benchmark, P 14

Nitish's decision triggered turmoil within JD(U). Workers vandalised party office in Patna, accusing BJP of engineering a "conspiracy" with help from "traitors within party". Demonstrations and sit-ins spread across parts of Bihar, urging Nitish to reverse his decision.

► 'Growth & respect', P 14

2 sisters dead, mom unconscious in Malviya Nagar

Two sisters, aged 33 and 28, were found dead and their mother found unconscious in their home in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar on Thursday evening. The deaths came to light around 6pm, when police broke open the main door after getting a call from a relative. One of the victims was found with a pillow covering her face, while the other's body had ligature marks on the neck, indicating she had been strangled. Initial probe indicates that the mother may have killed the women before attempting to take her own life. **P 5**

Homeland security secy Noem fired

US President Donald Trump fired homeland security secretary Kristi Noem Thursday, two days after she faced a grilling on Capitol Hill from Republicans and Democrats on a variety of topics. Noem will be replaced by senator Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma. **AGENCIES**

Illegal mining: CISF can soon prosecute

The Centre has decided to grant CISF powers to initiate legal proceedings against illegal coal miners, said the CISF DG. At present, its role is limited to guarding 10 mines, with enforcement authority resting with mining officials and police. **P 15**

YouTuber attackers' father speaks up

Yunus Ali, whose two sons were killed in encounters on March 1 and 3 after emerging as prime suspects behind the attack on YouTuber Saleem Wastik, said police have produced them in court. "They committed a crime... deserved a trial," he said. **P 5**

Noida airport gets security clearance

Noida International Airport has received security clearance from BCAS. DGCA is expected to carry out a final inspection and issue the aerodrome licence. Once issued, domestic passenger flights are expected to begin within 45 days. **P 7**

Energy drinks led to hepatitis-B deaths?

Excessive intake of caffeinated energy drinks and treatment by quacks led to hepatitis-B deaths in Palwal's Chaisa, deputy commissioner Harish Kumar Vashishth said on Thursday. Of the 13 patients who fell ill, eight died. **P 5**

Ex-envoy Sandhu is new Delhi LG, TN guv Ravi goes to Bengal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Kolkata: Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi has replaced C V Ananda Bose as the new governor of West Bengal, while former ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu will be the new Delhi L-G. The move to appoint Ravi as Bengal governor came under fire from CM Mamata Banerjee.

The appointment of Ravi, a former IPS officer who had frequent run-ins with the DMK govt, comes days ahead of the announcement of poll dates for Bengal and other states.

The changes are part of the larger gubernatorial reshuffle announced by Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday

VK SAXENA MOVED TO LADAKH

► Kerala gov **Rajendra Arlekar** gets addl charge of TN, replacing R N Ravi

► Delhi L-G V K Saxena replaces Ladakh L-G **Kavinder Gupta**, who has been made Himachal Pradesh governor; Shiv Pratap Shukla moved to Telangana

(see gfx). Bose, whose tenure was marked by confrontations with the Mamata-led TMC govt, announced his resignation from Delhi. He gave no reason for the decision. Mamata Banerjee was quick to target BJP; her main challenger in the assembly polls, as she expressed "shock and deep concern".

"The reasons behind his resignation are not known to me at this moment. However, gi-

► Lt Gen **Syed Ata Hasnain** (ret'd) replaces Arif Mohd Khan as Bihar governor

► Telangana governor **Jishnu Dev Varma** appointed Maharashtra governor

► Former Bihar Speaker **Nand Kishore Yadav** named Nagaland governor

► 'Didn't consult', P 17

STAGE SET FOR RAJYA SABHA POLLS, NDA VS OPPN TIE-UP IN ODISHA, BIHAR



Trinamool's RS (L-R) candidates ex-DGP Rajeev Kumar, minister Babul Supriyo, actor Koel Mullick, and SC advocate Menaka Guruswamy after filing papers

► 40 candidates file papers on last day of nomination for 37 Rajya Sabha seats falling vacant in 10 states. Keen contest expected in one seat each in Bihar, Odisha and Haryana

► Seven seats falling vacant in Maharashtra, 6 in TN, 5 each in Bihar and West Bengal, 4 in Odisha, 3 in Assam and 2 each in Haryana, Telangana and Chhattisgarh, besides one seat in Himachal Pradesh.

Polling on March 16

► Rare BJD-Cong tie-up in Odisha as latter backs BJD's candidate, Dattaswar Hota. BJP backs

former Union minister Dilip Ray, contesting as an independent

► NCP (SP), Cong and Sena (UBT) back Sharad Pawar's renomination for lone seat they can win in the state. Parth Pawar, son of late deputy CM Ajit Pawar, nominated by governing NCP

► RJD renomination of MP and businessman A D Singh forces contest on 1 seat in Bihar

► BJP's Sanjay Bhatia, Cong's Karamvir Boudh & independent Satish Nandal, who had contested 2019 state polls as BJP nominee, face off in Haryana **P 15**

Man beaten to death after Holi balloon splash

New Delhi: A 26-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death after a quarrel over a splash of water during Holi spiralled into violence in Delhi's Uttam Nagar.

Police have arrested four people and apprehended a minor. The trouble began, police said, when water from a balloon splashed on a woman amid the festival celebrations.

The deceased has been identified as Tarun, who lived with his family in Uttam Nagar. He was pursuing a digital marketing course, said his family.

DCP (Dwarka) Kushal Pal Singh said two groups, belonging to two different communities, had a fight over the throwing of a water-filled balloon.

► 3 murders, 9 held, P 7

Courts must deal with disobedient litigants with an iron hand: SC

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Criticising the practice of litigants, particularly govt authorities, of not complying with court orders and filing appeals or review pleas when faced with contempt proceedings, Supreme Court has said the court should deal with them harshly, otherwise public faith in the judiciary would erode.

A bench of Justices Ashu Nuddin Amanullah and R Mahadevan also held that the defence of administrative hurdles, or even impossibility to perform what has been ordered, cannot be invoked in contempt proceedings if a con-

IN THE COURTS

► Special PMLA court initiates proceedings to declare **Nirav Modi's brothers**, both Belgian nationals, **fugitive economic offenders** | **P 15**

► **Hindu Marriage Act** applies to tribals following Hindu customs, says C'garh HC, sets aside family court order rejecting divorce plea of ST husband and SC wife | **P 13**

temner has failed to brief the court about the difficulty with the prescribed time limit.

"Delayed filing of appeals should be the exception. But in recent times, the exception has practically evolved to become the rule. Orders passed

by Delhi HC **junks writ plea by Danics officer** challenging dismissal for misusing position by allowing refund of ₹3.3cr in land acquisition matter | **P 11**

► ED moves special PMLA court to confiscate ₹700cr assets of Iqbal Memon, family

► ED notice to NC chief Ferooz Abdullah in money laundering probe dismissed | **P 13**

by courts are not complied with for a long time, and when contempt petitions are filed, belated appeals, with tremendous delay, are preferred," the bench said.

► 'Criminal contempt', P 15

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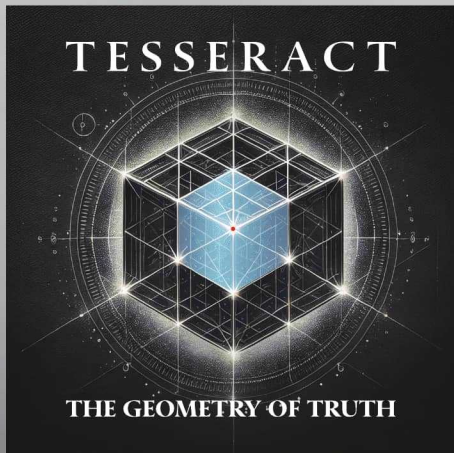
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The past does not pause
It accrues,
questioning what we meant by progress



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Mercury At 34.3°C, 7°C Above Normal

May Touch 36°C By March 10; Night Temps Up Too

Priyangi Agarwal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi recorded its hottest day of the season on Thursday as the maximum temperature climbed to 34.3°C — seven degrees above normal — surpassing Wednesday's 33.2°C. The mercury is expected to rise further and may touch 36°C by March 10.

IMD data shows that the 34°C mark was breached in the second week of March last year, while in 2024, it was crossed only in the last week of the month.

Clear skies and persistent dry weather have contributed to the sharp rise in temperature. "The city has been recording dry conditions, with the last spell of intense rain on Jan 28. Feb saw only two instances of very light showers. In the absence of an active western disturbance, Delhi has been experiencing clear skies, resulting in a spike in temperatures," said RK Jenamani, senior scientist at IMD.

Night temperatures, too, are on an upward trend. The minimum settled at 18.2°C on Thursday — five degrees above normal — compared with 15.7°C a day earlier. Minimum temperatures are likely to stay between 16°C and 18°C over the next three days.

Jenamani said summer in 2022 was the warmest in recent years, while last year re-



Delhi has recorded temperatures above 30°C for nine consecutive days

mained relatively milder due to frequent thunderstorms.

According to IMD, temperatures are likely to rise gradually as no active western disturbance is expected in the coming week. "A gradual increase of 3-4 degrees in maximum temperatures is forecast over the next five days, with no significant change thereafter. They are expected to remain appreciably above normal (3.1°C to 5°C) to markedly above normal (5.1°C or more) for the next seven days," the bulletin said.

Maximum temperatures are expected to hover between 33°C and 35°C from Friday to

Monday, and may reach 36°C by March 10.

The city has recorded temperatures above 30°C for nine consecutive days. IMD data shows that maximum temperatures remained above normal through most of Feb, dipping below normal only twice — to 17.5°C on Feb 2 and 21.1°C on Feb 18 — when a weak western disturbance brought drizzle and overcast skies.

Last year's highest March temperature was 38.9°C on March 26, while in 2024 it reached 37.8°C on March 29.

Meanwhile, Delhi's air quality remained in the 'moderate' category with an AQI of 142 on Thursday. It is expected to stay moderate on Friday and may deteriorate to 'poor' on Saturday.

142
AQI RECORDED ON
THURSDAY,
REMAINING IN THE
MODERATE
CATEGORY

Sandhu in, Saxena moved to Ladakh

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Retired diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu was on Thursday appointed the new lieutenant governor of Delhi. Vinai Kumar Saxena, who was serving as the Delhi LG since May 2022, has been shifted to Ladakh.

Sandhu, who served as India's Ambassador to the United States from Feb 2020 to Jan 2024, maintained close, active, and frequent engagements with the Congressional India Caucus — the largest country-specific caucus in the US House of Representatives. He was also the high commissioner to Sri Lanka.

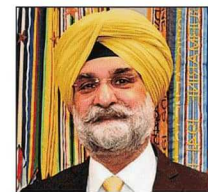
Sandhu contested Lok Sabha elections on a BJP ticket in Amritsar in 2024 but lost.

Saxena's tenure was marked by frequent high-pitched confrontations with Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) govt over myriad issues ranging from day-to-day governance to policy decisions, including the controversial excise policy. In July 2022, Saxena recommended a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the excise policy's framing and implementation, which led to the then chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and some senior AAP functionaries going to jail. Saxena has been shifted days after Arvind Kejriwal and other accused have been discharged in the excise case by a Delhi court.

The appointment of Sandhu comes at a time when relations between BJP-led Delhi govt and the LG office have normalised. Officials attribute the normalcy to Delhi and the Centre, which appoints the LG, being run by the same party.

The Delhi govt's relationship with the LG has been marked by sustained tussle since 2015 when AAP came to power in Delhi.

Saxena was appointed the Delhi LG in 2022, replacing IAS officer Anil Bajjal. Saxena was the only LG of Delhi who was not drawn from retired bureaucrats.



Taranjit Sandhu is new Delhi LG

Saxena was also behind the Delhi Development Authority's green push and was key to the development of several parks and green spaces along the Yamuna, such as Asita park and BaanSera.

During Saxena's tenure, several major policy matters led to sharp exchanges between Raj Niwas and AAP govt, including the management of 2023 Delhi floods. A major flashpoint was the control of services in Delhi, particularly the power to appoint and transfer bureaucrats. They also clashed over the functioning of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, mayoral elections, the redevelopment of govt schools and hospitals, and the handling of civic and environmental issues. These disputes frequently played out through official correspondence and even public statements.

Saxena also sought inquiries into alleged cost escalations in the construction of classrooms at Delhi govt schools, alleged irregularities in the functioning and finances of Delhi Jal Board, buses procurement, "fake" diagnostic tests at Mohalla Clinics, "financial irregularities" in Jai Bhim Pratibha Vikas Yojna, among several others.

"Sandhu's appointment is set to bring a new phase in Delhi's administrative leadership. He is known for his diplomatic experience and long career in international affairs and is likely to use his experience in shaping Delhi's administration alongside the elected govt," said a retired Delhi govt official.

'Pressure tactic': Court clears rape accused

Koushiki Saha
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New Delhi: A Delhi court has discharged a man accused of raping a woman on the pretext of marriage, holding that the case stemmed from a consensual relationship that later turned acrimonious.

In an order dated Feb 12, Judge Harjeet Singh Jaspal said "genuine cases that deserve prosecution of the accused must be clearly demarcated from the litigation that arises from the cases of consensual relationships between consenting adults going acrimonious on account of dispute and disagreement or a future change of mind."

The case was registered in

2017 under Sections 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) IPC. The prosecution alleged the man induced the complainant into a sexual relationship from Dec 25, 2012 by falsely promising marriage.

The court, however, noted that the couple had legally married in Sept 2015, after the complainant threatened to file a case, and had been living together in a "valid subsisting marriage". The complainant later alleged the man moved back to Gurgaon and told her she couldn't take action against him.

The judge concluded that the complaint seemed to have been filed as a "pressure tactic" rather than a true allegation of rape.

Monday, and may reach 36°C by March 10.

The city has recorded temperatures above 30°C for nine consecutive days. IMD data shows that maximum temperatures remained above normal through most of Feb, dipping below normal only twice — to 17.5°C on Feb 2 and 21.1°C on Feb 18 — when a weak western disturbance brought drizzle and overcast skies.

Last year's highest March temperature was 38.9°C on March 26, while in 2024 it reached 37.8°C on March 29.

Meanwhile, Delhi's air quality remained in the 'moderate' category with an AQI of 142 on Thursday. It is expected to stay moderate on Friday and may deteriorate to 'poor' on Saturday.

DJB has also deployed advanced mechanised equipment, including super sucker machines and water-recycling desludging units, to strengthen maintenance and improve worker safety.

On the consumer side, the late payment surcharge waiver scheme offers domestic users a 100% waiver on surcharges if the principal dues are cleared, benefiting around 3.5 million households.

The next phase focuses on expanding sewer infrastructure in areas lacking proper networks. Proposed projects include DSTPs and sewer systems in villages and unauthorised colonies. Notable projects include a 1.5MGD DSTP in Bijwasan for 50,000 residents, DSTPs in Bawana villages for 90,000 people and a sewage pumping station at Bajitpur Thakran serving 1.5 lakh residents. Other planned works cover Mundka, Narela and south Delhi, including house service connections in Sangam Vihar and Wazirabad.

DJB has also coordinated with international agencies, continuing engagement with Japan International Cooperation Agency for water supply improvement and Asian Development Bank for the Wazirabad project. It has strengthened ties with Union government and basin states for the Renukaji-Lakhwar-Kishau dam projects in the upper Yamuna basin to augment Delhi's water supply.

The Board of Directors, management, his family and employees of Godrej Enterprises Group mourn the loss of a Leader whose legacy will continue to guide the Godrej Enterprise Group's future, and the organization remains committed to upholding the values and stewardship he exemplified.

Dying Narela lake to get Delhi's first meadow park after revamp

Vibha Sharma
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The highly encroached and dying Tikri Khurd Lake at Narela will be rejuvenated, restored and developed as the city's first meadow park by Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

The decision was taken after lieutenant governor VK Saxena visited the site in north Delhi on Feb 17 and expressed concern over the deteriorating waterbody that once sustained a vibrant ecosystem. Officials have been asked to prepare a restoration plan at the earliest, on the lines of the previously developed Baansera and Asita parks over degraded landscapes.

Officials said the waterbody, previously an oxbow lake on the Yamuna floodplain, was also receiving untreated sewage from neighbouring residential localities, giving an unple-

asant look to the area.

The preliminary plan is to revive the 40-acre lake by removing encroachments and water hyacinth, and developing an open grassy patch across 10 acres of surrounding land. This will be followed by the creation of a heavily wooded area with around 10,000 trees, including bamboo.

A walkway will be developed covering 20 acres surrounding the lake. The 2.5-metre-wide pathway will serve as both a walking and cycling track. "The work on cleaning the approach roads has already started and tenders for construction of a boundary wall around the complex have been issued," DDA said.

The lake and its surrounding landscape, spread over around 72 acres, fall within sectors 8-1 to 8-3 of Narela sub-city. Officials said that while the revival would be the priori-

ty, attracting visitors would also be important, given the strategic location. "The project plan focuses on ecological restoration, landscape regeneration and creation of nature-based public spaces while strengthening the hydrological and environmental performance of the site," said an official.

The meadow park will feature expansive native grasslands and dense peripheral plantations that will act as ecological buffers. The design will ensure that rainwater gradually flows towards the central depression, which will be restored and strengthened as the primary water retention basin. Existing site contours will be utilised and enhanced to facilitate natural surface runoff throughout the year.

For public spaces, shaded seating areas will be developed beneath native tree canopies. An eco-sensitive restaurant struc-

ture, designed using sustainable and lightweight materials, is proposed at a vantage point overlooking the lake. The structure will be visually connected to a stepped access leading towards the waterbody, creating a strong visual and spatial interface between land and water.

Excavated earth generated during the deepening and restoration will be reused on-site to create landscaped mounds and berms, which will help screen undesirable views from adjoining developments and also function as visual buffers and wind barriers.

To enhance visitors' engagement with the natural environment, elevated *machans*, or nature-viewing decks, are proposed at selected locations for observing the restored lake ecosystem, bird activities and surrounding meadow habitat without disturbing sensitive ecological zones.

A small meeting or conference facility, along with two-three eco-cottages, is also proposed along the quieter edge of the lake. These will be designed as low-impact structures overlooking the waterbody and can be used for nature retreats, small gatherings and environmental education activities.

Decentralised sewage treatment plants will also be built to treat wastewater from surrounding areas and ensure that the lake retains water throughout the year. A plant nursery will be developed within the landscape to support plantation needs and promote native species.

Although National Green Tribunal earlier directed authorities to restore the lake, the project remained stalled due to a disagreement between DDA and the state wetland authority.

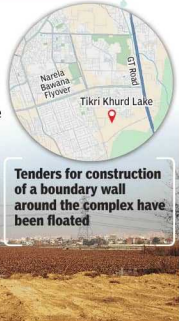
WOODED ZONE, WALKWAY, NURSERY AND MORE LIKELY

WHERE Between sectors 8-1 and 8-3 of Narela Sub-City. The site is near Tikri Khurd Lake

WHAT'S PLANNED

- Encroachments and water hyacinth to be removed from 40 acres of the lake
- Around 10 acres of surrounding land will be developed as an open grassy green patch
- A heavily wooded zone will be created with about 10,000 trees, including bamboo
- A walkway across nearly 20 acres around the lake
- The 2.5-metre-wide pathway will function as both a walking and cycling track
- Shaded seating areas will be created for public recreation

- Elevated machans or nature-viewing decks at selected locations
- Vantage points for observing the restored lake ecosystem and bird activity
- A small meeting or conference facility to be set up
- An eco-sensitive restaurant structure planned too
- A dedicated plant nursery will be developed to support plantation requirements



Tenders for construction of a boundary wall around the complex have been floated

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12th Convocation (March, 11, 2026)

The 12th convocation of Delhi Technological University is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March, 11, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. in BR Ambedkar Auditorium, DTU for the award of degrees to all graduates who have completed all the formalities and have become eligible for conferment of degrees in the Academic Year 2024-25. All UG and PG students are cordially invited to attend the Convocation ceremony. The recipients of Ph.D. degrees and Gold Medals in various UG & PG programmes shall be awarded degrees during the Convocation ceremony in the Hall.

The students who are willing to attend the Convocation Ceremony in person should register online at <http://www.convocation.dtu.ac.in>. (Till 03.00 PM, 09th March 2026) For further details, please visit the University website- www.dtu.ac.in.

Sd/-
Registrar

Traffic restrictions in S Delhi this weekend

New Delhi: Traffic restrictions will be in place in south Delhi from 4am to 8pm over the weekend due to the Radha Soami Satsang Beas event at the Radha Soami Satsang Complex in Bhati Mines, Chhattarpur. Delhi Traffic Police has issued an advisory stating that from March 6 to 8, movement will remain restricted on Bhati Mines road between Chhattarpur road and Gurgaon road T-junction during the three-day event. Heavy vehicles will not be permitted on this stretch between 4am and 8pm. An estimated 3-4 lakh devotees are expected to attend the event, which may cause significant congestion on roads leading to the ashram, especially with numerous banquet halls, farmhouses and wedding venues in the belt. Entry to the satsang complex will be allowed only via Bhati Mines road. Those travelling from Faridabad or Gurgaon should approach via Dera Border. Heavy traffic will be diverted from Mandi road through Jonapur Cut to Mehrauli-Gurgaon road, and from Badshahpur road near Mallu Farm toward Jonapur-Mehrauli-Gurgaon road. TNN

'Prioritised Bringing Smaller Hosps Into Ayushman Fold'

Better last-mile connectivity, public transport and health facilities are what minister Pankaj Kumar Singh promised to the city one year ago. Speaking to Kushagra Dixit and Abhinav Rajput, he outlined projects that he believes improved the lives of Delhiites and what the city can expect in the coming months

Photo: Jatin Kumar

Q. What has changed in Delhi's health landscape and what are your key learnings in the past year?

■ When I took charge of the health department, the situation was challenging. Hospitals lacked drinking water and medicines. There was shortage of staff nurses and doctors. Buildings remained under construction for over five years. We started by implementing the Ayushman Bharat scheme, which the previous govt did not allow. This covered about 10 lakh people and over 30,000 have received treatment.

Then, there were defunct tin boxes called mohalla clinics. We started new, structured Ayushman Arogya Mandir focusing on primary health care, offering over 80 medical tests. If primary screening and testing are available near a patient's home, it improves early diagnosis and reduces hospital crowding. Our efforts to eliminate tuberculosis, where we screened over 10.7 lakh people including 4.5 lakh in slums, were recognised by the Centre.

Along with this, we implemented central procurement which ensured better pricing, improved quality, and timely supply of medicines, and saved money. To maintain hygiene at hospitals, we started colour-coded bedsheets for particular days.

How have Delhi's private hospitals responded to getting empanelled under Ayushman Bharat?

■ Experience comes from experiences. Initially, some private hospitals were hesitant due to pending payment concerns from previous years. Smaller hospitals were especially worried about reimbursement delays. But the hospitals are now coming into the fold. One major hospital has a pending matter in the Supreme Court. But soon Fortis will be empanelled. Balaji has been added. We are in talks with Max, Maharaj Agrasen, and many other hospitals. That said, our priority has been to empanel smaller hospitals first. In emergency situations, an Ayushman card holder is more likely to visit a nearby hospital — often a smaller facility. Large hospitals generally have the capacity to absorb temporary payment delays, but smaller ones cannot afford that



will be fixed, I assure you.

Private vehicles are steadily increasing, often because public transport is seen as less comfortable or convenient. You had proposed a premium bus service to attract car users with better comfort and last-mile connectivity. What is its status?

■ For many people, especially those using two-wheelers and three-wheelers, public transport will become the main mode of travel. After the introduction of our new 7-metre buses, including more Devi buses, many two-wheeler users have started shifting to these services. I have seen this change on the ground... Secondly, there was no metro expansion in the last two years of AAP govt. This will restart.

E-rickshaws are a major cause of traffic. Why are they allowed to ply illegally?

■ Congestion increases when these vehicles move beyond the designated areas. We are bringing a policy which would regulate their operations. No e-rickshaw will be allowed to run without registration. We are also going to introduce 7-metre buses, which will be like luxury buses that can seat only 18 people. Because of the comfort and quality, even car users are likely to start using them. I would personally encourage everyone to use them.

There are concerns over accidents caused by buses. What measures is the govt taking?

■ While there have been two or three such incidents, the number is significantly lower compared to the past. That does not mean action should not be taken. Drivers are being properly trained and sensitised, and wherever any negligence or mistake is found, strict action is being taken against those responsible.

When can people expect the long-pending EV policy to be announced? Will there be incentives for buyers?

■ The policy is in its final stage and will be announced soon. As far as discounts and incentives are concerned, I can assure you that the BJP delivers on its promises, and whatever commitments have been made will be reflected.

What are the new infrastructure projects on the anvil?

■ Tenders will be floated soon for 12 MRI, 20 CT scan machines and 30 ultrasound machines for different govt hospitals. Establishment of a neuro-cath lab at GB Pant Hospital has been a big achievement. A common citizen can access high-end neurological interventions in the public sector. We have also expanded dialysis centres and installed 150 new dialysis machines.

Mental health has been identified as a growing concern. What steps are being taken?

■ We are working to establish at least one dedicated brain health or mental health clinic in every district hospital. A recent example is the brain health clinic set up at the Indira Gandhi Hospital. Our goal is to ensure that each district has accessible, specialised mental health services. In addition, we are integrating traditional and holistic wellness approaches such as pranayama, yoga, meditation, and counselling services into stress management, trigger anxiety etc. We have established an Ayurvedic society that will oversee dedicated centres across all districts and appoint trained therapists. The plan is to deploy qualified professionals in all 12 districts.

What about air pollution related ailments?

■ Pollution from the transport sector

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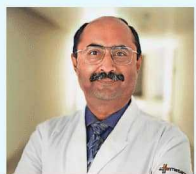
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Take 1 step to learn more about obesity

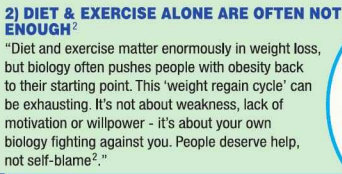
HEALTH AWARENESS INITIATIVE



Dr Jasjeet Singh Wasir
Director - Endocrinology & Diabetes, Division of Endocrinology & Diabetes, Medanta Hospital

1) OBESITY IS A CHRONIC DISEASE¹

"Obesity isn't a failure of willpower - it's a chronic, biological disease shaped by genetic, environmental and behavioural factors. Recognizing it as a disease is the first step. Blame never helps but understanding always does!"



Dr Neeru Gera
Director - Endocrinology, Max Healthcare, New Delhi

2) DIET & EXERCISE ALONE ARE OFTEN NOT ENOUGH²

"Diet and exercise matter enormously in weight loss, but biology often pushes people with obesity back to their starting point. This 'weight regain cycle' can be exhausting. It's not about weakness, lack of motivation or willpower - it's about your own biology fighting against you. People deserve help, not self-blame!"



Dr Beena Bansal
Director-Founder, door to care, An Endocrine & Diabetes Clinic & Research Center

3) MEDICAL SUPPORT CAN BREAK THE CYCLE³

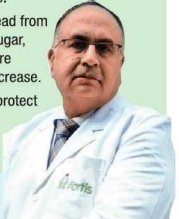
"Obesity should be treated like the medical condition it is. A doctor can help break the cycle with safe, modern, medical treatment.³ Research shows Indians wait up to 2 years to seek medical help.⁴ This only delays results and increases one's risk of complications such as type 2 diabetes, heart & liver diseases, polycystic ovarian disease (PCOS), amongst others.⁵ Hence, talk to your doctor. Early medical support can change the whole trajectory!"

4) EVEN 5% WEIGHT LOSS CAN LEAD TO HEALTH BENEFITS^{1,5-7}

- 0-5% weight loss → Improves hypertension and blood sugar
- 5-10% weight loss → Helps prevent type 2 diabetes, PCOS, and improves dyslipidemia.
- 10-15% weight loss → Reduces risk of cardiovascular disease, obstructive sleep apnoea (OSAS), and knee osteoarthritis.
- >15% weight loss → May lead from pre-diabetes to normal blood sugar, Triglycerides (TG), blood pressure (BP), and HbA1c continue to decrease.

Modern therapies may help protect long term health, not just change numbers on the scale⁸.

Dr Abhay Ahluwalia
Director-Endocrinology, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurgaon



5) TRUST ORIGINAL INNOVATIVE THERAPIES BACKED BY STRONG EVIDENCE

"When you talk to your doctor, ask about original innovative therapies backed by rigorous clinical trials and strong real-world experience. The most trusted options are those studied deeply across multiple obesity-related conditions and that help with gradual weight loss that doesn't cause rapid muscle loss. Quality of weight loss (more fat vs muscle loss) matters, especially for lifelong health."



Dr Saptarshi Bhattacharya
Senior Consultant, Endocrinology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi

A conversation with your doctor could be the first step toward long term health and a life free from guilt and stigma.
This World Obesity Day, trust the original in obesity care.

For people living with overweight and obesity, Weight management outcomes may vary depending on your treatment journey and should be pursued under the guidance of a registered healthcare professional. The views expressed belong to the doctor. This is for educational purposes only. Apis Bull logo and wegowithyou are trademarks of Novo Nordisk A/S. References: 1. Wharton S et al. CMAJ. 2020 Aug 4;192(31):E875-E881. 2. Bjornan ES et al. BMJ. 2013 Apr 16;346:f210524. 3. Perle DM et al. Lancet. 2023 Apr 1;401(10382):1116-1130. 4. Umnikrishnan, AGI et al. Abstract 187 Indian Journal of Endocrinology and Metabolism 26(Suppl 8):p S80-S81, December 2022. 5. Horn et al. Postgrad Med 2022;134:359-75. 6. Dent R et al. Metabolism. 2020 Dec 1;113:154388. 7. Ryan DH et al. Curr Obes Rep. 2017 Jun;6(2):187-194. 8. Wolfe, R. (2006). The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, 84(3), 475-482. IN260800132 | Reviewed on 26/02/2026

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'AI Predator' That Preys On Mule Accounts, Keeps Your Money Safe

Reserve Bank Innovation Hub's Tool Targets Temporary Financial Hideouts

Rajshankar Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Behind the glowing screens of a thousand "digital arrests" lies a hidden plumbing system to channelise the stolen money. For years, cybercriminals have laundered their spoils through a labyrinth of "mule accounts" — temporary financial hideouts that vanish as quickly as they appear. Enter MuleHunter.AI, the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub's latest predator to clean the digital jungle.

Recently highlighted by Union home minister Amit Shah as a key shield against the rising tide of cybercrimes, MuleHunter.AI doesn't just watch the money, it also learns the "heartbeat" of a scam — by the time a fraudster attempts to move the illicit gains, it has closed the gates, turning the "golden hour" into a dead end for the digital underworld.

The tool, currently being utilised by around two dozen banks to identify and purge fraudulent accounts, is proving to be a game changer. "Unlike traditional banking audits that often flag suspicious activity days or weeks after a crime has occurred, this tool is built for real-time detection. This allows banks to freeze suspicious cash transfers as they are happening," said a cyber cell officer.

CURBING CYBER CRIME

MULEHUNTER.AI

- Developed by Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, it's a specialised defence system designed to dismantle the networks of mule accounts

- Mule accounts are used by fraudsters to move and launder stolen money, a/c opened on forged documents

- Unlike traditional audits that flag fraud after the fact, the system aims for 'Golden Hour' detection, over two dozen banks are using it

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- The tool helps freeze suspicious cash transfers before the money is withdrawn from the banking system
- Instead of relying on rigid, rule-based filters, this tool uses machine learning to analyse subtle behaviours that amount to scamming
- It uses a set of distinct patterns of account misuse identified through collaboration with banks

FOCUS AREAS

- Rapid-fire fund transfers that occur almost immediately after a deposit, often across multiple unrelated accounts

- Identifying when a 'dormant' or low-value account (such as a student or pensioner profile) suddenly exhibits high-value, high-frequency activity

- Detecting when a single device or IP address is managing a cluster of seemingly unrelated bank accounts

- Monitoring for 'robotic' or unnatural navigation within banking apps, which often signals a third party is controlling the account remotely

FIGURES THAT MATTER

- 26.4 lakh mule accounts shared with agencies concerned, leading to the blocking of transactions worth ₹9,055 crore

- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) had identified 26.5 lakh Layer 1 mule accounts by Dec 31, 2025

- Out of an estimated ₹20,000 crore lost to cybercriminals, authorities successfully rescued or saved ₹8,189 crore for victim restitution

- MuleHunter.AI Impact is detecting and purging roughly 20,000 mule accounts every month

- In Nuh (Haryana), over 1,000 mule accounts detected in 2025 alone. In Jamnara, over 350 accounts detected

Home ministry has set a deadline of Dec 2026 for all financial institutions, including cooperative banks, to be fully onboarded onto I4C and MuleHunter platforms

The tool represents a shift from rigid, rule-based filters to sophisticated machine learning. While old systems may only flag a transaction if it exceeds a certain limit, MuleHunter.AI analyses 19 subtle behavioural signatures identi-

fied through collaboration across the banking sector.

One primary focus is 'velocity anomalies', where funds are transferred almost immediately after a deposit across a web of unrelated accounts. It also looks for 'behavioural

mismatches', such as when a dormant student or pensioner account suddenly exhibits high-frequency, high-value activity that does not align with the owner's profile.

"The tool's ability to perform digital fingerprinting

makes it a game-changer. It can detect when a single IP address or mobile device is managing a cluster of seemingly unrelated accounts across different regions," the officer explained. "It even monitors for robotic or unnatural navigation patterns within banking apps, which often suggests that a fraudster is controlling the account remotely through a trojan or screen-sharing software."

Cybercrime experts noted that the rise of digital arrest scams — where victims are coerced into "virtual custody" by fraudsters posing as law enforcement officials — relies entirely on the availability of mule accounts. "The success of such scams depends on the speed of the payout. By the time a victim realises he has been duped, the money has usually been layered through five or six different bank accounts. MuleHunter.AI breaks this chain by identifying the mule account before it can even be operationalised," said an investigator.

By providing it as a shared public infrastructure, RBI ensures that even smaller banks without enough resources can defend their customers. As the tool continues to detect nearly 20,000 mule accounts every month, officials hope it will finally turn the tide against the "cyber slavery" and extortion rackets.

2 sisters found dead at home, mother in unconscious state

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Police have launched an investigation after two sisters were found dead in their home in South Delhi's Malviya Nagar on Thursday evening.

The deaths came to light at 6pm when the local police station got a call from a relative, who said the family was not opening the door. Police officers broke the door that was locked from inside and found the bodies in separate rooms.

One sister was found with a pillow covering her face,

The bodies have been taken for postmortems to determine the cause of the deaths

The preliminary police investigation suggests that the mother may have killed the daughters before attempting to take her own life.

The crime team and the forensic science laboratory unit were summoned to the spot.

While the motive behind the suspected double-murder and attempted suicide remains unknown, authorities have registered a case and are questioning neighbours and relatives.

The bodies have been taken for postmortems to determine the cause of the deaths.

while the other's body had ligature marks on the neck, indicating she had been strangled. One sister was 33 years old, the other was 28.

The girls' mother was found unconscious in one of the rooms. She was rushed to the AIIMS trauma centre, where she is under treatment.

'My sons committed a crime. They should have faced trial, not shot'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ghaziabad: Buniyad Ali,

whose two sons were killed in police encounters on March 1 and 3 after emerging as prime suspects behind the attack on businessman and YouTuber Saleem Wastik, said police should have produced them in court, not gunned them down.

"They committed a crime. Police should have arrested them and taken them to court. They deserved a trial," he told TOI on Thursday.

Buniyad said he was not aware of his sons' plans or why they attacked Wastik. Police shot Ghulfaam dead in an encounter in Vasundhara on March 3, less than 48 hours after his younger brother Zeeshan was killed in a shootout in Loni.

According to cops, the brothers — who worked as carpenters and lived in Khoda Colony — were identified

through CCTV footage after Wastik was stabbed at his office in Loni on Feb 27.

Police said they scanned footage from more than 200 CCTV cameras. In one clip, the duo is seen riding away on a bike moments after the attack on Wastik, with blood stains on their clothes, the cops claimed.

Buniyad, who is based in Amroha, said a police team had come looking for Zeeshan and Ghulfaam a few days earlier. "I told them both my sons lived in Khoda Colony in Ghaziabad. Then one of the officers told me that my sons were involved in an attempted murder case," he added.

Buniyad said he tried calling his two sons, but their phones were switched off. "I told police that whenever they came to Amroha, I would be the first person to alert the cops."

Police, according to Buniyad, called him between 1am

and 2am on Monday to inform him of Zeeshan's death. The family travelled to Ghaziabad, collected the body from the mortuary and performed the last rites in Amroha. "Two days later, I was shocked to learn that Ghulfaam had been shot dead too," he said.

Buniyad has seven children, with Ghulfaam the eldest and Zeeshan the youngest. Ghulfaam is survived by his wife and two children. Zeeshan was single.

The two brothers had been living in Khoda Colony for two years after shifting from Amroha. Zeeshan completed Class XII, while Ghulfaam studied till high school. They learnt carpentry from their father.

"If they indeed attacked the YouTuber, it was a reckless decision," Buniyad said, adding the motorcycle the brothers were seen riding in CCTV footage of the attack belonged to their uncle in Delhi.

Violations under special Holi enforcement drive down 32%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Drunk driving remained a major concern on Holi this year, with 1,204 people issued challans across the city — nearly the same as last year. However, overall routine traffic challans rose by 31%, while violations detected under the special Holi enforcement drive fell by 32%, according to Delhi Traffic Police data.

Police issued 11,179 routine challans on Wednesday, up from 8,521 in 2025 and 7,717 in 2024. A senior officer said these included violations such as flouting air pollution norms, using pressure horns, smoking while driving, carrying goods in private vehicles and other offences.

However, under the special Holi drive this year, only 4,929 challans were issued compa-

MAX CASES IN WESTERN RANGE

CHALLANS
2025 8,521
2026 11,179

Prosecutions during Holi

- 1,213 people challaned for drunk driving in 2025
- 1,204 people fined for drunk driving in 2026
- 6,017 challaned for riding without helmet, speeding, triple riding and others in 2025
- 3,725 fined for riding without helmet, speeding, triple riding and others in 2026

Dip in deaths too

Road accidents
2025 13
2026 22

Fatalities

4
6

Injured

18
12



CP Satish Golcha meets cops on duty during Holi

red with 7,230 last year. Of these, 1,204 were for drunk driving, nearly the same as the 1,213 cases in 2025. According to the data, two-wheeler riders accounted for over 900 drunk driving cases, forming the majority of such offenders.

"Besides the 1,204 drunk driving cases on Wednesday, the remaining 3,725 challans were issued for other traffic violations, including triple riding on two-wheelers, vehicles with tinted glass, riding without helmets and other offences," the officer said.

According to the data, the western range recorded the highest count with 969 challans, followed by 884 in the central range and 857 in the southern range.

This year, 22 road accidents were reported on Holi, including four fatal ones. Last year,

the capital recorded 13 accidents, including six fatal ones. Holi in 2024 saw one of the highest fatality counts in recent years, with 27 crashes, including 14 fatal accidents.

Additional CP (Traffic)

This year, 22 road accidents were reported on Holi, including four fatal ones, as compared to 13 accidents in 2025

Dinesh Gupta said personnel were deployed at 134 key intersections till Wednesday evening to maintain vigil. Police also set up 79 joint pickets with local police stations, where teams equipped with alcoholometers conducted checks to curb drunk driving and prevent accidents.

Court convicts man and father of murder

New Delhi: A Delhi court has convicted a man and his father for murdering a youth following a dispute over a loan of Rs 5,000 in Welcome. Additional Sessions Judge Charu Aggarwal was hearing the case against Mehboob and his father Mehfooz. The two were accused of killing Animesh alias Ballu on May 6, 2021. In an order dated Feb 28, the court observed that witnesses provided a natural and consistent sequence of events. The judge noted that the testimony proved Mehboob, sharing common intention with his father Mehfooz, "committed the murder". PTI

Excessive consumption of energy drinks behind Palwal hepatitis-B deaths

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Gurgaon: Excessive consumption of caffeinated energy drinks and treatment by quacks led to hepatitis B deaths in Palwal's Chainsa, deputy commissioner Harish Kumar Vashishth said on Thursday.

Referring to a team of experts' findings, Vashishth said, "Based on the report, of the 13 patients who fell ill, eight died. Their medical history showed excessive intake of caffeinated drinks and treatment by quacks."

After the report, the district administration registered FIRs against five unqualified practitioners operating in the area and began checks on illegal medical practices. Samples of the energy drinks consumed by patients were also sent for laboratory testing.

"Two major factors emerged during the investigation. Several patients took injections from unqualified practitioners, where the same syringe was used repeatedly, raising the risk of blood-borne infections such as hepatitis B. The second factor flagged in the report was heavy consumption of caffeinated energy drinks among those who fell ill," the deputy commissioner said. He added that doctors' teams and health department staff remain deployed in the village, where the outbreak prompted an investigation.

Health experts said hepatitis B is usually a chronic disease, but in these cases it appeared to progress quickly into an acute form. Officials said excessive intake of caffeinated drinks may have acted as a "predisposing factor" that worsened liver damage and increased the risk of death in patients already infected with the virus.

Vashishth urged residents to avoid unqualified practitioners and warned against unsafe injection practices. "People must ensure that only a new syringe is used," he said. He also called for greater awareness on widespread use of caffeinated drinks in rural areas and urged people to avoid them, especially during illness.

Health department teams are conducting medical camps, door-to-door surveys and blood tests in the village. Tests for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV and liver function are underway, while medicines and vaccinations are being provided as precautionary measures.

DDA Nagrik Awaas Yojana 2026

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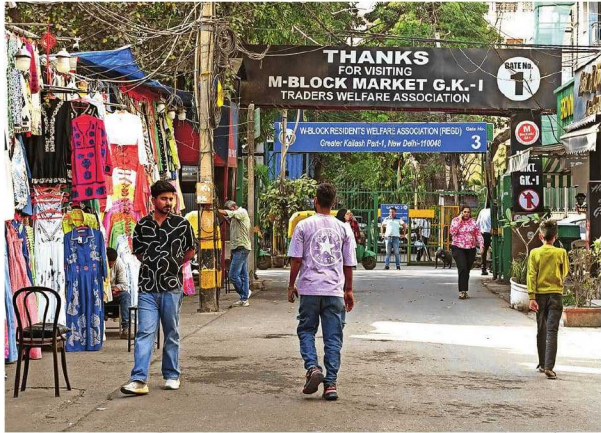
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Car Enclosures, But Cracks Show

Once showcases of thoughtful planning and aspirational living, these three colonies are grappling with pressures of rising population and expanding commercialisation. Strong community networks, however, remain a defining strength



Jatin Kumar

Commercialisation casts a shadow on coveted address

Vibha.Sharma@timesofindia.com

With designer bungalows, luxury cars, high-end boutiques, global brands and chic cafés lining its vibrant markets, Greater Kailash stands as one of the city's most prominent planned colonies, dramatically transformed since its establishment in the 1960s.

Over the decades, the leafy neighbourhood has evolved into a symbol of affluence and aspiration, home to noted designers, celebrities, politicians and figures from the business community. Its wide avenues and upscale markets have made it one of the most coveted addresses.

Yet, this sheen of modernity has come at a price. Rapid commercialisation — even along stretches not designated for mixed land use or commercial activity under Delhi Master Plan 2021 — has altered the colony's character. Persistent traffic snarls, shrinking open spaces and mounting parking woes now test the patience of long-time residents, many of whom say the very growth that elevated GK has made everyday living increasingly difficult.

GK-I and GK-II were carved out of agricultural land owned by farmers of Zamrudpur and Chirag Dilli villages — fields that yielded abundant kharif crops. The land was acquired by govt in 1955 and developed into a residential colony by DLF Limited. Sanjay Rana, a resident of E Block and general secretary of GK-II Welfare Association, remembers a different landscape. "It was like a jungle," he recalls, describing a time when barely five or six houses stood along the main M Block Road. Beyond the M Block market intersection, there was no proper road. Buses halted near the M Block market and S Block did not even exist.

"My father moved in from Paharganj in the 1970s, despite relatives calling his decision 'insane'," Rana says. Vacant plots often doubled as venues for weddings and community gatherings. His father purchased the property for Rs 1 lakh and spent an equal amount constructing a modest one-and-a-half-storey house with help from friends. A handful of

shops in M Block market met daily needs. Savitri Road was a single lane, and traffic was unheard of. "Life was simple," Rana says.

Today, those homes have given way to four-storey apartment blocks. "Despite the manifold rise in population, we are dependent on the same sewage system — barring two or three upgraded lines," he notes. While some infrastructure has changed, he says maintenance remains inadequate. Back lanes are clogged with C&D waste, roads lie battered, and dense carpeting laid years ago has seen little follow-up repair.

Sangita Arora, a resident of S Block, says residents have increasingly taken matters into their own hands. "Our RWA has procured its own equipment, including a loader for waste collection, and hired staff to clean the lanes." They bear the cost of operating and maintaining six composting units installed in a local park, managing kitchen waste from 200 households.

Its strategic location near employment and commercial hubs like Nehru Place, Saket District Centre and Okhla Industrial Area has further accelerated the neighbourhood's transformation. "Look at the condition of Hansraj Gupta Marg," says Rajendra Sharda, president of R Block RWA and M Block Market Association GK-I. "The Master Plan permitted only 20 sqm shops for select activities. Today, entire ground floors and even basements have been converted into commercial spaces — banks, boutiques, clinics, eateries and even hospitals — reshaping the colony's character."

He says unchecked commercialisation has not been accompanied by infrastructure augmentation. "The designated parking is often unutilised. Vehicles are parked haphazardly along the roads, leading to snarls." Sajal Dhama, a resident of S Block, GK-I, says the situation is particularly alarming during emergencies. "It can take nearly half an hour just to cross GK-I and reach the main road. It's extremely frustrating and worrying. If colony gates are opened, things can be streamlined. Despite challenges, residents' affection for GK is unwavering," says Sharda.



Maharani Bagh: Model Colony Under Strain

Designed with 210 plots for nearly 1,300 residents
Wide roads, service lanes and abundant green spaces
Long regarded as a benchmark of thoughtful urban planning

Population has risen from 1,300 to over 5,000
Sewer lines failing; ageing water pipelines
Stormwater drains doubling as sewage channels

Civic Challenges
Parking spilling into service lanes
Overhead cables entangled in trees



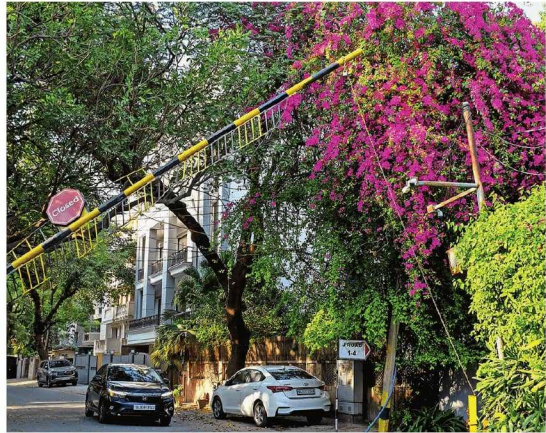
SDA: Calm Amid Change

Developed in 1960; early public plot auctions
Low-rise homes, tree-lined avenues, open spaces

Green Spine
Nearly 100-acre Rose Garden and SDA Park near IIT Delhi
Helps lower summer temperatures by nearly 2°C
Six parks and DDA green belt

Community & Landmarks
Around 480 DDA flats
Houses schools, Kailashpati Mandir, Jagannath Temple, church and mosque
SDA Market evolved into a social hub since 1989

Civic Issues
Poor internal roads
School-related traffic congestion
Water issues in recent years, later resolved



Anushka Kogta

Infra stretched in green and thoughtfully planned colony

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Tree-lined roads, planned homes and green spaces framed by bougainvillea define Maharani Bagh in southeast Delhi. Long regarded as one of the capital's most upscale neighbourhoods, the colony has often been seen as a "model" of thoughtful urban planning.

"Designed initially with only 210 plots, the colony was laid out with wide roads, dedicated service lanes and abundant green spaces, creating an orderly and spacious living environment. Planned to accommodate about 1,300 residents, it functioned for decades as a well-balanced and self-sustaining residential area, reflecting a strong emphasis on livability,"

says resident Shiv Mehra.

Even today, residents say the neighbourhood retains its quiet residential character despite being located close to major arteries. Its planned layout, greenery and residential scale have historically distinguished it as an example of organised urban development, though rising population has begun to place increasing pressure on infrastructure.

Some residents say the strain is now visible across the colony. Sewer lines have become prone to failure, while ageing water pipelines laid decades ago risk contamination. Stormwater drains meant to carry rainwater now double as sewage channels, leading to flooding and foul odours during heavy rains.

A 1960s colony that grew with Delhi

Rajesh Mehta

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Every morning, Safdarjung Development Area (SDA) wakes up to walkers and joggers moving through Rose Garden and SDA Park Shaped by safety, greenery and a peaceful character, this south Delhi colony has survived the churn of a rapidly changing city.

While much of Delhi races toward highrises and dense construction, SDA has chosen restraint. Low-rise homes, tree-lined avenues and bungalows define the colony, ranked among the city's top residential neighbourhoods for livability.

With IIT-Delhi as the major landmark, SDA is flanked by Aurobindo Marg, Outer Ring Road, Rose Garden and Green Park. Amid the chaos, the colony has retained its quiet, old-world charm. Spread across seven blocks, along with Usha Niketan and Bhim Nagri, SDA is dotted with six parks and a large green belt that houses an open-air gym. While it is often mistaken for Safdarjung Enclave, it has a distinct character of its own.

Alok Saxena, 62, a resident, says SDA took shape in the 1960s and was among the city's first colonies where residential plots were auctioned to the public. "SDA is a lively neighbourhood, and its true character lies in its residents. The area is home to doctors, bureaucrats, lawyers and business professionals. The spirit of camaraderie in the colony remains strong," he adds.

At the heart of the colony stands Kailashpati Mandir, while the annual Jagannath Yatra begins from Jagannath Temple. A church, a cathedral and a mosque reflect the area's harmonious



SDA is a lively neighbourhood, and its true character lies in its residents
— ALOK SAXENA, RESIDENT

religious diversity, Saxena says.

SDA Market is a social hub with several eateries, while the popular Green Park, Aurobindo and Hauz Khas markets lie close by. Within walking distance are Hauz Khas Village, its lake and Deer Park, which draw large crowds. Rose Garden is another major attraction. "Peacocks are seen perching on rooftops along Narendrapandey Marg, which runs parallel to the garden," says Saxena.

Pawan Kumar Jain, a 68-year-old resident, says the colony has over 400 homes, along with 480 DDA flats. "It is well-planned and peaceful," he says.

Jain, who bought his house in 1962, said the area has transformed over the decades. "Earlier, there was four-foot-high grass, cows roamed freely and anti-social elements gathered. Today, it is organised."

While water issues that cropped up a few years ago were resolved, internal roads are in poor condition. Jain also raises concerns over traffic congestion due to the presence of several school buses. Shubham Malhotra, another resident, said SDA used to be quieter. "Because of IIT's proximity, SDA Market has become a hangout hub," he says.

For many, the colony is more than just an address — it is a shared history, a web of lifelong friendships and memories layered across generations — RAJENDRA SHARDA, RESIDENT

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
CORRUPTION NOTICE
2nd Corrigendum published for NIT No. 11/2025-2026/SE/SWC/WBP/NT-2025-26 (1st call). Details also can be seen at <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> and www.westbengal.gov.in in Start Date of Bid submission: 05/03/2026 at 2:00 P.M. Last Date of Bid submission: 19/03/2026 Up to 2:30 P.M. Sd/- For Superintending Engineer, South 24 P.S. Circle, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-760731(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the Executive Engineer-I
Damodar Canal Division, Court Compound, Purba Bardhaman, Pin-713101
e-TENDER NOTICE
No-WB/WM/EE/DCO/e-NIT-43/2025-26
e-Tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal from the eligible contractors for 08 (Eight) nos. work under SPS/NT-26 at time of bid submission is 19.03.2026 till 9:00 hours IST. Details of Tender Notice may be seen at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> or <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer-I, Damodar Canal Division. ICA-761613(4)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
Tender No.: WBFOF/SILV/S/NIT-18/2025-26 (1st call). Details also can be seen at <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> and www.westbengal.gov.in in Start Date of Bid submission: 05/03/2026 from 2:00 P.M. Last Date of Bid submission: 19/03/2026 Up to 2:30 P.M. Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Silviculture (South) Division. ICA-761603(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited from reputed firms for the Works abridged Memo No-1078 dated 26.02.26 related to schemes of "E-Tender for hired staff for PCPND (AI car-Motor cab) / Maki cab Boloro / Scorpio) for CMOH Office, Bankura," under Health Dept. The last date & time of online bid submission: 19.03.26 at 17:00 hrs. Sd/- www.wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Secretary DH&FWS & CMOH, Bankura ICA-760731(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
e-Tender is hereby invited by Assistant Engineer, Ulluberia Sub-Division, P.H.E. Dte. vide Ref: No-WB/HE/DAE/USD/NIT-12/2025-26. Memo No-140/AE/USD, Dte: 28/02/2026. Details will be available in the website <http://www.wbtdenders.gov.in> and www.westbengal.gov.in Last date of bid submission is 18/03/2026. Sd/- For Assistant Engineer, Ulluberia Sub-Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-760813(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
SOUTH DINAJPUR IRRIGATION DIVISION
e-NIT No- WB/WM/EE/SD/ID/eNIT-32/2025-26
The Exec. Engg., South Dinajpur Irrigation Divn., Baitala Park, Balurghat invites above mentioned e-NIT for 14 nos. SOD(M) work. e-NIT Publishing Date: 04/03/2026 at 10:00hrs. Last Date of Bid Submission: 12/03/2026 & Time up to 17:30 hrs. Details may be had from the office of undersigned. For details, visit the site <http://www.wbtdenders.gov.in> & www.westbengal.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, South Dinajpur Irrigation Division, Baitala Park, Balurghat ICA-761613(4)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
EOI No- WB/SM/BCO/epam/ment/02/25-26
Dated: Kolkata the 2nd March, 2026
The "West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board" (WB/SM&B/Board), invites "Expression of Interest" (EOI) in prescribed form from the bonafide firms of Chartered Accountants (CAs) for empanelment for support to the Board and Regulated Market Committees (RMCs/ZMCA) in Auditing/Accounting and/or Tax services (GST/Income Tax) in Tally. Ref: The firms fulfilling minimum criteria may be empanelled for a period of 03 (three) years. "TERMS OF REFERENCE", and prescribed formats for application may be downloaded from <https://wbtdenders.gov.in/index.aspx> & in the Notice Section of the Board's website <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> & <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board ICA-761793(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
A1. Construction of Market Link (Bituminous & Concrete) Road from Baladandh Kadamtola to Basudebpur Kaitala under Haripal Block, I.D. No. 12/2025-26 (2nd Call). Highway (Road Length-1.65 KM) vide NIT No. WB/SM&B/CE/57/2025-26. Last date of bid submission is 18/03/2026. Sd/- For Assistant Engineer, Ulluberia Sub-Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-760813(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
(N.I.T. NO. WB/TC/MD/NIT-57/2025-26 (2nd Call))
(Abridged e-Tender)
e-Tender, in prescribed form in two parts viz. Technical & Financial Bids are invited for the works below:- (FOR PROVIDING) SUPPLYING SERVICES FOR DRIVING AND CONDUCTING FOR WBTC Buses (CSTC, WBSTC, WBTLCT). Tender I.D.: WB/TC/MD/NIT-57/2025-26 (2nd Call). Published on 06/03/2026 at 09:00 A.M. Please visit website www.wbtdenders.gov.in & www.westbengal.gov.in Sd/- Managing Director, For WBTC. ICA-761743(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
1st Date Corrigendum Notice
Dated: 27-02-2026
Tender Id: 2026, WB/SM&B, 1004124_1, 2026, WB/SM&B, 1004146_1
Authority of West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board has decided to extend the last date of bid submission upto 12:00 Noon of 10-03-2026. Simultaneously technical bid opening date has been rescheduled on 12-03-2026 at 12:00 Noon for all the bidders. The terms and conditions remain unchanged. The detail information regarding e-NIT(s) will be available in the website <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board ICA-761811(1)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E.E. Purulia Division, Social Sector, P.W.Dte., invites e-Tender for (1) one) work vide No- WB/PWD/SS/EE/PUR/NIT-20/2025-26 and Tender Id: 2026, WB/PWD, 1017473_1. Estimated Amount: 1,24,88,348.00. Last date of submission of bid is 18.03.2026 upto 14.30 PM. For details, visit the website: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> and official notice board during office hrs. Sd/- E.E., Purulia Division, Social Sector, P.W.Dte. ICA-761603(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
e-tender are invited for - Refilling of different types of Fire Extinguishers for different buildings of PWD (Kasba, Behala, Baitala and Salt Lake) during the year 2025-2026. Estimated Amount: Rs. 3,23,073.00, e-NIT No. WB/PWD/AE/KSD I (SS)/NIT-22/2025-26, Tender Id: 2026, WB/PWD, 1016198_1. Bid Submission Start date (online): 02-03-2026 upto 5.30 p.m. Bid submission closing date (online): 13-03-2026 upto 02.30 p.m. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be Download from: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Assistant Engineer, Kolkata Sub-Division-I, Social Sector, P.W.Dte. ICA-762133(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Auction Notice
E-Auction for Grant of Lease of Manikpara Auditorium and premise under Jhargram Zilla Parishad, Ref: Auction ID 2026, WB, 5517. For different PS area under Jhargram Zilla Parishad. Online Bid request and document submission closing date & time 09.03.2026 upto 17:00 Hours. All details be obtained from the website <https://eauction.gov.in/> & www.jhargram.gov.in. Sd/- District Engineer Jhargram Zilla Parishad Memo No. 753/Advt/DCO/JGM Date: 05.03.2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
TENDER ID: 2026, WB/PT, 1016442_1
DATED: 27/02/2026
WORK TITLE: SUPPLY OF GPS TRACKER AND BODY CAMERA FOR THE WEST BENGAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION-2026 BID CLOSING DATE: 13/03/2026. FOR MORE DETAILS LOG ON TO: www.wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, Murshidabad PD. ICA-761243(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
TENDER REFERENCE NO.: SPMSD/NIT 11/2025-26. TENDER ID: 2026, WB/PT, 1015595_1. WORK TITLE: SUPPLY OF STATIONERY & PRINTING ARTICLES. BID CLOSING DATE: 13/03/2026 AT 16:00 HOURS. FOR MORE DETAILS LOG ON TO: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, MURSHIDABAD POLICE DISTRICT. ICA-761243(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
N.I.T. NO. WB/TC/MD/NIT-580/2025-26 (Abridged e-Tender)
e-Tender, in prescribed form in two parts viz. Technical & Financial Bids are invited for the works: SUPPLY OF SMT, UPS & related accessories for the works: WB/TC/MD/NIT-580/2025-26. Published on 06/03/2026 at 09:00 A.M. Please visit website <http://www.wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Managing Director, For WBTC. ICA-761693(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal State Warehousing Corporation e-TENDER NOTICE
WBWSC has invited e-tenders from interested parties professionally competent & financially solvent for engagement of contractor for handling of food grains & allied services at the WBWSC managed godowns located at several places in West Bengal. Tender Id: 2026, WBWSC, 1017409_1. To 2026, WBWSC, 1017409_46. Bid Submission Closing Date: 3rd April 2026 upto 18:55 Hrs. For details, please visit the website: www.wbtdenders.gov.in & www.wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Secretary WBWSC. ICA-761713(3)/2026

e-Tender Notice
Hooghly Zilla R.M.C. invites e-Tender vide N.I.T. No. 47/HZRM/2025-2026 Date: 05.03.2026. Last date of bid submission: 23.03.2026 upto 1 P.M. The details of the e-Tenders are available on the website <https://www.wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Secretary Hooghly Zilla R.M.C.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No- 54/SEC-BUR&KMDA/W-28 (Part-VIII) of 2025-2026 (2nd Call)
e-Tender is invited by the Superintendent Engineer, Circle-II, R&B Sector, KMDA, Block-A, 7th floor, Umayam Bhawan, Sallikale, Kolkata-700091, from bonafide, reliable, experienced & resourceful firms/individuals contractors, Joint Venture, Consortium for the work, Sl. No., Name of the Work, Tender Id, Value of the work, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, (2) Repair and renovation work of Aurubinda Pally (TG Road) From: Barun Paul's House To: Ashit Roy via Sukumar Biswas's House on Ward No 18 under Rajpur Sonapur Municipal area. Tender Id: 2026, KMDA, 5013253_1. Rs.95,50,814/-, Rs.1,91,016/-, 60 days; (8) Construction of cement Concrete Road from H/O Rina Chai to the H/O Sandhya Dutta and H/O Ananta Biswas to the H/O Dhip Ram and H/O Babla Ghosh to the H/O Sonir Karmakar and H/O Anil Ghosh to the H/O Sanjay Kar and H/O Sankar Badari to the H/O Manu Badari at Gobra Ward No-06 under Dankana Municipal area. Tender Id: 2026, KMDA, 5013253_2. Rs.9,40,634/-, Rs.18,813/-, 60 days; Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 21.03.2026, Time: 14:00 hrs. (for Sl. No. 2) & 14:03.2026, Time: 14:00 hrs. (for Sl. No. 8) For details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-1415) www.kmda.wb.gov.in Sd/- Secretary WBWSC. ICA-761713(3)/2026

Firefighter injured in Majlis Park blaze dies during treatment

New Delhi: More than a week after a fire engulfed a four-storey building in Majlis Park, a firefighter—who suffered critical burns in the incident—has died. Firefighter Suresh Pehal, who was undergoing treatment at Safdarjung Hospital, had suffered nearly 30% burns and died during treatment on Monday. The fire broke out around 9am on Feb 21 on the building's 3rd floor, where several vehicles and household items were stored. The flames spread quickly, triggering panic among residents. Fourteen people were injured, including three police personnel and three fire department officials. As residents rushed out of their homes, fire and police teams began rescue work and tried to contain the blaze. During the operation, some locals attempted to move a parked car from the premises. At that moment, an LPG cylinder on the upper ground floor exploded, triggering a sudden flare-up that left responders with severe burn injuries. TNN

DTC bus catches fire in south Delhi

New Delhi: A DTC bus caught fire in south Delhi's Sangam Vihar on Thursday, Delhi Fire Service received a call about the fire near a bus stand at 12:57pm. Two fire tenders with around 10 fire personnel were rushed to the spot. The fire was soon doused. In a separate incident, another fire took place on Thursday in Rangpur of Mahipalpur. DFS received a call about a fire in the warehouse around 10am. The fire was doused soon after. No casualties took place in either incident. TNN

Noida Airport Gets Security Clearance

First Flight In 45 Days? DGCA To Carry Out Final Inspection For Aerodrome Licence In A Week

Aditya Dev
@timesofindia.com

Noida: Noida International Airport has received security clearance from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), a decisive step that moves the greenfield airport into the last stretch before commercial operations begin.

The clearance, granted on Thursday, approves the airport's core security framework like bomb threat contingency plan (BTCP), anti-hijack contingency plan (AHCP) and airport security programme (ASP). With these documents examined, the directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA) is now expected to carry out a final inspection and issue the aerodrome licence.

Officials at Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL), the govt agency monitoring the project, said the aerodrome licence could come within a week of DGCA's final inspection. "The security vetting approval on Thursday brings the airport closer to operational readiness," NIAL chief executive officer RK Singh said.

Nodal officer Shailendra Bhatia said DGCA would soon conduct the last inspection, and added that the concessionaire operating the airport must meet specific conditions



ALL SET FOR TAKEOFF

before the licence is issued. Once the aerodrome licence is granted, domestic passenger flights and cargo operations are expected to begin within 45 days, in line with the project plan. International operations are likely to start from Sept.

Union aviation secretary Samir Sinha has been trying to minimise delays on the ground that the airport has an expat CEO. Christoph Schnellmann, a Swiss national and

veteran from Zurich Airports, also played a key role when Bengaluru's airport was being built about two decades back.

It was pointed out in the home ministry that the CEOs of India's biggest airlines — IndiGo and Air India — are both expats. "We are trying to ensure having an expat CEO does not lead to any hiccups in the new airport getting operational," said a source. Schnell-

mann is widely seen as a thorough professional.

"We take pride in having people like Satya Nadella and Sundar Pichai at top positions in the world's biggest tech companies that handle critical security tasks globally. We can't frown on having expat CEOs," the source added.

According to officials, airlines such as IndiGo, Air India and Akasa Air are expected to open ticket bookings once the aerodrome licence is in hand. "The airport infrastructure envisaged in the first phase is ready to handle 12 million passengers annually. The terminal building, air traffic control tower, and runway are ready as planned," Bhatia said.

The airport's security clearance was in line for months, with BCAS teams conducting multiple inspections and asking the operator to plug gaps before approval. During one recent inspection, officials from the Union home ministry also accompanied the BCAS team.

Bhatia said the anti-hijack contingency plan had been approved earlier after verification of certain systems and equipment. According to him, the plan sets out protocols for incidents such as hijacking or bomb threats, and requires coordination among airlines, airport authorities, security

agencies, disaster management authorities and govt.

On the ground, officials said the terminal's roofing, entry-exit facilities, security apparatus and internal work are complete. The runway, air traffic control and other airside infrastructure are ready as well.

Security deployment is in place as well. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) took over airport security last year. Residential facilities have already been developed for its personnel, including accommodation for unmarried CISF staff within the airport premises, built by the concessionaire.

Officials said the recruitment and training of manpower needed for operations have been completed as well. The multimodal cargo hub infrastructure is ready, and cargo services are expected to start alongside domestic flights.

Connectivity work is also in place, including a 750-metre access road linking the airport to Yamuna Expressway.

At an event in Greater Noida West on Thursday, chief minister Yogi Adityanath said the country's largest airport would be inaugurated soon. Officials said the formal inauguration date would be finalised by the Prime Minister's Office.

Three men from Delhi, on way to dargah, killed in Hathras hit-&-run

Agra: Three young men from Delhi on their way to Kaimganj Dargah in Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh died after an unidentified vehicle hit their motorcycle in Hathras district. The accident took place near Hussainpur on the Etah-Aligarh highway under Sikandra Rao police station early on Wednesday.

25, were residents of Nangloi, Delhi, and worked as daily wage labourers. Police said the trio had left Delhi on Tuesday night on a bike. Upon receiving information, a team from Sikandra Rao Kotwali police station reached the spot and sent the bodies for post-mortem. The families of the victims were informed after identifying them through documents found in their pockets. TNN

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Arguments triggered murders in all three cases, nine held so far

Continued from P1

The injured were rushed to hospital—three from one side and five from the other side were injured. Both groups originally hail from Rajasthan. We registered a case and arrested four adults and apprehended one juvenile. One of the injured, Tarun Kumar died during treatment. So, we added Sec 103 to the FIR and added murder charges," the DCP said.

Speaking to TOI, Tarun's uncle, Tek Chand, said their relative, an 11-year-old girl, was playing Holi on the terrace when she threw a water balloon at her father standing below. The balloon fell onto the road and splashed water on a woman from the neighbouring family, who, according to Tarun's family, belonged to a different community. "We apologised, but she didn't listen and called her relatives, picking up a fight with us," he said. Tek Chand claimed the matter was initially settled. About an hour later, Tarun was returning on his bike after playing Holi with a friend. A group of 15-20 people, according to Tek Chand, stopped him and allegedly assaulted him with iron rods, bricks, stones, and other objects. Security in the area has been tightened following the incident.

Two more murders were reported during Holi. In Burari, a man was killed and his friend critically injured during an attack by a group. The incident reportedly followed a scuffle after a man allegedly used abusive language during a video call. Others objected, leading to a scuffle during

which Nepal Ram and his friend, standing nearby, were attacked. Two men have been arrested, and a minor apprehended. In another incident from Kanjhawla, a 36-year-old cab driver, Vikash Sharma, died after being attacked by two minors after an argument.



Vacancy Notification No. MRVC/E/65/2026/Reg Dated 02-03-2026

Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. invites applications for filling up of 05 post of "Manager (Civil)" in IDA E3 scale on direct recruitment basis. Last date for submission of application by email is 20-03-2026. For further details, please visit website https://mrv.vikasrailways.gov.in/Corrigendum, if any, will be posted on the website only.

Notice for Retired Employees of WBSDDL
The Group Medical Insurance Policy (Floater Basis) for the retired employees of WBSDDL for the year 2026-2027 will be implemented in association with the Go Digit General Insurance Ltd. with effect from 08.03.2026. For further details, visit the Company's website www.wbsddl.in (Retired Employees' Corner). In case of any query, contact: Group Medical Insurance Cell, C-Block, 6th Floor, Vidyut Bhavan, Kolkata-700091. Tel. No.: (033) 2359-8385.

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block D1, Sector 01, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CN : 140109WB20075GCL13473, www.wbsddl.in ICA-NBS(41)/2026

NOTIFICATION
Notification for selection to the position of Executive Vice President Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment published and the details are available on the following Websites of Kerala State Planning Board (www.spb.kerala.gov.in), Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (www.kscste.kerala.gov.in) and Government of Kerala (https://kerala.gov.in).

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No. 2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in
IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-91/2286/2025-26 Date: 04.03.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of:
Name of the Work : Formation of 15m wide road, 18m wide road, 24m wide road, 30m wide road & 45m wide road, construction of RCC Side Drain, Construction of spur culvert & Construction of box culvert at Dobaspeth 5th Phase Industrial Area, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : 07.04.2026 upto 4.00 pm.
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru
DIPRI/CP/6010/ZEN/2025-26

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Kissa Lodhi Colony Ka.
Lodhi Art District, pastel quarters, tree-lined lanes. That's what Instagram captures. What it misses are the residents who saw blank walls turn into global galleries, cafés hidden behind laburnum trees, old bookstores you chance upon, and dogs with unofficial caretakers. These real stories live within the colony. It's time they stepped out.
Kissa Kolony Ka by The Times of India invites you to share insider stories of Lodhi Colony - stories of safety, community, eco-discipline, infrastructure, amenities and imagery, straight from its residents.
What's more? Read these stories from Delhi's top colonies in The Times of India.
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Corrigendum

With reference to EOI No.13 dated 13.02.2026 for rate contract with agencies working in the field of rental sale right media sites for hiring of rental sites. Earlier the last date of submission of EOI was 05.03.2026 now the last date of submission of EOI has been extended to 23.03.2026 till 3 p.m.

Raj/Samwadi/C/25/21760 Executive Director (Finance)

National Horticultural Research And Development Foundation
Bagwani Bhawan, D-47, Pankha Road, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Phone No.: 011-28524150/2852221/28525129
E-mail: delhi@nhrdf.org Website: www.nhrdf.org

Ref.No: NHRDF/HO/Tender/AD-51/2025-26/4610 Dated:18.02.2026

Sale of Onion Seed

INVITATION FOR BID

National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF), New Delhi, invites bids in sealed covers from intending bidders for sale of onion seeds available at its Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Karnal (Haryana), Rajkot (Gujarat) and Deoria (Uttar Pradesh) Centres.

The tender papers and other details can be downloaded from our websites www.nhrdf.org. The last date of submission of quotations to above address will be 18/03/2026 till 5.00 PM. The quotations will be opened on 19/03/2026 at 3.00 PM. NHRDF reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason therefor.

Joint Director (Horticulture)

KERALA CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRI VALUE CHAIN MODERNISATION PROJECT (KERA) SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Project Director, Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project (The World Bank Project ID No.: P178254) invites bids for the following tender from eligible vendors:

1. Tender ID: 2026_KERA_844104_1

Goods: Supply and Installation of Soil Testing Laboratories equipment for Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Kerala Agriculture University (KAU)

(Ref. No. KERA/01/GOODS/2026/RFB)

Last date of submission of Bid is 06/04/2026, 3:00 PM

The tender Document can be downloaded from Kerala eTender portal starting from 05/03/2026, 4:30PM.

Municipal Corporation, Faridabad
B.K. Chowk N.I.T Faridabad-121001, Haryana-India
Tel : 0129-2411649, 2411664, 2415549
Fax : 0129-2416465

Expression of Interest

Municipal Corporation Faridabad invites reputed agencies/firms for presentation and discussion regarding establishment of EV Charging Stations in Faridabad on revenue sharing model. Interested parties are requested to submit details covering the following:

- Company profile and experience in EV charging infrastructure projects.
- Proposed charging technology, Battery Swapping System standards, and safety compliance details.
- Types of chargers and electrical load requirements.
- Revenue sharing model with Municipal Corporation Faridabad.
- Investment plan, installation timeline, and scalability options.
- Operation, maintenance, and uptime assurance commitment.
- Previous projects executed with government or urban local bodies.
- Methodology for site survey and identification of suitable locations within MCF limits.
- Proposal for Solar Powered EV Charging Stations, including technical feasibility, capacity planning, and investment model.

Interested agencies may submit their Expression of Interest along with technical details on email id mcxfenhg@gmail.com, mcfaunul1@gmail.com on or before 15-03-2026. MCF shall invite the applicant for presentation after scrutiny of the proposal.

Executive Engineer (HQ)
Municipal Corporation,
Faridabad,
Mob- 9896689902

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Tender No.	Nature of Work	Date of publishing tender document in TNP/NNIC website	Due date	
252613 007544	Procurement of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate - 20%	09.03.2026	23.03.2026	
252613 007551	Procurement of Cationic Starch (In Jumbo Bags) for Unit - I.	11.03.2026	25.03.2026	
252613 007545	Procurement of Caustic Soda Lye for Unit - I & II.	27.03.2026	10.04.2026	
252613 007560	Procurement of Sulphur Dioxide for Unit - I & II.	04.04.2026	18.04.2026	
252613 007546	Procurement of Maize Based Native Starch (In Jumbo Bags) for Unit - I.	13.04.2026	27.04.2026	
252613 007558	Procurement of Sodium Hydrosulphite for Unit - I.	05.05.2026	19.05.2026	
252613 007547	Procurement of Liquid PAC (Poly Aluminium Chloride) for Unit - I.	02.05.2026	15.05.2026	
252613 007559	Procurement of Sulphuric Acid for Unit - I & II.	05.05.2026	19.05.2026	
252613 007549	Procurement of Hydrogen Peroxide for Unit - I & II.	19.05.2026	02.06.2026	
252613 007595	Procurement of Pigment Dyes (Violet & Blue) for Paper Machine #1, 2 & 3.	22.05.2026	05.06.2026	
252613 007562	Procurement of Burnt Lime for Production of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (WPC).	13.03.2026	27.03.2026	
252613 007598	Procurement of Imported Burnt Lime (In Jumbo Bags) for Production of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (WPC).	25.03.2026	13.04.2026	
252613 007533	Procurement of Heavy Duty LOPE Shrink Film Roll, 80 / 90 Microns of various sizes of TNP Unit - I.	23.03.2026	06.04.2026	
252613 007536	Procurement of 300 GSM Circular Grey Board Disc - 93 CM x 95 CM x 97 CM for Unit - I & II.	15.04.2026	29.04.2026	
252613 007537	Procurement of 720 GSM Kraft Corrugated Circular Disc (5 Ply) - 97 CM for Unit - I.	15.04.2026	29.04.2026	
252613 007555	Procurement of Heat Treated Ply Wood Pallets of various sizes for Unit - I.	20.04.2026	04.05.2026	
252623 004312	Procurement of Latex - 2 (Pre Coat - SBR Binder) for Paper Machine (CCK) of TNP Unit - II.	25.03.2026	09.04.2026	
252623 004313	Procurement of Liquid Non Ferric Alum for Board Machine (CCK) of TNP Unit - II.	12.05.2026	27.05.2026	
252623 004321	Procurement of Sodium Sulphate (In Jumbo Bags) for SRP of TNP Unit - II.	02.05.2026	16.05.2026	
252623 004328	Procurement of 90 GSM Plain Kraft Sheets & Sheets of various sizes (BF-24) for TNP Unit - II.	17.03.2026	01.04.2026	
252623 004330	Procurement of Heavy Duty LOPE Shrink Film Roll (70 micron) of various sizes for TNP Unit - II.	18.04.2026	04.05.2026	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNP Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : www.tnpl.com / www.tntenders.org / www.innecgapp

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Under CCRUM, Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Eligible candidates are invited for Walk-in-Interview for the following contractual post on the date and time indicated below at Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), D-11, Abul Fazal Enclave, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, N. D.-110025.

Sr. No.	Name of the post	Date of Walk-in-interview	Reporting Time
1.	SRF (UNANI) - ONE	17 th March, 2026	10:00 A.M.

Place of Posting: UMC, Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi

2. Complete details about the eligibility conditions, number of posts, remuneration etc. of above mentioned contractual post may be downloaded from the Council's website www.ccrum.res.in. Any addendum/corrigendum will be posted only on Council's website.

3. Eligible candidates should come with the Curriculum Vitae in the prescribed format, which can be downloaded from the website of the Council. They should also bring original educational/professional qualification certificates and experience certificates with a set of photocopies and two recent passport size photographs.

Deputy Director RRIUM, New Delhi

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala - 147001
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-01116)

Tender Enquiry No. 11/GCD/LDH/TS/SPSCL/2026 Dated: 06.03.2026

ASE/ Grid Construction, opp. PAU Gate No. 1, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites Short Term e-Tender for Outsourcing of 3 no. Augmentation of Power Transformer (12.5 mva to 20 mva including matching work) related works on partial turnkey mode under Grid Construction Division, Ludhiana under Grid Construction Circle, Ludhiana.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 06.03.2026 (01:00 PM onwards).

Note : Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

C-330/26, DPR/Pb. 1079/12/2025-26/9079

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala - 147001
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-01116)

Tender Enquiry No. 12/GCD/LDH/TS/SPSCL/2026 Dated: 06.03.2026

ASE/ Grid Construction, opp. PAU Gate No. 1, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites Short Term e-Tender for Outsourcing of 6 no. Additional PTF's (4 no. With 20 MVA PTF and 2 no. With 12.5 MVA PTF) related works on partial turnkey mode under Grid Construction Division, Ludhiana under Grid Construction Circle, Ludhiana.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 06.03.2026 (01:00 PM onwards).

Note : Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

C-331/26, DPR/Pb. 1079/12/2025-26/9080

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001, CIN : U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website : www.pspcl.in
Phone No. - 0175-2207649 Email id - se-it-os@pspcil.in

Tender Enquiry No. 357/DIT-1025 Vol-1 dated : 03.03.2026

Deputy Chief Engineer-IIT (Q&S), Ground Floor PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala invites e-Tender for Renewal of AMC/ OEM support for Backup Appliance and Backup software. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 03.03.2026, 4:00 pm onwards.

Note : Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

C 334/26, DPR/Pb. : 1079/12/2025-26/9084

संत लोमोवाच अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
सोलावा, सूरसूर, पुणे - 418106
(निष्ठा मंदिर, भारत सरकार के अधीन सप्त विश्वविद्यालय)
Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology
Longowal, Distt. Sangrur, Punjab - 148106
(Deemed-to-be University under Ministry of Education, Government of India)
E-mail - info@slit.ac.in / admission@slit.ac.in, TEL: 01823-253475, E. Tel/Fax No. 01672-253475

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-Tender in two Bid system, i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid are invited for

(i) Repair / Renovation of Bathrooms of Girls Hostel No. 02.

(ii) Repair / Renovation / Up-gradation of Multi Purpose Hall at SLIET, Longowal.

(iii) Provision of Smart Class Rooms in the Academic Building at SLIET Longowal.

(iv) Annual Repair & Maintenance of Internal Roads i.e. from Bus stand near Directors Residence to Round about near Duggan Gate (Guest House, Estate Office, Boys Hostel No. 02, 06, 09, 10, Admin. Block, SLIET Nursery, Lake upto Big roundabout Duggan Gate).

(v) Repair/Renovation of Restaurant, Shops in SAC & Food Junction Shops (near Mech. & near Stadium) at SLIET, Longowal.

For more details and terms & conditions, please visit www.eprocure.gov.in / eprocure/app and www.sliet.ac.in

REGISTRAR, SLIET

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Jeffery Robert S/o Osaro R/o Village Ambrhah Sector - 19, Dwarka Delhi also at 233, Gali No. 22, Vipin Garden Extension, Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 141/2022 U/s 21 (C) of NDPS Act P.S. Mohan Garden, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Jeffery Robert cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Jeffery Robert has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant),

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Jeffery Robert of case FIR No. 141/2022 U/s 21 (C) of NDPS Act P.S. Mohan Garden, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 06.04.2026.

By Order
Ms. Bhavna Kalia
Additional Session Judge/ Special Judge (NDPS) - 01
South West, Court No. 610, Sixth Floor
Dwarka Courts, Delhi

DIP/2830/DW/2026 (Court Matter)

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT CUM MEMBER SECRETARY, RMRS, SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR
(Sawai Man Singh Road, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302 001)
(Phone 0141-2518308, 0141 2565647)
Email-ms.smshospital@gmail.com, ems.smshospital@gmail.com

No. 590 Store/SMS/MH/2025 Jaipur dated, the 25/02/26

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for two years rate contract for procurement of Joint Replacement Implants are invited from interested bidders up to 31/03/26 on 05:00pm Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eprocure.raj.nic.in>) or <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> of the state.

Sd/-
Medical Superintendent Cum
Member Secretary RMRS, S.M.S. Hospital, Jaipur
DIPR/C/4514/2026

राष्ट्रीय वित्तीय शिक्षा केन्द्र
National Centre for Financial Education
एन सी एफ ई
A financially aware and empowered India

Promoted By :
SEBI, RBI, IRDAI, PFRDA

6th Floor, NISM Bhavan, Plot No. 82, Sector-17, Vashi, Navi Mumbai,
Maharashtra - 400 703; Phone: 022-68265104/119124; Email Id: itoprojects@ncfe.org.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

NCFE is inviting Request for Proposal (RFP) for Design, Development, Implementation and Maintenance of a Financial Literacy Assessment Portal for NCFE. Bidders may submit their response with all the necessary documents on or before 18th March 2026 by 16:00 hrs. The RFP document may be downloaded from NCFE's website www.ncfe.org.in/tenders

Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any, will be published at www.ncfe.org.in

ONGC TRIPURA POWER COMPANY LTD.
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

ONGC Tripura Power Company Limited (OTPC) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced International/National firms for the Supply of Refurbished/New Rotor for GE Frame 9FA 03 Gas Turbine for its 2x363.3 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Palatana, Tripura.

a. EOI No.	b. Date of Issue of EOI	c. Last date and time for submission of EOI at 10 th Floor, Core 4 & Central, SCOPE MINAR, Lamri Nagar, Delhi - 110092 (India), or upload the documents on CPP Portal https://tenders.gov.in	OTPC/DEL/25-26/001
			3 rd March 2026
			27 th March 2026 at 3:00 PM

EOI document can be downloaded from <https://tenders.gov.in> at the Central Public Procurement Portal and from our official website www.otpcindia.in. Amendments / Corrigendum / Addendum, if any would be hosted on the website only.

Managing Director, OTPC

TELANGANA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
A STATE GOVT. UNDERTAKING
Regd. Office: "S" Block, E-3-6553/A, Civil Supplies Bhawan, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500 082, Telangana

Ln.No.Mktg/1171/G/Unserviceable gunny/2019-20/TS Dated: .03.2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

PAN India Tenders disposal of around 2.57 Crore unserviceable old 50kg gunnies to be disposed on "As is where is basis" from various bidders godowns / MLS Points of TGSCCL in the Districts of Telangana State through GeM Portal. Pre-bid Meeting will be held on 12.03.2026 and Tenders will be opened for technical scrutiny on 23.03.2026 afternoon onwards and details can be viewed and participated through www.gem.gov.in / tgsccl.telangana.gov.in. Contact details: 7995050703

Sd/- Vice Chairman & Managing Director
DIPR R.O.No.1231-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt:04-03-2026

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
PC 1136	CE / P&C	AMC for the SAMSAT IT Infrastructure DATA CENTRE
T-2373 & T-2374	CE / Transmission	Supply of auto transformers & Solid Core Insulators
ETS No 66 & 67/25-26	SE / GCC / Coimbatore	Civil, Electrical & Line works @ 110 KV SS

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tenders.gov.in/nicgeapp

DIPR/1586/Tender/2026

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, PALI
ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CELL

Sr.no. -MCP/Env. & SWM/NIT 08 /Super Sucker/2025-26/574-77 Date: 26.02.2026

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

Online Proposal are invited on behalf of Municipal Corporation Pali from the reputed, experience and technically eligible Contractor firm for the work of "Supply and delivery of 01 nos Super Sucker machine (With two Dump Tank) with comprehensive operation and maintenance of Period for Five years" the further detailed regarding to bid Documents can be downloaded from the e-tendering portal <http://eproc.Rajasthan.gov.in> And <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> Estimate cost of work are 363.00 lakhs.

Work Code: DL6252682276
UBIN: DL6252682276
Raj.Samwadi/C/25/1671

Commissioner
Municipal Corporation Pali

HASSAN MANGALORE RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Government of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
Reg. Office: MSIL House, 7th floor, #36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560001. Tel: 080-23120582
E-mail: ceohmrdc@gmail.com CIN: U45203KA2003SGC032183

No: HMRDC/Project/12/Capital Consultancy/2025-26 Date: 05.03.2026

TENDER NOTICE

HMRDC invites sealed tender for the engagement of an independent Consultant for Capital investment review, Capacity Augmentation Planning and cost Apportionment Study.

The last date for receipt of the Tender is 27-03-2026 at 05.00 P.M.

For more details interested parties may visit the registered office of the Company mentioned above or visit our website: www.hmrdc.com under Tenders /EOI's.

Sd/-
CS/HMRDC
DIPR/CP/SMCL/6006/2025-26

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female named Simpi Kumari, D/o Mithlesh Prasad, R/o H.No. 225, 4th Floor Near Chhoti Chaupal, Mahipalpur, Delhi has been missing since 26.02.2026 at about 01:00 AM from her home. In this regard DD No. 01 A, Dated 27.02.2026 has been lodged at Police Station Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Simpi Kumari, Age: 19 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Yellow Colour Shirt and Black Colour Trouser.

If anyone has any information about this missing female please inform P.S. Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station Vasant Kunj, New Delhi
DP/2819/SW/2026 Ph: 9958926582, 9958781467

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) Namely: Priyanka, D/o. Man Singh, R/o: Purushotam Ka Makan, Near Shanti Mandir, Gali No. 4, Rana Park, Siraspur, Delhi has been Missing/ Kidnapped from this address since 27.02.2026 at 11.30 A.M. In this regard a missing report case vide FIR No.162/2026 dated 28.02.2026 U/s 137(2) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 has been lodged at P.S Samapur Badli, Outer North District, Delhi-110042.

Her Physical description is as under:-
Sex: Female, Age: 17 Years, Height: 5' 2", Complexion: Sallow, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Chocolate Color Suit Salwar, Red Dupatta & Black Slippers.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this girl please inform to the following.

Phone No.: 011-24368638, 011-24368641 | Fax no.: 011-24368639 | Email id: cic@cbi.nic.in | Website : <https://cbi.nic.in>

SHO
P.S - Samaipur Badli, Delhi
DP/2799/ON/2026 Phone: 7065036326

The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited
Door No.294/1D, 100 Feet Road (Tadipadga to Enikepadga Road), Kamuru, Vijayawada-521137, Andhra Pradesh, India

Scaler Consulting Private Limited
www.scalerconsulting.com
New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Pune

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION ON CONTRACT BASIS

APMDC with RPO (Scaler Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.) invites applications for the following position from the eligible candidates with required qualifications as prescribed in the portal. The post is purely on contract basis on the requirement of the Corporation.

SL No	Name of the Post	No of Posts	Place of posting
1	Vice President - Coal	01	Head Office, Vijayawada
2	Vice President - HMBs	01	Head Office, Vijayawada
3	Vice President - Minerals	01	Head Office, Vijayawada

The detailed description of the post will be downloaded from our website www.apmdc.ap.gov.in/Careers. The Corporation has right to modify the conditions or cancel the advertisement without assigning any reason and further notice. The last date for submission of applications by online to e-mail: response@scalerconsulting.com is on or before 20.03.2026 by 05.00 PM.

Place: Vijayawada
Date: 05.03.2026

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR
DIPR No.4882/PPCL/ADVT/1/1/2025-22 Dt:04/03/2026

National Health Mission
STATE HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 1st Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560023.
Phone No: 080-23113584 e-mail: pdrc-hfwsc@karnataka.gov.in

No: DD/NCDD/06/2025-26 (Part-A) (1778672) Date: 04-03-2026
Indent No: NHM/2025-26/SE0039

SERVICE TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)

National Health Mission (NHM), Karnataka invites Sealed Proposals through e-Procurement Portal from eligible and Qualified Agencies for Selection of Service Provider for Setting up a Time Bound System (ECG and its Transmission, Interpretation and Tele - Reporting) for Diagnosis of Patients with ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) in Karnataka under NHM.

Tender document with detailed eligibility criteria, scope of work, terms and conditions will be available on the official e-Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Interested bidders are requested to participate as per the schedule mentioned in the tender document.

The tender document can be downloaded through e-Procurement Portal from 04-03-2026 onwards and Last Date for Receipt of Tender is on or before 5.30 PM on 17-04-2026.

Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours from 11.00 AM. to 5.30 PM.

Sd/-
Project Director (RCH)
DIPR/CP/6008/Advtro/2025-26

TELANGANA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
VIDYUT SOUDHA - HYDERABAD - 82.

T.No.58/CEG/SEG-III/ESA15/Sulphuric Acid

Fountain Set Up For Summit Vandalised

Was Installed At Cost Of ₹1.5L; FIR Lodged

Neha.Mishra@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A newly installed decorative fountain near the Lodhi Road red light towards Nizamuddin has been vandalised days after it was set up as part of a beautification initiative.

Civic officials said an FIR was lodged and a police investigation was under way.

The fountain, installed by MCD at a cost of Rs 1.5 lakh, is in front of the fixed compactor transfer station near Nizamuddin Basti. A civic official said the structure was damaged on the night of Feb 20.

"A decorative fountain... was vandalised shortly after the conclusion of the AI summit," he told TOI, adding that the project included the construction of boundary walls, pedestals and landscaping work at multiple locations.

The installation was part of a larger beautification exercise at several prominent areas of the city such as Bharat Mandapam, Humayun Tomb and Lodhi Hotel, and included the construction of boundary walls, pedestals and landscaping. Civic officials said the fountain and surrounding grass plantation had improved the appearance of the site after it was installed.

The damage, detected on the morning of Feb 21, was reported to Nizamuddin police station with a request to identify those responsible.

Police have started an investigation. A suspect was reportedly questioned, officials said. Authorities condemned the act and stressed the need to safeguard public infrastructure created for urban improvement and beautification.

Another senior official said: "Once the investigation is complete, we will repair the fountain as soon as possible. At present, we are not carrying out the repairs to avoid interfering with the ongoing investigation."

A PWD report said that at 47 roundabouts, safe and environment-friendly green cover is being developed. Native plants and shrubs, suited to the local climate and soil, were selected because green cover plays a key role in curbing road dust and pollution.

Apart from pollution control measures, the department has also reported progress on road infrastructure, flyovers and citywide redevelopment in 2025-26. Among the major projects completed during the period were the Nand Nagri-Gagan Cinema flyover and Loni Chowk underpass in northeast Delhi. Built at a cost of Rs 341.20 crore, the 820-metre, six-lane flyover opened on Sept 28 last year.

Work on a large-scale end-to-end road redevelopment programme covering 1,440 km across the capital was also started. The upgraded corridors will feature redesigned footpaths, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and green belts.

Jatin Kumar



NOW



THEN

Mist system on 1k street lights to curb air pollution

AlokKNNMishra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Delhi Public Works Department has planned to install water sprinkler systems on 1,000 street lights across the capital.

It is part of anti-pollution measures under which the PWD has started greening and beautification work at 47 roundabouts. These green walls, aimed at improving urban aesthetics and air quality, will be equipped with automated drip irrigation systems that will run on recycled water from nearby sewage treatment plants, PWD minister Parvesh Verma said. Alongside this initiative, PWD also completed the rejuvenation of 10 major parks across Delhi.

"To combat air pollution, PWD is widely deploying sprinkler and mist spray systems. Sprinklers were proposed for 1,000 street-light poles, with 271 units already installed and 305 mist spray systems operational. It will help strengthen dust control and improve air quality," Verma said.

A PWD report said that at 47 roundabouts, safe and environment-friendly green cover is being developed. Native plants and shrubs, suited to the local climate and soil, were selected because green cover plays a key role in curbing road dust and pollution.

Apart from pollution control measures, the department has also reported progress on road infrastructure, flyovers and citywide redevelopment in 2025-26. Among the major projects completed during the period were the Nand Nagri-Gagan Cinema flyover and Loni Chowk underpass in northeast Delhi. Built at a cost of Rs 341.20 crore, the 820-metre, six-lane flyover opened on Sept 28 last year.

Work on a large-scale end-to-end road redevelopment programme covering 1,440 km across the capital was also started. The upgraded corridors will feature redesigned footpaths, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and green belts.

Land acquisition case: No relief for DANICS officer

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has dismissed a plea by a govt officer challenging proceedings for allegedly misusing his position in a sensitive land acquisition matter.

The court refused relief to the DANICS (Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Civil Service) officer challenging a disciplinary penalty imposed on him and upheld an earlier decision of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in connection with the penalty imposed for the misconduct.

In 2016, when the officer was serving as a land acquisition collector in the city, he

of promotion during that period, postponement of future increments, and alteration of seniority. On appeal, the govt authority upheld the penalty. The officer challenged the punishment before CAT, which dismissed his plea in July 2021, though it allowed him to submit a representation seeking reduction of the penalty when the representation was also rejected, the officer approached the high court in 2025, nearly four years after the CAT decision.

Dealing first with the delay, the high court noted that the officer had failed to provide an adequate explanation for the delay in approaching the court. It also rejected the argument that rejection of his representation constituted a fresh cause of action, clarifying that CAT gave him liberty only for the reconsideration of the penalty and did not reopen the case.

The court ruled that the petition was barred by delay and laches, but added that even on the issue of merit, it found no justification to interfere.

Under Land Acquisition Act, the court observed, once land vests with govt, the land acquisition collector has no authority to restore the land or reverse the acquisition by accepting a refund of compensation

had, according to a complaint, issued an order allowing the refund of more than Rs 3.3 crore and treated the acquisition proceedings as concluded.

It was brought to the attention of senior authorities that this order was passed after his transfer and he allegedly preponed the date of the hearing in the case.

Following this, disciplinary proceedings were initiated against the officer, with enough evidence found to frame charges against him on one account: that the officer had acted in haste and without following proper procedure, which constituted misconduct.

The disciplinary authority had imposed penalties, including reduction of pay scale for three years, suspension

Man shot dead on Holi by girlfriend's brother in Noida

Noida: A 39-year-old property dealer was allegedly shot dead by his girlfriend's brother near a housing society's market area in Sector 75 on Holi afternoon, after a confrontation over their extra-marital relationship.

The victim, Sahil Singhal, a resident of Ivy County, was shot multiple times during an argument. Police have taken four people into custody, including Singhal's girlfriend Priya Solanki (27), her brothers Nikhil Solanki and Lokesh Solanki, and an associate identified as Lucky.

According to police, Singhal and Priya had been in a relationship for about four years. They met while Singhal was working at a project site in Greater Noida West.

Investigators said Priya learned about three years ago that Singhal was married and had two children. After that, tensions grew between the two. Police said Priya allegedly demanded money and pressured Singhal to divorce his wife and marry her, something he was unwilling to do. TNN

Seven minors among eight held for murder of 18-year-old in Azadpur

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 28-year-old man, along with seven minors, was apprehended for allegedly shooting dead an 18-year-old in northwest Delhi's Azadpur last month, police said on Thursday. The accused had planned the attack to avenge the murder of an accomplice, but ended up killing the teen instead.

The incident took place on Feb 22 near the main gate of MCD colony, where Ishant had gone to attend a wedding. When police reached the spot, they found him lying in a pool of blood with gunshot injuries. The victim was taken to a Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Seven empty cartridges and four live cartridges were recovered from the spot. A motorcycle without a number plate and the victim's scooter were also found abandoned there. A case was registered. After evidence was duly corroborated, Mohit Pal (28) was identified and nabbed. Mohit, a habitual offender, was involved in six criminal cases pertaining to attempted murder, robbery, snatching and theft.

During interrogation, Mohit said that the group met at Bhaswa village and hatched a plan to kill one Narender, an accused in the 2024 murder of Mohit's accomplice Deepak, who was expected to attend the wedding after he was out on parole. However, when they could not find him, they shot Ishant, believing him to be associated with Narender.

Another senior official said: "Once the investigation is complete, we will repair the fountain as soon as possible. At present, we are not carrying out the repairs to avoid interfering with the ongoing investigation."

A PWD report said that at 47 roundabouts, safe and environment-friendly green cover is being developed. Native plants and shrubs, suited to the local climate and soil, were selected because green cover plays a key role in curbing road dust and pollution.

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Dealing first with the delay, the high court noted that the officer had failed to provide an adequate explanation for the delay in approaching the court. It also rejected the argument that rejection of his representation constituted a fresh cause of action, clarifying that CAT gave him liberty only for the reconsideration of the penalty and did not reopen the case.

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The disciplinary authority had imposed penalties, including reduction of pay scale for three years, suspension

TIMES ascent

Captain your career

Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal's
DWARKADAS J. SANGHVI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (AUTONOMOUS)

Plot No. U-15, Juhu Scheme, Bhaktivedanta Swami Marg, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai 400 056
MINORITY
APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26. UNAIDED

Cadre	Subject	Category	Cadre	Subject	Category
PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No	Information Technology	01- OPEN	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No	Computer Science and Engineering (IOT and Cyber Security with Block Chain Technology)	01- OPEN
PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No	Computer Engineering	01- OPEN	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No	Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering	01- OPEN
PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No	Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science)	01- OPEN	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No	Information Technology	01- OPEN
PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning	01- OPEN	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 03 Nos	Computer Engineering	03- OPEN
PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No	Mechanical Engineering	01- OPEN	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No	Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science)	01- OPEN
PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No	Artificial Intelligence(AI) and Data Science	01- OPEN	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 02 Nos	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning	02- OPEN
PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No	Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering	01- OPEN	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 03 Nos	Mechanical Engineering	03- OPEN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 02 Nos	Information Technology	02- OPEN	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No	Computer Science and Engineering (IOT and Cyber Security with Block Chain Technology)	01- OPEN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 02 Nos	Computer Engineering	02- OPEN	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 10 Nos	Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering	10- OPEN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 03 Nos	Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science)	03- OPEN	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 01 No	Applied Mathematics	01- OPEN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 02 Nos	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning	02- OPEN			
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Total No. of Posts: 02 Nos	Mechanical Engineering	02- OPEN			

For Professor (Horizontal Reservation) – Women – 02 Posts. | For Associate Professor (Horizontal Reservation) – Persons with Disability Total Posts – 01 (A Group-B, LV-01 Post) | Sportsmen – 01 Post & Women – 04 Posts | For Assistant Professor (Horizontal Reservation) – Persons with Disability Total Posts – 01 (A Group-B, LV-01 Post) | Sportsmen – 01 Post & Women – 07 Posts.

The above posts are open to all, however candidates from any category can apply for the post. Reservation for women will be as per University Circular No.: BCC/16/74/1998 dated 10th March, 1998. 4% reservation shall be for the persons with disability as per University Circular No. Special Cell/ICC/2019-20/05 dated 05th July, 2019. Candidates having knowledge of Marathi will be preferred.

The Educational Qualification, Experience and pay-scale for the post of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor are as prescribed by the University of Mumbai, AICTE and DTE from time to time. Please refer University Circular No मध्याह्न/विश्वविद्यालय/११/२०२०-२०२१ दिनांक ११ जानेवारी, २०२१ for qualifications and experience at the time of interview.

Applicants who are already employed must send their application through proper channel. Applicants are required to account for breaks, if any, in their academic career. Applications with full details should reach THE PRINCIPAL, DWARKADAS J.SANGHVI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, PLOT NO. U-15, JUHU SCHEME, BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMIMARG, VILE PARLE (W), MUMBAI 400056 within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. This is University approved advertisement.

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL

It is advised to submit the applications along with Resume/CV online through Career Section on www.djsce.ac.in.

TIMES ascent

Captain your career

Regd. Office: IDBI Bank Ltd, IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai – 400005
Tel: 022-66553355

IDBI Bank Ltd.
Advertisement No. 6 & 7/2025-26

Recruitment of Assistant Manager - Grade 'A' Junior Assistant Manager - Grade 'O' 2026-27

IDBI Bank Ltd. invites online applications for the following positions:

S.N.	Position	Tentative Vacancies
1.	Assistant Manager – Grade 'A'	200
2.	JAM - Grade 'O' (Regional)	1100

For eligibility criteria (age, qualification etc.), requisite fees and other details, please visit the 'Careers' section of the Bank's website www.idbibank.in

Online registration window - March 8, 2026 till March 19, 2026.

NOTE: IDBI Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any/all application(s) without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever. Any addendum/modifications with regards to the selection process shall only be published on the Bank's website (career section) www.idbibank.in and not through any other mode. Candidates are requested to regularly visit the website as above, for updates on the matter.

Place - Mumbai General Manager-HR

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान अगर्ताला
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AGARTALA
Barjala, Jirania (W) Tripura - 799046

No. F.NITA-2(545-Estt)/2022/11450 Date: 23.02.2026
FACULTY RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited for recruitment to the posts of Professor and Associate Professor at NIT Agartala in various Academic Departments. The submission has two steps: (1) The Applicants need to apply through online application submission system available on the Institute website (<http://www.nita.ac.in/>). (2) In the next step, the printed copy of the filled in application along with all self attested documents are to be submitted to the Registrar, NIT Agartala. Applicants are requested to go through the details of posts, educational qualifications, experience, others criteria and instructions for selection to faculty positions, which are available on the Institute website (<http://www.nita.ac.in/>). Opening date of Online portal : 01.03.2026 Last date of Submission of online application : 31.03.2026 Last date of receipt of printed copy of application : 15.04.2026 Reservation policy for different category will be applicable as per Govt. of India norms. Applicants are to submit their online applications and subsequently the printed copy of online application along with all supporting documents to be sent to the Office of the Registrar, NIT Agartala.

REGISTRAR

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Agra (Formerly Agra University, Agra)

Advertisement No: DBRAU/RW/2026/A26 -A27 Date: 28-02-2026
RECRUITMENT NOTICE

In continuation of Advertisement No. DBRAU/RW/2026/A01-A25 dated 20.01.2026, online applications are invited in the prescribed format for filling regular posts of Assistant Professor in the subjects of **Zoology and Physics** at the University. The last date for submission of the online application form is 17.04.2026. A printout of the duly filled online application form, along with the annexure, must reach the office of the Registrar by registered post on or before 27.04.2026 up to 05:00 PM. For online application, please visit the University Samarth Portal <https://dbraurec.samarth.edu.in> Further information is available on the University website <http://www.dbrau.ac.in/> Applicants are advised to apply before the last date. Registrar

काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
An Institution of National Importance established by an Act of Parliament

Banaras Hindu University established a DST sponsored Sophisticated Analytical Technical Help Institute (SATHI) in its campus. To operate these facilities in a professional manner, application are invited for the post of Chief Operating Officer on contractual basis. For details visit <https://www.bhu.ac.in/> Site/TempVacancyDetail/1_2_162207

BIENNIAL SERVICE RATE CONTRACT OF HT MOTOR OVERHAULING, METALIZING, DYNAMIC BALANCING & TRUENESS CHECKING UNDER DIFFERENT DEPTT. OF KTPS
Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref No. WBPDC/LTend-Adv/25-26/KTPS/CC-5147, Dtd: 27/02/26
NIT No: WBPDC/KTPS/NIT/E3844/25-26
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Biennial Service Rate contract of HT motor overhauling, metalizing, dynamic balancing & trueness checking under different deptt. of KTPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 10.03.2026 at 14:00 Hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 06.04.2026 at 14:00 Hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Krishna Gupta, Sr. Manager (PS) (Contract Cell), KTPS, Contact No.: 8336909047, E-mail: kgupta@wbpd.co.in. For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA-161303/2026

BIENNIAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPING ACTIVITIES AT KTPS TOWNSHIP
Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref No. WBPDC/LTend-Adv/25-26/KTPS/CC-5144, Dtd: 27/02/26
NIT No: WBPDC/KTPS/NIT/E3847/25-26
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Biennial Maintenance Contract for Horticulture and Landscaping activities at KTPS Township". Tender Document Download Start Date: 06.03.2026 at 10:30 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 30.03.2026 up to 16:00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Upal Chakraborty, Contact No.: 9874189135, E-mail: uchakraborty@wbpd.co.in. For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA-161273/2026

Government of West Bengal Office of the District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri (Nezarath Section)
e-tender is invited by the District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri, online Item Wise/percentage rate/ two bid system tender at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> for the following work:-
NIT No: 10/MMN/ZT/JAL/2026 Date: 05.03.2026
Tender ID: 2026_DMJ_101070.0
Name of Work : PRINTING BINDING SUPPLY OF ENVELOPS FORMS BOOKLET FOR GENERAL ELECTION TO WBLA 2026 FOR THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE JALPAIGURI.
Earnest Money - Rs. 20000/-
Memo No.: 68(2)/ADVT/DIO/JAL Dated : 05.03.2026

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & an ISO 27001:2022 Certified Company)
VIDYUT SOUDHA-VIJAYAWADA - 04
CIN: U31909AP1998SGC107226 Website: www.aptransco.gov.in
NOTIFICATION
NOTIFICATION No. CGM (HRD & Admin)DS/Per/IAS/PO/ES/JJE-3159245/2026, Dt: 05.03.2026
Ref:- NOTIFICATION No. CGM (HRD & Admin)DS/Per/IAS/PO/ES/JJE-3094490/2026, Dt: 05.03.2026

Last date for submission of applications for the posts of Centre Head, Initiative Lead and Community Lead for the "WEF-AP Centre for Energy Transition & Cyber Resilience, Amaravati" is extended from 14.02.2026 to 16.03.2026. For details visit www.aptransco.gov.in.
Place: Vijayawada & Date: 05.03.2026
RO No. GMCC/APTRANS/CO/62/26 Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HRD)

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
CIN No : U40102WB1961SGC025250
Corrigendum Notice for e-Auction
Critical Dates for following e auction IDs and land parcels of DPL are extended

Land Parcel	Mouza & JL No	E-Auction No	Area	Type of Use
Land Block: 30; Khatian: 5901; Plot No: 332	Gopinathpur- 85	WBDRP/PUR/LAND/38/25-26/ Dated 06.01.2026	5.008 Acres	Residential and Commercial
Land Block: 39; Khatian: 5901; Plot No: 324	Gopinathpur- 85	WBDRP/PUR/LAND/38/25-26/ Dated 06.01.2026	1.683 Acres	Institutional / Commercial
Land Block: 40; Khatian: 5901; Plot No: 324	Gopinathpur- 85	WBDRP/PUR/LAND/38/25-26/ Dated 06.01.2026	6.192 Acres	Residential and Commercial
Land Block: 41; Khatian: 5901; Plot No: 324	Gopinathpur- 85	WBDRP/PUR/LAND/38/25-26/ Dated 06.01.2026	5.746 Acres	Residential and Commercial
Land Block: 46; Khatian: 5901; Plot No: 532, 532/552, 533	Gopinathpur- 85	WBDRP/PUR/LAND/38/25-26/ Dated 06.01.2026	15.15 Acres	Residential and Commercial

Last Dates of Bid Submission has been extended till 31.03.2026 For participation: <https://eauction.gov.in> For details: DPL website: <https://dpl.net.in> ICA-161593/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
UPSC PREPARATION NOW AT YOUR DOORSTEP
Satyendra Nath Tagore Civil Services Study Centre announces Admission Call for aspirants to IAS / IPS / IPS and Allied Services
Applications are invited from candidates appearing for the UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE), 2027 to join Satyendra Nath Tagore Civil Services Study Centre (SNTCSSC) for a 10-month Composite Course for Prelims and Mains Examinations, including Mock Test Series and Mock Interviews, starting from July 2026.
• Premier and nationally reputed Coaching Institutes and eminent faculty of the country are associated with SNTCSSC.
• Classes will be held in physical mode by eminent and nationally acclaimed faculty specialised in training UPSC (CSE) aspirants
• Course fee per month is Rs.1000/- for Unreserved category candidates and Rs.500/- for Reserved category candidates.
• ONLY those who will appear in the UPSC CSE 2027 are eligible to apply.
Last date for submission of application is March 30, 2026, Monday, 3.00 pm.
ADMISSION TEST date will be announced on website in due course of time.
FOR FURTHER DETAILS: visit www.cswwb.in ICA-N92(4)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
DIRECTORATE OF CHILD RIGHTS & TRAFFICKING
SHAISHALI (3rd FLOOR), DF BLOCK, SECTOR-I,
SALT LAKE, KOLKATA-700064
Memo no:215 /CRT Date: 26.02.2026
Notice for Selection
Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for serving as Social Worker Member of Juvenile Justice Board for Jhargram and Purba Bardhaman districts. For details, the website <https://cdswb.wb.gov.in> and <https://cdswb.wb.gov.in/cdr> may be visited. The willing candidates may apply in the prescribed application format through ONLINE PORTAL ONLY from 06-03-2026. The portal will be closed at 5 PM of 26-03-2026.
Sd/-
Member Secretary, Selection Committee and
Director, Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking
Government of West Bengal. ICA-N91(2)/2026

HACK OF THE DAY

CREATE YOUR OWN CUSTOM QR CODES

WHAT IT SOLVES: Simplifies sharing complex URLs, Wi-Fi passwords, or digital business cards without typing long strings of text.

WHAT TO DO: Use QR code generator tools to create customised QR code for an instant, no-app solution.

STEPS:

- 1 Prepare your link:** Copy the exact URL or text you want to encode.
- 2 Choose a tool:** Open a verified generator like Canva or Adobe Express.
- 3 Input data:** Paste your link into the "URL" field.
- 4 Customise:** Adjust colors for high contrast (dark code on a light background works best).
- 5 Download:** Save as a PNG for digital use or a high-res PDF for printing.

CAREFUL: Always test your code with your phone camera before printing. Static QR codes cannot be edited once generated; if the URL changes, the code breaks.

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

Tip from [neha.saini](#) | [timesinternet](#)

Scan for more hacks



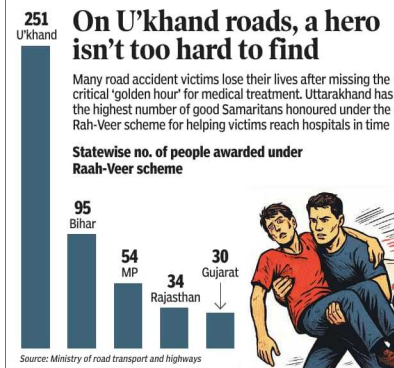
Holi dips turn fatal for 32 in Gujarat

Dhuleti (Holi) celebrations turned into mourning across Gujarat Wednesday, with at least 32 people drowning after venturing into rivers, canals and ponds for a dip after the festivities. Surat reported at least 10 deaths, while seven people, including three children, died in Ahmedabad district. Five people lost their lives in Mahisagar district. In Surat's Pansara village, a group of youths entered Kim river for a dip, but three were pulled underwater by strong currents. Four of five men who stepped into Mindhola river near Isoli village in the district lost their lives. In Surat city, three friends entered Tapi river. Two drowned while one swam to safety. TNN

Teen gang-raped by 4 in car, 3 held in UP

A 16-year-old girl was allegedly abducted by four men from a Holi fest and gang-raped in a car parked near the fields in UP's Bulandshahr on Wednesday evening. The teen told cops she pleaded for mercy but her cries for help got drowned amid the loud music from the fest venue. Her family later found her in an unconscious condition in the field. Circle officer, Bhaskar Mishra, said, "An FIR was registered against three identified and one unidentified men. Three of the accused have been arrested." The girl's family said the men, who were inebriated, forcibly took her to a nearby field. There, they took turns to sexually assault her inside a stationary vehicle. TNN

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers



Amid conflict, India & US talk on insurance for energy shipments

Move Aimed At Protecting Buyers From Disruptions

TNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi: India is discussing with the US the possibility of securing marine insurance cover for vessels transporting oil and gas from West Asia to protect buyers from potential supply disruptions due to conflict, officials said Thursday. The move came days after US President Donald Trump said he had asked the US International Development Finance Corporation to provide political risk insurance and financial guarantees for maritime trade in the Gulf. Trump had also said that, if required, the US Navy could begin escorting oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz.



India gets over 40% of its imported crude, 60-65% of natural gas and 90% of cooking gas supplies from UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been disrupted due to the West Asia crisis. Tanker movement through this narrow channel has almost come to a halt because of the conflict

"We are in touch with US authorities to secure cover from the International Development Finance Corporation for vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz," an official said. India gets over 40% of its imported crude, 60-65% of natural gas and 90% of cooking gas supplies from UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait through this narrow channel, which has been disrupted due to the conflict. Tanker movement through the Strait of Hormuz has almost come

to a halt because of the crisis. The official, however, said that before the IDFC can provide such cover, a corpus worth hundreds of millions of dollars will have to be set up. The premium for the insurance will have to be paid by parties contracting the cargo, the official added. Trump stepped in after global reinsurers Protection and Indemnity (P&I) clubs announced cancellation of war risk insurance for vessels transiting the strait and Iranian waters. The cancellations are effective from this week. Amid more tankers coming under attack from Iran, insurance market Lloyd's of London said Thursday it is engaging with US authorities on Trump's plan as oil prices rise. The US administration is yet to announce details of the insurance plan two days after Trump had said that his order was "effective immediately".

Maha cabinet approves law on anti-conversion

Mumbai: Maharashtra cabinet has approved an anti-conversion law aimed at addressing cases of 'love jihad', state fisheries and ports minister Nitesh Rane said Thursday. The law will be called the Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act 2026, he said. The bill is likely to be introduced in ongoing budget session and could then be referred to a joint select committee of both houses of the legislature.

Rane said that before the 2024 state assembly polls, the Mahayuti had promised that a new anti-conversion law would be brought in "by a Hindutva govt." "For that, many workers of Hindutva fought, struggled, protested, and even gave their lives... I can say with pride, a very capable anti-conversion law has been approved by the cabinet," he added. Officials said the bill will address cases of forced religious conversions, an issue which is often described by BJP netas as 'love jihad'. Rane said Maharashtra's law will be stronger than similar laws in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. —Chaitanya Marpakwar

TN bars pol activities in pvt schools after row over right-wing event

Ram.Sundaram @timesofindia.com

Chennai: Tamil Nadu govt has barred "political, ideological and communal activities" in private schools through amendments to the Tamil Nadu Private Schools (Regulation) Rules, 1974, which bars drills or training by people from outside the institute, does not apply on non-working days. In its plea, the school alleged the notice was issued in run-up to polls in the interests of the governing party, and that govt machinery was being used "as an instrument of oppression." Govt authorities, however, said the amendment was brought to introduce a clear rule to prevent disruption of academic spaces by any non-academic activity.

IAF Sukhoi goes missing after Assam take-off

Guwahati: A Su-30MKI fighter jet of the Indian Air Force went missing Thursday evening shortly after taking off from Jorhat air base in Upper Assam, prompting a large search in Karbi Anglong following coordinates where radar contact was lost. The area is known for dense forests and rugged hills, conditions that often complicate aerial surveillance and ground access. Contact with the Sukhoi fighter was lost at 7.42pm, according to defence spokesperson Lt Col M Rawat. Search teams and air assets were mobilised to locate the aircraft and determine the fate of its crew. "Speculation should be avoided until the search operation yields results," Rawat said. Indian Air Force wrote on X (formerly Twitter) that "details are being ascertained". The long-range, twin-engine fighter capable of air superiority and ground attack missions forms the backbone of IAF's combat fleet. Su-30MKI is a two-seater multirole long-range fighter jet developed by Russian aircraft manufacturer Sukhoi. It is now built under licence by HAL for IAF. The IAF operates a fleet of over 260 Su-30MKI jets. TNN

Deal almost done but won't repeat mistake with China: US dy secy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The US is very excited about the trade deal with India, now at the "finish line", as it can unlock almost limitless potential, visiting US deputy secretary of state Christopher Landau said. He also expressed hope that the US, India and others would work together for a transition in West Asia that allows the region to reach a new normal. On bilateral ties, Landau said the US will not repeat mistakes made with China that allowed Beijing to become a competitor. "India should understand that we're not going to make the same mistakes we made with China 20 years ago in terms of saying we'll let you develop these markets and the next thing we know, you're beating us in commercial events," he said at the Raisina Dialogue. "We're going to make sure whatever we do is fair to our people, because we have to be accountable to them, just as

the govt of India is accountable to its people," he said, describing India as a country of unlimited potential. Landau said he could think of no better alternative source of energy for India than the US. "We are an energy-rich country; we want to cooperate with you... We will work with you to ensure your energy needs are met in the short as well as the long term," he said. On multilateral ties, he said US is not a charity organisation for the UN. "I'm not here to do social work or charity; I'm here because it's in our interest, and we think it's in India's interest, to deepen our ties. It has to be based on reciprocity and mutual respect," he said, stressing America First is not America Alone. On Iran, he said preventing development of a nuclear weapon was a US red line that "did not work". "Ultimately, the Iranian people have to decide their leadership," Landau said, expressing hope for a regional "new normal."

Denied med leave, train driver pulls down pants to show 'proof' of surgery

Arvind.Chauhan @timesofindia.com

Lucknow: A 37-year-old train driver (loco pilot) in Lucknow removed his trousers when asked by a senior rail official for "proof" of illness to get medical leave extension after a recent surgery for piles. The March 2 episode was recorded on phone and went viral, triggering sharp reactions and leading to the loco pilot's brief suspension before it was revoked. The railway union called the feud unfortunate and claimed the driver was "harassed". "Despite showing medical documents, the sick memo was not issued. I was repeatedly asked for proof. In desperation, I pulled down my trousers to show my surgical wound so that he could understand the seriousness of my condition," the driver said. The driver (shunter), posted at Lucknow's Charbagh station, had the surgery on Feb 22 with leave till Feb 28. However, as his wounds had not fully healed, he sought extension after consulting a railway doctor, who advised him to obtain the mandatory "sick memo" from his office. The driver claimed the official declined to issue the memo and allegedly asked him to resume duty, repeatedly demanding proof of his medical condition. Below the Belt

ing the spat, union representatives approached senior officials, leading to the issue of the memo and extension of the driver's leave till March 8. However, after visuals of the episode went viral, the senior official filed a complaint accusing the driver of obscenity and misbehaviour. The driver was suspended on March 3. But the order was revoked on March 4 as the row escalated and rail staff backed the driver.

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

IRCON

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: [www.iron.org.in](#), CIN: L45303DL1976GOB080171

e-Tender No.: IRCON/130027/Mizoram/Aizawl Bypass Tunnel/2025-26/R1 | Dated: 05.03.2026
e-Tender for and on behalf of The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Construction of Twin tube Uni-directional Aizawl Bypass Tunnel of length 2.5 Km and its approaches of 2.1 Km from Km 16.80 to Km 15.200 (Package-2) on Sairang-Phalawak section of NH-61 of state of Mizoram on EPC Mode" (Pkg-2 Work).

Estimated Cost of Work Rs. 336.29 Cr.
Last date & Time of e-Bid Submission 25.03.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.

For further details, visit [https://etenders.gov.in/procurement/app](#). Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.
C-4 District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

INDIAN SHIP TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY

(A Central Government Undertaking)
Gandhinagar-Vishakhapatnam-530005

Adv. No. IIS/CTC/R/Contract/2026/001 | 05 March 2026

Contract Engagement

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the following posts on Contract basis at Indian Ship Technology Centre (ISTC):

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts
1.	Project Engineer (Consultancy)	1
2.	Project Engineer (Data Centre)	1
3.	Project Officer (Training)	1

For further details regarding the eligibility criteria i.e., Age, Education Qualifications, Experience, etc. and submission of application, please visit [www.imu.edu.in](#) & [www.imuv.edu.in](#)

Centre Director (I/c)

IIIT-D

INDRAPRASTHA INSTITUTE of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DELHI

(A State University established by Govt. of NCT Delhi)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DATA CENTER AT IIIT-DELHI

Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology-Delhi (IIIT-D), created by an Act of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, invites EOI for the construction of DATA Center. A detailed EOI Document is available on the website of the Institute at [https://www.iiitd.ac.in/tenders](#). The last date for submission of bids is 20th March 2026 3:00PM.

UJVNL LTD.

UJVNL

H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135 - 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No.: U44710UP2015SGC25004, Website: [www.ujvnl.com](#)

Letter No 188 | Tender Cancellation Notice | Dated 05.03.2026

The invited tender no. 17/EE(E&M)/SHP/Rishikesh/2025-26 by office of the Executive Engineer (E&M) SHP, UJVNL Limited, Rishikesh, is hereby cancelled due to inevitable reason.

Executive Engineer (E&M-SHP), Rishikesh

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

IFT No.-BWSSB/CE(E)/JACE(E)-UDCE(M)-JTA(E)/9140/ 2025-26 Date: 04.03.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER - 2nd Call (Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible tenderers for the Work of Providing, Laying & Linking 600mm dia Feeder main MS water pipeline & Trenchless works to improve water supply facilities Hoodi Ward & Surrounding areas and Cross roads coming under AE(E)-1-1 Sub division. Indent No: 3153 Amount put to Tender: Rs.305.68 lakhs. EMD : Rs. 4.59 Lakhs. The last date for submission of completed tender document is on 12.03.2026 upto 16.00 hrs. and Date of opening of tender on 13.03.2026 after 16.00 hrs. The details regarding participation in the tendering process and tender can be obtained by logging on to [https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in](#) For further details contact below signed office during working hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (East)

DIPR/CP/5990/AKAR/2025-26

National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation

Bagwan Bhawan-D-47, Pankha Road, Institutional Area Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058

Phone No.: 011-28524150/2852221/28525129
E-mail: [delhi@nhrdf.org](#) Website: [www.nhrdf.org](#)

Ref No: NHRDF/HO/Tender/AD-51/2025-26/4811 | Dated: 18.02.2026

Notice Inviting

For Engagement of Agency for Design, Development Implementation & Maintenance of NHRDF Seed Portal and Mobile Application

National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF), New Delhi, invites bids in sealed covers from eligible, reputed and experienced agencies for design, development, implementation and maintenance of an integrated Seed Portal and Mobile Application for digitizing all the activities related to Seed Production, Processing, Storage, Transportation, Inventory Management, Sales and Distribution.

The details of work proposed for NHRDF Seed Portal and Mobile Application Development and details of terms & conditions can be downloaded from our website [www.nhrdf.org](#). The last date of submission of quotations to above address will be 18/03/2026 till 5.00 PM. The quotations will be opened on 19/03/2026 at 11.00 AM. NHRDF reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Joint Director (Horticulture)

केन्द्रीय आयुर्वेद अनुसंधान संस्थान

केन्द्रीय आयुर्वेदिक विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद, आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

न्यायिक रोड, झोसी (उत्तर प्रदेश) - 284003
Central Ayurveda Research Institute
Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences
Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India
Gwalior Road, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh)-284003

eFile No.: 2-31/CARI-JHS/2025-26/Admn/MoA-CoE/Ras/ | Dated: 02.03.2026

चल-साक्षात्कार/WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

केन्द्रीय आयुर्वेद अनुसंधान संस्थान, न्यायिक रोड, झोसी (उत्तर प्रदेश) में "सोईड" परियोजना के अंतर्गत Research Associate (II) - 01 (Chemistry / Pharmaceutical), Research Associate (I) - 01 (Ayurveda / Pharmaceutical), Senior Project Associate - 03 (Chem./Pharma./Ayul.), Project Technical Support I - 03 के पदों पर विज्ञापन रूप से अनुबंध के आधार पर दिनांक 24.03.2026 को चल-साक्षात्कार (वाक-इन-इंटरव्यू) के माध्यम से नियुक्त करना है। इसका पूर्ण विवरण परिषद की वेबसाइट [www.ccras.nic.in](#) पर उपलब्ध है।

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW for the posts under "CoE" project viz. Research Associate (II) - 01 (Chemistry/Pharmaceutical), Research Associate (I) - 01 (Ayurveda/Pharmaceutical), Senior Project Associate- 03 (Chem./Pharma./Ayul.), Project Technical Support I - 03 will be held at Central Ayurveda Research Institute, CCRAS, Gwalior Road, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) on 24.03.2026 solely on a contract basis. For further details, Applicant can download application from CCRAS website [www.ccras.nic.in](#)

Assistant Director I/C
प्रभारी सहायक निदेशक

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

Stressed Assets Management Branch, Ahmedabad-380006

COMMERCIAL PLOT AT L P SAVANI ROAD, ADAJAN, SURAT FOR SALE (under SARFAESI)

Reserve Price : Rs. 76.15 Cr

Commercial Plot (Wonder 7) : TP Scheme 31, Part 1, Final Plot No. 54, Area 5199 Sq Mts and Part-2 Final Plot No. 53 @ L P Savani Road, Surat. Area 1795 Sq Mts. Total area of the land 6994 Sq.Mts

Auction Date : 16.03.2026 (Physical Possession with SBI)

For More Details Please contact or SCAN : Phone No.: 9824275526, 9440780127

Authorized Officer, State Bank of India

राष्ट्रीय न्यायालयिक विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय

राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक विज्ञान संस्थान, गुजरात सरकार, अहमदाबाद

राष्ट्रीय न्यायालयिक विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

APPLICATION INVITED

National Forensic Sciences University, Sector-9, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382007 invites Application for contractual engagement in the prescribed format from the eligible candidates for below-mentioned Posts, Purely on a temporary basis for NFSU-ED Project.

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Monthly Remuneration	Engagement Period	No. of Posts
1	Reporting Officer (CONTRACTUAL)	Rs.1,00,000/- (With 10% increase every year)	Initially for 1 Year (Extendable to another 4 years subject to project requirement)	02
2	Scientific Assistant (CONTRACTUAL)	Rs.70,000/- (With 10% increase every year)	Initially for 1 Year (Extendable to another 4 years subject to project requirement)	03

Interested candidates are informed to refer University website [www.nfsu.ac.in](#) for eligibility criteria, application form and other related details. Application form can be downloaded from our website and application should reach the Project Head on the closing date 24, March 2026 at 18:00 hrs.

Sd/- Executive Registrar

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Dy Chief Engineer/Construction/Northern Railway/Tilak Bridge/New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India re-invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work as the tender earlier invited for the following work which was scheduled to be opened on 20.03.2026 has since been cancelled:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approx cost of work	Completion period of the work	Earnest Money to be deposited
1.	Yard remodeling in c/wth construction of new platform no. 4 & 5 (Island Platform) and provision of washable apron with BLT; Provision of PF drain on PF-1 to 5 at DJS for terminal examination facility at DJS station	Rs. 22,37,90,214.86	18 months	Rs. 12,69,000.00
2.	Approx cost of work	Rs. 22,37,90,214.86	18 months	Rs. 12,69,000.00
3.	Completion period of the work	18 months		
4.	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 12,69,000.00		
5.	Sale/availability of tender documents on RY Website	Tender documents will be available on REPS web site www.reps.gov.in from 06.03.2026 to 27.03.2026 upto 11.30 hrs.		
6.	Last date/Time of upload of tenders	27.03.2026 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on REPS web site w.e.f. 13.03.2026 to 27.03.2026		
7.	Date and time of opening of tender	27.03.2026 at 11.30 hours (Immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2)). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenders would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.		

Tender No. 496-A-ACS-DSJ YARD Remodeling Dated: 05.03.2026

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MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

New Deluxe Building, Sector 17-E, Chandigarh

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
EOI Reference No.: EOI/MCC/2026/2

Municipal Corporation Chandigarh (MCC) re-invites applications from Society / AWO / NGO / Self Help Group / Charitable Institution / Firm etc., registered under AWWB / Indian Societies Act / Indian Trusts Act / Indian Religious and Charitable Trusts Act for Operation and Maintenance of Gushalaha at Raipur Kalan under Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, free of cost / at minimal cost.

Interested applicants can download the EOI document from the MCC website [http://mchchandigarh.gov.in](#) and shall submit their applications in physical form latest by 20.03.2026 before 05.00 PM in the office of MOH, 30 Bays Building, S.C.O. 6 to 9, Ground Floor, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh.

All corrigendum / addendums / clarifications regarding this EOI shall only be posted on the MC website i.e. [http://mchchandigarh.gov.in](#). No other communication or advertisement will be given. Authority will not be responsible in case any applicant fails to submit the application within stipulated time period for any reasons.

Commissioner
Municipal Corporation Chandigarh

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: 26/06

Date: 03.03.2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj, (An ISO 9001:2015 certified unit) invites the following E-Procurement Tenders.

S. No.	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date
1	38252871	ROUND PLATE BONDED WITH TOPPER SPRING	10338 NOS	26.03.2026
2	6326RGC05	This is tender to enter into Running Contract for Manufacture and Supply of Elastic Rail Clip MK-IV Drg. No. RDSO T-5919.	14548762.00 Numbers.	11.05.2026
3	6326RGC04	This is tender to enter into Running Contract for Manufacture and supply of Composite Grooved Rubber Sole Plates (Drg. No. T-8747 & T-6618) as per IRS Specification No. T-55-2023 For Rail Pads For Placing Beneath Rail.	7484474.00 Numbers.	06.04.2026
4	70254194	Pillow Cover, Size 50x36 CM	157288 Nos.	25.03.2026

Note: The complete information of above tenders can be seen and downloaded from IREPS website i.e. [https://www.ireps.gov.in](#). For any change/corrigendum in tender, please visit this website regularly. No separate corrigendum/change will be published in news paper. 493/26(A)

f North central railways | c@PNCRC | [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)

HC fails to deliver verdict in 6 yrs, SC shifts case to itself

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a first-of-its-kind intervention and an embarrassment to Allahabad HC, SC has directed transfer of three petitions pertaining to a case from the HC to itself for adjudication as the HC sat on the verdict after reserving the order six years back relating to a criminal case of 1994 in which the trial also remained stayed. The court said its intervention in a matter which is in HC's domain was needed to ensure speedy justice.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta directed Registrar General of the HC to transmit to the registry of SC

the complete record of the three criminal revisions within three weeks. The HC has recently come under criticism from SC which raised serious concern over the manner in which orders were passed. The case has been pending in HC since 2012.

Justifying its decision to invoke the extraordinary power under Article 139A, which allows SC to withdraw cases pending before HCs and dispose of them itself, SC said the order was reserved in Feb 2020 but the judgment had not been delivered in all these years. SC said trial in the three-decade-old criminal case was stayed because HC had not decided the revisions.

"In these circumstances, the questions that arise are not confined to private interests of parties in a pending revision. They implicate the effective enforcement of binding directions of this Court, the constitutional requirement of timely adjudication after a matter is heard and judgment is reserved, and the credibility of criminal process in serious offences where long delay itself produces irreversible prejudice," the bench said.

SC said the extraordinary jurisdiction of SC must be exercised with great circumspection and only in rare situations where continuing inaction results in infringement of fundamental rights and no equally efficacious remedy is available.

However, the court said there is prima facie evidence against the accused, including Abdullah, and observed that "the essential ingredients of offences under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 409 of the Ranbir Penal Code are made out" and the accused will be charged accordingly.

The court listed the case for March 12, 2026, for framing of charges. In 2018, CBI charged Abdullah and others for allegedly siphoning off Rs 43 crore from grants provided by the Board of Control for Cricket in India to JKA.

Court relief for Farooq in cricket body scam case

Srinagar: A court in Kashmir has dismissed an application by Enforcement Directorate seeking to add charges against National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and others in the Jammu & Kashmir cricket association (JKCA) scam case, reports Naseer Ganai.



The court said the agency cannot be made party to a case that has already been investigated, filed, and prosecuted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The CBI alleged the funds were misappropriated between 2002 and 2011 when Abdullah was the president of JKCA.

Members of the scheduled tribe (ST) community who follow Hindu customs and traditions cannot be excluded from the provisions of Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Chhattisgarh HC has ruled.

A division bench comprising Justice Sanjay K Agrawal and Justice Arvind Kumar Verma passed this ruling recently while setting aside a family court order that had rejected a mutual divorce petition involving a tribal husband and his wife who belonged to the Scheduled Caste.

The couple had approached a family court in Jag-

STs following Hindu customs can't be excluded from Hindu marriage law: HC

Partha.Behera
@timesofindia.com

dalpur in Bastar, seeking dissolution of their marriage under Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act. The couple, married since April 15, 2009, had been living separately since April 2014.

The Jagdalpur family court rejected their application on August 12 last year, citing Section 2(2) of the Act, which states the Act does not apply to ST unless the Centre directs otherwise by notification.

HC said both parties had explicitly stated that their marriage was solemnised according to Hindu rites, including the ceremony of "sap-

tapadi" and said they testified they followed Hindu traditions rather than tribal customs.

"When members of a tribe voluntarily choose to follow Hindu customs, traditions, and rites, they cannot be kept out of the purview of the provisions of the Act of 1955," the high court observed. HC said Section 2(2) is a "measure of protection" for tribal customary laws and not a "measure of exclusion" for those who have become "Hinduised".

The bench relied on SC rulings, noting if evidence shows tribals following Hindu traditions, they should be governed by Hindu law in matters of succession and marriage.

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tapadi" and said they testified they followed Hindu traditions rather than tribal customs.

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Space For Rent, Ready shed 25 ft. height, 8,000 sqft. approx. Two sided corner at Asola, Homes, D-Block # 9810217397**VASANT-VIHAR, For lease**
one floor, 600 sq yds plot, high quality, 4 BHK, fitted, AC, servant room, parking etc. Overlooking biodiversity park. Basement also available. Only MNCs, expats, diplomats, embassies Contact: 9871007171**TO-LET SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE (B-4) MODERN CONSTRUCTION 8130644567****B-4, SJE, Park Facing, Ground Floor, 3 Bed, Attach Toilets, D/D, Servant Qtrs, Suitable For MNC / PSUs.****Lajpat Nagar 9,000 sq.ft. Main Road**
Independent Commercial Building for Rent/ Lease**OKHLA Ph II 15,000 sq.ft. Main Road**
Independent Corner 3 side open Building for Rent/ Lease**KOHLI Real Estate**
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Space For Rent, Ready shed 25 ft. height, 8,000 sqft. approx. Two sided corner at Asola, Homes, D-Block # 9810217397**VASANT-VIHAR, For lease**
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Nitish Move Triggers Power Play In Bihar

Political tie-ups against NDA face acid test in Bihar, Odisha RS polls

Kumar Rakesh | TNN

New Delhi: As the nomination process for Rajya Sabha elections spread across 10 states ended on Thursday, moves for new political alignments, including a rare BJD-Congress tie-up in Odisha and unity of BJP's rivals in Bihar, are up for a stern test, while developments in Maharashtra signalled that attempts for the merger of the two NCP factions have come to naught.

While candidates in most states are set to be elected unopposed, both Bihar and Odisha are headed for a keen battle on March 16.

RJD's decision to renominate its outgoing MP and businessman A D Singh has forced a contest in one of the five seats in Bihar. He can even pull it off if all of BJP's rivals, including 5 AIMIM MLAs and the lone BSP MLA, join hands with the RJD-Congress-Left combine.

Yet, the NDA camp, which will have 38 votes to spare for the fifth seat after allocating the necessary 41 votes each to ensure its win on four seats, is sanguine about its prospects in the belief that a



JDU workers protest against Nitish Kumar filing his nomination for Rajya Sabha, outside the CM's residence in Patna on Thursday

contest will only end up exposing divisions in the opposition's ranks and even force some defections.

Unity among all opposition parties will get Singh 41 votes, but AIMIM, which was snubbed by the RJD-led alliance on its suggestion for a tie-up during last year's polls, is yet to spell out its stand.

The political temperature in Odisha, another state where a contest is on the cards, has gone up a notch after Congress decided to back BJD's choice of an eminent doctor, Dattaswar Hota, and BJP then announced its support for former Union Minister Dilip Ray, a well-networked hotelier contesting as

an independent candidate. Archivals for decades, BJP's swift ascendancy in the state has brought BJD and Congress together; both parties can pull together 32 MLAs to ensure Hota's win against the requisite backing of 30.

However, instances of discontent within the two parties have muddled the waters. BJP has a history of outmanoeuvring its rivals in closely contested RS seats, and its decision to back Ray is driven by its instinct to play on their internal differences to spring a surprise.

With all three MVA parties backing Sharad Pawar's renomination for the lone seat they could win of the sev-

en on offer, claims of his supporters about an "imminent merger" between the two NCP factions should pause.

A senior Sena UBT functionary said they have been told there is little possibility of the two factions coming together, as the group headed by Ajit Pawar's wife, Sunetra Pawar, never warmed up to Sharad Pawar's desire—marking a reversal of his public "I have had enough" stance—to do another term in RS.

Parth Pawar, the son of Ajit Pawar who is set to be elected unopposed, will be arrayed against his grand uncle as a member of NDA.

In the elections to 37 Rajya Sabha seats, the BJP-led NDA has continued its push to expand its social coalition by reaching out to different sections of society, illustrated by their nominees from Maharashtra. BJP has backed a Dalit in Ramdas Athawale, a tribal woman in Maya Chintaman Inwate, a Marathi in its national general secretary Vinod Tawde and Ramrao Wadkute, and an OBC candidate from Dhanangar community. Its ally Shiv Sena, too, has picked a Dalit woman, Jyoti Waghmare.

Nitish's RS shift: Workers protest, some threaten self-immolation

Patna: Protests broke out outside Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's official residence and JD(U) office Thursday after he filed nomination papers for Rajya Sabha, with party workers vandalising furniture, gheraoing functionaries and threatening self-immolation, report Sheezan Nezami and Kshitiz.

Workers gathered at 1, Anne Marg in Patna and sought to meet Nitish. They warned of "dire consequences" if denied access. Demonstrators alleged a conspiracy behind the move and claimed the CM was being "forced" to shift to Parliament.

At JD(U) office, protesters smashed chairs and tables, and shouted slogans targeting certain party functionaries, branding them 'Jaichand'—the 12th-century king of Kannauj villainised as a traitor.

A group also surrounded state president, Umesh Kushwaha, when he tried to pacify them. "Nitish has not yet resigned from the CM's post. The sentiments of the workers and their concerns will be conveyed to him," Kushwaha said.

Outside Nitish's residence, several workers threatened to set themselves ablaze.

Spotlight returns to Nishant despite distance from politics

Abhay Singh@timesofindia.com

Patna: Reluctant figure. Persistent speculation. Nishant Kumar keeps returning to Bihar's political conversation despite carefully avoiding it.

He briefly emerged Wednesday as a possible JD(U) nominee for Rajya Sabha before focus swung back to his father, Nitish Kumar, by evening. The Bihar chief minister eventually filed nomination papers himself. Attention on Nishant is not new. For years, party workers and observers have floated his name as a possible successor whenever questions arise about Nitish stepping aside.

Born July 20, 1975, he grew up largely away from political life. His upbringing revolved around his mother, Manju Sinha, a govt school teacher. He spent much of his childhood with her in Patna's Kankarbagh area. He is unmarried and reports suggest he owns property inherited from his late mother.

Education took him across institutions—St Karen's School in Patna; Manav Bharti India International School in Mussoorie; and BTech from Birla Institute of Technology in Mesra.

Public life never seemed to attract him. He is not a



RELUCTANT HEIR? Nishant

member of JD(U). Soft-spoken and reserved, Nishant rarely interacts with the media and avoids political controversy. On rare occasions when he speaks publicly, the remarks usually centre on his father.

Before 2025 Bihar assembly polls, he said: "People of Bihar will definitely give him (Nitish) a chance to work. He has worked a lot and will continue to do so in future."

Despite his reluctance, sections within JD(U) have repeatedly projected him as a possible heir. Supporters speculate about a role if Bihar politics shifts—including talk of a deputy chief ministership should BJP form a govt with its own CM after Nitish's possible move to Parliament.

Nishant keeps distance from politics. Yet each politi-

Tejashwi: Nitish has been hijacked

RJD's Tejashwi Yadav on Thursday alleged that Bihar CM, Nitish Kumar, is being sent to RS under pressure, and said he has full sympathy for Kumar. "I had earlier said Nitish has been hijacked. I wish him good health and thank him for serving Bihar for 20 years... Had he remained with RJD,



the current situation would not have arisen," he said. He described the political

changes in Bihar as an attempt by BJP to suppress 'bahujan politics' and termed it a "betrayal of the mandate", alleging NDA sought votes with the slogan "2025 se 30 phir se Nitish", but BJP had mentally pressured him into taking the step. Tejashwi said that the next chief minister would be "nothing but a rubber stamp", alleging BJP wanted to implement RSS agenda in the state. —Sheezan Nezami

cal tremor around his father pulls him into view—a quiet presence at the centre of a succession debate he has never sought.

Five faces who are in the race for Bihar CM's chair

Jai Narain Pandey | TNN

Patna: Five names from BJP are doing the rounds to step into CM Nitish Kumar's shoes—Samrat Choudhary, Nityanand Rai, Sanjay Jaiswal, Dilip Jaiswal, and Janak Ram.



Samrat Choudhary: The deputy CM, and second most powerful person in the state cabinet. A former BJP state chief, he belongs to Koeri community and fits into the Luv-Kush chemistry promoted by Nitish, a Kurmi. Koeris represent 4.2% of Bihar's population. His greatest strength is his aggressive style. However, his RJD and JD(U) background may go against him.



Nityanand Rai: Union MoS, enjoys the confidence of Amit Shah, and can play a big role in denting RJD votes among his Yadav community. An ex-state BJP chief with an ABVP background. But many in BJP believe that elevating him to the top post in Bihar may antagonise other OBC and EBC communities.



Sanjay Jaiswal: West Champaran MP since 2009, and ex-BJP Bihar chief. He is considered a suave but tough politician when it comes to taking on opposition. Belongs to Vaishya community. He is considered close to BJP brass and fits into the party's caste chemistry.



Dilip Jaiswal: A Bihar minister, headed BJP in the state when NDA won 202 seats in Nov assembly polls. Belonging to Vaishya (Kulwar) community, he is considered close to Shah. A moderate and organisationally reliable politician, he hails from Kishanganj.



Janak Ram: The 53-year-old Dalit face of BJP in Bihar. He was minister of mines and SC and ST welfare. An ex-Gopalganj MP, Janak is an MLC and is considered an organisational man. He belongs to Ravidas community and maintains a low profile. He started his political career in BJP at the grassroots level.

Nitish's tenure will be remembered as 'golden period for Bihar': Shah

Jai Narain Pandey | TNN

Patna: Nitish Kumar's tenure as CM will be remembered as a 'golden period for Bihar', Union home minister, Amit Shah, said on Thursday.

"Nitish brought Bihar out of 'jungle raj' and worked to give momentum to all aspects of development. He connected roads to villages and made a great contribution to ensuring electricity supply to every

household in Bihar," Shah said. "During his long tenure as an MLA, MP, Union minister, and Bihar CM, he kept a clean image, free of corruption," Shah added.

He accompanied Nitish and BJP president, Nitin Nabin. Nitish, along with RLM chief Upendra Kushwaha, Ram Nath Thakur, and Shivsh Kumar, filed their nomination papers as NDA candidates for the five RS seats from Bihar.

Nitish a wily strategist who made CM seat his own

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: After two decades at the helm of Bihar, Nitish Kumar has finally ceded the seat that he made his own, kicking up a storm of reaction from angry supporters and criticism from the opposition that cited it as another example of BJP "cannibalising" its allies like in Maharashtra.

But Kumar appeared to go quietly, posting on X his desire to work in Parliament.

The aloofness of his departure, as witnessed in his announcement, matched the icy williness with which he ensured post-2005 that he stayed in the CM's seat, irrespective of who he went with or which among the allies had more MLAs. After all, it was nothing short of a 'Paltu Ram' act that saw him win a majority to eject Lalu Prasad's RJD from Patna in 2005 before joining hands with RJD and Congress in Bihar. In 2015, as part of "Mahagathabandhan", he hu-

milited BJP that had just stormed to office in Delhi led by Narendra Modi. He returned to NDA in 2017, then turned to RJD and Congress in 2022, before realigning with BJP in Jan 2024. All this while, he resigned and took oath as CM.

The flip-flops were not just about parties, but also about ideology and players, moving from being a "never-Modi" to a willing partner of the PM. But through his ideological shifts, Kumar carved a niche that had not been witnessed before—as an OBC politician who brought a "Mandal-plus" agenda to the fore in a backward state, and as a strategist who worked to carve a personal constituency for himself. He stood out also for being a rarity—an OBC politician from the north who could govern well, and was not tainted by corruption allegations.

Kumar's equity with voters was on display during the 2025 assembly elections. As his growing gaffes and eccentric-

Nitish Kumar carved a niche that had not been witnessed before—as an OBC neta who brought a 'Mandal-plus' agenda to the fore in a backward state, and as a strategist who worked to carve a personal constituency for himself

ties coupled with a prolonged absence from public view led to questions about his mental acuity, the opposition stepped up its campaign that BJP would install its own CM, like it had done in Maharashtra. BJP increased Kumar's campaign rallies and announcements. That is said to have done the trick by reinforcing the "Jodya Modi-Nitish ke hit hai" (Modi-Nitish partnership will prevail) message.

On the road to entrench-

ing himself as a satrap, Kumar was helped by the low bar set by his once comrade-in-arms Lalu. He made "clean administration" as "crime" issues that he and BJP hammered on for years to keep rival RJD on the backfoot.

But the real cunning lay in thinking of a strategy to overcome RJD's advantage on caste front in a state that has an overwhelmingly large OBC/Dalit population. This is where Kumar set a template that was later emulated by others. Hailing from the Kurmi caste of OBCs that has a minuscule population share, Kumar moved with alacrity to fragment the OBC population by categorising them along "developmental" status—backwards and most backwards. He cornered the loyalty of a large chunk of "aspirational" OBC communities, while turning "Yadavisation" into a stick to beat the rival with. The polarisation of "Yadav vs non-Yadavs" sustained him for two

decades. Kumar tried the same with "Dalits vs Maha Dalits" but failed as political compulsions forced him to dilute the "Maha Dalit" tag by including stronger communities.

The game changer was when his search for a personal constituency led him to focus on the pan-caste category of "women". From his earliest signalling through reservations in panchayats to bicycles for girls to microfinance loans/self-help groups, to dote for women, the JD(U) leader fused his "welfarism" with "development" to earn the loyalty of a key voting bloc. Questions remain whether women vote independently from family and caste factors, but it consolidated pro-JDU sections at multiple levels, diluting factors like anti-incumbency.

To successfully create personalised loyalty in the shifting sands of competitive caste politics is a feat that remains unrivalled since Lalu's election from the Patna throne.

PATNA TO PARLIAMENT

X/@NitishKumar



Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar presents a Madhubani shawl to Union home minister Amit Shah before filing nomination papers for Rajya Sabha elections, in Patna on Thursday

Nitish didn't speak of stepping down from party leadership, says JD(U) neta

Madan Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Patna: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's decision to return to Parliament set off intense speculation over future leadership of JD(U), placing focus on a possible political entry by his son, Nishant.

Party insiders said Nishant, 50, is expected to formally join JD(U) on Sunday, a step that could mark beginning of a broader transition within the organisation after Nitish filed Thursday nomination papers for RS.

Attention within JD(U) has shifted to what lies ahead once Nitish, 75, moves to national politics after two decades at centre of Bihar's governance. JD(U) working president, Sanjay Jha, already serves in Rajya Sabha. Nitish's arrival in Upper House would place party's two top

functionaries in Parliament. "Though Nitish hinted at relinquishing CM's post, he has not spoken about stepping down from party leadership," a senior JD(U) functionary said. "While serving in RS, he may focus more on organisational work and strengthening party."

CHANGES AHEAD?

For now, Nitish remains CM and JD(U) president. His move to Parliament has opened a new chapter for JD(U), forcing party functionaries to search for a structure that can keep it politically relevant in Bihar's shifting power equation.

A functionary said changes in party structure remain possible if Nitish assumes a major role in New Delhi. "If Nitish is given any significant assignment

there, he may bring changes in organisational setup," the functionary said, requesting anonymity.

Though Nishant has shunned politics all along, his entry has intensified succession talk within JD(U). Party members expect him to gradually assume organisational responsibilities.

Any leadership shift, however, will likely wait until Nitish formally resigns as CM and takes oath as a Rajya Sabha member, another JD(U) functionary said.

Family members publicly backed Nitish's entry into politics. "Nishant's entry into politics is necessary. If he does not join politics, it will be difficult to save JD(U)," Nitish's brother-in-law, Anil Kumar, said. "...JD(U) will be ruined because several 'Ravanas' are sitting within organisation to destroy it."

'Sushasan babu' sets tough benchmark for BJP successor

Patna: BJP is set to get its first CM in Bihar, but Nitish Kumar's 'Sushasan Babu' image has set a tough benchmark for his successor from the saffron party, reports Jai Narain Pandey.

Nitish's decision to quit as CM and enter RS fulfils BJP's long-held desire to have its own CM in Bihar as articulated earlier by deputy CM, Vijay Kumar Sinha, at former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's shradhanjali sabha ahead of the Nov assembly elections.

However, sources say the script was finalised in Delhi before Nitish decided to hang up his boots and opt for a RS berth. This was evident in the way he greeted Union minister Amit Shah at his residence on Thursday, and Shah reciprocated with a bow.

Given Nitish's age—he turned 75 on March 1—such a transition was expected, but the timing, coming just four months after NDA won a thumping majority under his leadership last Nov, surprised many.

For BJP, the road ahead is challenging. It must retain the caste arithmetic and the crucial EBC-women voter base that Nitish carefully nurtured over the years.

JD(U) functionary and parliamentary affairs minister, Vijay Kumar Choudhary, noted, "Under Nitish, Bihar has established a new identity of development, good governance and social justice. His work is an inspiration for the country."

Political analysts believe if Nitish launches his son, Nishant, into active politics and makes him deputy CM, it could give opposition fresh ammunition against both him and BJP, since Nitish's politics has long been built on opposing 'parivarvad'.

JD(U) cadre bet on Nishant to fill in father's shoes

Kumar Rakesh | TNN

New Delhi: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar is a rare regional heavyweight who has been vocal in his disdain of dynastic politics and made it a point to keep his family members, including his only son Nishant, out of any limelight. As politics would have it, Nishant is now being seen by the JD(U) cadre with keen anticipation to step in to keep the party rooted to its support base as his father moves out of his two-decade long stewardship of Bihar.

As Nishant Kumar appears set to make his political debut, the decision has been driven as much by filial considerations as by political necessity.

Signs of unease in a section of JD(U) workers over post-Nitish era were visible after a swift turn of events leading to the CM filing his nomination for Rajya Sabha, as some cried, some raised slogans and some toppled furniture and threw plates at the party's Patna headquarters, which was to host a lunch, as it became clear that their 'leader' is set to pass the baton, in all likelihood, to a BJP nominee.

JD(U) MP, Kaushalendra Kumar, Nitish's choice to represent his home turf of Nalanda in Lok Sabha since 2014, said supporters of the Bihar's longest serving CM are feeling sad. "If Nishant joins politics, they will be feeling a little assuaged," he said, emphasising that everyone in the party will finally go by what Nitish says.

There is a view from the party's base that Nitish's son should be given a key role to convey continuity and readiness for future battles

Kaushalendra, like Nitish, hails from the Kurmi community, whose members, including legislators of the party, are believed to be propelling the move to bring Nishant into politics.

Several party members have said he will soon be joining politics. While there is no confirmation from the JD(U) brass on the role to be assigned to the 50-year-old engineering graduate, indications have been given that he will be joining the new Bihar govt as a deputy CM.

With Nitish's stint in Rajya Sabha to begin once the outgoing members retire on April 9, party functionaries said there is a month left to finalise details. JD(U)'s core support base has traditionally included Kurmis, sections of backward castes and Dalits, and while it has shown signs of fraying for several years, Kurmis remain solidly behind Nitish.

With key confidants of Nitish coming from upper castes, there is a view from the party's base that his son should be given a key role to convey continuity and its readiness for future battles as his father shows signs of withdrawing from the gruelling field of state politics.

Nitish: Bihar now presents new dimension of growth & respect

Continued from P 1



ture as well as both Houses of Parliament. In this sequence, in the elections held this time, I wish to become a member of the Rajya Sabha," he wrote.

Attention inside JD(U) has also turned to Nitish's son Nishant. Party sources said Nishant is expected to formally join the party on March 8, after which his political role will be decided. Within NDA, discussions have begun over succession in Patna. Sources

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Nitish heads for RS, paves way for BJP CM in Bihar

To File Nomination In Patna Today In Shah's Presence

END OF AN ERA? FROM 10 YEARS CM TO UPPER HOUSE

New Delhi: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today filed his nomination for the Rajya Sabha, paving the way for a BJP leader to become the state's first full-time CM.

Kumar, 75, is expected to formally join the Rajya Sabha on Sunday, a step that could mark the beginning of a broader transition within the JD(U) organisation after he has served Bihar for over two decades.

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CISF to get legal powers to check illegal coal mining

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Bhubaneswar: To effectively combat illegal coal mining in the country, the Centre has decided to add more teeth to Central Industrial Security Force by granting it powers to initiate legal proceedings, similar to those enforced by Railway Protection Force in its jurisdiction, said CISF director general Praveer Ranjan here on Thursday.

Govt has introduced amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) to empower CISF with the authority to enforce legal provisions, headed.

Currently, the CISF's role is limited to guarding 10 coal mines in the country, with the authority of enforcement resting solely with state mining officials and local police. The new powers will enable CISF to directly act against the offenders.

The DG, who is in Odisha to oversee preparations for the CISF's 57th Raising Day ceremony at Munduli in Cuttack district on Friday, said the coal ministry, in coordination with

the industrial security force, is drafting a comprehensive standard operating procedure to enhance coal mine security nationwide. The Raising Day event will be attended by home minister Amit Shah.

"CISF and Coal India Limited (CIL) have recently signed an MoU to strengthen collaboration. Under this agreement, CISF will provide dedicated security to CIL's mines, projects and critical assets, while both organisations will jointly undertake training, capacity building, disaster management and intelligence-sharing initiatives," Ranjan said.

Mines officials noted that illegal coal mining poses serious risks to national resources, public safety, environment and lawful commercial operations. It causes revenue losses to the exchequer, undermines legitimate mining, endangers workers and contributes to unregulated carbon emissions.

Despite deployment of CISF and other security forces, along with technology-driven monitoring systems and the Khanan Prarhari app for public reporting, illegal mining continues unabated.

India's 'moist heatwaves' getting worse, says study

'Rossby Waves' Arising Off Europe Coast Key Trigger

Neha.Madaan@timesofindia.com

Pune: India's summer heatwaves — the humid, suffocating kind that impact more than dry heat — are not just getting more frequent, but also more intense through a now-identified specific atmospheric chain reaction. A Jan 2026 study by scientists from IMD and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune, published in the Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, is the first to explain the precise mechanism behind these "moist heatwaves" and the findings have direct implications for early warning, public health, and climate preparedness.

IITM scientist Rajib Chattopadhyay told TOI that their earlier study identified two types of Indian summer heatwaves and classified them as dry and moist. "The dry variety, which mainly scorches the northwest plains, is not showing an increasing trend. But the moist variety, in which high humidity compounds with high temperature to make the body's cooling system fail, shows a statistically significant and accelerating trend. The current study provides a hint towards the mechanism which can intensify moist heatwaves over India," he said.



LETHAL COMBINATION

tically significant and accelerating trend. The current study provides a hint towards the mechanism which can intensify moist heatwaves over India," he said.

Scientists traced the trigger to Rossby atmospheric wave patterns originating near Europe's west coast. These waves travel through a Europe-Middle East-Indian Ocean pathway and arrive over India as upper-air high-pressure systems, suppressing clouds and baking the surface. "But what turns a bad heatwave worse is a second actor — the anomalous warming in southernmost Bay of Bengal. When that warm patch generates its own circulation pattern and the two systems arrive over northwest India simultaneously, they superimpose and amplify each other,"

Chattopadhyay said.

The anticyclone strengthens, lingers longer, and simultaneously pumps moisture westward into India, producing a lethal combination of heat and humidity. The team validated this using a mathematical atmospheric model run under 129 different experiment configurations.

"The model results showed a clear pattern. When warming over the Bay of Bengal occurs at the same time as atmospheric waves arriving from Europe, temperature and the 'feels-like' heat index increase noticeably over north-west India. We also found that if the atmospheric wave pattern shifts slightly, the zone of stronger heat stress moves toward eastern and southeastern coastal parts of India," Chattopadhyay said.

Observational data suggested the humid heat signal in these regions has been strengthening in recent decades, he said. "In experiments examining climate conditions, we found this interaction between atmospheric waves and Bay of Bengal warming works most effectively when jet stream speeds are within the range seen under present-day conditions. This matters because climate change is expected to influence large-scale atmospheric patterns, including jet streams and wave behaviour."

MVA picks Pawar Sr for only winnable RS seat from Maha

Vijay V Singh & Chaitanya Marpakwar | TNN

Mumbai: After strong claims made by all three of its constituents, Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has finally decided to nominate NCP (SP) chief **Sharad Pawar** as its candidate for the alliance's sole winnable Rajya Sabha seat from Maharashtra. Thursday is the last day to file nominations for the March 16 elections.

State Congress chief Harshwardhan Sapkal and his party colleague Vijay Wadetiwar, along with NCP (SP) MP and Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule, addressed a brief press conference at the Congress office in South Mumbai to announce Pawar's name on Wednesday.

Asked about the Sena UBT politicians' absence at the press meet, Sule said their party MP Sanjay Raut had visited Sharad Pawar earlier in the day, indicating the party's support for him. Afterwards, Raut posted on social media that "Congress finally took the decision over Rajya Sabha. The MVA is one and will remain together."

Raut had repeatedly said earlier that Pawar would be the RS candidate for MVA, speaking in a tone different from that of Aaditya Thackeray who had said Sena UBT should get the seat as the single largest party in MVA (with

20 MLAs). Pawar's nomination comes as a setback for Aaditya and has also brought to light the rift between him and Raut who had suggested Pawar's name even before Aaditya batted for incumbent MP Priyanka Chaturvedi.

Along with Pawar, the RS stint will end in April for Chaturvedi, Fauzia Khan of NCP (SP), Ramdas Athawale of RPI (Athawale), BJP's Bhagwat Karad, Congress' Rajani Patil and NCP's Dhairysheel Patil.

Sule had met Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday to push for Sharad Pawar's name for the seat. However, even after the meeting, Sena UBT had said no name had been finalised.

Political observers said that with Pawar getting the nomination, Raut has again emerged a winner and set the Sena UBT's agenda. "Going by Raut's word, it was almost certain the seat was going to be given to Pawar. In this scenario, the vehement and open attempt to stake claim to the seat (by Aaditya) has caused embarrassment. It seems there is a rift in the thought process in the party... This could have an impact on future nominations and the trust factor of the leadership. Sena UBT may now get the MLC seat (which will also go to the polls), but the RS episode has left a dent," an observer said.

SC: Disobedient litigants may face criminal contempt

► Continued from P 1

It said, "We, in no uncertain terms, deprecate these practices. It is felt that by such modus operandi, disobedient litigants act brazenly which has the further effect of bringing down the authority and majesty of courts and the rule of law, interfering in the administration of justice. The same may well, in certain situations, border on criminal contempt."

High courts should deal with such "unscrupulous litigants, more so when they happen to be 'State', within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution, or like bodies, with an iron hand", the SC said, adding, "Unless HCs, so also this court, deal with these aspects firmly, we run the clear risk of erosion of the unflinching faith that the ordinary litigants of this country repose in the judiciary at all levels. It is the solemn duty of all of us manning courts across the hierarchy to ensure that the public faith never wavers."

The bench said justice is tempered with mercy but courts should take strong exception to dishonest litigants, and it needs to be examined whether the 'liberal' jurisprudence on contempt requires a serious re-look. It also made it clear that contempt proceedings would not be confined only to parties before the court for non-implementation of order, but third parties-non-parties, who are part of the chain in decision-making process, would also be liable for contempt.

"Simply put, thus, it is no longer res integra that a party, once becomes or is made aware of an order of this court, if yet acts in wilful default or deliberate non-compliance or any such like conduct against/in breach of the order concerned, makes itself liable to face the full wrath of contempt jurisdiction," it said.

The court passed the order on a contempt petition against Chhattisgarh govt officials for not complying with its order on regularising the services of employees, and granted last chance to them to implement it within 15 days.

Court moves to declare Nirav's brothers fugitives

Mumbai: A special PMLA court has initiated proceedings to declare Nirav Modi's brothers, Neeshal and Nehal, both Belgian nationals, and several others as fugitive economic offenders, reports **Rebecca Samervel**.

Special judge AV Gujarathi issued a notice to the accused on Wednesday following an application filed by Enforcement Directorate. "Issue notice to the non-applicant — Nehal Modi, as to why he should not be declared a fugitive economic offender under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act..." the judge said. Gujarathi pronounced similar orders on pleas of other accused. The court has set May 7 as the next date for the hearing.

The agency is seeking the designation under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act — a law designed to deter economic offenders from evading the process of Indian law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of domestic courts.

CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE



VIRTUAL INAUGURATION & FOUNDATION LAYING

Virtual inauguration of modern residential complexes for CISF personnel at Rajarhat (Kolkata) and Maidangarhi (Delhi)

&

Laying of foundation stones for campuses of 03 Reserve Battalions at Kamrup (Assam), Nashik (Maharashtra) and Sehor (Madhya Pradesh) worth Rs 900 Cr. (approx) on the occasion of 57th Raising Day of CISF.



The CISF has a vital role in our security apparatus. They provide round the clock security at key locations including critical and strategic infrastructure. The force is known for its hardwork and professional outlook.

- Narendra Modi



Chief Guest
SHRI AMIT SHAH
Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Minister of Co-operation
from
KRTC Mundali, Odisha
on 06th March, 2026

CBC 19141/13/0002/2526

Government of Maharashtra
Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai
E-mail maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com
MMGPA, 1st Floor, Arogya Bhavan, St. Georges Hospital Compound, MUMBAI-400 001

TENDER NOTICE

Date: 04.03.2026

Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai invites tender in two envelope system from the eligible bidders for the following items for purchase of Consumables.

Sr. No.	Tender No	Name of Item(s)	Prebid Meeting	Period of sale, download & submission of bid	Bid Opening
1.	RT-240	Test Kits	Dt. 11.03.2026 At. 12.00 hrs.	Dt. 04-03-2026 At. 03.00 PM to Dt. 25-03-2026 upto 14.00 PM.	Dt. 27-03-2026 At. 14.01 hrs

1. For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the Website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

2. The Chief Executive Officer reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity to be purchased and also reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without giving any reason to.

For e-tendering help/information, please contact.
Website : <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
Email- maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer,
Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority,
Mumbai

DGIPR/2025-2026/6340

Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department
ARULMIGU KAPALEESHWARAR TEMPLE
Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004.

e-Tender Notice – Two Cover System

e-Tender Notice No: 10 / 2025-26, Dated : 03.03.2026.

e-Tenders are invited by the Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai – 600 004 for the following works. The e-tender documents can be downloaded from the website <https://tntenders.gov.in> from 05.03.2026 upto 16.03.2026 until 5.45p.m at free of cost. The filled e-Tenders will be received up to 17.03.2026 until 3.00 p.m. All received e-tenders will be opened on 17.03.2026 at 4.00 p.m. The EMD amount should be remitted through online only from any Nationalised bank in the name of Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple

All relevant documents should be uploaded in PDF format only. All e-tender documents, further notifications, corrigendum will be published through website <https://tntenders.gov.in> and only not in newspaper.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender value Rs.	EMD Amount Rs.	Period of work	Contractor eligibility
1.	Construction of Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Arts and Science college Phase - 2 Belongs to Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai - 04	26,30,17,735/-	13,25,089/-	18 months	Registered, live, class of qualified contractors of Tamil Nadu Government Departments / State Government undertakings with required experience

P.K.Kavenitha, B.A.B.L, M.H.R.M.
Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer
Board of Trustees

P.Vijayakumar Reddy
Chairman Board of Trustees

K.Ranjini Manian, P.Thirunavukkarasu, M.P.Maruthamuthu, C.T.Arumugam
DIPR / 1531 / Tender / 2026

Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Date:	03 March 2026
Loan No. and Title:	Loan No:P59311-001 IND/Chennai Climate Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project (CCRWSSP) and E-Procurement Notice
Contract No. and Title:	CNT/UGSS/NCB/ADB/004/2025-26 Improvement to Existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – SW-03 - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 7 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 9 & 10 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years.
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	08/04/2026 Up to 15.00 Hours

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu through Government of India has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Chennai Climate Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project (CCRWSSP). Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

2. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board ("the Employer") invites E-bids from eligible Bidders.

3. The Scope of Work: Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – SW-03 - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 7 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 9 & 10 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years. Including other works within the contract scope. ("the Works"). Supplying, laying, testing and commissioning of 59.425 km of DWVC / CI / HDPE gravity mains of sizes varying from 200mm dia to 700mm dia by Pipe bursting, Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and open cut method of laying. Construction and up gradation of 1666 Nos of precast and cast in situ machine holes and Providing 7928 Nos of house sewer connections (HSCs) with 110mm and 160mm dia MDPE pipes. Operation and maintenance of entire collection system for a period of 5 years.

4. Open competitive bidding – National advertisement will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications defined in the Bidding Document may participate in this bidding:

- Technical criteria specified is for at least one contract that has been satisfactorily completed within the last Five years (2020-2021 to 2024-2025).

S No.	Qualification Criteria	Details
1.	Supply, laying and commissioning of gravity sewer mains of dia minimum of 350mm of HDPE/DWVC/CI/RCC for a minimum length, successfully completed in one single contract.	20 km
2.	Supply, laying and commissioning of gravity sewer mains of dia minimum of 200mm of HDPE/DWVC/CI/RCC for a minimum length, successfully completed using Trenchless Technology by pipe bursting / HDD in one single contract.	5.40 km
3.	Operation & Maintenance of Sewerage Network system for a period of at least one year	1 project

Financial criteria specified are to be achieved within the last 5 years (2020–2021 to 2024–2025). (Rs. in Crores)

S No.	Qualification Criteria	Details (Rs. in Crores)
4.	Achieved minimum annual construction turnover calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed.	89.30
	For Joint Venture (maximum three partners), for all partners combined (must meet the requirement)	89.30
	For any one partner	44.65
	For each partner	22.32
5.	One Sewerage network construction with the component of the proposed works of the value of not less than	53.57

Details of bid security and dates of Prebid meeting, bids closing date and bids opening dates

NIT No.	Name of work	E-Bid Security (INR)	Pre bid Meeting Date	E-Bid Submission closing Date	E-Bid Opening Date
1	Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – SW-03 - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 7 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 9 & 10 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years.	1.34 Cr	12/03/2026 at 11.00 Hours	08/04/2026 Upto 15.00 Hours	08/04/2026 15.30 Hours

Note: Only E-Bid security is accepted.

More details of qualification requirements are mentioned in the Bidding Documents.

6. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact: SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER/CONTRACT & MONITORING, CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD, No. 1, Pumping Station Road, Chintadripet, Chennai-02
Telephone: +91 44 28451300, Extn:254
E-mail: secandm@gmail.com

7. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible Bidders should:

- Refer to <https://tntenders.gov.in> (e-procurement portal of the Employer). The Bidding Documents will be available online on the website at [www.tntenders.gov.in](https://tntenders.gov.in) until before the deadline of bid submission.

8. Deliver your bid

- Online at <https://tntenders.gov.in> on or before the deadline date specified at 15:00 hours (IST) together with a E-Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.
- Details of submission and opening of bids are as detailed above.
- Bids will be opened promptly after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

9. The Employer/Purchaser will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or submission/delivery of bids.

CE(O&M)-II/SE/CE(M) i/c.
(Contracts & Monitoring)

DIPR/1560/TENDER/2026

2 cousins from Punjab killed in Canada crash

Tarn Taran: Two cousins from Punjab's Tarn Taran district died Tuesday after their vehicle allegedly skidded on snow, broke through a guardrail and plunged down a steep embankment along the Alaska highway in northeastern British Columbia, Canada. The deceased were identified as Talwinder Singh (32) and Judgebir Singh (30). Talwinder, one of three brothers, had moved to Canada nearly five years ago on a study visa and was working part-time. — Yudhvir Rana

Punjab-origin YouTuber stabbed in Canada

IP Singh & Neel Kamal | TNN

Jalandhar/Bathinda: Nancy Grewal (45), a social media influencer and YouTuber of Punjabi origin, was stabbed to death in LaSalle, near Windsor, Ontario, Canada, on March 3, police said. Originally from Ludhiana, Nancy Grewal was a commentator on India-Canada tensions and a critic of Khalistani extremism who took on politicians and religious leaders in her posts. In recent weeks, she posted videos against Radha Soami Sat-sang Beas chief Baba Gurinder Singh Dhillion after he

called on Akali leader Bikan Singh Majithia in Nabha jail. She also spoke against the Akal Takht jathedar. Nancy also confronted Nihang Amritpal Mehron — mains supporter in the 2025 murder of influencer Kanchan Kumari — accusing him of moral policing before he reportedly fled to the UAE. Nancy was living in Windsor and working as a nurse. Her sister said Nancy had gone to LaSalle to check on an elderly patient and was attacked while leaving shortly before 9.30pm. She was rushed to hospital but succumbed to her injuries.



Windsor and working as a nurse. Her sister said Nancy had gone to LaSalle to check on an elderly patient and was attacked while leaving shortly before 9.30pm. She was rushed to hospital but succumbed to her injuries.

LNG squeeze may impact urea output ahead of kharif season

No Immediate Crisis As It's Lean Season: Experts

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India may face serious disruptions in supply of fertilisers and raw materials in the next kharif season — starting in June — if the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz continues due to the conflict in West Asia, industry insiders said. They added that there is no immediate crisis because it is a lean season. Any reduction in supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to urea manufacturers in the coming weeks could impact production of the key soil nutrient ahead of the kharif planting season, a fertiliser company executive said, adding that they are keeping a close watch on developments. Kharif crops account for more than half



SUPPLY STRAIN

of India's food grain production, as major crops such as rice, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, and sugarcane are sown during this season. On average, fertiliser companies produce around 2.5 million tonnes (MT) of soil nutrients per month. If LNG supplies are not normalised, production could be severely affected, industry watchers said, highlighting that production and stocking of fertil-

isers usually begins from March to ensure smooth distribution. At present, 60% of LNG used in urea manufacturing is imported from Qatar, and India has a long-term agreement in place. Currently, 30 out of 32 urea manufacturing units use natural gas as feedstock. Industry watchers also said that apart from supply issues, blockade of key shipping routes in the Gulf would push up prices of DAP and urea, which would directly impact the govt's food subsidy expenses. Regarding the current level of stocks, people involved in the sector said that by the end of Feb, urea stocks stood at 5.5 MT compared to 4.9 MT a year ago. The current DAP stock with companies is projected at around 2.5 MT, against 1.3 MT a year earlier. In the case of complex fertilisers, NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) stocks are higher than 5.4 MT compared to 3.2 MT a year ago. The increased stock is due to a surge in imports during the current financial year.

Nepal interim PM: Prioritised holding polls peacefully despite uncertainty

► Continued from P1

Nearly 80% of Nepal's terrain is mountainous, complicating transport of ballots and election logistics in remote districts. A political analyst told TOI a turnout of anything above 60% would be significant, considering that more than 20% of registered voters are estimated to be working overseas. The turnout in the previous election, in 2022, stood at 61.4%. Interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki, Nepal's first woman to hold the post and chosen after young activists organised an online vote following the resignation of KP Sharma Oli, cast her vote early in Kathmandu and told reporters, "my duty is complete". She said her govt had prioritised holding elections peacefully despite political uncertainty. "We were careful from the beginning to avoid any



bloodshed during the election... polls have been conducted in a frugal manner despite doubts that they could be organised. Incoming govt will inherit the expectations of young voters. It holds the hopes of the youth — hope for change and a roadmap for development." The snap polls followed months of political upheaval triggered by last year's Gen Z protests, which began after a brief social media ban and widened into demonstrations demanding accountability, governance reform and job opportunities. The two-day uprising on Sept 8 and 9, when more than 70 protesters were killed, ultimately forced the collapse of the govt and set the stage for the snap elections. For activists who helped organise the protests, polling day marked the next phase of that movement — turning street pressure into votes.

Amrita Ban, 23, a Gen Z anti-corruption organiser who was involved in the Sept protests, described the day as deeply emotional. "This momentous day feels like a rollercoaster of emotions," she said. "For six months, people kept asking if an election was even possible after all the bloodshed." She said many organisers felt overwhelmed by the turnout of young voters across districts. Majid Ansari, another Gen Z activist, said youth participation appeared unprecedented. "I've never seen teenagers and young people this hungry to vote," he said. He framed the election as a response to the upheaval that followed the protests. "We began with demands for accountability and reforms, not a revolution. What followed was harsher than we imagined..." Ansari also called for accountability for violence during the unrest from the govt that takes office.

Govt. of Bihar

Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Bihar Undertaking)
Beltron Bhawan, Shastri Nagar, Patna-800023,
Telephone No. 0612-2281242 Tele Fax No. 0612-2281857
CIN No -U31900BR1978SGC001317

अल्प निविदा आमंत्रण

संदर्भ सं: NIT/BSDEC/03/26/2025-26

"स्टार्टअप हब, एंजलोटोपीओ, विस्कोगोम टॉवर, पटना में 1 GBPS High Speed 1:1 Leased Line Internet Bandwidth प्रदान करने हेतु" प्रतिष्ठित सेवा प्रदाताओं/एजेंसियों से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

इच्छुक एजेंसी मुखबरद निविदाएं पूर्ण विवरण के साथ दिनांक 06.03.2026 से 20.03.2026 के अपन 04:00 बजे तक बेल्ट्रॉन भवन में जमा कर सकते हैं।
उक्त निविदा हेतु विहित प्रपत्र एवं निविदा की शर्तें बेल्ट्रॉन कार्यालय अथवा बेल्ट्रॉन वेबसाइट-
<https://bsdec.bihar.gov.in/> से दिनांक 19.03.2026 के अपन 03:00 बजे तक प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि- 20.03.2026 अपन 04:00 बजे तक निर्धारित है।

सहम प्राधिकार के आदेश से,
महाप्रबंधक

उक्त सूचना www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

PR. No. 25575 (B&C) 25-26

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

बिहार सरकार

स्वास्थ्य विभाग
(प्रेस विज्ञापित)

राज्य के राजकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालयों से वर्ष-2023-25 में सभी डिप्लोमा उत्तीर्ण छात्रों के लिए आवश्यक सूचना।

परीक्षा नियंत्रक, बिहार स्वास्थ्य विभाग निवेशविद्यालय, पटना द्वारा सारकारी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालयों से सत्र-2023-25 में डिप्लोमा उत्तीर्ण सभी छात्रों की अंक विवरणी उपलब्ध करायी गयी है, जिन्हें राज्य में 02 वर्षों की अनिवार्य सेवा (सिफ्ट) प्रदान किये जाने के निमित्त चिकित्सा संस्थानों में पदस्थापन किया जाना है।

उक्त के आलोक में बिहार स्वास्थ्य विभाग निवेशविद्यालय, पटना से प्राप्त अंक विवरणी के आधार पर विभागवार मेधा सूची तैयार की गयी है, जो स्वास्थ्य विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://state.bihar.gov.in/health> के Latest News के अंतर्गत उपलब्ध है।

अतः डिप्लोमा उत्तीर्ण सभी छात्रों को मेधा सूची के संबंध में यदि कोई दावा/आपत्ति हो, तो स्वास्थ्य विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://state.bihar.gov.in/health> के Latest News में जाकर Online दावा/आपत्ति तथा वॉलेंट चयन पदस्थापन विकल्प सहित दिनांक-07.03.2026 से 13.03.2026 तक दर्ज करना सुनिश्चित करें। निर्धारित तिथि के उपरान्त प्राप्त होने वाले दावा/आपत्ति पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।

किसी भी अन्य माहम से इस संबंध में प्राप्त पत्राचार/अभाववेदन पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

(रेशु कुमारी)
विशेष कार्य प्रदाधिकारी

PR. No. 25577 (Health) 25-26

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

Govt. of Bihar

Patna Municipal Corporation
NIT No.09/CME/PMC/2026
Short Tender Notice

Patna Municipal Corporation invites online bids through www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in for following works from the bidders fulfilling eligibility criteria's.

SL. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender (Non-Refundable) (Paid Through www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)	EMD (INR) (Paid Through www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
1	Request for Proposal for Selection of Agency for Planning & Executing activities related to IEC Information, Education and Communication for Patna Municipal Corporation.	Rs. 11,800/-	Rs. 5,00,000/-

Key Dates:
Date of issue of RFP : 05.03.2026 (1500 Hrs.)
(Start of online bid/downloading of bid documents)
Date of pre-bid meeting : 11.03.2026 (1600 Hrs.)
Last date of submission of pre-bid Query : 12.03.2026 (1600 Hrs.)
Last date of online bid submission : 13.03.2026 (1600 Hrs.)
Date and time of opening of technical bids : 19.03.2026 (1600 Hrs.)
Date and time of opening of financial bids : To be notified later.

The preferred Company/agency would be selected through two-part competitive bidding process based on evaluation of technical proposal and financial proposal. The bidders are expected to submit their proposal in accordance with the instruction provided in the RFP. Detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) incorporating instructions for submission of bid and other relevant information will be available on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and www.pmc.bihar.gov.in from bid start date.

Amendment/Corrigendum/ any information to NIT, if any would be published on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in only.

Patna Municipal Corporation
Maurya Lok Complex,
Buddha Marg, Patna, Bihar, 800 001
Website: www.pmc.bihar.gov.in
Email: patnamc-bih@gov.in/patnamcprda@gmail.com/cmepmcprda02@gmail.com
M:-91 8292424327

PR. No. 25360 (B&C) 25-26

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Chief Municipal Engineer
Patna Municipal Corporation

बिहार सरकार

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL & FISHERIES RESOURCES
BIHAR, PURNEA.
PURNEA SEMEN STATION
A UNIT OF BIHAR LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Advert. No.- 11/ 2025-26

URGENT - TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF EMULSION & ENAMEL PAINT

Sealed tenders are invited for Purnea Semen Station, Purnea from primary distributor having valid distributor license for the supply of "EMULSION & ENAMEL PAINT". Bidder should must be registered under GST. The bid must be in two bid system i.e. Technical and Financial in two separate sealed envelopes duly super scribed with "TECHNICAL BID" AND "FINANCIAL BID" and name of firm. Both the sealed envelope is to be put in bigger envelope duly sealed and super scribed with "OFFER FOR SUPPLY OF EMULSION & ENAMEL PAINT".

S.N.	ITEM NAME	UNIT	QUANTITY	RATE / UNIT
1	Asian Paint Plastic Emulsion – L 143 (Rain drop)	Liter	1000	
2	Asian Paint Plastic Emulsion – L 150 (Pressed Linen)	Liter	200	
3	Asian Paint Ace Exterior Emulsion – 0615 (Silver Grey Light Shade)	Liter	1000	
4	Asian Paint Ace Exterior Emulsion – 8303 (dark Shade)	Liter	200	
5	Asian Paint Premium gloss enamel – Aluminium Paint	Liter	100	
6	Asian Paint Premium gloss enamel – 6126 Nickel Grey	Liter	500	

You are requested to quote your lowest rates with GST, payment terms of delivery and any other tax for the same on or before 04:00 PM, 17/03/2026 through our website and Post at our following address:
General Manager,
Purnea Semen Station,
NH-31, Maranga, Purnea, Bihar – 854303.
Note: Quotations sent by E-mail will not be accepted.
The details of Tenders offer, terms and conditions may be seen on the website- <https://www.sspurnea.com>.

Important Dates
Start date for Submission of tender :- 08/03/2026 from 10:00 AM.
Last date for Submission of Tender :- 17/03/2026 on or before 04:00 PM
Opening date for Financial Bid :- To be informed later.

Details information visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

General Manager
Purnea Semen Station, Purnea.

PR. No.025350(Animal) 2025-26

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

TGTGTC TELANGANA TRADE PROMOTION CORPORATION LTD.
(Formerly TSTPC Ltd) (An Undertaking of Government of Telangana)
Regd. Offc. : 5-10-174, Shaikar Bhawan, 2nd Floor, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad- 500 004, Telangana, India.
Tel. +91 940-23227591. Email: info@tgtgpc.org, <https://tgtgpc.telangana.gov.in> CIN: UT4991TG2014SGC095847
TGTGTC/TENDER/GOVT/CONV/2026 Date: 05.03.2026

(Through e-procurement portal of Government of Telangana only)
Telangana Trade Promotion Corporation Ltd., Hyderabad invites e-Tenders from reputed Conversion Units for manufacture of exercise note books for Government Welfare Departments/Institutions for the year 2025-27. Tenders can be viewed and downloaded from the Website: <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> (Tender ID-684200) from 11.00 AM onwards on 05.03.2026 and last date & time for submission of tenders: 1.00 PM on 16.03.2026 for further details can be had from TGTGTC Office during working hours. Mobile No.9110505855.

MDPR R.O.No.1240/PPCL-AGENCY/ADV/17/2025-26 05.03.2026 Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites Tender corrigendum against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2025-26-13 for the work of 'Provision of Loco washing plant, T&P for Loco Maintenance & communication accessories - localized VHF's in Electric Loco Shed-Ghaziabad. The details are as under:

Field Name	Existing Date Time	Modified Date Time
Tender Closing Date Time	20.03.2026 15:00	28.03.2026 15:00
Bidding Start Date	06.03.2026	14.03.2026

Particulars of Tender Corrigendum details can be seen on website www.irops.gov.in

No. 230-TRS-GZB-2025-26-13 Dated : 02.03.2026 741/2026

Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY e-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

Name of work with its location	Approx. Cost of work	Earnest Money Deposit
Manning of 11 Nos. Traction Substations over DUK and SPR Sections of Delhi Division.	Rs. 2,38,55,561.15/-	Rs. 2,69,300/-

Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	E-Tender Bid Online Submission period
16.03.2026 (11.30 hrs.)	19.03.2026 (00.00 Hrs.) to 02.04.2026 (15.00 Hrs.)

E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	Fund Allocation
02.04.2026 (15.00 hrs)	07041032

Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen www.irops.gov.in

E-Tender No. - 40-TRD-NCLS-2025-26 Dated : 03.03.2026 745/2026

Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY e-OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Engineer-Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on the prescribed form for the under noted work.

Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest money:

- Augmentation of PNP Running Room by constructing an additional Building comprising of 12 New Rooms in the Existing Running room in the section of SSEW/PNP under ADEEN/PNP.
- Standardization of turnouts & maintenance of track infrastructure in various yard in the section of SSEW/PNP/KUN under ADEEN/KUN.
- Standardization of turnouts & maintenance of track infrastructure in various yard in the section of SSEW/PNP/PNP under ADEEN/PNP.
- Standardization of turnouts & maintenance of track infrastructure in various yard in the section of SSEW/PNP/SNP under ADEEN/PNP.

Approx. cost : 1. Rs. 1,41,50,403.02/- 2. Rs. 1,14,91,506.69/- 3. Rs. 1,08,94,169.18/- 4. Rs. 1,19,82,082.14/-

Earnest Money : 1. Rs. 2,20,800/- 2. Rs. 2,07,500/- 3. Rs. 2,04,500/- 4. Rs. 2,09,900/-

Completion Period : 1. 12 Months 2.3 & 4. 9 Months

Earnest Money should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. **Note :** FOR or Demand Draft will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No. 2015/CE-I/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016.

Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 27.03.2026, opening of e-tender at 15.00 hrs. on 27.03.2026.

Website particulars, published-tender, notice location etc complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.irops.gov.in

Similar nature of work : 1. Construction of Building/Quarters. 2. Any type of Track work.

NOTE: All attachments must be self attested by the tenderers and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached to tender conditions as per Annexure-XXIV is compulsory.

No. : 128-W/280/Tender Notice/25-26/W-1(NIT-46-49) Dated: 05.03.2026 751/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

National Investigation Agency Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road New Delhi-110003
Telephone No. 011-24368800 & Fax No. 011-24368801

NOTICE
ENGAGEMENT OF LEGAL EXPERTS OF EMINENCE ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS IN THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (www.nia.gov.in)

National Investigation Agency (NIA), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India invites applications from Legal Experts of eminence for engagement against 02 (two) posts (number may vary) purely on contract basis for a period of 01(one) year or until further orders whichever is earlier.

Applicants should possess substantial expertise in constitutional, criminal and public international law, with demonstrated experience in legislative drafting, policy formulation, treaty interpretation, international criminal law, comparative legal research and advisory work relating to national security, transnational crime, and criminal justice reforms. Candidates from Investigation, prosecution, retired members of the judiciary or retired officers of the foreign service, strong research-based academia, or allied domains of legal practice and public policy are eligible to apply.

Details regarding eligibility criteria, emoluments, selection procedure, application proforma and other terms and conditions are available on the NIA website: www.nia.gov.in. Applications in the prescribed format must reach the Deputy Inspector General (Admin), NIA HQ, Opposite CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 by Registered/Speed post or email (spadmin.nia@gov.in) within 45 days from publication of advertisement in the 'Employment News'. Incomplete or late applications will be summarily rejected.

Sd/-
DIG(Admin)
NIA HQ, New Delhi

CBC 19133/11/0068/2526

Jammu and Kashmir Minerals Limited (A J&K Government Undertaking)
RO :- Ground Floor Sanat Ghar Bemina Srinagar
Email :- md.minerals@jk.gov.in Ph. No 0194-2493616.

E-AUCTION OF COAL

J&K Minerals Ltd is conducting E-Auction of 13,521.983 MTS of Coal extracted from Coal Mines Kalakot Rajouri J&K (on as is where in basis) through MSTC Ltd on 14th, March, 2026. All the interested Buyers are invited to participate in the E-Auction. Only registered buyers with MSTC Ltd are eligible to participate. For new buyer's registration/participation contact Helpdeskkho@mstcindia.in Ph. 0796906660 Dealing Officer :- Mr Nikhil MSTC Ph. no. 9674550002.

Detailed Terms & Conditions and catalogues can be downloaded from MSTC website www.mstcindia.in

For physical verification of Coal at Moghla & Metka Coal Mines Kalakot Rajouri Contact - Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Wani, Agent Coal Mines Kalakote. (8492922789); Mr Parmod Khajuria DGM (7006527662); Mr Mir Sajad DGM (7006274597); Mr. Mir Irfan Company Secretary (9419269220); E.mail:- md.minerals@jk.gov.in

DIP No:DIPK-NB-3506/25/03/02028

DEPARTMENT OF ART & CULTURE BIHAR STATE FILM DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED (BSDFFC)
Patna, Bihar

INVITATION FOR REGISTRATION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS
(For Facilitating Film Shooting in Bihar under Bihar Film Promotion Policy, 2024)

Bihar State Film Development and Finance Corporation Limited (BSDFFC), Patna, under the Department of Art & Culture, Government of Bihar, proposes to create a database of film and shooting-related service providers for facilitating filmmakers and production houses undertaking film shooting activities within the State of Bihar, in accordance with the Bihar Film Promotion Policy, 2024.

In this context, individuals, agencies, firms, and service providers engaged in film production-related activities are invited to register their details on the official BSDFFC portal for the purpose of facilitating access to local services during film shootings in Bihar.

Interested applicants may register their services by visiting: <http://film.bihar.gov.in/>

Categories of Services (Indicative):

- Performers: (i) Artists: Actor, Anchor, Voice Artist (Dubbing, Voice Over), Junior Artist, MusicDirector (Songs, Background), Arranger, Musician, Singer, Choreographer, Assistant Choreographer, Dancer, Group Dancer
- Technicians and Manpower: Director, Assistant Director, Casting Director, Story Writer, Screenplay Writer, Dialogue Writer, Voice Over Writer, Lyricists, Director of Photography (DOP), Camera Assistant, Lighting Assistant, Lightman, Sound Designer, Sound Recorder, Effects & Foley Artist, Sound Mixing Master (RR), Editor, Editing Assistant, Production Designer, Art Director, Art Director Assistant, Action Director, Fighter, Animation-Graphics & SPl. Effects Artist, DI Colourist, Line Producer, Production Manager, Production Assistant, Costume Designer, Dress-man, Make-up Man, Make-up Assistant, Hair Stylist, Wig Maker, Still Photographer, BTS Makers, Spot Boys.
- Studios: Shooting Studios, Sound Studios, Edit Studios, Animation & Graphics Studios, Costume Supplier, Props Supplier, Food Supplier, Cine Equipment Supplier, Junior Artist Provider, Spot Boy Provider, Hotels & Hospitality Provider, Houses for shooting Providers, Vanity Van Provider, Transport Provider, Logistics Provider, Travel Agents, Generator Services, Security Services and any other allied services required for film shooting and production.

Registration is solely for database creation and facilitation purposes and does not imply empanelment, selection, or any contractual obligation on the part of BSDFFC or the Government of Bihar.

Registration timeframe: Open throughout the year

General Manager
Bihar State Film Development and Finance Corporation Limited, Patna, Bihar

PR. No. 025587 (Youth, Art & Culture) 2025-26

This information is available on website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

यौन जनित रोग छुपाओ नहीं इलाज कराओ, खुद के साथ अपने जीवन साथी को भी सुरक्षित करें।

NORTHERN RAILWAY Notice for provision of hiring of Movable Conveyor Belts on rent basis (EOI)

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites EOI (Expression of Interest) for provision of hiring of 2 movable conveyor belts on rent basis along with operator for both the movable conveyor belts for a period of 02 days for loading/ unloading of outward/inward parcel packages at VP siding, New Delhi Railway Station for trial on temporary and Experimental basis. These movable conveyor belts can cover area upto 40 feet in length and are capable for scanning of parcels measuring at least 100 cm x 100 cm x 100 cm with Conveyor capacity of 1000 kg or more and should also have throughput of 200 bags per hour or more. Expression submitted will be scrutinized and feasibility of rates proposed by the applicant will be provided if found feasible. For more details & Other information kindly visit Northern Railway's website: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in or contact 9717631970. Last date of submission of EOI: Upto 15:00 Hrs on 12.03.2026.

No: C9/Conveyor Belt/2026 Date: 05.03.2026 749/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

AP cracker unit blast toll rises to 28: The death toll in a blast at a firecracker unit in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district last weekend has risen to 28, with two workers succumbing to their injuries Wednesday. TNN

'Hasn't taken a day off in 25 yrs': Carney praises PM's work ethic

Manash Gohain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Canadian PM Mark Carney praised Narendra Modi's governance approach and work ethic, saying the Indian PM remained strongly focused on delivering welfare programmes directly to ordinary citizens despite policy and administrative challenges.



Speaking at an interaction hosted by the Lowy Institute in Sydney Thursday, Carney reflected on his recent meetings with Modi in New Delhi and described him as a leader deeply committed to implementing reforms that reached people at the grassroots level. "He's a person who is very focused on delivery... to the rural household, to the person on the street," Carney said, explaining how India's financial and digital reforms were designed to ensure welfare benefits reached citizens directly. Referring to India's digital payments transformation, Carney highlighted the role of UPI in expanding financial inclusion and reducing leakage in welfare distribution. "A huge motivation for the payment system transformation, UPI and other things was to get money directly to individuals without leakage and bring hundreds of millions into formal economy," he said. Carney also commented on Modi's political work ethic. "He has not taken a single day off" in the last 25 years either as chief minister of Gujarat or as prime minister," he said. His remarks came days after his four-day visit to India aimed at rebuilding ties following diplomatic tensions in 2023.

After signing condolence book, Misri meets Iranian ambassador

▶ Continued from P1

Tehran had been hoping India would express condolences over the killing of Khamenei, if not condemn the US-Israeli attacks on Iran. After signing the book, Misri had a short meeting with Iranian ambassador Mohammad Fathali.

Russian ambassador Denis Aliyev and Pakistani charge d'affaires Saad Ahmad Warraich were among the first to sign the condolence book when it was opened in the morning. In his message, Misri expressed condolences on behalf of the govt and people of India. "We pray for peace for the departed soul," he said. However, in 2024, after the death of then Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Jaishankar had himself visited the embassy to sign the condolence book. India had then also declared a day-long national mourning.

Misri signed the book on the first day of its opening but the fact that India had not offered its condolences for Khamenei, who was killed on Saturday, had drawn criticism from the opposition. India always had mixed feelings about Khamenei who endorsed efforts to address shared regional interests with the Indian govt, most notably for connectivity through the Chabahar port, but also riled India on several occasions with his "misinformed and unacceptable" utterances about J&K and Muslims in India. Khamenei met PM Narendra Modi when the latter travelled to Tehran in 2016 for what was the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM to Iran in 15 years. The Indian foreign ministry had described the meeting then as a rare honour for the PM. Iran also denied that it is indis-



Misri expressed condolences on behalf of the govt and people of India

criminally attacking the Gulf countries where close to 10 million Indians live. "We told all our neighbours we are attacking US bases from which they target us," said Iran's ambassador to India Mohammad Fathali. He also said Iran has good relations with India with a historical background and wants to improve ties further. "But in this case, all govt and all people are being put to the test," he said.

According to Iranian authorities, Tehran has always sought to maintain robust ties with India and does not want the relationship to be affected by any third country. It also maintains that no country should cherry-pick on international law.

Iran is also non-committal about safe passage for Indian or other tankers through the Strait of Hormuz as it believes its action will depend on specific conditions. Iran has maintained it communicated to neighbours in an official communication that US bases would be legitimate targets if Iran was attacked by the Trump administration. Tehran's contention is insurance companies as also others looking to avoid the war are also responsible for the strait's closure.

Sri Lankan navy rescued 32 from sinking warship

▶ Continued from P1

Another aircraft with air dropable life rafts was also kept standby for immediate deployment. INS Tarangini which was operating in the vicinity, was deployed for aiding the rescue efforts and arrived in search area by 4 pm," it said. "By this time search and rescue had been undertaken by Sri Lankan navy and other agencies," the statement said. The Sri Lankan navy recovered 87 bodies and rescued 32 people after receiving a distress signal from the Iranian warship, 40 nautical miles from the island nation.

A day after the US attack on IRIS Dena, the second Iranian warship was seeking to escape the US nuclear submarine lurking in the Indian Ocean. It had sought permission to enter Sri Lanka's waters, according to its media minister Nalintha Jayatissa. Media reports quoting official sources said the vessel was carrying more than 100 crew and feared they too, could be targeted the same way its sister warship was sunk. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake met top officials Thursday to discuss a response to an Iranian request to allow entry to the warship into the safety of the island's waters.

Govt officials have rubbished a former US army officer's statement that the US is using Indian ports to attack Iran. "On a US-based channel, One America News Network, former

US Army Colonel Douglas Macgregor made a statement suggesting that the US is using Indian naval bases to attack Iran, amidst the ongoing Iran-US conflict. This claim is FAKE," a PIB fact-check said.

Aragchi comment follows the confirmation on Wednesday by US secretary of war Pete Hegseth the US had sunk IRIS Dena. "In the Indian Ocean, an American submarine sank an Iranian warship that thought it was safe in international waters. Instead, it was sunk by a torpedo. Quiet death. The first sinking of an enemy ship by a (US) torpedo since WWII. Like in that war, back when we were still the War Department, we are fighting to win," Hegseth said. Gen Dan Caine, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the US submarine that sank IRIS Dena launched a Mark-48 heavy-weight torpedo.

Lanka's foreign minister Vijitha Herath said his navy had received information IRIS Dena was sinking. The island nation sent ships and planes on a rescue mission. A Navy spokesman said by the time their ships reached the location, there was no sign of the ship and "were only some oil patches and life rafts. We found people floating on the water".

Modi, Macron discuss need for dialogue & diplomacy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India continued to engage the international community over the situation in West Asia region as PM Modi on Thursday spoke to French President Emmanuel Macron, reiterating the need for a return to dialogue and diplomacy.

After his telephonic conversation with Macron, the PM said they will continue to work together for cessation of hostilities in the region.

"Spoke with my friend President Emmanuel Macron today. We discussed our shared concerns over the evolving situation in West Asia and the need for a return to dialogue and diplomacy.



After talking to Macron, Modi said they will continue to work together for cessation of hostilities in W Asia

We will continue to engage closely and coordinate efforts towards the early restoration of peace and stability in the region," Modi said in a post on X. External affairs minister S Jaishankar also spoke to his Saudi Arabia and Oman counterparts.

'Skylight' attack: Bones found in captain's cabin

Patna: Four days after the captain of oil tanker 'Skylight', along with a crew member, went missing after the ship was attacked in the Gulf of Oman, family members got an update Thursday that some bones were recovered from his cabin, reports Faryal Rumi.

The ship, owned by a Dubai-based company, was anchored off Khasab coast on the Strait of Hormuz, when it was attacked. The captain, Ashish Kumar, is a resident of Bettiah in Bihar's West Champaran district. His family said they had received information of the attack, and that two people were missing, on Sunday itself.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF ROAD/WORK/NOTICE	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE AND TIME	AMOUNT (INR) (APPROX.)	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	SOCIAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, FARIDABAD	HODING OF SERVICES FOR RESOLVING DAY TO DAY COMPLAINTS RECEIVED THROUGH PHARU SADA PORTAL, SOCIAL MEDIA FOR VARIOUS LOCALITIES UNDER MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, FARIDABAD - 5 WORKS	03.03.2026 12.00.30 PM	Rs. 4,28,39,170/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	99674903 haryana.municipal@haryana.gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO 43528

J & K SPORTS COUNCIL, JAMMU NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender Notice : Fresh E-NIT No: 19 of 2025-26 DATED: 02-03-2026

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders for hiring of empanelled Agency for media operations/PR for fixation of rate contract for the year 2025-26 :- (MSME exemption of CDR/ Tender cost document not allowed) :-

S. No.	Particulars	Advertised Cost	Cost of Tender Document	Cost of Earnest Money
1.	Fixation of rate contract for Media/PR Agencies for 1 year	40 Lacs	Rs. 1700/-	80000/-

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Criteria, specification, bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website www.jktenders.gov.in w.e.f. 02-03-2026 to 09-03-2026 upto 4.00 PM.

No.-: SC/4434/19325-28
Dated:- 02-03-2026
Sd/-
Secretary,
J&K Sports Council.

37001/6/2526
Odisha Tourism
Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road
Bhubaneswar-751014
Fax No. +91 674 2430887
E-mail: info@odishatourism.gov.in

Odisha
INDIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET

4671/TSM, Bhubaneswar, Dated 03.03.2026
TCT-TSP-MISC-0028-2026
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SETTING UP AND OPERATIONALIZING RESTAURANTS SERVING AUTHENTIC ODIA CUISINE AT SELECTED LOCATIONS WITHIN ODISHA AND OUTSIDE ODISHA TO PROMOTE ODISHA CULINARY HERITAGE

Department of Tourism (DoT) invites proposals from prospective applicant(s) for 'Expression of Interest (EOI)' for setting up and operationalizing restaurants serving authentic Odia cuisine at selected locations within Odisha and outside Odisha to promote Odisha Culinary Heritage in accordance with the conditions and manner prescribed in the Expression of Interest (EOI) document.

The Proposals should be submitted by interested applicant(s) to the Director Tourism, Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar-751014 on or before 18.03.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs. Detailed terms of the RFP may be downloaded from our website: <https://odishatourism.gov.in/content/tourism/en/dot/quickLinks/tender.html>.

Sd/-
Director, Tourism
OIPR-37001/6/2526/1/25-26/0003

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Registered & Corporate Office: Bidyut Unnayan Bhawan
Plot No. 3/C, LA Block, Sector-I, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700106
Employment Notification No. WBPDCL/Recruitment/2026/02

WALK-IN INTERVIEW
WBPDCL intends to engage experienced professionals in the following position on contractual basis through Walk-In Interview for its Corporate Office in Kolkata, West Bengal.

01. Senior Machine Learning Engineer : 01 no.
Walk-In interviews shall be held on 12.03.2026 (Thursday) from 12.00 noon to 02.00 p.m. at Bidyut Unnayan Bhawan, Block-LA, Plot No.-3/C, Sector-I, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700106. Details of the Notification and prescribed format of application are available in the WBPDCL website www.wbpdcl.co.in

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Registered & Corporate Office: Bidyut Unnayan Bhawan
Plot No. 3/C, LA Block, Sector-I, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700106
Employment Notification No. WBPDCL/Recruitment/2026/01

WALK-IN INTERVIEW
WBPDCL intends to engage experienced professionals in the following positions on contractual basis through Walk-In Interview for its Power Plants / Projects / Coal Mines spread across West Bengal & Jharkhand.

02. Senior Executive (Security): 03 nos.
Walk-In interviews shall be held on 12.03.2026 (Thursday) from 11.00 a.m. to 02.00 p.m. at Bidyut Unnayan Bhawan, Block-LA, Plot No.-3/C, Sector-I, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700106. Details of the Notification and prescribed format of application are available in the WBPDCL website www.wbpdcl.co.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/Northern Railway/Tilak Bridge New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under One Packet System for the under noted work:-

Full Name of Work	Approx. Cost of work	Completion period of the work	Earnest Money to be deposited
1. Maintenance of staff quarters in Railway colonies at Wazirpur, Shakti Nagar, Tughlakabad, Punjabi Bagh, Delhi Cantt & Rohini. Office and storage of SSE/C/P/Way/DEE & DSA. Office Complex of Dy. CE/CT/J, Dy. CE/C/S&C/TJ, CE/CT/J, Dy. CSTE/CT/J, XENC/ROK, Officer's Rest House at Lohian Bridge and other assets under Dy. CE/CT/J.	Rs. 178.85 Lacs	12 Months	Rs. 2,39,400.00
2. Sale/availability of tender document	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 06.03.2026 to 27.03.2026 upto 15:00 hrs.		
3. Last date/Time of upload of tenders	27.03.2026 upto 15:00 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 13.03.2026 to 27.03.2026.		
4. Date and time of opening of tender	27.03.2026 at 11:30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2)). The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.		

Tender Notice No.: 495-ACS-C-Maintenance-TKI Dated: 03.03.2026 753/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

MALABAR INTERNATIONAL PORT & SEZ LTD INVITATION OF TWO EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST EXTENDED UP TO 1st JUNE, 2026, 1700 hrs (IST)

- Development, Operation & Maintenance of the Greenfield Malabar International Port, on Public Private Partnership (INR 3429 Cr (\$ 452.2 M)).
- Construction & Maintenance of Breakwaters on EPC-Hybrid Annuity (INR 1428 Cr (\$ 188.34 M)).

Details - Website: malabarport.kerala.gov.in
Email: mdapl.port@kerala.gov.in
MD&CEO, MIPs Ltd., N-5, Jawahar Nagar, Trivandrum-695003, KERALA

RO No. D3/237/2026/I&PRD

Didi: Shah didn't consult me over change of guard

▶ Continued from P1

Mamata said Shah didn't consult her over the change of guard "as per established convention". Ravi has been at odds with the Tamil Nadu govt over a host of issues and his expected transfer to Bengal assumes significance due to Mamata's vehement protest against the EC's SIR exercise in the state with polls set to be conducted with the new voters' list.

The suddenness of Ananda Bose's decision was borne out by the fact that a Raj Bhavan social media channel posted his key official engagements on Friday till a few hours before he made the announcement. The engagements included his "presence" at the "first-of-its-kind" Darjeeling Hill Festival, where President Droupadi Murmu would be chief guest.

The election-eve choice of Ravi as Bengal's 24th governor also prompted the CM to claim that "such actions undermine the spirit of the Constitution of India and strike at the very foundation of our federal structure". Ravi, known for his confrontations with the Stalin administration, will be stepping into Raj Bhavan just ahead of the assembly election. Bose, as many noted, had been lying low, uncharacteristically, for the last few months, avoiding any fresh tussle with the Bengal govt.

Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya said, "They (TMC) should stop whining on ethics and morality in a state where the assembly opposition leader has to move the high court 124 times just to hold public meetings."

Raj Bhavan insiders gave a couple of "reasons" for Bose's decision: ill health and frustration over not being allowed to work by the state administration. It was also becoming increasingly clear in Bengal's political circles that Bose's recent non-confrontational approach was not entirely to the liking of the local BJP brass. "He was stymied not by the state administration but by his own actions and inaction," a BJP senior told TOI.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL

SANDEEP ADHAWARY



₹25,000 for 3rd child: AP unveils population policy

Even as the country gets ready for the 16th edition of the Census next month, Andhra Pradesh's TDP govt has announced what could well be India's first population management policy with incentives for couples to bear more children, including paying Rs 25,000 to couples giving birth to their third child. CM Naidu said govt would try to finalise the policy soon for its introduction from April 1.

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E-mail ID: omfed@yahoo.com

OMFED invites e-Tender from reputed Manufacturing Units/ Traders / Suppliers for supply of Stainless Steel Milk can of 5-liter capacity, Stainless Steel Milk can 40-liter capacity & Alum Milk can 40-liter capacity. The e-tender is invited on-line through e-procurement of Govt. of Odisha web Portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> and <http://www.omfed.com>. The Bid documents will be available in the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 10.00 AM of 03.03.2026 to 02.00 PM of 23.03.2026. The techno-commercial Bid shall be opened at 03.00 PM of 24.03.2026 at OMFED Corporate office in the presence of the interested bidders. The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bid document or part thereof without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Managing Director
OIPR-6001/26/31/25-26/0013

Veteran journalist H K Dua cremated

New Delhi: Family and friends bade a touching adieu to veteran journalist H K Dua (88) who was cremated at Lodhi Road crematorium on Thursday. He passed away a day ago after a brief illness.

Dua served as the editor of four big English newspapers - The Times of India, The Indian Express, Hindustan Times and The Tribune - over a career spanning five decades.

He later became media adviser to prime ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee and H D Deve Gowda, and also served as India's ambassador to Denmark. Later, he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan for his services to journalism, and was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2009.

79W

Two tigers kill female rhino in Dudhwa reserve

Pilibhit: In a rare incident, a female one-horned rhinoceros, known by the name Rajeshwari, was overpowered and killed by two tigers in Sonariapur forest range of Rhinoceros Rehabilitation Enclosure-1 in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, possibly on Wednesday morning, reports Keshav Agarwal. A half-submerged rhino carcass floating in Amba Tal was spotted by a forest team, one of the two predators was still perched on the herbivore. "There has been a rise in the number of cases where tigers have been found attacking rhinos, over the past year," an official said.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

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No. CEE/T&P/SE-26/10419-32 Date : 03.03.2026

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works against following enquiry numbers on Partial Turnkey basis.

Enquiry number/ Name of the Work

KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3413

Combined Package of

Work-A: Establishing 2x160MVA, 220/110KV & 1x10MVA, 110/11KV sub-station at Baidoddi (Arasigeri) and construction of associated transmission lines for a distance of 220KV - 2.925km and 110KV - 90.901km along with terminal bays in Raichur Taluk & District.

Work-B: Establishing 2x20MVA, 110/11KV sub-station at Ashapur road and Construction of 110KV LILO line for a distance of 3.115 km in Raichur Taluk, Raichur District.

Work-C: Establishing 2x20MVA, 110/11KV sub-station at Amdhial and Construction of 110 KV LILO line for a distance of 6.64 km in Lingasugur Taluk, Raichur District.

Work-D: Establishing 2x20MVA, 110/11KV sub-station at Halapura (Joladarasi) and Construction of 110KV LILO line for a distance of 9.39 km in Maski Taluk, Raichur District.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 10.03.2026 @ 15:00 hrs. Last date & time for receipt of bids and any extension of Due date for bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal. Any details required in this regard can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Electy.), Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL, 9th Floor, Indhiana Bhavana, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

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In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Managing Director
OIPR-6001/26/31/25-26/0013



CONTRAPUNTO

My retirement date, every time you ask me that, I'm going to say five years. I don't want to retire

- JAMIE DIMON

Gas Pain

Iran war has cut off bulk of India's gas imports. Pain will be felt from kitchens to factories. There's a way out

It's four days since Qatar, world's third largest LNG exporter, shut down production after an Iranian attack. In one stroke, 20% of world's LNG supply switched off. Qatar said it would need at least a month to resume production, but the way Iran's targeting it – there were multiple explosions over Doha yesterday – it might take longer. That's worrying everyone – gas prices in Europe, for example, rose 54% on Monday. India is especially affected because it gets 40% of its imported LNG from Qatar.

The crisis boils down to price and availability. With contracted supplies unavailable, India must buy in the "spot" market, where prices have hit the roof. Gas that cost \$10 a few days ago is now going for \$25. Consider how India uses gas, and the problem becomes evident. The biggest share (28%) goes into fertilisers like urea. City gas demand, which includes PNG for kitchens and CNG for cars and buses, comes next, and is growing quickest. Last, gas fuels power plants and industries.

At its current high price, using gas to make electricity doesn't make sense. Fertilisers are vital, but other industries like glass and ceramics cannot ignore energy prices. That leaves city gas, to which govt gives highest importance. Even if all gas imports halt, your kitchen and your car have first claim on India's own gas production, which meets roughly half of yearly demand. But that won't insulate you from high prices, as PNG and CNG suppliers blend their domestic gas quotas with imported gas.

This could hurt your pocket, and if the crisis persists, it might reshape India's auto industry. Last year, for the first time CNG cars outsold diesel cars, taking 21% market share. This is good for air quality, but high CNG prices and even longer queues at pumps will dull demand. There's a parallel crisis of LPG, the older kitchen gas still used by 33cr consumers. India imports 60% of its LPG, mostly from W Asia. So the longer Iran war lasts, the more households will suffer. Unless Centre and states absorb increased costs, which is imprudent.

Right now, it's important to tap other gas suppliers, like Australia and Canada, but long-term, we need to scale up biogas production. India can meet all of its gas needs from agricultural and urban waste. Cattle dung alone can be turned into 39,000 tonnes of gas daily. Add 16,000 tonnes from paddy straw every day. But we made just 31,000 tonnes of biogas in entire 2024-25. It's a national waste.



BJP And Babu

In Bihar, just like in Maha, the party outshone its state outfit ally. But Nitish is still a political presence

Who'll be CM in Bihar – Nitish Kumar's unsurprising exit will be followed by him joining Rajya Sabha – is not even a blip on the news waves. This is because BJP central command's MO is to appoint party workhorses who have zero name recognition nationally, to positions of power as CMs. Haryana, Odisha, MP, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh are proof. In fact, even BJP's new party chief started his national career as Nabin Who.

While it's no surprise that Nitish will no longer be CM, the change may have been effected earlier than anticipated. Indications that Nitish's tenth stint would not be full-term were evident during electioneering, his reported state of health one factor.

Nitish's remarkable stint as CM is marked by his dexterity of political re-alignment, having last won an election in 2004 LS polls from Nalanda. He has never contested since, and was sent to Bihar's Vidhan Parishad (upper house) after he became CM for the second time in 2005. Yet, he navigated Bihar's caste politics smartly, created an EBC base, and was among early politicians to champion caste-impact of backward Muslim communities, the Pasmandas.

And more than within a withered JDU, which has been but a one-man party, it is this EBC/Pasmanda Muslim base that will eventually see a slow churn, with BJP at the helm – even if in Bihar, Hindutva politics have always ridden on a social justice plank.

BJP is now Big Bro in all big states where it was once junior partner to a regional party. Its electoral victories in Maharashtra and Bihar are evidence of its firm grounding, turfing out the state party it once piggybacked. And yet, even if only for the optics of it, BJP could not avoid giving deputy CMship to Nitish's greenhorn son in "good faith". That's another measure of how much Nitish means to Bihar's politics, even when he's out of it.



Bare to dare

From Delhi's AI Summit to Maoris, protesters have put skin in the game

Jug Suraiya

In a demonstration that raised both eyebrows and hackles, some members of Youth Congress gate-crashed the recent AI Summit in Delhi, and as a gesture of protest against issues ranging from what they perceived as an Indo-US trade proposal unfavourable to Indian farmers to growing unemployment among young people, performed a semi-striptease by doffing their shirts. This bare-to-dare demonstration sought to convey that they were getting hot under the collar about many of the govt's policies and priorities and needed to get their grievances off their chests, along with items of clothing.

Some have likened this show of pique by literally losing one's shirt at the powers-that-be to the Mahatma's removal of his top garment of made-in-Britain fabric to launch his homespun charkha movement in an opening gambit eventually to throw off the yoke of oppressive imperialism. Officialdom, however, has denounced the demonstrators saying that those who in public discard their kameez show a lack of tameez, and by taking panga by going nanga have disgraced not only themselves but national honour by their unseemly behaviour in front of distinguished foreign guests.

While losing one's shirt in games of chance or on horse racing tracks is an occupational hazard for punters, metaphorically renouncing the garment in question can help win political brownie points. Juan Perón, who served two terms as President of Argentina, and was the husband of the charismatic Evita of musical fame, owed his rise to power thanks to the backing of the 'descamisados', Spanish for 'the shirtless ones', the hypothetical lack of wardrobe referring to their entrenched poverty as underpaid labourers for the 'estancieros', the large landowners who were the elite of the country.

The AI Summit protesters may or may not have heard of the descamisados, of the 'sans culottes', without knee-breeches, the working-class supporters of the French Revolution who substituted the aristocratic attire of knee-length breeches for ankle-length pantaloons.

Fortunately, however, the shirtless ones at the Summit seemed unfamiliar with the Maori way of showing dissent called 'moonin', which consists of lowering one's nether garment and presenting one's exposed rear in explicit body language summing up a literally bum deal.



jugularvein

Bombs Can't Build A Republic

A West Asia researcher who has extensively travelled in Iran writes that many Iranians detest the ayatollahs, but are also proud of their Persian heritage. Attacks on Iran may produce a popular nationalist response, not a revolution against clerics

Fabrizio Vitorino



Khamenei, killed in US strikes, had been supreme leader for over 35 years. His son Mojtaba has emerged as the top contender to succeed him, but forces within Iran's elite could ignite a power struggle lasting months. Meanwhile, the bloc that positioned itself as an alternative to Western unipolarity has been conspicuously absent. Has anyone heard of a Brics mediation initiative?

Trump's statement: "When we are finished, take over your govt. It will be yours to take. This will probably be your only chance for generations," was extraordinary, coming from a sitting president. One that forces a question Brics communicates never ask: What kind of Iran might emerge from the rubble, and would it serve anyone's interests, including Iran's own?

For 25 years, I've often been in West Asia, understanding—as in Israel or Saudi Arabia—the multiple perspectives held by Iranians, often marked by deep divisions, nothing close to the monolith Western media frequently portrays.

In 2000s, presidents Khatami, Ahmadinejad and Rouhani each attempted, in their different ways, to reshape Iranian governance. All three collided with the same wall: a state within a state, in which the supreme leader commands the armed forces, IRGC, judiciary and state TV, holding veto power over foreign and nuclear policy. Ayatollah was never elected. For Iranians, that contradiction became the defining frustration of their political lives.

It's often said the Revolution was meant to show the world Persia carried greatness and democracy at its core, that the two were complements rather than opposites. But the 1980-88 war against Iraq left wounds the West fails to see. The Islamic dimension gradually overwhelmed the political landscape, pulling a once-progressive Iran towards a fundamentalist posture, in stark contrast to the vision held by a large portion of its own population. Those inside this system-within-system exalted it. Those outside learned to endure it.

Take the Iranian volleyball teams competing in the 2010s. The sport had become a national passion, only for women to be banned from stadiums. Western women reporters were barred from the courts. The ban caught even Rouhani's govt offguard. Iranians never wished for an authoritarian, Islamic-based regime. An Iranian colleague of mine recently told me, "We will never just accept things as they are. We are Persians. We are not like the Russians, and our govt is not like Putin." That

civilisational argument is the reason why regime change imposed from outside tends to produce the opposite of what its architects promise.

Two models, one region | It's common to compare Iran and Saudi Arabia, West Asia's Shia and Sunni poles, two authoritarian states shaped by external pressure and sitting atop comparable hydrocarbon wealth. Saudi Arabia's oil reserves are between 25% and 30% more than Iran's reserves. Iran's population exceeds 90mn versus Saudi Arabia's 35mn.

Riyadh eventually calculated that survival required adaptation: Vision 2030, soft power, a seat at every table. Tehran's regime—forged by the Revolution and war against Saddam's Iraq, which was backed by the West and fought with chemical weapons against Iranian soldiers—chose permanent confrontation as its organising principle.

The Iraq war killed or wounded over half a million and



embedded a siege mentality into the Islamic Republic's DNA that no external bomb will dissolve. IRGC, revolutionary guardian and embedded economic oligarchy, and the only body with real authority to negotiate a transition from strength, becomes the decisive variable.

Phantom bloc Brics | Iran became a full Brics member in Jan 2024. When the bloc gathered in Rio de Janeiro last July to condemn the earlier round of US-Israeli strikes on Iran as violation of international law, it was hailed as a diplomatic signal from Global South. The final statement, however, named neither US nor Israel.

The Guardian reported on Mar 1 that the trade-weighted dollar has lost around 7% of its value over the past year, a structural shift Brics countries have long sought to accelerate. But currency trends move

through markets. Peace requires someone willing to pick up the phone, propose terms and absorb political costs. On that front, the bloc has offered nothing.

Brazil and India carry genuine mediating credentials, and both have historical relationships with Tehran to make such an effort credible. India used to import Iranian crude and was building the North-South Transport Corridor through Iranian territory.

Yet the diplomatic space available to both countries is severely constrained by the bloc's current composition. Russia is at war in Ukraine. Iran is under direct attack. China is pressing its coercive agenda on Taiwan. India's military is engaged with Pakistan. Intended as a credential, the Brics label has become a complication. Moscow and Beijing invoke the bloc when it amplifies their interests; Brazil and India absorb the reputational cost.

Windows bombs can't open | Argument against Trump's strikes is no defence of the Islamic Republic. A state that represses women, executes dissidents and subordinates national development to ideological confrontation encoded in its own doctrine—including the call for destruction of Israel—has failed large portions of its own people.

That failure, however, belongs to Iranians to correct. Saudi Arabia offers the relevant precedent: it did not liberalise because it was bombed. Change came, partially and imperfectly, because its own leadership concluded that adaptation was the price of survival.

Iran has a larger educated population, a democratic tradition written into its constitution, and a civil society that endured 47 years of repression without disappearing. Those assets belong to Iranians, and only they can convert them into a republic.

What bombs reliably produce, as Iraq, Libya, and Afghanistan across two decades have demonstrated, is not democracy but nationalism. Populations that might have welcomed change on their own terms unite against the foreign hand that tried to force it.

Iranians, resentful of the clerical grip but proud of Persian civilisation, would be the first casualties of that dynamic. Trump's strikes may fracture the regime but risk igniting exactly the nationalist fervour that has historically made new republics impossible to build. Brics, for all its failures of nerve, at least understood that. It simply lacked the courage to act on it.

Trump's bombs may end a regime. They will not build a republic.

The writer is a doctoral researcher in international relations at UFSC, a Brazilian university

'India is producing many AI developers but very few research engineers and frontier scientists...that's a problem'

Balaraman Ravindran wears many AI hats – on UN's international scientific panel for AI governance & standard setting, chair of GOI's drafting committee for India's AI governance guidelines, head of Wadhvani School of Data Science & AI at IIT Madras. He tells Vaitheeswaran B that focus should be on delivering tangible outcomes, including shareable algorithms and tools to ensure AI systems are trustworthy.

● Where does India stand in AI development?

Foundation models are not the right primary metric for India right now. That said, India has promising signs of innovation in smaller, frugal innovation. Not necessarily at the level of building the next foundation model, but cutting-edge research and putting that out as new tools and solutions for building products.

Companies like Sarvam have demonstrated strong performance by picking the right problems, India-specific tasks. They didn't build a large model but trained from scratch with curated data rather than merely fine-tune existing models. India is doing okay with many AI applications and adoption.

However, claims that India has among the most AI developers are self-congratulatory. India lacks enough people who can do hardcore AI work – training models from scratch, improving training efficiency, and working at the hardware-AI interface.

● How do we fix this?

We do not have the resources to do research. When compute is scarce, universities reserve it for publishable work and PhD output. That is why we are producing many AI developers but far fewer research engineers and frontier scientists. We also have to nurture a builder mindset through hands-on work. At the same



time, industry and venture capitalists should be willing to take longer bets in AI. We still do not see that happening in India.

● What should be India's policy priority?

India should put serious effort and capital into attracting talent, including diaspora talent. Investment and talent go together. Competing with US or China requires a systematic plan and building world-class facilities. If India were to make a large block of computing available and clearly assign it to four or five institutions, that signals researchers who currently struggle for access elsewhere. But the announcement has to be backed by long-term investment.

We also need to build local talent and local market that can benefit from such availability of compute. We should systematically work on that. Increase investment in teaching, skilling and research. Increase incentives for investors in AI. Encourage long-term investments. Compute infra should be directed at bringing deployment costs down and not blindly follow Western models.

Calvin & Hobbes



Why Jensen Huang Isn't That Smart About 'Smartness'

Sonal Srivastava

Jensen Huang is a smart man, one of the smartest out there. As CEO of the world's largest company by market capitalisation, he has to be. In a podcast last month, replying to a question on who was the smartest person he ever met, Huang defined 'smart' as 'somebody who's intelligent, solves problems, technical', a definition he finds to be a 'commodity'.

He elaborated on his personal definition of smart: 'someone who sits at that intersection of being technically astute but human empathy and having the ability to infer the unspoken, the around the corners, the unknowables'. But by tying 'smartness' too tightly to the technical side, making 'smart' an algorithm, Huang got it wrong.

Who is smarter: someone who reduces the connotation of smartness to mechanical processes for material gains? Or someone who intuitively works of natural order, and understands that much of what we see today will not last forever – quite like the Guns

N' Roses song 'November Rain'?
'Nothing lasts forever / And we both know hearts can change'

While the song is about unrequited love and heartbreak, it's also a reminder of the temporality of life, and by extension, of technology that makes our lives easier. So, Huang's notion of 'smart' is reductionist – reducing and conflating words like 'technically astute', 'empathy' and 'ability to infer the unspoken'.

Smartness can't be reduced to number-crunching, programming, or predictive analysis. The term 'technology', in its dictionary sense, refers to methods, systems, and devices that are the result of scientific knowledge being used for practical purposes. Connotations of 'technology' cannot be limited to wires, motherboards, LED screens, and Wi-Fi routers. Technical systems – and methods used to arrive at them – can help us better understand both knowledge within our

reach and systems beyond our ken.

Take 'algorithm'. It comes from the Latinisation of 9th-c Persian mathematician Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi's name. An algorithm was – and still is – a system. But somewhere along the way, the word was reduced to mean a computational system, a 'computer algorithm', a narrow description of a term that can expand to mean a flawless system – a sequence that must work so perfectly that if you alter even a single step, the whole collapses in the material realm.

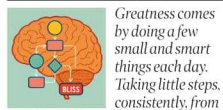
And then there is the Great Beyond, which can be known only through the algorithm of bliss, the outcome of which is the realisation of Sat-Chit-Anand, Truth-Consciousness-Bliss. The term 'technology' does not belong merely to the material realm. Technological systems, a spiritual Wi-Fi of sorts, can apply to consciousness, too. In that sense, Vedanta is an algorithm of consciousness. It is foundational BlissTech

that carries us to the Great Beyond. The Upanishads and Gita are, in fact, manuals of this BlissTech, detailing methods that can enable Self-Realisation.

The modern world equates intelligence with information density and analysis. Vedanta equates intelligence with moksh, liberation and eventual attainment of Brahmam. The unity of jivatman and Paramatman. Gita speaks of Kshetra and Kshetragna. Krishna says, 'This body, Arjun, is termed as the Field (kshetra) and he who knows it is called the knower of the Field (kshetragna)' by sages.

The algorithm of awareness bridges kshetra and kshetragna, just as a circuit board connects all the hardware inside a computer. And while mechanical devices come and go, algorithm of bliss will remain unchanged. This is a reminder that technology is any precise system that transforms input into output. BlissTech transforms ignorance into clarity and individual self into the realised Self. That's what smart is, Jensen.

Sacredspace



Greatness comes by doing a few small and smart things each day. Taking little steps, consistently, from a making a few small chips against everything in your professional and personal life that is ordinary, so that a day eventually arrives when all that's left is Extraordinary.

Robin S Sharma

Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace is gearing up to launch Vikram-1, India's first private orbital rocket. The startup is hoping to become a key player in the niche launch segment. But the ultimate aim is to enable space travel for all



A model of the Vikram-1 rocket at the Skyroot HQ in Hyderabad

Readying India's first pvt rocket, with eye on building 'cabs' for space

Swati.Bharadwaj
@timesofindia.com

As he's talking up future plans for one of India's pioneering space startups, Pawan Kumar Chandana, the co-founder of Skyroot Aerospace, employs an analogy that's unexpectedly, and literally, grounded. "Think of SpaceX as a transcontinental train or an A380. We're aiming to become the cab or business jet that drops you at a specific slot in a unique orbit in space with our smaller rockets," he says.

It's a reference intended to pinpoint where the company sees itself in the vastness, and vast potential, of space operations. The baby steps have been taken with the sub-orbital rocket, Vikram-S, which Skyroot launched successfully in Nov 2022 on its very first attempt, a feat that even Elon Musk's SpaceX could not achieve. That distinction garnishes credentials for a company looking for a foothold in the space game even as Chandana's clear that it's not aiming at competition with the space giants.

What it's aiming for is a slice of the market that most space-ech giants ignore or don't cater to—the dedicated launch market

or the bespoke, door-to-door missions. The analogy of the train is deployed once again. "The market for train is different and that for cab is different. SpaceX and all other companies go to some specific orbits, collate all the customers and launch them. It's a very large market. But we want to address a different niche in the market where people have unique requirements," he says.

The vehicle for those ambitions is already at the launchpad, at least the major bits of it with the rest to follow not much later. The starting point for India's first private orbital rocket launch is a sprawling, high-ceilinged assembly hall just a stone's throw away from the busy international airport at Shamshabad. Known as Max-Q, it's Skyroot Aerospace's headquarters and the place where the seven-storeyed (75-feet) Vikram-1, named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme, is coming together. The rocket has a payload carrying capacity of around 300kg, but in the first orbital mission the payload may be just half that.

The blast-off is expected to happen soon, but Chandana is tightlipped. All he will say is that three stages (Kalam-1200,

Kalam-250 and Kalam-125), filled with solid propellant, are already at the launch site at Sriharikota. The rest of the sections—which have a lot of electronics and software—are going through tests in Hyderabad as they gear up to be shipped via specially fitted trucks to the launch site.

"The topmost stage, which is the orbit adjustment module (OAM) equipped with the 3D-printed liquid engine Raman-2, and the other interstages housing all the avionics are undergoing final integration checks. Hopefully, within weeks, we can move them to the launch site," Chandana said. The slot for launch, he adds, will be announced after it is formally assigned.

Affordability, Accessibility

Being a space startup is different from being a national space programme—budgets, resources, and timelines are tighter, margins of error smaller. The company has raised close to \$100 million in funding so far, with some reports indicating that it could emerge as India's first space unicorn (valuation of over \$1 billion) whenever it heads into its next round of funding. But the output is not about inflows.

"To start with we chose to

VIKRAM-1 AT A GLANCE

- Vikram-1 is set for its first launch this year from Andhra's Sriharikota
- The rocket has an all-carbon composite structure, uses solid fuel boosters & 3D-printed liquid engine
- It can carry satellites of around 300kg to space, though the first mission may have a payload half that weight

HOW THEY COMPARE

	Falcon 9 230ft approx 18,500-22,800kg
	PSLV 146ft approx 1,425-1,750kg
	Vikram-1 75ft 260-350kg

build a smaller rocket that has a very niche market rather than a bigger rocket that caters to the mass market but requires large capital. We will eventually build big rockets but we are taking our initial steps with a niche, growing market as there are very few companies in the world who are doing this," he says. Even though the tone is measured, the scale of Skyroot's ambition is nothing short of universal. "Opening Space for All", Chandana points out, is the company's motto.

While a lot hinges on the success of Vikram-1, Skyroot has already laid the groundwork for its mission by prioritising affordability and accessibility. Founded

in 2018 by Chandana, now 35, and Naga Bharath Daka, 36, both former ISRO engineers, the company has been steadily working towards developing and launching on-demand rockets for small satellites. With the IIT-Madras incubated Agnikul Cosmos also gearing up to launch its first orbital rocket, christened Agni-baan — it successfully launched its sub-orbital tech demonstrator, Agni-baan SORTeD, in May 2024—India's private space players are looking set to make waves.

Skyroot uses advanced carbon fibre structures and 3D-printed engines (liquid stage) to propel their Vikram series of launch vehicles. And it has also achieved another critical milestone—setting up their Infinity Campus, also near the airport, last year, which will allow them to get one Vikram-class rocket out of the door every month.

"Hopefully, we want to reach that cadence next year," says Chandana. While Vikram-1 will take to the skies from Isro's Satish Dhawan centre at Sriharikota, Skyroot is looking to conduct subsequent launches from Kulasekarapattanam, where Isro's private rocket launch pad is expected to be ready by March-end. Eventually, the plan is to have Skyroot's own launch pad (either at Sriharikota or Kulasekarapattanam) as business grows, indicates Pawan.

The business side is shaping up through MoUs with players such as French newspaper operator Promethee to launch its satellite constellation ('newspace') is a reference to the private enterprise-led space sector, and German satellite aggregator Exolaunch for deploying their satellites on Vikram-1. Skyroot has also inked MoUs with Indian space-tech startups like Dhruva Space and Bellatrix Aerospace.

But timelines can be tricky when it comes to space. The company had originally aimed for a 2024 launch timeframe and, more recently, a Q1 2026 timeframe, but section-level testing and the time required to interconnect systems is taking longer than expected. The ultimate goal, however, remains the same: to make human space travel as affordable as air travel. That mission, Chandana says, is very much on track. "In future, we will build reusable rockets that will be much bigger. That is our aspiration before the end of the decade. It's already on the drawing board."

When 7 Rays Hit Cinemas In Land Of Rising Sun



Yuka Okuda, a Rabindrasangeet performer, delivers a talk on Ray's 'Charulata'. (Below) A Tokyo theatre that took part in the retrospective

Road residence in Kolkata, he recalled the role of a Japanese distributor, Toho-Towa Co. Ltd, founded in 1928 by film pioneer Nagamasa Kawakita, and said Kawakita's wife, Kashiko Kawakita, was a Ray admirer.

"She was very close to our family and a die-hard Satyajit follower right from the start," he said. When Ray first visited Japan, it was Kashiko who arranged a meeting between Ray and Kurosawa in 1966. "I think till the 80s, they distributed all of Baba's films in Japan. The films must have done good business. Otherwise, why would she ask about new films every year?" said Sandip Ray.

The seven restored titles began their theatrical run on July 25 at Le Cinema Bunkamura in Tokyo. The retrospective was to run for three weeks, but a further week was added due to the demand. "The films were not only screened in Tokyo, but in cities like Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto, etc, covering 15-20 cinemas nationwide," said Varsha Bansal, who helmed the restorations of the Ray classics produced by her grandfather, RD Bansal.

The screenings were paired with discussions and talks. If film researcher and producer Eri Morinaga spoke after 'Mahaganar', Asian cinema researcher Tamaki Matsukawa delivered a talk following a screening of 'Jalsaghar'. Yuka Okuda, a Rabindrasangeet performer and Bengali language instructor, led a session after a 'Charulata' screening. "I offered some reflections on the impact of the Rabindrasangeet in the film... Some in the audience said they wanted to watch the film again. It made us realise all the more that Ray's cinema is a deeply layered and magnificent creation," Okuda told TOI.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NISSAN MOTOR INDIA PVT. LTD.

The present publication is being issued on behalf of M/s Nissan Motor India Private Limited ("NMIL") to state that **Youve and Cars (Youve Nissan)** has ceased to be an Authorised Dealer of NMIL effective from 21st February 2026 at the following locations -

- **Showroom:** F 1/9, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase 1, New Delhi - 110020, Delhi.
- **Showroom:** No. LG/18 & AMP, 19, Som Dutt Chamber 1, No. 5, Bikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110029.
- **Showroom:** JBI House, 18th Milestone, Delhi Mathura Road, Sector 20A, Neelam Ajronda Metro Station, Sector 20A, Faridabad, Haryana - 121001.
- **Workshop:** D-12 Okhla Industrial Area, Phase 1, Delhi - 110020.
- **Workshop:** 13/1, Sector 35, Mathura Road, Faridabad Haryana - 121001.

It is informed that Youve Nissan has no right to accept any fresh bookings beyond 21st February 2026, and NMIL has no connection whatsoever with any fresh bookings offered by Youve Nissan. Any person or entity making any fresh bookings of Nissan vehicles or getting servicing of the same with Youve Nissan will be doing so at their own risk with no claims against NMIL.

This information is issued in the interest of General Public.

Government of Maharashtra

General Administration Department

An Advertisement published on 05 March, 2026 for filling up 4 posts of members of the body of Lokayukta (2 Judicial Members and 2 other than Judicial Members) is available on website www.maharashtra.gov.in of the Government of Maharashtra. The aspiring candidates can submit their applications in a prescribed time limit.

Place: Mumbai

Date: 05 March, 2026

Sd/-
(Neeta Shinde)
Deputy Secretary
General Administration Department,
Government of Maharashtra

DGIPR/2025-2026/6297



GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
(Training wing)
Alandur Road, Guindy, Chennai-600032.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Re. No. 3602/ATS3/2024-1, Dated : 04.03.2026

Online Tenders in two cover system are invited from the Industries (either as a single entity or a part of a Consortium) for Request for Proposal (RFP) for the selection of Anchor Industry Partners for 6 Hubs and 24 Spokes (IT clusters under Upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes under Pradhan Mantri Skill Development and Employment Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) Scheme in Tamil Nadu."

The Bidder can however, choose to bid for multiple clusters, however separate bid documents have to be submitted for each cluster comprising of 1 hub and 4 spokes.

For further details, Terms & Conditions please visit Tamil Nadu e-tendering portal <https://ntenders.gov.in>. Tender Document can be downloaded from the web portal at free of cost from the date as mentioned below.

1. Tender Inviting Authority	Additional Director (AT), O/o Director of Employment and Training, Guindy, Chennai -32
2. EMD	Rs. 40.00 Lakh
3. Conditions	As stipulated in RFP document
4. Sale of RFP Document	05.03.2026 - available online (https://ntenders.gov.in)
5. Last date of receipt of RFP Document	05.05.2026 at 11 A.M
6. Date, Time and Place of Opening the RFP	05.05.2026 at 4.00 P.M in the Directorate of Employment and Training, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
7. Pre-bid meeting	23.03.2026 at 11.30 A.M in Conference Hall (2nd floor), Directorate of Employment and Training, Guindy, Chennai -32

DIPR/1569/TENDER/2026 Additional Director(AT)/Tender Inviting Authority



TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Chennai-600032

Tender Notice No: T1/TNPCB/F.15722/TNSHORE-FTB/2025-1 Dated: 03.03.2026

E-tender (2-cover system) through TN tenders' website are invited for "Collection, Removal and Transportation of floating debris/solid waste from the Floating Trash Boom installed in the Adyar River in Chennai district, Tamil Nadu"

The tender documents can be downloaded from <https://ntenders.gov.in> and www.tnpcb.gov.in on or after 05.03.2026. The last date for the receipt of the tender is 20.03.2026.

DIPR/1571/TENDER/2026

Chairperson
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai - 32

13001/475/2526

BERHAMPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GANJAM
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

Letter No. 4422 Date : 24.02.2026

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT
Bid Identification No. BMC(BAM) : 320/2025-2026

1	The Municipal Commissioner, Berhampur, invites percentage rate bids in ONLINE MODE only, as per Annexure "A"	
2	Nature of work	Civil work
3	No. of work	02 Nos.
4	Bid Cost.	The bidders shall remit online the cost of bid document for amount through the process as mentioned in the DTN as per Annexure "A"
5	E.M.D	The bidder shall remit online the Earnest Money Deposit/Bid Security at the rate of 1% of the estimated cost put to tender as mentioned under DTN. Bidders desirous to hire machineries or equipments from outside the State or owned but deployed outside the State are required to remit online 2% of the amount put to tender as Bid Security. Exemption from EMD is permissible as per codal provisions of Govt. of Odisha as per Annexure "A"
6	Class of Contractor	AS per the Annexure "A"
7	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	From 11.00 hrs. of 06.03.2026 to 17.00 hrs. of 23.03.2026
8	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids	11.30 hrs. onwards on Dt. 24.03.2026
9	Date & Time of Opening of financial bids	Shall be intimated to the responsive Technically qualified bidder after evolution of Technical bids.
10	Mode of submission of tender	Tender should submitted online in www.tendersorissa.gov.in
11	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.	

OIPR-13001/13035/1/25-26/0007

Sd/- Commissioner
Berhampur Municipal Corporation
Berhampur, Odisha

13001/442/2526

BERHAMPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GANJAM
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

Letter No. 4477/ Date : 24/02/26

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT
Bid Identification No BMC(BAM):-322/2025-2026

1	The Municipal Commissioner, Berhampur, invites percentage rate bids in ONLINE MODE only, as per Annexure "A"	
2	Nature of work	Civil work
3	No. of work	01 Nos.
4	Bid Cost.	The bidders shall remit online the cost of bid document for amount through the process as mentioned in the DTN as per Annexure "A"
5	E.M.D	The bidder shall remit online the Earnest Money Deposit/Bid Security at the rate of 1% of the estimated cost put to tender as mentioned under DTN. Bidders desirous to hire machineries or equipments from outside the State or owned but deployed outside the State are required to remit online 2% of the amount put to tender as Bid Security. Exemption from EMD is permissible as per codal provisions of Govt. Of Odisha as per Annexure "A"
6	Class of Contractor	AS per the Annexure "A"
7	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	From 11.00 hrs. of 09/03/26 to 17:00 hrs. Of 23/03/26
8	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	11:00 hrs. onwards on Dt. 24/03/26
9	Date & Time of opening of financial bids	Shall be intimated to the responsive Technically qualified bidder after evolution of Technical bids.
10	Mode of submission of tender	Tender Should submitted Online in www.tendersorissa.gov.in
11	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.	

OIPR-13001/13035/1/25-26/0005

Sd/- Commissioner
Berhampur Municipal Corporation
Berhampur, Odisha

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विज्ञान एवं अन्वेषण मंत्रालय / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अन्वेषण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनन्तपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 4545)

दिनांक/Dated : 04-03-2026

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए सूचित सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति को ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work:

1. चट्टीकरण से 500 घन मी. क्षमता की गुप्तार क्षतिग्रस्त जल टैंक का निर्माण (क्षतिग्रस्त जल टैंक का निर्माण) / Construction of 500 Cum capacity circular, elevated water tank at Vattiyorkavu (Civil & PH works) / VSSC/CMG/C01/30/2025-26 Dt. 04.03.2026 (ए.एस.पी.ए.सी.ः 409.07 लाख/Lakh)

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading : दिनांक 05.03.2026, 10.00 बजे/hrs. से 10 दिनों/ 18.03.2026, 23.00 बजे/hrs. तक। Interested tenders may visit www.tenderwizard.com/isro या www.isro.gov.in देखें।

Sd/- प्रधान, सौरग्रह, वीएसएससी/ Head, CMG, VSSC

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking), Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India,
Phone No. 01412228045, 2228054, Website www.msc.health.rajasthan.gov.in,
CIN : U24232RJ2011SGC035067, E-mail : edpsmsrc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref No. : F.02 (437)/RMSC/Procurement/Drug/NIB-16/2025-26/3663 Dated :- 24/02/2026

Notice Inviting E-Bids

E-bids for rate contract cum empanelment for supply of following items are invited from eligible bidders:-

S. No.	Item Name/Description	Ref. No.	UBN	Estimated Value in Rs.	Time & Last date for bid submission
1.	Drug & Medicines	F.02 (437)/RMSC/Procurement-nt/Drug/NIB-16/2025/3663 Dated :- 24/02/2026	MSC2526GLRC00089	19.29 Crore	11.03.2026 Up to 6.00 PM

Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in> and may be downloaded from there.

Executive Director (Procurement)
RMSC
Raj.Samwad/C/25/1699

भारतीय उष्णदेशीय मौसम विज्ञान संस्थान
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL METEOROLOGY
(पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का एक स्वायत्त संस्थान)
(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India)
पायाण, पुणे - 411 008 / PASHAN, PUNE - 411008

वैश्विक निविदा सूचना / GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE

निदेशक, आयआयटीएम निम्नलिखित की आपूर्ति और स्थापना हेतु निर्माताओं / आपूर्तिकर्ता एवं उनके प्रत्यायित विक्रेय एजेंटों से निविदाएं आमंत्रित करते हैं :

Director, IITM invites tenders from Manufacturers / Suppliers and their accredited selling agents for the supply and installation of following.

क्रम सं. / Sr. No.	निविदा सं. / Tender No.	विवरण/Description
01.	पीएस/125/47/2025 PS/125/47/2025	स्पेक्ट्रोरेडियोमीटर की आपूर्ति, स्थापना और कमीशनिंग - मात्रा 8 सेट Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Spectroradiometer Qty. 08 Sets.
02.	पीएस/125/50/2025 PS/125/50/2025	CO ₂ - CH ₄ आइसोटोप विश्लेषक की आपूर्ति, स्थापना और कमीशनिंग-मात्रा 07 सेट / Supply, Installation & Commissioning of CO ₂ -CH ₄ Isotope Analyzer Qty. - 7 Sets
03.	पीएस/125/51/2025 PS/125/51/2025	CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O, NH ₃ और H ₂ O आइसोटोप विश्लेषक की आपूर्ति, स्थापना और कमीशनिंग - मात्रा 07 सेट / Supply, Installation & Commissioning of CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O, NH ₃ , and H ₂ O Analyzer Qty. 07 sets

संस्थान को किसी निविदा या सभी निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताए निरस्त करने का अधिकार है। विस्तृत विवरण एवं बोलियों के प्रस्तुतीकरण हेतु कृपया वेबसाइट <https://moes.ewizard.in> देखें। संचालित बोलोदाताओं की जानकारी के लिए, निविदा विवरण भी इस संस्थान की वेबसाइट <http://www.tropmet.res.in> एवं सरकारी सेंट्रल प्रोक्यूरमेंट पोर्टल (सीपीपी) <http://www.eprocure.gov.in> पर भी उपलब्ध है।

The Institute reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. For details and submission of bids please visit website <https://moes.ewizard.in>. For the information of the prospective bidders, the tender details are also available on this Institute's Website: <http://www.tropmet.res.in> and Government's Central Procurement Portal (CPP) <http://www.eprocure.gov.in>.

Sd/-
प्रशासनिक अधिकारी, कृते निदेशक



COUNTRIES
AFFECTED IN
WEST ASIA AND
BEYOND...

Iran war has ricocheted across the region and beyond, with nearly every country in West Asia sustaining damage from missile hits, drone strikes or shrapnel, many reporting casualties, and key embassies, economic engines and passageways closing down.

A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BREAKDOWN OF THE IMPACT SO FAR

IRAN
Casualties | At least **1,045** people
Damage | Nuclear infrastructure, missile launchers, govt buildings in Tehran, residential areas damaged
Airspace | **Closed**
ISRAEL & PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
Casualties **11** civilians
Damage | Synagogue & public shelter in Beit Shemesh, building in Tel Aviv, road in Jerusalem
Airspace | **Closed**

LEBANON
Casualties **77** people
Damage | At least **84,000** displaced
Airspace | **Partially open, flights cancelled**
EGYPT
Damage | Shipping rerouted from Suez Canal
Airspace | **Open**

KUWAIT
Casualties **8** (incl. 6 US soldiers)
Damage | US embassy hit
Airspace | **Closed**
UAE
Casualties **3** foreign workers killed
Damage | US consulate hit, airport & hotels targeted
Airspace | **Partially closed**
TURKIYE
Casualties | None
Damage | NATO defence intercepted ballistic missile
Airspace | **Open**

SAUDI ARABIA
Damage | US embassy in Riyadh struck, Ras Tanura refinery hit
Airspace | **Partially closed**
BAHRAIN
Casualties **1** civilian
Damage | Drone attack near Amazon data centre
Airspace | **Closed**
CYPRUS
British military base attacked
Airspace | **Closed**

IRAQ
Casualties | Militia deaths
Damage | Drones hit sites near US consulate
Airspace | **Closed**
JORDAN
Damage | 5 injured by falling shrapnel
Airspace | **Open, flights cancelled**
QATAR
Damage | Energy facilities hit
Airspace | **Closed**
OMAN
Casualties **1** Indian mariner
Damage | Vessel hit in Gulf of Oman, Salalah & Duqm ports hit
Airspace | **Open, flights cancelled**
SYRIA
Damage | Injuries from Iranian missile debris near Damascus
Airspace | **Closed**

INDIAN OCEAN
Casualties **87** killed, **61** missing
Damage | US submarine sank Iranian warship near Sri Lanka

Trump says want role in picking Iran's supreme leader, rejects Khamenei son

US Will Bitterly Regret Torpedoing Warship In Indian Ocean, Warns Iran

Dubai: US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he should be involved in choosing Iran's next supreme leader as the US and Israel hammered the country for a sixth day Iran kept up its retaliatory attacks on Israel, American bases and countries around the region.

Speaking to Axios, Trump said, "I have to be involved in the appointment" of Khamenei's successor, and that the late leader's 56-year-old son "is unacceptable to me," and "a light weight." "We want someone who will bring harmony and peace to Iran," Trump said. "I have to be involved in the appointment, like with Delfy in Venezuela," said Trump, referring to its acting president. His comments were likely to renew questions about whether the US and Israel seek the overthrow of the Islamic Republic or just a change in policies.

The war has meanwhile escalated each day, affecting an additional 14 countries across West Asia and beyond. Iran has said the US will "bitterly regret" torpedoing an Iranian warship near Sri Lanka. Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi accused the US of committing an "an atrocity at sea" for sinking the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena. "Mark my words: The US will come to bitterly regret (the) precedent it has set," he said.

Israel issued a mass evacuation warning for all of Beirut's southern suburbs as the fighting escalated with Lebanon's Iran-allied Hezbollah militants. UN peacekeepers reported ground combat in southern Lebanon as more Israeli troops crossed the border.

An Iranian cleric called for the shedding of Israeli and "Trump's blood." The statement from Ayatollah Abdollah Javadi Amoli was a rare call for violence by an ayatollah, one of the highest ranks within the clergy of Shia Islam.

Defence secretary Pete Hegseth said Wednesday that the leader of the Iranian covert unit that planned to assassinate President Trump in 2024 had been killed in Iran. The Pentagon provided few details, but the Trump administration has said that Iran's plotting to kill US officials is one reason the US launched its bombing campaign. Hegseth also acknowledged that some Iranian air attacks may still hit their targets as he asserted that US military superiority is giving it control of Iran's airspace. "This does not mean we can stop everything, but we ensured that the maximum defence and force protection was set up before we went on offensive," he said. AP

Europe moves to secure Red Sea navigation, protect Cyprus

Rome/Paris: European powers said on Thursday they would work together to safeguard shipping in the Red Sea and send naval and other assets to protect Cyprus as the expanding US-Iran war entered its sixth day. Italy, Spain, France and the Netherlands will send naval assets to protect Cyprus in the coming days, Rome's defence minister Guido Crosetto told parliament.

French President Macron spoke with the PMs of Italy and Greece on Thursday and "they all agreed to step up cooperation to safeguard shipping in the Red Sea and to coordinate the dispatch of military assets to Cyprus," a senior source said. The plans ruled out any direct involvement in the war. "We are not at war and we do not want to enter a war," Italian PM Giorgia Meloni said Thursday. PM Keir Starmer announced

WHY TRUMP WANTS TO DESTROY IRAN'S NAVY

While Iran's nuclear and missile programmes have dominated conversations about its military capabilities, the US and its allies in the region have also long considered its naval forces a serious threat because of their ability to disrupt trade and energy supplies from the Persian Gulf region

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT IRAN'S NAVAL FORCES

Iran has two navies

1 Islamic Republic of Iran Navy
Mainly armed with conventional warships. Before Iran was attacked, it had 3 submarines, 8 frigates, 2 corvettes and 22 small submarines, according to data from the defence intelligence firm Janes. These are designed specifically for operating in the shallow waters of the Persian Gulf

2 Revolutionary Guards
Has its own navy focused on operations in the Gulf and along Iran's coastline. It is equipped with hundreds of smaller, fast vessels, according to Janes

Core Strategy | Having the ability to lay mines in regional waters. US intelligence assessment released last year says Iran's naval services acquired vessels, including submarines and small boats, that are capable of laying mines and disrupting shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz



Iranian warship IRIS Dena on Feb 18, 2026

WHAT US CLAIMS IT HAS DESTROYED

20 warships sunk, including the drone carrier **Shahid Bagheri**

2 corvettes and a frigate, the IRIS Dena

No Iranian warships left in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz or the Gulf of Oman by March 3, according to US military

A satellite image of damaged Konarak Naval base in Iran



A satellite image shows the Shahid Bagheri, the Iranian drone carrier, off Bandar Abbas on Feb 1, 2026

US House to vote on an Iran war powers

The House was expected to vote Thursday on a war powers resolution to halt President Trump's attack on Iran, a sign of unease in Congress over the rapidly widening conflict. It's the second vote in as many days, after the Senate defeated a similar measure. Lawmakers are confronting the reality of representing the American people in wartime tested by a president's unilateral decision to go to war with Iran. AP

More tankers under attack

More tankers came under attack in Gulf waters Thursday. A Bahamas-flagged crude oil tanker was targeted by an Iranian remote-controlled boat laden with explosives while anchored near Iraq's Khor al Zubair port, according to initial assessments. A second tanker at anchor off Kuwait was taking on water and spilling oil after a large explosion on its port side. Nine vessels have come under attack since the conflict broke out between the US, Israel and Iran on Saturday. Around 200 ships, including oil and LNG tankers as well as cargo ships, remained at anchor in open waters off the coast of major Gulf producers, according to estimates based on ship-tracking data from the MarineTraffic platform. Hundreds of other vessels remained outside the Strait of Hormuz. REUTERS

The Dutch gov't said on Wednesday it was weighing a request to help secure maritime traffic threatened by the escalating crisis. Meloni said on Thursday Rome would respond to requests from Gulf nations seeking air defence equipment to counter Iran, citing the need to protect Italian citizens and troops in the region. A French official said on Thursday that Paris has authorised a presence of US aircraft at certain bases in France, provided they do not take part in operations against Iran. The agreement did not cover French bases in West Asia, the official said. REUTERS

region along with additional helicopters equipped with counter-drone capabilities. Spain, which had so far refrained from involving itself in defensive operations, said on Thursday it will send its frigate used for air defence to Cyprus.

The Dutch gov't said on Wednesday it was weighing a request to help secure maritime traffic threatened by the escalating crisis. Meloni said on Thursday Rome would respond to requests from Gulf nations seeking air defence equipment to counter Iran, citing the need to protect Italian citizens and troops in the region. A French official said on Thursday that Paris has authorised a presence of US aircraft at certain bases in France, provided they do not take part in operations against Iran. The agreement did not cover French bases in West Asia, the official said. REUTERS

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Strikes on Iran's ballistic missile sites (confirmed on satellite imagery)

Where ships and energy facilities have been damaged
Oil or gas tanker
Energy infrastructure

Drones | Iran possessed at least one drone carrier ship, the IRIS Shahid Bagheri

A satellite image shows the Bandar Abbas Military Harbour on fire on March 2, 2026

Iran is known to have at least six types of such missiles. Most are based on older Chinese designs and have maximum ranges of about 75 miles (120km)

That doesn't allow them to hit US navy ships, which operate far from Iran's shores. But it provides thorough coverage of the strait, which is less than 25 miles (40km) wide at its narrowest point

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Thursday that the Strait of Hormuz is now closed to ships from the US, Israel, Europe and other Western allies. Trump's suggestion that US would insure and protect oil tankers and other vessels passing through the strait may potentially bring Iran's anti-ship missiles into play

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Why Iran's global partners are staying on the sidelines

Ben Hubbard

Despite long being treated as a pariah by the West and isolated by US sanctions, Iran's revolutionary Islamic govt maintained diplomatic, commercial and military ties with a range of countries.

Turkiye and India engaged with it on trade and security. China looked to it for cheap oil. North Korea, Venezuela and Russia considered it an ally in their struggle against the West and conspired with it to develop military technology and subvert sanctions. Now that Iran finds itself under attack by those friends, neighbours and partners have little more than words to offer the Islamic Republic. They, in turn, could become targets.

That is a product, experts say, of Iran's foreign policy, which has shied away from commitments to other countries while investing in militias that share its religiously-fueled hatred of the US and Israel. Those militias can't help Iran now. The most formidable of them, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, have been ground down by wars with Israel. The Houthi militia in Yemen and Iraqi armed groups backed by Iran can target ships in the Red Sea or American forces in Iraq. But such attacks are unlikely to change the course of a war inside Iran. Most countries that maintain relations with Iran do so out of strategic, geographic or economic necessity, giving them little reason to sacrifice when Iran comes under fire, experts said.

India engaged with Iran as an important player in its region and to seek economic advantages, according to Kabir Taneja, executive director of the Observer Research Foundation.

Kurdish dissident groups prepping to fight against Iran with US support

Erbil (Iraq): Kurdish Iranian dissident groups based in northern Iraq are preparing for a potential cross-border military operation in Iran, and the US has asked Iraqi Kurds to support them, Kurdish officials said.

The Kurdish groups are widely seen as the most well-organised segment of the fragmented Iranian opposition and are believed to have thousands of trained fighters. Their entry into the war could pose a significant challenge to the embattled authorities in Tehran and could also risk pulling Iraq further into the conflict. Khalil Nadiri, an official with the Kurdistan Freedom Party or PAK, based in northern Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, said Wednesday that some of their forces had moved to areas near the Iranian border in Sulaymaniyah province and were on standby. He said Kurdish opposition group leaders had been contacted by US officials regarding a potential operation, without giving more details.

Asked about reports that the Trump administration was considering arming Iranian Kurdish groups, defence secretary Pete Hegseth said: "None of our objectives are premised on the support or the arming of any particular force. So, what other entities may be doing, we're aware of, but our objectives aren't centred on that." AP

Iran says the US has 'no exit plan'

A war continues in West Asia, a battle of rhetoric is also being waged between the US and Iran. Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on Thursday that the US had suffered "painful damage" from Iran's strikes adding that Washington had "no exit plan." He said the US officials privately acknowledged the situation. US defence secretary Pete Hegseth said that Iran's leaders were "toast". REUTERS

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Mourners gather in the city of Qom on Thursday for war victims' funeral

dation Middle East. "There was definitely no overlap as far as world-view is concerned," he said. "It was always a transactional relationship, but a functional and a useful one as far as New Delhi was concerned."

Ties with Iran did not stop India from becoming Israel's largest arms customer, with Indian purchases making up 34% of Israel's total sales between 2020 and 2024, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. India's balancing act between Israel, Iran and others meant it would steer clear of the war in Iran, Taneja said. "Indian foreign policy is clear in that matter, that it does not enter into other people's business," he said.

North Korea condemned the war but has done little else, and Venezuela's posture has changed since the US ousted President Nicolas Maduro in Jan. China remains Iran's largest trading partner, mostly because it buys more than three-quarters of Iran's oil. China has called for restraint, criticised the killing of Ayatollah Khamenei as "unacceptable" and appointed an envoy to mediate. It is unlikely to directly challenge the US, analysts said,

so as not to disturb Trump's expected visit to China in April.

Russia has been Iran's closest state ally in pushing back against the West. "You have this growing alignment and grievance over the global order and the US alliance system," said Hanna Notte, the Eurasia programme director at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. Military cooperation between Russia and Iran grew during the conflict in Syria, where both countries propped up President Bashar al-Assad before he was ousted in 2024. Russia-Ukraine conflict further solidified the relationship as Russia needed Iranian drone technology, which it deployed against Ukraine. In Jan 2025, Russia and Iran signed a major cooperation treaty that deepened their defence ties but did not include a requirement to come to each other's defence in case of an attack.

Russia has given Iran some military equipment but its support has been limited. Notte said, in part because Russia did not want to complicate its ties with Israel. Russia will likely stick to its policy of avoiding direct military conflict with Israel and the US, Notte said. wtr

China boosts defence spending 7% in drive to modernise by 2035

Hong Kong: China will boost defence spending by 7% in 2026, it said on Thursday, the lowest rate in five years but still outpacing wider economic growth targets and the rest of Asia at a time of growing regional tension, including over Taiwan. Security analysts and regional military attaches are watching China's budget closely as it scrambles to modernise the military by 2035, while stepping up deployments across East Asia and purging the top brass to tackle graft.

China will improve combat readiness and accelerate the development of "advanced combat capabilities", Premier Li Qiang said at the opening of parliament's annual meeting. "All these steps will boost our strategic capacity to safeguard China's sovereignty, security and development interests," Li said in his report. Govt remains committed to the ruling Communist Party's "absolute leadership over the armed forces", Li added.

China would "resolutely fight against separatist forces

China sets economy's growth target <5% for first time since '91

China has signalled continuity rather than change for its economy, setting a slightly lower target for growth this year in the midst of a property slump and other headwinds at home and growing uncertainty abroad. Premier Li Qiang set a target of 4.5% to 5% annual growth in his report presented to the opening session of this year's meeting of National People's Congress. It's the lowest growth target since 1991. Experts say the lower target is in line with longer-term goals that are less focused on high growth rates. AP

aimed at "Taiwan independence" and oppose external interference", Li vowed, virtually reprising comments of last year. That would "promote the peaceful development of cross-strait relations and advance cause of national reunification", he added. REUTERS

Process refunds on illegal tariffs: Court to US customs

Washington: A US trade court judge Wednesday ordered govt to begin paying potentially billions of dollars in refunds to importers who paid tariffs that the Supreme Court said last month were collected illegally. Judge Richard Eaton of the US court of international trade ordered govt to finalise the cost of bringing millions of shipments into the US without assessing a tariff, according to a court filing. He ordered the refunds to be made with interest.

When merchandise is brought into the US, an importer pays an estimated amount at entry which is then finalised

around 314 days later, a process known as liquidation. Eaton directed customs and border protection to finalise the entry cost on shipments without the tariff being assessed, resulting in a refund. "Customs knows how to do this," he said at a hearing on Wednesday, according to a recording on the court's website.

Customs and Border Protection has said in court filings that the task of finalising entry costs could require manual review of more than 70 million entries. The agency had said it wanted up to four months to assess its options for paying refunds. REUTERS

CYBER ATTACKERS TARGETING CLOUD INFRASTRUCTURE

State-backed groups such as Salt Typhoon and Linen Typhoon are targeting North American telecom, govt and IT systems to enable long-term espionage



North Korea expands fake IT worker scams: Hackers pose as remote IT staff using AI deep-fakes and fake LinkedIn/GitHub profiles to infiltrate Western cos

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026



Cloud services used to hide malware: Attackers conceal commands in tools like Google Calendar and store malicious files on Google Drive and Dropbox

AI boosts SaaS supply-chain attacks: Hackers use AI tools to study SaaS integrations and breach multiple customers through a single platform



Source: Cloudflare Threat Intelligence

Tehran Turmoil: De-Escalation Hopes Lift Markets, Rupee | Oil Rate Hikes Remain A Worry As Cos Take Stock

Sensex recovers 900 pts on improving geopolitical cues

Gains 1.1% On US Shipping Safety Guarantee, Iran's Talk Proposal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

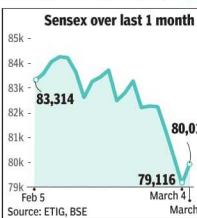
Mumbai: Sensex reversed its falling trend on Thursday and regained part of the 2,300-point fall recorded in the two previous sessions since the war started in West Asia. At the end of a volatile session the index was up 900 points or 1.1% at 80,016 points.

The day's session started on a strong footing after the US markets closed higher on Wednesday night. Sensex opened a little over 400 points higher, witnessed some volatility through most of the session and then rallied strongly in the last one hour to close slightly off the day's high of 80,304 points.

The strong rise in the last hour came after Iran's foreign minister told a news channel that the country was ready to move to the negotiating table with the US on its nuclear programme. Earlier, the US guarantee to insurers insuring ships plying in the war zone and security for those ships improved sentiment.

Taking a similar path to sensex, Nifty on NSE closed

SIGN OF RELIEF...ROAD TO REVIVAL?



Top Gainers Today

Adani Ports	4.5%
L&T	3.9%
NTPC	3.4%

Top Losers Today

Tech Mahindra	-1.3%
HCL Tech	-0.7%
HUL	-0.4%

Wall St in red as investors weigh risks

Wall Street's main indices fell on Thursday as the conflict entered its sixth day. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 787 points, or 1.6%, to 47,952, the S&P 500 lost 49.5 points, or 0.7%, to 6,820 and the Nasdaq Composite lost 93 points, or 0.4%, to 22,714.8. Brent crude, meanwhile, jumped to \$84.5 a barrel. REUTERS

285 points or 1.2% higher at 24,766 points.

The day's rally contributed about Rs 5.7 lakh crore to investors' wealth with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 452.9 lakh crore, as per official data.

According to Siddhartha Khemka, head of research

—wealth management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, the Indian market snapped its losing streak on the back of improving geopolitical cues. "Investors sentiment" received a boost after the US announced security and insurance guarantees for commercial shipping through the

Strait of Hormuz, including the possibility of military escorts for oil tankers to ensure uninterrupted global energy supplies amid tensions with Iran," Khemka wrote in a note.

Through this strait in the war zone, about 20% of the world's crude oil is transported daily from Iran and the gulf countries. Since the war erupted on Feb 28, Iran has closed this important trade & energy supply channel, which in turn has led to more than 10% rise in crude oil prices globally.

Khemka said some additional support for the market came from reports suggesting that Iran may be exploring possible terms to end the conflict with the US and Israel, raising hopes of a potential de-escalation, although officials remain cautious and regional tensions persist. Going ahead, war developments in West Asia, crude oil prices, rupee's strength against major currencies and foreign fund flows would decide the direction of Indian market, analysts and dealers said.

Rupee gains 55p to close at 91.6/\$ as RBI intervenes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The rupee recovered 55 paise to close at Rs 91.6 per dollar on Thursday from Wednesday's close of Rs 92.15 after the RBI intervened through state-run banks in both the non-deliverable forward and spot markets to support the currency.

The rupee opened around the 91 level and traded within an intraday range of Rs 91.40-Rs 91.64 per dollar. Dealers said RBI stepped in through large banks to stabilise the domestic unit after it fell to a record low of Rs 92.30 on Wednesday. Traders pointed to aggressive dollar sales by state-run banks that lifted the currency during the session.

Abhishek Goenka, founder of IFA Global, said, "The currency traded within an intraday range of Rs 91.40-Rs 91.64 per dollar following the RBI intervention, which reportedly sold dollars through state-run banks to stabilise the currency."

He said, "Sentiment improved marginally later in the session after reports that Iran signalled a conditional nuclear programme if the United States presents an acceptable alternative proposal. In the near term, the rupee is likely to remain sensitive to crude price movements and geopolitical developments."

Bankers expect the RBI to be a major participant in the forex markets given the geopolitical risks. The rupee touched an intraday high of Rs 91.41 before ending the day at Rs 91.6 per dollar. India's benchmark equity indices rose around 1%. Most Asian stocks advanced while regional currencies traded mixed.

Oil price volatility also influenced the currency as traders tracked developments in the ongoing conflict.

Oil on boil: Consumer cos feel strain, price rise looms

Escalation Of Conflict Risks Inflating Key Input Costs For Cos That May Have To Pass On Hikes

Asmita.Dey@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The spectre of price hikes is looming for consumers as rising oil prices on the back of escalating West Asia conflict risks inflating input costs for companies which will eventually have to pass on the increase to shoppers across the country, straining household budgets.

From lotions and detergents to ACs, washing machines and even a box of paint, crude-linked derivatives make up a significant portion of raw materials that are used to manufacture several regular household products. A depreciating rupee had already been putting pressure on margins of consumer firms

DEPRECIATING RUPEE ADDS TO WOES

From lotions and detergents to ACs, washing machines and paint, crude-linked derivatives make up a significant portion of raw materials that are used to manufacture several regular household products

While companies will aim to absorb the crude-led rise in costs as much as possible, price hikes will certainly be in the offing if oil touches \$90 (per barrel)

A depreciating rupee had already been putting pressure on margins of consumer firms

that are dependent on imports Higher oil prices will drive up cost of essential raw materials such as polypropylene, styrene monomer and ABS which are fundamental to the manufacturing of refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners and other appliances

Price increases will likely be selective and calibrated, instead of broad-based as the strategy will be to protect company margins while sustaining demand

ances, said Kamal Nandi, business head and EVP at appliances business of Godrej Enterprises Group. "If the upward trajectory of crude and the weakening of the rupee persist, it will put pressure on consumer pricing in the near term," said Nandi.

The war which has pushed Brent crude prices over \$80 per barrel in a matter of days threatens to derail the recovery in consumption helped by GST cuts. Big-ticket purchases such as cars and select durables had seen big demand boost post GST while the FMCG industry was starting to see some demand revival after a prolonged spell of slowdown.

Emami Group, maker of BoroPlus and Dermicol which took 2%-4% price increases in some personal care products to adjust for inflation in the Dec quarter said that for now, the company will wait and watch instead of taking a sudden call on pricing. "The current situation in West Asia has resulted in

disruptions in container movement and logistics. We are closely watching the oil prices as that would impact input costs," said Mohit Malhotra, CEO at Dabur India.

Calibrated rise

Price increases will be selective and calibrated, instead of broad-based as the strategy will be to protect margins while sustaining demand, said Kuldeep Raina, MD & CEO at Shalimar Paints. Nearly 35%-40% of the raw materials used in paint manufacturing including emulsions and additives are linked to crude derivatives, many of which are import dependent.

"In recent weeks, input costs for select crude-linked materials have risen by 8%-12%, alongside firming freight, packaging and specialty chemical costs globally," said Raina. Analysts at HSBC in a note said that oil prices could rise to \$90-\$100 per barrel if prolonged closure leads to big stockdraws, production is shut or damaged.

Tapping alternative supplies: Officials

From P 1

Nearly 30% of India's supplies of natural gas from West Asia, crucial for auto and kitchen fuel as well as feedstock for fertiliser, power and other industries, have been hit. This may require re-prioritisation of gas supply through reduced flow to certain segments, although retail consumers are unlikely to be affected.

Gujarat Gas, one of India's largest city gas distributors in the western state, has

already declared force majeure on industrial gas supplies after strain on imported LNG.

A senior petroleum ministry official said India currently imports about 195 million metric standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) of natural gas, of which Qatar supplies around 60 mmscmd. These supplies have been disrupted due to the blockage of the Strait of Hormuz.

Officials said while supplies from alternative sources are being tapped to fill the

India may sign short-term contracts and undertake high-priced spot purchases of LNG to bridge supply gap

gap, critical sectors such as fertilisers will be given priority to meet peak sowing season demand.

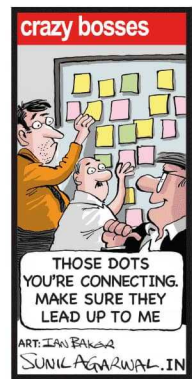
"During Holi, industrial production in north India comes down drastically as a large number of workers travel to their home states. It

is easier to restrict industrial supply during this time. Also, industries can arrange energy from alternate sources," an official said.

They added that India may sign short-term contracts and undertake high-priced spot purchases of natural gas to bridge the supply gap caused by the crisis. Replacement LNG cargoes may be sourced from the US, West Africa, Australia or Russia, although this could add to transportation costs and delivery time.

SWIFT to empower instant cross-border transfers for retail

Mumbai: More than five decades after it was set up to carry secure financial messages between banks across borders, the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) is stepping into territory increasingly dominated by fintech firms. The cooperative based in Brussels has unveiled a new framework aimed at making international retail transfers faster, cheaper and more predictable. Indian lenders State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank are among those first to participate. In the first phase, customers will be able to send money from India to major economies including the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and Germany. TNN



Ikea targets 25 new stores in next 5 years

New Delhi: Swedish furniture retailer Ikea, which is expanding in India through an omnichannel approach, expects its operation in the country to be profitable by the end of FY28 and plans to add 25 new small and medium format stores in the next four to five years, a top company official said. This will be done by growing top-line, opening more stores, reducing the size of fixed costs, and operating more efficiently, in addition to increasing local sourcing, Ikea India CEO Patrik Antoni said. AGENCIES

PSBs increase market share in secured lending segments

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Public sector banks (PSBs) have regained market share in key secured lending segments over the past year, even as private banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) continue to dominate unsecured consumer credit, according to the Feb 2026 Experian Industry Insights report on lending trends.

The most visible trend in the current credit cycle is the expansion of PSBs into segments that were earlier dominated by private lenders and NBFCs. PSBs increased their share in auto loans to 36% in Q3 FY26 from 32% a year earlier, or a gain of four percentage points. Their share in home loans also rose to 35% from 33% over the same period.

Private banks saw a marginal decline in auto loans, where their share slipped to 34% in Q3 FY26 from 35% a year earlier. In home loans, private banks retained the largest share at 42%, which remained unchanged from the previous year.

In unsecured lending, private banks continue to dominate credit cards with a 72% share. However, they are facing rising competition from NBFCs in personal loans. Private banks accounted for 46% of the personal loan market in Q3 FY26, down from 48% a year earlier. NBFCs increased their share in personal loans to 36% from 33%. NBFCs remain the dominant players in consumer

Gain Ground In Private/NBFC-Led Areas

Product Segment	Lender Category	Current Share (FY26 Q3, in %)	% Pt Chg vs Q3FY25
Auto Loans	Public Sector Banks	36	4
	Private Banks	34	-1
	NBFCs	30	-3
Home Loans	Private Banks	42	Stable
	Public Sector Banks	35	2
	NBFCs / HFCs	23	-2
Personal Loans	Private Banks	46	-2
	NBFCs	36	3
	Public Sector Banks	18	-1
Consumer Loans	NBFCs	73	2
	Private Banks	22	-2
	NBFCs	57	1
Two-Wheeler	Private Banks	31	-1

Source: Experian Industry Insights

In unsecured lending, private banks continue to dominate credit cards with a 72% share. However, they are facing rising competition from NBFCs in personal loans. Private banks accounted for 46% of the personal loan market in Q3 FY26, down from 48% a year earlier. NBFCs increased their share in personal loans to 36% from 33%. NBFCs remain the dominant players in consumer

credit segments.

Total loan sourcing reached around Rs 20,000 crore in the latest quarter, a 36% increase from a year earlier, creating room for PSBs to expand their balance sheets without necessarily reducing the absolute volumes of competing lenders. The move by public sector banks toward secured lending is also supported by improving asset quality across the industry.

In a first, BoB raises ₹10k cr from green infra bonds

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Bank of Baroda raised Rs 10,000 crore through Series II long-term green infrastructure bonds, becoming the first bank in India to issue domestic green bonds.

The seven-year bond was placed on the Electronic Book Provider platform of the National Stock Exchange of India with a Rs 5,000 crore base issue and a Rs 5,000 crore greenshoe option and received bids worth Rs 16,415 crore. The bank fixed a 7.1% annual cut-off coupon despite market volatility. Tight pricing yielded a "Greenium", signalling investor appetite for sustainable finance and its ESG track.

Debadatta Chand, MD and CEO, said, "These funds will support India's infrastructure needs, enabling a transition towards a cleaner, greener and more sustainable future." According to the bank, proceeds will fund eligible green projects under its green financing framework.

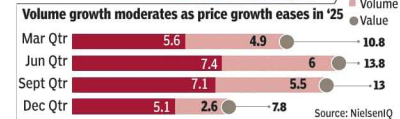
FMCG growth slows in Dec qtr on GST transition

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Consumption of soaps, shampoos, biscuits and other packaged goods took a hit in the Dec quarter with volume growth dropping to 2.6% compared to 6.2% in the year ago quarter as transition to a new goods and services tax (GST) regime from Sept 22 disrupted sales at neighbourhood kirana stores, data released by NielsenIQ (NIQ) showed on Thursday.

Value growth also declined to 7.8% in the Dec quarter from 10.1% in the year ago period on the back of easing prices. Price growth slowed to a four quarter low in the Oct-Dec period due to tax cuts and festive promotions. "Nearly 60% of the FMCG portfolio underwent GST rate revisions, requiring coordinated pricing adjustments across manufacturers, distributors and retailers. While these changes temporarily impacted traditional trade performance, organised channels adapted more quickly," analysts at NIQ said.

KIRANA SALES HIT IN DEC QTR



Estee Lauder buys Forest Essentials

Mumbai: The Estee Lauder Companies has bought Indian skincare brand Forest Essentials, taking full ownership of the firm it had first invested in 2008 as the American company looks to bolster its bets on the local prestige beauty market. The transaction is expected to close in the second half of 2026. TNN

Many consumers had delayed purchases to avail the benefit of price cuts while kirana stores refused to stock up on old inventory, waiting for fresh batches of products to hit the markets, impeding supplies. Sharan Pant of NIQ in India said that the positive impact of GST on consumption is expected to become more visible from the March quarter. In their Dec quarter earnings, companies have already been pointing towards gradual recovery in

consumption on the back of tax cuts even though a depreciating rupee and ongoing geopolitical tensions risks triggering price hikes, weighing on revival.

Home and personal care segment recorded 1.9% volume growth in the Dec quarter, lower than 7.2% in the year ago period while food volumes slipped to 2.8% from 5.8% in year ago period. Stabilisation in edible oil prices and tax cuts somewhat supported volume growth in food.

For every ₹100, women founders get a mere ₹4 in startup funding: Report

Supriya.Roy@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: For every Rs 100 raised by founders from India's startup networks, only about Rs 4 goes to women, according to a new report by Kalaa Capital's CXCO initiative, which argues that the funding gap reflects a structural market inefficiency rather than a shortage of women entrepreneurs.

The Rs 100 figure represents aggregate funding across a dataset of Indian tech startups founded between 2015 and 2025 mapped across high-velocity employer cohorts — essentially the most institutionally connected slice of the startup ecosystem where capital concentration is highest

COS FOUNDED BETWEEN 2015-2025

The ₹100 figure represents aggregate funding across a dataset of Indian tech startups founded between 2015 and 2025 mapped across high-velocity employer cohorts — essentially the most institutionally connected slice of the startup ecosystem where capital concentration is highest

Within this network, women-led startups accounted for 4.4% of the capital raised, defined as companies with at least one woman co-founder

Companies such as Flipkart, Freshworks and Razorpay have collectively produced over 5,000 founders who have launched around 1,500 funded startups, with more than 20 unicorns tracing their origins to these networks

least one woman co-founder. The report, titled 'The Rs 4 Problem: Women Founders and the Market Gap Hiding in Plain Sight', analysed funding patterns among

founders emerging from influential startup alumni networks that have historically produced a large share of venture-backed companies and unicorns.

While these networks have played a key role in shaping India's startup ecosystem, the report finds women remain significantly underrepresented within them. Women are 0.6 times as likely to emerge as founders from these networks compared with the broader startup ecosystem, the analysis shows. The report frames the funding gap as a structural inefficiency in capital allocation rather than a diversity issue.

Auto retail sales rise 26% in Feb on sustained demand

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Automobile retail sales rose nearly 26% to 19.1 lakh units, reaching a record in Feb 2026, data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) showed.

FADA stated that five of the six major segments of vehicles, including two-wheelers, three-wheelers, passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles and tractors, recorded their highest ever Feb sales, with construction equipment being the only segment which showed a 1.2% decline. FADA president CS Vigneshwar said Feb turned out to be a landmark month for the sector. "The strong perfor-

mance during the Feb month indicates that the policy-led confidence in the market, particularly following GST 2.0, is now translating into sustained demand across multiple vehicle segments," he said.

Two-wheelers remained the largest segment, with retail sales of about 17 lakh units in Feb, up 25% from 13.6 lakh units last year, with growth seen in both urban and rural markets. Passenger vehicle sales also hit a record, as dealers reported sales of around 4 lakh units during Feb, up 26% from 3.1 lakh units last year, as rural markets grew over 34%, compared with about 21% in urban areas. SUVs drove demand across markets, as dealers

inventory levels fell to around 27 to 29 days.

Commercial vehicle sales rose 29% to one lakh units in Feb, supported by infrastructure activity and growth in logistics and e-commerce. Tractors recorded the fastest growth among all categories, as sales rose 36% to 89,418 units from 65,579 units, pointing to healthy rural demand.

FADA further said dealers remain positive about near-term outlook, with most of them expecting sales to grow in March, helped by multiple festivals as well as financial year-end purchase of vehicles, improved rural income following good crop outcomes and better affordability post GST revisions.

GALLERY

EB hold Goa to goalless draw

Kolkata: East Bengal FC dropped points for the second game running in Indian Super League, playing out a goalless draw with FC Goa in Kolkata on Thursday, reports Nilesh Bhattacharya.

India Women to face Australia in pink-ball Test: The Indian women's cricket team faces Australia in a day-night Test for the first time in nearly five years in Perth on Friday.

India women to tour SA for five T20Is: India's women will tour South Africa for a five-match T20I series from April 17-27, with games in Durban, reports Gaurav Gupta

Gukesh held by Magh-soodlool: D Gukesh's was held to a draw by Iran's Parham Maghsoodloo in the seventh round of the Prague International chess festival on Wenesday.

Lahiri tied 16th at LIV Golf: Anirban Lahiri closed with a birdie-birdie finish to end at 4-under and tied for 16th in the LIV Golf Hong Kong.

Indian youth team departs for Futures Cup: The Indian youth boxing team departed on Friday for the World Boxing Futures Cup, scheduled to be held in Bangkok, from March 8 to 15.

Diksha lies at T-20: Diksha Dagar carded three-under 69 to lie tied 20th at the Australian Women's Classic in Magenta Shores, Australia on Thursday. AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

AUTO: Australian GP, Practice 1, 7 am (Fancode); **BADMINTON:** All England Open, QFs, 3 pm & 10.30 pm (JioHotstar); **CRICKET:** Australia Women vs India, Only Test, Day 1, 10.50 am (JioHotstar); **FOOTBALL:** ISL, Odisha FC vs Mohun Bagan, 5 pm; Jamshedpur FC vs Inter Kashi, 7.30 pm (Sony, Fancode); I-League, Aizawl FC vs Rajasthan United, 7 pm (Sony); **TENNIS:** ATP Indian Wells 11.30 pm (Fancode)

LAKSHYA QUELLS ANGUS THREAT

Indian Meets Li Feng In Last 8

Manne.Ratnakar@timesofindia.com

Lakshya Sen twice rallied from a mid-match slump to overcome Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus 21-19, 21-23, 21-10 and advance to the quarterfinals of the All England Championships in Birmingham on Thursday.

He is the only Indian left in the fray after the mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto retired against Hong Kong's Tang Chun Man and Tse Ying Suet while trailing 19-21, 8-9.

Lakshya, who stunned world champion Shi Yu Qi in the first round, surrendered huge leads in the first two games before recovering to dominate the decider.

Leading 17-13 and 19-16 in the first game, Lakshya let Angus draw level at 19-19. Lakshya then produced a powerful crosscourt winner to reach match point. Angus hit the next one wide to lose the first game.

In the second, Lakshya was cruising at 11-4 and quickly made it 13-6. Angus, who had never lost to Lakshya in three meetings, reduced it to 16-19. From 17-20, he saved three match points and stunned Lakshya to win the game. Lakshya had lost the 2024 Olympic bronze medal match to Lee Zee Jia after failing to hold on to big leads, but the Indian buried those Parisian demons with a super-



“I didn't play freely towards the end of the second game and gave too many easy shots for him to hit. But I prepared well for the third game to go all out.” – Lakshya

lative performance in the decider here.

From 0-2, he scored five straight points and swiftly extended the lead to 13-5. Playing with a lot of caution, he did not allow Angus to recover as he then fired smash winners to register his first victory against the Hong Kong shuttler.

Lakshya lauded his opponent for the fightback. “It was very solid in both games. Credit to him, he made a solid comeback in the second. I didn't play freely towards the end of the second game and gave too many easy shots for him to hit. But I prepared well for the third game to go all out, and am happy with the way I played the third game,” Lakshya said.

The Indian admitted that he did not stick to the plan towards the end of the first two sets. “Tactically, I was playing the right game. It's just that I did not stick to the plan during the last few points, made too many errors. But it was important to forget the first two games and play the third with the plan that worked,” said Lakshya.

Lakshya now faces Li Shi Feng of China in the quarterfinals. “Now it is time to recover for another tough match tomorrow,” he signed off.

Lakshya and Li have a par win-loss record at 7-7, but the Chinese shuttler has won their last three meetings.

ALL ENGLAND BADMINTON

Benedikt Howedes, World Cup Winner In 2014, On Fame, Normal life And That '7-1' Game With Brazil

Saumyajit.Basu@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Howedes is an unsung hero even in Germany and he likes it that way. One who played every minute in Germany's famous World Cup triumph in 2014, Howedes prefers to stay under the radar even after a decade.

Not quite possible though for those who were fortunate to watch him keep Argentina's right flank rather quiet at the Maracana in that 2014 final. He could have been the toast of the world just before half-time when his thunderous header came to

grief off the Argentina post from a Toni Kroos corner.

“Of course, I remember that situation. But you won't believe me, but I'm not unhappy with it because I've seen what happened afterwards with Mario Goetze (who scored the lone goal that day) and I'm not that guy who wants to be in the spotlight. Nowadays I can say I played every single minute,” he tells TOI in an exclusive interview.

“I want to work and I can go through the city without being recognized by everyone and that makes it quite comfortable for me, to be honest,



THAT DAY: Howedes (right) shadows Lionel Messi during the 2014 WC final

est,” says the German defender who has traded raucous fame for normalcy and reliability, a necessary state of mind for a multi-functional defender.

“Especially now, when I have three kids at home and it's easier for

India plans to send 700 athletes for Asiad

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India is planning to send its largest-ever contingent to the upcoming Asian Games in Japan in Sept. Over 700 Indian athletes are expected to compete in more than 40 disciplines at the Aichi-Nagoya continental event scheduled from Sept 19 to Oct 4. In the last Asian Games in Hangzhou in 2023, India fielded 655 athletes across 40 events. The athletics contingent alone had sent 68 athletes. In Jakarta 2018, India sent a contingent of 570 athletes who competed in 36 disciplines.

On Thursday, sports minister Manukh Mandaviya chaired a meeting with Sports Authority of India (SAI) officials reviewed India's preparations for the Asiad. The aim is to surpass the country's previous edition tally of 106 medals

through strategic planning and coordination across all stakeholders.

Officials highlighted that the Aichi-Nagoya Asiad follows a unique five-cluster competition model, with athletes competing across multiple prefectures rather than staying in a single Olympic village-style accommodation. Venues are spread across clusters such as Aichi, Gifu, Shizuoka and the Airport-Expo zone. The focus is on travel, logistics, medical support and athlete recovery.

To help athletes familiarise with the container-style living arrangements expected during the Games, special make-shift container units have been installed at SAI regional centres in Patiala and Bengaluru. “This measure will help athletes adapt early and avoid distractions

during competition. The athletes would initially be asked to spend a night in containers to get a feel of how the actual accommodation during the Games would be,” a ministry official said.

For the Asiad, Japan has replaced the concept of a traditional Games Village with accommodation in a luxury cruise ship, the Costa Serena. They have converted shipping containers to cut costs. The cruise ship will be docked at Kinjo Pier in Nagoya Port and house around 4600 athletes and staff while another 2400 participants will stay in temporary shelters made from shipping containers.

Thursday's meeting also reviewed a four-day recce by an IOA delegation in Jan which inspected key competition venues, athlete facilities and logistics infrastructure in Japan.

In fan Harjyot, Stan finds his man

Prajwal.Hegde@timesofindia.com

Dubai: In a stadium that wasn't making much noise, one man decided he would. Last week, as Stan Wawrinka battled through his farewell appearance here, Harjyot Singh turned the second-round match into something personal, a tribute, and ultimately, a memory framed for life.

Even as the uncertainty over air travel followed the closure of Dubai's airport, one man could be forgiven for privately sporting a half smile.

Every Feb for the last three years, Harjyot and his son Gursant travel from Delhi to Dubai for their annual pilgrimage to watch the world's best tennis players. This year, 15-year-old Gursant had exams, so his father went alone and on Monday, the 45-year-old would return with something special.

All of last week, Harjyot, a tennis

player and devoted fan, particularly of Stan Wawrinka, Roger Federer and Swiss tennis as a whole, emerged as the loudest voice when the 40-year-old took on Daniil Medvedev in the second round. “Let's go, Stan, let's go!” he shouted, even as Wawrinka struggled in what turned out to be his final match at the Dubai Duty Free tennis championships. “I was chanting the whole time,” Harjyot told TOI. “The crowd was not making a lot of noise, not cheering like we cheer in India, so I tried to charge everybody up. This is Stan's farewell season. This is the last time we will be able to see him in Dubai.”

After the 74-minute contest, Harjyot, a garments distributor, hollered to the three-time

Major winner: “Can you please give me your racket?” he asked. “It's for my son, he's a tennis player, he wants to play ITFs.” Perhaps Wawrinka recognised the voice. Moments later the Yonex VCORE stick was in Harjyot's hands. “This is the best gift I can give my son,” he gushed.

Fans were offering to buy it from him. The bid climbed to \$5,000. “It is absolutely priceless,” Harjyot said.



WAWRINKA WITH HARJYOT

‘Spain, France favourites, but you never know with Germany’

spirit during a tournament. The last tournament, we were different. We didn't have many good players in the last few years.

“That has changed a little bit now,” he adds, “We have (Jamal) Musiala and (Florian) Wirtz, (Nico) Schlotterbeck and (Joshua) Kimmich, who are playing an outstanding role in the national team. In my opinion, we are not the top favourites for winning the World Cup. For me it's Spain or France. But you never know what happens during a tournament when you are creating something really special. If they can create this special team spirit, then everything is possible.”

Recalling that unforgettable 7-1 win over hosts Brazil, Howedes re-

vealed the dressing-room atmosphere during the break when Germany were 5-0 ahead. “To be honest it was not that we were going crazy and everybody was laughing and shouting and celebrating,” he reminds us.

“It was totally the opposite because we knew that one year or so before that game we had a World Cup qualifier against Sweden. We were leading 4-0 until the 60th min and after the final whistle, it was a 4-4 draw. We had this in our mind and we had to stay focused. We didn't want to make jokes with the Brazil players. We played very straight and we scored two more goals in the second session,” he says.

(SONY SPORTS NETWORK IS THE OFFICIAL BROADCASTER OF BUNDESLIGA IN INDIA)

प्रीएम श्री केन्द्रीय विद्यालय क्रमांक 1. वायु सेना स्थल, गुरुग्राम

संविदा आधारित तात्कालिक साक्षात्कार हेतु

शैक्षणिक सत्र 2026-27 के लिए प्रीएम श्री केन्द्रीय विद्यालय क्रमांक 1, वायु सेना स्थल सेक्टर-14, गुरुग्राम में अंतराकालिक संविदा कर्मचारियों के लिए एक फैमिल नैचर करने के लिए योग्य उम्मीदवारों को 14 मार्च 2026 को रॉक इन इंटरव्यू के लिए आमंत्रित किया जात है।

साक्षात्कार का समय :- 0900 बजे से

क्र. सं	पद का नाम	साक्षात्कार की तिथि	पंजीकरण का समय
1	प्रारंभिक शिक्षक और कालाटिका शिक्षक (एनटीटी)	14.03.2026	08:00 AM to 09:30 AM
2	(I) स्नातकोत्तर शिक्षक अंग्रेजी - हिंदी, जैव विज्ञान, रसायन विज्ञान, भौतिकी, वाणिज्य, इतिहास, वास्तवीय विज्ञान, भूगोल, अर्थशास्त्र, गणित और कंप्यूटर विज्ञान। (II) प्रशिक्षित स्नातक शिक्षक अंग्रेजी हिंदी, संस्कृत, सामाजिक विज्ञान, विज्ञान और गणित		
3	अध्य- प्रचारसोदाता, खेल प्रशिक्षक, कला और शिल्प प्रशिक्षक, संगीत प्रशिक्षक, स्टेशन नर्स, कंप्यूटर प्रशिक्षक और विशेष शिक्षक (दिव्यांग बच्चे)		

1. विभिन्न पदों के लिए योग्यता और शैक्षणिक योग्यताओं से संबंधित जानकारी और साक्षात्कार के समय प्रस्तुत किए जाने वाले आवश्यक आवेदन पत्र का प्रारूप विद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है। (<https://afsnogurgaon.kvs.ac.in>)

2. प्रमाणपत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ सहायक के लिए और साक्षात्कार के समय उनकी स्व-सत्यापित प्रतियाँ उपलब्ध कराई जानी चाहिए।

3. किसी भी नवीनतम जानकारी के लिए विद्यालय की वेबसाइट (<https://afsnogurgaon.kvs.ac.in>) पर जाएं।

4. अभ्यर्थियों को संबंध अधिक होने पर लिखित परीक्षा को भी आवेदन किया जा सकता है।

प्रार्थना

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru – 560 009. Phone No. 080-2265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No.: IADB/ENGG/ENTD-EP-29/01775/NOTICE-26

Date:04.03.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors Registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work: Providing Over Head Height Barrier at Various Locations at kadechur Badiyal Industrial Area, Yadgiri District (3rd Call).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **16.03.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-

Chief Engineer - 2

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-06/01774/NOTICE-26

Date:04.03.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants / firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:

Name of the Work : Providing Consultancy Services for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Scientific Disposal of Industrial Solid Watse by Integrated Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Alternate Fuel Raw Material Facility (AFR) including survey, analysis, qualitative & quantitative study, design of MRF & ARF facility etc., at plot No. 311 to 314, Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad Taluk & District (3rd Call).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **16.03.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-

Chief Engineer - 2

DIPR/CP/IA/5992/2025-26

WESTERN RAILWAY-VADODARA DIVISION

VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. DRM - BRC 190 TO 192 OF 2025-26

Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (WAC), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approximate cost of the work (In Rs.)	Bid Security to be deposited (In Rs.)
1	DRM BRC 190 of 2025-26	Vadodara Division: Bharuch: Providing Electronic in Motion Bridge Under Jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/SOUTH/BRC	4,37,48,681.00	3,68,800.00
2	DRM BRC 191 of 2025-26	(Bridge Zone No. 15 of 2025-26) – New works and all ordinary repairs and maintenance work up to Rs. 5,00,000.00 each for bridge work including Road Over Bridge under the jurisdiction of ADEN (South) Bharuch (Balance quantity) (Re-invited) (R-1)	77,00,964.25	1,54,000.00
3	DRM BRC 192 of 2025-26	Rehabilitation of well cap, well staining, pier by epoxy grouting and under water pier inspection of Br. 452, 502 on (ST-BRC) (02 nos Bridge)	1,54,93,908.43	2,27,500.00

Date and time for submission of tenders and opening of tenders: Tender is to be submitted on 23.03.2026 before 15.00 Hrs and is to be opened on same date at 15.30 Hrs. Website particulars and notice for the location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Divisional Railway Manager (WAC), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara –390 004. Web site: www.ireps.gov.in

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

INDIAN PORTS ASSOCIATION

1ST Floor, NBCC Place, South Tower, B.P. Marg, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003. Email: ipa@nic.in

RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVE LEVEL POSTS IN CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY

ADVT No. IPA/ChPA/2026/01

The Indian Ports Association, on behalf of Chennai Port Authority, invites applications for Direct Recruitment to Executive Level Positions in Class-I & II Cadre. The last date of filing online application is **March 19, 2026.**

Interested candidates are advised to review the detailed advertisement available on the official website: www.ipa.nic.in for comprehensive information on eligibility, application procedure, and selection process.

CBC 37203/12/0012/2526

Chief Administrative Officer

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं पंचायती राज संस्थान

NIRDPR

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

INVITES APPLICATION FOR PG DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT - RURAL MANAGEMENT

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Post Graduate Diploma in Management - Rural Management (PGDM-RM) 2026-28, (Two Years Residential Programme) Approved by AICTE

Eligibility : Bachelor's Degree with atleast 50% Marks (45% for SC/ST/PWD) and valid score in any of the qualifying exams: CAT / XAT / MAT / CMAT / GMAT / ATMA/CUET PG/ Management Aptitude Test conducted by State Govts.

Selection : Shortlisted candidates shall be called for Group Discussion and Personal Interviews for final selection.

i) Last date : 15.05.2026 ii) Commencement of Course : July 2026

Apply online: <https://nirdpr.org.in/Admissions>

Further contacts: 9848780141 / 8790097776 / 9603829536

Email : cpgs@nirdpr.org.in, cpgs@nirdpr.org.in

Advt. No.03/2026

Comp. no. 7626

Sd/- Coordinator (Admissions), CPGS & DE

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office :- PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala-147001

Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813

Website : www.pspcl.in Contact No. 96461-18773

TENDER ENQUIRY NO. : QQ-2377/PO-P

Chief Purchase Officer/ MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 1,000 MT Galvanized Stranded Steel (GSS) Wire Grade 5 size 7/3.15 mm as per PSPCL specification no. QQ-2377/PSPCL/PO-P. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 06.03.2026 onwards.

NOTE : Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited

CIN U40102GJ2003SGC042909

Regd. & Corp. Office : 'Urja Sadan', N. V. Road, Kapodara Char Rasta, Surat 395 006 GUJARAT

DGVCL Toll Free No. 19123 (or 1800 233 3003)

Tender Notice

Tender details are put up on www.dgvcl.com (for view & download tender documents) and <https://tender.nprocure.com> (for view, download and online tender submission).

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Estimated Cost (In Crore)
1.	DGVCL/ SP / 2603 / 11KV Disc Hardware	16.29

Note: Bidders may visit the above website/s for regular updates till opening of the tender.

ACE (P), DGVCL, Surat.

Kalyan Singh Super Specialty Cancer Institute

C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002

(An Autonomous Institute of the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh)

Website: <https://cancerinstitute.edu.in> Email: jdmm.sscii@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

On-line offers are invited through Custom/Category bids on GeM portal.

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क्रम संख्या	पदनाम	पदों की संख्या
1.	सलाहकार लेखापरीक्षण (Accounts)	1

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Only New Zealand Stand In Way Of India's Title Defence After Samson's 89 Trumps Bethell's 105 As England Fall Seven Short In Steep 254-Run Chase In Semifinal



HIGHEST TOTALS IN T20 WC					
Score	RPO	Team	Vs	Venue	Date
260/6	13	SL	Kenya	Johannesburg	14.9.2007
256/4	12.8	Ind	Zim	Chennai	26.2.2026
254/6	12.7	WI	Zim	Mumbai (WS)	23.2.2026
253/7	12.6	India	Eng	Mumbai (WS)	5.3.2026
246/7	12.3	Eng	India	Mumbai (WS)	5.3.2026
235/5	11.7	Ire	Oman	Colombo (SSC)	14.2.2026

253 India's score is the first total of 250+ in T20 WC knockout matches, bettering the 205/4 by WI vs Aus in Colombo (RPS) on Oct 5, 2012.

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Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: India, you can breathe again! After 34 sixes and 499 runs were scored across 40 overs, it all came down to one big hit that England could not produce. Eventually, Suryakumar Yadav's men evaded the proverbial banana peel at the Wankhede on Thursday night and are now in the final of the T20 World Cup. England's hero was 22-year-old Jacob Bethell, who smashed a 48-ball 105 (8x4; 7x6), his maiden T20I century, to give India a massive scare before the hosts kept their nerve to seal a thrilling seven-run win. Having become the first defending champions ever to reach the final, Suryakumar Yadav & Co. will now take on New Zealand in the summit clash in Ahmedabad on Sunday night, hoping to become the first team to defend their title and the first host nation to clinch the trophy. Chasing 254, England were kept in the hunt by Bethell, who added 77 for the fifth wicket in 39 balls with Will Jacks (35; 20b, 4x4, 2x6) and then 50 in 27 balls for the sixth wicket with Sam Curran (18; 14b, 2x4). However, delivering a masterclass on a pitch which offered nothing but grief for the bowlers, the peerless Jasprit Bumrah (13 in 4 overs) conceded 14 runs off his last two overs while Hardik Pandya (2/38 in 4 overs) gave away just nine in the penultimate over of the match, with England needing 39 off the last two.

499 Match-aggregate for the loss of 14 wickets in the India vs England T20 World Cup encounter is the second highest in the history of T20Is behind the 517 in a T20I involving South Africa and West Indies in Centurion on March 26, 2023.

England had to get 30 to get off the last over but could take away only 22 off Shivam Dube as India heaved a sigh of relief. England finished at 246/7 in 20 overs. The biggest stars of India's nerve-jangling win, though, were Axar Patel — who pulled off two stunning catches to send back Harry Brook and Jacks — and Sanju Samson, who continued his fairytale comeback by smashing 89 off just 42 balls (8x4, 7x6) to power the Men in Blue to 253/7.

Axar's stunning catch running 24 metres from point to send back Brook was a special moment which brought back memories of Kapil Dev's famous grab of Viv Richards in the final of the 1983 World Cup at Lord's. Bumrah, too, deserves credit for that wicket for producing a special slower one. In the 14th over of England's spirited chase, Axar conjured up magic again. This time, sprinting from deep cover, he lobbed the ball to Shivam Dube before crossing the boundary. Dube caught it comfortably to send back Jacks.

Earlier, apart from Samson's blazing knock, several power-packed cameos enabled India to have just about enough runs in the bank. Samson is turning out to be the biggest hero of their campaign, a scenario few would imagine when the batter was going through a lean patch not too long ago. Coming off a match-winning 97-run knock against West Indies in the 'virtual quarter-final' in Kolkata, Samson put the English attack to the sword. Riding on the raw power of Samson and several other impactful contributions, India raced away to the highest-ever score in a knockout match of the T20 World Cup.

England were left to rue a massive mistake from their skipper as Brook dropped Samson when he was on 15, at mid-on off Jofra Archer in the third over. It cost them 74 runs in 36 balls, as Samson was simply unstoppable after that. With Samson leading the way, Shivam Dube (43; 25b, 1x4, 4x6), Ishan Kishan (38; 18b, 4x4, 2x6), Pandya (27; 12b, 3x4, 2x6) and Tilak Varma (21; 12b, 3x4, 2x6) went all guns blazing.

ODIs THEN, T20Is NOW!

Identical team scores of 253 and 246 were seen in the ODI World Cup final between Australia and England at the Eden Gardens on Nov 8, 1987. Australia won that match by 7 runs.

Lord's. Bumrah, too, deserves credit for that wicket for producing a special slower one. In the 14th over of England's spirited chase, Axar conjured up magic again. This time, sprinting from deep cover, he lobbed the ball to Shivam Dube before crossing the boundary. Dube caught it comfortably to send back Jacks.

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1 India are now the first team to boast two scores of 250+ in the T20 World Cup. The other one is 256/4 vs Zimbabwe in Chennai on Feb 26, 2026.

89 Sanju Samson's first fifty vs England is his fifth, apart from 3 hundreds, in T20Is. His innings is the highest by a batter in knockout matches vs England in the T20 World Cup.

1 Having scored 97 not out in his previous innings vs West Indies at Eden Gardens, Samson has become the first Indian batter to register two successive scores of 85+ in the T20 World Cup.

105 Jacob Bethell has scored maiden century T20Is. His previous best was the 62* vs WI in Gros Islet on Nov 16, 2024.

Sanju reclaims bragging rights against nemesis Jofra Archer

Opener Profits From Brook's Drop Off Eng Pacer To Exorcise Ghosts Of 2025 Series

Rajesh.Pansare@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Harry Brook tried to laugh it off as he stood with his hands on his knees. Jofra Archer turned back dejected as he walked towards his mark and Sanju Samson heaved a sigh of relief as he marked his guard. It was a pivotal moment of the match in the third over; the second bowled by Archer, when the right-arm pacer got Samson to mistime a drive straight to Brook at mid-on. The England captain, though, ended up spilling a dolly; Samson, who was 15 off seven balls at that point, went on to add another 74 off 35 after that in a breathtaking assault on the England bowlers. England had an opportunity to reduce India to 24/2 and tighten their grip on the match. Instead, they were left reeling things as the Kerala cricketer went on a rampage, scoring an entertaining 42-



SAMSON

short-pitched stuff, scored only 25 runs off the 23 balls he faced, and was dismissed three times. To add to his woes, an Archer rocket fractured Samson's right index finger in the last T20I of that series at this very venue, which sidelined him for a month. On Wednesday, Samson took guard against Archer, but unlike the 2025 T20I series, where his confidence plummeted with every low-scoring outing, he entered the semifinal on the back of a match-winning 97 against West Indies. He hoicked Archer's third for a boundary over mid-on and then deposited a misdirected short ball over deep fine leg for a six. In the third over, the 31-year-old's heart would have been in his mouth as he watched his drive sailing straight to Brook but once he saw it spooned, he quickly regathered his thoughts and, two balls later, pulled the over deep fine leg for a six. Archer returned in the 13th over but Samson deposited two of the three balls he faced over the boundary. In total, Samson faced 14 balls from Archer and took 38 runs off him.

ICC arranges charter for return of Windies team

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Mumbai: Forced to stay back in India following the end of their campaign in the T20 World Cup, the West Indies team might finally be able to fly home on a chartered flight on Friday with assistance from the International Cricket Council, **TOI** has learnt. The departures of both West Indies and Zimbabwe were delayed after the situation in West Asia led to widespread flight cancellations and airspace closures, disrupting key transit hubs. "West Indies are likely to fly back home via a chartered flight on Friday, with assistance from the ICC. The details of this chartered flight arrangement are being worked out," a source said. Another source said ICC chairperson Jay Shah, CEO Sanjog Gupta and the head of events have been in regular contact with Cricket West Indies and the team management to ensure a safe return. West Indies head coach Darren Sammy posted on X on Wednesday: "I just wanna go home," reflecting the team's frustration at being stranded in Kolkata. The Caribbean side had been scheduled to leave soon after losing their final Super 8 match to India in Kolkata. Late on Thursday, Cricket West Indies (CWI) released a statement confirming the development. "During a high-level call earlier today, it was confirmed that a charter flight is currently being arranged for the team's departure from India, with the expected departure scheduled within the next 24 hours. The departure time remains subject to final air traffic approvals," the statement said. Zimbabwe leave in batches Zimbabwe, also stranded after exiting the Super 8, have begun returning home in batches after

Rashid removed as Afghan T20I skipper

Kabul: Afghanistan replaced Rashid Khan with Ibrahim Zadran as skipper on Thursday for the T20I series against Sri Lanka. Afghanistan crashed out in the first round of the T20 World Cup after losing to South Africa and New Zealand. The team is monitoring the situation in the UAE, which is slated to stage the Lanka series. AGENCIES

the ICC arranged alternate routes following the cancellation of their flight via Dubai. The team is travelling to Harare via Addis Ababa, with the first group leaving on Wednesday and the final group scheduled to depart on Friday afternoon, Zimbabwe Cricket said.

South Africa next The ICC is also working on South Africa's return travel after their semifinal loss to New Zealand. A source said the team is most likely to fly via Ethiopian Airlines, with Emirates and Etihad gradually restoring routes.

Finn Allen thunderclap becomes instant folklore

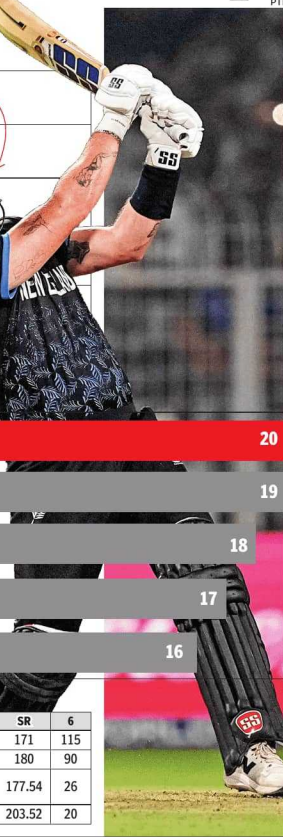
MOST SIXES IN AN INNINGS IN T20 WORLD CUP KNOCKOUT MATCHES

Batter	Sixes
Finn Allen (NZ; 100* off 33b vs SA, Kolkata 2026)	8
Alex Hales (Eng; 86* off 47b vs Ind, Adelaide 2022)	7
Mike Hussey (Aus; 60* off 24b vs Pak, Gros Islet 2010)	6
Chris Gayle (WI; 75* off 41b vs Aus, Colombo 2012)	6
Marlon Samuels (WI; 78 off 56b vs SL, Colombo 2012)	6

MOST SIXES IN A SINGLE EDITION OF THE T20 WORLD CUP

Batter	Sixes
Finn Allen (NZ; 2026)	20
Shimron Hetmyer (WI; 2026)	19
Sahibzada Farhan (Pak; 2026)	18
Nicholas Pooran (WI; 2024)	17
Chris Gayle (WI; 2012)	16

FINN ALLEN IN T20Is									
	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR
Overall	61	60	3	1654	137	29.01	3	7	171
In wins	37	37	3	1314	137	38.64	3	6	180
In T20WC (2021-2026)	17	16	2	419	100*	29.92	1	1	177.54
TC20 WC 2026	8	7	2	289	100*	57.8	1	1	203.52



From Auckland's Sleepless Living Room to Eden's Roaring Ring, Batter Sends Kiwis Soaring Into Final

Archiman.Bhaduri@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The morning after, it all still felt slightly unreal. As if Eden Gardens briefly slipped out of normal time and nobody told South Africa. Semifinals are meant to be nervy, nail-biting affairs, not a one-sided knockout blow, that too from the underdog team. Finn Allen's unbeaten 33-ball century, however, did all that and more as New Zealand barged into the T20 World Cup final by beating South Africa. The knock was a highlights reel that will be played years from now. Back home, many in New Zealand would have been watching through heavy eyelids. The Allen family in Auckland, however, had no chance of sleep as their son went hammer and tongs and made a formidable South African attack look pedestrian. "I'm sure my parents were up watching the whole game. Hopefully they're proud," Allen said with a smile after the game. The numbers will do the rounds for years, because they have to: 100* off 33 balls, the fastest century in a men's T20 World Cup match, with 10 fours and eight sixes and 88 runs in boundaries. It's the kind of arithmetic that looks like a misprint until you remember you saw it live. The real shock wasn't just Finn's rate of scoring, it was the ease with which he made quality bowling feel optional. South Africa's plans barely had time to take shape before they were being hit back into the stands. One moment the chase seemed a contest, the next it was Allen picking his spots, trusting his swing and stretching the bounds of the possible. It wasn't even a one-man ambush from ball one. Tim Seifert was the first to throw the punch, racing ahead while Allen warmed to the night. Allen's 'switch' flicked late in the Powerplay, a single over that became ignition, and the mood of the stadium changed with it. The rest was a blur of clean strikes and louder disbelief. "We don't really have a plan, me and Timmy. We just try and be positive and hope for the best," he said. Allen's route here hasn't been a straight line. He didn't make an immediate splash after debuting in 2021, but the last year has been a steady accumulation of evidence that this is what he does when the ball is there to be hit. In Major League Cricket, he tore up the format with a 151 featuring a world-record 19 sixes — only for a foot injury to interrupt the surge. The comeback, though, has been emphatic. In the Big Bash League, he was Perth Scorchers' title-driving force: 466 runs, and a competition record 38 sixes — a season-long trailer for the mayhem he would later unleash at Eden. No wonder Kolkata Knight Riders moved quickly at the IPL auction, snapping him up for 2 crore — a signing that already feels like a steal in a summer of

1 Allen is the first batter to score a century in T20 WC knockout matches. England's Jacob Bethell on Thursday night became the second to reach the milestone. —Stats: Rajesh Kumar

power-hitters. For all the battering up front, Allen was careful not to frame it as a solo act. He pointed to New Zealand's bowlers for setting the tone, especially in the Powerplay, and for refusing to let South Africa's muscle settle. "The bowlers set the tone for us by taking early wickets on what we thought was going to be a really good batting wicket. They've (South Africa) got an incredibly powerful batting line-up and hats off to the boys with the ball," he said. He also underlined the value of the group-stage lesson against the same opposition — the kind of detail that gets lost once an innings like this takes over the story. "We looked closely at that first game against them," he said. "Playing them earlier gave us a bit of insight into their plans and we tried to use that to our advantage," he confided. Even the toss, Allen suggested, mattered — and New Zealand made sure the first small win didn't go to waste. "We just hoped (Mitch) Santner would win a toss and he did that. So that was the first part done. From then onwards it was just, take the bull by the horns. Take the game on, not shy away from any challenge," he explained. On the team's chances in the final, Allen said, "It's a new position, under different conditions. We just look to take the positives out of this game and get a flight to Ahmedabad and start again. I think if we play our best cricket we can beat just about anybody."

SCORES: New Zealand 173/1 in 12.5 overs (Allen 100*, Seifert 58; Rabada 1-28) beat South Africa 169/8 (Jansen 55*; McConchie 2-9, Ravindra 2-29, Henry 2-34) by 9 wickets.

Didn't choke, it was a walloping: SA coach Conrad

Archiman.Bhaduri@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Very few expected the T20 World Cup semifinal to go the way it did at the Eden Gardens on Wednesday. More so the South Africans, who stood shell-shocked after being blown away by New Zealand, with the game getting added to their list of heartbreaks in ICC tournaments. Naturally the 'choker' word, so infamously associated with South Africa over the years, resurfaced in post-match interactions. "I don't know if tonight was a choke. I thought it was a bloody walloping," coach Shukri Conrad said bluntly. "In order to choke, you must have had a sniff in the game. We didn't have a sniff. In South Africa, we'd say we 'got moered' (violent assault)," he added. "Tonight, we got a proper *snotklap*, also a South African word meaning a real hiding." SA skipper Aiden Markram echoed the same feeling. "Yeah, hugely disappointed," Markram said. "It's not a big slap in the face, but it feels like it," he summed it up. Conrad accepted that they were outplayed by their rivals. "A lot didn't go right tonight. But that was probably enforced because New Zealand were really, really good tonight. They gave us absolutely nothing and they really squeezed particularly well. Their spinners were exceptional in those conditions," he stated. "The calibre of bowling tonight, coupled with the wicket, made it particularly tough for us," he added. South Africa's batting coach Ashwell Prince was disappointed since the side came into the contest as favourites after an unbeaten run in the tournament.



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#Blissfully Ever After / shown here in King Size
#Customisable in King Size and Queen Size



#New Castle / shown here in 3 Seater
#Customisable in 2.5 Seater / 3 Seater / Centre Table & Side Table



#Bobby / shown here in 1 Seater



#Elements / shown here in Dining Table with Chairs
#Customisable in 2 Sizes: L 2400 mm x W 1200 mm /
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OF INDIA

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CHRISTIAN BALE

'I still find romance in movies rather dull'



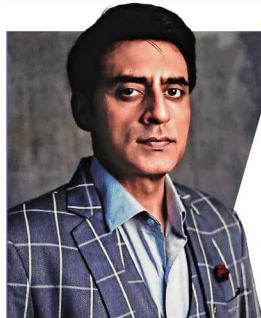
Bale as Patrick Bateman in American Psycho

All the best to whoever ends up doing that. It will be a bold choice for anyone
— on the American Psycho remake

classic *Bride of Frankenstein* with an unconventional love story at its heart. Directed by his *The Dark Knight* co-star Maggie Gyllenhaal, the film features Bale alongside Jessie Buckley in a leading role, with strong supporting performances from Penelope Cruz, Peter Sarsgaard, and Annette Bening.

I'm always really annoying to many directors who I work with because I haven't seen any of their films. I don't see the films of other actors that I work with. It just doesn't seem to happen for me lately

CONTINUED ON P11



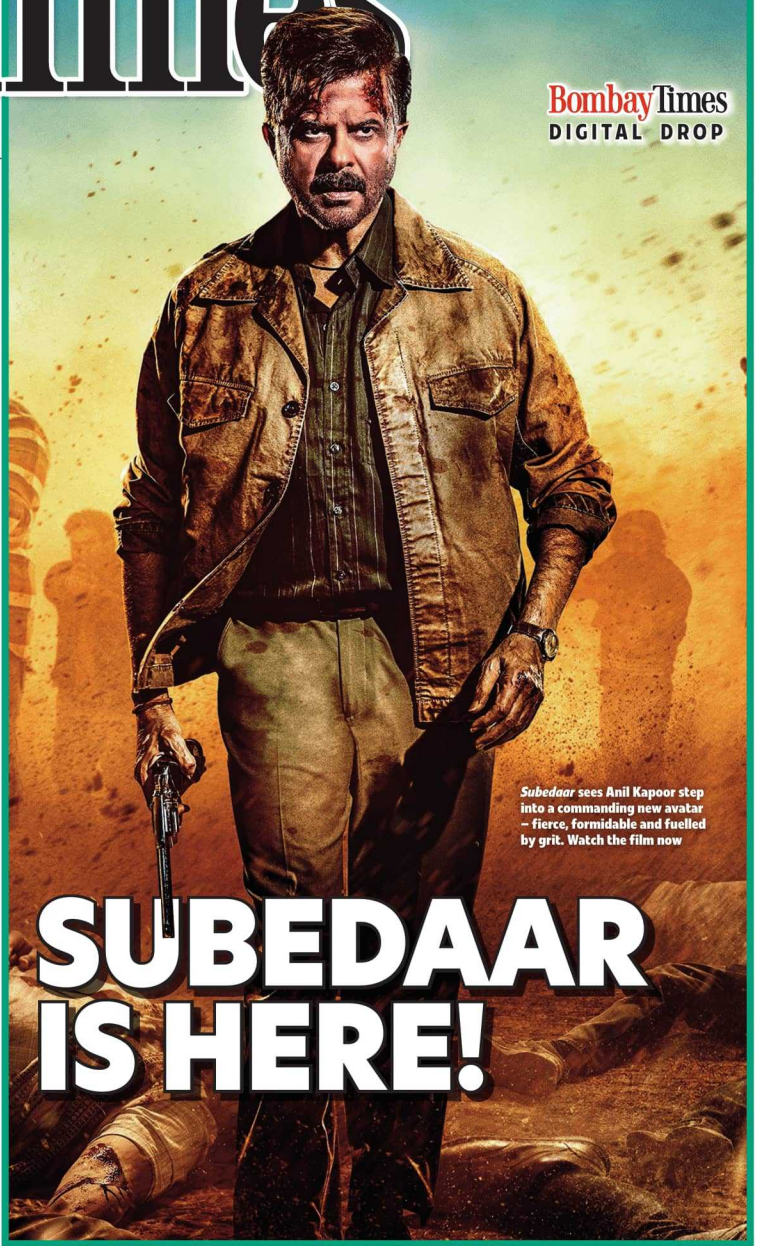
ART HEALED ME, TAUGHT ME A LOT ABOUT LIFE: ASHWATH BHATT

From theatre, his Kashmiri roots and playing Saadat Hasan Manto, Ashwath reflects on how each of these have shaped his understanding of trauma, humanity and artistic expression

P5

Whenever you face anything traumatic like caste-based violence, injustice, or prejudices, there are always two choices: you can be a better person or a bitter person. You have to choose which one you want to become

BombayTimes
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NEW DELHI: SRI RAM JI STORE, CHANDNI CHOWK | ADARSH STORE, KAMLA NAGAR | MAHENDRA BAG WORK, YAMUNA VIHAR | GURGAON: JEWELLERY PALACE, SECTOR 14 | PRINCESS BAGS, MGF METROPOLITAN MALL | GHAZIABAD: KK ENTERPRISES, VAISHALI | NODDA: PRINCESS BAGS, SPECTRUM MALL | LUCKNOW: JS TRADING COMPANY, CROWN MALL | HS CONSTRUCTION, WAVE MALL | HS CONSTRUCTION, FUN MALL | AS VENTURE, PALLASSIO MALL | VASTYA MERCHANTS, PHEONIX UNITED MALL | FANCY PURSE CORNER, HAZRATGANJ | LULU, HYPERMARKET | GORAKHPUR: HS CONSTRUCTION, ORION MALL | PANIPAT: SUDHA STORES, KARNAL, YAMUNA NAGAR | SONPAT: WOW PACKS, SECTOR 14 | JALPUR: PV MARKETING, VIDYADHAR NAGAR

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Before the vows:
Gaurav renovates
home for Kritika



Gaurav Kapur is gearing up for his wedding, with renovation work underway at his Mumbai home to welcome bride-to-be Kritika Kamra. A source close to the couple said, "Renovation work began in early February, and Kritika has been closely supervising it. The décor theme blends traditional and mid-century modern elements, with plenty of plants, natural light and an airy, warm aesthetic. They want a warm, welcoming space to host family and friends - starting with the wedding festivities and many celebrations to come."

The couple, who made their relationship public in 2025, will tie the knot on March 11. Following a private wedding ceremony at Gaurav's residence, they will host a celebration for close friends and family on March 12.

- Neha Maheshwari

Kritika has been overseeing the renovation. The décor theme blends traditional and mid-century modern elements, with plenty of plants and natural light - A source

Do me a favour, let's play Holi!



Celebrities revel in festive cheer at Vineet Jain's Holi party

(L-R) Madhur Bhandarkar, Vineet Jain (MD, Times Group) and Anu Malik

Anupam Mittal and Aanchal Kumar

Harmeet Singh of Meet Bros

Taha Shah Badusha

Divya Dutta

Wamiqa Gabbi and Ektaa Kapoor

Ankita Lokhande

Terence Lewis

Rajat Bedi

(L-R) Archana Gautam, Manisha Rani, Natalia Janoszek and Shrutika Arjun

Shiv Thakare

Soundarya Sharma

(L-R) Shevam Singh (Mr India World 2025), Rohit Khandelwal (Mister World 2016) and Gokul Ganesan (Mr India World 2024)

Vindu Dara Singh

Ashnoor Kaur

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Festive vibes & colour play: Delhi marks Korean tradition with a splash of Holi



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Tejendra Narayan Majumdar - Sarod

Saturday, 07th March 2026, 6:00 pm

Sawani Shende - Hindustani Vocal
Shashank Subramanyam - Flute (Carnatic)
Sajan & Swaransh Mishra - Hindustani Vocal

Sunday, 08th March 2026, 10:00 am

Madhup Mudgal - Hindustani Vocal
Biswajit Roy Chowdhury - Sarod

Sunday, 08th March 2026, 6:00 pm

Lokesh Anand - Shehnai
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What is Jeongwol Daeboreum

Observed on the first full moon of the lunar New Year, Jeongwol Daeboreum fell on March 3 this year. "Jeongwol" denotes the first lunar month, while "Daeboreum" translates to the great full moon.

Korean Cultural Centre India's Holi and Jeongwol Daeboreum celebrations

Holi met Jeongwol Daeboreum in a cross-cultural celebration. Hwang Il Yong, Director of the Korean Cultural Centre India, said, "By bringing these festivals together, we hope to create a cultural connection that reflects the shared values of India and Korea." Participants also tried the "Bureom" experience, cracking peanuts and walnuts in a Korean custom believed to bring good luck

SNAPSHOTS

A collaborative handprint activity captured the shared spirit, with participants dipping their hands in coloured powder and imprinting them on a large full moon board, adding short wishes in English or Korean for the year ahead

I usually get serious roles because of my intense looks: Ashwath

Yashaswi Kochar

Art came into my life and changed the way I was looking at trauma," says Ashwath Bhatt, who was recently in Delhi to stage his play *Lauh Purush*, while speaking to us about his love for theatre. The actor, known for his intense roles in films like *The Diplomat*, *Kesari* and *Raazi*, spoke to us about his theatre project, his yearning to keep returning to Kashmir – his motherland – and how playing Manto has helped him evolve as a person.

Ashwath Bhatt portrayed former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in the play *Lauh Purush*

Directors have told me, 'I want to use your eyes and looks.' But if I've been able to do comedy in theatre, I can do it on camera too

'Trying to give back as much as I can to my community'

As a teenager, Bhatt, who hails from Kashmir, had to leave his motherland during the 1990 exodus. "I always look for a reason to go back to Kashmir, be it for plays or film shoots. I don't have a house there, but it is still my motherland. As a Kashmiri Pandit, I have trauma; baggage that I still carry. I am trying to give back as much as I can to the community and feel happy about it. Whenever you face anything traumatic like caste-based violence, injustice, or prejudices, there are always two choices: you can be a better person or a bitter person. You have to choose which one you want to become," he shares.

'Art healed me'

Speaking about his initiative - Theatre Garage Project - which bears the philosophy of creating "something out of nothing," Bhatt shares, "Art healed me, taught me a lot about life. I started laughing again and understood the power of red nose clowning (a form of therapeutic clowning)." He continues, "I started researching, practising and teaching it to kids. We go to places like orphanages and cancer hospitals. In my family, we had half a dozen cancer patients; my mom and another relative survived, but everyone else passed away. Acceptance is the key; the clown is the master of acceptance." His project also funds the school fees of underprivileged children through its TGP educational programme.

'Playing Manto helped me evolve'

Bhatt has been playing Manto for almost 25 years on stage. Speaking of the impact of the character, he tells us, "Playing Manto has made me evolve as a person. Reading (his works) makes me understand how hypocritical and loving a human can be out of nowhere. *Unki bhasha mein itne sakht shabd thay Urdu ke, jaise logon ko takleef hoti thi*, and that is why people have reservations about Manto. I want to explore more about his life." Ask about other works of Manto he wants to perform, and he replies, "*Chacha Sam Ke Naam Khutoot* is creating havoc in the world right now. I also want to perform stories by Anton Chekhov, Munshi Premchand, and Franz Kafka."

'I get serious roles because of my intense looks, but I want to explore comedy too'

Speaking about doing comedy roles, the actor says, "I manifested comedy, and I'm doing an out-and-out commercial comedy now. I'd love to explore comedy on screen. I usually get serious roles because of my intense looks." Ask if he has ever felt typecast due to his looks, and he recalls, "Once, I asked Vikram Bhatt why I was getting similar roles. He told me it was due to my 'amazing eyes.' Directors have told me, 'I want to use your eyes and looks.' But if I've been able to do comedy in theatre, I can do it on camera too."



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Om Raut likely to direct Tiger Shroff-Vidyut Jammwal movie



Om Raut, best known for *Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior*, is likely to come on board to helm an upcoming action film featuring Tiger Shroff and Vidyut Jammwal. The project, backed by Bhushan Kumar, is in the early stages of development. A source close to the production reveals that Raut has already approached the actors. "He has pitched a script and they are currently jamming over it. It is at a nascent stage," the source states. Interestingly, Milap Zaveri was earlier rumoured to be directing the venture. However, he has since been announced as the director of another film with the same production house, starring Harshvardhan Rane. "The story by Om is completely different. He has not stepped into Milap's shoes. If everything goes well, the film will go on floors this year," the source adds. This will mark Bhushan and Om's reunion post the debacle of *Adipurush*.



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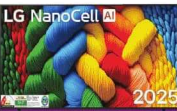
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Piece together your weekend with jigsaw

Shivika Manchanda

A table, a pile of oddly shaped pieces, and a promise that they all fit together somehow – that's all you need for a surprisingly good weekend. Jigsaw puzzles are no longer just a childhood memory, they're a social ritual and even a competitive game. And if you're craving a slower, solo reset, you can always begin the quest yourself at home.

Rishabh, a boardgaming meetup host at All Things Fun, says, "We organise timed puzzle-solving tournaments sometimes... A 150-piece puzzle is usually a good place to start as it takes less than an hour to finish and works well for beginners."

WANT TO SOLVE A PUZZLE? HERE ARE SOME TIPS

CREATE A COMFORTABLE SETUP

Good lighting, a spacious surface, and minimal distractions improve concentration and reduce fatigue

SORT BEFORE YOU START

Organise pieces by colour, pattern, shape, or distinct details in sorting trays

BUILD THE FRAMEWORK FIRST

For jigsaw puzzles, start by identifying the corner and edge pieces to create a border

BREAK IT INTO SECTIONS

Instead of tackling the entire puzzle at once, focus on smaller sections

CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Rotate pieces, shift your seating position, or even view the puzzle from a different angle

TAKE STRATEGIC BREAKS

If you're stuck, step away. Returning with fresh eyes often leads to quicker breakthroughs.

Offline escape that quiets the mind

"I like how solving a puzzle shuts off the noise in my head. After work, my head is usually full of random thoughts and unfinished tasks. People are exhausted from being online all the time. Even when we think we're relaxing, we're overstimulated. A lot of these people are actively looking for offline hobbies. Something that feels fun but doesn't drain you, and solving puzzles does just that," says Delhi-based Shanya Verma. She adds, "I'm not worried about emails or my long to-do list; I'm just looking for a specific piece."

For Bangalore-based Zenitha Das, the hobby began during her MBA days. "I started doing puzzles as an adult when a friend got a 1000-piece Starry Nights puzzle. That's when I realised that I really enjoyed jigsaw puzzles." Now, she and her husband Vikrant Nayak attend meetups and enjoy trying new brands, piece counts and materials. Talking about her first experience with puzzles, Delhi-based Iris Roy says, "It's best to say that I was not prepared. But fixing the last piece was incredibly satisfying. It was tedious but fun."

Content creators suggest a simple hack to preserve the puzzle – gently tape it from the back once complete. You can then frame it and hang it on the wall, or slide it into a puzzle folder to build your own archive over time

Solving a puzzle feels like a reset. With friends, it's fun in a different way. You can talk while doing it, and it's not one of those activities where everyone is on their phone. It's chaotic but fun

–Shanya Verma, who recently hosted a puzzle meet with her friends

'People connect over the shared love for puzzles'

Speed puzzling is gaining momentum in India, where individuals and teams compete to complete identical puzzles against the clock. Asma Tojjudin, who founded Playful Pursuits, a pan-India community of jigsaw puzzlers, says, "Speed puzzling is a relatively new competitive activity, and there's immense satisfaction in finishing a puzzle as fast as possible."

"Speed puzzling events typically feature three categories, with participants competing solo or in pairs. While formats may vary, the core idea remains the same – solving a puzzle against the clock," shares Asma, adding, "In the classic speed puzzling, participants receive the same 'mystery' puzzle, begin simultaneously, and race to finish first. Another popular format is Puzzle Chess, usually in the individual category, where participants compete in a series of one-on-one matches across three to four rounds. Smaller puzzles (70-250 pieces) are used here, making it more beginner-friendly."

How to: Host a 'support-a-sister' workshop

PICK THE 'PRO'

Identify a friend with a specialised skill. Approach her with a professional proposal: "We love your (skill), and we'd love to pay you to teach us the basics in a private mini-class."

SET THE RATE

Treat this like a real business transaction. Ask for her 'friend-rate' or suggest a fair per-person fee that covers her time, prep, and materials. Paying her honors her craft and removes the awkwardness associated with asking for a favor.

Image generated by AI



PREP THE SPACE

Whether it's a kitchen table for pasta making or a backyard for yoga, ensure the environment matches the craft. Ask her for a shopping list or pay her an extra 'kit fee' to provide everything. Make snacks that won't interfere with the work.

FOCUS AND FLOW

The goal is a one to two hour 'mini-class'. It's long enough to feel substantial, but short enough to keep the energy high. By the end of the night, you're not just hanging out – you're investing in your circle.

DelhiTimes Weekend Planner



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If you love music

ALKEMIC
(Celebrate the rhythm of the lived female experience in a transforming world)
Where: Depot 48, GK 2
When: **Fri**
Time: 9pm

JAZBAA-E-ISHQ
(Rekha Bhardwaj & Vishal Bhardwaj Live)
Where: Bharat Mandapam
When: **Sat**
Time: 7pm onwards

SONGS OF THE STONE
(Flautist Rakesh Chaurasia & band RAF Live)
Where: Qutub Minar
When: **Sun**
Time: 7pm

Bhajan Clubbing by Saaz & Prakhar
Where: Talkatora Stadium
When: **Sat**
Time: 6:30pm

Drum Jam Session
(An evening with Delhi Drum Circle)
Where: Oxford Bookstore, CP
When: **Sat**
Time: 5pm - 7pm

Shriram Shankar Lal Music Festival
Where: Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra
When: **Fri - Sun**
Time: 6pm

Poo Bani Parvati
(Lecture on navigating womanhood; by UnilCure)
Where: Blue Tokai, Panchsheel Park
When: **Sun**
Time: 4pm

Women Walk At Midnight x Darwesh Taleweavers
(A Women's Day special walk; open to women, mascs, trans, AFAB individuals)
Starting Point: Mandi House Metro Station
When: **Sat**
Time: 8pm

Trinket Tray Making Workshop
Where: Artphonso, Gurgaon
When: **Sun**
Time: Noon

Tawaif, Thumri aur Tehzeeb
(An evening of music & conversations around courtesans; by DelhiBiyFoot)
Where: 88 Lotus, East of Kalash
When: **Sat**
Time: 5pm

Collectors as Custodians
(Panel on the journey of Indian art)
Where: Bikaner House
When: **Sat - Mon**
Time: 10am - 6pm

Vatika Vasantotsav
Where: Club One, Sec 82, Gurgaon
When: **Fri - Sun**
Time: 11am

Tribes Art Fest
Where: Travancore Palace
When: **Fri - Sun**
Time: 11am - 9pm

Ceramic Spring Fest
Where: Triveni Kala Sangam
When: **Fri - Sun**
Time: 11am - 8pm

Uppcycling & Crafts Workshop
(Session with Titi Co)
Where: Sunder Nursery
When: **Sun**
Time: 10am - Noon

Artisanal Market
Where: Horizon Plaza, DLF Phase 5
When: **Sat**
Time: 3:30pm - 9:30pm

Lodhi Reads
Where: Lodhi Garden
When: **Sun**
Time: 10:30am - 1:30pm

Silent Book Club
Where: Sunder Nursery
When: **Sat**
Time: 11am - 1pm

Aerial Workshop
Where: Studio Aer, GK2
When: **Sat**
Time: 12:30pm

The Inner Circle Run
(A 3k run by 5am Social Run Club)
Where: Inner Circle, CP
When: **Sun**
Time: 7am

If you're into experiences

RAMADAN FOOD WALK
(A walk by The Delhinama)
Where: Zakir Nagar
When: **Sat**
Time: 7pm

DASTARKHWAAN-E-JAHAANUMA
(An iftaar experience by Tales of City)
Where: Deen Dunia House, Jama Masjid
When: **Sat & Sun**
Time: 7pm

LODHI GARDEN WALK
(A Women's Day special walk by Enroute Indian History)
Where: Lodhi Garden
When: **Sun**
Time: 5pm - 6:30pm

BASANT, BLOOMS AND BUTTERFLIES
Where: Sunder Nursery
When: **Sun**
Time: 9am - 10:30am

FARM TO PLATE
(An experience by New Delhi Nature Society)
Where: Green Vibes Farm, Chhattarpur
When: **Sun**
Time: 9am

TULIP FESTIVAL
Where: Shanti Path
When: **Fri - Sun**
Time: All day

RHYTHM: INTERNATIONAL QUEER & GENDER FILM FESTIVAL
Where: NIV Art Centre
When: **Fri - Sun**
Time: Daywise

SCREENING: LOST WORLD 2020
Where: Alliance Française de Delhi
When: **Fri**
Time: 6pm

If you enjoy storytelling

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Seven together:
Trailer for BTS' comeback concert out

The concert for BTS THE COMEBACK LIVE has been released by Netflix, to the delight of the K-pop group's fans. Members RM, Jin, V, J-Hope, Jimin, Jung Kook and Suga appear in the preview, filmed against the backdrop of Gwanghwamun Square, where they invite fans to "witness the homecoming" as they prepare to return to the global stage after a long hiatus. Streaming live from the historic Seoul landmark on March 21, the event will mark the group's first major live performance in years. In India, the livestream will begin at 4.30pm.



Diagnosed with grade 1 breast cancer: Rajshri Deshpande

Rajshri Deshpande on Wednesday revealed she has been diagnosed with first-stage breast cancer and said she is now recovering well following a successful surgery. "I have been diagnosed with Infiltrating ductal carcinoma (NOS) a grade 1 Breast cancer. We fortunately caught this early in a routine check-up which gave us a fighting chance. Tons of tests and surgery felt like a rollercoaster ride, but trust me it was everyone's love and warmth that carried me through," she wrote.



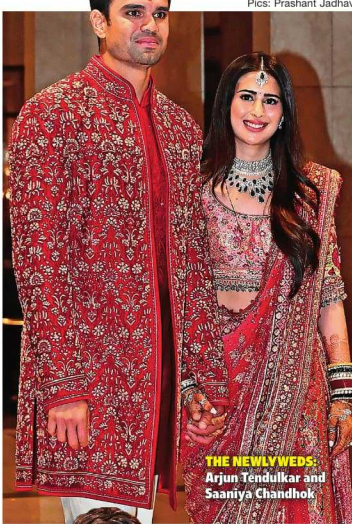
DM us if you need help: Sonu Sood to travellers stranded in Dubai

As escalating US-Iran tensions disrupted air travel in the Middle East, many travellers were left stranded in Dubai. Sonu Sood announced that he would provide free accommodation to those stuck in Dubai. In a video post on Instagram, the actor said, "Anyone who's stranded in Dubai because of the ongoing crisis, we just want to tell you that you have a place to stay. We'll make sure that you get free accommodation." He also wrote, "No nationality. No conditions. Just humanity. DM us on Instagram if you need help."

Lazy act: Ghoshal slams singers for lip-synching in live gigs

Audiences have often criticised performers for lip-synching instead of singing live. During a podcast with Raj Shamani, Shreya Ghoshal shared her views on the practice. She said, "That's just a lazy act. Aapne mehanat nahi kari. In my opinion, it's not a good approach." She added, "I can't discredit what the audience likes, but I have certain principles as an artist. I have a problem with any performance of mine being played publicly that I myself wouldn't even be able to listen to."

B-Town, cricket royalty at Arjun-Saaniya wedding



THE NEWLYWEDS: Arjun Tendulkar and Saaniya Chaudhary



Sara Tendulkar



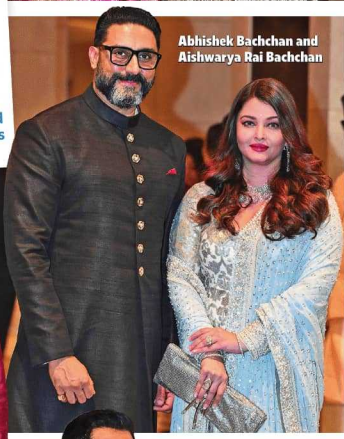
Anjali and Sachin Tendulkar



Shah Rukh, Gauri and Suhana Khan



Arjun Tendulkar and Saaniya Chaudhary's wedding



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*Effective price means ₹ 12,06,190 ex-showroom price (New Delhi) of Elevate V MT minus total benefits of up to ₹ 1,36,000 offered in the month of March. The actual effective price mentioned may vary based on the customer's eligibility profile and applicable benefits. Insurance, RTO, etc. to be borne separately by consumer. Total benefit amount includes applicable cash, exchange, corporate, extended warranty or any other applicable offer/benefits. Visit nearest dealership for more details. Available only for limited period on select model and in select cities. Stock without benefits is also available. **Terms & condition apply. Offer by dealership. Warranty and any other related terms & conditions are applicable as specified by third party/ supplier of equipment. Please contact below mentioned dealership for details. Creative visualization applied. Appearance of black shade on glass of vehicle is due to lighting effect. Images shown above are representative and of a different variant (Elevate VX with Apex Edition Kit & Alpha Bold plus grille). Actual Colour, feature or any specification as shown offer from the actual product and may not be part of standard fitment. Please check and experience the availability of grade/ colour/ features/ offers at the authorized dealership. Honda Cars India Limited reserve the right to change or withdraw any colour, grade, features or offer/ benefits without any prior notice. *Free subscription for the first 5 years from the date of purchase. Only available on select smartphone & smart watches. Smartwatch isn't part of giveaway. **As per Honda internet data. *10 Year Anytime Warranty. Extendable up to the maximum age of 10 years or 1,20,000 kilometers by renewing every year and is applicable from the date of purchase of car. Please refer to the owner's manual and Warranty Document for more details. Scrappage benefits applicable on select models subject to receipt of valid certificate of deposit issued by RVSF. Honda Cars India Limited urges drivers to follow traffic rules which are meant to keep them safe on roads. For more information, please visit our authorized dealership or www.hondacarindia.com.

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WORLD OBESITY DAY

ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS AND OBESITY HOW MODERN DIETS ARE DRIVING SILENT WEIGHT GAIN

Dr. Richa Chaturvedi
Endocrinologist

Ultra-processed foods are increasingly common in modern diets and are strongly linked to obesity. A randomized study found that people consuming ultra-processed foods gained more weight and ate significantly more calories than when they consumed minimally processed foods, even though meals contained similar nutrients. One key reason was reduced chewing—ultra-processed foods were eaten faster, leading to higher energy intake before the body signalled fullness. These foods are typically high in refined carbohydrates, unhealthy fats, and additives, while lacking fiber and essential nutrients. The findings highlight that limiting ultra-processed foods and choosing whole, minimally processed meals may be an effective strategy to prevent obesity and promote healthier eating habits.

WHAT REALLY HELPS PEOPLE STICK TO HEALTHY EATING IN OBESITY

Dr. Kashish Gupta
Endocrinologist

Long-term weight loss depends more on sticking to a diet than on the type of diet chosen. A study tracking adherence over two years found that early weight loss in the first six months strongly predicted long-term success, as early results boosted motivation. Overall adherence remained high, though it declined over time, especially during holidays. Low-fat diets had the highest adherence, followed by Mediterranean and low-carbohydrate diets. Higher BMI, smoking, and female sex were linked to lower adherence. Physical activity supported appetite control but was not sufficient alone. The key to lasting success is starting strong, planning for challenges, choosing sustainable diets, and combining dietary changes with regular physical activity.

WHEN CHILDHOOD OBESITY FUELS EARLY DIABETES A GROWING SILENT CRISIS

Dr. Alka Jha
Endocrinologist

Childhood obesity is rising rapidly worldwide and is now a major driver of early-onset type 2 diabetes. Once seen mainly in adults, type 2 diabetes is increasingly affecting children and adolescents, where it progresses more aggressively and leads to earlier complications. Obesity, influenced by unhealthy diets, sedentary lifestyles, genetics, and environmental factors, increases insulin resistance and significantly raises diabetes risk. Studies show obese children are up to four times more likely to develop type 2 diabetes. Preventing childhood obesity through early lifestyle interventions is critical to reducing the growing burden of early diabetes and long-term health complications.

WHY HAS INDIA BECOME THE DIABETES CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Dr. Himika Chawla
Endocrinologist

Diabetes has emerged as one of India's most serious public health challenges, affecting all age groups, including children and young adults. Over the past 25 years, its prevalence has risen sharply due to rapid urbanisation, unhealthy dietary patterns, physical inactivity, and increasing obesity—especially abdominal obesity. India now accounts for nearly 17% of the global diabetes burden, with numbers expected to rise further in the coming decades. Genetic susceptibility, combined with lifestyle changes and central fat accumulation, makes Indians more prone to insulin resistance and early-onset type 2 diabetes. Urgent preventive strategies focusing on healthy diets, regular physical activity, and early screening are essential to curb this growing epidemic.

WHY OBESITY IS THE STRONGEST RISK FACTOR FOR TYPE 2 DIABETES MELLITUS

Dr. Chhavi Agarwal
Endocrinologist

Obesity is the most powerful risk factor for type 2 diabetes, surpassing both genetic predisposition and lifestyle factors. Long-term population studies show that people with obesity have nearly a six-fold higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes mellitus compared with those of normal weight, while even overweight individuals face a substantially increased risk. Importantly, this elevated risk persists even among individuals with low genetic risk and healthy lifestyles. Although genetics and lifestyle influence diabetes risk, excess body fat remains the dominant driver through its effects on insulin resistance and metabolism. Effective weight management is therefore central to preventing type 2 diabetes across all risk groups.

FOOT COMPLICATIONS AND DELAYED WOUND HEALING IN T2DM PATIENTS WITH OBESITY

Dr. Aishwariya Krishna Murthy
Endocrinologist

Diabetes and obesity together increase the risk of chronic wounds and serious foot complications. Conditions like diabetic foot ulcers, peripheral neuropathy, peripheral artery disease, Charcot arthropathy, and infections are worsened by obesity, which increases foot pressure, impairs circulation, and slows healing. Delayed wound healing is caused by inflammation, impaired cellular function, oxygen deficits, and nutritional deficiencies. Prevention and management include weight control, blood sugar management, regular foot inspection, daily washing and moisturizing, proper nail care, pressure relief, and wearing well-fitted shoes. Multidisciplinary care with prompt treatment of wounds and specialized dressings reduces complications and amputation risk.

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN THE RISK OF DEVELOPING OBESITY RELATED DISEASE

Dr. Nishant Raizada
Endocrinologist

Obesity increases the risk of diabetes and heart disease, but its effects differ between men and women. Fat tissue must expand safely to store excess energy. When it cannot, fat accumulates in organs like the liver and pancreas, leading to insulin resistance. Research from York University shows that female fat tissue develops more new blood vessels during weight gain, allowing healthier expansion. Male fat tissue forms fewer blood vessels and shows higher inflammation. Even outside the body, male and female blood vessel cells behave differently. These findings help explain why men face higher obesity-related metabolic risks and may guide future treatments targeting fat tissue health.

LIVING LESS, RESPONDING LESS HOW A SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE DRIVES INSULIN RESISTANCE

Dr. Rashika M Rijhwani
Endocrinologist

Prolonged sitting, common in modern lifestyles, harms metabolism and increases insulin resistance, a key risk factor for type 2 diabetes. Even people who exercise can be affected if they spend long hours sedentary. Muscle inactivity reduces glucose uptake, while fat and liver changes, inflammation, and altered gut microbiota further impair insulin function. Sedentary behaviour also disrupts lipid metabolism and promotes fat storage. The good news: breaking up sitting with light activity—standing, walking, or stretching—improves insulin sensitivity and blood sugar control. Regular movement throughout the day, not just exercise sessions, is essential to maintain metabolic health and prevent diabetes.

HOW A PLANT-FORWARD DIET (EAT-LANCET DIET) HELPS CHILDREN BEAT ABDOMINAL OBESITY

Dr. Priyamvada Tyagi
Endocrinologist

Childhood obesity is increasing globally, raising serious health concerns. New research shows that intensive lifestyle interventions can help address this problem while also supporting environmental sustainability. In children and adolescents with abdominal obesity, a structured program combining a moderately calorie-restricted Mediterranean diet with nutrition education significantly improved adherence to the EAT-Lancet plant-forward diet. This led to meaningful reductions in body weight, body mass index, and waist circumference, along with overall health improvements. The findings highlight that promoting healthy, plant-based eating habits early in life can effectively reduce obesity risk while encouraging diets that benefit both human health and the planet.

WHEN FEELINGS DRIVE THE FORK THE HIDDEN METABOLIC COST OF EMOTIONAL EATING IN OBESITY

Dr. Rebecca Shweta Glandwin
Endocrinologist

Emotional eating—eating in response to stress, sadness, or anxiety—is common, especially among people with overweight or obesity, and is linked to serious metabolic consequences, including type 2 diabetes. Studies show it leads to higher calorie intake, poor nutrient balance, weight gain, and elevated BMI. Psychological stress, poor emotion regulation, and altered hormonal signals like insulin, leptin, and cortisol contribute to this behavior. In people with diabetes, emotional eating worsens blood sugar control and metabolic health. Experts emphasize addressing both psychological and physical factors to prevent obesity, poor glucose control, and related metabolic diseases.

HOW DIABETES, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, AND OBESITY CAN AGE THE BRAIN

Dr. Himanshu Sharma
Endocrinologist

New research shows that diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity can accelerate brain aging, making the brain appear older than a person's actual age. Diabetes has the strongest effect, followed by hypertension and obesity, and their combined impact can be even greater. These conditions harm the brain by damaging blood vessels, causing inflammation, and disrupting cell metabolism, often without noticeable symptoms at first. Over time, this increases the risk of memory loss, cognitive decline, and dementia. Maintaining healthy blood sugar, controlling blood pressure, managing weight, staying active, and eating a balanced diet can protect brain health and slow aging.

INCREASED INFECTION RISK IN OBESE DIABETICS

Dr. Setu Gupta
Endocrinologist

Obesity and diabetes increase infection risk, making infections more severe, faster-progressing, and harder to treat. High blood sugar impairs white blood cells and antibody responses, while excess glucose feeds bacteria and fungi, promoting infections like UTIs, skin infections, diabetic foot wounds, respiratory infections, and Candida. Poor circulation, chronic inflammation, delayed wound healing, and skin barrier issues further heighten risk. Prevention includes maintaining near-normal blood sugar, reducing visceral fat, keeping skin clean and dry, checking feet daily, treating minor wounds promptly, wearing well-fitting shoes, attending regular check-ups, and getting vaccines. Seek medical help for spreading, painful, or persistent infections, especially on the feet.

HEAVY BURDEN WHY OBESITY MAKES DIABETES COMPLICATIONS WORSE

Dr. Aprajita Pradhan
Endocrinologist

When obesity and diabetes occur together, risks extend beyond high blood sugar. Excess body fat, especially around the abdomen, increases insulin resistance, inflammation, and fat accumulation in organs, worsening diabetes complications. Research shows obese individuals with diabetes face higher odds of heart disease, nerve damage, kidney disease, and eye problems. Obesity also fuels conditions like high cholesterol and hypertension, compounding risk. Blood sugar control alone isn't enough; weight management is key. Even modest, sustained weight loss of 5–10% improves glucose control, reduces medication needs, and lowers complication risk. Early lifestyle, medical, or surgical interventions are vital for better long-term outcomes.

USING FOOD, GENETICS, AND GUT HEALTH TO TACKLE DIABETES AND OBESITY

Dr. Ajay Aggarwal
Endocrinologist

Managing type 2 diabetes and obesity requires more than medication—it calls for a personalized, integrative approach. Research highlights the combined role of functional foods, gut microbiota, and genetics in improving metabolic health. Functional foods, like fiber, polyphenols, and omega-3s, enhance insulin sensitivity, regulate blood sugar, reduce inflammation, and support heart health. A balanced gut microbiome, supported by probiotics and prebiotics, improves metabolism, lowers toxins, and aids organ function. Nutrigenomics and nutrigenetics allow diets tailored to an individual's genes, optimizing responses to food. Together, these strategies offer a sustainable, holistic approach to preventing and managing obesity and diabetes.

WHAT PATIENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DUAL INCRETIN THERAPIES A NEW FRONTIER IN DIABETES AND OBESITY MANAGEMENT

Dr. Saket Kant
Endocrinologist

A new class of diabetes medicines called dual incretin therapies is helping people control blood sugar and lose weight at the same time. One medicine, Tirzepatide, is taken as a weekly injection and has been shown to lower long-term blood sugar (HbA1c) and help people lose 5–12 kg (10–26 lbs). These drugs work by helping the body release insulin, reduce sugar production in the liver, slow digestion, and make you feel full, so you naturally eat less. Some people may have mild stomach issues at first. For those with type 2 diabetes and overweight, this treatment is a promising new option that addresses both blood sugar and weight.

WHY DIABETES IS TREATED AS A DISEASE— BUT OBESITY IS STILL BLAMED ON LIFESTYLE

Dr. A.K Ajmani
Endocrinologist

Obesity and type 2 diabetes are closely linked, yet they are treated very differently. Diabetes is recognised as a chronic disease with clear tests, structured treatment plans, insurance coverage, and strong policy support. Obesity, however, is often mistaken for a lifestyle problem and assessed using imprecise measures like BMI, leading to stigma and poor care. Despite causing serious health complications, obesity remains underfunded and poorly integrated into healthcare systems. Recognising obesity as a chronic disease—like diabetes—will improve access to treatment, reduce related illnesses, and strengthen public health outcomes.



EXPOSURE TO LIGHT AT NIGHT MAY INCREASE THE RISK OF OVERWEIGHT OBESITY, HYPERTENSION, AND DIABETES

Dr. Anshul Kumar
Endocrinologist

Exposure to light at night—such as from mobile phones, televisions, streetlights, or night lamps—may increase the risk of weight gain, high blood pressure, and diabetes. Research shows that people exposed to high levels of light at night are more likely to become overweight, develop hypertension, and have raised blood sugar. Night-time light disrupts the body's natural sleep–wake cycle and reduces melatonin, a hormone important for sleep and metabolism. This disruption can affect appetite, insulin action, and blood pressure. Reducing night-time light by dimming lights, limiting screen use before bed, and sleeping in a dark room can support better sleep and long-term metabolic health.

FROM NEUTRAL TO SLIMMING HOW DIABETES DRUGS DIFFER IN WEIGHT EFFECTS

Dr. Monika Sharma
Endocrinologist

As type 2 diabetes mellitus and obesity rise globally, the impact of glucose-lowering medicines on body weight has become a key part of treatment decisions. Diabetes drugs differ widely in their weight effects: some are weight-neutral, others promote weight loss, while a few cause weight gain. DPP-4 inhibitors are largely weight-neutral, helping control glucose without affecting body weight. In contrast, GLP-1 receptor agonists and dual agonists produce the greatest weight loss, often exceeding 5% of body weight, while SGLT-2 inhibitors lead to modest reductions. Metformin offers intermediate benefits. Choosing weight-reducing therapies can improve both glycaemic control and long-term cardiometabolic health in people with diabetes and obesity.

OBESITY AS A MODIFIABLE RISK FACTOR FOR HEART DISEASE

Dr. Pramod Jain
Cardiologist

Obesity is one of the most important risk factors for heart disease that can be changed. Unlike age or genetics, body weight can be managed with lifestyle and medical support. Obesity increases the risk of high blood pressure, diabetes, abnormal cholesterol, and inflammation, all of which harm the heart. Even modest weight loss can lead to significant improvements in these risk factors. Healthy eating, regular physical activity, adequate sleep, and stress management play a vital role in weight control. Addressing obesity early helps prevent heart disease, improves quality of life, and reduces long-term cardiovascular risk.

THE BURDEN OF OBESITY ON CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTHCARE

Dr. Mitendra Singh Yadav
Cardiologist

Obesity places a heavy burden on cardiovascular healthcare systems worldwide. People with obesity are more likely to develop heart disease, stroke, and heart failure, leading to frequent hospital visits and long-term treatment. Obesity complicates medical procedures and increases recovery time after cardiac events. It also raises healthcare costs due to the need for ongoing monitoring and managing obesity can reduce this burden significantly. Promoting healthy lifestyles, early screening, and patient education are essential steps in reducing cardiovascular complications and improving healthcare outcomes for individuals and communities.

WORKPLACE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE OBESITY RISK

Dr. Pawan Goel
Endocrinologist

Obesity affects nearly one in five people in India, with workplace lifestyles—long hours, sedentary jobs, poor sleep, stress, and reliance on high-calorie convenience foods—exacerbating the problem. Corporates can play a key role in prevention by promoting supportive, practical wellness strategies. Effective measures include improving nutrition through healthier cafeteria options, portion control, hydration, and FSSAI's "Eat Right Campus" initiatives. Physical activity can be encouraged via standing desks, walking paths, active commuting, short movement breaks, and on-site fitness programs. Cultural and environmental changes, such as leadership participation, peer support, health coaching, screenings, and stress management practices, further enhance workplace obesity prevention.



LIFESTYLE MODIFICATION AS THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE IN OBESITY

Dr. Dhanender Sahu
Endocrinologist

Lifestyle modification is the cornerstone of managing overweight and obesity, aiming for a 5–10% weight loss in six months. It combines a balanced diet, healthy eating habits, and regular exercise. Diet should include vegetables, fruits, lean proteins, whole grains, and low-fat dairy, while limiting processed, high-calorie foods and sugary drinks. Healthy habits involve portion control, mindful eating, meal planning, and prioritizing protein and fiber. Regular physical activity, including low-impact exercises like walking, swimming, and yoga, helps burn calories, build muscle, and improve heart and lung health. Small daily activity changes further support weight management and overall health.

OBESITY, INSULIN RESISTANCE, AND HEART DISEASE

Dr. Madhur Jain
Cardiologist

Obesity often leads to insulin resistance, a condition where the body does not respond properly to insulin. This causes blood sugar levels to rise and increases the risk of type 2 diabetes. Insulin resistance also damages blood vessels and promotes inflammation, which contributes to heart disease. People with obesity and insulin resistance commonly have high blood pressure and abnormal cholesterol levels, further increasing cardiovascular risk. These changes can occur silently over time. Weight reduction through lifestyle changes improves insulin sensitivity, lowers blood sugar, and reduces strain on the heart. Managing obesity early helps prevent diabetes and protects cardiovascular health.

OBESITY AND HEART FAILURE: AN EMERGING EPIDEMIC

Dr. Sanjay Sharma
Cardiologist

Heart failure occurs when the heart cannot pump blood effectively to meet the body's needs. Obesity significantly increases the risk of developing heart failure. Excess weight forces the heart to work harder, leading to structural and functional changes over time. Obesity also contributes to high blood pressure, diabetes, and inflammation, which further weaken the heart. Symptoms may include shortness of breath, fatigue, and swelling in the legs. As obesity rates rise globally, obesity-related heart failure is becoming more common. Weight management, healthy lifestyle habits, and early medical care can reduce the risk and improve heart outcomes.

OBESITY-RELATED METABOLIC CHANGES AND CV OUTCOMES

Dr. Amit Pendharkar
Cardiologist

Obesity causes several harmful metabolic changes that increase the risk of cardiovascular disease. Excess body fat disrupts how the body handles sugar and fats, leading to high blood sugar, abnormal cholesterol levels, and insulin resistance. These changes damage blood vessels and increase inflammation, making heart disease more likely. Obesity also raises blood pressure, further stressing the heart and arteries. Over time, these metabolic problems increase the risk of heart attack, stroke, and heart failure. Many people may not feel symptoms in the early stages. Managing body weight through healthy eating, regular physical activity, and medical guidance can improve metabolism and reduce cardiovascular complications.

WHY OBESITY INCREASES THE RISK OF HEART ATTACK

Dr. Nishant Verma
Cardiologist

Obesity increases the risk of heart attack by worsening several heart-related risk factors. Excess body fat raises blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar levels, all of which damage coronary arteries. Obesity also causes inflammation and promotes blood clot formation, increasing the chance of artery blockage. Over time, reduced blood flow to the heart can result in chest pain or heart attack. Many individuals may not notice warning signs until a major event occurs. Losing weight, even modestly, improves blood pressure and cholesterol levels and lowers the risk of heart attack. Healthy lifestyle choices play a key role in heart attack prevention.

OBESITY AND THROMBOTIC RISK IMPLICATIONS FOR STROKE

Dr. Vivek Gupta
Cardiologist

Obesity increases the risk of blood clots, a condition known as thrombosis. Excess body fat alters blood composition, making it thicker and more likely to clot. Obesity also increases inflammation and damages blood vessel lining, further raising clot risk. When a clot blocks blood flow to the brain, it can cause an ischemic stroke. Obesity-related conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol further increase this risk. Many individuals may not experience warning signs before a stroke occurs. Weight management, regular physical activity, and control of cardiovascular risk factors help reduce thrombotic risk and protect brain and heart health.



In De'Longhi's Taika Waititi-helmed campaign, Brad Pitt makes a cappuccino as a wry voiceover riffs on effortless espresso

30%

Top players' collective market share (2025)
Source: Global Market Insights Inc

CRAFT, CREMA, CLOUT: The new language of India's coffee lovers

INDIAN MARKET

₹250-₹300 crore

India's coffee machine market size, growing at over 15% annually

4.2-4.5 lakh units

Machines sold last year, up from 1.8 lakh in 2019

20,000 machines

Premium coffee machines sold locally every year

Source: The Economic Times

INTERNATIONAL MARKET SIZE

2025 \$8 billion

(approx ₹724,611,600,000)

2026 (estimated) \$8.4 billion

(approx ₹760,842,180,000)

2035 forecast \$11.9billion

(approx ₹1,077,859,755,000)

CAGR (2026-2035): 4%

(Source: Global Market Insights Inc)



A Smeg coffee machine

Harsh Kashiv & Yashaswi Kochar

India's brew-at-home coffee boom is in full swing, and what began at cafés and beverage festivals has evolved into a movement for javaphiles. As a result, demand for at-home machines have surged – from one-touch automatics to hands-on manual brewers. Enthusiasts now obsess over single-origin beans, precision grinders and the merits of French presses versus semi-automatic setups. It's no longer just about caffeine. It's about control, craft and elevating the everyday cup.

'Luxe coffee machines are now becoming a status symbol'

Coffee machines from brands like Nivona, Smeg and De'Longhi are becoming status symbols, say experts. Industry estimates put India's coffee machine market at around ₹250 to ₹300 crore, growing at over 15% annually. According to *The Economic Times*, most sales still come from entry- to mid-segment machines priced under ₹15,000, but the premium end is catching up fast. Coffee machine suppliers offer machines with a price range from ₹79,000 to ₹2,49,000. Monish Munshaw, founder of CoffeeWorkz, a supplier of high-end coffee machines, says, "The post-pandemic boost in demand for coffee machines for homes was something which was unprecedented. Most machines prepare a cappuccino at the press of a button. They grind beans, brew coffee and heat and foam cold milk as per your choice for a creamy cappuccino – all in about a minute."



'Premium coffee machines require premium care and maintenance'

The machine, aficionados insist, is only the starting point. Mihir Dave, a businessman who owns a Profitec Pro 700 (₹3 lakh), says, "The quality of the beans, water and the grinder matter as much as the coffee machine being used."

High-end equipment also require premium care. Shikhar Pattani, founder of Roastery Culture, notes, "Home machines usually require higher maintenance as these may face issues with spare parts after a few years. It helps if the machines are bought from local or national distributors, with good service penetration in the state or city."

A Nivona coffee machine

My machine is a built-in bean-to-cup model, offering multiple brews at the touch of a button. I'd always wanted one that could recreate the café experience at home

– Parth S Shah, who owns a premium machine from the Swedish brand Asko that costs around ₹4.5 lakh

'Having a coffee machine helps me experiment with new recipes'

Owning a coffee machine, aficionados say, unlocks the world in a cup. Mihir Dave, a businessman who invested ₹3 lakh in a Profitec Pro 700, explains, "Limited options at local cafés pushed me toward home brewing. Once I saw the machines available, there was no turning back. My dual-boiler model with an E61 group head offers temperature stability and heat settings based on roast level. It gives me the exact taste I want," he says.

Saloni Mehta, who owns a De'Longhi

Dinamica Plus (₹1 lakh), sees it as both passion and practicality. "I run a luxury coffee catering brand, Solène, and having a machine helps me experiment with new recipes. It fits naturally into my studio life and coffee journey."

For Rahul Jangir, the draw was control. He bought a Budan Espresso Machine for ₹25,000 to have "full access" to the process. "There's a unique satisfaction in rebooting a tired brain with a cup you brewed yourself, exactly the way you like it."

Home machines usually require higher maintenance as these may face issues with spare parts after a few years. It helps if the machines are bought from local or national distributors

– Shikhar Pattani, founder of Roastery Culture

Power up your daily brew with functional coffee



Image generated by AI for representational purposes only

What is functional coffee

Functional coffee blends the bold flavour of traditional coffee with ingredients designed to promote health benefits. These additions may include protein for sustained energy and muscle recovery, collagen for skin and joint health, or medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) that help support metabolism and improve mental focus.

Coffee is no longer just a quick caffeine fix – it's becoming a wellness ritual. Across the world, functional coffee, a new generation of brews, designed to deliver added nutritional benefits, is slowly taking over the mind of coffee lovers. One question that is making rounds: What more can my coffee do for me? The answer lies in drinks infused with protein, collagen and MCT oils, transforming the everyday cup of coffee into something that supports wellbeing.

Agencies

Why it's a smarter sip to start your day

MORE ENERGY, LESS CRASH:

Caffeine which is known to enhance alertness, when paired with ingredients such as protein, the release of energy can help avoid sudden spike often associated with sugary drinks.

BUILT-IN NUTRITION:

Many functional coffees now contain added nutrients like protein and vitamins, which allow the morning cup to double as a quick nutritional boost.

GLOW WITH COLLAGEN:

Collagen has become a popular addition to coffee routines. Known for supporting skin elasticity, hair strength, collagen creamers blend easily into coffee.

Elevate your morning brew with these tips

PREP YOUR BASE

Brew a fresh cup of your favourite coffee or prepare a cold brew for a smoother taste.

ADD A NUTRITIONAL BOOST

Stir in a scoop of protein powder, collagen peptides, or a teaspoon of MCT oil depending on your wellness goals.



TIME IT RIGHT

Functional coffee can work well as a morning energiser, a pre-workout drink or an afternoon focus booster.

Believe it or not!



This Nashville guy is always home

Not everyone needs four walls to feel at home – sometimes four wheels will do just fine. For 22-year-old Seth from Nashville, home is wherever his pickup truck is parked. Instead of settling into a traditional house, the young adventurer built a tiny home worth \$3,000 on the back of his truck and set off across America with his dog, Stella. "I'm building a tiny home on the back of my truck so I can live rent-free and travel around the country," Seth told his 4,50,000 social media followers in a viral video.

– Compiled by Utsa Ganguly

Life on the open road

For Seth, the nomadic lifestyle comes with thrills, chills and unforgettable stories. "Once I woke up to a bear sniffing around the outside of the camper in Alaska. That was terrifying and unforgettable."

Wheels over walls

Seth began the DIY project in January 2025, transforming the 4-foot-wide bed of his 2003 Ford Ranger into a snug, insulated space made of plywood. "I decided to take the leap to chase freedom and adventure over a year ago now," he said to *What's The Jam*. He upgraded to a 1995 Ford F-250 with a camper attached – and the road life continues.

A celebration of colour, culture & camaraderie

Pics: Lokesh Kashyap



The cultural presentations offered a vivid glimpse into India's rich diversity, capturing the spirit of unity that defines the festival of colours

Holi is not just a festival of colours; it is a celebration of India's civilisational strength, our democratic spirit, and the victory of truth and righteousness," said Vijender Gupta, at the Holi Milan held on Wednesday.



Vijender Gupta, Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly and Shobha Gupta



Juan Angulo, Ambassador of Chile, at the Holi festivities



M Riaz Hamidullah, High Commissioner of Bangladesh



Philip Green, Australian High Commissioner

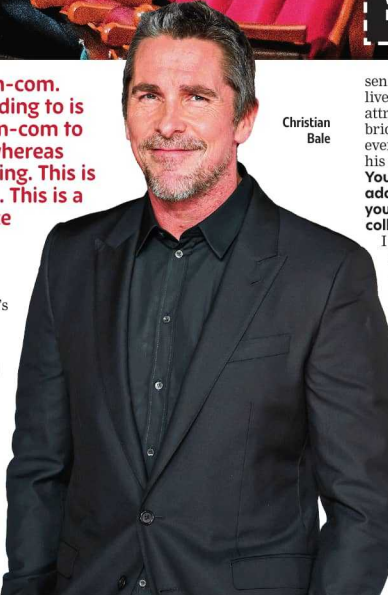
I'm eternally surprised that filmmakers keep hiring me: Bale

A behind-the-scenes picture from the filming of *The Bride*

In a recent interview, Timothee Chalamet called Christian Bale 'the GOAT'

'I'm kind of loving it because you're calling me the GOAT of cinema'

Timothee and I worked together in *Hostiles* (2017), and he had a scene out in the desert. It was like three o'clock in the morning. I didn't know anything about Timothee then. Suddenly, there's this kid, he was 20 at the time, and he did this amazing monologue. I sat there thinking, who is this guy? And the scene got cut crazily from the film. But I could see at that point that he's very, very special, and obviously, he knows what he's talking about if he says, 'I'm the GOAT (smiles).'



Christian Bale

The Bride is not a rom-com. That's what I was alluding to is that I've rarely found a rom-com to be romantic or comedic, whereas this is a whole different thing. This is like a love story out of hell. This is a love story with a vengeance

to me. This was just a meeting of two absolutely beautifully insane people, who are seeking out the truth and are being given a second chance, and that's what really drew me to the film. Off screen, you're one of the most good-looking actors, but for your roles, you often alter your face and body in ways that are far from being conventionally attractive. In *The Bride*, your character is ostracised because of the way he looks. Do you think the world tends to judge people too much based on their looks? I am good looking? You are a liar! (laughs). I mean, of course, beauty is beauty, I know that, but attraction is a whole different thing, right? Attraction is the sort of fire that's burning inside of somebody, the

Harry Styles says Liam Payne's death made him rethink life



Harry Styles has said the death of his former One Direction bandmate Liam Payne made him rethink his life. Speaking to DJ Zane Lowe on his show while discussing the influences behind his upcoming fourth album *Kiss All The Time*, *Disco Occasionally*, the singer reflected on the impact of losing his friend. Styles said losing Payne, who he felt was very similar to him, was especially difficult. "It was a really important moment for me, in terms of taking a look at my life and being able to say to myself: 'OK, what do I want to do with my life? How do I want to live my life?' And I think the greatest way you can honour your friends who pass away is by living your life to the fullest." Payne died in October 2024 at the age of 31 after falling from a hotel balcony in Argentina. Styles and Payne rose to global fame as members of One Direction, alongside Niall Horan, Louis Tomlinson and Zayn Malik. The bandmates later reunited at Payne's funeral. Styles said he still finds it difficult to speak about Payne's death, calling him a "super special person."

TNN

Hasee Toh Phasee to re-release in theatres after 12 yrs

Sidharth Malhotra and Parineeti Chopra's romantic comedy *Hasee Toh Phasee* is all set to return to the big screen today. It's the latest film to join the ongoing trend of nostalgic re-releases in Indian cinema. The makers posted the announcement on social media on Thursday. The 2014 film will give fans a chance to revisit the quirky love sto-





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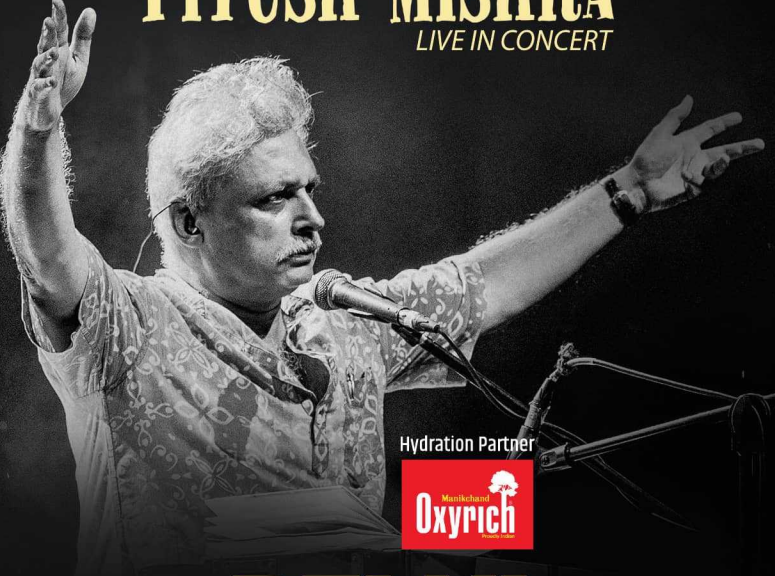


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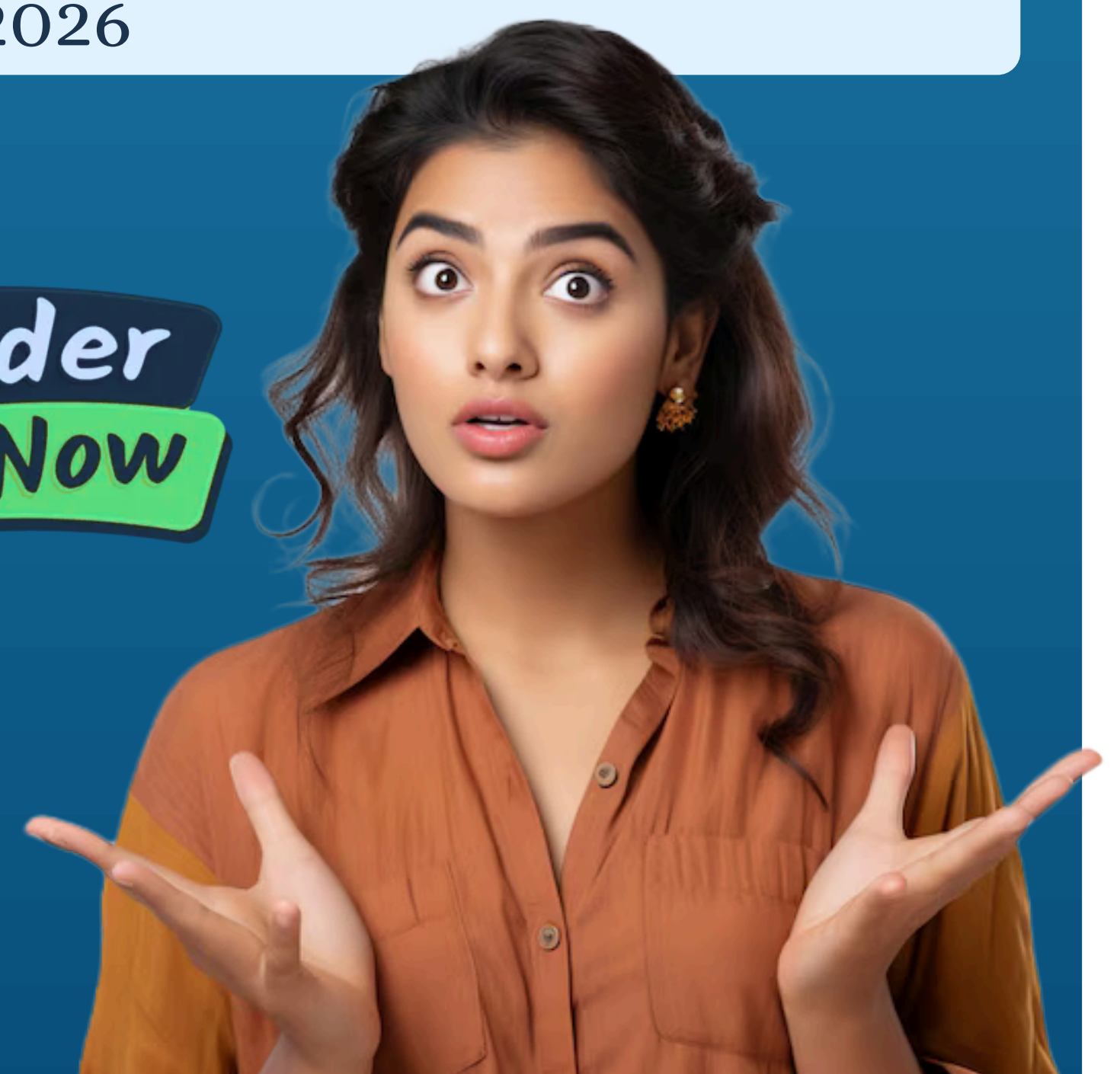
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