



HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 VOL NO.17 ISSUE NO.: 30 RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) PAGES: 12 RS. 1/-

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026

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ONGC TAPS BP TO BOOST OUTPUT

MONEY MATTERS 9

ASHIKA LANDS ANOTHER BIGGIE TELUGU



BOX -OFFICE 12

Kishan Reddy pushes mission-mode mineral exploration, faster project execution



BENGALURU, MAY 25

Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Monday directed all mining and exploration agencies under the Ministry of Mines to fast-track pending projects and adopt a mission-mode approach to strengthen India's mineral security and strategic growth objectives.

Chairing a series of high-level review meetings in Bengaluru with senior offi-

cial of the Geological Survey of India, National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Indian Bureau of Mines and the Remote Sensing & Aerial Survey division, the Minister stressed that technology, transparency and efficiency must become the foundation of every institutional process.

"India is moving decisively towards becoming a self-reliant and globally competitive economy under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The mining and exploration sector has a critical role in securing India's future growth, industrial expansion and strategic mineral security", Kishan Reddy noted.

The review meetings focused on accelerating mineral exploration, promoting sustainable mining practices and enhancing scientific and technological capabilities aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Officials presented the updates on exploration activities involving critical and strategic minerals such as Rare Earth Elements, lithium, nickel, cobalt, tungsten, vanadium and platinum group elements.

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CV ANAND ORDERS MAJOR REVAMP OF DGP OFFICE



HYDERABAD, MAY 25

Telangana DGP C.V. Anand conducted an extensive three-hour inspection of various floors and sections of the DGP Office here on Monday and directed the officials to improve cleanliness, efficiency and workspace management.

He ordered painting of walls, almirahs and tables, and instructed the staff to shift unused files to the record room. Plans to redesign the conference hall, training hall, and other sections for better space utilization were also discussed.

Senior police officials briefed the DGP on departmental activities and performance during the inspection. Senior officials including DG (Law & Order) Mahesh M. Bhagwat, DG (Organization & Home Guards) Swati Lakra, DG (Technical Services) V.V. Srinivasa Rao, DG (CID) Charu Sinha, and IGS Chandrasekhar Reddy and Gajarao Bhupal briefed the DGP on the activities and performance of their respective departments.

Revanth promises one crore women millionaires by 2034

HYDERABAD, MAY 25

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has affirmed that, by 2034, his government would transform one crore women into millionaires.

He stated that the resolve of this people-centric government is to make women's empowerment a shining example for the entire nation.

"If women become economically self-reliant, the family stands strong; if the family stands strong, the village is strengthened; and if the village is strengthened, Telangana prospers," he remarked.

The Chief Minister also announced that the limit for bank linkage loans extended to women's self-help groups is being increased from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh.

On Monday, from the Secretariat, the Chief Minister virtually laid the foundation stone for the construction of 8,000 Indira Gandhi Stree Shakti Bhavans across the state. This event was conducted as part of the Women's Week celebrations, organised under the 'Praja Palana-Pragati Plan' initiative.

On the same day, the Chief Minister also unveiled four new designs of the parrot-green 'Indiramma Sarees'. Along with the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Seethakka, Sridhar Babu, and



Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Rajya Sabha member Vem Narender Reddy, Government Advisor Harkara Venugopal, Women's Commission Chairperson Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, MLAs, chairpersons of various corporations, and senior officials from respective departments participated in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Revanth Reddy stated that, to date, the people's government has provided bank-linked loans amounting to ₹60,472 crore to women's self-help groups and has already disbursed ₹1,390 crore towards inter-

est-free loans.

The Chief Minister called upon these women's groups to no longer limit themselves to small-scale livelihood activities but to venture into larger business enterprises.

He suggested establishing rice mills, warehouses at the mandal level, and logistics parks. Revanth Reddy stated that the government is prepared to allocate land wherever necessary for these facilities. He added that, if required, they are ready to provide up to 100 acres of land.

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NTA Hasn't Learnt Lessons: SC

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed serious concern over the cancellation of the NEET-UG 2026 examination following allegations of a paper leak, observing that the National Testing Agency (NTA) had "not learnt its lessons" despite directions issued by the Court after the NEET-UG 2024 controversy.

A Bench comprising Justice P.S. Narasimha and Justice Alok Aradhe issued notice on petitions filed by doctors' associations and medical students seeking either the dissolution or restructuring of the NTA. The Court also sought a detailed status report on the implementation of reforms recommended by the High-Powered Committee constituted after the 2024 examination leak case.

During the hearing, Justice Narasimha orally remarked, "We are so sad, they haven't learnt their lessons. We passed an order directing the constitution of a committee to give recommendations, which was accepted."

The Bench directed the NTA to file an affidavit within three days explaining the status of the monitoring committee constituted on November 14, 2024. It also asked former ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, who headed the High-Level Committee, to submit a separate affidavit detailing the steps taken to ensure compliance with the committee's recommendations.

The High-Level Committee was formed by the Union Government in the aftermath of the NEET-UG 2024 paper leak controversy.

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24-HOUR WATER IF BRS RETURNS: KTR



HYDERABAD, MAY 25

BRS working president KT Rama Rao announced that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), once voted back to power, would ensure 24-hour safe drinking water supply to every household in Hyderabad city.

Addressing a meeting of party cadres in Kukatpally on Monday, KTR said the BRS government had earlier transformed Telangana from a state plagued by severe power shortages into one with uninterrupted 24-hour electricity supply and would similarly guarantee round-the-clock drinking water supply to Hyderabad in the future.

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Women's empowerment gets top priority under People's government : Bhatti



HYDERABAD, MAY 25

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the people's government is committed to economically empowering women across the state.

Along with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Bhatti Vikramarka participated from the Secretariat on Monday virtually in the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of 8,000 Self-Help Group (SHG) buildings across the state.

On the occasion, he explained the historic measures being taken by the

government for women's empowerment.

Bhatti Vikramarka recalled that in the past, women's groups faced severe difficulties due to the lack of their own office buildings in villages.

"Meetings had to be conducted in panchayat offices, members' homes, or even under trees because of the absence of proper space. To change this situation, the government has decided to construct permanent and dignified buildings for women's groups. I express confidence that these 8,000 offices would become a model for the entire country," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister criticised BRS leaders for mocking the government when Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced that the goal was to make one crore women millionaires soon after coming to power. He said the opposition laughed when the government promised loans worth ₹1 lakh crore over five years at the rate of ₹20,000 crore annually. "This is not a government of words, but

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BRAOU SIGNS MoUs FOR HEALTHCARE MBA COURSES

Hyderabad, May 25: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University signed MoUs with Renova Institute of Health Care Management and RVM Institute of Hospital Management to offer MBA courses in Hospital and Healthcare Management (HHCM).

The agreements were signed in the presence of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani and senior university officials at the BRAOU campus on Monday. The MoUs were exchanged by Registrar Dr. L. Vijaya Krishna

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Diesel Sales Grow by 12.6% and Petrol by 9% in Telangana

Over 37 lakh domestic LPG cylinders delivered across state

PSU Oil Companies Ensure Uninterrupted Fuel Supply Amid Surge in Demand During Procurement Season in Telangana

HYDERABAD, 25 MAY

Public sector oil marketing companies – Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited – are coordinating operations and logistics around the clock to ensure the uninterrupted availability of Petrol



(MS), Diesel (HSD), and LPG across the state of Telangana.

Despite the sharp increase in fuel demand across various sectors, the supply chain continues smoothly. Recently, there has been a significant rise in demand for petroleum products due to intensified agricultural and harvesting activities as major grain procurement opera-

tions are underway in Telangana during May 2026. Additionally, retail consumers of other suppliers are increasingly shifting towards public sector retail outlets because of competitive pricing. Institutional and commercial consumers are also favouring public sector retail outlets for the same reason.

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Celebrate with Harmony: Cyberabad CP

Cyberabad CP Conducts Peace Committee Meeting with Religious Leaders Ahead of Bakrid

HYDERABAD, MAY 25

Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh appealed to people to celebrate festivals peacefully and joyfully in an atmosphere of communal harmony. In view of the upcoming Bakrid festival, a Peace Committee Meeting was conducted today at the auditorium of the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate with religious leaders and Peace Committee members.

Speaking on the occasion, Cyberabad CP Dr. M. Ramesh urged people to celebrate the festival peacefully and maintain communal harmony. He requested religious leaders and citizens to cooperate with each other to ensure that no untoward incidents take place during the Bakrid celebrations. He stated that the police department has intensified surveillance on anti-social elements that may attempt to disturb law and order and warned that strict action would be taken against anyone trying to create unrest.

The CP said that the police department has been making special arrangements for the past 45 days to ensure the peaceful conduct of the Bakrid festival. Check-posts have been established at various locations across the city, and police are working in coordination with other government departments. He also advised people to remain alert against fake news, old videos, and false propaganda circulating on social media and requested citizens



to immediately inform the police if they come across any suspicious or misleading content.

He further appealed to the public to immediately contact Dial 100 in case of any emergency.

Quthbullapur DCP N. Koti Reddy stated that the suggestions and opinions expressed by religious leaders during the

meeting would be taken into consideration. He said that India stands as a symbol of unity in diversity and urged people from all communities to celebrate festivals peacefully with mutual respect and harmony. He also appealed to citizens to cooperate with the police in maintaining law and order and emphasized the importance of sanitation and

cleanliness during the festival.

Serilingampally DCP C.H. Srinivas urged people to celebrate the festival legally and peacefully with everyone's cooperation. He said that special measures have been taken to curb fake news and misinformation on social media. He assured that police personnel would remain alert and vigilant throughout the festival period to prevent any untoward incidents. He also requested volunteers and youth to come forward and assist the police in traffic regulation and public awareness activities.

Kukatpally DCP Ritiraj said that Peace Committee members should act responsibly and work towards maintaining peace and harmony in society. He stressed that everyone must take responsibility to ensure that no disturbances occur during the festival. She added that the police department is working in close coordination with various government departments, including CMC and other concerned agencies, to ensure peaceful Bakrid celebrations.

The meeting was attended by Kukatpally DCP N. Koti Reddy, Serilingampally DCP C.H. Srinivas, Kukatpally DCP Ritiraj, SB DCP Sudheendra, Crimes DCP Muthyam Reddy, Station House Officers from across Cyberabad Commissionerate limits, and several Hindu and Muslim religious leaders and community representatives.

"Farmers left in Distress" Harish Rao targets Cong govt over paddy procurement delays



SIDDIPET, MAY 25

Senior BRS leader and MLA T. Harish Rao on Monday launched a scathing attack on the Telangana government over alleged delays and irregularities in paddy procurement after visiting a procurement centre at Ensanpalli village in Siddipet district.

Speaking to the media later, Harish Rao alleged that lakhs of farmers were suffering due to the government's "complete failure" in procurement operations. He accused the Congress government of failing in urea supply, electricity provision, Rythu Bandhu payments and now paddy procurement. While Telangana was expected to produce nearly 14 million tonnes of paddy, the govern-

ment was now planning to procure only 7 million tonnes despite earlier assurances of buying 9 million tonnes, he pointed out.

Further, Harish Rao alleged that rice millers were forcing farmers to supply bags weighing at least 43 kilograms, leading to losses of nearly 150 kilograms per acre. He criticised officials for failing to respond to farmers' complaints and alleged that procurement operations remained slow across several districts. He claimed that farmers were staging protests and road blockades in parts of Siddipet due to delays in lifting paddy stocks lying exposed to rains and heat.

Accusing Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of operating in "Commission Mode" instead of "Mission Mode", Harish Rao alleged that the government had failed to fulfil promises related to Rythu Bandhu and farm loan waivers.

He demanded immediate deployment of trucks and gunny bags to procurement centres and urged the government to speed up procurement operations to prevent further losses to farmers.

Revanth promises one crore women millionaires by 2034

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The Chief Minister further suggested establishing "Mahila Shakti Super Bazars" on a corporate model, under the aegis of women's self-help groups. He stated that these Mahila Shakti Super Bazars should be set up with excellence, so as to compete effectively with retail giants like DMart and Big Bazaar. Revanth Reddy further announced that the government is prepared to lease out land at concessional rates for the establishment of these super bazars in urban areas. The Chief Minister stated that laying the foundation stones for 8,000 buildings on a single day and at the very same time is a sensational decision—one unprecedented in the country.

He remarked that providing women's groups with their own buildings is not merely about furnishing a space for meetings, but rather about establishing a permanent platform for their economic activities, training, and business plans.

Revanth Reddy stated that, with the vision of empowering women to become bus owners, a plan was implemented wherein 1,000 buses were procured through women's groups and subsequently leased to the RTC. As part of this initiative,

the Chief Minister announced that 553 buses would be inaugurated at the Parade Grounds on June 5.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister interacted directly with federations from various districts via video conference.

Members of the Narayanpet Women's Federation expressed their gratitude to the government, stating that they have earned nearly ₹27 lakhs so far through the operation of a petrol bunk.

The Chief Minister specially congratulated them and noted that women's groups are generating a monthly income ranging from ₹4 lakh to ₹5 lakh through various business ventures they have undertaken.

The Chief Minister specially congratulated the women's groups under the Nirmal District Federation, which have achieved a 100% repayment record to banks, clearing all dues down to the last rupee. The Chief Minister directed the Nirmal District Collector to allocate a site on the main road for the establishment of a petrol bunk for these groups.

Revanth Reddy praised the women's groups in the state, noting that they are moving forward by honestly repaying every single rupee.

Unified under KCR's call: Kukatpally set for a high-profile BRS gathering.

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, MAY 25

Kukatpally is set to witness a wide-scale BRS gathering as party workers rally behind a call from Telangana's first Chief Minister, K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). Sitting Kukatpally MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao has urged workers across each assembly segment to participate actively, underscoring that the district-wide meeting is being organized in response to KCR's directive and aims to strengthen the party at the grassroots level. The event, scheduled for Monday, May 25, 2026, at 9:00 AM, will be held at NKNR Garden, Metro Cash & Carry, and is expected to draw a cross-section of cadre from across the Kukatpally constituency.

Among the notable attendees is KTR, the working president and former minister who represents the Sirisilla constituency, who is slated to grace the occasion as the chief guest, along with other prominent figures. State leaders, including Senators K. Naveen Kumar and Sambipur Raja, are also expected to attend, underscoring the significance of the gathering and signaling the party's intent to project unity and organizational strength at a district-wide level. Madhavaram Krishna Rao emphasized that broad-based participation—from assembly workers to women and youth leaders, as well as leaders from affiliated organizations and supporters—would be crucial to the meeting's success and to the broader goal of reinforcing the party's foot-

hold at the grassroots.

The MLA highlighted that the call from KCR serves as a unifying mandate to mobilize cadres across all segments, with the district meeting envisioned as a platform to translate citywide momentum into tangible actions on the ground. He urged every segment of the party, including women's wings and youth wings, to come forward and contribute to the program's objectives, presenting the gathering as not just a show of strength but a coordinated effort to implement the party's programs at the local level. As preparations proceed, organizers are focusing on logistics, crowd management, and accessibility at NKNR Garden to ensure a smooth and impactful event, while keeping the emphasis



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Kishan Reddy pushes mission-mode mineral..

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The Minister also emphasised the role of AI, remote sensing and integrated geoscience analytics in modernising India's mineral exploration ecosystem.

During the review, GSI highlighted exploration outcomes across Karnataka and Goa, including identification of gold, copper, nickel, cobalt and platinum group element-bearing zones. The agency also outlined a five-year roadmap covering nearly 48,000 sq. km through thematic mapping and AI / ML-enabled mineral targeting.

IBM reviewed sustainable mining practices, scientific mine closure mechanisms and critical mineral recovery initiatives under the National Critical Mineral Mission, while NIRM show-

cased its contributions to mining safety, tunnel engineering, seismic monitoring and hydropower infrastructure projects.

The RSAS division informed the Minister that more than 6.5 lakh sq. km had already been covered under the National Aerogeophysical Mapping Programme, resulting in over 200 exploration projects using aero-geophysical datasets. As part of his Bengaluru visit, Kishan Reddy also visited the Art of Living Foundation International Centre, interacted with spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and stressed the importance of combining scientific progress with cultural and spiritual values in India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

BRAOU SIGNS MoUs FOR HEALTHCARE MBA COURSES

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Reddy, Dr. Wajeehuddin Ahmed Waris, Principal of Renova Institute of Health Care Management, and Sri P. Ravinder, Principal of RVM Institute of Hospital Management. The event was attended by Prof. G. Pushpa Chakrapani, Director (Academic); Prof.

Anand Pawar, Dean of Commerce and Business Management; Prof. D. Rabindranath Solomon, OSD to the Vice-Chancellor; Dr. Y. Venkateswarlu, Director, LSSB; Prof. Y.S. Kiranmaye; Dr. P. Radhakrishna; faculty members; and officials from both institutions.

NTA Hasn't Learnt Lessons: SC

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The Supreme Court had earlier refused to cancel the 2024 examination in the case of Vanshika Yadav v. Union of India, but it issued several directions aimed at strengthening examination security and preventing future leaks.

The Court had expanded the committee's mandate to recommend reforms related to examination security, transportation of question papers, CCTV surveillance, candidate verification, encryption systems, technological safeguards, grievance redressal

mechanisms and international best practices. It also directed the committee to examine the feasibility of surprise inspections, digital tracking systems and stricter identity verification protocols.

According to a compliance report filed by the Union Government on December 17, 2024, the committee had recommended "Reformation of National Common Entrance Testing," including strengthening the NTA, improving coordination with States and involving specialised examination and knowledge partners.

The latest petitions were filed after the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026, in which over 23 lakh students reportedly appeared.

One petition, filed by the United Doctors Front (UDF) through Advocate Ritu Reniwal, sought the dissolution of the NTA, alleging "systemic failure" in conducting national-level examinations. The plea called for the establishment of a statutory national testing body through parliamentary legislation with clearly defined powers, transparency measures and accountability to Parliament.

It also sought the formation of a court-monitored committee to oversee future examinations and ensure "zero-leak" integrity.

Another petition filed by the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) requested the Court to replace or fundamentally restructure the NTA and conduct a fresh NEET-UG 2026 examination under judicial supervision.

The petitions argued that repeated examination leaks violated Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution by jeopardising the future of

lakhs of students. They also highlighted the psychological distress, financial burden and uncertainty faced by students and their families due to recurring controversies surrounding the examination process. The pleas further contended that despite the enactment of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, authorities had failed to curb organised cheating networks and prevent paper leaks. The matter is expected to be heard again after the affidavits are filed before the Court.



Recognize the Role of Private Educational Institutions in Nation Building

Eminent Educationist Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy Appeals to Telangana Chief Minister

HYDERABAD

The government is actively encouraging investments by supporting IT companies, data centers, pharmaceuticals, textile parks, Lulu Mall projects, and several other private sector initiatives through land allocation, infrastructure, electricity, roads, permissions, and policy support. This is a welcome and progressive step for the development of the state, said eminent educationist, environmentalist, and TRASMA National Advisor Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy. At the same time, he appealed to Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to also recognize and support private schools as important partners in the development of the state. Dr. Gopal Reddy stated that pri-

private educational institutions, especially in rural areas, are not only providing quality education to children but are also generating employment for thousands of families. From teachers and non-teaching staff to drivers, ayahs, attendants, watchmen, office staff, and maintenance workers, lakhs of livelihoods depend on private schools and colleges across the state. He observed that although a large number of students are studying in private institutions, these schools are facing severe financial challenges. Delayed fee payments from parents, rising diesel costs, increasing electricity bills, building rents, bank loans, teacher salaries, transportation expenses, safety responsibilities, taxes, and compliance requirements are placing heavy burdens on private schools. Despite these difficulties, schools continue to work with dedication for the future of children. Dr. Gopal Reddy pointed out that in many developed countries, gov-

ernments consider private educational institutions as development partners and provide them with tax benefits, low-interest loans, electricity subsidies, land support, teacher training programs, scholarships, and fee assistance schemes. Strengthening private education ultimately strengthens the human resources of the nation, he said. He further noted that just as Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models are being encouraged in the healthcare sector to improve medical services, similar collaboration in the education sector can significantly improve the quality of education, especially for rural students. **He urged the government to consider the following measures for private schools**

1. Diesel subsidy or special concessions for school buses
2. Special electricity tariff or subsidy for educational institutions
3. Affordable land or lease facilities for rural schools
4. Low-interest loans for small and medium private schools
5. Government-supported teacher training programs
6. Health insurance, welfare, and pension schemes for private school teachers
7. Concessions on school bus taxes, fitness, and insurance costs
8. Support for safety, fire protection, sanitation, and infrastructure development
9. Policy measures to reduce financial stress caused by delayed fee payments
10. Access to government educational resources, digital content, libraries, and sports programs for private schools as well
11. Scholarship or voucher systems for rural students to study in private schools
12. Single-window clearance system for recognition, renewal, affiliation, fire safety, sanitation, and transport permissions

Quoting the famous words of Gurajada Apparao – “A nation is not its soil, but its people” – Dr. Gopal Reddy emphasized that state development is not limited to roads, buildings, industries, and infrastructure alone. Educated children, quality teachers, strong schools, and a safe learning environment are equally important pillars of progress. He expressed hope that the vision of N. Chandrababu Naidu, the education and IT-driven approach of Nara Lokesh, and the people-centric commitment of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan would transform Andhra Pradesh into a developed state. He added that for this vision to become a reality, both government and private schools must grow stronger together. “Only when education becomes strong will the future of the state become strong. Only when schools become strong will society become strong. Supporting private educational institutions means supporting the future of rural children,” Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy stated.

The Military Paradox: Balancing Global Presence with Industrial Reality

For decades, the United States has operated as the world's singular military colossus, a status defined by a sprawling network of bases that stretches across nearly 80 countries. Yet, as the geopolitical tremors from the Ukraine conflict and the escalating tensions in the Middle East resonate globally, a critical question is percolating through the halls of power: is the American show of force a genuine projection of dominance, or is the nation's formidable arsenal slowly being depleted by the unrelenting demands of modern, high-intensity warfare? Washington's current military posturing is rooted in a rigorous strategy of deterrence—an effort to maintain global stability by ensuring adversaries view aggression as too costly.

From the Indo-Pacific to the Red Sea, the sight of American naval strike groups and air power is intended to signal readiness and protect vital trade arteries. However, this high-tempo presence is placing an unprecedented strain on the defense industrial base, revealing a paradox where the tools of deterrence are being consumed at rates that test the very limits of American logistics. The headlines suggesting the U.S. has halved its arsenal are often sensationalized, but they mask a sobering reality regarding the sustainability of current stocks. The conflict in Ukraine has created a massive vacuum, particularly regarding 155mm artillery shells and high-demand precision munitions like Javelin anti-tank systems and Stinger missiles. These weapons, essential for the kind of high-intensity “peer-to-peer” combat that the U.S. now anticipates, are being utilized at a speed that vastly outstrips current manufacturing output. The core of the problem lies in the industry's architectural reliance on “Just-in-Time” manufacturing—an efficiency-focused model that crumbled under the pressure of simultaneous, multi-theater crises. For twenty years, the American defense industry was optimized for counter-insurgency warfare, prioritizing cost-effectiveness over the massive surge capacity required for a full-scale conventional conflict. Now, grappling with a labor shortage of specialized engineers and an 18-to-24-month lead time for ramping up new production lines, the Pentagon finds itself in a precarious readiness gap that global rivals are observing with calculating interest. Ultimately, the United States is standing at a strategic crossroads, forced to pivot toward a wartime production model to secure its long-term future. While the military remains the most powerful on the planet, the era of relying solely on the psychological weight of deterrence is ending; it must now be bolstered by an industrial renaissance. The path ahead is not merely about whether the U.S. can project power, but whether it can sustain it—a reality that will dictate not just the strength of the American defense, but the very stability of the global order in the years to come.



- Dr Ravinder Chityala
7798891795.

RBVRR Telangana Police Academy Honours GITAM's Kautilya School of Public Policy

HYDERABAD

The Raja Bahadur Venkata Rama Reddy Telangana Police Academy (RBVRR TGPA) honoured the Kautilya School of Public Policy (KSPP) of GITAM Deemed to be University by presenting a commemorative memento in recognition of the Academy's completion of 40 glorious years of dedicated service in the field of professional training and public service. The memento was presented by the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Shiv Pratap Shukla,



during a formal ceremony held at RBVRR TGPA in Hyderabad. On behalf of GITAM, D.V.S.R. Varma, Resident Director, received the honour in the esteemed presence of Abhilasha Bisht, Director of RBVRR TGPA, and C. Anjeneya Reddy. On the occasion, RBVRR TGPA

also felicitated several premier institutions and organisations, including UNICEF, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH), Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad (JNTUH), and the Telangana State Forest Academy, in recognition of their academic collaborations and institutional partnerships with RBVRR TGPA. The event highlighted the growing synergy between academic institutions and public service organisations in promoting governance, policy education, research, leadership development.

International Recognition for Human Rights Activist Sunkara Naresh

KAPRA

High Court advocate, human rights activist, and social worker Sunkara Naresh has been honored with a prestigious international award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to social service. The award was presented under the aegis of the “Be The Change Welfare Society,” an organization recognized by the Westminster Parliament in London. The recognition was conferred during the event titled “A Decade of Transformation,” organized under the leadership of the society's founder Ram Kalyan Challa, marking ten years of social impact and



international humanitarian efforts. The event received support from London Parliament Member Jim Dickson and Lord Udaykumar Nagaraju. Sunkara Naresh received the award during a ceremony held on Sunday at the Mahindra Campus, Madhapur. Naresh has earned

appreciation for his dedicated service in various social causes, including support for students, ex-servicemen, underprivileged communities, and animal welfare. He has also been actively conducting awareness programmes to guide and inspire youth toward a positive and responsible future.

Childhood Friends Felicitate Literary Figure Chitikena Grandly

SIRCILLA

Dr. Chitikena Kiran Kumar, a noted poet, writer, critic, and recipient of several national and international awards, was grandly felicitated by his childhood friends in Sircilla. The event was specially organized by his childhood friends from the 1995-96 batch of Vignana Vardhini High School. On this occasion, they honoured him with a traditional handloom spinning wheel, a memento, and a shawl as a mark of their affection and respect. Speaking on the occasion, his friends appreciated his remarkable contributions to Telugu literature through his writings. They stated that he has authored more than a thousand articles and literary works on social and literary



issues and has reached readers through over a hundred publications, contributing significantly to social awareness. They praised him for treating literature not merely as a creative pursuit but as a social responsibility. The programme was organized under the lead-

ership of their friend Mr. Gun-taka Koteswar, a prominent businessman and handloom textile producer. The organizers also acknowledged the valuable financial support extended by Mr. Pattipaka Mukteswar, Mr. Chinaji Murali Mohan, and Dr. Parupalli Ra-

jani, a physician from Jangaon. Special thanks were conveyed to all members of the Vignana Vardhini friends' group who extended their support indirectly and contributed to the success of the event. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Chitikena Kiran Kumar said that although he had received several awards in the literary field, this felicitation in the presence of his childhood friends remained a truly special and memorable experience in his life. He added that such affection and encouragement had increased his sense of responsibility and motivated him to continue his literary journey with greater commitment. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making the programme successful.

“We Will Lay Siege to Chandrababu's House if Professor Nageshwar is Arrested”

Warning to the Andhra Pradesh government by Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha
Cases against Professor Nageshwar are undemocratic; an attack on freedom of expression.

HYDERABAD

TRS Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha warned that the Andhra Pradesh government is trying to arrest Professor Nageshwar in Hyderabad, and if that happens, they would lay siege to the residence of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Posting on “X,” she alleged that the Janasena Party, Andhra Pradesh Police, and the state government are harassing Professor K. Nageshwar by filing cases against him. Kavitha extended her support to noted political analyst Pro-

fessor K. Nageshwar and criticized what she described as conspiracies involving false cases against a person known for offering political analysis beyond party affiliations. She strongly condemned the Andhra Pradesh government for allegedly harassing Professor Nageshwar, whom Telangana society and Telugu people highly respect as an intellectual. **“If He Is Arrested, We Will Lay Siege to Chandrababu's House”** Kavitha accused the Andhra Pradesh Police of harassing Professor K. Nageshwar through false cases. She said that if anyone disagrees with his analyses, they should counter them intellectually instead of filing cases. Kavitha recalled that she herself had disagreed personally with some of his past analyses. She emphasized that despite differences of opinion, governments have a responsibility to protect the constitutional right

to “freedom of expression.” She stated that TRS would never compromise on protecting freedom of speech and assured full support to Professor K. Nageshwar in this matter. Kavitha said reports suggest that Andhra Pradesh Police are attempting to arrest the professor, and if true, it would have to be viewed as a direct attack on Telangana intellectuals. She also referred to reports claiming that Telangana Police are cooperating with Andhra Pradesh Police and advised them not to do so. She stated that if Andhra Pradesh Police misuse their authority in a manner that mocks democracy, the Telangana government should intervene and stop it. Otherwise, she warned, they would stage a siege at the Hyderabad residence of AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. **“Revanth Reddy's Government Is Inhumane”** Kavitha also expressed deep anguish over an incident in which the family of a man

who died due to heatstroke allegedly had to carry the body on their shoulders for over a kilometer because no mortuary vehicle was provided at the government hospital in Bhadrachalam. She said nothing could be more inhumane or cruel than this incident and remarked that it exposes how insensitive the government of Anumula Revanth Reddy is toward the poor. Kavitha said her heart was shaken on reading reports that the family lacked even the financial means to transport the body and had to carry it themselves. She criticized the Revanth Reddy government, saying it should feel ashamed. She also expressed concern about what other tragic incidents might occur under what she called a “heartless Congress government.” Kavitha demanded that the Revanth Reddy government take moral responsibility for the incident and initiate strict action against the officials responsible.

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Art of Saying 'Sorry' in Rebuilding Healthy Relations



(On the occasion of "National Sorry Day" on 26 May)

The ability to say "sorry" is crucial for healthy relationships and interpersonal personal growth. A genuine 'apology' can restore trust, heal wounds, and demonstrate empathy, fostering deeper connections. It also allows for reflection, growth, and the resolution of conflict. An apology can restore a space for open and honest communication, allowing for a more constructive approach to resolving conflict. Admitting wrongdoings and taking accountability for actions can lead to personal growth and a deeper understanding of oneself. Saying sorry can provide closure and resolution for both parties involved, allowing them to move forward from difficult situations.

National Sorry Day-2026 Theme:

National Sorry Day initiated by Australia in 1998, which was about the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children forcefully from their families. It gives an opportunity to say sorry for the unwanted act of us to rebuild the strained relationships. The concept of the day is to realise the power

of saying sorry in healing or rebuilding the interpersonal relationships. Learning the art of apologising effectively can significantly reduce the negative effects of conflict and relationship stress. The theme of National Sorry Day-2026 is "From Sorry to Action" emphasising going beyond saying simply a sorry to enter into action that heals the mental wound. Apologies help us put the conflict behind us and move on more easily. Forgiveness has many benefits, including happiness and stress relief. Being adept at apologising when appropriate can strengthen relationships, reduce conflict, and bring forgiveness. It can be hard, but it's well worth the effort. Saying sorry can stir up all kinds of intense, difficult emotions, including guilt, pride, defensiveness, or a fear of rejection. If something you have done has caused another person pain, it's good idea to say sorry, even if it was unintentional.

Reasons for Apologising:

The reasons for apologising include you have insulted or hurt someone, your disrespectful behaviour, judged someone too harshly or unfairly, engaged in behaviour you knew was wrong/unfair/hurtful, and finally failed to keep your promise. If you

care about the other person and the relationship, and you can avoid offending behaviour in the future, an apology is usually a good idea. Don't make excuses or try to qualify your apology. Instead, just say, "I am Sorry". Apologies are not always easy, but saying you're sorry can be important for healthy interpersonal relationships. If you have hurt someone, whether unintentionally or intentionally, consider how apologising might help mend the pain and help you both move forward. An apology acknowledges wrongdoings and signals a commitment to avoid future harm, rebuilding trust in a relationship. Apologising requires acknowledging the other person's feeling and taking responsibility for the harm caused, demonstrating empathy and emotional maturity. This behaviour can help alleviate feelings of guilt and regret, allowing for emotional healing and forgiveness.

By offering a sincere apology, individuals can initiate a process of forgiveness, both from others and themselves. By taking responsibility and acknowledging the impact of their actions, individuals can begin to heal forward from different situations.

— Prof Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
9949700037

553 buses owned by Women groups will be flagged off on June 5

■ Enhances bank linkage loans to Self Help Groups to Rs 10 lakhs from Rs 5 lakhs

■ CM Revanth Reddy announces 100 acres of land is ready to allot women groups for Rice mills and Gowdowns . Zero interest loans to

■ Mahila Shakti Super Bazaars in Urban areas on the lines of Dmart and Big Bazar

■ Indiramma sarees for women groups in Towns

■ Government targets to develop one crore women as Millionaires by 2034

■ Some BRS leaders are harassing their sisters who already revolted against their brothers

■ CM Revanth Reddy laid foundation stone for 8000 SHG village organization - Mahila Grama Sangam Building and launched new saree design for one crore women



scheme. The government thwarted all those conspiracies and successfully continued the free travel initiative.

Reiterating that the People's Government resolved to elevate women's power—or "Mahila Shakti"—as an exemplary model for the entire nation, CM Revanth Reddy also announced that the limit for bank-linkage loans provided to women's self-help groups is being increased from ₹5 lakhs to ₹10 lakhs. The government has facilitated bank-linkage loans amounting to ₹60,472 crores for women's groups, and has already disbursed ₹1,390 crores towards interest-free loan schemes. The Chief Minister urged women's groups not to limit themselves to small-scale livelihood activities, but to venture into larger business enterprises.

Stating that the government is ready to allocate 100 acres of land, the CM said that a scheme to establish rice mills, Warehouses at the "Mandal" (block) level, and logistics parks by the women groups was launched and emphasized that the role of women's groups must be expanded to procurement, storage, and milling of food grains. Measures would be implemented to enable the women groups to directly procure paddy and supply the processed rice to the government. Women are accountable for every single grain to enhance transparency and accountability in the procurement.

The establishment of the "Mahila Shakti Super Bazaars" by the women's self-help groups on the lines of corporate retail chains was also planned. The Mahila Shakti Super Bazaars should be set up to compete effectively with major retailers like DMart and Big Bazar. CM Revanth Reddy said that the government is prepared to lease out land at concessional rates in urban areas for the establishment of these super bazaars. The objective of this initiative is to en-

sure that quality goods are made accessible to the public, farmers find a market for their produce, and women's groups generate income. The government would also serve as a stakeholder in the Mahila Shakti Super Bazaars, ensuring that high-quality agricultural produce, organic products, and daily essentials cultivated by farmers reach consumers through this channel. If rural produce secures a robust market, it would benefit the farmers.

The CM also highlighted that the government was taking measures to establish 1,000 megawatts of solar energy plants through women's self-help groups and compete with big corporations like Adani and Ambani. Further, the women groups were also made partners in the petrol pump business sector which is dominated by corporate entities like Reliance. The petrol pumps are being established by the women's groups in district headquarters and other key locations.

At the event conducted as part of the "Women's Week" celebrations, organized under the "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" (People's Administration - Progress Plan) initiative, CM Revanth Reddy described this as a historic initiative aimed at economically empowering women. The Chief Minister also unveiled four new designs of the "Indiramma Sarees", featuring a distinctive parrot-green color scheme. Laying the foundation stones for 8,000 buildings simultaneously on a single day is a groundbreaking decision within the country. The buildings will help the women groups a space for meetings, economic activities, training, and business initiatives.

On this occasion, the CM interacted directly via video conference with women group members from various dis-

tricts. Members of the Narayanpet women's federation expressed their gratitude to the government for earning approximately ₹27 lakhs through their petrol pumps. Commending their efforts to become rich, the Chief Minister said that, in certain business ventures undertaken by these women's groups, they are generating a monthly income ranging from ₹4 lakhs to ₹5 lakhs. The Chief Minister also appreciated the groups from the Nirmal district for achieving a 100 per cent repayment rate to the banks, clearing every single rupee of their dues without any arrears. The CM directed the Nirmal District Collector to allocate a site along a main road for the establishment of a petrol pump for these groups.

CM Revanth Reddy lauded the women's self-help groups across the state for forging ahead by diligently and honestly repaying every single rupee of their financial obligations. While some large-scale businesses and major corporations are defaulting on loans worth thousands of crores of rupees and fleeing, the women's self-help groups here are teaching them a lesson in financial discipline.

The Chief Minister said that the government was distributing "Indiramma Sarees" to women as a traditional gift (saree). The CM recalled that the sarees distributed previously lacked quality and were ultimately used in agricultural fields to scare away birds. The newly designed sarees look as vibrant and beautiful as the Palapitta (Indian Roller) bird. The Indiramma Sarees would also be distributed in urban areas as well. This time, new saree designs in a parrot-green color would be provided.

Deputy CM Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka, Ministers Seethakka, Sridhar Babu, and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Rajya Sabha member Vem Narender Reddy, Government Advisor Harkara Venugopal, Women's Commission Chairperson Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, MLAs, chairpersons of various corporations, and high-ranking officials from respective departments participated in this meeting.

CMO Principal Secretary Seshadri, Special Chief Secretary of the Panchayat Raj Department M. Dana Kishore, Principal Secretary of the Endowments Department Sailaja Ramaiah, Secretary of the Women and Child Development Department Anita Ramachandran, SERP CEO Divya, and Director of the Women and Child Development Department Shruti Ojha were present during the video conference.

A Telangana Free of Farmer Suicides is BJP's Goal: NRR

HYDERABAD

BJP Telangana State President N Ramchander Rao today asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party has undertaken the "Raithu Gosa - BJP Bharosa" (Farmer's Plight - BJP's Assurance) Yatra solely to stand by the farmers who are facing severe hardships due to the inability to sell their produce and the lack of basic infrastructure at procurement centers.

As part of this yatra, he addressed farmers during a face-to-face interaction after visiting the Parigi procurement center. "It is deeply tragic that due to the state government's failure there were no proper facilities at grain procurement centers across the state resulting in

farmers are driven to distress and making attempt to resort extreme step, he said. The BJP stands firmly by the farmers and no one should resort to suicide. The BJP has come here to personally witness the suffering of our farmers, who are enduring this blistering, scorching heat at procurement centers and to give them courage and assurance", Rao asserted.

BJP state chief said "previously, when we visited the Bhongir procurement center under the leadership of the Kisan Morcha, a farmer in Nalgonda district had already attempted suicide. At that very moment, we gave a clear assurance to the farmers. We requested that not a single farmer lose hope or take extreme steps like suicide. The



Bharatiya Janata Party will always be by your side in this fight for your rights."

Criticizing functioning of the Congress government, Rao said the moment the BJP announced this yatra, the Congress government started a false propaganda campaign claiming they had completed all procure-

ments. However, the reality on the ground is entirely different. Knowing that the BJP team was coming, they brought gunny bags here secretly overnight and in the wee hours today to hastily pack the grain. Yet, there are no trucks or tractors to transport the grain from here. They are playing dramas without provid-

ing proper transport facilities, he alleged.

Due to the negligence of the Congress government and a lack of coordination among officials, farmers are being harassed at procurement centers under the pretext of moisture content. Days are passing by at several IKP (Indira Kranti Patham) centers across the state without any grain procurement taking place, he explained adding that not just paddy, but after other crops like maize and jowar (sorghum) are brought to the sale centers, the government completely ignores them. By intentionally delaying procurements, they are subjecting farmers to immense mental stress." BJP state chief alleged that "a major conspiracy is underway to make farmers suffer

and grow so frustrated that they end up selling their crops for less than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) provided by the Central Government. The hand of the state government is clearly visible behind this conspiracy. The Congress government is working with the malicious intent of harming farmers and effortlessly enriching middlemen, private traders, and millers."

Rao congratulated the BJP MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and party workers who actively participated in the "Raithu Gosa - BJP Bharosa" Yatra and stood as the voice of the farmers. Although the party has initiated a here days yatra but our struggle against this anti-people government will not stop until justice is served to the farmers.

Jaggareddy Distributes Bicycles to 70 Children

■ Special bicycle distribution held for children below 8 years of age

■ Tokens distributed to another 156 children to receive bicycles next Sunday

■ So far, 400 bicycles distributed in Sangareddy

■ Jaggareddy assures bicycles will be provided in phases to all those who registered their names

SANGAREDDY

The bicycle distribution program being conducted under the leadership of Jaggareddy in Sangareddy is continuing actively. Recently, Jaggareddy distributed bicycles to another 70 children. This special program was organized particularly for children below the age of 8 years. So far, a total of 400 bicycles have been distribut-

ed. Jaggareddy clarified that bicycles would be provided in phases to everyone who submitted Aadhaar photocopies and registered their names at his office.

Tokens Distributed to Another 156 Children

Jaggareddy distributed tokens to 156 children who had previously registered their names and attended the bicycle distribution program venue. He stated that bicycles would be handed over to them next Sunday.

Interacting Cheerfully with Children

During the bicycle distribution event, Jaggareddy spent time interacting warmly with the children. He greeted them, shook hands with them, and mingled happily with them. Congress Party town president Kiran Goud, senior party leader Koono Santosh, Sudheep, and others participated in the program.

National Centre for HR Information Systems, Research and Analytics in Governance 'CHIRAG' Inaugurated and Foundation Stone laid at Hyderabad

■ Transformative platform for strengthening Human Resource Governance & Data driven Decision making across Indian Railways

HYDERABAD

The Centre for HR Information Systems, Research and Analytics in Governance 'CHIRAG', a pioneering Centre of Excellence dedicated to Human Resource Management training, research, and digital transformation in Indian Railways, was inaugurated along with the foundation stone laid today i.e., 25th May, 2026 at the SCR Grounds, adjacent to Zonal Railway Training Institute (ZRTI), Moula-Ali, Secunderabad, under the umbrella of the Indian Railways Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM), being the nodal Centralized Training Institutes (CTIs) for Indian Railways Personnel Services (IRPS) cadre.

The Centre was inaugurated by Smt V.G. Bhooma, Additional



Member (HR), Railway Board, who also performed the Foundation Stone laying ceremony for the proposed facility, in the presence of Smt. Aparna Garg, Ex-Member Finance Railway Board, and Director General, IRIFM; Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR; Shri Siddharth Kati, Principal Chief Personnel Officer, SCR; Shri Sirra Shanti Raju, Addl. DG, IRIFM; Shri Lokesh Vishnoi, Dean, IRISSET, Dr. R. Gopalakrishnan, DRM/Secunderabad, Senior Officials and other officers. Smt Aruna Nayyar, Director General (HR), Railway

Board joined the function virtually and addressed the gathering. She commended the initiative as a decisive step towards a data-driven, future-ready Railway HR workforce.

Smt Aparna Garg, speaking on the occasion highlighted that in times to come, CHIRAG would serve as a research and innovation centre in Human Resource Management. She complimented the institutional leadership provided by DG-HR and AM-HR from Railway Board, who initiated this concept and gave direction and momentum to it. The teamwork exhibited

by the team of IRIFM and SCR towards creating this dedicated training space was lauded. The detailed project roadmap envisages its full-fledged completion by May 2028.

Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava General Manager, SCR underscored CHIRAG's prospective role in strengthening institutional HRMS capacity and positioning Indian Railways at the forefront of digital HR governance.

Drawing on the Upanishadic invocation—"Lead us from darkness into light"—CHIRAG aims to illuminate governance through knowledge. In alignment with Mission Karmayogi, the NSCSTI framework, and the Capacity Building Commission, the Centre will deliver role-based, certified HRMS training across every cadre; develop a dedicated Human Resource Management System (HRMS)-MITRA master-trainer cadre for deployment across Zonal Railway Training Institutes; function as a think tank for HR policy and inter-system integration.

Telangana Council of Higher Education and NI-MSME Join Hands to Promote Innovation and Entrepreneurship

HYDERABAD

It was stated that the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (NI-MSME), a premier institution functioning under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, has been playing a key role across the country in the fields of entrepreneurship development and skill development. The institution's primary objective is to support the government in formulating policies related to the development of MSMEs. In this context, NI-MSME Director (SED) Mr. K. Suryaprakash Goud met Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) Chairman Professor V. Balakista Reddy and submitted a proposed framework for joint collaboration.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Balakista Reddy emphasized the need to introduce Technology & Ethics in higher education curricula, along with advanced courses on Applied Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies. He also suggested introducing modules on business orientation, startups, law-governance-policy, and experiential learning while allocating appropriate academic credits to students.

He explained that practical skills among students could be enhanced by implementing mandatory internships, sector-specific

projects, case studies, and fieldwork under experiential learning. Allocating suitable academic credits for these activities would encourage students to participate more enthusiastically in such programs.

On this occasion, Mr. Suryaprakash Goud stated that NI-MSME is ready to establish new incubation centers in rural colleges under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. Through these centers, livelihood skills necessary for increasing rural employment opportunities would be developed, while students would also be provided with internships and experiential learning programs.

Additionally, he said that steps would be taken to establish Centers of Excellence (CoEs) at the district level with industrial partnerships and to connect startups across Telangana. He also announced plans to organize Faculty Development Programs and workshops to enhance the capabilities of teaching staff.

Both sides expressed the view that the proposed partnership between TGCHHE and NI-MSME would not only strengthen the state's higher education system but also improve collaboration between educational institutions and industries, thereby expanding employment opportunities for students.



CBSE Marking Row: Opposition Seeks Dharmendra Pradhan's Resignation

NEW DELHI: (MAY 25)

As the row over CBSE's On-Screen Marking (OSM) system escalates, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday alleged that the "Modi-Pradhan duo" has turned yet another institution into a "symbol of malpractice" and accused the government of defaming and intimidating anyone who asks questions. AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal also attacked the Centre over the issue, calling Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan "incompetent and useless". He also demanded Pradhan's resignation over the alleged irregularities in the OSM system. The opposition leaders' remarks came after some Class 12 students alleged that the scanned copies of their answer sheets uploaded by the board did not match their handwriting, raising concerns over possible answer-sheet mismatch in the OSM system.



300 tourists rescued in seven-hour operation after Gulmarg Gondola malfunctions

SRINAGAR: (MAY 25)

Around 300 tourists in 65 cabins of Gulmarg Gondola were stranded mid-air on Monday after the Asia's highest ropeway developed technical problems, and were rescued after an arduous seven-hour operation. No casualties were reported in the incident, officials said. The major multi-agency rescue operation, which also involved the army, was launched soon after the system malfunctioned around noon. The officials said that evacuation from some cabins took longer as these were hovering at a height of nearly 500 ft above ground. Heavy rains in the area also hampered efforts.

As resignations unsettle TMC-run civic bodies, Mamata urges councillors to be resilient

KOLKATA: (MAY 25)

Amid signs of strain within the TMC following its Assembly poll defeat, party supremo Mamata Banerjee on Monday urged party councillors to stay united as resignations unsettled several civic bodies run by the party. In a bid to rally her grassroots network, the former chief minister addressed corporators from urban civic bodies at her residence and conveyed a message of resilience and organisational discipline. According to TMC sources, Banerjee told those present at the meeting that party workers must stand together in difficult times. Those unwilling to continue with the organisation were free to take their own decisions, she said.

MSME sector play key role in development:CM

VIJAYAWADA:

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu stated that MSME sector plays key role in development of the country and youth should develop innovative thinking to emerge as entrepreneurs. He set a target to promote one crore entrepreneurs under one family- one entrepreneur norm introduced by state government. The Chief Minister inaugurated Dr BR Ambedkar Kalavedika here today and virtually laid foundation for 38 MSME parks. Later addressing the one family- one entrepreneur MSME growth summit 2026 at the same venue, the Chief Minister said the state government giving top priority for youth and women empowerment. He said MSME sector paves way to fulfill the innovative ideas and dreams of youth. As part of it the state government giving top priority for MSME sector and released Rs 558 crore incentives so far and AP Cluster development programme will be started with Rs 200 crore. Highlighting the role of MSMEs, Chandrababu Naidu said MSMEs alone have the potential to transform a small idea into a large industry and noted that the sector is the second-largest employment generator in the country after agriculture. He said the government has made Andhra Pradesh's resources more accessible

Youth should develop innovative thinking to emerge as entrepreneurs:CM
Plans to transform five lakh DWCRAs groups women into entrepreneurs:CM
Chief Minister inaugurates Dr BR Ambedkar Kalavedika, lays foundation for 38 MSME parks
Govt to invest Rs 40,000 crore to transform Rayalaseema into a horticulture hub:CM
CM sets target to transform one crore people as entrepreneurs under one family- one entrepreneur norm



to MSMEs and introduced dedicated MSME and private industrial park policies to accelerate industrial growth. The Chief Minister said the summit had brought startups, industrial units, experts and banks onto a single platform to create a stronger industrial ecosystem. Stressing entrepreneurship, he called for large-scale industrial units under the "One Family, One Entrepreneur" initiative. The Chief Minister said the state would also extend incentives to private industrial parks, citing Sri City as a successful industrial model. Referring to women's economic empowerment, Chandrababu Naidu said women's self-help groups currently hold a corpus of Rs 28,000 crore and announced plans to transform five lakh women from DWCRAs groups into entrepreneurs this year. He said startups would be promoted through the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub and set a target of creating 100 unicorn companies from Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister emphasized that the future belongs to the knowledge economy and called on youth and industries to embrace emerging opportunities. He reiterated the government's slogan, "Village to Global Market," and advocated a circular economy where industrial waste from one industry becomes raw material for another, helping build a strong MSME ecosystem. The Chief Minister said banks have extended loans worth over Rs

2.11 lakh crore to MSMEs, while central schemes such as PM Mudra, Stand-Up India and Vishwakarma are also supporting entrepreneurs. He said Andhra Pradesh has launched a special action plan under its Credit Guarantee Scheme to facilitate loans worth Rs 5,000 crore and also making efforts to revive struggling MSMEs. The Chief Minister announced a special programme to encourage aspiring entrepreneurs by extending loans of up to Rs 1 crore. He said the government has signed agreements with several global technology companies. He stressed that MSMEs must become key players in sectors such as space, defence and aerospace. Referring to upcoming advanced technologies in Amaravati, he said youth and educational institutions should leverage quantum technologies. Outlining the government's three-region development strategy the Chief Minister said Visakhapatnam is being developed into a global data centre hub, with major industries including steel, aluminium and rare earth minerals expected to strengthen the region's industrial base.

He stated that Amaravati would emerge as a Quantum Valley, with plans to manufacture quantum computing equipment. He also said the region stretching from Puttaparthi to Bengaluru would evolve into a defence corridor and announced that a fifth-generation fighter jet testing facility would be established in Rayalaseema within 36 days. The Chief Minister said the government is investing Rs 40,000 crore to transform Rayalaseema into a horticulture hub and develop destinations such as Suryalanka Beach and Gandikota into world-class tourism attractions. He said Andhra Pradesh had attracted investments worth Rs 23 lakh crore in 23 months. "Our government follows the model of signing, grounding and opening industries," the Chief Minister said, adding that five more convention centres similar to the newly inaugurated facility would be built across the state. Ministers TG Bharath, Kondapalli Srinivas, Dola Sree Balaveer-anjaneya Swamy, MP Kesineni Shivnath, MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao and others were present.

Charlapalli-Tiruchchirappalli Weekly Special Regularised

CHENNAI, MAY 25:

South Central Railway has announced the regularisation of the Charlapalli-Tiruchchirappalli weekly special train service. The trains, currently operating as special services under Train Nos. 07615/07616, will now run as regular weekly express services with new numbers 17077/17078. According to railway officials, Train No. 17077 Charlapalli-Tiruchchirappalli Weekly Express will commence regular operations from July 7, 2026, departing Charlapalli every Tuesday at 5.20 pm. In the return direction, Train No. 17078 Tiruchchirappalli-Charlapalli Weekly Express will begin service from July 8, 2026, leaving

Tiruchchirappalli every Wednesday at 9.30 pm. The train will consist of three AC three-tier coaches, five AC three-tier coaches, 10 sleeper class coaches, four general second class coaches and two Divyangjan-friendly second class coaches. En route, the train will halt at Nalgonda, Miryalaguda, Nadikode, Sattenapalle, Guntur, Tenali, Bapatla, Chirala, Ongole, Nellore, Guduru, Renigunta, Tirupati, Chittoor, Katpadi, Vellore Cantonment, Tiruvannamalai, Tirukkottur, Villupuram, Vriddhachalam, Ariyalur and Srirangam before reaching Tiruchchirappalli. Advance reservation for the weekly express trains will open at 8 am on May 26 from the Southern Railway end.

Beyond Jat Politics? BJP Banks On Nayab Singh Saini To Crack Punjab Code

BJP is intensifying outreach in Punjab, relying on Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini to build support among OBC and rural communities. With the Punjab Assembly elections approaching, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has intensified its political outreach in the state, banking heavily on Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini to build an independent support base among Punjab's influential OBC and rural communities. Since 2025 onwards, Saini has attended nearly 70 political and community events across Punjab — a move political observers see as part of a calculated BJP strategy to expand beyond its traditional urban Hindu voter base in a state where the party currently holds only two seats in the 117-member Assembly. At the heart of this outreach lies Punjab's evolving caste arithmetic.

Why Malwa Holds The Key

Punjab's electoral map is sharply divided across three regions, each shaped by distinct caste and political dynamics. The Malwa belt — stretching from Patiala and Ludhiana to Bathinda and Ferozepur — accounts for 69 of Punjab's 117 Assembly seats, making it the state's biggest political battleground. Traditionally dominated by Jat Sikh politics, the region also contains sizeable Saini-Kamboj-Mali population pockets around Mohali and Rupnagar. For the BJP, making inroads into Malwa is essential if it hopes to emerge as a serious contender in Punjab politics.

Doaba's Dalit Equation

The BJP's calculations also extend to the Doaba region, the NRI-heavy belt between the Beas and Sutlej rivers that contributes 23 Assembly seats. Districts such as Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar have one of the highest Dalit concentrations in Punjab, with the population crossing 40 percent in several constituencies. The region also has a strong Ravidassia-Ramdasia social presence, making caste mobilisation particularly significant. Punjab overall has nearly 32 percent Dalit voters — among the highest proportions in any Indian state — but the community remains fragmented across multiple sub-castes, including Sikh SCs, Mazhabi Sikhs and Hindu SCs.

Big Change In Karnataka? Inside Track On Siddaramaiah vs DK Shivakumar Tussle

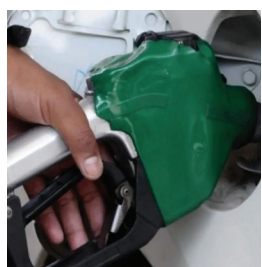
The subject of discussion for the Delhi meeting, the 77-year-old Chief Minister said, is not known to him.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, accompanied by cabinet colleagues and close aides, is headed to Delhi, sparking a huge political buzz that a change in the state leadership is on the cards. The subject of discussion for the Delhi meeting, the 77-year-old Chief Minister said, is not known to him. "I have been summoned to Delhi. I don't know the subject of discussion. I have meeting scheduled at 11am (Tuesday). Speculation will always be there," the Chief Minister said, referencing the leadership tussle between him and his Deputy, DK Shivakumar. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has not been invited to the Delhi meeting. "Will go to Delhi if high command calls. Not my job to comment on Chief Minister change," DK Shivakumar said, reacting to the buzz. In January this year, Siddaramaiah made history by becoming the longest-serving Chief Minister of Karnataka, surpassing the previous record held by Congress stalwart D Devaraj Urs. The long running Siddaramaiah versus DK Shivakumar power tussle in Karnataka may see a new turn, with sources earlier telling NDTV that "all issues"



will be resolved at a meeting in May-end. Asked about a possible leadership change on Thursday, Shivakumar gave a cryptic "good time will come" reply. A decision on the Chief Minister's post will be taken in the next two to three days, high-level sources in the Congress have told NDTV, adding that Rahul Gandhi will speak to both the leaders. Discussions, say sources, will also be held on the state cabinet, Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council seats. The leadership crisis had first erupted last November on the completion of two-and-a-half years of the Congress government. The Shivakumar camp reminded the high command of the reported power sharing formula that was agreed upon in 2023 after the Congress' victory in the state. The Congress then managed to put off the crisis with a series of meetings with both the camps and the famous breakfast meetings between DK Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah to show unity. Sources had then indicated that the Congress leadership will focus on the Karnataka tussle after the Kerala and Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. The crisis showed signs of a renewed eruption last week around Shivakumar's birthday when his supporters put up "Next CM" posters at Congress offices and also brought cakes with the same message. Siddaramaiah has publicly maintained that he will abide by whatever decision the Congress high command takes. While age may work against the Chief Minister in the run-up to the next elections, his image as a popular leader with support among the Dalits and backwards is hard to ignore. Of the four Congress chief ministers currently, Siddaramaiah is the only one from the backward caste. Revanth Reddy of Telangana, Sukhinder Sukhu of Himachal Pradesh and VD Satheesan of Kerala are all from

upper caste. Another factor working for Siddaramaiah is that he enjoys the support of the legislators. Out of the 136 Congress MLAs, he has the backing of more than 100. The first option before the Congress is to allow Siddaramaiah to continue as Chief Minister, permitting him to go ahead with a long-pending cabinet reshuffle and expansion. Such a move, say sources, would strengthen Siddaramaiah's position within the government and the party, sending the message to DK Shivakumar that he may have to wait longer for an opportunity to take over the top post. Another scenario, sources say, is strengthening the cabinet portfolios of DK Shivakumar and bigger roles for his brother and close aides. The second option being discussed is a possible national role for Siddaramaiah. The Congress leadership could consider moving him to Delhi by offering him the post of Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. In such a scenario, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge is also being viewed by some within the party as a consensus and safe choice to lead the government in Karnataka. The third option before the high command, say sources, is to persuade Siddaramaiah to step down and pave the way for his Deputy to become Chief Minister, in line with long standing power sharing "promise".



Punjab: AAP, Cong, SAD slam Centre over fresh fuel price hike

CHANDIGARH: (MAY 25)

Political parties in Punjab on Monday launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Centre over the fresh hike in fuel prices, calling it a crippling blow to ordinary citizens already grappling with rising prices of essential commodities. Petrol and diesel prices were increased by Rs 2.61 and 2.71 per litre respectively, on Monday, marking the fourth hike in less than two weeks as state-owned fuel retailers continued passing on rising international oil prices to consumers. With the latest revision, cumulative increases in petrol and diesel prices have nearly touched Rs 7.5 per litre since fuel price revisions resumed on May 15 after a prolonged freeze, raising concerns over inflationary pressures and higher transportation costs across the economy.

Another Setback For AIADMK, Three MLAs Cross Over To Vijay's TVK

The MLAs met Tamil Nadu minister Aadhav Arjuna, who is also a key aide of Vijay, sources said. Accompanied by Arjuna, the MLAs then went to meet the Speaker and handed their resignation, which got accepted.

Tamil Nadu's opposition AIADMK, still trying to recuperate from the defeat in the recently held assembly polls and the subsequent vertical split over support to Vijay's TVK for government formation, has suffered another setback. Three MLAs of the AIADMK resigned today and joined Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam. Aragatham Kumaravel, Jayakumar and



Sathyabhama were said to be from the camp of SP Velumani. The MLAs met Tamil Nadu minister Aadhav Arjuna, who is also a key aide of Vijay, sources said. Accompanied by Arjuna, the MLAs then went to meet the Speaker and handed their resignation, which got accepted. The AIADMK has called it horse-trading, pointing out that the MLAs were joined by Aadhav Arjuna before they had even submitted their resignations. "This is a planned move," the party said. The DMK's organising secretary RS Bharathi said, "hyaram diyaram has started in Tamil Nadu". The demand to join hands with Vijay was the issue over which a section of party

MLAs fell out with party chief and former Chief Minister E Palaniswami. Velumani and their supporters had wanted to back Vijay during the trust vote, but Palaniswami had disagreed. Finally, 24 rebels had backed Vijay during the vote. The AIADMK had filed a complaint with the Speaker under the Anti-Defection law. The Speaker is yet to give his ruling on the disqualification plea. The Speaker JCD Prabhakar today justified his decision. He said "The resignation letters are in order and they presented these in order". On his delay in orders over action under anti-defection law against AIADMK rebels, he said: "Both sides claim they have the Whip and I would

take time to give my ruling and whenever I do everyone will know it's fair". There is also criticism that the resigned AIADMK MLAs met Aadhav and Vijay at the secretariat, using the government office for political purposes. The TVK is yet to respond. Excluding the Speaker, the TVK has only 107 MLAs and requires 11 more for a majority. Currently, three of its allies the Congress, VCK and the IUML account for nine and it requires two more. Though DMK allies CPI and CPM support from outside with 4 MLAs, TVK, it appears, is trying to muster a majority through this exercise so that there will not be dependence on non-allies.

Jaldhara Works Gain Momentum: Restoration of Water Tanks Underway

BY AKHIL RAO BEMBRE

From Amaravati (AP) The government's ambitious Jaldhara programme, aimed at improving groundwater levels and conserving water resources, is progressing rapidly across the state. Under the initiative, authorities have proposed restoration and conservation works for 38,599 minor irrigation tanks under the Water Resources Department, 194 urban water bodies under Municipal Administration, 474 tanks under the Forest Department, and 2,176 tanks under the Panchayat Raj Department, besides 6.77 lakh water conservation structures. So far, officials have identified 81,997 works under the programme, of which administrative approvals have been granted for 48,529 works. Priority is being given to tanks with less than 50 percent



water storage capacity. As part of the exercise, officials have prepared 30,304 Tank Action Plans and 7,225 Village Action Plans. The government has also sanctioned 6,502 Operation and Maintenance (O&M) works, including desilting and strengthening of canal networks, at an estimated cost of Rs.397.53 crore. Authorities believe the programme will significantly improve irrigation potential, recharge groundwater reserves, and strengthen water security in rural and urban areas.

EDITORIAL

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

When Parents Seek Justice from Their Own Children

A VITAL CONSTITUTIONAL RESET: THE SUPREME COURT RECLAIMS THE RIGHT TO BAIL UNDER UAPA

The foundational concept of justice stands fundamentally opposed to the indefinite imprisonment of an individual without trial. Yet, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) enables exactly this through the stringent mechanism of Section 43-D(5), a provision that renders bail virtually impossible once a court determines, solely on the basis of the prosecution's evidence, that a prima facie case exists. However, on May 18, in Syed Iftikhar Andrabi vs National Investigation Agency, Jammu, the Supreme Court delivered a welcome and much-needed restatement of the core legal principle that bail should remain the rule, even in cases involving the UAPA. The Bench granted bail to Andrabi, who had already endured over five years and nine months in pre-trial incarceration. In doing so, the Bench clearly articulated the legal position for instances where an undertrial has spent years in custody without any realistic prospect of the trial reaching a conclusion. By firmly asserting that the right to personal liberty and a speedy trial cannot be made subservient to the statutory bars of Section 43-D(5), the judgment explicitly disapproved the reasoning found in two separate two-judge Bench rulings: Gurwinder Singh (2024) and Gulfisha Fatima, which was decided earlier this year. Both of those prior decisions had actively sought to dilute the landmark principle established by a larger three-judge Bench in K.A. Najeeb (2021). That 2021 ruling had held that the "rigours" of Section 43-D(5) would effectively "melt down" in situations where there was no likelihood of the trial concluding within a reasonable timeframe and the period of incarceration already suffered by the accused was substantial. Furthermore, the Andrabi Bench underscored a vital procedural rule: two-judge Benches possess no legal authority to depart from a binding precedent set by a three-judge ruling in the first place.

In the Gulfisha Fatima case—which centered on a bail decision regarding the alleged "larger conspiracy" in the Delhi Riots—the Court had denied bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, going so far as to foreclose their right to renew their bail pleas for an entire year, despite the fact that both individuals had already spent more than five years behind bars. Now, with the Andrabi ruling, the Supreme Court has officially rejected the Gulfisha Fatima Bench's interpretation that Najeeb was restricted merely to its own unique facts rather than operating as a broader constitutional limitation on Section 43-D(5). Consequently, under a correct application of the Najeeb precedent, both Khalid and Imam should have been granted bail, rather than being denied liberty through an overly narrow and restrictive reading of the law. This represents a highly commendable judicial intervention, provided that it is treated as strictly binding in all similar instances—even if its scope remains limited to the favorable consideration of bail pleas for long-term undertrials, rather than establishing an absolute, unconditional right to bail under the UAPA. Tellingly, just a single day after the Andrabi judgment was delivered, Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju remarked before a different Bench that under the UAPA's statutory bail bar, "the presumption of innocence takes a backseat." This is precisely the regressive legal stance that the Andrabi ruling has now firmly positioned itself against, successfully realigning the discourse with fundamental constitutional principles.

The true identity of any civilization is not defined by its towering buildings, gleaming roads, economic growth, or technological achievements. Rather, it is reflected in how sensitively and compassionately it treats its elderly, parents, and the vulnerable sections of society. Yet today, the most painful question confronting us is this: in the very land that proclaimed "Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava" (Mother is Divine, Father is Divine), and from where the philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"—the world as one family—spread across the globe, why are parents now compelled to approach courts merely to secure dignity and shelter within their own homes? In recent years, Indian courts have witnessed a rising number of cases where elderly parents have sought legal intervention for protection, maintenance, residential rights, and even basic care from their own children. In some instances, courts have directed sons to provide their aged mothers with a room, separate bathroom facilities, and essential amenities. Elsewhere, children guilty of mistreating their parents have been evicted from parental property. These are not merely legal cases; they are stark warnings of social and moral decline that raise serious questions about the future character of India.

It is profoundly tragic that the mother who carried a child for nine months, nurturing life with her blood, love, sacrifice, and devotion, should one day be forced to seek judicial protection for a place in her own home. Equally painful is the image of a father who spent his life's labor building a home and securing his children's future, having to rely on court intervention to protect his own rights in old age. Such situations are not merely examples of individual ingratitude; they are evidence of the erosion of social sensitivity and human values. This question becomes even more significant as India moves toward the vision of Developed India 2047. We speak of economic advancement, digital transformation, smart cities, global leadership, and self-reliance. But can development truly be called complete if elderly parents sit neglected, lonely, and humiliated in some corner of their own homes? If our elders become dependent and disregarded even for their basic needs, then our achievements begin to appear hollow. The greatest challenge today is not



When parents are forced to stand before courts seeking dignity, shelter, and basic care from their own children, the crisis is no longer merely legal—it becomes a moral and civilizational failure. A society that once revered the ideals of "Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava" now faces an uncomfortable truth: material progress and technological advancement mean little if compassion, gratitude, and respect for elders continue to erode within families.

merely economic poverty but emotional impoverishment. A significant section of the younger generation is increasingly becoming self-centered. Material success, career ambitions, consumerism, and personal freedom have moved to the center of life. Joint families are disintegrating, emotional warmth in relationships is diminishing, and digital communication is replacing meaningful human interaction. Consequently, old age for many has become synonymous with loneliness, depression, and insecurity. Undoubtedly, modern urban life presents genuine challenges. Employment pressures, lack of time, financial burdens, and changing lifestyles have increased the struggles of the younger generation. Yet none of these difficulties can absolve children of their responsibilities toward their parents. In Indian culture, caring for parents has never been merely a social custom; it has been a foundational life value. The ideal of Shraavan Kumar is not just a legend—it is deeply embedded in India's civilizational consciousness.

Unfortunately, property disputes and self-interest have increasingly poisoned many relationships. Newspapers regularly report cases where parents are harassed, expelled from their homes, mentally tortured, or neglected over property issues. Numerous old-age homes are filled with parents whose greatest "mistake" was ded-

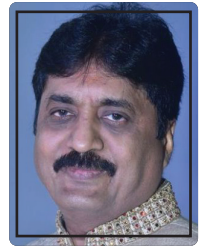
icating their entire lives to their children. If this trend continues unchecked, India may gradually move toward a social structure where, as seen in many Western societies, parent-child relationships become largely legal and formal. In many Western countries, parents encourage children to become independent early because they do not expect care in old age. Indian society, however, has traditionally stood on a different foundation. Here, family has never been merely a biological unit; it has been an emotional, cultural, and spiritual institution.

It is worth remembering that India has enacted laws such as the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 to safeguard the rights of elderly parents. Courts have repeatedly protected parental property rights and delivered strong observations against children who mistreat their elders. However, laws can provide protection, not affection. Courts can grant rooms, but not respect; they can order maintenance, but cannot restore love and belonging. Therefore, the solution cannot be merely legal—it must be social, cultural, and moral. There is an urgent need to restore values within families. Providing children with higher education and modern comforts alone is insufficient; they must also inherit human values. Schools, religious institutions, and social organizations must take meaningful ini-

tiatives to promote family values, service, gratitude, and respect for elders.

As India aspires toward Developed India 2047, "elderly dignity" should also become an important measure of progress. A nation where senior citizens are safe, respected, and emotionally fulfilled alone deserves to be called truly developed. Policies must prioritize elderly welfare, healthcare, social security, and emotional support. Families too must realize that parents are not merely responsibilities—they are our roots. A tree whose roots dry out cannot keep its branches green for long. Neglecting parents is not merely the failure of an individual; it is the moral defeat of an entire generation. Equally important is the realization that the treatment children give to their parents today may one day return to them. Children learn not from sermons but from conduct. If they witness neglect toward grandparents and elders, those same values will pass into the future.

What we need today is not more court orders but an awakening of conscience. If courts must remind society of the dignity, duty, and sanctity of relationships, then this is not merely a legal crisis—it is a crisis of civilization. This is a moment for introspection: are we becoming technologically advanced while turning emotionally impoverished? India's identity has always rested upon its compassion and sensitivity. Only if we preserve these values will the dream of a developed India become meaningful. Otherwise, amid towering achievements and grand visions, an abandoned elderly person sitting silently in some corner of a home will remain a mute question mark upon all our progress. Ultimately, we must remember: heritage is not property—it is values; development is not measured by buildings but by relationships; and no society can be called great when parents must stand in courts to claim their basic rights.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

THE INVISIBLE WOUND



Within the cathedrals of silence, unseen sorrows kneel and bleed,
While radiant smiles disguise the wars no fragile soul should heed.
The sharpest blades may scar the flesh and let the crimson flow,
Yet cruel words pierce far deeper still where mortal eyes can't go.
Trust, once crowned in silver light, may turn to treason's knife,
And carve through sacred chambers hidden in the heart of life.
Before a single tear is born upon the grieving eye,
Whole oceans drown in secret storms where shattered echoes cry.
A tender "Are you truly well?" may drift like gentle rain,
While underneath those quiet words sleep continents of pain.
Not every laugh is born of joy or blooms in heaven's art
Some smiles are gilded veils wrapped round a slowly breaking heart.
The world insists that time will heal the wounds of yesterday,
Yet memory builds monuments no darkness can decay.
At midnight, loneliness translates the language sorrow speaks,
And teaches broken souls to hide the grief the spirit leaks.
Humiliation's furnace burns the dignity of man,
Yet from the ash, immortal fires rise stronger than they began.
For even shattered violins remember how to sing,
And broken wings still ache at dusk for one more flight in spring.
The invisible wound is not the blood the eye can see
It is the slow collapse of hope beneath reality.
It is the scream that silence buries deep within the chest,
The endless war 'tween breathing life and souls denied their rest.
And yet
The stars shine brightest after they have battled longest night,
And roots grow deepest after storms have fought to steal their light.
The hearts most ravaged by the world, abandoned, bruised apart,
Become the first to recognize another bleeding heart.
For those who walk through fire and still choose kindness in the end,
Do not merely survive the dark
They become the dawn itself where shattered spirits mend.

...: Dr. Peruka Raju ...
National Poet
7810032847

Awareness Protects Better Than Punishment

Every day, people cross legal boundaries without ever intending to. Not out of malice, not out of rebellion, but out of ignorance. That is perhaps one of the quietest dangers facing modern society — people breaking laws without even realizing they have stepped over the line. The principle "Ignorance of the law is no excuse" stands at the heart of every justice system. Yet it also raises an uncomfortable question: how many people truly understand the laws that shape their everyday lives? The answer is far from comforting. Legal illiteracy today is no longer confined to those without formal education. Even among educated sections of society, awareness of basic laws remains surprisingly weak. The real concern is not deliberate lawbreaking; it is unintentional violations born from a lack of understanding. Simple mistakes often grow into serious legal consequences because people fail to recognize where responsibility begins and where legal limits end. That is why legal awareness should not remain the government's burden alone. It must become society's shared responsibility.

When Tradition Meets the Law:

In many rural and tribal communities, families sometimes find themselves facing legal complications without ever intending to commit a crime. Child marriage remains one of the clearest examples. India has made progress in reducing child marriages, but the problem has not disappeared completely. In several regions, traditions continue to hold stronger influence than legal prohibitions. Families may not see such actions as wrongdoing; to them, these are customs inherited across generations. But when tradition collides with the law, sentiment cannot

become a shield. If a minor girl later becomes pregnant and seeks treatment at a government hospital, legal reporting obligations may come into play. What a family once considered a social practice can suddenly turn into a legal crisis. Society's approval does not automatically become legal approval. Customs may survive through time, but laws survive through accountability.

The Digital World Is Not a Free Pass:

Smartphones and social media have opened doors to limitless opportunities. At the same time, they have opened doors to legal risks that many users barely understand. The digital revolution has raced ahead, but digital literacy has struggled to keep pace. As a result, many young users are walking through a legal minefield blindfolded. Sharing someone's personal photographs, videos, or private conversations without consent can trigger legal consequences. Spreading misinformation, posting defamatory content, or circulating material that provokes social hostility can also carry serious implications. The digital world moves at lightning speed. Unfortunately, mistakes move just as quickly. One click may take only a second. But its consequences can leave footprints that last for years.

Children Behind Wheels Carry Adult Consequences:

What was once seen mainly in cities is now becoming increasingly common in towns and villages — minors riding vehicles. It often begins as harmless excitement. Parents hand over keys without much thought, treating it as a small privilege or a moment of joy. But the consequences can be severe. Traffic laws do not place responsibility solely on mi-

nors. Parents and vehicle owners may also face penalties and legal action. If an accident results in serious injury or loss of life, the emotional and legal costs can become devastating. A few moments of thrill can leave behind a lifetime of regret. Freedom without responsibility often becomes a road leading nowhere.

Violence Is Not Always Visible:

Many people still assume domestic violence means only physical assault. It does not. Mental harassment, emotional humiliation, and financial control can also fall within its scope. These laws exist not merely to punish offenders, but to protect dignity, ensure safety, and restore security to victims. Similarly, neglecting elderly parents is not merely a moral issue; it can also become a legal one. Those who once carried families on their shoulders should never become invisible burdens in their own homes.

The Silent Strength of Consumers:

Consumer rights are violated far more frequently than many people realize. Some businesses overcharge customers or rely on misleading advertisements to maximize profits. Consider a familiar example: in luxury hotels, stadiums, and certain commercial spaces, even a simple bottle of water is sometimes sold at unusually inflated prices. Many dismiss such practices with a casual shrug: "What's the harm?" But small violations, when ignored, often become accepted practices. Consumer protection laws place power in the hands of ordinary citizens. They serve as reminders that profit should never come at the cost of fairness.

Closing the Gap:

The problem does not lie in the

existence of laws. It lies in the distance between laws and public understanding. Government campaigns, educational institutions, and awareness programs still struggle to reach many sections of society effectively. Legal literacy cannot be built through textbooks alone. Street plays, short films, regional-language campaigns, and digital initiatives can often communicate more effectively.

Schools and colleges, too, should introduce basic legal awareness from an early age.

Ignorance cannot be eliminated through policing alone. Rules gain meaning only when people understand why they exist.

Fear may regulate behaviour temporarily. Punishment may reduce violations. But awareness changes choices before mistakes happen. Our education system prepares people for careers; it still has work to do in preparing them for legal citizenship.

Law is not merely a collection of words written in books. It is the compass that guides society. A society clouded by ignorance unknowingly creates offenders. A society strengthened by awareness creates responsible citizens. Fear can control actions for a moment. Awareness can shape minds for a lifetime. Laws may punish mistakes after they happen. Awareness has the power to stop them before they begin.



KINJARAPU AMARAVATHI
Member, PLUS NGO

India
Meteorological
Department:
Banda,
Brahmapuri
Sizzle at 47.6°C

NEW DELHI: (MAY 25)

Scorching heat pushed temperatures across several states on Monday, with Uttar Pradesh's Banda district and Maharashtra's Brahmapuri region emerging as the hottest places in the country at 47.6 degrees Celsius each, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said. According to the IMD, a heatwave is declared in the plains if the maximum temperature exceeds 45 degrees, while temperatures above 47 degrees are categorised as a severe heatwave. At least 6 places in Uttar Pradesh featured in the IMD's list of locations recording maximum temperatures of over 45 degrees Celsius.

Sudhir
Valia Seeks
Anticipatory Bail
in ₹1,000-Crore
Fraud Case
MUMBAI: (MAY 25)

A court here on Monday didn't pass any order on interim protection sought by businessman Sudhir Valia in an alleged Rs 1,000 crore financial fraud case in which Yes Bank co-founder Rana Kapoor is an accused. Additional sessions judge Y P Manathkar, presiding over the matter, noted that the "allegations made in FIR are serious" and that it is "necessary to consider arguments of both sides in detail before passing any order". Fearing arrest in the case, Valia has sought anticipatory bail. He had also pleaded for interim protection until his main plea was decided.

No Animal Sacrifice At Public Places On Bakrid: Yogi Adityanath

LUCKNOW:

In view of the upcoming Bakrid Eid, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday directed officials to strengthen vigilance, and said ritual sacrifice of animals would not be permitted in public places on the festive occasion. Sacrifices are to be performed only at pre-designated sites, and no new practices are to be encouraged, the chief minister said, reiterating that there is a ban on the sacrifice of prohibited animals.

He directed that namaz be offered only at traditional venues, and said under no circumstances should permission be granted to offer prayers by blocking roads.

The chief minister issued the directives during a review of security and administrative matters on Sunday, the government said in a statement.

Adityanath emphasised that a well-planned system

for disposal of waste following the ritual sacrifices must be ensured in every district.

Open sale of meat is prohibited, and illegal slaughterhouses must not be allowed to operate. Even within licensed slaughterhouses, the number of animals kept must not exceed the prescribed capacity, he directed.

He instructed officials to maintain heightened vigilance regarding power supply, sanitation, and security arrangements during the festive period. Flag marches are to be conducted in sensitive areas prior to the festivals, and continuous foot patrolling by police forces must be ensured in the vicinity of religious sites. Interacting with the district magistrates and police chiefs of sensitive districts -- including Aligarh, Bijnor, Saharanpur, Rampur, and Sambhal -- Adityanath said past incidents should be analysed to identify potential disruptive elements, and preventive action should be initiated against them if necessary. Directives were also issued to maintain regular dialogue with peace committees at police station, tehsil, and district levels. While reviewing the preparations for the Ganga Dussehra festival, Adityanath directed officials to ensure cleanliness of ghats, barricading, deployment of ambulances, provision of shade, and parking management across districts



including Prayagraj, Varanasi, Ayodhya, Chitrakoot, Hapur, Muzaffarnagar, and Amroha. He emphasised that in view of the intense heat, the safety and comfort of devotees must be accorded highest priority. Additionally, taking a strict stance on road safety and illegal mining, the chief minister directed a campaign against vehicles lacking number plates and constitution of a task force to take strictest action against illegal mining. He also directed immediate appointments in districts where a chief medical officer is yet to be posted. Adityanath also directed organising weekly 'chaupals' (community gatherings) at the block level to address various public grievances. He said these gatherings would facilitate immediate resolution of issues affecting people -- such as revenue-related disputes, domestic violence, extortion, and police complaints that often go unrecorded at the local

level. Further, eligible individuals who are yet to be enrolled for government schemes will get access to these benefits through these chaupals. Adityanath also reviewed the functioning of the Department of AYUSH. He issued directives to take effective measures towards the implementation of the 'AYUSH Health and Wellness Policy-2026' across the state. He said instead of limiting Uttar Pradesh to a treatment-centric system, it should be developed into a premier wellness destination through integration of AYUSH practices, Yoga, 'Panchakarma', naturopathy, and wellness services. A model should be devised that integrates AYUSH services with modern management practices, quality standards, and tourism, thereby providing fresh momentum to employment generation and investment alongside healthcare services, he said.



NFR Opens High-Tech Laundry Facility at Rautara

MALIGAON, 25 MAY, 2026:

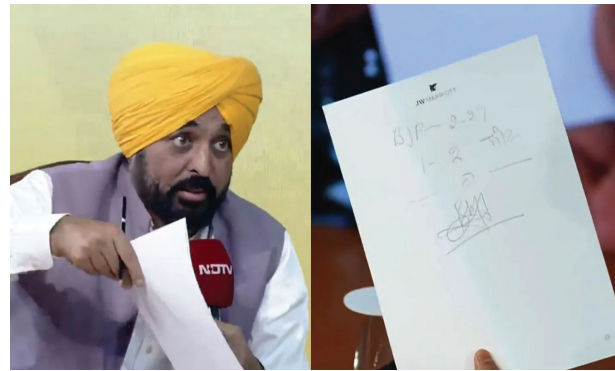
In a major step towards enhancing passenger comfort and hygiene standards, Northeast Frontier Railway has commissioned a modern BOOT Laundry facility at Rautara under Katihar Division. With a processing capacity of 24 tonnes per day, the facility is capable of catering to the entire linen washing requirement of Katihar Division and will ensure uninterrupted supply of clean and hygienic bedrolls even during the busiest travel seasons. The state-of-the-art laundry will provide freshly washed and high-quality linens for major Katihar Division based trains including the Amrapali Express and Champaran Humsafar Express. Equipped with advanced automated machinery, the facility ensures 100% stain-free washing, thereby improving passenger comfort and reducing complaints related to hygiene and linen quality during train journeys. The fully mechanised laundry system has been designed to efficiently handle large volumes of linen while optimising the usage of water, power, steam and chemicals. The washing process begins with weighing and feeding of soiled linens into an automatic conveyor system. Through computerised operations, the linens are loaded into a tun-

nel batch washer for thorough washing and cleaning. After washing, robotic feeding systems automatically transfer the linens from the washer to the dryers. Water extraction is carried out through a hydraulic pressing system to facilitate maximum removal of moisture. The linens are then moved through shuttle conveyors and dried in industrial dryers. Subsequently, the linens pass through advanced ironing and automatic folding machines to ensure proper finishing and presentation. To maintain strict quality standards, a Whiteness Meter is used to check the cleanliness and brightness of the linens before dispatch. Finally, the linen sets are hygienically packed and supplied to their respective trains. Currently, 08 mechanized laundries are operational across Northeast Frontier Railway. Additionally, the existing mechanized laundry at Kamakhya (KYQ) has been augmented from 4 tonnes to 6 tonnes capacity, further strengthening the zone's capability to meet the growing demand for quality linen services. The commissioning of this advanced BOOT Laundry facility is another significant initiative by Northeast Frontier Railway towards improving onboard passenger amenities and maintaining high standards

"BJP Will Win 1 Or 2 Seats In Punjab": Bhagwant Mann's Prediction In Writing

The BJP, Mann predicted, will win only one or two seats in the Pathankot area. As for the Congress, "They will be reduced to a single-digit number," he said.

The BJP and the Congress will barely cross the threshold of 10 seats in the 2027 assembly elections in Punjab, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann predicted today. And in that race, the Congress will perform better than the BJP, he implied. In an interview with NDTV CEO and Editor-in-Chief Rahul Kanwal today, Mann even gave it in



writing, signing the paper he wrote his prediction on. The BJP, Mann predicted, will win only one or two seats in the Pathankot area. As for the Congress, "They

will be reduced to a single-digit number," he said. The Congress, he said, will win one to nine seats. "Anything lower than that, and their top leadership will be completely

wiped out," he added.

Asked to clarify the score of the BJP -- which recently won a historic victory in Bengal -- and his reason for giving it, Mann said: "Why do I feel it will turn out this way? Because I live among the people. Write this down and save it." Punjab was the second state Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party won in 2022, sweeping 92 of the 117 assembly seats. The Congress, which had won a commanding 77 seats in the 2017 Punjab elections -- was reduced to just 18 seats. Many of its leaders had faced crushing defeats including then Chief Minister Charanjit Sin-

gh Channi, who contested and lost from two seats, Chamkaur Sahib and Bhadour.

The BJP won two seats. Punjab, in fact, has been one of the handful of states where the BJP has so far been unable to make much headway on its own. It has been dependent on its regional ally Shiromani Akali Dal and has been part of the ruling alliance.

But the SAD has been on a dry patch for a decade, winning only three seats in 2022, down by 12 from their 2017 score.

This time, asked about how many seats the SAD will win, Mann said "Zero".

Molecular Evidence Found of Fires That Swept Through Ancient Gondwana Forests 250 Million Years Ago

BY S.N. VERMA

New Delhi : Researchers at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) have uncovered clues regarding Earth's climate by examining evidence of ancient forest fires preserved within coal deposits. The researchers have discovered molecular evidence of massive fires that raged through the forests of ancient Gondwana approximately 250 million years ago -- events that profoundly shaped Earth's climate, vegetation, and the environmental conditions conducive to coal formation. Comprehensive charcoal-based studies of ancient fires within Indian Per-

mian sediments provided the first concrete evidence of widespread ancient fire activity. Building upon these results, researchers began to distinguish between various forms of microscopic charcoal particles found within Permian sedimentary sequences, thereby paving the way for more detailed, high-resolution reconstructions of ancient fire regimes. However, it was observed that a significant challenge existed regarding the molecular methods typically employed in palaeo-fire research -- specifically, the inability to effectively differentiate between various forms of microscopic charcoal particles, particularly Ox-CH (oxidized

opaque phytoclasts) and Pal-CH (fire-induced opaque phytoclasts). Previous studies relied primarily on microscopic observations; while informative, this approach often introduced considerable ambiguity when interpreting the precise origin and nature of the charcoal particles. Recognizing this limitation, researchers at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) -- an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) -- adopted an innovative multi-proxy approach. This study integrated a technique known as palynofacies analysis (the study of microscopic organic matter preserved in sed-

imentary rocks) with advanced molecular methods -- such as Raman spectroscopy and Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy -- to reconstruct ancient fire events of the Permian period from the Gondwana coal-bearing sediments of India's Godavari Valley Coalfield. The team comprising Neha Agarwal, Shilvi Srivastava, and Rancy Paul Mathews has bridged the critical gap between the visual identification of ancient fire residues and their geochemical characterization by combining microscopic and molecular-level observations. A key outcome of this work is the identification and differentiation of high-intensity

(H-PAL-CH) and low-intensity (L-PAL-CH) micro-charcoal particles derived from ancient fires, based on their morphological features, state of preservation, and optical characteristics. These results were further corroborated by molecular signatures of combustion -- specifically, the presence of second-order Raman spectral features indicative of structural ordering (e.g., Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons or PAHs) within the carbonaceous matter, as well as diagnostic FTIR functional groups reflecting thermal alteration pathways. The combination of palynological data and spectroscopic signals facilitates

a more precise identification of fire-derived organic matter and enhances our understanding of ancient wildfire regimes during the Permian period. Published in the "Geological Journal" (Wiley), this research paper could aid in developing more accurate models of long-term climate change by reconstructing the paleoenvironment of the Gondwana Basin. Furthermore, it holds significant potential for forecasting future environmental changes and ecosystem responses -- particularly in the context of extreme events such as wildfires -- which are becoming increasingly relevant in a changing climate.

Amit Shah Says UCC Won't Impact Tribals

Home Minister Amit Shah assures tribal communities remain outside Uniform Civil Code Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asserted that the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will not affect tribals in any way and urged the community not to fall for "conspiracies" and misinformation being spread over the issue. Addressing a tribal conclave to mark the 150th birth anniversary year of Birsu Munda at Red Fort grounds, Shah said special provisions have been made in BJP-ruled states implementing the UCC to keep tribal communities out of its ambit. "A conspiracy has now begun claiming that the Uniform Civil Code will deprive tribal communities of their culture, traditions and their right to live according to their customs," Shah said. "Today, from this stage, as the home minister in the Narendra Modi government, I want to make it absolutely clear that no provi-

sion of the UCC is going to be imposed upon tribal communities or Vanvasi society," he said. Wherever BJP governments (in states) have implemented the UCC, the Narendra Modi dispensation has ensured that all tribal communities remain outside its purview, Shah said. The home minister urged tribal communities not to fear the proposed law and appealed to people to spread awareness in villages and forest regions. "I want to tell everyone spreading confusion that the UCC will not interfere with the traditions and customs of any tribal or Vanvasi brother or sister," he said. "Take this message to every village, every region, the hills and forests, and make every tribal community aware that there is no need to fear the UCC," Shah said at the Janjati Sanskritik Samagam, organised by Janjati Suraksha Manch. Referring to Naxalism, Shah said the Modi government has eliminated the five-decade-old scourge, and



that today the country has become completely free from the Naxal problem. "Today, in this Kumbh of tribal communities, I can proudly say that our country is moving towards becoming fully free from the Naxal problem," he said. "Those who stilled the development of tribal society through violence caused the deaths of 40,000 tribal people. We are now moving completely out of that crisis. Now the time has come for rapid develop-

ment in tribal regions, hills and forests," Shah said at the event organised by RSS affiliates that saw participation from across the country. The home minister also spoke about religious conversions in tribal areas and said no one has the right to forcibly convert another person's faith. "Our Constitution makers gave every individual the right to live with dignity according to their original faith and traditions. No greed, temptation or inducement should

be used to change anyone's religion," Shah said. "Those who are trying to create divisions should understand that today's gathering of tribal communities sends a very strong message to them," he said, adding that tribal communities have remained deeply connected to nature worship and traditional beliefs. Shah also attacked previous Congress governments over tribal welfare spending and claimed that the Modi government has significantly increased the budget for the community. "Earlier, the total budget for tribal welfare was only Rs 28,000 crore. Narendra Modi ji increased it to Rs 1.5 lakh crore," he said. Shah said former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had created a separate ministry of tribal affairs and credited the BJP with prioritising tribal welfare. He also referred to the election of Droupadi Murmu as President, saying it has brought pride and representation to tribal society

at the highest constitutional level. "In 76 years of Independence, no tribal person had occupied the country's highest constitutional office. Narendra Modi ji elevated a woman from a poor tribal family, Droupadi Murmu, to the post of President, bringing honour to the entire tribal society," Shah said. "Today, Odisha and Chhattisgarh have tribal chief ministers. This reflects our commitment," he added. He said that in the recent West Bengal elections, his party won all 16 tribal reserved seats. During the address, Shah described the gathering as a "Mahakumbh of tribal society" and said it will be remembered for years as a major movement for preserving tribal identity and culture. "This movement and this awakening among tribal communities will protect us in the future. It will keep us connected to our land, our culture and our faith. It is laying a strong foundation for strengthening the nation," he said.



Manipur Police Gets Major Mobility Boost as CM Flags Off 477 Vehicles

IMPHAL, MAY 25, 2026:

Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh on Sunday flagged off 477 newly procured vehicles for Manipur Police at the 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles Parade Ground, Imphal, under the Centre's Assistance to States for Modernisation of Police (ASUMP) Scheme. The fleet includes Bolero, Bolero Neo, Tata Yodha, Mahindra Rakshak bulletproof vehicles, Tata Mine Protected Vehicles, Tata 407 trucks, buses with wire mesh, water tankers, trucks, and motorcycles. Speaking at the ceremony, the CM said the induction would significantly improve infrastructure, mobility, and response capabilities, especially in the hill districts. He credited DGP Rajiv Singh and his team for securing approval for the Rs 196.61 crore modernisation package covering mobility, forensic equipment, communication systems, smart policing, and security infrastructure.

Focus on hill districts According to the DGP, 54% of the vehicles will be deployed in hill districts to strengthen policing in remote and sensitive areas, while 46% will go to valley districts, including technical and traffic branches.

The CM also acknowledged the role of Manipur Police in controlling violence since May 3, 2023, and assured continued steps to improve personnel welfare through higher ration money, uniform allowance, and monthly remuneration. He thanked the Army, Assam Rifles, CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB, and other forces for maintaining peace, and urged the public to resolve grievances through dialogue instead of violence.

Home Minister K. Govindas Singh thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for approving the scheme. He called on police personnel to strengthen police-public relations and function as a people-friendly force.

The DGP highlighted other welfare and modernisation measures, including anti-drug drives, recovery of over 7,902 arms, and the arrest of around 1,000 extortionists. He appealed for public cooperation in operations against extortion and anti-social elements, calling them key hurdles to peace, development, and education.

The ceremony ended with the CM flagging off the vehicles in the presence of senior civil and police officials.

Student dies after accidentally shooting himself at party in Delhi's Rohini

NEW DELHI: (May 25) A 21-year-old student died of a gunshot wound he accidentally inflicted on himself in North Delhi's Rohini, police said on Monday. Raja, a local, died on Sunday

at a party in Jain Nagar, they said. By the time the police reached the spot, the man had been taken by his friend to a local hospital. A critical Raja succumbed at the hospital.

Global study reveals high level of workplace harassment among women journalists in Bangladesh

DHAKA

As Bangladesh confronts workplace safety concerns, a new international study revealed that female journalists across the country are nearly six times more likely than their male counterparts to experience sexual harassment, with most incidents remaining unreported due to fears of career repercussions, local media reported. Covering 339 media professionals in Bangladesh, the survey found that 60 per cent of female respondents faced verbal sexual harassment, compared to 9 per cent of male respondents.

The findings are part of a multi-country study conducted by WAN-IFRA Women in News, City, St George's, University of London, and BBC Media Action, which surveyed over 2,800 media professionals across 21 countries. Bangladesh's leading newspaper, The Business Standard, reported.

As per the findings, 17 per cent of female media professionals had faced workplace sexual harassment, with more than half choosing not to report the incidents. It added that employers also failed to act in 43 per cent of reported cases.

The survey showed that 48 per cent of women experienced online sexual harassment related to work, compared with 15 per cent of men.

EAM Jaishankar, Japan FM discuss key areas of bilateral cooperation

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar discussed various facets of cooperation between India and Japan with his Japanese counterpart, Toshimitsu Motegi, in New Delhi on Monday. "Delighted to welcome FM Toshimitsu Motegi of Japan to New Delhi today. Held wide-ranging discussions on various facets of our cooperation, including economic security, trade, energy, supply chain resilience, shipping, technology, innovation, and people-to-people ties," EAM Jaishankar wrote on X. Both sides also shared views on global and regional developments, including the situation in West Asia and its implications. "Between India and Japan, of course, we have a Special Strategic and Global Partnership, and that signals that our ties have a larger implication, larger importance, and larger impact. One example of that will be tomorrow when we meet in the Quad format to discuss how to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific," EAM Jaishankar said in his opening remarks during the meeting with Motegi.



India, Canada negotiating trade pact with largest business delegation from India ever

OTTAWA

Maninder Sidhu, Canada's Minister of International Trade, said India and Canada are working towards a deal in Canada with the largest business delegation ever from India in history. During a joint statement by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Maninder Sidhu, Sidhu warmly welcomed Minister Goyal, saying, "there's a lot of excitement to do more with India in terms of our economic partnership."

He said he is hearing from the business communities across the country, from Chambers of Commerce, and from their stakeholders. He said Minister Goyal's visit is a very timely visit with the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and CAD 2.6 billion uranium deal in March.

Canadian police arrests 17 members of international criminal group targetting South Asian community

ONTARIO

The Extortion Task Force of Ontario's Peel region in Canada on Monday announced the arrest of 17 individuals, majority of whom have ties to an international criminal network known as 'For Brothers', which targeted South Asian business owners and community members across the region, not only in Canada but also the United States.

In yet another development highlighting Canada's ongoing crackdown on organised criminal networks, including Khalistani groups accused of running terror operations in India, the Peel Regional Police stated its Extortion Task Force has dismantled a coordinated campaign of intimidation, threats, and escalating violence used to extort local businesses.

"The organised criminal network is allegedly responsible for a series of targeted attacks against the Region of Peel's South Asian community. They are believed to have been active in Brampton, Mississauga, Caledon, and British Columbia, with links to California," read a statement issued by the police authorities.

It mentioned that, in December 2025, a Joint Forces Operation commenced, which included Peel Regional Police and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), along with Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC).

"Several businesses, including restaurants and trucking companies, were repeatedly targeted after refusing to comply with extortion



demands, highlighting the group's persistence and increasingly violent tactics. In one incident, investigators allege two of the accused were responsible for a shooting and arson at a residential address in Caledon, followed minutes later by a second shooting targeting a business in Brampton," the statement mentioned.

"Overall, the 17 accused are connected to 24 incidents. Of those, investigators linked 16 violent incidents associated with For Brothers, including arson and multiple shootings that involved 324 rounds discharged. In April 2026, investigators executed a series of search warrants across multiple locations, resulting in the arrest of the following 17 men, facing a total of 106 criminal charges," it added.

The police authorities said that six individuals charged by Peel Regional Police may face immigration

action, including possible removal from the country, after their criminal cases are finished.

"The accused include Iqbal Singh Bhargia, 25, of Brampton; Akashdeep Singh, 24, of Norval; Ravinder Singh, 25, of Surrey, B.C.; Jashanbir Singh, 21, of Surrey, B.C.; Dilawarpreet Singh, 26, of Brampton; Mandep Singh, 21, of Brampton; Prabhdeep Sohal, 22, of Brampton; Partapbir Ghuman, 22, of Brampton; Ajaydeep Singh, 29, of Brampton; Navroop Singh, 24, of Brampton; Rajan Singh, 28, of Barrie; Amritjot Singh, 22, of Brampton; Jashanpreet Singh, 22, of Brampton; Guneet Guneet, 27, of Brampton; Sukhwinder Singh, 32, of Brampton; Mohinder Singh, 30, of Brampton; and Gautam Gautam, 22, of Manteca, California," Peel Regional Police stated.

During the investigation, police also seized six firearms, illicit

drugs, multiple cell phones, SIM cards and fraudulent identification cards.

"These arrests reflect the coordinated efforts of Peel Regional Police and our law enforcement partners across jurisdictions to disrupt these networks and hold those responsible accountable. Extortion is not confined to one region but connected both nationally and internationally. Addressing it requires strong cross-border collaboration and intelligence-sharing among agencies. We recognise the fear and harm this has caused, particularly within the South Asian community, and remain committed to put a stop to these crimes and keep our communities safe," said Peel Regional Police chief Nishan Duraiappah.

On Monday, in an exclusive interview with IANS, India's High Commissioner to Canada, Dinesh K Patnaik, said that Canada has start-

ed taking India's security concerns seriously and is now acting against extremist and criminal networks linked to pro-Khalistan elements.

Patnaik said cooperation between Indian and Canadian security agencies had improved significantly in recent months, marking a sharp turnaround in bilateral ties that had deteriorated over the Nijjar controversy.

"There is closed cooperation in every sector especially the security issues," Patnaik told IANS in an interview. "Earlier, we were refusing to talk to each other. Right now we have a regular dialogue. The national security advisors had come and gone. They have had discussions. The agencies are talking to each other. The police forces are talking, the investigating agencies are talking." He said the two countries were now exchanging information and conducting joint operations.

"Everybody is talking to each other, exchanging information, doing joint operations together trying to make sure that both countries are safe for each other, that Canada is safe for India, and India is safe for Canada," he said.

Patnaik acknowledged that extremist groups still existed in Canada but said Ottawa no longer viewed the issue only through the prism of India's concerns.

"There is, of course, a small section in Canada, which is still mentally trying to put things down," he said. "But what we have managed in the last six months or seven months to do, and thanks to the close assistance of the Canadian side, especially Prime Minister Carney, is to again put them on the fringe, marginalise them."

Trump urges Pakistan to recognise Israel under Abraham Accords

NEW YORK

US President Donald Trump is pressuring Pakistan to recognise Israel and establish diplomatic relations with it as part of the Iran war settlement. Trump said in a Truth Social post on Monday that "it should be mandatory" for Pakistan to "sign onto the Abraham Accords", under which Muslim nations recognise Israel.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Türkiye, Egypt, and Jordan are the other countries from which he demanded acquiescence to the Abraham Accords.

Trump presented his demand as a quid pro quo for essentially waging the Iran war, which had been initiated by Israel, and for his attempts now to end it, writing, "after all the work done by the United States to try and pull this very complex puzzle together".

The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, which have also been drawn into the Iran conflict, had already signed the Abraham Accords launched in 2020 during Trump's first term. It is called the Abraham Accords because Muslims consider the God of the Jewish Prophet Abraham as their own supreme divinity, along with Christians. Morocco and Sudan are also members of the Accord, while two other countries, Kazakhstan and Somaliland, are reported to have agreed to join it. Pakistan has a deeply antagonistic relationship with Israel, dating

India holds curtain raiser events in several countries ahead of International Day of Yoga

TALLINN

The Embassy of India in Tallinn, Estonia, hosted a curtain raiser yoga session on Monday ahead of the 12th International Day of Yoga, which is observed worldwide on June 21 every year.

"The journey to the 12th International Day of Yoga has begun! The Embassy, in collaboration with the local partners in Saaremaa Island, Estonia, hosted a vibrant curtain raiser yoga session, which witnessed enthusiastic participation of local people and community leaders," wrote the Embassy of India in Tallinn on X on Monday. The High Commission of India in Ghana also organised two yoga sessions at the Presbyterian Cluster of Schools in Osu in partnership with Art of Living Ghana.

Meanwhile, in Bhutan, the Consul General of India in Phuentsholing visited

Samtse College of Education in preparation for the International Day of Yoga.

"Sucheta Chatterjee, Consul General of India in Phuentsholing, made her first visit to Samtse in the lead-up to the 12th International Day of Yoga celebrations at Samtse College of Education," the Consulate General of India wrote on X on Monday.

The High Commission of India in Gaborone, Botswana, organised a special yoga session on May 23, where people enthusiastically participated in the event. "As a curtain-raiser to the International Day of Yoga 2026, a special yoga session was organised at the High Commission of India, Gaborone, on 23 May 2026. Yoga enthusiasts from Gaborone, along with officers of the High Commission, enthusiastically participated in the event, celebrating the spirit of wellness, harmony, and mindfulness," the High Commission wrote on X on Monday.

China starts exerting geopolitical clout in Africa

NEW DELHI

China's influence in Africa now goes beyond economic projects to exerting diplomatic and political pressure on governments to toe the Beijing line when it comes to relations with other countries, according to an article.

"China's influence on the continent is no longer defined solely by infrastructure projects, mining investments, or trade deals. China's growing leverage is now expressed through diplomatic pressure, political signalling, and the ability to shape what governments, organisations, and even international conferences can and cannot do," the article in The Interpreter stated. It highlights China's "nasty criticism" of the landlocked African country of Eswatini for hosting Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te earlier this month, accusing the kingdom's leaders of being "kept and fed" by Taiwan.

Prior to this, China had reportedly prevailed on Seychelles, Mauritius, and Madagascar to revoke overflight permissions for Taiwan's plane. Lai then changed his travel plan and arrived in Eswatini aboard King Mswati III's private aircraft.

"Eswatini matters precisely because it remains Taiwan's last diplomatic partner in Africa. Over the past decade, China has successfully persuaded several African states to sever ties with Taiwan, often alongside expanded economic engagement and infrastructure cooperation. Taiwan now has formal relations with only 12 countries worldwide," the article pointed out.

Trump pushes Iran deal, Abraham Accords

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said negotiations with Iran were "proceeding nicely" and called for several Middle Eastern countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Pakistan, to join the Abraham Accords as part of a broader regional settlement. In an extended Truth Social post, Trump said the talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran could either result in a "Great Deal for all" or risk renewed conflict.

"It will only be a Great Deal for all or no Deal at all — Back to the Battlefield and shooting, but bigger and stronger than ever before — And nobody wants that!" Trump wrote. The remarks came after Trump announced over the weekend that a broad regional understanding involving Iran and multiple countries in the Middle East and South Asia was nearing finalisation.

Trump said he discussed the matter with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir Ahmed Shah, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Jordan's King Abdullah II, and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, among others. According to Trump, he told the leaders that countries participating in the negotiations should also sign onto the Abraham Accords, the U.S.-brokered framework aimed at normalising ties with Israel.

"I stated that, after all the work done by the United States to try and pull this very complex puzzle together, it should be man-



datory that all of these Countries, at a minimum, simultaneously sign onto the Abraham Accords," he wrote.

Trump specifically named Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Pakistan, Türkiye, Egypt, and Jordan as countries he wanted to join the accords. He noted that the UAE and Bahrain were already members. "It should start with the immediate signing by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and everybody else should follow suit," Trump said. "If they don't, they should not be part of this deal, as it shows bad intentions." Trump also suggested Iran itself could eventually become part of the Abraham Accords if a final nuclear and regional agreement is reached with Washington.

"In speaking to numerous of the Great Leaders mentioned above, they would be honored, as soon as our Document is signed, to have the Islamic Republic of Iran as part of the Abraham Accords," he wrote.

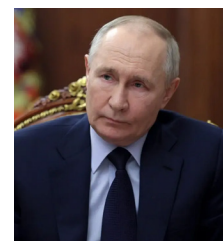
Putin signs law permitting use of army to protect Russians abroad

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law allowing the Russian army to protect Russian citizens abroad, local media reported. The law applies in the event of a citizen's arrest, criminal prosecution, or other legal action by foreign and international courts vested with jurisdiction without Russia's participation, Russia's state-owned TASS news agency reported.

The law also states that government agencies will, at the President's discretion, take measures to protect Russian citizens in the event of their arrest, criminal prosecution, or other legal action by foreign courts. The law was approved by the Federation Council at a plenary session and authorised by the State Duma.

Under existing laws, the Russian President already has the authority to deploy the country's armed forces to perform tasks beyond their intended purpose.



This comes amid the arrest of Hilarion Alfeyev, a retired bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church residing in the Czech Republic. He was arrested on Sunday after Czech police found containers with an unspecified substance in the boot of his car, according to a statement released by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The Russian Foreign Ministry is set to summon the head of the Czech diplomatic mission in Moscow in connection with the detention of Hilarion Alfeyev in Karlovy Vary. The Ministry said he was arrested in the Czech Republic on "trumped-up charges". According to the statement, the police conducted a personal search of Hilarion and his driver and tested them for narcotics, with negative results. "We regard this incident as a deliberate, orchestrated provocation aimed at denigrating both the Metropolitan himself and, through him,

Russia to summon head of Czech Embassy over detention of Hilarion Alfeyev

MOSCOW

The Russian Foreign Ministry is going to summon the head of the Czech diplomatic mission in Moscow in connection with the detention of Hilarion Alfeyev in Karlovy Vary, local media reported on Monday. Hilarion Alfeyev, a retired bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church residing in Czechia, was arrested on Sunday after Czech police found containers with an unspecified substance in the trunk of his car, according to a statement released by the Ministry.

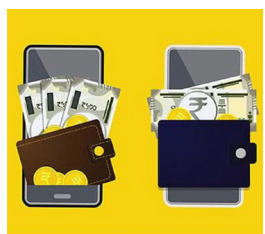
"The Russian Embassy will continue to provide him with all necessary assistance. The head of the Czech diplomatic mission in Moscow will be summoned to the Russian Foreign Ministry shortly, where a strong protest will be lodged against the Czech authorities' unacceptable, arbitrary actions," said the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova, Russia's state-owned Tass news agency reported. Alfeyev's place of service is designated as the Church of the Apostles Peter and Paul in Karlovy Vary. The Ministry said he was arrested in the Czech Republic on "trumped-up charges." According to the statement, the police station conducted a personal



Gujarat Govt Urges Public to Avoid Panic Fuel Buying

AHMEDABAD: (MAY 25)

The Gujarat government on Monday appealed to citizens to not indulge in panic buying of petrol and diesel, asserting that sufficient fuel stock is available across the state. Supplies remain normal despite rumours of shortages circulating on social media, it added. State government spokesperson and cabinet minister Jitu Vaghani said the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department is monitoring fuel availability round the clock and coordinating closely with oil marketing companies to maintain uninterrupted supply at petrol pumps.



Cashfree Payments Revenue Crosses ₹1,000 Cr in FY26

NEW DELHI: (MAY 25)

Fintech firm Cashfree Payments on Monday said it has achieved a revenue of around Rs 1,000 crore in FY26 and expects to post operational profit in the ongoing financial year. The company said that gross transaction value on its platform grew 78 per cent year-on-year in the March 2026 quarter. "Cashfree Payments...has achieved EBITDA profitability in March 2026 and is on track for full-year EBITDA profitability in FY27. The company also clocked in approximately Rs 1,000 crore in revenue in FY26," the company said in a statement.

ONGC onboards Technical Services Provider for enhancing production

NEW DELHI, 25 MAY 2026:

India's exploration and production (E&P) sector is critical to meeting the country's rising energy needs amid rapid economic growth. As the National Oil Company (NOC), ONGC plays a central role, accounting for about 75% of India's domestic crude oil and natural gas production. Mumbai Offshore Basin is ONGC's most prolific hydrocarbon-producing basin. The basin comprises 43 blocks, of which 28 blocks are under the nomination regime, with the balance under OALP / NELP / DSF regimes. Collectively, these blocks have contributed a substantial share of ONGC's crude oil and natural gas production and have remained under continuous development for over four decades. While ONGC continues to unlock new hydrocarbon resources through greenfield projects, enhancing recovery from mature fields remains equally important to raising domestic production. ONGC

from entire Western Offshore fields



entered into a Technical Services Provider (TSP) Contract with M/s BP Exploration Alpha Ltd. (BPXA) for the Mumbai High field (presently ~38% of total western offshore production O+OEG), which is the largest oil field of the Mumbai Offshore Basin, in early January 2025. Preliminary production data during the initial months of TSP implementation indicate moderation of the earlier decline trajectory

and stabilization of production. This has been achieved through focused Well, Reservoir and Facility Management (WRFM) initiatives, optimization of existing wells, enhanced surveillance, and prioritized facility de-bottlenecking. Building on this experience, ONGC decided to engage a Technical Services Provider for the entire Western Offshore (excluding the Mumbai High field) in line

with the existing TSP engaged for the MH field. Accordingly, ONGC issued an International Competitive Bidding (ICB) Tender for engagement of a TSP to enhance production from mature offshore oil and gas fields in the Mumbai Offshore Basin (excluding Mumbai High) through the induction of global technology, expertise, and best-in-class operational and management practices. All the major International Oil Companies were invited to participate. After the bid evaluation process, M/s BP Exploration Services India Limited (BPXS), UK, a wholly-owned step-down subsidiary of BP Plc, UK has been selected as TSP. The TSP will review the field performance & identify improvements in reservoir, facilities and wells to enhance production from Western Offshore fields (excluding MH field). TSP has indicated a substantial potential increase of ~ 10.8% in crude

Jawahar, IAS assumes charge as Chairman, MPEDA

KOCHI, MAY 25:

P. Jawahar, IAS (AGMUT Cadre, 2007 Batch), has assumed charge today as the Chairman of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), the apex body under the Government of India responsible for the promotion and development of India's marine products sector and seafood exports. An officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Shri P. Jawahar brings with him extensive administrative experience spanning multiple sectors including industries, commerce, education, elections administration, sustainable development, and public governance. Prior to taking charge as Chairman, MPEDA, he served as Chief Electoral Officer and Commissioner/Secretary to the Government of Puducherry, handling key departments including Industries & Commerce, Education, and Elections. Shri P. Jawahar also possesses a strong multidisciplinary academic background in agriculture, environmental science, and urban devel-



opment, which is expected to bring valuable perspectives to the sustainable and responsible development of India's seafood sector. His expertise is anticipated to further strengthen initiatives related to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, infrastructure development, value addition, export competitiveness, innovation, and global market expansion for Indian seafood products. Under his leadership, MPEDA looks forward to accelerating efforts towards enhancing India's position in the global seafood trade while ensuring sustainability, quality assurance, traceability, and livelihood support for stakeholders across the fisheries and aquaculture value chain.

Markets rally over 1% on Iran-US talks as crude oil falls below \$100

The S&P BSE Sensex surged 1,073.61 points, or 1.42%, to settle at 76,488.96, while the NSE Nifty50 jumped 250.30 points, or 1.06%, to close at 23,969.60.



Investor sentiment improved after US President Donald Trump said Washington and Iran had "largely negotiated" a memorandum of understanding on a peace deal that could reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy shipping route. The development raised hopes of easing supply disruptions and lower energy costs. Crude oil prices declined sharply, with Brent crude falling 5.65% to \$97.69 per barrel, while WTI crude slipped 5.76% to \$91.04 per barrel. The Indian rupee also strengthened 0.5% to

95.23 against the US dollar by the close of trade, compared to its previous close of 95.69. Broader markets outperformed benchmark indices, with the Nifty Midcap 100 rising 0.94% and the Nifty Smallcap 100 gaining 1.37%. India VIX, the volatility index, dropped 6.74%, indicating easing market nervousness. Among sectoral indices, Nifty PSU Bank emerged as the top gainer, climbing 2.90%, while Nifty Financial Services rose 2.18% and Nifty Private Bank advanced 2.09%. Nifty Auto gained 1.71%, while Nifty Realty climbed 1.50%. Nifty Consumer Durables and Nifty Oil & Gas also ended firmly higher. On the Sensex pack, Bajaj Finance led the gainers, rising 2.80%. Larsen and

Toubrro climbed 2.71%, while HDFC Bank gained 2.67%. Eternal Ltd advanced 2.40%, and Bajaj Finserv rose 2.37%. State Bank of India, ICI Bank and Mahindra and Mahindra also ended with strong gains. On the losing side, Infosys declined 0.49%, Tata Consultancy Services fell 0.41%, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries slipped 0.21%, and Hindustan Unilever edged down 0.07%. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "Markets witnessed strong positive momentum, driven by a correction in crude oil prices amid rising expectations of a potential US-Iran deal. Global sentiment improved on reports of progress towards reopening the Strait of Hormuz, although credibility remains uncertain

given frequent shifts in developments." "The rally was led by large caps, supported by relatively attractive valuations versus long-term averages. On the sectoral front, financials outperformed on the back of strong Q4 earnings, while autos remained constructive," he added. Nair further said, "Realty also saw renewed interest following its recent sharp correction. On the macro front, global yields softened modestly, while rupee depreciation appears to have stabilised, aided by RBI commentary highlighting that the INR is undervalued, though it is early to confirm a sustained trend." "Sustainability of this momentum will depend on a credible de-escalation in geopolitical tensions and continued stability in crude oil prices," he added.



Silver jumps over Rs 4,000

Why is it glittering more than gold?

Silver prices sparked in the domestic market on Monday, jumping by more than Rs 4,000 and outperforming gold amid a weaker US dollar, easing crude oil prices and hopes of a possible US-Iran peace deal. But what exactly is making silver shine brighter than gold right now?

opened on a cautiously positive note. Falling crude oil prices, a stronger rupee and hopes of easing geopolitical tensions helped improve investor confidence. With concerns around inflation and energy costs easing slightly, investors appeared more willing to take positions in metals like silver. Experts believe silver is currently benefiting from a mix of safe-haven demand and improving market sentiment, something that is helping it shine brighter than gold in the near term.

WHAT EXPERTS ARE SAYING

Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said silver has shown resilience despite ongoing market swings. "MCX Silver opened with a mild gap up and is currently holding above the Rs 2,76,000 mark, reflecting steady price action amid ongoing volatility," he said. According to him, silver could see further upside if key levels are crossed. "A sustained move above Rs 2,77,000 could help stabilise prices and trigger a recovery towards the Rs 2,79,000-Rs 2,80,000 range," Ponmudi R explained. However, he also warned investors to watch downside levels closely. "On the downside, a break below Rs 2,73,000 may drag prices back towards the Rs 2,70,000-Rs 2,68,000 zone. The near-term bias remains cautious with a mildly positive undertone, while a decisive breakout above resistance levels is required to improve momentum further," he added.

WHY SILVER IS RISING FASTER THAN GOLD

Silver often behaves differently from gold. While both metals are seen as safe-haven assets during uncertain times, silver also has strong industrial demand. It is widely used in sectors such as solar energy, electronics and electric vehicles. This means silver tends to benefit not only from investor buying but also from optimism around economic growth. On Monday, silver prices got an additional boost as the US dollar weakened. A softer dollar usually makes commodities like silver and gold cheaper for international buyers, increasing demand. Another factor helping silver was the sharp fall in crude oil prices. Markets turned optimistic after reports suggested possible progress in peace talks between the US and Iran. If a deal is reached, it could ease fears over oil supply disruptions and help cool global energy prices.

GLOBAL CUES LIFT MARKET MOOD

The broader market also

Why 71% of Indians Are Cutting Down Outings

For many Indians, a quick drive, weekend outing or casual trip may no longer feel as easy on the pocket as before. As fuel costs continue to rise, households across the country appear to be rethinking how often they step out, but what exactly is driving this change?

For many households, rising petrol and diesel prices are no longer just numbers on fuel station boards — they are slowly

changing monthly budgets, travel plans and even spending habits. After four fuel price hikes in May, many consumers say the impact is now being felt not only while filling up tanks but also through higher prices of everyday products and services.

In fact, families across India are already adjusting their routines to cope with rising costs, with many planning to cut back on non-essential travel and outings, according to a survey by LocalCircles. After staying unchanged for several weeks, petrol and diesel



prices have gone up four times in May 2026. The latest increase on May 25 pushed petrol prices higher by Rs 2.61 per litre and diesel prices by Rs 2.71 per litre across major cities. Altogether, between

May 15 and May 25, petrol prices have risen by Rs 7.35 per litre, while diesel prices have increased by Rs 7.53 per litre. Oil marketing companies have linked the price rise to growing losses caused by higher global crude oil prices, supply worries and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

RIISING FUEL PRICES AFFECT HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS

According to the survey, many households are already seeing a rise in daily costs due to repeated fuel price hikes. When asked how

the increase in petrol and diesel prices had affected their household budgets, 55% of respondents said transportation costs had gone up. Another 55% said prices of some products had increased, while 50% said certain services had become more expensive. Overall, nearly five in ten consumers surveyed said the repeated fuel price increases had affected their household budget through higher costs of transport, products and services. At the same time, 30% of respondents said they had not experienced much impact so far.

CONSUMERS PLAN TO REDUCE TRAVEL

As fuel costs rise, many people are also changing how they travel and spend. The survey found that 71% of respondents plan to reduce non-essential travel and outings to manage rising petrol and diesel expenses. About 35% said they would combine multiple errands into fewer trips to save fuel. Around 29% said they would shift to cheaper travel options such as public transport, vehicle pooling, bikes or lower-cost app-based services.

Tata Sons Board Meet Today: Key Focus Areas

The Tata Sons board is set to meet tomorrow, May 26, at a time when several important questions surround the group's future. Although no formal details have been shared, the outcome of the meeting could be closely watched for hints about the group's next phase of growth.

The Tata Sons board meeting scheduled for May 26 is expected to be closely watched, with several important matters hanging in the balance for the salt-to-software conglomerate. While the group has not publicly shared the agenda, discussions around leadership continuity, regulatory uncertainty and the future direction of some businesses are likely to remain in focus.

Here are three key things to watch out for.

WILL N CHANDRASEKARAN GET ANOTHER TERM?

One of the biggest questions is whether Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, better known as Chandra, could be considered for another term. Chandrasekaran took charge of Tata Sons in February 2017 following a turbulent phase for the group. His first five-year term was renewed in 2022, and his current tenure runs until February next year. Even so, the issue remains under watch because his reappointment did not move forward earlier this year, fuelling speculation over whether discussions are still continuing behind closed doors. Under Chandrasekaran, the Tata Group expanded aggressively into aviation, elec-



tronics and digital businesses. But those bets have also brought financial pressure, particularly after the group's heavy investments in Air India and Tata Digital. Much could depend on the stance taken by Tata Trusts, the group's largest shareholder.

THE NOEL TATA FACTOR

Another key issue is the growing focus on Noel Tata's role within the group. Noel

Tata, the half-brother of late industrialist Ratan Tata, became Chairman of Tata Trusts in October 2024. Tata Trusts owns nearly 66% of Tata Sons and can nominate one-third of the company's board members, giving it significant influence over major decisions. However, reports have suggested differences within Tata Trusts over some key issues, particularly on whether Tata Sons should remain privately held or eventually go public. While Noel Tata is believed to favour keeping Tata Sons unlisted, some senior figures, including Venu Srinivasan, are understood to support a future listing. The differences may not trigger immediate decisions, but they could influence the group's longer-term direction.

WILL TATA SONS HAVE TO GO PUBLIC?

Regulatory uncertainty remains another major issue hanging over Tata Sons. The company was classified as an upper-layer non-banking financial company (NBFC), a category that generally requires mandatory stock market listing. In recent years, Tata Sons has taken steps to reduce its NBFC exposure and has sought regulatory relief. However, a final decision is still awaited. A revised framework expected from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) could play a key role in deciding whether Tata Sons will eventually need to list or continue operating as a privately held company. The debate around a possible listing has gained momentum as the group continues investing heavily in aviation, digital platforms and manufacturing businesses that require large

and steady funding. Those supporting a future IPO believe a listing could improve financial flexibility, increase transparency and address long-standing liquidity concerns raised by minority shareholder Shapoorji Pallonji Group. While there is still no formal IPO plan or timeline, growing internal discussions and awaited regulatory clarity suggest Tata Sons may be approaching an important turning point. Why the meeting matters Leadership continuity, succession dynamics and regulatory pressure are all becoming increasingly difficult to ignore at Tata Sons. Even if no major announcements emerge immediately, the discussions inside Bombay House tomorrow could shape the future direction of one of India's biggest business groups.



CRICKET

Kusal Mendis named Sri Lanka's white-ball captain for WI tour



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has appointed Kusal Mendis as the white-ball captain for next month's all-format tour of the West Indies. This decision represents a major shift in leadership ahead of an important overseas assignment. Mendis, who plays as a wicketkeeper-batter, will lead Sri Lanka in both the ODI and T20I series. He replaces Charith Asalanka and Dasun Shanaka in those roles. Dhananjaya de Silva will continue as captain of the Test side for the two-match series. Sri Lanka Cricket announced the squads on social media. The statement said, "Sri Lanka Cricket's Selection Panel has selected the following squads for Sri Lanka's Tour of the West Indies 2026. The tour will feature matches across all three formats - ODI, T20I, and Test cricket." This leadership change comes after Sri Lanka's disappointing T20 World Cup campaign earlier this year.

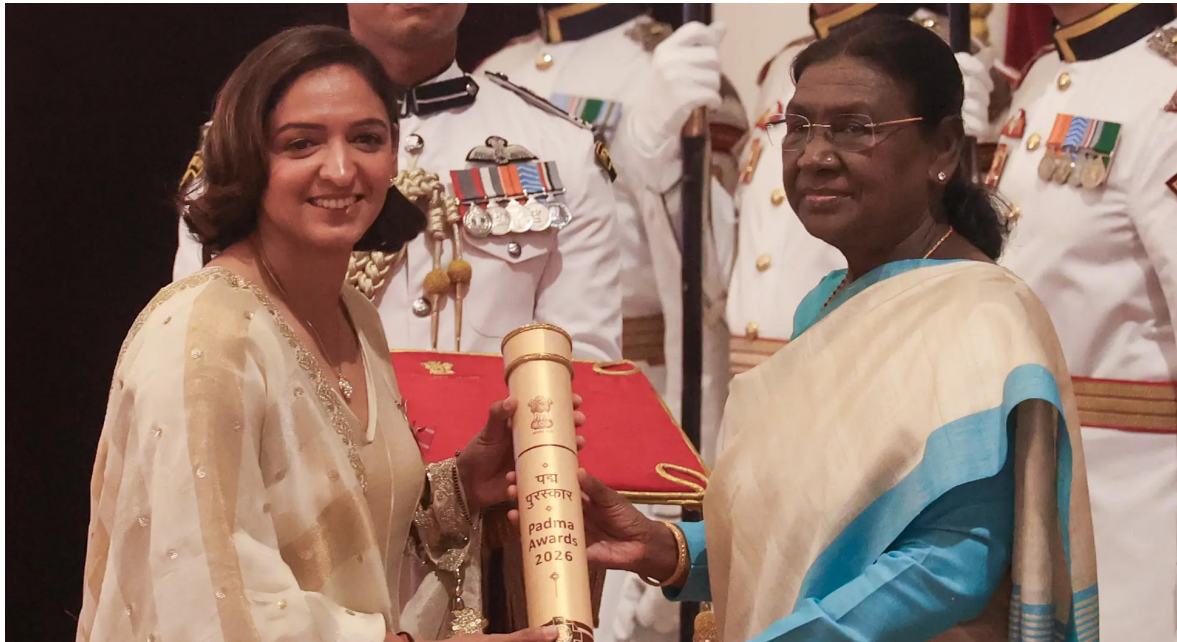
CRICKET

Murugan Ashwin announces retirement from domestic cricket



NEW DELHI: Indian leg-spinner Murugan Ashwin announced his retirement from domestic cricket and the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Monday, bringing the curtain down on a career that saw him represent multiple IPL franchises and Tamil Nadu across formats. In a detailed statement shared on Instagram, the 35-year-old reflected on his cricketing journey, his rise through Tamil Nadu cricket and his experiences in the IPL. "Since I started playing cricket at the age of six, I have been deeply in love with the game, and it has blessed me abundantly. Cricket has shaped me into the person I am today and allowed me to truly express myself on the field. It's been an incredible ride so far, and on that note, I would like to share an update with you all," Ashwin wrote in an Instagram post.

'From a young girl with dreams to representing India': Harmanpreet expresses



NEW DELHI

India women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur expressed gratitude to her family, teammates, coaches and fans after being conferred the Padma Shri by President Droupadi Murmu on Monday. Harmanpreet was among the select sportspersons honoured during the first Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, where Padma awards across categories were presented. Former India men's captain Rohit Sharma was also among the recipients, making them the only two cricketers included in the 2026 honours list.

Shortly after receiving the award, Harmanpreet shared an emotional message on Instagram reflecting on her journey from a young aspiring cricketer to captaining India on the global stage. "Today, my heart is filled with gratitude and pride as I receive the prestigious Padma Shri honour. This recognition is not just mine — it belongs to my

parents, family, coaches, teammates, friends and every single person who supported and believed in me throughout this journey. From a young girl with dreams in her eyes to representing India on the biggest stages, every moment has been possible because of your love, sacrifices and encouragement," she wrote while sharing a picture from the ceremony.

The India captain also thanked the President of India, the government and cricketing institutions for their continued support towards women's cricket.

"I would like to sincerely thank the Hon'ble @presidentofindia, Government of India, Sports Authority of India, BCCI and everyone associated with Indian cricket for this incredible honour and for continuously supporting women's cricket. A heartfelt thank you to the media, journalists and all those who acknowledged my achievements and shared my journey with the world. Your appreciation and support

have always motivated me to do better," she penned.

Her recognition comes after a landmark phase in Indian women's cricket under her leadership. In 2025, Harmanpreet captained India to their maiden ODI Women's World Cup title on home soil, defeating South Africa in the final and ending years of heartbreak in ICC events. The victory came during her fifth World Cup appearance and marked one of the defining achievements of her international career.

In her message, Harmanpreet also acknowledged the unwavering support she has received from cricket fans over the years. "And finally, thank you to every fan who stood by me through every high and low.

Your love means everything to me. Wearing the India jersey will always remain the greatest honour of my life, and I will continue giving my best for the country every single day. Grateful beyond words," she concluded.



French Open: Amanda Anisimova overcomes rusty start to storm into Rd 2

PARIS

Amanda Anisimova shook off early rustiness after an eight-week injury layoff to defeat France's Tiantsoa Rakotomanga Rajaonah 6-3, 6-1 and move into the second round of the French Open on Monday.

Playing her first match since suffering a left wrist injury and missing the entire clay-court season leading into Paris, the American initially struggled to find rhythm on Court Suzanne-Lenglen. For the opening five games, Anisimova looked far from comfortable, dropping serve twice and battling inconsistency during extended rallies.

The 23-year-old, however, gradually rediscovered the aggressive baseline game that once carried her to the French Open semifinals as a teenager in 2019. After a shaky opening stretch, Anisimova completely took control of the contest, winning 11 of the next 12 games to wrap up victory in just one hour and nine minutes. The win marked her 15th career match victory at the French Open and offered

an encouraging sign for the two-time Grand Slam finalist after an interrupted clay campaign. Rakotomanga Rajaonah, competing in just the third Grand Slam main-draw match of her career, began brightly and capitalised on Anisimova's uncertain start. The Frenchwoman broke serve twice early in the first set after the American produced double faults in the 1-1 and 2-2 service games. The 20-year-old left-hander, who claimed her maiden WTA Tour title in Sao Paulo last September, used her spin-heavy patterns and defensive resilience to frustrate Anisimova during the early exchanges. She also effectively saved pressure moments at the start, while Anisimova struggled to settle.

But once the American sharpened her return, the momentum shifted decisively. Anisimova began stepping inside the baseline with greater authority and consistently attacked Rakotomanga Rajaonah's serve, eventually winning nearly 70 per cent of the points on the French player's

delivery during the match. Despite finishing with 24 winners and 24 unforced errors, Anisimova's numbers reflected how dramatically her level improved after the opening set, where 14 of those errors were committed.

Rakotomanga Rajaonah entered the French Open, enduring a difficult second season on tour, arriving with a 1-11 win-loss record in 2026. Her only previous Grand Slam appearances had come at last year's Grand Slam event and at the Australian Open earlier this season, where she lost to Aryna Sabalenka in the opening round.

Anisimova will next face Austria's Julia Grabher, who defeated Slovak qualifier Rebecca Sramkova in straight sets to secure her first Grand Slam match victory in two years following her own serious wrist injury setback.

Grabher, who is closing in on a return to the top 100 in the WTA rankings, brings a strong clay-court pedigree into the second-round clash, having won 15 ITF clay titles during her career.

MPL 2026 unveils vibrant team jerseys ahead of new season

BHOPAL

The jerseys for all 10 men's franchises and five women's teams participating in the upcoming Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) T20 Scindia Cup 2026 were officially unveiled on Monday at Taj Lakefront, Bhopal, in a grand ceremony.

Each team introduced vibrant and uniquely designed jerseys that reflected the identity, culture and spirit of their respective regions, adding excitement ahead of what promises to be the biggest edition of the MPL so far.

Speaking on the occasion, MPCA president Mahanarayana Scindia highlighted the rapid growth of the tournament and the league's larger vision for cricket in Madhya Pradesh. "The jersey unveiling marks the beginning of another

exciting chapter for the Madhya Pradesh League. The MPL has grown into much more than just a cricket tournament — it has become a true celebration of emerging talent and the passion for cricket across Madhya Pradesh. Every season, the league gives young players a valuable platform to showcase their skills, gain exposure, and take important steps forward in their careers.

This year's jerseys beautifully reflect the unique identity, culture, and regional pride of the teams they represent, creating a stronger connection between the players, the fans, and their cities. With the tournament expanding further this year, we are proud to see MPL continuing to contribute to the growth of cricket in the state and inspire the next generation of cricketers," he said.

AC Milan sack Massimiliano Allegri after Champions League failure

NEW DELHI

AC Milan have sacked head coach Massimiliano Allegri after the club's failure to reach the Champions League, which has brought a premature close to an "unqualified failure" of a season according to the club owners.

Milan's chances of a return to the top tier of European club football were put to an end after a 2-1 defeat to Cagliari Calcio in their final match of the Serie A season. The Rossoneri dropped from third to fifth in the league table and as a result failed to reach the Champions League for a second season running.

As such Inter Milan, SSC Napoli, AS Roma and debutants Como 1907 were Italy's representatives in the Cham-



pions League, with Milan being relegated to the Europa League along with Juventus FC. In their statement, RedBird Capital Partners - Milan's owners - claimed that the season had failed to reach the levels required.

"We've been at the top two of the league table for the vast majority of the season with legitimate hopes for winning the Scudetto," said the statement.

"Our inconsistent finish has completely undone the

performance so far and this disastrous result in the last match has turned this into an unequivocal failure.

"It is now time for a total overhaul and a change of management within the football side of the op-

erations." The removal of Allegri follows a raft of departures from the club with CEO Giorgio Furlani, Sporting Director Igli Tare and Technical Director Geoffrey Moncada all leaving Milan with him. The 58-year-old had been brought back to the club last year as a replacement for Sergio Conceicao. During his initial reign with the Milanese giants from 2010 to 2014, Allegri guided them to the Serie A title in the 2010-11 season along with lifting the Italian Super Cup in 2011.

Milan's season disintegrated at the end with seven of their last 14 league matches being lost with neighbours Inter Milan going on to win their second successive league title.

MP's Samardeep Gill clinches shot put gold, qualifies for CWG

RANCHI

Madhya Pradesh's 25-year-old shot putter Samardeep Singh Gill outclassed seasoned Punjab thrower Tajinderpal Singh Toor to clinch gold in the men's shot put event and secure qualification for the Commonwealth Games on the final day of the 29th National Senior Athletics Federation Competition at Birsu Munda Stadium on Monday.

Two-time Asian Games champion Toor opened strongly with a throw of 20.07m, but Gill produced the decisive effort in his fourth attempt, registering 20.46m to move ahead and eventually seal the gold medal. Toor failed to recover the lead, managing 20.06m in his final attempt. Punjab's Karanveer Singh finished third with 19.38m. Gill also breached the Commonwealth Games qualification mark of 20.36m. In the men's 400m hurdles, Karnataka's Yashas P and NCOE Trivandrum athlete Santhosh Kumar T also booked



Commonwealth Games berths after clocking below the qualification standard of 50.27 seconds. Yashas won gold in 49.00 seconds, while Santhosh Kumar finished a close second in 49.06 seconds. Navy's Subhas Das took bronze with 50.51 seconds. The men's javelin title went to Maharashtra's promising thrower Shivam Lohakare, who registered a best throw of 81.71m.

Rajasthan's Yashvir Singh claimed silver with 80.80m, while Railway Sports' Rohit Yadav secured bronze with 80.40m. However, none of the competitors crossed the CWG qualification mark of 82.61m.

French Open: Svitolina battles past Bondar in dramatic first-round clash

PARIS

Elina Svitolina had to overcome a difficult first round test at the French Open on Monday as she came back from a set down to beat Anna Bondar 3-6 6-1 7-6(3) in two hours and 26 minutes of compelling tennis at Roland Garros.

The win ensured that the World No. 7 progresses to the second round at Roland Garros for a 13th consecutive year, while ending a three-match losing streak against Bondar in what has become an unlikely narrative, but in many ways, the most intriguing repeat match-up on the WTA Tour.

Monday's match was the fifth time the two women had met in the space of 12 months, with four of these encounters coming at Grand Slams. In spite of the difference in their rankings, Svitolina has found Bondar to be a consistent irritant in the last 12 months and the evolving rivalry is perhaps one of the more curious stories in women's tennis.

After dropping the first set, Svitolina finally started to produce tennis on par with her ranking in the second, rediscovering her groove from the back of the court and repeatedly targeting



the movement of her Hungarian opponent, who also had to battle back from five break points down in a crucial service game to stay level at 3-1, to eventually bring the set level.

The final set provided the first time the two women had battled it out to a three-set deciding rubber after each

of their previous four encounters had been decided in two. When Svitolina broke to take a 5-3 advantage, the Ukrainian looked on course to serve for the match, but Bondar fought back valiantly, winning 12 of the next 13 points to establish a 6-5 lead.

However, the experienced

Ukrainian regrouped well, holding to love, and forced the first 10-point match tiebreak of the tournament.

Svitolina then took over completely from there, the four-time French Open quarter-finalist streaking ahead and eventually taking the first five of the first six points, to seal the tiebreak on her second match point opportunity, having created seven match points on serve.

The match was perhaps just another development of the escalating rivalry between Svitolina and Bondar. Bondar had won their two most recent meetings - at the Madrid Open this year and at the US Open last year, and it was the third successive win for Svitolina over her opponents following victories in the latter rounds at Wimbledon and the French Open last year.

However, this time it provided a much closer and far more dramatic affair. Svitolina will next meet the qualifier Kaitlin Quevedo, making her Grand Slam main draw debut and currently on a nine-match winning streak following her title triumph in ITF 100 Saint-Gaudens and success through qualification for this tournament.

Wawrinka's last campaign ends with emotional loss

PARIS

Swiss star Stan Wawrinka bid an emotional farewell to the French Open on Monday as the 2015 champion bowed out of what is expected to be his final French Open campaign after a four-set first-round defeat to Dutchman Jesper de Jong. The Swiss veteran, who has already indicated that he plans to retire at the end of the season, was hoping for one final memorable run on the Paris clay where he famously lifted the title a decade ago. Instead, his campaign came to an end in front of an emotional crowd on Court Simonne Mathieu. Wawrinka went down 3-6, 6-3, 3-6, 4-6 in a contest that lasted just over three hours, but the scoreline only told part of the story as fans repeatedly rose to celebrate one of the most admired figures of his generation. Despite temperatures soaring above 30 degrees Celsius, the stands remained packed for the former world No. 3's final appearance at the French Open, with supporters roaring him on through every point.



There is something magical about trekking in India during the monsoon. The same dry trails suddenly turn lush green, waterfalls appear

out of nowhere, and every mountain looks fresh and alive. For travellers who love nature at its best, the monsoon is one of the most beautiful

times to explore India's trekking routes. Here are some incredible monsoon treks across India that deserve a spot on your travel list.

1. Valley Of Flowers National Park, Uttarakhand

The Valley of Flowers is one of India's most famous monsoon treks, and once you see it, you will understand why. This beautiful valley in Uttarakhand opens up every year during the monsoon months, usually from July to September, when thousands of flowers bloom. The trek usually takes around 4 to 6 days, depending on your pace and route. It is not extremely difficult, which makes it a great choice even for people who are fairly new to trekking. What makes it special is the view. It is perfect for travellers who want beauty without an extreme challenge.

2. Hampta Pass, Himachal Pradesh

Hampta Pass is one of the most exciting monsoon treks in India. The trek usually takes 4 to 5 days and is considered moderate, which means beginners can do it if they prepare well. The journey starts in the lush

green valleys of Kullu and slowly climbs into the rocky mountain deserts near Lahaul.

Monsoon makes the green side of this trek especially beautiful. The waterfalls become stronger, the rivers sparkle, and clouds drift across the valleys. The river crossings also add excitement. If you want a trek that feels adventurous and offers completely different landscapes in one trip, Hampta Pass is an excellent choice.

3. Rajmachi Fort, Maharashtra

Rajmachi is one of Maharashtra's most loved monsoon treks and is perfect for weekend travellers coming from Mumbai or Pune. The trek usually takes around 5 to 6 hours, depending on the route you choose, and it is considered easy to moderate. What makes Rajmachi so popular during monsoon is the way the entire Sahyadri range turns bright green. The fort itself is historic and offers amazing

views of the surrounding valleys. The route is not too difficult, which makes it ideal for beginners. Add some hot tea and local snacks from nearby villages, and it becomes the perfect monsoon escape.

4. Kudremukh, Karnataka

Kudremukh is one of South India's most beautiful trekking destinations. Located in Karnataka's Western Ghats, this trek usually takes around 8 to 10 hours for a full round trip and is moderate in difficulty. The mountain gets its name because its shape looks like a horse's face. During the monsoon, this place becomes unbelievably beautiful.

The trek takes you through forests, open grasslands, and steep slopes before reaching the summit. Once you reach the top, the endless green hills stretching into the mist are breathtaking. If you want to see the Western Ghats at their absolute best, this trek should be on your list.

8 Best Monsoon Treks

5. Sinhagad Fort, Maharashtra

If you are looking for a short and simple monsoon trek, Sinhagad is a perfect option. Located near Pune, this trek takes around 2 to 3 hours and is easy enough for beginners and families. The fort is known for its connection to Maratha history, especially the bravery of Tanaji Malusare. But during the monsoon, it becomes even more attractive. The climb is pleasant and rewarding, with beautiful viewpoints all along the way. Once at the top, you can enjoy local food like hot pakoras and curd while looking out over the valleys below. It is ideal

for people who want a quick monsoon adventure without needing days of planning.

6. Tarsar Marsar Trek, Jammu And Kashmir

Tarsar Marsar is one of Kashmir's most beautiful treks and feels like walking through a dream. This trek usually takes around 6 to 7 days and is moderate to difficult, making it better for people with some trekking experience. During monsoon and late summer, everything is at its greenest and freshest.

The biggest highlight is camping beside the stunning Tarsar and Marsar lakes. Watching the clouds reflect

on the water while the mountains stand silently around you is an unforgettable sight. This trek is perfect for travellers who want peace, natural beauty, and an experience far from crowded tourist spots.

7. Chembra Peak, Kerala

Chembra Peak is one of Kerala's most loved trekking destinations. Located in Wayanad, this moderate trek usually takes around 4 to 5 hours. It is most famous for its natural heart-shaped lake. During the monsoon, the entire area becomes fresh and green.

The weather is cool and pleasant, making the climb

comfortable. As you move higher, the views become more and more beautiful, with rolling green hills stretching in every direction. This trek is perfect for people looking for a peaceful monsoon adventure with some truly stunning views.

8. Sandakphu Trek, West Bengal

Sandakphu is one of India's most rewarding mountain treks. Usually completed in 6 to 8 days, this moderate trek is famous for offering views of some of the tallest peaks in the world, including Mount Everest and Kanchenjunga. During the monsoon, the forests along

the trail become fresh and green.

The route passes through quiet villages where trekkers can rest and experience local culture. This adds warmth and charm to the adventure. Sandakphu is perfect for travellers who want both incredible Himalayan scenery and a deeper connection to mountain life.

Monsoon trekking is about walking through clouds, listening to rainfall in the forests, and watching nature come alive around you. If you enjoy adventure, peace, and unforgettable views, you should not miss these monsoon treks.



6 Local Experiences to Try in Bangkok

Bangkok is often explored through its biggest attractions - ornate temples, shopping districts, and buzzing nightlife. While these experiences define the city for many first-time visitors, they are only part of what Bangkok has to offer. Spend

a little more time here, and you will start noticing a different rhythm in its quieter neighbourhoods, riverside communities, and everyday street life. Away from packed itineraries and crowded landmarks, the city begins to feel more personal and

immersive. It is in these lesser-known experiences that Bangkok reveals a side many travellers often overlook. If you are visiting Bangkok, here are some things you shouldn't miss for a more local experience.

1. Explore Talad Noi's Old Alleys And Street Art

Talad Noi is one of Bangkok's oldest neighbourhoods, known for its narrow lanes, old Chinese-style houses, hidden cafes, and vibrant street art.

What makes it different:

Less crowded than major tourist districts Vintage garages and old mechanic workshops Riverside cafes and local eateries Great area for slow walks and photography

The neighbourhood still retains its old-world charm despite the city's rapid modernisation, making it ideal for travellers looking to explore beyond polished tourist zones.

2. Take A Local Ferry Instead Of A Tourist Cruise

Rather than booking expensive dinner cruises, many locals prefer using public river ferries along the Chao Phraya River.

Why travellers enjoy it:

Much cheaper than private cruises Offers views of local riverside life Stops near lesser-known neighbourhoods and temples Feels more authentic and less commercialised Ferries also connect several key landmarks, making them both practical and scenic for exploring the city at your own pace.

3. Visit The Flower Market Late At Night

Pak Khlong Talat is Bangkok's largest flower market and operates round the clock, with peak activity often taking place late at night and before dawn.

You will find:

Massive stacks of orchids, roses, and marigolds Wholesale flower trading activity after midnight A quieter, more local atmosphere compared to daytime

The market becomes especially lively overnight, when fresh flowers arrive in bulk, offering a glimpse into the city's daily trade and cultural rhythms.

4. Spend Time In Bangkok's Hidden Cafes

Bangkok's cafe culture extends far beyond Instagram-famous spots. Several neighbourhoods have independent cafes tucked inside old homes, courtyards, and restored buildings.

Areas worth exploring include:

Ari
Phra Nakhon
Talad Noi

These cafes focus more on ambience, design, and slow dining, often offering a quieter, more relaxed experience compared to busy, tourist-heavy locations.

5. Explore Bang Krachao, Bangkok's 'Green Lung'

Located across the Chao Phraya River, Bang Krachao is often referred to as Bangkok's 'green lung' due to its dense greenery and natural landscape.

Popular activities include:

Renting bicycles and exploring shaded pathways Visiting weekend floating markets Exploring parks and small local communities The area feels noticeably cooler and quieter than central Bangkok, offering a refreshing break from traffic, high-rise buildings, and city noise.

6. Eat At Local Neighbourhood Food Stalls

Instead of sticking only to famous food streets, explore smaller residential areas where locals eat daily.

Some things worth trying:

Boat noodles, Thai omelette rice
Mango sticky rice
Grilled seafood from roadside stalls
Neighbourhood food spots are often more affordable, less crowded, and give you a more authentic taste of everyday Thai cuisine.

Quick Travel Tips

Visit early mornings or late evenings to avoid crowds and heat Wear com-

fortable footwear for walking through neighbourhoods Carry cash for ferries, markets, and street food stalls

Best Time To Visit Bangkok

The ideal time to visit Bangkok is between November and February, when the weather is relatively cooler and less humid. Summers can be extremely hot, while monsoon months often bring heavy rainfall.

How To Get Around Bangkok Easily

Use the BTS Skytrain and MRT for fast, reliable travel across the city River ferries are useful for exploring riverside areas Ride-hailing apps are often more convenient than negotiating tuk-tuks Walking works best in smaller neighbourhoods and market areas Sometimes, the best travel experiences are not the ones planned in advance, but the ones you discover along the way. Step beyond the usual attractions, and Bangkok begins to reveal a side that feels quieter, more local, and deeply enriching.



Vacation Every 2 Months May Boost Productivity, Cut Stress

In today's fast-paced work culture, where long hours and constantly being online often blur the boundaries between professional and personal life, taking time off is no longer just a luxury - it is increasingly seen as essential. But how often should one actually step away to recharge? A recent study offers a compelling answer, suggesting that instead of waiting for a single long holiday, travellers may benefit more from taking shorter, more frequent breaks spread across the year.

A 2025 study titled Maximising Recovery: The Superiority of Frequent Vacations for Well-Being and Performance highlights that regular short vacations, ideally every two

months, can play a significant role in reducing stress levels, improving overall health, and preventing burnout. Why Frequent Breaks Are Essential For You According to the research, ongoing work demands gradually deplete both physical and mental resources. This can manifest as elevated cortisol levels, cognitive fatigue, and emotional exhaustion. Over time, a lack of recovery increases the risk of burnout and negatively impacts both productivity and health. Vacations act as structured pauses that interrupt this cycle. By stepping away from daily pressures, individuals allow their bodies and minds to recover, making it easier to return to work with renewed energy and clarity.

helps prevent the build-up of stress and ensures more consistent recovery throughout the year.

Do Not Work On Holiday
If you are a ZNMD movie fan, don't be an Arjun (Hrithik Roshan) on a trip, no matter how much you can relate or empathise with the character. The research emphasises the need for complete disconnection from work during time off. Avoiding emails, calls, and work-related communication enables what experts call "psychological detachment", which is critical for effective recovery.

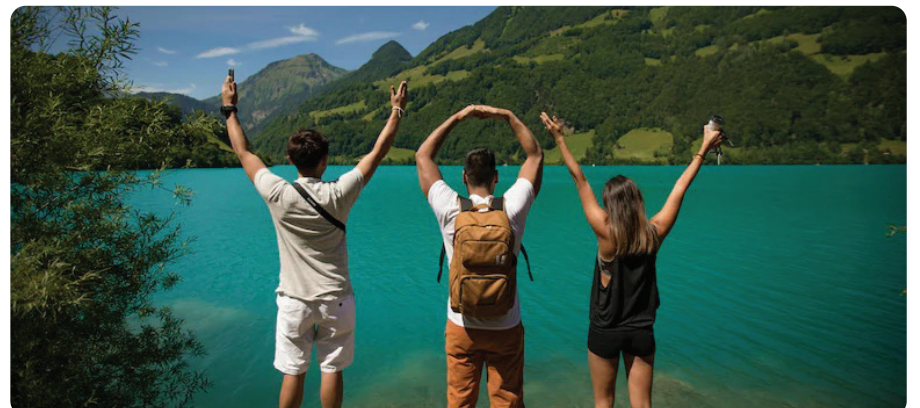
Multiple Benefits Of Vacation, Backed By Research
A meta-analysis by de Bloom et al., which reviewed 22 studies, found that vacations significantly reduce exhaustion, improve mood, and enhance life satisfaction. Similarly, Grant et al., who analysed 54 studies, reported measurable physiological benefits, including lower cortisol levels, improved heart rate variability, and better sleep quality. These outcomes point to vacations as important interventions for managing the physical effects of prolonged stress.

Why Short And Frequent Holidays Work Better
Instead, the study identifies frequency as a more effective strategy. Taking multiple short

Long Vacations

Interestingly, the research challenges the common belief that longer vacations are always more beneficial. Studies indicate that while health and well-being tend to peak during a holiday - often around the eighth day - these benefits can fade quickly after returning to work. In one study by de Bloom et al., participants who took vacations averaging 23 days saw their well-being return to pre-holiday levels within a week of resuming work. Similar patterns were observed by Fritz and Sonnentag, particularly among employees returning to high workloads. This "fade-out effect" suggests that the duration of a vacation alone does not guarantee long-term benefits.

Why Short And Frequent Holidays Work Better
Instead, the study identifies frequency as a more effective strategy. Taking multiple short



breaks throughout the year provides repeated opportunities for recovery, helping to maintain energy levels, improve job satisfaction, and reduce burnout.

By spacing vacations evenly, individuals can avoid prolonged periods of stress accumulation. This regular pattern of rest and recovery supports sustained well-being rather than temporary relief.

Workplaces Should Encourage Flexible Leave Structures

The research highlights the importance of supportive workplace policies, such as flexible leave structures and discouraging after-hours communication, to enable employees to take regular breaks. In the current high-paced world where stress can build quickly, stepping away more often - even for a few days - may be one of the most effective ways to stay balanced, productive, and healthy.

The 'Fade-Out Effect' Of

Take Short Vacations Every 2 Months
To maximise these benefits, the study suggests taking short vacations every two months rather than relying on a single extended break. This approach

efits, including lower cortisol levels, improved heart rate variability, and better sleep quality. These outcomes point to vacations as important interventions for managing the physical effects of prolonged stress.

Further, research by Fritz and Sonnentag highlights that individuals who successfully detach from work during their holidays experience greater energy and reduced fatigue upon return.

What To Do On Your Trip

The study also sheds light on how travellers spend their downtime. Activities such as physical exercise, exploring new destinations, and engaging in cultural experiences are particularly effective in aiding recovery. Positive experiences, including socialising or pursuing hobbies, can further boost well-being. On the other hand, interruptions from work - even occasional ones - can significantly limit the benefits of a holiday.

The 'Fade-Out Effect' Of



ANANYA NAGALLA EFFORTLESS STYLE ON THE MOVE

Ananya Nagalla has evolved from a promising debutante into one of the most reliable and versatile performers in the Telugu film industry. Originally a software engineer, her passion for cinema led her to a breakout debut in Malleshram (2019). Since then, she has skillfully balanced large-scale commercial cinema, like the Pawan Kalyan-starrer Vakeel Saab, with gritty, content-driven independent projects. In 2025, Ananya solidified her reputation as a powerhouse in the thriller and drama genres. She received critical acclaim for her performance in the action-drama "Pottel," which earned her the Special Jury Award at the Gaddar Telangana Film Awards. Following this, she intrigued audiences with her role in "Srikakulam Sherlock Holmes" (late 2024/early 2025). As we move through 2026, Ananya is set to lead the comedy-drama "Lechindi Mahila Lokam," a film that reinforces her status as a go-to actress for female-centric narratives. With an impending Bollywood debut also on the horizon, Ananya continues to prove that her talent and "girl-next-door" authenticity have a truly universal appeal.

Single Raju Title, Glimpse Unveiled by Venu Udugula



KARTHI TURNS 49 NEW TELUGU FILM ANNOUNCED



Karthi, one of the most popular Tamil stars among Telugu audiences, is celebrating his 49th birthday today. Over the years, he has steadily built a strong market in the Telugu states and remains one of the few Tamil actors to enjoy a loyal fan base across both industries.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Karthi speaks Telugu fluently and has consistently made an effort to connect with Telugu audiences. He has also shown a keen interest in acting in straight Telugu films, further strengthening his bond with moviegoers here. Known for his charming screen presence, warm smile and versatile performances, Karthi continues to enjoy popularity among both family audiences and mass viewers. On the occasion of his birthday, several production houses unveiled special updates on his upcoming projects. Prince Pictures released a striking new poster from "Sardar 2", featuring Karthi wielding a sword amid a vibrant rural festival backdrop. Meanwhile, Sithara Entertainments teased his landmark 30th film, a bilingual comedy co-starring Meenakshi Chaudhary. The project will be directed by Kalyan Shankar, best known for the "Mad" franchise.

Ashika lands another biggie Telugu?

Actress Ashika Ranganath appears to be adding yet another Telugu film to her growing lineup. Industry buzz suggests that she has been finalized as the female lead in director Srinu Vaitla's upcoming project starring Sharwanand. Earlier names like Mamitha Baiju and Sreeleela were considered. But it now seems Ashika Ranganath has been finalized. Ashika has been steadily strengthening her presence in Tollywood. She impressed audiences with her performance opposite Ravi Teja in "Bhartha Mahasahayulaku Wignyapathi" and will next be seen alongside Chiranjeevi in the fantasy entertainer "Vishwambhara." Meanwhile, Sharwanand is reportedly preparing for a new look for the film. Sources say Srinu Vaitla has narrated a story centered on a man whose life takes an unexpected turn because of an impulsive act committed in his younger days. The love story is aiming for theatrical release during Sankranti festival 2026. The film will be produced by Mythri Movie Makers.

A refreshing rural love entertainer is gearing up to captivate Telugu audiences with the upcoming film Single Raju. Starring Vishwas, Mounika, and Divya in lead roles, the film is being directed by S.S. Varma. The movie has already grabbed attention with its unique and youthful title.

The title poster and glimpse of Single Raju were officially launched at a grand event held at Prasad Labs in Hyderabad. Acclaimed filmmaker Venu Udugula attended the event as the chief guest and released the title poster along with the film's glimpse.

Speaking at the event, Venu Udugula appreciated the team's dedication and said that the story sounded highly interesting from the very beginning. He expressed confidence that the film would connect well with audiences and wished the entire team grand success.

Director S.S. Varma thanked Venu Udugula for his constant encouragement and support. He emotionally shared that his parents stood behind him throughout the journey of making the film and expressed confidence that the film would connect well with audiences and wished the entire team grand success.

dence that Single Raju would emerge as a wholesome entertainer.

Hero Vishwas stated that the film was being made with great passion and recalled the tremendous support received from villagers during the shooting schedule. He requested audiences to encourage the movie upon its release.

Lead actresses Mounika and Divya expressed confidence that the rural-based love story would entertain viewers of all sections. They thanked the director and the entire team for their support during the making of the film.

The title logo, featuring a broken-heart emoji, hints at a youthful romantic entertainer packed with emotions and fun elements. With its village backdrop and relatable theme, Single Raju has already started creating curiosity among movie lovers. The makers are expected to announce further details about the cast and release plans soon.

Technical Crew
Director: S.S. Varma
Lyrics: Gorati Venkanna, Mittapalli Surender
Cinematography: Saiteja Kunderapu, Niteesh
Editing: Unique Bojjapalli
Production Designer: Raj Mamidi
Executive Producer: Raghavender Varma
CEO: Shiva Varma
Sunkari Creative
Publicity: Ganesh Ratnam PRO & Digital: Mamatha Reddy
Kasam, Ashok Dayyala

Budget worries aside, Koratala Siva chooses ANIRUDH RAVICHANDER AGAIN

Director Koratala Siva has finally ended the speculation surrounding the music composer for his upcoming film starring Nandamuri Balakrishna. As expected, Anirudh Ravichander has been finalized to score the music.

Anirudh was always Koratala's preferred choice, especially after the successful collaboration they shared on "Devara," starring NTR. However, the decision was not without debate. Sources say members of the team had raised concerns about the film's budget, considering Anirudh is currently

among the highest-paid music directors in India.

The concern stemmed from the fact that Balakrishna's box-office market is considerably smaller than that of NTR, making it harder to justify such a high-profile and expensive addition to the project.

There were apprehensions that bringing in a star composer like Anirudh would significantly inflate the overall budget.

After weighing the pros and cons, Koratala reportedly concluded that Anirudh's contribution would be worth the investment. The director believes the composer's music, background score,

and promotional songs can substantially boost the film's appeal and pre-release buzz. Anirudh has earned a reputation for elevating films with his chartbuster soundtracks and impactful background scores. His work on films such as "Jailer" is often cited as a key factor in amplifying audience excitement and enhancing the theatrical experience.

The Balakrishna-Koratala project has already been officially announced, though production is expected to commence later. The film will be produced by SLV Cinemas's Sudhakar Cherukuri in association with Sudhakar Mikkilineni.

