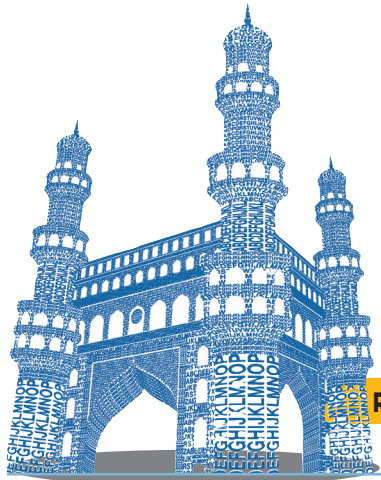




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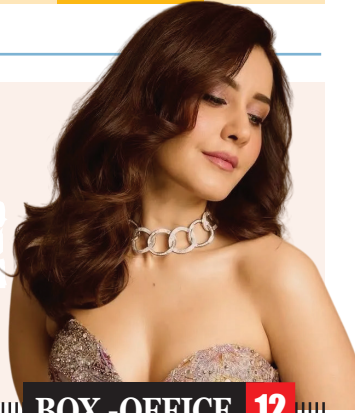
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BOX -OFFICE 12



US biotech major Regeneron to set up first IGCC IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad, May 26 (NSS): Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu said Hyderabad is increasingly emerging as the preferred destination for leading global companies to establish their Global Capability Centres (GCCs), owing to its world-class infrastructure and availability of a highly skilled talent pool. He stated that the rapid growth of GCCs in Hyderabad is expected to create significant employment opportunities for IT engineers and technology professionals.

The Minister expressed happiness that Regeneron, a global biotechnology major headquartered in Tarrytown,

New York, USA, has chosen Telangana to establish its first GCC outside the United States, which he said would further enhance the state's global reputation. Regeneron's corporate headquarters and R&D operations are based in Tarrytown, New York.

A delegation led by Bari Kowal, senior Vice President of Regeneron, met IT and Industries Minister Sridhar Babu at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Tuesday. On the occasion, Bari Kowal and Telangana life sciences CEO Sarvesh Singh have exchanged the MOUs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Siddaramaiah To Resign, Congress Bosses Back DK?

NEW DELHI: The tussle over the top post in Karnataka has finally been resolved, with DK Shivakumar's claim being backed unanimously by the Congress central leadership, sources told NDTV. "The entire high command was for transition to DK Shivakumar," sources also said. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, sources said, has been offered a Rajya Sabha seat and asked to play a larger, national role from Delhi. He has asked for time to decide on that, sources said. Siddaramaiah has discussed the matter with his loyalists, declaring that he will "abide by the decisions of the high command," sources said. He could step down as early as tomorrow, sources said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

PAYDAY ON 1ST FOR 50K RURAL STAFF: CM REVANTH

ZERO DELAY POLICY:

A strict "zero tolerance" policy has been instituted, with warnings of immediate accountability for officials if salary disbursement is delayed by even a single day.

PENSION SYSTEM OVERHAUL:

Distribution of welfare pensions via the Postal Department is being scrapped. All payments will now be routed instantly and directly to beneficiaries via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) bank accounts.

HYDERABAD, MAY 26

In a major administrative overhaul aimed at ensuring parity among government staff, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to ensure that the state's 50,000 Gram Panchayat employees receive their salaries on the first of every month, mirroring the timeline followed for IAS officers. Presiding over a high-level review meeting of the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development de-

partments here, the Chief Minister made it clear that the directive applies uniformly across all government arms, covering regular, outsourcing, and contract employees. "A delay of even a single day in salary disbursement will not be tolerated," Mr. Reddy warned. To back this mandate, the state government will allocate a dedicated fund of ₹50 crore every month exclusively for panchayat staff salaries. The review meeting was attended by Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka, MP Vem

Narender Reddy, and senior bureaucrats.

Financial Autonomy Restored

In a significant policy shift, the Chief Minister instructed officials to restore the financial autonomy of Gram Panchayats by reversing a restrictive regulation introduced by the previous regime. The government will introduce an amendment to Section 70(3) of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018. The proposed amendment

will allow local bodies to deposit their Own Source Revenue (OSR) directly into commercial bank accounts rather than government treasuries, allowing them greater flexibility over local expenditure.

Pension System Overhaul

The welfare ecosystem is also set for a digital upgrade, with the Chief Minister ordering an end to the current practice of distributing pensions through the Postal Department.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



No Lapses in Praja Palana Events: Cabinet Panel



HYDERABAD, MAY 26

The Cabinet Sub-Committee has directed officials to organise the closing celebrations of the prestigious 99-day public outreach program "Praja Palana - Pragati Pranali" in a grand manner across the state from June 2 to June 12, marking its successful completion.

A Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting was held on Tuesday at the Secretariat under the

chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu. Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, and Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy attended the high-level review meeting.

The Sub-Committee reviewed the progress of "Praja Palana - Pragati Pranali" programs conducted so far at village, mandal, constituency, and district levels. Officials were instructed to take up more initiatives with active

public participation in the coming days.

Programmes scheduled from June 2 to 12 include, environment week celebrations, road safety awareness, anti-drug campaigns, women and child protection initiatives, housing programmes, tourism promotion, urban development activities and foundation stone laying and inauguration of renewable energy (green energy) projects.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Harish alleges ₹1,000 Crore GOVT. land scam in Shamshabad



HYDERABAD, MAY 26

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao alleged that a massive land scam worth nearly Rs 1,000 crore had taken place in Shamshabad involving 170 acres of government land being illegally converted into private patta land.

Addressing a media conference at Telangana Bhavan on Tuesday, Harish Rao accused the Congress government of failing to protect public assets while neglecting farmers and

public welfare promises.

He alleged that a conspiracy was underway to hand over 170 acres of government land located between Survey Numbers 173 and 183 in Peddashapur village of Shamshabad mandal to private individuals.

Harish Rao stated that the RDO had clearly identified the land as government land and instructed the Tahsildar to protect it from encroachment and include it in the prohibited list under Section 22-A. He said the same was mentioned in an affidavit submitted before

the High Court on January 30, 2026.

He further pointed out that the Tahsildar himself confirmed on February 24, 2026 that the land belonged to the government. However, within just four days, on February 28, 2026, the same Tahsildar reportedly passed orders declaring the land as private property.

"How did government land suddenly become private land within four days?" Harish Rao questioned.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

U.S. carries out 'self-defence' strikes in Iran



The U.S. military said it carried out "self-defence" strikes in southern Iran targeting missile launch sites and boats laying mines, despite an ongoing ceasefire. The Pentagon said the action was aimed at protecting American troops while exercising restraint. Meanwhile, President Donald Trump said negotiations with Iran were "proceeding nicely."

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IMD predicts rainfall in Kerala, Lakshadweep;

NEW DELHI, MAY 26

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday forecast favourable conditions for the further advance of the southwest monsoon into parts of the Arabian Sea, Comorin region, Bay of Bengal, and Andaman Sea over the next two to three days.

In its latest weather bulletin, the IMD predicted widespread light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds across Kerala, Mahe, and Lakshadweep from May 26 to 29. Several southern states, including Tamil Nadu,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING

3 TIMES BETTER

SCs, STs Cheated Under Congress Rule: Harish

HYDERABAD, MAY 26

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao strongly criticised the Congress government, alleging that it had deceived SC and ST communities by failing to implement the promises made in the Chevella Declaration.

Speaking at the “Lambadi Rights Protection Committee” dharna held at Indira Park on Tuesday, Harish Rao said the protest was not just a demonstration but a battle for the self-respect of Lambadi and tribal communities.

He recalled that before Telangana statehood, several agitations were held under the leadership of LHPS with the slogan “Hamara Tanda Mein Hamara Raj,” but successive Congress governments under YSR, Rosaiah and Kiran Kumar Reddy ignored their demands.

Harish Rao said it was former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and the BRS government that transformed 3,146 tandas into gram panchayats and empowered tribal communities politically.

He accused the Congress



government of betraying SCs and STs after coming to power despite making tall promises before elections.

Harish Rao condemned the arrests of Lambadi women and youth protesting against land acquisition and alleged that even pregnant women were not spared during police action. He said 45 Lambadi youth were jailed for resisting forcible land acquisition.

He alleged that the Congress government failed to implement even a single promise made in the SC/ST Declaration and the Chevella Declaration.

The former minister said Congress had promised land titles for podu lands but instead grabbed nearly 50,000 acres of SC and ST lands in the name of industries and large corporate projects.

He warned that the Lambadi community in Kodangal would politically defeat Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for targeting tribal lands.

Harish Rao said several welfare assurances made by Congress, including financial assistance for students passing SSC, Intermediate and PG courses, new ITDAs, reservation in con-

tracts and filling backlog posts, were never implemented.

He alleged that while contracts were allegedly awarded to the Chief Minister's relatives, tribal communities received nothing.

He questioned Revanth Reddy over the promise of providing two lakh government jobs, pointing out that the government itself admitted in the Assembly that only around 16,000 jobs had been provided.

Harish Rao also criticised the government for not increasing housing assistance for SCs and STs as promised.

Jupally slams previous regime for leaving Palamuru farmers in deep water distress



HYDERABAD, MAY 26

Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Excise, Jupally Krishna Rao, lashed out at BRS leaders, dismissing their claims that 90 percent of the work on the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS) has been completed as outright lies.

He vehemently questioned how leaders of that party—who are misleading the public by ignoring ground-level realities and failing to undertake even basic works—could have the audacity to conduct Padayatras (foot marches).

The Minister on Tuesday conducted a field-level inspection of the ongoing works at the Narlapur Reservoir Project Pump House (Package 3)—a key component of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Project located in the Nagarkurnool and Wanaparthy districts—as well as at the Edula Pump House, Reservoir, and Kummera.

He inquired with officials to obtain details regarding the manner in which the works are being executed. After gathering information from the officials concerning the progress of the works, he addressed the media.

Jupally Krishna Rao explained that during the tenure of the previous BRS government, the Palamuru-Rangareddy project was launched with an estimated cost of ₹80,000 crore; yet, despite the sanctioning of ₹35,000 crore, only ₹27,000 crore was actually spent over a period of ten years.

He expressed strong indignation that this project—which requires ₹1 lakh crore for completion—was left unfinished, without even the construction of the main canals or the distribution network.

The Minister stated that, during the election period, a pump was run ostentatiously for an hour solely to gain political mileage, after which they washed their hands of the matter; in reality, the current government has installed only three of the nine motors that were supposed to be fitted at Narlapur. He further clarified that the remaining five motors need to be installed immediately.

Jupally Krishna Rao stated that the state government's objective is to utilise 90 TMCs of water through this project and provide ir-

rigation water to 460,000 acres across the Nagar Kurnool and Wanaparthy districts.

However, he acknowledged that the execution of these works is causing disruptions to the Mission Bhagiratha water supply, but gave an assurance that these issues would be resolved and the project completed on a war footing.

The Minister further noted that work on the main canals from Narlapur to Uddandapur remains pending, and affirmed that they are working with utmost sincerity to complete all these tasks and ensure the provision of irrigation water to a total of 12 lakh acres.

Jupally Krishna Rao criticised the previous government for displaying negligence towards the Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme as well.

He clarified that, given the combined capacity of the reservoirs under this project is merely 4 TMC, it is impossible to provide water to more than 40,000 acres; to irrigate the targeted ayacut of 4.50 lakh acres, a minimum reservoir capacity of 25 TMC is required. However, he alleged that the BRS administration failed to complete even a single reservoir.

The Minister criticised the government, stating that the district's farming community is facing severe hardships due to the lack of adequate water storage capacity in projects such as the Jurala Project, Nettempadu, Bhima, and Kailsagar; he alleged that the government has neglected the projects in Palamuru while focusing its attention solely on projects in other regions.

Against this backdrop, Jupally Krishna Rao announced that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would tour the district next week to personally review the status of these projects. The Minister emphasised that his government's objective is to provide water up to the tail-end ayacut areas in the Achampet, Wanaparthy, Kalwakurthy, and Kollapur constituencies through the Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme.

He stated that, in order to convey 4,600 cusecs of water to irrigate 4.60 lakh acres through this project, it is necessary to rectify the earthen embankments extending up to Yelluru, Singotam, and Gudipalli.

ACB nets Tahsildar in Rs.30 lakh Bribery Case



HYDERABAD, MAY 26

In a major anti-corruption crackdown, the Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday trapped a Tahsildar and a Mandal Surveyor in two separate bribery cases.

According to the ACB, T. Sucharitha, Tahsildar, Executive Magistrate and Joint Sub-Registrar of Shamirpet Mandal in Medchal-Malkajgiri district, was caught red-handed by the ACB's Ranga Reddy Range unit while allegedly demanding a Rs.30 lakh bribe for processing and approving NALA conversion applications related to 30 acres of agricultural land.

The officer allegedly accepted Rs.2 lakh as part payment through her private driver, V. Nagesh. The tainted cash was recovered from the driver's possession. Both the Tahsildar and the driver were arrested and are being produced before the Special Judge for SPE and ACB Cases at Nampally. Investigation is underway.

In another case, the ACB's Mahabubnagar Range unit trapped Kammar Brahmaiah, Mandal Surveyor of Waddepally Mandal in Jogulamba Gadwal district, for allegedly demanding Rs.15,000 to conduct a land survey related to the complainant's parents' property. The ACB said the surveyor had earlier collected Rs.5,000 as advance on May 6 and was caught while accepting the remaining Rs.10,000. The bribe amount was recovered from his possession. He too is being produced before the Special Court for judicial remand.

The identities of the complainants in both cases have been withheld for security reasons. The ACB urged the citizens to report corruption through its toll-free number 1064.

Centre evading responsibility on paddy procurement: Uttam

HYDERABAD, MAY 26

Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that the Union government's approach towards paddy procurement was “demonstrative of scant concern for farmers” despite Telangana handling one of the country's largest grain procurement operations.

During an informal media interaction at the Secretariat on Tuesday, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress government in Telangana was procuring paddy on a scale unmatched by most BJP-ruled states while the Centre was “failing to discharge its responsibility” towards farmers.

He said Telangana had already procured nearly 54 lakh metric tonnes of paddy and was targeting procurement of around 70 lakh metric tonnes during the ongoing Yasangi season through an extensive network of 8,575 procurement centres spread across the State.

“The entire paddy procured by the State must be lifted by the Centre at the declared MSP. The Union government cannot evade its responsibility after announcing Minimum Support Price,” the Minister asserted.

Accusing BJP leaders of indulging in political criticism while ignoring ground realities, Uttam Kumar Reddy said Telangana was purchas-

ing more paddy than several BJP-governed states put together.

“Before criticising Telangana, BRS leaders should first check how much procurement happened during their ten-year rule. Even compared to previous regime, this government has procured more paddy and ensured faster payments to farmers,” he said.

The Minister claimed the State government was ensuring procurement till the “last grain” and depositing payments into farmers' bank accounts within 48 hours.

He also highlighted the financial burden being borne by the State government due to delays and gaps in Central

support. According to him, Telangana had already spent nearly Rs 9,000 crore towards procurement payments this season by May-end and would cross around Rs 11,500 crore if MSP-linked dues were fully accounted for.

Taking a political swipe at the BJP, Uttam Kumar Reddy questioned the rationale behind Central leaders undertaking political tours in Telangana while allegedly remaining indifferent to procurement responsibilities. “The Centre is neglecting farmers while Telangana is standing firmly with them. BJP leaders must explain how much paddy their own states are procuring compared to Telangana,” he said.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

IMD predicts rainfall in Kerala, Lakshadweep;

➤FROM PAGE 1

Telangana, Rayalaseema, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and interior Karnataka, are also likely to receive light to moderate rainfall at isolated places during the same period. Thunderstorms and gusty winds are expected to accompany the showers. The weather agency further stated that isolated rainfall activity is likely over Coastal Maharashtra and Goa between May 26 and 28, while Madhya Maharashtra may experience similar conditions on May 27 and 28.

Thundersquall Warning for Karnataka

The IMD has issued a thundersquall warning for Karnataka, predicting wind speeds of 50–60 kmph gusting up to 70 kmph over South Interior Karnataka from May 26 to 29.

North Interior Karnataka may also witness isolated hailstorm activity on May 27 along with severe thunderstorms. A thundersquall is a fast-moving and violent weather system marked by sudden strong winds and intense thunderstorm activity. Earlier, the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre had forecast very heavy rainfall ranging between 64.5 mm and 115.5 mm in coastal and hilly

districts of the state on May 27.

Heavy Rainfall Likely in Northeast

The IMD also predicted very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya on May 26 and 27. Heavy rainfall activity is expected to continue over Assam, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh from May 28 to 31. Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura are likely to receive heavy rainfall at isolated places on May 26, 30, and 31.

Relief Expected in North India

After several days of heat-wave-like conditions, parts of North India are expected to get relief with scattered light to moderate rainfall and thunderstorms.

Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, and East Uttar Pradesh are likely to witness rainfall activity on May 27, while Rajasthan may experience similar weather conditions on May 28 and 29.

The IMD has also forecast thundersquall activity over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi on May 28 and 29. West and East Uttar Pradesh are also likely to witness thunderstorms and gusty winds on select days between May 28 and 31.

US biotech major Regeneron to set up first IGCC IN HYDERABAD



➤FROM PAGE 1

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that while Regeneron already operates offices and manufacturing facilities in countries such as Ireland, the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands, the Hyderabad centre will function as a unique global hub. He stated that the proposed centre will coordinate the company's global operations and support high-end digital services such as clinical trial operations, advanced data science, artificial intelligence engineering and commercial analytics.

Sridhar Babu said Hyderabad currently hosts close to 450 Global Capability Centres and continues to attract more international investments. He noted that Hyderabad has emerged as the country's second-largest GCC destination, surpassing cities such as Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai. He added that the state's strong ecosystem in biotechnology, life sciences, artificial intelligence, data sciences and digital

technologies is increasingly attracting global corporations.

The Minister said the Telangana government has been giving top priority to research, manufacturing, industrial policy and infrastructure development. He added that initiatives such as the expansion of Genome Valley and the upcoming Green Pharma City would further strengthen the state's life sciences ecosystem.

He further stated that the proposed Regeneron GCC is expected to create a large number of high-value employment opportunities in the coming years.

The Minister said Regeneron is one of the world's leading biotechnology companies with a strong portfolio of innovative medicines serving patients globally. The meeting was attended by Bari Kowal, Senior Vice President, Regeneron; Rajiv Onat, Executive Director, Regeneron GCC; representatives of the company and officials from the Industries department.

No Lapses in Praja Palana..

➤FROM PAGE 1

The Ministers emphasised that all departments must work in coordination and ensure flawless execution of these activities.

The Sub-Committee held detailed discussions on the implementation of the “Indiramma Family Life Insurance” scheme, intro-

duced to provide social security to every family in the state. The government reiterated its commitment to ensure that every eligible person is covered under the scheme.

Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao directed all departments to immediately prepare and submit

detailed action plans.

The meeting was also attended by DGP C.V. Anand, Special Chief Secretaries Jayesh Ranjan, Vikas Raj, Naveen Mittal, Vani Prasad, Dana Kishore, and Principal Secretaries Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Gaurav Uppal, along with other senior officials.

Harish alleges ₹1,000 Crore GOVT. land scam in Shamshabad

➤FROM PAGE 1

He alleged that despite contradictory reports from the RDO and Tahsildar, the matter was still presented before the High Court, raising serious doubts over the role of senior officials.

Harish Rao questioned how the Collector approved such orders and how the Advocate General cleared them despite the dispute involving valuable government land.

He said that although the scam had been widely reported in the media, the government merely transferred the MRO to the Collectorate instead of taking serious action.

The former minister alleged that ACB officials had initially attempted to investigate the matter but later withdrew due to pressure



from influential people in the government. “Who are the powerful people protecting the MRO? Their names must come out,” he demanded. Harish Rao also questioned how the land was entered into the Bhu Bharati online records without mandatory approvals from the

RDO, as required under the law.

He alleged that the mutation process was completed overnight and the entire 170 acres of government land was converted into private patta land illegally.

The BRS leader demanded immediate suspension and dismissal of the Tahsildar involved in the case and sought restoration of the land into the prohibited list. He also demanded a SIT or CID inquiry into the scam and called for an investigation into the role of the Collector, CCLA officials, senior bureaucrats and political leaders allegedly linked to the issue.

“If the government is truly transparent and has no involvement in this land scam, it should immediately dismiss the Tahsildar and protect government land,” he said.

SIDDARAMAIAH TO RESIGN, CONGRESS BOSSES BACK DK?

➤FROM PAGE 1

The Congress, which held a marathon six-hour meeting earlier today, had claimed that it was about the three Rajya Sabha seats in the state, warning the media against speculating. “Discussions were held regarding the Rajya Sabha and MLC elections. There is no truth to any other speculation,” said party General Secretary KC Venugopal during the one-minute statement.

Siddaramaiah's Breakfast Meeting

Sources said Siddaramaiah has invited his ministers for a breakfast meeting on Thursday. There is speculation that he might announce his resignation at that meeting.

Congress's Karnataka in-charge Randeep Surjewala will reach Bengaluru on Wednesday afternoon. If transition goes as per plan, the new government will be in place within a

week, sources said.

The new government, sources also hinted, will have multiple Deputy Chief Ministers - slots where the close aides of Siddaramaiah could be accommodated.

Flashback

The leadership issue in the state has been festering for over a year, with Shivakumar's supporters refusing to drop their claim that the Central leadership promising a rotating Chief

Ministership when the party formed government after the 2023 assembly elections.

Shivakumar, who was one of the party's tallest leaders in the state, had been one of the contenders for the top post and accepted the post of Siddaramaiah's Deputy only after being assured of the top post after 2.5 years, they said.

Siddaramaiah insisted that a change at the top would break the

pace of governance. In December, two breakfast meetings between him and Shivakumar within four days failed to resolve the impasse. At the end of last year, Siddaramaiah held all the cards, with support from around 110 MLAs of the party.

The top leadership of the Congress far maintained silence. All party chief Mallikarjun Kharge said it was it would be resolved by Rahul Gandhi and other top leaders of the party.

Payday on 1st for 50k Rural staff: CM Revanth

➤FROM PAGE 1

Instead, all pension payouts will be credited directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries. To ensure that welfare benefits reach only the genuinely eligible, Mr. Reddy ordered a data-driven verification process to streamline the beneficiary registry.

Verification

Matrix for Pensions: Voter Identification Cards Aadhaar Cards SEEEPC Survey Data The Chief Minister also directed the department to accord top priority to processing and sanctioning fresh pension applications for eligible citizens.



HYD Water Board strengthening future water infrastructure, says Minister Ponnam

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad District In-charge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday said the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSB) is taking comprehensive measures to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply and strengthen drainage infrastructure across the city.

A high-level review meeting was held at the HMWSSB headquarters in Khairatabad along with Minority Welfare Minister Mohd Azharuddin. Senior officials, including HMWSSB MD Ashok Reddy, Director Sudarshan and JMD Mayank Mittal, participated in the meeting. The review focused on drinking water supply, summer tanker services, monsoon preparedness, sewage treatment plants (STPs), water conservation and ongoing infrastructure development works. Officials informed the ministers that Hyderabad is



currently receiving 650 MGD of drinking water supply. The government is undertaking Godavari Phase-II and III projects with an investment of Rs.7,000 crore to meet future demand. Plans are also in place to take up Krishna Phase-IV and V projects along with the Singur water pipeline project. The Minister said Hyderabad presently has 14.50 lakh tap connections, including 6.23 lakh free water connections, and assured that all water-related complaints are being re-

solved promptly. Highlighting monsoon preparedness, he said the city has around 6.14 lakh manholes and extensive desilting and drainage cleaning works are being carried out during April and May to prevent waterlogging during heavy rains. On Summer management, the Minister stated that nearly 95 percent of tanker bookings are being supplied within 24 hours. Emphasizing groundwater conservation, Ponnam Prabhakar urged the citizens to

construct rainwater harvesting pits and said the government is preparing a special action plan to encourage large-scale rainwater harvesting across the city. "If groundwater levels are not improved, serious problems will arise in the future. Rainwater conservation must become a people's movement", he said. The Minister warned that consumers repeatedly depending on tanker water without implementing rainwater harvesting systems may face double tanker charges in the

future. He also revealed that ₹11,900 crore has been allocated for HMWSSB development and infrastructure projects and announced that vacant posts in the Water Board would soon be filled. Ponnam Prabhakar further said illegal constructions over drainage lines would be removed strictly and added that permissions for new high-rise buildings would henceforth be granted only after assessing water supply capacity and infrastructure feasibility.

Bakrid holiday shift: HYD passport offices shut on May 28

HYDERABAD

Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad announced that all Passport Seva services, including PSKs and POPSKs, will remain closed on May 28 due to change in the Government holiday for Eid-UL-Zuha (Bakrid) from May 27 to 28. According to Deputy passport officer Srinivasa Rao, the Passport Office, all Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) will be closed on May 28, 2026 (Thursday).

However, the Passport Office, all PSKs and POPSKs under the jurisdiction of the Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad will remain open and functional on May 27 (Wednesday). All appointments scheduled for May 28, have been rescheduled to May 27. Intimation messages regarding the revised appointment date have already been sent to the concerned applicants.

TGSRTC Extends ₹1 Crore Assistance to Families of Deceased Drivers



HYDERABAD

TGSRTC Managing Director Y. Nagireddy assured support to employees and their families during difficult times as the corporation, in collaboration with Union Bank of India, extended financial assistance to the families of two deceased RTC drivers.

Drivers Sudhakar of Picket depot and Srinivasa Reddy of Parigi depot lost their lives in separate road accidents, leaving their families in distress after losing their primary breadwinners.

Under the Union Bank "Super Salary Savings Account" scheme, RTC employees are covered by complimentary personal accident insurance linked to their RuPay debit cards. The scheme provides ₹1

crore compensation in case of accidental death. At a programme held at Bus Bhavan, TGSRTC VC & MD Nagireddy, along with Union Bank Chief General Manager M. Ravindra Babu and Regional Head D. Venkateswarlu, handed over cheques worth ₹1 crore each to the families of the deceased drivers.

Speaking on the occasion, Nagireddy expressed grief over the untimely deaths and assured the bereaved families that the corporation would stand firmly with them. He said the accident insurance facility would provide vital support to affected families during times of crisis. He urged employees to make full use of welfare schemes and thanked Union Bank of India for extending support to RTC staff.

GITAM Scholar Earns Ph.D. in Mathematics

HYDERABAD

Dr. Kaspasree Sree Latha, a research scholar from GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad campus, has been awarded a Ph.D. in Mathematics under the guidance of Dr. Siva Reddy Sheri. Her research, titled "Finite Element Analysis of MHD Flow of Nanofluids and Hybrid Nanofluids," focuses on improving heat and mass transfer efficiency in advanced technological applications such as energy systems, electronics cooling, and environmental modelling. The study employed the Galerkin finite element method and MAT-

LAB-based simulations to analyse complex nonlinear flow systems involving nanofluids and hybrid nanofluids. The findings contribute significantly to the advancement of thermal-fluid systems and computational fluid dynamics research. The GITAM leadership, including Prof. D. S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor; D.V.V.S.R. Varma, Resident Director; Dr. M. Reza, Director, School of Science; and Dr. Jadav Gandesh, Head, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, congratulated Dr. Sree Latha on her achievement and commended her contribution to impactful research.

Chain snatcher held within hours in Kompally, gold chain recovered

HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Police achieved a swift breakthrough in a chain snatching case reported under the limits of Pet-Basheerabad Police Station, arresting the accused within hours and recovering the stolen gold chain intact.

According to police, the incident occurred on May 25 at Jayabheri Park in Kompally after Dial-100 received a distress call from complainant Bijam Malleswari, 40, proprietor of "B.R. Fresh Extracts" oil store.

She alleged that an unidentified youth entered the shop at around 6

pm, threw oil bottles at her, assaulted her causing bleeding injuries and forcibly snatched her gold wedding chain before fleeing.

Based on the complaint, police registered an FIR and launched an immediate investigation.

Local residents who witnessed the accused escaping chased and caught him before handing him over to police. The accused was identified as Malladi Narasimha alias Nani, 23, originally from East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh and presently staying at a boys hostel in Ameerpet. During investigation, police found that the accused had recently quit his job and alleged-

ly resorted to chain snatching for easy money. Police recovered a gold wedding chain weighing around 30.453 grams from his possession. He was later produced before the court.

Police also highlighted the recent arrest of another interstate offender, Hasan Ali from Nashik, Maharashtra, linked to the Irani gang, in connection with a separate chain snatching case registered under Pet-Basheerabad Police Station limits.

The police appealed to citizens, especially women and senior citizens, to stay alert against suspicious strangers and immediately report suspicious movements through Dial-100.

NRI BC Cell UK launches with vision for education, employment

HYDERABAD

The first event, held in London, U.K. under the guidance of the NRI BC Cell UK, took place with significant elegance and notable success.

Many representatives from BC associations, social activists, elected officials, and members of the Indian diaspora from different regions of the UK came together, contributing to the event's great achievement.

At the start of the programme, floral tributes were paid to Sai Eshwarachari, who sacrificed his life during the BC movement, along with other prominent figures who have significantly contributed to society. Following this, a moment of silence was held in their honour. During the event,



Dudigama Kiran Kumar, President of the NRI BC Cell, highlighted the importance of Non-Resident Indians taking their responsibilities seriously in fostering the social, political, and economic progress of the Backward Classes (BCs).

He mentioned that the NRI BC Cell aims to further

strengthen the BC community in the UK, motivate the youth, and create more opportunities in education, employment, and business. Kiran Kumar also remarked that the strong turnout at the inaugural event reflects the unity within the BC community.

As the chief guest, R. Krish-

naiah, a Member of Parliament and President of the National BC Welfare Association, stressed the necessity for BCs around the world to collaborate for the benefit of their community's social, political, and educational advancement.

He urged BCs living overseas to leverage their expertise, knowledge, and resources for societal betterment. Speaking at the event, which was chaired by Hari Goud Nawapet, he expressed that the formation of the NRI BC Cell UK is a significant milestone that will provide a robust platform for the BC community abroad.

He proposed implementing various initiatives through this platform to improve opportunities related to education, employment, and leadership within the community.

HYD Runners Society enters 20th year, reaffirms fitness mission



HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Runners Society (HRS), the organisation behind the NMDC Hyderabad Marathon, has entered its 20th year with renewed focus on promoting community fitness, active lifestyles and public health initiatives across the city. Founded in 2007, HRS has grown from a small running group into one of India's prominent community fitness organisations, encouraging thousands of people to adopt healthier lifestyles through running, walking and fitness awareness programs.

The milestone was marked with a special anniversary run attended by runners, volunteers, coaches and fitness enthusiasts from across the city.

Speaking on the occasion, HRS president Arun Kumar Kaliappan said the organisation's 19-year journey reflected the collective spirit of Hyderabad's running community and reaffirmed its commitment to making fitness more inclusive and accessible.

Over the years, HRS has launched structured training programs, youth fitness initiatives, women-centric running events, and community outreach activities aimed at encouraging active living.

The NMDC Hyderabad Marathon, organised by HRS, has also emerged as a major platform promoting fitness, tourism, and charitable causes while helping showcase Hyderabad on national and international platforms.

Hyd to host strategic Defence Symposium on space warfare & satellite security

HYDERABAD

As global conflicts increasingly shift towards satellites, cyber systems, artificial intelligence and electronic warfare, Hyderabad will host a major strategic dialogue on the future of warfare and national security at T-Hub here on May 29.

The third flagship session of Symposium, titled "The Day the Sky Goes Dark: Warfare in the Age of Satellite Dependence", comes amid rising geopolitical tensions involving the United States, Iran and Israel. The event is expected to bring together leading voices from India's defence, aerospace, technology and policy sectors.

The discussion will focus on how future wars could increasingly be fought in space and cyberspace, with experts examining threats to satellites, cyber-attacks, anti-satellite weapons, AI-driven warfare and the growing militarisation of space. The session will be moderated by Lt Gen PJS Pannu, who played a key role in establishing India's Defence Space Agency

and Defence Cyber Agency.

The distinguished panel includes Dr A.S. Kiran Kumar, former Chairman, ISRO; Dr G. Sathesh Reddy, former Chairman, DRDO and former Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri; Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari PVSM AVSM VM ADC (Retd), former Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force; Dr Subba Rao Pavuluri, Chairman & Managing Director of Ananth Technologies and Ronak Kumar Samant - CEO and the Founder of TakeMe2Space Adding a youth perspective to the event, Iniya Pragati Martian will participate as Special Guest and Distinguished Young Speaker.

Founded by Girish Malapani and co-founded by IAS officer Jayesh Ranjan, 'Symposium' aims to create a recurring platform for cross-domain conversations on issues shaping India's future. More than 100 invited guests from defence, aerospace, startups, academia and policy circles are expected to attend the invitation-only event.

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SHORT
TAKES

Malaysia Telugu Academy extends support for TG Formation Day celebrations: Bigala

HYDERABAD: BRS NRI Global Coordinator Mahesh Bigala visited the Malaysia Telugu Academy on Tuesday. On the occasion, the Academy leadership expressed its full support for the successful conduct of the grand Telangana Formation Day celebrations to be held in Malaysia. The celebrations will be organised under the aegis of BRS USA and the Malaysia Telangana Association (MYTA). BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) will be attending the event as the chief guest on June 6. The Academy leadership also formally invited BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) to participate as the chief guest during his Malaysia visit. During the visit, Mahesh Bigala was accompanied by BRS USA & MYTA team members Maruthi Kurma, Sandeep Goud, and several community leaders. They held discussions with the Malaysia Telugu Academy leadership regarding the arrangements for the event. Established in 1955, the Malaysia Telugu Academy is recognised as one of the oldest Telugu organizations in Malaysia.

Congress, BRS and MIM deceiving PEOPLE FOR POLITICAL MILEAGE

HYDERABAD

BJP State President N Ramchander Rao today launched a scathing attack alleging that both the previous BRS government and the current ruling Congress government in Telangana are operating under the dictate of the MIM (Majlis) party, severely deceiving the people of Hyderabad. Speaking to the media in Kukatpally on his second day of “Rythu Gosa—BJP Bharosa” yatra, Rao accused Congress, BRS and Majlis parties together of fleecing people of Hyderabad for their own political gains. He also highlighted the major issues plaguing the city and exposed the conduct of both the Congress and BRS parties. Rao criticized that while the previous BRS government left the poor high and dry in the name of double-bedroom houses, the current Congress government was deceiving people in the exact same manner under the guise of ‘Indiramma Houses’. He alleged that they are merely passing time by showing off a few incomplete houses built by the previous government. Accusing both parties of wasting time in the name of reports, he stated



they have caused immense injustice to the poor of Hyderabad. BJP state chief clarified that the idea of splitting the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits to create a Cyberabad Municipal Corporation was solely for the benefit of the Majlis party. He criticized that the Majlis party cannot win unless the city is divided into three parts, which is why GHMC is being unscientifically bifurcated into three divisions and the Revanth Reddy government is ready to hand over one part to them. He recalled that in the past, Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy had created confusion during the reorganization of districts by causing a single assembly constituency to

fall into three different districts, and now the Revanth government is following the same path. He lashed out, stating that when officials are asked for a map, they have no clarity, and a conspiracy is underway to piece the city apart without even knowing where the borders will fall. Rao expressed deep grief that the drinking water supply system in the city has completely collapsed. He pointed out that even though the peak summer period (Rohini Karthi) is ending and the monsoon is fast approaching on June 12, the government has failed to mitigate the water crisis. He criticized the Water Board for its monumental failure, noting that water does not even arrive once every three to

four days, forcing people to rely on tankers. On the other hand, he warned that a single rainfall would submerge the colonies, recalling that during the floods under the previous BRS regime, even the Rs 10,000 assistance meant for victims whose houses were inundated ended up in the pockets of BRS leaders. He added that the condition of roads in the city is pathetic, and there is no one to care. He alleged that under the pretext of relocating polluting industries outside the city through the ‘HILT Policy’, internal industrial areas are being converted into residential zones, setting the stage for a massive real estate scam. He said that the government has not conducted any ‘Impact Assessment’ regarding how many people will lose their livelihoods or how many new jobs will be created due to the relocation of these industries. He pointed out that while the previous government depended on the real estate sector, this Congress government, upon coming to power, has increased the commission percentage from 30 to 40 per cent and is harassing builders, resulting in a complete collapse of the real estate sector

with no new ventures coming up in the city. Rao emphasized that transforming Hyderabad into a beautiful city and a global city is possible only through the BJP. He mentioned that under the leadership of Narendra Modi at the Center, there are numerous schemes for urban development. He stated that the central government is developing Telangana using funds from schemes like ‘Smart City’ and ‘AMRUT City’. Furthermore, he promised the public that they would phenomenally develop the tourism sector here. BJP state president appealed to the citizens to teach a lesson through their vote in the upcoming local body (GHMC) elections to these three selfish parties—Majlis, BRS, and Congress who are playing with the lives of Hyderabad’s citizens for their personal gains. He urged people to elect the BJP to transform Hyderabad into a beautiful city. He asserted that a vote for Congress or BRS is effectively a vote for Majlis, as both these parties have cohabited with Majlis in the past. Rao requested the public to realize this truth and support the BJP, which brings real development.

CEO holds high-level review meeting on SIR process

HYDERABAD

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C. Sudharsan Reddy, along with additional Chief Electoral Officer Dr. Vasam Venkateswar Reddy and Dy. CEO (FAC), G.S. Chary, held a review meeting regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme in Hyderabad on Tuesday. The Commissioner of GHMC & DEO of Hyderabad District, R.V. Karanan, the Collector and District Election Officer of Medchal-Malkajgiri district, M. Manu Choudary, and the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) concerned were attended the meeting at the BRKR Building, Hyderabad. During the session, the CEO instructed officials to ensure that every eligible voter is included and every ineligible voter is removed from the voter list. He emphasised that the programme must be conducted in a highly transparent and error-free manner. EROs were directed to provide adequate training to Booth Level Officers (BLOs), as they play a key role in the entire SIR process. EROs were also asked to continuously review the quality of work done by BLOs, providing additional handholding support wherever necessary to speedup the Mapping process. Further, EROs were directed to focus on high-rise buildings and gated communities and create awareness on importance of SIR process. Extensive awareness programs should also be taken-up in urban pockets, with a special focus on slum areas. To facilitate the process, Enumeration forms will be made available in both English and Telugu. Additionally, officials must ensure that VIP and VVIP voters are properly mapped. To motivate the ground staff, the CEO announced that a ‘Best BLO Award’ will be presented to the top performer.

SRINIVAS UNIVERSITY REPORTS 100 PATENTS



Research Conclave attended by 1,000 participants
Dr Srinivas Vooradi

MANGALURU

Around 1,000 research scholars, post-doctoral fellows, professors and guides participated in “Research Conclave—2026”, organised by the Research and Innovation Council of Srinivas University at Hotel Srinivas. The conclave brought together scholars, guides, deans and research administrators with the university leadership. According to the university, it has secured 100 patents and 1,000 copyrights, besides producing over 2,000 research publications. Nearly 1,000 members are engaged in research activities at the institution. Addressing the participants after inaugurating the conclave,

Chancellor of Srinivas University, Dr. A. Srinivas Rao, stressed the importance of strengthening research culture to drive societal progress. Referring to technological advancements in countries such as China, he said sustained investment in research and innovation had significantly improved living standards. He underlined the need to promote both product-based and service-oriented research. Member of the university’s Board of Governors Meghana S. Rao emphasised the importance of taking research outcomes to society and said academic institutions should work towards creating socially relevant innovations. Vice-Chancellor Dr. Sathya narayana Reddy lauded the commitment shown by researchers and urged scholars to focus on multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary studies for greater academic

impact. Registrar Dr. Anil Kumar highlighted the need for collaboration across disciplines and said research should contribute to knowledge advancement and discovery. Evaluation Registrar Dr. Srinivas Mayya D. called upon scholars to broaden the scope of their studies beyond local issues and incorporate sustainable development goals into their work. Development Registrar Dr. Ajay Kumar spoke on the growing relevance of research in spirituality and its potential contribution to society. Research Director Dr. Praveen B.M. presented the university’s annual research report, detailing its publications, patents and copyrights. Research Coordinator Dr. Shailashree V.T. welcomed the gathering, while Dr. Reena Ranjith proposed the vote of thanks. The programme was compered by Prof. Rohan Fernandis.

Revanth Reddy is a "Vicious Chief Minister": Kavitha slams T Govt

HYDERABAD

Kalvakuntla Kavitha, founder of Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, calling him a “vicious Chief Minister” and alleging that the Congress government in the state was functioning like a “malignant administration.” Kavitha made the remarks after meeting Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan here along with leaders of the Telangana Rakshana Sena, Dharma Samaj Party, and victims affected by land acquisition and demolition drives in Velugumatla, the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project and the proposed Kadlapur Industrial Park in Pargi Mandal. Addressing the media later, Kavitha said the delega-



lapur. The sustained protests by the TRS and Dharma Samaj Party had forced the state government to halt land acquisition for the Pargi industrial park and the RRR project, while also agreeing to allocate land to displaced families in Velugumatla at the same location. Calling these “partial victories”, Kavitha said intervention from the Centre was still necessary to ensure complete justice for the affected families. The Governor assured the delegation that he would seek reports from the state government and make efforts to ensure justice for the displaced persons, she added. Kavitha warned that if the government failed to address the concerns within a reasonable timeframe, the parties would intensify their protests through democratic means.

tion explained to the Governor the issues related to house demolitions in Velugumatla, changes in the RRR project alignment, land acquisition in Rayagiri, and attempts to acquire land for an industrial park in Kad-

"Celebrate Bakrid in harmony": Cyberabad CP warns against fake news

HYDERABAD

Cyberabad police commissioner M. Ramesh on Tuesday urged the citizens to celebrate Bakrid peacefully and uphold communal harmony during a Peace Committee meeting held at the Cyberabad Commissionerate. Addressing religious leaders and community representatives, the commissioner said strict action would be taken against anyone attempting to disturb law and order during the festival. Further, the commissioner said the police have been making elaborate security arrangements for the past 45 days, including setting up check-posts and intensifying surveillance on anti-social elements. He also cautioned the public against fake news, old videos and misleading social media propaganda.

Move, Connect and EngAGE Seniors

(On the occasion of "National Senior Health and Fitness Day" on 27th May)

The population is classified as “senior citizens” as defined by the tax department in India. According to the definition of the tax department, those aged 60 to 79 years are called “senior citizens” and those aged 80 years or above are called “super senior citizens”. Recognizing the importance of the elderly, who are heroes of yesteryear’s, leaders of civil society, reservoirs of immense experience, wisdom, and right guides for today’s youth, it has become a tradition to observe “National Senior Health and Fitness Day” every year on the last Wednesday of May, i.e. 27 May 2026. It is important to note that family members, friends, organizations, and civil society should treat the elderly with due respect, remember the role they have played, value their opinions, prioritize their well-being, express gratitude to them, and organize various programs to respect their rights.

National Senior Health and Fitness Day-2026

Started in America, National Senior Health and Fitness Day recognizing the importance of the day, the US is appealing to countries around the world to celebrate this day. This day suggests that senior citizens should be recognized as the foundation stones of today’s society and that they should be given due respect, offer thanks for their services, and continued efforts should be made to pave the way for their inclusive development. National Senior Health and Fitness Day-2026 thrme is “Move, Connect and EngAGE”. The current generation should remember that the opinions of senior citizens should be put into practice in

planning, civil society issues, and providing solutions to family problems. It should not be forgotten that when senior citizens are given priority, their success stories are promoted, and their suggestions are followed, there will be peace in the society. The current generation of senior citizens, forgetting the age differences and spending time together happily, will also help to increase the self-confidence of seniors.



Main problems faced by senior citizens:

We are in the era of AI where today’s civil society and the youth of the digital age continue to look down on the senior citizens in their homes and think that they know nothing. In some cases, even the grandson or granddaughter does not pay attention to the grandfather, does not ask for their opinions, and is hesitant to even see them as a family member. It is good to see the elderly, who are senior citizens, who constitute 22 per cent of today’s population, as the makers of past history. Their knowledge and wisdom show the best path for today’s generation. By referring to family traditions, providing quick solutions to problems with wisdom, and if health cooperates, senior citizens volunteer to serve. Today’s elderly people face many problems such as chronic diseases, loneliness, neglect, medical services, financial difficulties, mental weaknesses,

joint pain, inability to walk easily, dependence on family, being short-sighted or suffering, lack of social support, lack of amenities, physical disability, lack of helping hands, and social exclusion. National Senior Citizens Health and Fitness Day should be a platform for activities such as intergenerational gatherings, incentive meetings, awareness programs, providing appropriate services to seniors, organizing free medical camps, volunteering at senior citizens’ service centers, and promoting success stories of the elderly.

Value Their Rich Experience

On National Senior Health and Fitness Day, we should put all our efforts to see smiles and inner happiness on their faces. We should promote slogans related to senior citizens. It is our minimum duty to take care of the elderly who have raised us up in the blink of an eye and provided us with a good standard and spent their earnings like water for our growth. The elderly are living libraries and dictionaries of immense wisdom. Remembering the unique services rendered by today’s elderly in the past, taking their advice for our growth, and together with them, we should not forget that the only way forward is for our family to move forward happily. Today’s youth should also remember tomorrow’s senior citizens and seek their invaluable advice. Senior citizens need the support of today’s youth as their walking sticks. Today’s generation of youth should turn the experiences of the elderly as wings for them to fly high in their future endeavours. Efforts should be made to establish an inclusive civil society, irrespective of age differences.

— Prof: Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
9949700037 .

Key Maoist leader, wife surrender before DGP CV Anand

HYDERABAD

DGP CV Anand announced the surrender of senior Maoist leader Pasunuri Narahari alias Santosh and his wife Medara Danamma alias Lata before Telangana Police on Tuesday, calling it another major setback to the weakened Maoist movement. Narahari, a native of Hanamkonda district, joined the Maoist movement in 1982 and later became a Central Committee member in 2017. Known for his expertise in manufacturing weapons, including guns, mortars, rockets and grenades, he trained Maoist cadres in arms production and maintenance. Speaking to the media, Narahari said the armed struggle had suffered severe setbacks across the states, including Telangana and Jharkhand, and added that the couple returned to mainstream life due to the rehabilitation opportunities provided by the Telangana government. He appealed to former Maoist chief Muppalla Lakshmana Rao alias Ganapathi and



other underground cadres to surrender and join public life through constitutional means. On this occasion, Pasunuri Narahari expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and DGP CV Anand. DGP Anand said 822 Maoists have surrendered since 2024, including 334 who surrendered before Telangana Police with weapons. He revealed that only 47 Maoists, includes three individuals from Telangana, one from Andhra

Pradesh, 15 from Chhattisgarh, 13 from Jharkhand and 15 from Odisha, remain underground nationwide. The DGP handed over reward cheques of Rs.25 lakh to Narahari and Rs.20 lakh to Danamma as part of the surrender and rehabilitation policy. The DGP announced that he would personally visit the native regions of the Maoists belonging to Telangana in the near future to meet with them. On this occasion, DGP Anand issued an appeal to Muppalla

Lakshmana Rao (alias Ganapathi), who is a Central Committee member hailing from Telangana - to surrender. He gave an assurance that, if Ganapathi wanted to surrender, he would be provided with all the benefits and rehabilitation facilities offered by the state government. Furthermore, he urged other individuals, who remained underground - specifically Jade Ratnabai (alias Sujatha) and Varttha Shekhar (alias Mangu) - to surrender.



Special Summer
Trains Between
Ernakulam and
Chennai Egmore

CHENNAI, MAY 26:

To clear the extra rush of passengers during the summer season and Bakrid festival, Southern Railway has announced special express train services between Ernakulam and Chennai.

Train No. 06056 Ernakulam Junction – Chennai Egmore Express Special will depart from Ernakulam Junction at 11.10 pm on May 31 (Sunday) and reach Chennai Egmore at 12 noon the next day. In the return direction, Train No. 06055 Chennai Egmore – Ernakulam Junction Express Special will leave Chennai Egmore at 2.30 pm on June 1 (Monday) and arrive at Ernakulam Junction at 4.30 am the following day. The special trains will stop at Aluva, Thrissur, Palakkad, Podanur, Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Jolarpettai, Katpadi, Arakkonam and Perambur. The train will have 2 AC Two-Tier coaches, 3 AC Three-Tier coaches, 7 AC Three-Tier Economy coaches, 4 Sleeper Class coaches, 4 General Second Class coaches and 2 luggage-cum-brake vans. Advance reservation for the special services will open at 8 am on May 27.

CPI, VCK
Criticise
AIADMK MLAs
Joining TVK
CHENNAI: (MAY 26)

TVK's allies, the CPI and VCK, on Tuesday criticised the AIADMK members for resigning as MLAs and joining the ruling party, saying this was "not healthy politics". CPI state secretary P Shanmugam said the AIADMK MLAs resigning and joining the TVK is not conducive to healthy politics. "Although the resigned MLAs say that they joined the TVK on their own volition, it cannot be considered a natural act without expecting any repercussions. We point out that such a trend is not conducive to healthy politics," Shanmugam said in a statement here.

J-K Wildfires
Rage On;
Villagers
Aid Control
Operations

JAMMU: (MAY 26)

Massive forest fires raged on in parts of Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur and Rajouri districts on Tuesday, with personnel from multiple departments and locals engaged in extensive dousing operations to prevent the blaze from spreading, officials said. The fires, intensified by soaring temperatures and strong winds, have affected vast stretches of forest land in Ghordi area of Udhampur and the Nowshera belt of Rajouri, posing a serious challenge to firefighting teams.

Delhi Power
Network
Resilient Amid
Record Demand:
Minister

NEW DELHI: (May 26) Despite record electricity demand amid intense summer, Delhi's power distribution infrastructure has maintained its resilience, Power Minister Ashish Sood said on Tuesday. Delhi recorded an all-time high peak demand for May on Friday, at 8,439 MW, he said, adding that the national capital consumed 138 million units (MUs) of electricity compared to 110 MUs on the same day last year.



OBC face, bigger 2029 role: What Congress offered Siddaramaiah to step down as CM

A marathon seven-hour round of meetings, a high-stakes Delhi offer, and an uncertain Chief Minister at the centre of it all - Congress's Karnataka reset plan may have triggered its biggest internal power struggle since 2023.

Karnataka may be headed for its biggest political reset since the 2023 Assembly elections, with Congress sources claiming Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is now likely to tender his resignation on Thursday, after a series of high-stakes meetings with the party high command in Delhi. The veteran leader is also expected to hold a press conference in Bengaluru tomorrow, a development being closely watched amid mounting speculation over a leadership transition in the Congress-ruled state.

Adding to the political suspense, Siddaramaiah will host a breakfast meeting for the full Karnataka cabinet at his official residence on Thursday morning, sources said. The meeting is expected to be crucial as the Congress leadership attempts to manage what is rapidly turning into a tense succession battle within the state unit. The dramatic behind-the-scenes push unfolded through nearly seven hours of meetings in Delhi, even as senior Congress leaders publicly denied any discussion on leadership change and in-



sisted that talks were restricted to Rajya Sabha and Karnataka Legislative Council elections. But behind the official denials, sources described intense negotiations, persuasion attempts and a carefully crafted political offer aimed at convincing the veteran Karnataka leader to vacate the Chief Minister's chair without triggering open rebellion in the Karnataka Congress. According to sources, Siddaramaiah was told by the Congress leadership that the party now needed him in Delhi as one of its most prominent OBC faces, particularly at a time when Rahul Gandhi has aggressively sharpened the Congress's social justice and caste census pitch across the country. "He was told that he is a major OBC face and the party wants him to play a much bigger role nationally in the run-up to the 2029 Lok Sabha elections," a source familiar with the discussions said. Sources added that the leadership assured Siddaramaiah that "all other things and his issues will be taken care of" if he

agreed to move to Delhi through the Rajya Sabha route. The Congress leadership is reportedly keen on shifting Siddaramaiah to national politics through the Rajya Sabha and handing him a larger organisational role in Delhi ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. The Rajya Sabha route is also being viewed as a politically smoother exit formula, allowing Siddaramaiah to move to Delhi with stature and relevance intact instead of appearing to have been pushed out of Karnataka politics.

The timing is crucial, with nominations for the Rajya Sabha elections to be filed by June 8, leaving the Congress leadership with little room for delay.

INSIDE THE DELHI NEGOTIATIONS

Sources said the meetings stretched for almost seven hours and involved multiple rounds of discussions.

One key one-on-one interaction reportedly included Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi,

where Siddaramaiah was directly told that the party wanted him to end his tenure as Karnataka Chief Minister and shift to a larger organisational role at the Centre.

The broader meeting at the Congress headquarters was attended by Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, KC Venugopal and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Surjewala.

Sources said the Congress leadership was particularly careful not to antagonise Siddaramaiah during the discussions and framed the move as a political elevation rather than a removal.

The proposal, however, did not receive an immediate green signal from the Karnataka Chief Minister.

Sources said Siddaramaiah initially sought more time before taking a final decision and later went into consultations with close ministers and trusted aides after returning from Delhi.

CONGRESS PUBLICLY DENIES CHANGE

Even as speculation spiralled outside the meeting venue, the Congress maintained complete public silence on any leadership transition. Speaking after the nearly two-hour formal meeting, KC Venugopal dismissed reports of a Karnataka leadership reshuffle. "Today's discussion was only around Rajya Sabha polls and MLC elections. Whatever you speculated is not true," Venugopal told reporters. "We had a

meeting. CM, DCM and Randeep were present. The entire discussion concentrated on Rajya Sabha and MLC seats today. Stop speculation," he added. Neither Siddaramaiah nor DK Shivakumar addressed the media on the leadership issue while leaving the venue.

DK SHIVAKUMAR RETURNS TO CENTRE STAGE

Even though sources said there was no formal discussion on who would succeed Siddaramaiah, the developments have once again brought Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to the centre of Karnataka's power politics. For nearly two years, supporters of DK Shivakumar have maintained that a power-sharing understanding existed when the Congress formed the government in 2023, with Siddaramaiah taking over first and Shivakumar expected to eventually succeed him. The Congress leadership has never publicly acknowledged such an arrangement, but the speculation has never entirely disappeared either. Now, with Siddaramaiah likely to step down on Thursday, chatter around DK Shivakumar becoming the next Chief Minister has intensified sharply within the Karnataka Congress. Yet the leadership appears keen to avoid projecting the transition as a victory for one camp over another, aware that any perception of humiliation for Siddaramaiah could deepen factional fault lines in the state unit.

Chandrababu Naidu once again neglecting Sugali Preeti case, says Jagan

AMARAVATI, MAY 26

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of once again neglecting the case of Sugali Preeti, a 10th class student who was allegedly raped and murdered at a private school in Kurnool in 2017. The YSR Congress Party president said that the negligence of Chandrababu Naidu's government in the Sugali Preeti case is causing immense anguish to her parents. In 2017, Sugali Preeti, an innocent Class 10 student, was brutally murdered, but the then Chandrababu government completely failed to identify and punish the culprits. "After our government came to power, acting on the request of her



parents, we constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) and pushed the investigation forward. We also stood by the family by allotting them a five-cent house site in Kurnool, five acres of agricultural land, and a government job to compensate for their loss. Further, based on the family's request, we or-

dered a CBI investigation into the case as well," said Jagan Mohan Reddy. He said that after Chandrababu Naidu returned to power, the case had once again been pushed aside and neglected. Now, when the CBI itself is claiming that it lacks sufficient staff and resources to continue the investigation effectively, the

responsibility of the state government is to extend full cooperation and ensure that justice is delivered. Instead, the government has chosen to remain completely silent, Jagan posted on X. He said it was even more painful for him to learn from Sugali Preeti's parents that their pension has now been stopped simply because they have been speaking against the government and questioning its inaction. "They also showed me the SIT reports prepared during our government's tenure, along with the CDFD laboratory reports and DNA profiling details that were collected as part of the investigation. When such strong evidence and scientific reports are already available, is it not unjust for the state government to remain a mute spectator in-

Revision in Timings of Mysuru – SMVT Bengaluru Daily Passenger Special

HUBBALLI, MAY 26:

The timings of Train No. 06269 Mysuru–SMVT Bengaluru Daily Passenger Special at KSR Bengaluru station have been revised with effect from 26.05.2026 to 15.06.2026. Accordingly, the train (06269) will arrive/depart KSR Bengaluru at 00:20/00:30 hrs instead of the existing timings of 00:35/00:45 hrs.

II. Diversion and Regulation of Trains

Due to doubling work between Visapur–Ranjangaon Road–Sarola stations in the Daund–Mannad section of Pune Division, Central Railway has notified diversion and regulation of the following train services. The details are as follows:

• Diversion of trains:

1. Train No. 12627 KSR Bengaluru – New Delhi Karnataka Superfast Express, leaving KSR Bengaluru on 27.05.2026 and 29.05.2026 will be diverted to run via Solapur, Kurduwadi, Latur Road, Parbhani, Ankal and Manmad.

2. Train No. 22685 Yesvantpur – Chandigarh Superfast Express, leaving Yesvantpur on 27.05.2026 will be diverted via Pune, Lonavala, Karjat, Panvel, Kalyan, Nashik Road, and Manmad.

3. Train No. 20657 SSS Hubballi – Hazrat Nizamuddin Superfast

Express, departing SSS Hubballi on 29.05.2026 will run via Solapur, Kurduwadi, Latur Road, Parbhani, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar and Manmad.

4. Train No. 12780 Hazrat Nizamuddin – Vasco-da-Gama Goa Superfast Express, leaving Hazrat Nizamuddin on 29.05.2026 will be diverted via Manmad, Nashik Road, Kalyan, Panvel, Karjat, Lonavala and Pune.

• Regulation of trains:

1. Train No. 12780 Hazrat Nizamuddin – Vasco-da-Gama Goa Superfast Express, leaving Hazrat Nizamuddin on 27.05.2026 will be regulated for 2 hours 30 minutes in the Manmad–Akolner section.

2. Train No. 07364 Yog Nagari Rishikesh – SSS Hubballi Express Special, leaving Yog Nagari Rishikesh on 28.05.2026 will be regulated for 2 hours 30 minutes.

3. Train No. 12628 New Delhi – KSR Bengaluru Karnataka Superfast Express, departing New Delhi on 29.05.2026 will be regulated for 1 hour 30 minutes in the Solapur–Daund section.

4. Train No. 12781 Mysuru – Hazrat Nizamuddin Swarna Jayanti Superfast Express, leaving Mysuru on 29.05.2026 will be regulated for 1 hour in the Pune–Daund section.

Jagan alleges large-scale irregularities in Mega DSC recruitment process

YSRCP seeks CBI inquiry into alleged paper leaks, manipulation and irregularities in teacher recruitment examinations conducted by the coalition government

The YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Andhra Pradesh government over the conduct of the Mega DSC teacher recruitment process, alleging large-scale irregularities, paper leaks and manipulation in the examinations conducted under the coalition government. In a strongly worded post



on X, Mr. Jagan questioned Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu whether the recruitment exercise was a genuine "Mega DSC" or a "fraudulent DSC" aimed at deceiving lakhs of unemployed youth aspiring for government teaching jobs.



Andhra Pradesh CEO asks parties to help prepare clean electoral rolls under SIR-2026

Vivek Yadav reviews the Special Intensive Revision exercise, says July 1 is the qualifying date and the final voter list will be released on September 22

Andhra Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vivek Yadav on Tuesday (May 26, 2026) called upon all political parties to cooperate in preparing clean and accurate electoral rolls, describing voter lists as the cornerstone of democracy. Chairing a meeting with representatives of political parties at the State Secretariat, he reviewed the implementation of

the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 programme in accordance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. Mr. Yadav said rapid urbanisation, migration for education and employment, and demographic changes over the past two decades had led to issues such as deceased persons remaining on voter lists, duplicate registrations, and names of migrated persons not being removed. He said concerns raised by political parties and public representatives over the quality of electoral rolls had prompted the comprehensive revision exercise to strengthen democratic credibility.

Ebola screening begins at Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada airports; no case found so far

Travellers with a recent African travel history are being tracked at the two airports and the Visakhapatnam port, and a 30-bed isolation ward is ready for any suspected case. Health screening for Ebola has begun at the Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Tirupati

airports and the Visakhapatnam seaport, on Tuesday (May 26, 2026) after the Andhra Pradesh government issued an alert on the spread of the virus in several African countries. At Vijayawada, 185 passengers were screened on Tuesday, and none showed symptoms.



EDITORIAL

THE LONG NIGHT OF INDIA'S HEATWAVES

As northern and central India suffer through another brutal summer, the focus of public anxiety has predictably settled on daytime maximums. Headlines scream of mercury crossing 45 degrees Celsius in New Delhi and touching 48 degrees Celsius in Uttar Pradesh's Banda. However, a more insidious and lethal climate metric is breaking records this month: India's nighttime temperatures are refusing to drop.

Delhi recently recorded its warmest May night in fourteen years, with the minimum temperature refusing to dip below 32.4 degrees Celsius—nearly six degrees above the seasonal norm. This is not an anomaly; it is a terrifying trend. Data from the Council for Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) reveals that nearly 70% of Indian districts have experienced a significant surge in very warm summer nights over the last decade. This overnight warming is rising at a much sharper trajectory than daytime peaks, signaling a profound shift in how climate change threatens human survival on the subcontinent.

The human body is remarkably resilient, but it relies heavily on the relative cool of the night to shed the heat accumulated during the day. When nighttime temperatures remain stubbornly elevated, this physiological recovery window slams shut. The heart continues to pump rapidly, blood pressure fluctuates, and the deep, restorative sleep necessary for metabolic reset becomes impossible. The Lancet Countdown on health and climate change has repeatedly warned that sustained overnight heat exposure triggers severe cardiovascular strain, acute dehydration, and a sharp spike in mortality rates.

Critically, this is a crisis with a steep socio-economic gradient. While affluent urbanites retreat into air-conditioned bubbles—driving cities' peak electricity demand deep into the midnight hours—millions of informal workers, gig laborers, and slum dwellers face a living hell. In crowded, poorly ventilated settlements built of tin and concrete, structures act as thermal traps. They absorb heat all day and radiate it back inward at night, turning homes into ovens. For a delivery rider or a construction laborer who has spent ten hours under a blazing sun, a night without cooling is not just uncomfortable; it is a direct threat to their livelihood and life.

Our current public policy infrastructure is entirely blind to this reality. India's pioneering "Heat Action Plans" (HAPs) are heavily weighted toward daytime interventions—issuing warnings for afternoon peaks, adjusting school hours, and advising citizens to stay indoors. But what happens when the indoors itself becomes unliveable at midnight?

To prevent our cities from becoming nocturnal death traps, municipal policy must undergo a radical structural rewrite. First, HAPs must introduce explicit triggers and protocols for "Warm Night" alerts, including the operation of 24/7 public cooling shelters tailored for homeless populations and nighttime workers. Second, urban planning must mandate aggressive greening strategies to counter the "urban heat island" effect, substituting heat-trapping concrete with permeable surfaces and shaded corridors. Finally, building bylaws must evolve. We must legally phase out construction materials that trap heat and mandate passive cooling designs, white reflective roofs, and vertical gardens.

The climate emergency has stolen India's afternoons; we cannot allow it to rob us of our nights. If we do not act immediately to cool our cities after dark, we face a future of permanent physical and economic exhaustion.

Artificial Intelligence: From Shifting Jobs to Testing Human Values

Every technological revolution that reshaped the world also altered the way people lived. Just as the steam engine fueled the Industrial Revolution and computers ushered in the Information Age, Artificial Intelligence (AI) now stands at another decisive turning point in human history. Emerging not merely as an assistant to human intelligence, but in some cases as a substitute for it, AI is transforming employment, education, lifestyles, and even the social fabric of societies.

This transformation is not simply about jobs disappearing and new opportunities emerging. It raises deeper questions about the role of human beings, the uniqueness of human abilities, and the direction in which our future is heading. Once, humans used machines as tools; today, machines are learning human tasks. If tomorrow they begin playing a larger role in decision-making itself, an unsettling question emerges: will humans remain creators, or gradually become mere supervisors of systems they built?

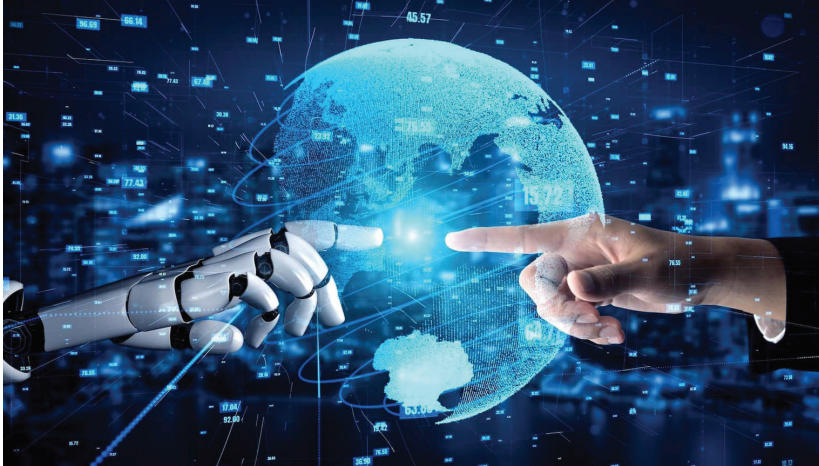
Job Disruptions: Industries Under Transformation

The rapid expansion of AI is already reshaping the global job market. Industries such as information technology services, customer support, content creation, administrative work, and entry-level coding are witnessing substantial change. According to international projections, millions of jobs worldwide may undergo transformation in the coming years, even as entirely new roles emerge.

Jobs built around repetitive and predictable tasks appear particularly vulnerable. Customer service centers, for instance, increasingly rely on AI-driven chatbots, reducing dependence on large human workforces. Yet the real challenge is not technology itself; it is adaptation. AI can perform routine work with remarkable speed and efficiency, but human creativity, emotional understanding, and judgment still remain difficult to replicate. The issue is not whether machines are becoming smarter, but whether people are evolving quickly enough alongside them.

AI's Employment and Social Challenges

Perhaps the most significant challenge AI presents is the shrinking lifespan of skills. There was a time when knowledge acquired once could remain professionally useful for a decade or more. Today, skills evolve rapidly, forcing people into a cycle of continuous learning.



Artificial Intelligence is reshaping the world at extraordinary speed, transforming jobs, education, and human decision-making itself. As machines grow smarter and more capable, the future may depend not only on technological progress, but on humanity's ability to preserve creativity, ethics, empathy, and adaptability in an AI-driven age.

At the same time, not everyone moves at the same pace. Middle-aged workers, rural youth, and people with limited access to technological resources risk falling behind. While some race ahead with access to tools and opportunities, others struggle to keep up, widening the digital divide. There is another concern that often receives less attention: human decision-making itself. We increasingly rely on technology for information, guidance, and choices. Excessive dependence may gradually weaken independent thinking and reduce our ability to make judgments without technological assistance.

New Opportunities in an AI-Driven Economy:

While some traditional jobs are undergoing change, AI is simultaneously creating new opportunities at an unprecedented scale. Fields such as data science, machine learning, AI prompt engineering, cybersecurity, and cloud computing are witnessing rapid growth. The healthcare sector increasingly uses AI for early disease detection. Financial institutions employ it to detect fraud. Industries rely on it to improve efficiency and productivity. AI is not simply eliminating jobs; it is redefining them.

The real question is whether people are prepared with the skills necessary to seize these opportunities. At a deeper level, AI's impact extends beyond employment. Human beings once considered memory,

knowledge, and analytical thinking to be uniquely human strengths. As machines begin performing many of these functions, an important question surfaces:

What exactly makes humans unique?

Opportunities for Young Professionals: In countries like India, technology hubs such as Hyderabad and Bengaluru are increasingly becoming centers of AI-driven growth. Employers are no longer focused solely on academic scores; they are placing greater value on problem-solving abilities, logical thinking, and practical application skills. Knowledge of programming languages like Python, familiarity with large language models, data analytics, and cloud platforms can certainly provide an advantage. But technical knowledge alone is no longer enough. The ability to think differently and create meaningful solutions has become equally important.

Human Skills and the Rise of Adaptability:

Human intelligence extends beyond logic and analysis. Creativity, empathy, emotional intelligence, imagination, and ethical judgment remain essential qualities that AI continues to struggle to fully imitate. Future careers may include roles such as Human-AI Interaction Designers, Ethical AI Consultants, and Emotional Wellness Coaches. As machines accelerate productivity, demand will likely rise

for people who can add human meaning, ethics, and emotional depth to the work being done. The future may no longer be defined merely by Intelligence Quotient (IQ). Increasingly, success may depend on Adaptability Quotient (AQ) — the ability to adjust, learn, and evolve in response to change.

Preparing the Next Generation:

Students and young professionals should move beyond textbooks and engage with real-world challenges. Activities such as writing stories, participating in theatre, painting, and other creative pursuits can strengthen imagination and empathy.

Adaptability can also be developed by stepping outside familiar boundaries. A computer science student exploring psychology or history, or collaborating with people from different backgrounds, gains perspectives that cannot be learned from technical education alone.

The challenges created by AI require strategic responses. Education systems need to move away from rigid models and encourage critical thinking from an early stage. Governments and industries must collaborate to provide continuous reskilling opportunities. At the same time, AI's impact extends far beyond employment. Privacy concerns, information security, and ethical questions are becoming increasingly important. Technologies such as deepfakes demonstrate how innovation can also become a source of misinformation if used irresponsibly.

Humans created machines. Now machines are learning human tasks. But the defining question of the future may not be how intelligent machines become; it may be how long human beings can preserve their values, wisdom, and humanity.

Artificial Intelligence is not humanity's rival. The greater responsibility lies with humanity itself to ensure that technology moves in the right direction.



D. JAIRAM
Subject Expert – Current Affairs
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On the Birth Anniversary of Margaret Fuller – May 23

The Pen that Became a Voice for Language

In the history of world literature, some writers do much more than write books—they reshape the way society thinks, speaks, and understands itself. One such remarkable voice was Margaret Fuller. She was not merely an American writer; she was a thinker who believed that language is a powerful medium of expression, literature is an instrument of social change, and ideas can lead to personal freedom. Through her writings, criticism, and intellectual engagement, she created a lasting place for herself in global literary thought.

Born on May 23, 1810, in America, Margaret Fuller showed extraordinary interest in learning from a very young age. At a time when educational opportunities for women were limited, she studied languages such as Latin, Greek, Italian, and German. For her, education was never just a path to employment—it was a way to understand the world. Her learning gradually expanded into literature, philosophy, history, and cultural thought. She also encouraged women to participate in intellectual discussions and become active voices in society.

A major turning point in her life came through her association with literary and intellectual circles in America. She became known not only as a writer but also as a critic who examined literature deeply. She encouraged readers to look beyond praise and understand structure, meaning, and social influence in literary works. Her approach



helped establish literary criticism as an important creative and intellectual practice.

One of the strongest themes in her writings was the position of women in society. She argued that women should not remain limited to traditional roles but should be recognised as equal participants in shaping society. Her ideas were expressed through essays, discussions, and public engagement. She believed that questioning accepted ideas is essential for intellectual growth.

Margaret Fuller's contribution extended beyond writing books. She worked in editorial and literary spaces and helped bring serious literary discussion to the public. She believed literature should not remain confined to a few

readers but should influence everyday life and public thinking.

Among her important works are:

- Summer on the Lakes, in 1843 (1844) – a reflective travel work based on her observations of people, landscapes, and society.
- Woman in the Nineteenth Century (1845) – her most influential work discussing women's education, dignity, equality, and independent thought.
- Papers on Literature and Art (1846) – a collection of essays and literary criticism showing her intellectual depth.
- At Home and Abroad (1856) – published after

her death, containing essays and observations.

- Memoirs of Margaret Fuller Ossoli (1852) – a posthumous work based on her writings, letters, and life.

What made Margaret Fuller exceptional was not the number of books she wrote but the conversations she started. She believed that literature must encourage society to think, question, and grow. Her ideas crossed national and cultural boundaries and reflected a broader human vision.

Her life ended in 1850 at the age of forty in a tragic sea accident while returning from Europe to America. Yet her influence did not end there. Her writings continue to be discussed in literature, women's studies, and intellectual history. Today, Margaret Fuller remains relevant not because she belonged to the nineteenth century, but because the questions she raised still speak to the present world. Her life reminds us that language can inspire thought, literature can awaken society, and ideas can outlive generations.



CHITIKENA KIRAN KUMAR
Eminent Poet,
Writer & Editorial Columnist
Member: IBRF



TWILIGHT ELEGY



When memory melts like midnight rain,
And words grow lost in age and pain,
Do not turn away, my child
These trembling lips once made you smile.
These wrinkled hands you gently see
Once shaped your world so fearlessly
These dimmed old eyes, now drowned in grey,
Once lit your nights and guarded day.
A mother stitched her soul to breath,
Defeating hunger, grief, and death;
A father fed the fire of dawn
While his own dreams were slowly gone.
Your cradle slept on sleepless nights,
Your future rose from sacrificed lights
Your wings were carved from prayers untold,
From hearts that burned instead of gold.
Do not despise their faltering tread,
Or mock the silver on their head
Each fragile step, each aching bone,
Is love that carried you alone.
The staff they clutch with trembling grace
Once taught your feet their first embrace
The broken voice you now ignore
Once calmed the storms behind your door.
Remember
Time is a silent sculptor grim,
Who dims the proud and weakens limb;

The sorrow written on their skin
Tomorrow's mirror wears within.
One day,
Your hands too shall search for light,
Your voice shall fade into the night;
And empty rooms will learn your name
In echoes soft with silent pain.
When death descends with darkened breath,
Parents do not fear the hush of death;
They seek no throne, no jeweled fame,
No marble carved to praise their name
Only a child beside their bed...
One loving palm upon their head...
One whispered "Mother..." filled with tears...
One "Father..." warming fading years...
For God could not embrace all lands,
So He created mothers' hands;
And when life's roads grew fierce and far,
He forged a father like a star.
Bow low before those ageing feet
Where earth and heaven softly meet
For all humanity's truest worth
Still blooms through parents upon this earth.
And in life's final crimson sky,
When mortal lights begin to die,
One truth alone outshines all breath
A parent's love survives even death...



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

Government forms high-level committee to examine unnatural demographic changes

The committee will analyse the pattern of abnormal population shifts at the levels of religious and social communities, and will present a planned and time-bound solution to address the issue, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday announced the formation of a high-level committee to examine what he described as "unnatural demographic change" caused by illegal immigration and other unspecified factors, calling the issue a major challenge to India's sovereignty,

national security, social balance, and the preservation of tribal societies. In a post on X, he pointed out that the panel's formation was promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Independence Day last year. "Infiltration and other reasons causing Un-natural Demographic Change pose a very significant challenge to the present and future of any nation. To address this very challenge, on 15 August 2025, Prime Minister [Narendra Modi] had announced the 'High-Level Committee on Demographic Change'. I am delighted to inform you that the government has now constituted this committee," the



Home Minister wrote.

Shah said that the committee will be chaired by retired Supreme Court Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar and include former IAS officer Durga Shankar Mishra, ex-IPS officer Balaji Srivastava, and economist Dr Shamika Ravi and the Census Commissioner as members. "The Joint Secretary (Foreigners-I), Ministry of Home Affairs, will serve as the Member Secretary of this committee," he added. The Home Minister

said that the committee will conduct a comprehensive assessment of "demographic changes occurring across India due to illegal immigration and other unnatural causes."

He further said that the panel will analyse the pattern of abnormal population shifts at the levels of religious and social communities, and will "present a planned and time-bound solution for the same."

The announcement is expected to trigger a wider political debate, with the issue of illegal migration and demographic shifts remaining a recurring flashpoint in several states, particularly in border regions. The announcement

by Shah came on a day he visited the Border Security Force's (BSF's) Sanchu outpost in Rajasthan's Bikaner district. Addressing the border guarding force's personnel, he said the Centre had expanded the BSF's jurisdiction to 50 kilometres from the International Border, keeping in mind the emerging security challenges such as infiltration, smuggling and drone-based narcotics trafficking. He also stressed the need to remain vigilant against demographic changes caused by cross-border infiltration and said agencies should closely monitor activities in villages located near the border.

Passenger Convenience Enhanced with Extended

MALIGAON, 26 MAY, 2026:

To clear the additional rush of passengers during the summerrush, services of train no. 07046/07047 (Secunderabad - Naharlagun - Secunderabad) has been extended for additional five trips in both directions. Train No. 07046 (Secunderabad - Naharlagun) weekly special has been extended to run from 29th of May, 2026 till 26th of June, 2026. While in return direction, train no. 07047 (Naharlagun -Secunderabad) weekly special has been extended to run from 01st of June, 2026 till 29th of June, 2026. The trains will operate with the existing schedule of service, timings, composition and stoppages. Additionally, it has been decided to run a Summer Special train from Katihar to Bhagalpur. The train will operate on daily basis from 27th of May to 01st of June, 2026 in both the directions. Train no. 03407 (Bhagalpur - Katihar) Special will depart from Bhagalpur at 07:00 hours to reach Katihar at 13:00 hours on the same day. In return direction, train no. 03408 (Katihar - Bhagalpur) Special will depart from Katihar at 14:10 hours to reach Bhagalpur at 20:20 hours on the same day. The train will operate as an unreserved special train with a composition of 13 general

coaches. The extension of the Secunderabad - Naharlagun -Secunderabad Special and the introduction of the Katihar -Bhagalpur Summer Special will provide substantial relief to passengers during the peak summer travel season. The additional trips between Secunderabad and Naharlagun will help cater to the increased passenger demand, reduce waiting lists and improve the availability of confirmed accommodation on this important route connecting the northeastern region with southern India. The extended services will also offer greater travel flexibility and convenience to passengers travelling to and from Arunachal Pradesh and other northeastern states. Similarly, the daily Katihar-Bhagalpur Summer Special will provide an additional travel option for passengers commuting between the two cities and intermediate stations. Overall, these special train services will improve connectivity, facilitate smoother passenger movement and ensure a more comfortable travel experience during the summer rush period. The details of stoppages and timings of these trains are available at IRCTC website and social media platforms of N. F. Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey.

Astrophysicist Ronaldo Laishram Names 12.6 Billion-Year-Old Galaxy Protocluster After Loktak

IMPHAL, 26 MAY 2026

In a major scientific achievement linking Manipur to the story of the early Universe, Manipuri astrophysicist Dr. Ronaldo Laishram has led an international team of researchers in discovering a massive young galaxy structure dating back around 12.6 billion years and named it the "Loktak Protocluster" after the iconic Loktak Lake.

The discovery, published in The Astrophysical Journal Letters, provides important new insights into

Discovery published in The Astrophysical Journal Letters links Manipur's iconic lake to the early Universe

how galaxies evolved in the early stages of the Universe. Astronomers describe a protocluster as an early-stage galaxy cluster — a massive system of galaxies still forming under the force of gravity. According to the research team, the Loktak Protocluster existed when the Universe was only about 1.2 billion years old. The structure consists of four interconnected concentrations of galaxies evolving together, drawing comparison with the floating phumdis

of Loktak Lake. Dr. Ronaldo Laishram, currently a researcher at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, said naming the discovery after Loktak Lake was a tribute to his homeland and identity. He remarked that Loktak is deeply connected to the cultural identity of Manipur and expressed pride that the name of the lake would now be associated with the wider story of the Universe. The international team conducted the study using ob-

servations from the Subaru Telescope and the James Webb Space Telescope. Their findings suggest that galaxies located in dense cosmic environments were already evolving differently from galaxies in less crowded regions even during the early phases of the Universe. The study indicates that surrounding environments may have played a major role in shaping galaxy formation and development. Originally from Khangabok in Thoubal district, Dr. Laishram com-

pleted his Master's degree and PhD in astronomy from Tohoku University before joining the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan in Tokyo. His research focuses on galaxy formation and evolution, and he has contributed to several international astronomy publications. His interest in astronomy reportedly began at a young age. At 18, he discovered a preliminary asteroid and was later felicitated by former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Apart

from his scientific work, Dr. Laishram is also the founding coordinator of the Manipur Astronomical Society, which promotes astronomy awareness among students and youth in the Northeast. He is also associated with educational initiatives including OviEdu and MitSna Foundation. The research paper documenting the discovery is titled "Discovery of a z 4.9 Ly α Emitter Protocluster: Wavelength-dependent Environmental Effects on Galaxy Structure."

Cong Alleges Great Nicobar Project Targets Tribal Resources

NEW DELHI: (MAY 26)

Terming the Modi government "anti-tribal", the Congress on Tuesday alleged that the Great Nicobar project was aimed at "looting tribal resources" and the Centre was using the cover of national security to dispossess tribal communities of their land. Adivasi Congress chairperson Vikrant Bhuria alleged that tribal people are being stripped of their water, forests and land everywhere, whether in Sijimali or Hasdeo. Addressing a press conference here, he claimed that the BJP government at the Centre wants to loot tribal resources in the name of the proposed Great Nicobar development project.

Lucknow Woman Found Dead at In-Laws' Home; Dowry Murder Alleged

LUCKNOW: (MAY 26)

A 26-year-old woman was found hanging at her in-laws residence here barely six months after her marriage, with her family alleging she was killed by her in-laws over dowry demands and later hanged from a noose to stage a suicide, officials said on Tuesday. Based on a complaint lodged by the father of the deceased, police have registered a case against the woman's husband Bhupendra Pratap Singh alias Shubham Singh, both his parents, his brother and his wife under sections 80 (dowry death), 85 (cruelty) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act. The deceased has been identified as Shweta Singh (26).

Harvesting Innovation: Why India Must Embrace the Israeli Approach to Water Security

India stands at a critical juncture where its rich agricultural legacy meets the urgent demands of a modern, climate-challenged economy. As the backbone of the nation, agriculture faces immense pressure from depleting groundwater levels, fragmented landholdings, and increasingly erratic weather patterns. In this search for a sustainable and prosperous roadmap, Israel emerges as the most potent and practical role model for India to emulate. While nations like the Netherlands or the United States offer impressive examples of high-tech farming and industrial scale, Israel's agricultural transformation is rooted in a fundamental necessity that mirrors India's own primary struggle: the extreme scarcity of water. Israel was once a desert nation with limited natural

resources; today, it is a global powerhouse of agricultural innovation. This remarkable transformation offers a precise blueprint for India, where the challenges of arid climates and chronic water stress are becoming increasingly pervasive across the subcontinent. The cornerstone of this partnership lies in Israel's absolute mastery of precision agriculture. Through drip irrigation—a technology pioneered by Israeli innovators—farmers can deliver water and nutrients directly to the root zones of plants, minimizing waste and maximizing efficiency. For an average Indian farmer, who often relies on rain-fed crops or flood irrigation that depletes precious aquifers, adopting these precision tools could mean the difference between a failing harvest and a highly produc-



tive season. Furthermore, Israel's approach to desalination and wastewater recycling is unparalleled. By treating and reusing nearly ninety percent of its wastewater for agricultural purposes, Israel has effectively decoupled agricultural growth from raw water consumption. India, with its vast urban centers and growing industrial water demand, could revolutionize its rural

economy by integrating similar circular water economies. Beyond just technology, Israel's model emphasizes a robust ecosystem of research, extension services, and farmer-centric innovation. Their success is not merely in the hardware of irrigation pipes but in the software of knowledge transfer—ensuring that the latest scientific breakthroughs reach the smallholder farmer in the field. This is exactly what India needs: a strategic shift from traditional, labor-intensive practices to data-driven, technology-integrated farming. Moreover, Israel's focus on high-value, export-oriented horticulture aligns perfectly with India's ambition to diversify its agricultural output. By prioritizing crop varieties that thrive in harsh conditions and offer higher market premiums, India can move toward

a more profitable, sustainable future. Adopting the Israeli model does not mean blindly importing foreign solutions; rather, it means internalizing the philosophy of "doing more with less." It is a shift in mindset that empowers the Indian farmer to become a technological manager of land and water rather than a passive observer of climate unpredictability. As India looks toward the next century of food security, the Israeli experience serves as a beacon of possibility, proving that with innovation, resilience, and strategic policy, the land can indeed flourish even in the face of daunting adversity. India has the human capital and the drive; aligning that with a proven framework of resource efficiency will undoubtedly secure its position as a global leader in sustainable agriculture.

Haryana CM Reviews Key Development Projects

CHANDIGARH, MAY 26

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday chaired a high-level 'Pragati' review meeting at the Haryana Civil Secretariat to assess the status of major development projects worth more than Rs. 75 crores currently underway across the state. Stressing the need for timely execution, the Chief Minister directed all departments to accelerate the pace of work and ensure that projects are completed within stipulated timelines. Major Healthcare Projects Reviewed During the meeting, special emphasis was laid on key healthcare infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening medical facilities in the state. Reviewing the construction of the Mother and Child Hospital and Service Block at Faridabad Civil Hospital, officers apprised the Chief Minister that nearly 28 percent of the work has been completed and the project is

scheduled for completion by January 18, 2028. Similarly, the officers further apprised the Chief Minister about the 100-bed Mother and Child Hospital being constructed at the Sonapat Civil Hospital campus at a cost of Rs. 138.12 crore. Around 20 percent of the project work has been completed so far and the facility is expected to be ready by October 19, 2027. The Chief Minister also reviewed the construction of a 100-bed hospital at Assandh in Karnal, being developed at a cost of Rs. 76.19 crore. Officers further apprised that approximately 25 percent of the work has already been completed. Emphasising the importance of quality healthcare infrastructure, the Chief Minister said that all health-related projects must be developed as per the highest standards and that no compromise with quality would be tolerated at any level.

Focus on Speeding Up Infrastructure and De-



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini presiding over the review meeting of Haryana Vision 2047 Action Plans, at Chandigarh on May 26, 2026.

Development Projects

The Chief Minister said that the government has further intensified administrative monitoring to ensure faster execution of developmental and infrastructure projects across Haryana. Officers further apprised the Chief Minister that construction work on the International Convention Centre in Sector-78, Faridabad, being developed at a cost of Rs. 378.90 crore, has achieved nearly 50 percent physical progress. The project is expected to be completed by February 2027. Under the education and horticulture sector, the Chief Minister also

reviewed the construction of the Maharana Pratap Horticultural University (MHU) campus in Karnal, which is being developed at a cost of Rs. 422.54 crore. Officers further apprised that the project has progressed up to 43 percent completion.

Approval Granted for Ethanol Plant at Panipat Sugar Mill

Officers further apprised the Chief Minister that approval has been granted for setting up a new 90 KLPD capacity multi-feed ethanol plant at Panipat Sugar Mills under the Cooperation Department at an estimated cost

of Rs. 200 crore. The proposal is now being sent to the High-Powered Purchase Committee (HPPC) for finalisation of the tender process. Officers shared that the project is likely to be completed during the financial year 2027-28.

Push for Modernisation of Fire Services and Disaster Management

The Chief Minister was also informed that, as part of efforts to modernise fire services, the land registration process for the proposed Fire Training Centre at Khedi Masania in Jind has been completed. The centre will be developed at a cost of Rs. 100 crore. In addition, an amount of Rs. 2 crore has already been transferred to PWD (B&R) for preparation of the project's drawings and designs.

To further strengthen disaster management capabilities, officials informed that after approval, the revised Request for Proposal (RFP) for procurement of a 104-metre aerial ladder platform

costing Rs. 120 crore has been submitted to the government. The Chief Minister made it clear that strict adherence to prescribed rules and timelines in all projects is mandatory and any delay at any stage would be viewed seriously. CM Reviews National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) In line with the government's focus on youth empowerment and employment generation, the Chief Minister also reviewed the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS). During the meeting, he directed officers to increase the number of district-level job fairs across the state and ensure that they are organised regularly in a result-oriented manner so that maximum youth can be connected with industries and institutions.

The Chief Minister stressed the need for better coordination and active participation among the departments of Technical Education, Higher Education, Industrial Train-

ing and Employment to create greater skill-based employment opportunities for the youth. He emphasised that tangible outcomes in employment generation should be visible every month and directed departments to enhance the productivity and effectiveness of schemes aimed at connecting youth with jobs.

Chief Secretary, Sh. Anurag Rastogi, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Dr. Sumita Misra, Additional Chief Secretary, PW (B&R) Department, Sh. Apoorv Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department, Sh. Vijayendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Sh. Arun Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Sh. Rajeev Ranjan, Chief Administrator HSPV, Chander Shekhar Khare, Special Secretary, Monitoring and Coordination, Dr. Priyanka Soni, along with other senior officers, were also present in the meeting.



UK issues heat health alerts across region amid rising temperatures

LONDON

The UK government on Tuesday issued Heat-Health Alerts (HHA) across England amid rising temperatures across the country. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) issued an 'Amber Alert' for the East Midlands, East of England, London, West Midlands, South East and South West regions and a 'Yellow Alert' for the North East, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber regions on May 26.

According to the UKHSA, the alerts are effective until 5 pm Thursday, May 28. The Yellow alerts indicate a low impact and show a greater risk to the lives of vulnerable people, according to UKHSA. The Amber alert indicates a medium impact. Significant impacts are likely across health and social care services due to the high temperatures.

This may result in a rise in deaths, particularly among those aged 65 and over or with health conditions. There may also be impacts on younger age groups. According to leading UK daily 'The Guardian', highs of 35 degrees Celsius are expected for large swathes of Southern England and Wales on Tuesday, a Met Office meteorologist stated.

US launches new strikes on Iran, targeting missile sites and boats

TEHRAN

The US said it launched new strikes on southern Iran on Monday, targeting Iranian missile sites and boats attempting to place mines. The strikes were in "self-defence" and designed "to protect our troops from threats posed by Iranian forces", US Central Command (Centcom) said in a statement.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Tuesday it had downed a US drone and fired at a fighter jet and another drone that entered Iranian airspace, state media reported. It did not specify when this happened.

It added that Iran had the "legitimate and definite" right to retaliate against any US ceasefire violations. "US forces conducted self-defence strikes in southern Iran today to protect our troops from threats posed by Iranian forces," Centcom spokesperson Capt Tim Hawkins said in a statement on Monday.

"US Central Command continues to defend our forces while using restraint during the ongoing ceasefire." The US strikes targeted an area near Bandar Abbas, a southern port city and home of an Iranian naval base that sits on the Strait of Hormuz, the New York Times quotes a senior military official as saying. Iranian state media had earlier reported that local officials



in Bandar Abbas were investigating after explosions were heard.

It is unclear what impact the latest US strikes will have on any potential peace agreement between the US and Iran. Following the US attack, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said a deal was still possible and pointed to talks on Tuesday between Iran's top negotiator and foreign minister and Qatar's prime minister.

"We'll see if we can make progress. I think it's a lot of talking back and forth going on about specific language in the initial document, so it'll take a few days," Rubio told reporters during an official visit to India. He said President Donald Trump had "expressed his desire to

make it". "He's either going to make a good deal or no deal," Rubio said.

Asked again later about Monday's strikes, Rubio said: "The straits have to be open. "They're going to be open one way or the other, so they need to be open. "What's happening there is unlawful, it's illegal, it's unsustainable for the world, it's unacceptable." Meanwhile, Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said the Middle East "will no longer serve as shields for US bases".

Khamenei, who has not been seen in public since succeeding his late father as supreme leader earlier this year, made the comments on Tuesday in a message marking the annual Hajj pilgrimage.

He added: "In addition to no longer having a safe haven for evil and establishing military bases in the region, America is moving away from its previous status day by day."

Earlier in May, a clash between Iran and US naval destroyers in the Strait of Hormuz - for which each side blamed the other - led Trump to insist a ceasefire was still in place.

At the weekend, Trump had suggested the sides were close to a deal, but later said he had instructed negotiators "not to rush into" one, while Rubio had said an agreement could possibly be reached on Monday. But Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqai responded: "It is correct to say that we have reached a conclusion on a large portion of the issues under discussion... But to say that this means the signing of an agreement is imminent - no-one can make such a claim."

The memorandum of understanding being discussed reportedly involves a 60-day ceasefire extension, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and a plan for further negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme. CBS, the BBC's US partner, has reported that American intelligence believes Iran's new supreme leader is holed up in an undisclosed location, making communication with his envoys difficult and therefore delaying the pace of talks with the US.



Hilarion Alfeyev released by Czech Republic authorities

PRAGUE

Hilarion Alfeyev, a retired bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church who was previously detained in the Czech Republic, has been released, local media reported. According to his Telegram channel, he was released without any additional restrictions: no bail, written undertaking, travel ban or other procedural obligations, Russia's state-owned Tass news agency reported.

Alfrey, who was 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 Russian Foreign Ministry.

The Ministry on Monday said that it is going to summon the head of the Czech diplomatic mission in Moscow in connection with the detention of

Hilarion Alfeyev in Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic.

"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 search of Hilarion and his driver, and tested them for narcotics (with negative results).

Self-described 'neutral' Pakistan quietly aligning with forces driving instability



TEL AVIV

Insisting that the United States should no longer regard Pakistan as a "dependable strategic partner", a report has highlighted that a nuclear-armed state accused of assisting Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), sheltering Iranian reconnaissance assets, and sustaining a decades-long history of proxy linkages cannot credibly be considered a reliable partner of regional security.

Writing for "Times of Israel", Jose Lev Alvarez, an American-Israeli expert in Middle Eastern security policy, said that continued engagement with Islamabad in the absence of meaningful consequences only encourages further duplicity.

"Pakistan is stabbing America in the back. While masquerading as a neutral 'mediator' in the US-Israel-Iran conflict and hosting the ceasefire talks that shattered the April 8, 2026 agreement, Islamabad has been quietly cutting sordid side deals with Tehran. These pacts secure safe passage for its energy imports and, according to

multiple reports, provided shelter for Iranian military aircraft at Nur Khan Airbase," Alvarez detailed.

"In doing so, Pakistan is tightening the mullahs' grip on the Strait of Hormuz and once again exposing the strategic duplicity that defines its foreign policy: milking Washington for military aid, diplomatic legitimacy, and economic favors while accommodating America's adversaries behind closed doors," he added. The expert noted that Islamabad's behaviour is rooted not in ideology but in "cold strategic calculation" shaped by the reality of a conventionally superior India, heavy reliance on China for economic and military support, and the necessity of functional ties with Iran amid chronic energy vulnerabilities across Pakistan.

"These realities push it toward a familiar hedging strategy: publicly cooperating with Washington while privately accommodating revisionist powers opposed to the American-led regional order. In this framework, alliances are transactional instruments subordinate to regime survival and strategic

flexibility," Alvarez mentioned. He highlighted that over the past several decades, Islamabad has relied on "proxy warfare, covert balancing, and terrorist intermediaries" to counter India's conventional superiority while "preserving manoeuvrability between competing power blocs". Its actions during the 2026 crisis in West Asia, he argued, fit with this long-established pattern. According to the expert, Pakistani leadership has made its strategic approach clear: engaging with Washington when convenient while at the same time supporting forces openly hostile to US interests. He argued that Washington should respond with closer scrutiny, conditional engagement, and a far more "hard-nosed" assessment of Pakistan's role in the shifting power dynamics across the Middle East and Indo-Pacific region. Emphasising the wider implications of any alliance with Pakistan, Alvarez said, "These self-described 'neutrals' are not neutral at all. They are aligned, openly or quietly, with the forces driving instability, coercion, and terror across the region."

African Development Bank Group holds 61st annual meetings in Brazzaville

BRAZZAVILLE

The 61st Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) kicked off Tuesday in Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of the Congo, with Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso attending and addressing the opening ceremony.

Held under the theme "Mobilising Africa's Development Financing at Scale in a Fragmented World," the meetings bring together finance ministers and central bank governors from the AfDB's 81 member countries, as well as representatives from bilateral and multilateral development institutions, academia, non-governmental organisations, civil society and the private sec-



tor, Xinhua news agency reported. Ludovic Ngatse, chair of the AfDB Board of Governors and Congolese minister of economy, planning, statistics and foresight, said the meetings provide an important platform for participants

to discuss the bank's future financing priorities and mark a turning point in the adjustment of its financial architecture.

AfDB Group President Sidi Ould Tah said Africa's development must be driven by African leadership, noting that African countries need to strengthen their financing architecture and turn the continent's opportunities into tangible development outcomes.

In his address, Sassou Nguesso said African countries should build a more coordinated financing framework in key areas such as infrastructure, education, health and agriculture.

He also thanked the AfDB for its long-standing support for infrastructure and agricultural devel-

opment projects in the Republic of the Congo, and expressed the hope that the bank would fully play its role as a financing partner.

Following the opening ceremony, participating leaders held a high-level discussion on infrastructure development and other issues.

The meetings will run until May 29. Participants are expected to focus on ways to leverage Africa's resources and young population better to mobilise capital at scale and strengthen the continent's financial agency in global markets amid a rapidly changing and diversified global environment. The AfDB is also launching the African Economic Outlook 2026 on day 2 of the event.

Russian embassy calls the new British sanctions 'pointless'

LONDON

The Russian Embassy in London on Tuesday said that British authorities failed to accept that anti-Russian sanctions are 'pointless', local media reported. "London has once again announced the expansion of illegal restrictions against Russia—this time under the trumped-up pretext of combating certain 'cryptocurrency networks.' The British authorities stubbornly refuse to accept the obvious: anti-Russian sanctions are pointless," stated the Russian Embassy in London, Russia's state-owned media Tass news agency reported.

The Embassy further noted that "Our country has long and successfully adapted to external pressure and will not change its course based on London's whims. The

consequences of these mounting restrictions will be felt, first and foremost, by the citizens, businesses, and reputation of the United Kingdom itself. This, apparently, is of little concern to the proponents of such initiatives." The UK earlier on Tuesday expanded sanctions on 18 companies, saying they directly target Russia's illicit financial infrastructure used to move funds, procure goods, and sustain its war.

According to the UK government's press release, the sanctions target cryptocurrency exchanges and the 'A7 network', used by 'Russia to evade existing restrictions and channel funds to fuel its barbaric war against Ukraine.' These sanctions will come into force immediately.

Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper said, "If the Kremlin thinks it can

evade our sanctions by hiding behind crypto networks and shadow financial systems, it is gravely mistaken.

The UK is adapting and strengthening our approach to target the evolving tactics Russia is using to evade restrictions. We are going after the infrastructure that underpins its war economy at the same time as Ukraine is increasing the pressure on Russia on the battlefield." Meanwhile, the Russian Embassy in London said that "It's noteworthy that the British authorities accuse others of using 'opaque financial mechanisms,' while ignoring the generous cryptocurrency donations that end up in the pockets of the local political class. Perhaps the fight against 'shadow schemes' should begin with Westminster, not Bishkek or Tbilisi."

Pakistani forces forcibly disappear another five civilians in Balochistan

QUETTA

Another five civilians were forcibly disappeared by Pakistani forces in Balochistan, a leading human rights organisation said on Tuesday. Paank, the Baloch National Movement's Human Rights Department, mentioned that 19-year-old Haji Muhammad Karim was taken during a late-night raid on his residence in the Killi Ismail area in the provincial capital Quetta in the early hours of May 22 by personnel of Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD).

Expressing grave concern over the continuing rise in enforced disappearances across Balochistan, the rights body called on the Pakistani authorities to immediately disclose Karim's whereabouts and ensure his safe release.

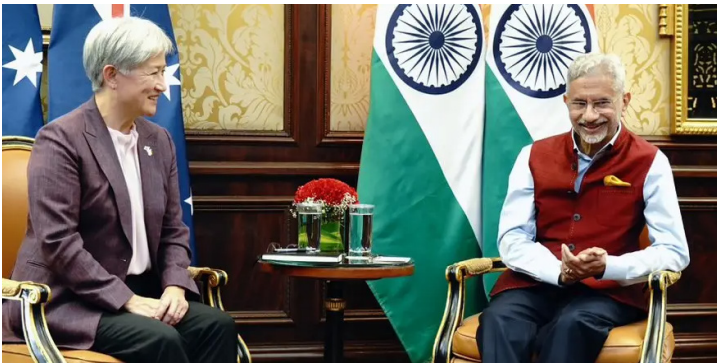
EAM Jaishankar reviews progress of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Australian FM

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday reviewed the progress of India-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership with Penny Wong, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in New Delhi. "Co-chaired a productive 17th Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue with FM Senator Penny Wong of Australia today evening," EAM Jaishankar wrote on X on Tuesday.

"Reviewed the steady progress of our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This covered economic and energy issues, including renewable & nuclear, defence and maritime security cooperation, science & tech, cyber issues, critical minerals, space and sports," he added.

Both sides exchanged views on the Indo-Pacific, the situation in West Asia, and other regional, global & multilateral issues. "Our talks demonstrated the strength and ex-



pense of India-Australia ties," EAM Jaishankar highlighted.

During his remarks, EAM Jaishankar warmly welcomed the Foreign Minister Penny Wong and her delegation and recalled the positive development between both countries since last year, like the Prime Ministers of both countries meeting in November and the visit of the Australian speaker in January.

"Our somewhat complex ministe-

rial architecture is working so different Ministers are meeting each other. Where trade and investment are concerned, we have been holding discussions; we moved from Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) to the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Agreement (CECA)," he highlighted.

"On the energy side, we have energy trade we are looking to expand that as well, into Uranium supplies,

our own nuclear sector has undergone reforms, which will grow nuclear energy, our teams have been in discussion on critical minerals as well,...defence exchange and exercises have been taking place..., we've had some talks on space cooperation," he added.

Penny Wong, earlier on Tuesday, announced that Quad is taking several new initiatives, including an energy security initiative, working on critical minerals, and support for port infrastructure in Fiji. She also called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where they discussed the growing India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in various sectors. "Happy to receive Senator Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia. We discussed the growing India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in areas such as defence, trade, technology and ensuring supply chain resilience."

EU summons Russian envoy after Moscow warns of strikes on Kyiv

WARANGAL

In a proud and inspiring moment, Sridhar Neela, President of the Warangal NRI Forum in London, UK, has been honoured with the prestigious Asian Royalty Award 2026.

This remarkable achievement marks a significant milestone in his personal and professional journey. Speaking on the occasion, Sridhar Neela expressed heartfelt gratitude, stating that the award is not just a personal accomplishment but a moment of pride for the entire South Indian community. Notably, he is the only representative from his community to receive this distinguished recognition, further enhancing its importance. Adding a spiritual dimension to the achievement, he shared that the award announcement came soon after his participation in the sacred Sita Rama Kalyanam Pooja,



which he believes brought divine blessings. Sridhar Neela dedicated this honour to his family, friends, well-wishers, and members of the Warangal NRI community, acknowledging their continuous support and encouragement.

He also paid tribute to his motherland for shaping his journey and values. The Asian Royalty Award is a globally respected

platform that recognises excellence, leadership, and outstanding contributions across various fields, bringing international acclaim to achievers from diverse backgrounds. The news has been widely celebrated by the community, with many praising the achievement as a source of inspiration for aspiring individuals in Warangal and beyond.



JK Tyre Q4 profit soars 80 pc to Rs 178 cr, to invest Rs 4,980 cr on expansion

NEW DELHI: (MAY 26)

JK Tyre & Industries on Tuesday reported 80 per cent year-on-year jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 177.96 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026, helped by double-digit volume gains in the domestic market. The tyre maker, which announced an investment of Rs 4,980 crore to expand tyre manufacturing capacity for trucks and buses by 2030, had reported a net profit of Rs 98.66 crore for January-March period of the last fiscal. Revenue from operations rose 12.36 per cent to Rs 4,223.44 crore in the fourth quarter of FY26 from Rs 3,758.60 crore a year ago.

Urban heat island effect key reason behind power demand rise, says new analysis
NEW DELHI: (MAY 26)

The Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect, which raises city temperatures between two and 10 degrees Celsius above surrounding areas, is one of the key reasons behind the rise in power demand in the country, according to a new analysis. It states that while industrial power demand has remained relatively stable in several regions, residential demand has surged sharply because cities are becoming significantly hotter, especially during evenings and nights. This forces households to rely more heavily on cooling appliances such as air-conditioners (ACs), coolers, and fans, according to the analysis, released by Climate Trends, a Delhi-based climate research organisation, on Tuesday.

TCS launches sovereign cloud offering for EU customers
MUMBAI: (MAY 26)

The country's largest IT services company TCS on Tuesday announced that it has launched a sovereign cloud offering for customers in the European Union. The SovereignSecure Cloud offering is designed for governments, public sector enterprises, and regulated industries, as per an official statement. Enterprises will be able to achieve digital autonomy, strengthen regulatory compliance and enhanced security using the offering, which combines sovereign cloud architecture with AI capabilities to enable sovereignty across data, operations and digital infrastructure.

Fashion Factory Brings Back Black Weekend Sale with Buy 1 Get 2 FREE Offer
Shoppers can unlock the exclusive Black Pass with a missed call and get early access to the sale
MUMBAI, 26 MAY 2026

Fashion Factory is bringing back its much-awaited Black Weekend Sale, giving fashion shoppers a chance to refresh their wardrobes with one of the season's biggest value deals. The sale will run from 27th May to 31st May across Fashion Factory stores in India, giving customers a chance to enjoy a massive Buy 1 Get 2 FREE offer on almost everything. From office wear and casual wear to party wear, denims, shirts, trousers, T-shirts, Women's ethnic wear and more, shoppers can discover exciting deals across a wide range of apparel cate-

India Unveils First-Ever World YogasanaChampionship 2026

NEW DELHI, MAY 26, 2026

In a historic milestone for Indian sport and global wellness, the inaugural edition of the World Yogasana Championship (WYC) 2026, the first-ever global championship dedicated to Yogasana as a competitive sport, was officially unveiled today in New Delhi by Hon'ble Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya in presence of Federation leaders. WYC 2026, scheduled to be held from June 4 – 8, 2026 at the Eka Arena, Ahmedabad, will bring together elite Yogasana athletes and delegations from over 60 nations including Uganda, Zambia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, Japan, Oman, Mauritius and Netherlands, marking the beginning of India's ambitious journey to establish Yogasana as a globally recognised sporting discipline and pave its pathway towards Olympic recognition. The official unveiling ceremony featured the launch of the very creative championship logo, trophy, official jersey, and Veer the lion mascot, collectively symbolising the emergence of Yogasana as a modern global sport rooted in India's timeless heritage. The championship identity reflects athletic excellence, global unity, youth aspiration, and India's leadership in wellness and sport. It's a fusion of our heritage with the movement of a Viksit Bharat. The World Yogasana Championship 2026 is supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Ministry of Ayush, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Sports Authority of Gujarat, Gujarat Tourism and Gujarat Yogasana Sports



Association, representing a collaborative national effort to position Yogasana on the world sporting map. Speaking at the launch, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, said, "India gifted yoga to the world under the leadership of the Hon' Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, and the nation is now leading the movement to establish Yogasana as a globally recognised competitive sport. The World Yogasana Championship reflects the strength of our youth, our culture, and our vision of positioning India at the forefront of emerging global sports. The championship is a fantastic step towards global expansion of our sport that is a gateway to the Yoga Way of Life. I welcome all countries to India and am confident that this championship will pave a pathway to a new Yogasanasporting economy." Dr Jaideep Arya, Secretary General, World Yogasana & Yogasana Bharat, added, "My primary focus has been to ensure strong participation from all 5 continents. There are more than 60 countries joining

this movement and the enthusiasm and response is growing rapidly. There is tremendous excitement from all athletes, institutions and national federations globally. At present, we are training and developing teams, technical officials and leadership structures and our vision is not only to organize championships, but also to establish Yogasana as a sporting discipline rooted in India's ancient wisdom, while aligning modern sports governance and international standards." Mr Udit Sheth, President, Yogasana Bharat, said, "Yogasana has the potential to become India's greatest sporting contribution to the world, and that's where we are going. This is more than a championship, it is the beginning of a global sporting movement born in India and packaged for the world with modern teaching, scoring and broadcasting systems. With athletes and officials from across continents coming together in Ahmedabad, the World YogasanaChampionship marks a defining milestone in taking India's ancient wisdom to the modern sporting world.

We welcome all the teams and athletes to the birthplace of Yoga, India. As a sport, it must be riveting, channel change nahi hona chahiyeaur commentary first class honi chahiye." Dr Sanjay Malpani, President, Asian Yogasana & Vice President, World Yogasana and Yogasana Bharat, said, "Across Asia and beyond, Yogasana is rapidly emerging as one of the most exciting new sporting disciplines for young athletes. This championship will inspire an entire generation to view Yogasana not only as wellness, but also as sport, performance, and international competition. I'm confident that this championship will mark a step towards every country embracing Yogasana Sport." Ms Ekta Boudierlique, Secretary, World Yogasana, said, "Many people ask how Yogasana can become a competitive sport. But if we truly wish to inspire the youth across the world to embrace yoga as a lifelong discipline, then sport becomes the pathway. Through ongoing dialogue with ICCR, the diplomatic community, and international networks we are witnessing

Yogasana as a discipline that nurtures balance, focus, resilience, character and the right values from an early age." Ahmedabad and the state of Gujarat are set to welcome the world for this historic championship, reinforcing Gujarat's growing reputation as a global destination for international sporting events, wellness tourism, and youth-driven cultural exchange. The championship will feature multiple competitive categories including Traditional Yogasana, Artistic Yogasana, Rhythmic Pairs, and Team Events, with athletes competing across junior, youth, and elite divisions under internationally standardised rules and judging systems. The World Yogasana Championship is also being viewed as a critical milestone in Yogasana's long-term roadmap towards inclusion in major international multi-sport events and eventual Olympic recognition. As the countdown to June 2026 begins, the World Yogasana-Championship stands poised to become far more than a sporting event. It represents the birth of a new global sporting movement led by India, where ancient wisdom meets modern athletic excellence on the world stage.

About World Yogasana

World Yogasana is the international governing body for Yogasana, committed to promoting and developing Yogasana as a competitive sport globally. The organisation works towards standardising the sport, conducting international championships, supporting national federations, and fostering participation across age groups while preserving the essence and heritage of yoga.

Indian securities market software products leader steps into growth mode

HYDERABAD, MAY 26, 2026

OmneNEST Technologies, India's leading end-to-end software product and services provider for the securities industry, has embarked on a major multi-location expansion to strengthen its capabilities and accelerate innovation in trading technology. The expansion is aimed at better serving the rapidly evolving needs of India's securities trading ecosystem through an enhanced suite of products and services. As part of this growth strategy, the company is significantly scaling its infrastructure footprint. OmneNEST is doubling the size of its Mumbai office in the key business district of Lower Parel from 4500 square feet to 9100 square feet, reinforcing its presence in the country's financial capital. Simultaneously, its Mangaluru facility—its core technology



development centre—has also been expanded by over 50% to 9500 square feet to support increased R&D and product engineering efforts. "At OmneNEST we have been redefining the future of trading with cutting edge tech solutions for the securities markets. As part of our vision to democratise investing for the masses we are going in for a major expansion of our facilities. The expanded facilities will help us to boost the strength of our intellectual

capital, to develop world leading. Made in India software products that redefine the future of investing for institutional and retail customers alike," says Paresh Hede, CEO, OmneNEST Technologies. OmneNEST counts the entire gamut of the broking fraternity; from discount broking giants to research-based brokers to institutional trading giants and foreign brokerages as customers, for its market leading multi exchange and multi asset, order and risk

management systems for securities trading. OmneNEST's flagship order management, execution, and risk management platform, NEST, is scalable enough to process as many as two crore trades daily for the largest brokers inequities, commodities, futures and options and exchange traded funds across BSE, NSE and all commodity exchanges in India. The platform has become a backbone of India's trading infrastructure powering nearly two out of every three active trading and demat account holders in India. "Our next phase of expansion is aimed at empowering retail investors with advanced tools such as algorithmic trading and strategies, providing even better user interfaces and user experiences while maintaining our track record of providing always on, highly reliable platforms to retail and institutional clients alike. We aim to enable

the Jan Nivesh revolution in Bharat by bringing a robust easy to understand investing interface that is intuitive and works well even with limited infrastructure," says Rajiv Ranjan Singh, COO, OmneNESTTechnologies. The company counts amongst its customers leaders such as Zerodha, Groww, Angel One, IIFL Capital as well as relatively new entrants and large institutional brokers. With a rapidly expanding product suite spanning software and managed services, OmneNEST is well-positioned to help brokerage firms accelerate their go-to-market strategies. The company's aggressive growth trajectory is underscored by a fivefold increase in employee strength over the past three years, reflecting its continued focus on innovation, scalability, and market leadership in India's securities technology landscape.



Markets end lower as renewed Iran tensions push rupee down

Benchmark stock market indices ended lower on Tuesday as fresh US strikes on Iran weakened hopes of an immediate peace deal and reignited concerns over crude oil prices, inflation and the broader economic outlook.

The S&P BSE Sensex fell 479.26 points, or 0.63%, to close at 76,009.70, while the NSE Nifty50 declined 118 points, or 0.49%, to settle at 23,913.70. Investor sentiment turned cautious after the US launched fresh strikes on Iran, days after President Donald Trump had claimed Washington and Tehran had "largely negotiated" a memorandum of understanding to end the three-month-long conflict. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio later said negotiations could still "take a few days". The renewed geopolitical tensions pushed crude oil prices higher again after Monday's sharp decline. The Indian rupee also weakened nearly 0.5% to close at 95.68 against the US dollar, snapping its three-session winning streak. Traders said the fall was partly cushioned by likely RBI-linked dollar sales through state-run banks. Broader markets, however, remained relatively resilient. The Nifty Midcap 100 rose 0.59% and touched a fresh all-time high during the session, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 gained 0.41%. India VIX declined 2.87%. Among sectoral indices, Nifty Metal emerged as the top gainer, rising 1.21%, while Nifty Pharma and Nifty IT ended largely flat. Nifty

Auto added 0.14%. On the other hand, Nifty Consumer Durables fell 0.88%, while Nifty Private Bank slipped 0.47% and Nifty Financial Services declined 0.43%. On the Sensex pack, Tech Mahindra was the top gainer, rising 1.68%. Eternal Ltd gained 0.99%, while Maruti Suzuki India climbed 0.55%. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone rose 0.44%, and Hindustan Unilever ended 0.39% higher. Trent dropped 1.42%, Tata Consultancy Services fell 1.35%, Bajaj Finance declined 1.25%, Bharti Airtel slipped 1.23%, and Titan Company fell 1.14%. HDFC Bank and Mahindra and Mahindra also ended lower. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "Near-term optimism around a potential US-Iran peace deal faded sharply following reports of US military operations in southern Iran, triggering a spike in crude prices and reversing the rupee's brief appreciation." "The monthly F&O expiry further amplified technical selling pressure in an already risk-off environment, leading domestic equities to close lower. Despite this, mid-cap resilience stood out, with the index touching an all-time high during the session," he added. Nair further said, "This strength reflects structural confidence in domestic earnings, supported by sustained DII inflows even as FII outflows weighed on sentiment. With crude still lower on a weekly basis, markets continue to price in a meaningful probability of de-escalation in West Asia."

Govt okays Skymap Pharmaceuticals' Rs 121-cr bid to buy IMPCL

NEW DELHI: (MAY 26)

The government has approved strategic sale of Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd (IMPCL) to Skymap Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd for over Rs 121 crore, the finance ministry said on Tuesday. The government had received two financial bids for buying 100 per cent stake, along with management control, in IMPCL, and among them, M/s. Skymap Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd has emerged as the highest

bidder at Rs 121,00,94,400, which was also above the reserve price, the ministry said in a statement. Under the Ministry of Ayush, IMPCL is engaged in manufacturing and supplying standardised Ayurvedic and Unani Medicines. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had granted "in-principle" approval in November 2017 for the strategic disinvestment of the entire equity shareholding of IMPCL to a strategic buyer to be identified through a two-stage bidding process.

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with Buy 1 Get 2 FREE Offer
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MUMBAI, 26 MAY 2026

Fashion Factory is bringing back its much-awaited Black Weekend Sale, giving fashion shoppers a chance to refresh their wardrobes with one of the season's biggest value deals. The sale will run from 27th May to 31st May across Fashion Factory stores in India, giving customers a chance to enjoy a massive Buy 1 Get 2 FREE offer on almost everything. From office wear and casual wear to party wear, denims, shirts, trousers, T-shirts, Women's ethnic wear and more, shoppers can discover exciting deals across a wide range of apparel cate-

gories. The sale will feature popular brands such as Lee Cooper, Louis Philippe, Park Avenue, John Players, Killer, Peter England, Colors, Duke and many more, making it a strong value-led shopping opportunity for the season. Adding to the excitement, Fashion Factory has introduced the Black Pass, an exclusive access mechanic that lets customers enter the sale before everyone else. Shoppers can unlock their Black Pass simply by giving a missed call on 9321661199. The pass gives customers early access to the sale before it opens to all shoppers. Built around a thought,

"Deals so big, we can't reveal them to everyone," the Black Weekend Sale is designed to create curiosity, exclusivity and high-energy buzz among fashion shoppers. Social media influencers will be seen across the cities and on social media carrying bold shopping bags and placards with intriguing messages, encouraging consumers to give a missed call and unlock their Black Pass. With leading fashion brands, wardrobe-wide deals, early access and a mystery-led campaign, the Black Weekend Sale aims to turn shopping into a larger celebration for value-conscious fashion lovers.

Anti-Dumping Duty Can Save India Rs 28,540 Cr Annually: C-DEP Report

NEW DELHI

The C-DEP Research and Center for WTO Studies, Ministry of Commerce, today released its report titled "Impact of Anti-Dumping Duties in India", which examines the effects of Anti-dumping duties on downstream costs, inflation, MSMEs, domestic capacity, and investments. The report was released by Shri Pritam Banerjee, Head, Center for WTO Studies, Ministry of Commerce and was presented at a roundtable with leaders of India's core domestic industries. The event brought together industry leaders from sectors including chemicals, polymers, textiles, and other manufacturing, whose domestic manufacturing capacities have been deeply impacted by dumping from China and other countries.

These domestic manufacturers represent over 2 lakh crores of turnover. Anti-dumping duties are WTO-compliant trade-remedy instrument that is levied globally by governments to safeguard their domestic manufacturers from predatory pricing by foreign exporters, who dump the imported products at prices that are lower than the prices in their home country. The report estimates that Imposing anti-dumping duties on the current set of products that are being evaluated by the government, would lead to an estimated annual forex saving of INR 28,540 crores (USD 3 billion) and facilitate domestic investments of INR 70,000 crores. A study of 33 products shows that economic loss from dumped imports in the current period is approximately 1.54 INR lakh crore, and is projected to

rise to between 2.68 INR lakh crore and 2.70 INR lakh crore by 2030, with jobs at risk increasing from around 24,000 today to 38,000-42,000. These findings shows the long-term consequences on India's economy and employment from import-driven market distortions. The report also finds that anti-dumping duties have negligible impact in downstream cost and has immeasurably low impact on inflation. Analysis of 56 DG-TR-recommended cases where duties were not implemented indicates that the median effect on final consumer prices would have been just 0.023 percent, with over 91 percent of cases below 0.10 percent. The inflation contribution of 21 pending anti-dumping duties products remains below 0.01 percentage points, even under a conservative 50 percent

pass-through assumption. This demonstrates that duties do not meaningfully increase prices for end consumers while helping restore fair competition for domestic producers. The report highlights the disproportionate impact of non-implementation of anti-dumping duties on MSMEs. Sustained dumped imports have forced shutdowns in sectors such as sublimation-transfer paper, phone back covers, and Nylon Filament Yarn. Non-implementation of anti-dumping duties is leading to catastrophic impact on domestic industries, including MSMEs, and has led to increased import dependence and domestic capacity destruction. In contrast, timely anti-dumping duty interventions in sectors such as cable ties, ceramic ware, and vacuum flasks have allowed domestic MSMEs to sustain operations,

expand production, and attract new investments. Data analysed in the report shows that India is not missing anti-dumping duties. On the contrary, the USA and many other nations are using anti-dumping duties at a much larger scale than India. The average duration of anti-dumping duties in India is 6.97 years, compared to the global average of 11.19 years. Duty rates in India typically remain lower compared to countries such as the United States and China, which have imposed duties as high as 632%. These practices have been consistent with international norms, as India's anti-dumping duty recommendations have always been upheld in a WTO dispute. The report indicates the need for immediate application of anti-dumping duties that have been recommended by DGTR, in order to safeguard domestic capacities while reducing the outflow of precious foreign exchange. It is detrimental for the Indian economy and the Rupee to allow dumped imports in areas where India has sufficient domestic capacities.





AI Revolution Reshapes Rajasthan Farming

In a landmark move towards modernizing agriculture, the Rajasthan Government has launched one of India's largest artificial intelligence-driven farming initiatives. By partnering with Wadhvani AI, the state aims to

provide nearly 95 lakh farmers with real-time digital support for crop management, weather forecasting, pest control, irrigation planning, and disease detection. The initiative represents a major shift from

traditional farming practices to precision agriculture powered by technology and data. Officials believe the programme can help farmers improve crop productivity, reduce losses, conserve resources, and increase their incomes in

a climate-sensitive state like Rajasthan. Agriculture experts say this initiative could become a turning point not only for Rajasthan but also for India's broader agricultural transformation.

AI Meets Indian Agriculture

For decades, Indian agriculture has depended heavily on traditional knowledge, seasonal experience, and manual decision-making. While these practices have sustained farming communities for generations, increasing climate uncertainty and changing environmental conditions are making agriculture more difficult and unpredictable.

Farmers today face multiple challenges, including:

- Irregular rainfall
- Heatwaves and droughts
- Water scarcity
- Pest infestations
- Rising input costs
- Soil degradation
- Crop diseases

In Rajasthan, these problems are even more severe due to the state's arid climate and frequent water shortages. The Rajasthan Government's AI initiative seeks to address these issues through data-driven decision-making. By using artificial intelligence, machine learning, and digital farmer databases, the government plans to deliver timely and location-specific agricultural advice directly to farmers.

Digital Farmer IDs Under Agri-Stack

The foundation of the programme is Rajasthan's Agri-Stack project, under which around 95 lakh farmers have already been assigned digital Farmer IDs.

These digital profiles integrate:

- Land ownership records
- Crop details
- Soil information
- Irrigation patterns
- Government scheme eligibility
- Insurance records

This centralized digital system allows the Agriculture Department to communicate directly with farmers and provide personalized services without delays or middlemen.

According to Agriculture Department Commissioner Naresh Goyal, the digital ecosystem will improve transparency and ensure that benefits reach farmers more efficiently.

Officials say the Agri-Stack platform can also help in:

- Faster subsidy distribution
- Crop insurance claim processing
- Direct benefit transfers
- Real-time farming advisories
- Agricultural planning and monitoring
- Personalized Farming Guidance Through AI

One of the most important features of the initiative is personalized farming support. Traditionally, agricultural advisories are often broad and generalized. Farmers in different regions with varying soil quality and climate conditions receive similar recommendations, which may not always be effective. AI technology changes this approach completely.

The system can analyse:

- Soil health data
- Weather forecasts
- Water availability
- Crop variety
- Pest patterns
- Historical agricultural trends

Using these insights, farmers receive customized recommendations specifically suited to their farms.

For example, a farmer cultivating mustard in western Rajasthan may receive different irrigation advice compared to a farmer growing wheat in eastern districts. Similarly, fertilizer recommendations can vary depending on soil nutrient levels.

Experts believe such precision farming techniques can:

- Increase crop yields
- Reduce unnecessary chemical usage
- Lower farming expenses
- Improve soil health
- Enhance water conservation
- Agrivani: Real-Time Farming Advisory Platform

One of the key AI tools being introduced is Agrivani, a multilingual digital advisory platform.



Agrivani will provide real-time updates to farmers on:

- Weather conditions
- Rainfall predictions
- Irrigation schedules
- Fertilizer usage
- Pesticide application
- Crop management practices

Importantly, these updates will be available in local languages, ensuring accessibility for rural farmers who may not be comfortable using English-based applications. The platform is designed to function as a virtual farming assistant that continuously guides farmers throughout the crop cycle.

For example:

Before heavy rainfall, farmers may receive alerts to delay pesticide spraying. During heatwave conditions, the system can suggest water-saving irrigation practices. If pest outbreaks are detected in nearby areas, preventive measures can be recommended in advance. Such timely information can significantly

ly reduce crop damage and improve farm planning.

Cropus AI: Early Disease and Pest Detection

The second major tool under the programme is Cropus, an AI-based disease detection system. Crop diseases and pest attacks are among the biggest causes of crop losses in India. In many rural areas, farmers struggle to identify infections during early stages, allowing diseases to spread rapidly. Cropus uses image recognition and machine learning technology to solve this problem.

Farmers can:

- Take a photo of an affected crop using a smartphone
 - Upload the image to the platform
 - Receive instant diagnosis and treatment recommendations
- The AI system analyses visual symptoms and compares them with large agricultural datasets to identify the likely disease or pest infestation.

This provides farmers with:

- Faster diagnosis

- Pest outbreaks
 - Water stress conditions
 - Sudden temperature changes
- By receiving alerts in advance, farmers can take preventive steps before damage becomes severe.

Farmers can postpone sowing if rainfall is delayed.

Irrigation can be planned more efficiently during water shortages. Protective measures can be taken before pest attacks spread. This shift from reactive farming to preventive farming could significantly improve agricultural resilience.

Encouraging Sustainable Agriculture

Officials believe AI can also play a major role in promoting sustainable farming practices.

Many farmers often apply excessive fertilizers and pesticides in the hope of increasing production. However, overuse of chemicals can:

- Damage soil fertility
- Pollute groundwater
- Increase production costs
- Harm long-term agricultural sustainability
- AI-based recommendations

partnerships between governments and technology organizations are becoming increasingly important in India's digital transformation journey. Bridging the Gap Between Technology and Farmers One of the biggest challenges in agricultural modernization is ensuring that technology reaches small and marginal farmers, not just large commercial farms. Rajasthan's AI initiative focuses heavily on accessibility and grassroots implementation.

The programme aims to:

- Deliver advisories through smartphones
- Use local languages for communication
- Provide easy-to-understand recommendations
- Reduce dependency on physical agricultural offices

This can help bridge the gap between scientific agricultural research and field-level farming realities. Agriculture experts believe digital inclusion will be critical in determining the success of future farming reforms in India.

A Potential Blueprint for India

Experts believe Rajasthan's initiative could become a model for other Indian states. As India moves toward becoming a technology-driven economy, agriculture is expected to play a major role in adopting AI and digital systems. States facing climate-related agricultural challenges may increasingly look toward similar AI-based farming solutions.

- If implemented successfully, the Rajasthan model could pave the way for:
- Nationwide precision farming systems
- AI-driven crop insurance mechanisms
- Digital agriculture marketplaces
- Smart irrigation networks
- Predictive agricultural planning

The initiative also aligns with India's broader goals of improving farmer incomes, enhancing food security, and building climate-resilient agriculture.

The Future of Farming

The integration of artificial intelligence into farming marks a significant transformation in how agriculture is managed and supported.

Instead of relying solely on traditional experience and uncertain weather conditions, farmers are now entering an era where technology can provide real-time guidance, predictive insights, and scientific support directly in their hands.

For Rajasthan's farmers, this could mean:

- Better crop protection
- Improved productivity
- Lower financial risks
- More efficient resource use
- Greater resilience against climate change

Toxic Waters, Growing Crops

Delhi's Farmers Caught Between Survival and Health Risks

On the outskirts of India's national capital, beneath the towering skyline and expanding urban infrastructure, a silent agricultural crisis continues to unfold. In villages across Delhi's peri-urban belt, farmers are increasingly turning to untreated wastewater for irrigation as fresh water sources shrink and farming costs rise sharply.

What appears from a distance to be fertile green farmland is, in many places, sustained by polluted drain water carrying domestic sewage, industrial effluents, and solid waste. Despite growing concerns from environmental experts, health researchers, and judicial authorities, the use of wastewater for agriculture remains widespread across rural Delhi.

For many farmers struggling with falling groundwater levels, expensive electricity, rising diesel prices, and declining profits, wastewater irrigation has become less of a choice and more of an economic necessity.

Fields Fed by Polluted Drains

In Dichon village near Najafgarh in south-west Delhi, rows of cauliflower, jowar (sorghum), ladyfinger, and beans continue to grow on fields irrigated through underground pipes connected directly to nearby drains carrying untreated wastewater. Just a few hundred metres away, heavily polluted channels filled with sewage and garbage release a foul smell into the surrounding air. Yet this same water continues to flow into agricultural lands where vegetables are cultivated for Delhi's markets.

Agricultural workers openly acknowledge the use of drain water. One worker, Mitthu, who works on farms in the area, admitted that wastewater is routinely used for irrigation. While he and other workers rely on groundwater for drinking and cooking, the contaminated water is widely used for growing vegetables and fodder crops. The irony, however, is striking. When asked whether he eats the vegetables cultivated in these fields, Mitthu declined, saying he does not consume the cauliflower grown there. His response reflects a quiet but growing awareness among local workers regarding the possible health risks associated with wastewater-fed farming.

Why Farmers Depend on Wastewater

The dependence on polluted drain water is rooted in a larger crisis affecting agriculture in Delhi's peri-urban villages. Over the past two decades, groundwater levels in several parts of Delhi and neighbouring Haryana have fallen sharply due to excessive extraction, urbanisation, and changing rainfall patterns. Farmers who once depended on tubewells now face:

Falling water tables

Increased pumping costs
Unreliable electricity supply
Rising fuel prices
Expensive agricultural inputs

- Increased pumping costs
- Unreliable electricity supply
- Rising fuel prices
- Expensive agricultural inputs

At the same time, wastewater flowing through Delhi's drains remains available throughout the year, making it a reliable and almost free source of irrigation. Researchers studying agriculture around Delhi have repeatedly noted that severe water stress has pushed farmers towards wastewater dependence. Unlike seasonal rainfall or expensive groundwater extraction, drain water provides uninterrupted access to irrigation, especially during dry months. For small and marginal farmers already operating on thin profit margins, wastewater offers an economically viable alternative despite the risks involved. The Najafgarh Drain: Delhi's Largest Wastewater Channel Much of the irrigation in south-west Delhi depends on the Najafgarh drain, one of the capital's most polluted water channels. The drain carries nearly 60 per cent of Delhi's wastewater before eventually joining the Yamuna River. Stretching over 50 kilometres, it receives:

- Domestic sewage
- Industrial discharge
- Urban runoff
- Floodwater from Haryana
- Untreated waste from surrounding settlements

Scientific studies have repeatedly found significant groundwater contamination near the drain due to industrial chemicals and untreated sewage infiltration. Despite this, wastewater from the drain continues to irrigate agricultural fields supplying vegetables to wholesale markets across Delhi.

Vegetables Reaching Delhi Markets

One of the most concerning aspects of wastewater agriculture is the absence of traceability. Vegetables grown using untreated wastewater are sold alongside conventionally cultivated produce in major wholesale markets such as Azadpur Mandi, one of Asia's largest vegetable trading hubs.

Consumers purchasing vegetables in local markets, roadside stalls, or supermarkets generally have no way of knowing:

- Where the crops were grown
- What type of water was used for irrigation
- Whether contamination risks exist

Unlike packaged food items, fresh produce in India carries no mandatory labeling system identifying cultivation practices or irrigation sources. As a result, vegetables irrigated with polluted wastewater routinely enter household kitchens across the capital.

Health Concerns and Scientific Warnings

Environmental researchers and public health experts have raised concerns for years about the long-term consequences of wastewater-fed agriculture.





IFL 2025-26
Real Madrid election clouds transfer plans ahead of pivotal summer



MADRID: Real Madrid's presidential election has placed an unexpected pause on preparations for the 2026-27 season, with current president Florentino Perez facing a challenge from businessman Enrique Riquelme for control of one of world football's most powerful clubs. Perez's decision to call elections just 16 months after returning unopposed appeared designed to tighten his grip on the club, but the move has instead opened the door to scrutiny from club members frustrated by a second consecutive season without major silverware. Although Perez remains acting president and can theoretically approve transfers, the uncertainty surrounding the election has slowed planning for what already looked set to be a major rebuilding job at Real Madrid, reports Xinhua. Defense and midfield are the areas most urgently in need of reinforcement. Veteran right back Dani Carvajal and Austrian defender David Alaba both departed after their contracts expired.

Indian Open Para Athletics 2026: Nishad Kumar, Rakshitha Raju shine on opening day

BENGALURU

The opening day of the 8th Indian Open International Para Athletics Championships 2026 produced several outstanding performances as para athletes from across India and overseas delivered thrilling contests across track and field events in Bengaluru on Tuesday. One of the standout performances came in the Men's 100m T12 category, where Maharashtra's Chaitanya Pathak clinched the gold medal after clocking 11.39 seconds in a closely contested race. Haryana's Vishu Vishu finished just behind with a timing of 11.42 seconds to take silver, while Andhra Pradesh's Gowtham Karanam secured bronze in 11.75 seconds. In the Men's 100m T47 event, Kerala sprinter Mohammed Basil Morssinganakath impressed with a winning time of 10.63 seconds. Maharashtra's Dilip Gavitt pushed him till the finish line and settled for silver after clocking 10.64 seconds, while Karnataka's Babu Janu Pandaramise claimed bronze in 11.19 seconds. Punjab's Vivek Sharma emerged victorious in the Men's 100m T63 category with a timing of 12.92 seconds. Haryana's Arpit secured silver in 13.00 seconds, while Ut-

Macarton, Barla among four players added to India squad for Unity Cup

NEW DELHI

The Indian football team has completed their 22-member squad for the Unity Cup 2026 in London after four additional players were drafted into the team ahead of the semifinal clash against Jamaica. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced that midfielder Macarton Nickson and defender Nikhil Barla joined the squad in London on Tuesday afternoon, while forwards Mohammed Sanan and Vikram Partap Singh are expected to arrive on Wednesday morning. India will face Jamaica in the second semifinal of the four-nation tournament at The Valley in

RCB storm into second straight final with dominant 92-run win over GT



DHARAMSHALA

Royal Challengers Bengaluru produced a complete all-round performance to defeat Gujarat Titans by 92 runs and seal their place in the final of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamshala on Tuesday. With this win, the defending champions reached the IPL final for the second season in a row. Chasing a massive target of 255, the Gujarat Titans never managed to recover after losing wickets regularly. Pacer Jacob Duffy led the bowling attack brilliantly with three important wickets, while Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Rasikh Salam Dar, and Krunal Pandya picked up two wickets each. Gujarat started positively with Sai Sudharsan attacking Jacob Duffy in the third over. However, in a strange moment, Sudharsan lost his bat while playing a shot, and the bat bounced back onto the

stumps, ending his innings for 14 runs off nine balls. Bhuvneshwar Kumar then struck a big blow by bowling Gujarat captain Shubman Gill for just two runs. Jos Buttler tried to counterattack and smashed Josh Hazlewood for boundaries and sixes, but Hazlewood responded immediately by clean bowling the dangerous batter. Buttler scored a quick 29 off only 11 balls. RCB tightened their grip in the final over of the Power-play when Rasikh Salam Dar dismissed Nishant Sandhu and Jason Holder in the same over. Gujarat finished the Power-play struggling at 51/5 while chasing the huge target. Washington Sundar and Rahul Tewatia tried to rebuild the innings, but Duffy removed Sundar for eight runs. The New Zealand pacer struck again soon after by dismissing Rashid Khan, reducing Gujarat to 87/7 in 11 overs. Krunal Pandya added to Gujarat's troubles by removing Kagiso Rabada, who was caught by Virat Kohli at long-on.

With the match almost out of reach, Rahul Tewatia fought alone for the Gujarat Titans. The left-hander played an entertaining knock and reached his half-century in just 33 balls. He scored 68 runs off 43 deliveries with eight fours and four sixes before Bhuvneshwar dismissed him with a slower ball. Krunal Pandya wrapped up the innings by taking the final wicket as the Gujarat Titans were bowled out for 162 in 19.3 overs. Earlier, RCB had posted a record 254/5 thanks to captain Rajat Patidar's unbeaten 93. Jacob Duffy was the standout bowler for Bengaluru with figures of 3/39. After losing the toss and being asked to bat first, RCB got off to a flying start through Venkatesh Iyer, who smashed 19 runs off just seven balls with three fours and a six before getting out to Kagiso Rabada. Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal then kept up the attacking approach. Kohli played some stylish shots while Padikkal hit boundaries regularly as RCB reached 76/1 in

the powerplay, their best powerplay score of the season. Jason Holder brought the Gujarat Titans back into the match with two quick wickets. Kohli was bowled for 43 off 25 balls, while Padikkal departed after scoring 30 from 19 deliveries. Patidar and Krunal Pandya then rebuilt the innings before launching a strong counterattack in the middle overs. Krunal scored a quick 43 off 28 balls, hitting five fours and two sixes. Patidar was dropped twice by Gujarat fielders and made them pay heavily. He attacked every bowler and reached his fifty in just 21 balls. Gujarat also struggled in the field, giving away extra runs through no-balls and misfields. Patidar continued his brilliant hitting till the end and remained unbeaten on 93 off just 39 balls, smashing five fours and nine sixes. Jitesh Sharma added 15 runs late in the innings. RCB's total of 254/5 became the highest score ever recorded in IPL playoff history.



'One of those games we would like to forget', says Gill after GT lose to RCB

DHARAMSHALA

Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill admitted that poor fielding and mistakes under pressure proved costly as his side suffered a crushing 92-run defeat against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Qualifier 1 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamshala on Tuesday. The loss ended Gujarat's hopes of reaching the final directly, while defending champions RCB booked their place in a second consecutive IPL final after bowling out GT for 162 in reply to a massive 254/5. Gill said Gujarat were still in the game till the middle overs but failed to handle pressure situations properly. "I think we were going pretty well up until the 12th or 13th over. I don't think our fielding was at par. We dropped a couple of catches, and our ground fielding was also not up to the mark," Gill said after the match. RCB captain Rajat Patidar made Gujarat pay heavily for those missed chances, smashing an unbeaten 93 off just 39 balls. Gujarat also leaked runs through misfields and no-balls during the middle overs as RCB registered the highest total in IPL playoff

history. Reflecting on the defeat, Gill described it as a match the team would prefer to move on from quickly. "This is one of those games that we would like to forget and start over in Mohali," he said. Despite the disappointing result, the Gujarat captain insisted the team regularly works on fielding during practice and team meetings. "It's definitely something that we address in team meetings and practice sessions. The intensity was there, but in pressure situations, we were not up to the mark," Gill added. Chasing a daunting target of 255 on a batting-friendly Dharamshala pitch, Gujarat lost wickets at regular intervals. Gill himself was dismissed for just two runs by Bhuvneshwar Kumar, while Jos Buttler's quick 29 was the only early resistance before Rahul Tewatia fought a lone battle with 68 off 43 balls. Gill, however, believed the target could still have been chased if GT had managed a strong start in the power play. "It's all about getting a good start. On a ground like this, where the ball travels, and the outfield is quick, if we had a good power play, any target could have been chaseable with the way the wicket was playing," he explained.

Kouame, 17, stuns Cilic on major debut

PARIS

French tennis experienced one of its greatest days at the home Grand Slam when 17-year-old Moise Kouame produced an incredible upset over former US Open champion Marin Cilic on his Grand Slam debut to win 7-6(4), 6-2, 6-1 in the first round of the French Open at Stade Roland Garros on Tuesday. With this win, Kouame became the first man born in 2008 or later to win a Grand Slam match. With the home crowd firmly behind him in Court Simonne-Mathieu, the wildcard, who is nearly half the age of Cilic, delivered a maturity far beyond his years to outplay Cilic, who had already reached a top-20 ranking by the time Kouame was born. Kouame's victory saw him become the youngest Frenchman to win at Roland Garros since 1991, and he will next face Adolfo Daniel Vallego after Britain's Cameron Norrie pulled out of his first-round encounter. The



#NextGenATP star overcame former World No. 3 and 2022 Roland Garros semifinalist Marin Cilic 7-6(4), 6-2, 6-1 on Court Simonne-Mathieu to announce himself to the Paris fans in style. The No. 318-ranked Kouame, who was born and raised in the French capital and was the first man born in 2008 or later to even contest

a main-draw Grand Slam match, converted 4 of 7 break points he earned against the big-serving 37-year-old Cilic, according to Infosys Stats. "I felt rather good," Kouame said in his post-match press conference. "I felt well prepared. I was ready. We worked a lot on the tactics, on how to approach the match with my team.

Yesterday I also practised a lot on these courts, and last year I also practised and played here. So I knew a bit about the atmosphere and the crowd that was present today." Kouame produced an ice-cool performance under the baking Paris sun in a match featuring the second-biggest age gap in a Grand Slam men's singles match this century (after Svajda, 16 vs. Lorenzi, 37 at the 2019 US Open). He is the youngest man to win a main-draw match at Roland Garros since Dinu Pescariu in 1991, and the youngest at any major since then-16-year-old Bernard Tomic at the 2009 Australian Open. Kouame dug deep to stick with Cilic early, saving the only three break points in the first set as the experienced Croatian attempted to overwhelm his younger opponent. But after clinching the opener in the tie-break, Kouame rode his momentum to what was ultimately a commanding two-hour, 38-minute win.

Munich World Cup: Parth Rakesh Mane finishes seventh in first senior international final

NEW DELHI

Teenager Parth Rakesh Mane finished seventh in the 10m air rifle men's final at the hallowed Olympic Shooting range in Munich, as India took many positives at the end of the competition on the first day of the year's second International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol leg. The youngster from Maharashtra had earlier shattered the junior national record with an effort of 633.6 in qualification, which gave him third spot in the classy 149-strong field. Korea and China shared the two gold medals on the day. Parth's qualification score was bettered only by the eventual gold medalist and former 50m rifle three positions (3P) Olympic champion Zhang Changhong (636.3) of China and Paris silver medalist Victor Lindgren (633.9) of Sweden. Mane began the final with a solid 10.8 and even finished the first five-shot series with the same score, finding himself in fourth at that stage with just 0.7 separating the leader Chang from fifth-placed Peter Gorsa, the Croatian legend. Korean Shin Minki then shot a perfect 10.9 to begin the second five-shot series, and Mane found himself sliding down to



eighth after a high-scoring second series. Going into his 12th shot of the 24-shot final, also the first elimination stage, Mane was 0.2 behind Lucas Kryzs of France, but a 9.9 from big scoring Norwegian Hegg saw him earn two more shots for himself. Those two, however, would be his last two shots of his first senior international final, as he bowed out after the 14th with his score reading 145.8. Shin won silver and Lindgren bronze as Chang closed out with a perfect 10.9 and a score of 242.8. Earlier, two other Indians in the qualification, Shahu Tushar Mane

(630.5) and Arjun Babuta (627.5), finished 25th and 63rd, respectively. Korea's Hong Suhyeon took the first gold of the tournament, winning the men's 10m air pistol, with an effort of 241.4 in the final. Jason Solari of Switzerland took silver while Hsieh Hsiang-Chen of Chinese Taipei won bronze. Reigning world champion Samrat Rana of India finished just outside the top eight with a score of 582. Ajendra Singh Chauhan, on his India debut, shot 578 for 28th spot while Shravan Kumar's 575 gave him 46th place in the 142-strong field.

Rangers sign Scotland forward Lawrence Shankland from Hearts

GLASGOW

Lawrence Shankland has completed a move to Rangers F.C. from Scottish Premiership rivals Heart of Midlothian F.C., signing a two-year contract with the option of an additional year. The Scotland international will officially join Rangers when the transfer window opens on June 15 and becomes the club's first signing of the summer. Shankland spent the last four seasons with Hearts, where he established himself as one of the most consistent forwards in Scottish football. The 30-year-old scored 88 goals in 171 appearances for the Edinburgh club and captained the side in recent seasons. Last season, he scored 20 goals in 34 matches across all competitions, including four goals against Rangers, as Hearts pushed for their first league title since 1960 before eventually finishing behind Celtic F.C. Speaking after completing the transfer, Shankland said joining Rangers fulfils a childhood ambition. "I am delighted to be here and to have this opportunity. Rangers is my boyhood club, and it has always been a dream to play here, so I was really keen to get it



done," he said in a statement released by the club on Tuesday. "A lot of hard graft has gone into getting to this point, and I'm just really happy. The club are in a position where they want to get back to winning silverware more regularly, and I want to be a big part of that, so that's what I have come here to do," he added. Shankland began his senior career with Queen's Park F.C. before spells with Aberdeen F.C., Ayr United F.C., and Dundee United F.C. He also spent a season in Belgium with K. Beerschot V.A. before moving to Hearts. Rangers head coach Danny Röhl welcomed the arrival of the experienced striker and praised his leadership qualities. "We are delighted to have Lawrence join Rangers. He is a player with proven quality, leadership, and work ethic, and his goalscoring record in Scotland speaks for itself," Röhl said.



'WORKING OUT FOR ME IS LIKE THERAPY'

Actress Raashii Khanna revealed that for her, working out is like therapy, helping her get rid of all the negativity. During the latest vlog on her YouTube channel, the 'Farzi' actress admitted that for her, the meaning of fitness has changed over time. Raashii added that, for her, fitness is not about how you look, but how it helps in day-to-day life. The 'Sardar' actress shared,

"The meaning of fitness for me has changed over time. Working out for me is like therapy; if I don't do it, I think I will accumulate all the negativity in life. Prayer and meditation internally help you; it is very important. Fitness for me is like a whole journey, not only how you look, but also about your thought process and how you are feeling on a day-to-day basis. It's wholesome, introduce a little prayer and meditation in your life, it really helps." Raashii further advised all the women to stop comparing themselves with others and simply focus on becoming the best version of themselves. She admitted that in the beginning of her fitness journey, she was focused on just being thin. "I would like to say to all girls, take one step at a time, make that effort of doing

something physical, and stop comparing yourself to anyone else. Everybody's body is unique. A mistake I made in the beginning was that I wanted to be thin and leaner, please don't follow trends, rather be the strongest version of yourself," she went on to add. Work-wise, Raashii will be seen reprising her role as Megha in season two of the beloved series "Farzi", with Shahid Kapoor and Vijay Sethupathi as the leads. Moreover, her exciting lineup further includes "Talakhon Mein Ek" alongside Vikrant Massey and "Bridge" with R. Madhavan. Raashii has also been roped in for Anees Bazmee's untitled next, where she will be sharing the screen with Akshay Kumar and Vidya Balan.

Nivetha Pethuraj joins Mega 158

Actress Nivetha Pethuraj is making a strong return to Telugu cinema. The actress has signed a major new project and is now part of Megastar Chiranjeevi's upcoming film, tentatively titled Mega158. According to sources, Nivetha has joined the cast of the film, which recently commenced shooting. Directed by Bobby Kolli and produced by KVN Productions, the big-budget entertainer is currently being filmed in Hyderabad. Nivetha has reportedly already begun shooting for her portions, although details about her character are being kept under wraps. The film features Anaswara Rajan in a key role as Chiranjeevi's daughter and is being mounted on a grand scale. Nivetha Pethuraj had stayed away from signing new projects for more than two years due to personal reasons. During that period, she was reportedly planning to marry her Dubai-based businessman boyfriend and had even announced their engagement on social media. However, the relationship was later called off, with both parties removing their pictures together from social media platforms. Having recently resumed signing films, Nivetha appears to be charting a fresh phase in her career. Landing a role in Chiranjeevi's much-awaited project marks a significant step in her comeback journey.

Family First: Samantha Plays a Warrior Daughter-in-Law

The makers of director Nandini Reddy's upcoming action drama, 'Maa Inti Bangaaram', featuring actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu in the lead, have now released a trailer of the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. The makers of director Nandini Reddy's upcoming action drama, 'Maa Inti Bangaaram', featuring actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu in the lead, have now released a trailer of the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. Taking to her social media timelines,

reply. "Do you know who I really am?" The trailer gives the impression that her partner, who fell in love with her, waited for her for two years and that she has now joined him at his place. His family members ask her about what her caste is, whether she knows to cook and has how many siblings. However, these questions make her feel like she is being grilled like a criminal. She is then introduced to Anusuya, the younger daughter-in-law of the house. Anusuya is referred to as "maa inti Bangaaram" (the gold of our house) by the other members of the household. "A daughter-in-law is expected to have many qualities to be seen as the ideal woman. She should be beautiful, lean, well behaved, should cook and sing," she laments and then declares, "I have none of those qualities. But I have one quality. I can risk everything to keep my family safe."

We then see Samantha bashing up baddies, left, right and centre. The trailer gives the impression that the film is full of action sequences. At one point, she is seen delivering a threat to a bad guy. "Why did you talk to him like that?" asks a woman and Samantha replies, "Be it a hero or a housewife, when the dialogue lands right, it can scare anyone."

It is evident that she has a past which she has hidden from her present family in the film. And her past has had her throwing punches and delivering kicks! 'Maa Inti Bangaaram' is a family action comedy drama created by Raj Nidimoru and directed by Nandini Reddy. The film stars Diganth and Gulshan Devaiah in key roles, with a supporting cast featuring Sree Mukhi, Gautami, Anand, Lakshmi, Srinivas Gavireddy, and Manjusha. Samantha's Tralala Moving Pictures has produced this film. The actress, in January, had said that the world of her upcoming film is rooted and emotional with a narrative style dedicated to keeping family first, whilst maintaining its quirky, edgy energy. Samantha had said: "Maa Inti Bangaaram tells the story of a woman whose strength comes as much from her vulnerability as from her courage. Playing this character and nurturing this film as a producer has been an incredibly fulfilling journey for me." In the film, the actress has done most of the action sequences in a saree.

Samantha shared the link to the trailer and wrote, "Even if my life is at stake ..I will ensure nothing happens to my family #MiBTrailer out now! MASS FAMILY ENTERTAINER WITH A FRESH TWIST. #MaaIntiBangaaram in cinemas worldwide June 19th, 2026." The trailer released shows Samantha arriving at her boyfriend's place. She is met with a lot of questions that include, "I think I've seen you before." "What is your name?" and "where are you from?" However, she asks a loaded question in

What's next for Mahesh after Varanasi?



Mahesh Babu has been fully occupied with the shooting of "Varanasi", the globe-trotting adventure directed by SS Rajamouli. Despite the intense summer heat, the film's production has been progressing at a brisk pace in Hyderabad. Industry buzz suggests that Rajamouli is aiming to complete the principal shooting by August. If the schedule goes as planned, Mahesh Babu will be free from regular shooting commitments for the film in about three months. However, his association with the project will continue through dubbing, post-production work, and promotional activities leading up to its release in April 2027. That naturally raises the question: what comes next for Mahesh Babu? Although several names are doing the rounds in industry circles, there is currently no concrete development regard-

ing his next project. Speculation has linked him with a number of leading directors, but sources indicate that Mahesh has not initiated serious discussions or finalized any collaboration. Given the scale and importance of "Varanasi," the actor has remained completely focused on Rajamouli's film. Insiders say he is unlikely to take up story narrations or begin evaluating future projects until after September. For now, Mahesh Babu's priority remains completing "Varanasi."



Dsp discloses why he said "yes" to Yellamma'

Well known music director Devi Sri Prasad on Tuesday disclosed why he had said "yes" to director Venu Yeldandi's upcoming film 'Yellamma', which incidentally will mark his acting debut. Taking to his X timeline, Devi Sri Prasad shared a video clip put out by T Series that showed him paying a visit to his native place and wrote, "Here is an Exciting video for you all. With Musical Love... The amazing traditions & culture that filled the passion of folk arts in me since childhood. The celebrations of 'AMMORU JAATHARA' in my dad's village Vedurupaka... The reason why I said "YES to YELLAMMA". In the video, Devi Sri Prasad is seen visiting his dad's birthplace Vedurupaka. The top music director-turned-actor is heard saying that his dad would often take them from Chennai to the village during their childhood so that they could inhale the purity of nature. The video also has visuals of Devi Sri Prasad's beautiful home in the village. The music director says, "... The village where we built a beautiful house so that we stayed connected to our roots and our people. The village that taught me the beauty of culture, folk arts and divinity. It extremely inspired me. Which is what made me say yes to Yellamma." For the unaware, Venu Yeldandi, the director of 'Yellamma', which will mark the acting debut of well known music director Devi Sri Prasad, had disclosed earlier that the first discussion session that he had with music director-turned-actor Devi Sri Prasad for the film had lasted a whopping eight hours. Taking to his social media timelines, director Venu Yeldandi had posted a picture of



himself with Devi Sri Prasad during the session and said, "The first meeting with DSP Sir...it was 8 hours long discussion..." The film has triggered huge interest as music director Devi Sri Prasad makes his acting debut with it. In fact, the music director turned actor had penned a lengthy note of gratitude on the day the makers chose to release a glimpse from the film. Taking to his social media timelines, Devi Sri Prasad had said, "THEN...with the blessings of "DEVI" (Goddess), my musical debut started and earned me an eternal place in all your hearts and made me one among your families. I am always grateful to each and everyone of you for all the love you have been showering on me always." He went on to say, "Now...Again...with the blessings of "YELLA-MMA" (Goddess), a new journey, a divine opportunity of getting more close to your hearts, begins. Hope you all give me more love and blessings and be with me in every step.#YELLAMMA my acting debut." The actor further went on to express his grati-

a number of people in the post. He wrote, "My heartfelt thanks to my producer Dil Raju Garu and my director Venu Yeldandi sir @VenuYeldandi9 #DilRaju #Shirish @svc_official @dopvenu @Tseries @tseriesouth @wallsandtrends. With my father's, mother's and my Guru Mandolin U Shrinivas anna's blessings #YellammaGlimpse out now." The makers, while releasing a glimpse video from the film, went on to say, "This is faith. This is tradition. And resistance born from the soil. #Yellamma Glimpse out now. Presenting Rockstar DSP who has always rocked your hearts with blockbuster music now in a new avatar." The film, which is being produced by Shrish, has music by Devi Sri Prasad himself who plays a character called Parshi in the film. The film, which will have cinematography by Acharya Venu, is being presented by Dil Raju.

Jagapathi completes dubbing for Peddi!

Actor Jagapathi Babu, who plays the role of Appalasoori in director Buchi Babu Sana's eagerly awaited rural action drama 'Peddi', featuring actor Ram Charan in the lead, has now completed dubbing for his portions in the film. Taking to its X timeline, Vriddhi Cinemas, the production house producing the film, wrote, "Watch our @lamJagguBhai turn into #Appalasoori, just like magic. @lamJagguBhai completes his dub for #PEDDI. #PEDDI in cinemas worldwide on 4th June. #GetReadyForPeddi." The film has triggered huge expectations among fans and film buffs ever since it was first announced. A gripping and exciting trailer of the film that was released recently has only added to the excitement. The 'Peddi' trailer unfolds a sweeping rural tale dominated by sweat, struggle, and an undying love for sport.