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BOX-OFFICE 12



Big Wins for TG Employees

Health Cards by June 1 and Rs. 6,000 Crore Clearance: CM

- ◆ The CM orders PRC to submit its report immediately
- ◆ The employees unions should meet every two months and submit a report on their issues to government
- ◆ Employees JAC announces withdrawal of dharnas on May 5 and other protest demonstrations
- ◆ TG Government is committed to the welfare of employees
- ◆ CM acknowledges the employees contribution in successful implementation of welfare schemes and development programmes
- ◆ CM holds a meeting with Employees JA

Hyderabad : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced four important decisions of the clearance of Rs 6000 crore pending dues of the retired employees in 100 days and health cards to all employees by June one. The Chief Minister also instructed the PRC commission to submit the report as the government is ready to take a decision on the enhancement of the salaries. The employees unions were suggested to hold a meeting every two months and submit a report on their issues.

The CM held a meeting with the employees -JAC and discussed their pending demands. CM Revanth Reddy said that one of the first important decisions taken by the government soon after assuming power was the payment of salaries on the first day of every month. The employee unions were given freedom to conduct their elections independently. The Chief minister acknowledged the services of the government employees in the successful implementation of the welfare and development programmes since the Congress came to power in the state. The government also conducted the transfers of the teachers in a planned manner without confusion and chaos during the process.

Revanth Reddy said that the government responded positively to the proposal of issuing Health for all employees and cards will be issued by June first to all employees.

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"Protest if Health-care and Education Aren't Free": Kavitha

"I did not criticize my father KCR... I only questioned the BRS president"

"We will bring down the Congress government within 1,000 days"

TRS Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha at Meet the Press

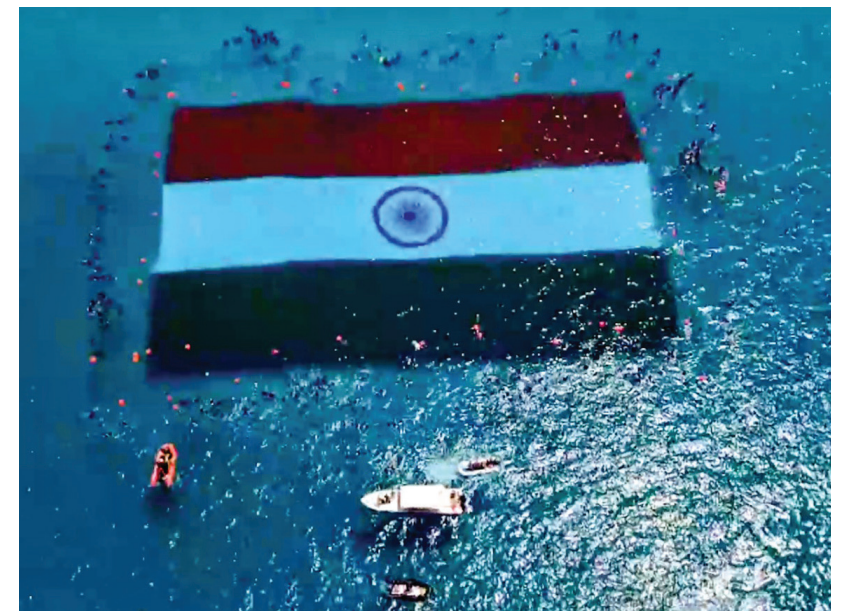


Hyderabad, May 2: Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha called upon people to strongly protest if free education and healthcare are not provided. Referring to the five-point agenda outlined in "Panchajanyam," she stated that she is fully committed to its implementation and should be held responsible if those promises are not fulfilled.

Speaking at the "Meet the Press" program organized by TUWJ at the Basher Bagh Press Club in Hyderabad,

Kavitha addressed questions from journalists on a range of issues. She clarified that she has no personal differences with her father, KCR, emphasizing that her criticism was directed solely at him in his capacity as the BRS president. Reaffirming her commitment to public service, she stated that despite challenges, she will continue to work for the people of Telangana, with the vision of achieving "Sarvodaya Telangana."

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Pride Below the Surface: India Sets Underwater Flag Record

Sri Vijaya Puram: Personnel from the Andaman and Nicobar Police, Forest Department, Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard, as well as scuba divers from various diving centres took part during the deployment of the Indian tricolour, measuring approximately 60 by 40 metre,

beneath the sea at Swaraj Dweep, formerly known as Havelock Island, near Sri Vijaya Puram, Saturday, May 2, 2026. The Andaman and Nicobar administration on Saturday set a new Guinness World Record by unfurling the world's largest underwater national flag at Radhanagar beach.

New Osmania Hospital to be Ready by 2027: Raja Narasimha

HYDERABAD, MAY 2

The construction of the new Osmania General Hospital complex at Goshamahal is progressing rapidly, with the Telangana government targeting its completion and public rollout by 2027, Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha said.

Planned as a state-of-the-art facility, the new hospital will feature advanced technology and comprehensive medical infrastructure. The design is being tailored to ensure ease and efficiency for patients, doctors and healthcare staff alike, he said. Raja Narasimha was addressing the 175th MBBS graduation ceremony at Osmania Medical College on Saturday, where he, along with

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, conferred degrees on students. Senior officials, including Kaloji Narayana Rao Health University vice-chancellor Dr Ramesh Reddy, DME Narendra Kumar and principal Rajarao, were present. Congratulating the graduates, the Minister described medicine as a noble profession rooted in compassion. He urged young doctors to prioritise patient care and empathy over commercial considerations, assuring them of the government's continued support. He noted that the long-pending plan to rebuild Osmania Hospital is now taking concrete shape, with efforts on to open the new facility by late next year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BRS targets corporation polls

KTR DIRECTS LEADERS TO EXPOSE GOVT'S FAILURES



Hyderabad, May 2: BRS working president KT Rama Rao convened a meeting with senior leaders from the erstwhile Rangareddy district on Saturday, urging them to prepare for the upcoming corporation elections. The gathering took place at his residence in Nandi Nagar, Hyderabad. He specifically instructed the

leaders to highlight the failures of the Congress government in delivering on its commitments to various groups. The BRS working president also praised party leaders for their recent successes in the local bodies elections, including gram panchayat and municipal races.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

UTTAM ORDERS STATEWIDE TANK RESTORATION DRIVE

Hyderabad, May 2: Telangana irrigation minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy has issued stern and time-bound directions to officials, emphasising that tank restoration can no longer be delayed.

Addressing a meeting of irrigation officials at Jal Soudha here on Saturday, the minister declared summer desiltation

an urgent statewide priority. The Minister ordered that works begin immediately across all tanks - from village-level water bodies to larger systems - without waiting for new guidelines.

Senior irrigation engineers, members of the Telangana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission, and

representatives from multiple departments attended the meeting. The Minister made it clear that forming tank committees through district administrations would be the immediate priority. "Committees must be formed without any delay. Each tank or cluster of tanks should have a government-nominated committee,

with farmers forming the majority, along with local officials and other stakeholders", he added. Uttam instructed that nominations be finalised quickly based on departmental recommendations, with clear roles and responsibilities defined through practical guidelines.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Three DRG Personnel Killed in IED Blast During De-mining Operation in Chhattisgarh

Kanker/Bastar, May 2:

Three personnel of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) were killed in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast on Saturday morning along the Kanker-Narayanpur border in Chhattisgarh. The explosion occurred during a de-mining operation in a forested area under the Chhotabethiya Police Station limits.

According to officials, security forces were conducting an area domination and search operation when they detected IEDs allegedly planted by Maoists. While attempting to defuse



one of the devices, it suddenly exploded, killing three personnel on the spot.

The deceased have been identified as Inspector Sukhram Vatti, Constable Krishna Komra, and Constable Sanjay

Gadpale. Another constable, Paramanand Komra, sustained serious injuries and was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, where he is undergoing treatment.

Bastar Range Inspector

General of Police Sundarraj Pattilingam expressed deep sorrow over the incident. He stated that, based on inputs from surrendered Maoists, security forces have in recent times recovered and neutralized hundreds of IEDs in the region.

"This is a tragic accident that occurred during the defusal process. We have lost three brave personnel," the IG said.

Following the incident, additional security forces have been deployed in the area, and intensified search operations are currently underway.

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Annamacharya's 618th Birth Anniversary Celebrated at Ravindra Bharathi

SAMUDRALA KIRAN |
CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad, May 2: The 618th birth anniversary celebrations of Saint Poet Tallapaka Annamacharya were held at Ravindra Bharathi on Saturday morning. The programme was jointly organised by the Telangana Language and Culture Department, Jaatiya Telugu Saarasvata Parishat and Telugu Bhasha Chaitanya Samithi.

Jaatiya Telugu Saarasvata Parishat's, National Working President Kesiraju Ramprasad presided over the event. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Annamacharya was one of the greatest devotees who worshipped Lord Venkateswara through sankirtanas. He said Annamacharya, known as "Padakavita Pitamaha," composed around 32,000 devotional songs.

Ramprasad said many of Annamacharya's songs are still part of Telugu life and culture. He mentioned famous songs such as "Jo Achyutananda," "Chandamama



Raave," "Pitikedu Talambaralu," "Brahmamokkate," "Adigo Alladigo Sri Hari-vasamu" and "Kondalalo Nelakonna Kone-ti Rayudu." He said the song "Brahmamokkate" gives a strong message of social equality. He also requested the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams to organise more programmes to spread Annamacharya's songs among people.

Famous dialogue writer Paidipati Rajendra Kumar attended the programme as the chief guest. He appreciated the Jaatiya Telugu Saarasvata Parishat for organising

the event and praised its services for the Telugu language.

Telangana Sahitya Akademi Secretary N. Balachari said more programmes should be conducted on Annamacharya's literature and songs. He also suggested publishing books in simple language so that everyone can understand Annamacharya's writings.

Ganta Manohar Reddy spoke about the spiritual beauty in Annamacharya's songs. He explained songs like "Brahma Kadigina Paadamu," "Muddugare Yashoda" and

"Ksheerabdhikanyakaku" in detail. Poet Ramakrishna Chandramouli spoke about Annamacharya's childhood and life.

Swamiji Bailuri Yogesh Prabhu said people should follow devotion, love the nation and take inspiration from great personalities like Chhatrapati Shivaji. On this occasion, Jatiya Vagdevi Awards were presented to dialogue writer Rajendra Kumar, actor G. Sairamaraju and Ashwapuram Venumadhav. A poetry meet and Annamacharya songs literary programme were conducted by poetess Radha Kusuma. Poets and singers from Khammam, Hanamakonda, Srikakulam and other places took part in the event. They were honoured with mementos and appreciation certificates.

Bade Saab conducted the programme in an interesting manner. Assistant Professor Pedinti Mohan Rao from Srikakulam, Bollu Ramamohan from Porumamilla in Kadapa district, Koganti Usharani, teacher Shashi from Khammam and several others also spoke on the occasion.

SPECIAL ARTICLE ON WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY (MAY 3)

Press Freedom is Not Just a Right, but a Responsibility

The Tightening Noose on the Freedom of the Pen

BY YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL

In India, the press has always been termed the fourth pillar of democracy because of its extremely vital role in strengthening the democratic fabric. This is why press freedom is considered essential for a healthy and robust democracy. However, it is an irony that for the past few years, a continuous decline in press freedom has been observed here as well. This is precisely why 'World Press Freedom Day' is celebrated every year on May 3.

The pen is considered mightier than the sword and more effective than its sharp edge because it is due to its vigilance that major scams have been exposed—not only in India but in many countries over the last few decades—forcing big industrialists, politicians, and stalwarts of various fields to fall from grace in a single stroke. This is the reason why, from time to time, conspiracies have been hatched to blunt or break this weapon of the pen. On various occasions, journalists across the globe, including India, have had to pay the price of truth with their lives. In recent decades, the conditions surrounding press freedom have changed significantly. Today, journalists worldwide face maximum threats from political, criminal, and terrorist groups, and India is no exception to this. Paradoxically, fear and tension have increased in newsrooms globally due to both government and private entities.

The facts presented annually by the Paris-based organization 'Reporters Sans Frontières' (RSF), or 'Reporters Without Borders', regarding press freedom are always startling. Although, it is a different matter that some countries dismiss the data in these reports as being motivated by bias. Reporters Without Borders is a non-profit organization dedicated to documenting and combating attacks on journalists worldwide and presenting an annual report titled the 'World Press Freedom Index'.

In the 'World Press Freedom Index 2019', the organization analyzed the state of press freedom in various countries, including India, clarifying how hatred against journalists worldwide has turned into violence, increasing fear among them. According to the World Press Freedom Index 2026, India has slipped to the 157th position out of 180 countries, whereas it was at the 151st position in 2025—marking a drop of six places in a single year. Prior to this, India stood at 159th in 2024, 161st in 2023, and 150th in 2022. This report indicates a continuous decline in India's ranking for press freedom. According to the report, while the number of countries considered 'satisfactory' in their treatment of journalists is increasing, the number of places where the situation is 'very serious' is also significant.

In the press freedom rankings released by Reporters Without Borders, while India climbed two spots in 2024 compared to 2023, it had fallen 11 spots in 2023 compared to 2022, and 8 spots in 2022 compared to 2021. In the 2021 ranking, India was at 142nd place. Norway tops the list in the World Press Freedom Index 2026. India's democracy is called the world's largest and most successful; however, if a small country like Norway consistently holds the top position in press freedom, and almost all of India's neighbors except China are in a better position, then this is not an ideal situation for a vast democratic nation like India. In such a scenario, we need to seriously introspect: why are we slipping year after year? This decline in press freedom is not a good sign for a healthy democracy.

The direct and clear implication of the decline in press freedom is that the right to freedom of expression, which is inherent in the fundamental spirit of democracy, is gradually diminishing. Media has had a massive contribution to society, which is why it is considered the strong fourth pillar of democracy. However, in recent years, the way the electronic media in particular creates a "whirlwind of lies" just to increase their TRP—without verifying information—makes it seem at times as if one is watching a spicy political film rather than a news program. The biggest casualty of this is that public trust in the media is continuously eroding. Consequently, people are gravitating toward social media, where "fake news" is already a major problem, and AI is contributing significantly to exacerbating this issue.

The Indian Constitution does not grant separate freedom to the press; rather, its freedom is inherent in the freedom of speech and expression of the citizens. This freedom can be restricted if the unity and integrity of the country are at stake. However, journalism becoming increasingly challenging even in the absence of such conditions is by no means in the interest of democracy; rather, it is clearly seen as an attempt by certain forces to demolish the fourth pillar of the democratic system. One can imagine: if press freedom remains under such scrutiny, how will journalists continue to perform their work with transparency? How will it be possible to uncover the truth and deliver it to the public in an impartial manner if efforts to obstruct press freedom persist?

To ensure that press freedom remains intact in the country, there is a dire need for strict laws regarding the safety of journalists, whether they are associated with media houses or are independent, so that they can fulfill their duties perfectly without any pressure or fear. However, it is also extremely vital that the 'Press'—the fourth pillar of democracy—uses its freedom correctly while remaining mindful of its own boundaries and dignities.

UTTAM ORDERS STATEWIDE TANK RESTORATION DRIVE

FROM PAGE 1

"Existing desiltation guidelines are already available. Follow them and start work", he said, noting that only about two months remain in the Summer window.

He questioned officials over delays in processing proposals, pointing out that instructions had been issued nearly six weeks ago. The stabilisation of tanks will include detailed identification and mapping of issues such as bund weaknesses, sluice problems, and other tank-specific challenges, using existing departmental inventories as a base.

The Minister stressed the need for comprehensive physical restoration - starting with desiltation, followed by bund strengthening, sluice repairs and catchment development. He also highlighted the importance of upstream interventions to reduce fresh silt inflow.

Emphasising long-term sustainability, he called for afforestation measures to prevent soil erosion. He cautioned against over-excavation that could remove critical soil layers and directed for strict monitoring to ensure desiltation

does not turn into unauthorised mining.

Welcoming farmer-driven initiatives, Uttam encouraged farmers to utilise desilted soil for agricultural fields and directed that the newly formed committees be made functional and empowered. Catchment protection, Full Tank Level (FTL) fixation, and anti-encroachment drives are to be carried out simultaneously, involving the Irrigation, Revenue and Agriculture departments.

On this occasion, the Minister praised the report and recommendations prepared by the Telangana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission, chaired by M. Kodanda Reddy, on the status and development of minor irrigation tanks in the state. The recommendations would be forwarded to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for further action, he added. The report focuses on systemic issues in the management of minor irrigation tanks across the state.

The Minister also directed the officials to expedite proposals for desiltation of the Priyadarshini Jurala Project and the Musi Project without delay.

DGP CV Anand meets Governor



Hyderabad, May 2: CV. Anand, who has recently assumed charge as the Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana, paid a courtesy call on Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan on Saturday. On the occasion, the DGP presented a bouquet to the Governor. The Governor congratulated CV. Anand on taking charge as DGP and extended his best wishes. The DGP later held a brief meeting with the Governor. During the meeting, Anand apprised the Governor of the measures being taken to maintain law and order in the State. Meanwhile, Shikha Goel, Principal Secretary (Home department), also called on Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at the Lok Bhavan.

"Carry out traffic duties without causing inconvenience to the public: DGP C.V. Anand"

Hyderabad, May 2: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has expressed concern over the recent series of accidents occurring on the Outer Ring Road and directed senior officials to take immediate and strict measures to prevent such incidents. In this context, State Director General of Police (DGP) C.V. Anand conducted a review meeting with traffic officials on Saturday.

The DGP clearly instructed officials to strictly control vehicle speeds and ensure there is no compromise in implementing safety standards. He emphasized that traffic police must perform their duties efficiently without causing inconvenience to motorists and the general public.

During the meeting held with Traffic Joint Commissioners and DCPs under the GHMC limits, DGP C.V. Anand thoroughly reviewed the traffic situation in the city. Keeping in view the ever-increasing vehicular congestion, he advised officials to adopt new strategies from time to time and take strong regulatory measures wherever



necessary.

He revealed that the state government is planning to soon establish a "Traffic Management and Road Safety Bureau" to further strengthen road safety, and that groundwork for this is currently underway. He expressed confidence that this bureau will soon become operational and play a key role in traffic management.

The DGP also directed officials to take strict action against traffic rule violations.

He emphasized conducting regular drunk-and-drive checks, and taking legal action against those not wearing helmets or seat belts. He instructed that enforcement of traffic rules must be continuously monitored at the ground level.

The review meeting was attended by Future City Traffic Joint Commissioner Chandana Deepti, Traffic DCPs Rahul Hegde, Kajal Singh, Rahul Reddy, Avinash Kumar, Sheshadri Reddy, Srinivas, and other senior officials.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

Big Wins for TG Employees

FROM PAGE 1

Within 100 days, the government will disburse ₹6,000 crores towards the retirement benefits of employees. The decision regarding the prioritization of how these funds are utilized rests with employees unions.

Highlighting that the People's Government recruited 67,760 employees in different departments in the state government, the Chief minister directed the PRC Commission officials to submit

a report on the Pay Revision Commission immediately and the government will take a decision accordingly. The CM suggested the employee unions meet once every two months and submit a report to the government regarding any issues or concerns. "This is a friendly government and the responsibility of resolving your issues lies with us."

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka assured that there will be zero pending bills by the state formation

day on June 2. Pending bills amounting to thousands of crores had accumulated during the 10 year BRS government. We have undertaken a comprehensive exercise to address this situation and move forward with the resolution of these issues.

"This stands as a testament to the government's sincere commitment towards its employees", Bhathi Vikramarka said that CM Revanth Reddy is moving forward according to a well-defined plan to

ensure the resolution of all your issues.

Thanking the government for responding positively to the demands, the employees JAC announced withdrawal of strike on May 5 and other protest demonstrations. JAC Chairman M Jagadish, TEJAC Chairman Lachireddy and other members- A Srinivasa Rao, G Srinivasa Reddy, P Damodar Reddy, G Sadananda Goud, V Ravindra Reddy V Rajashekhar, K Ramakrishna and others were present in the meeting.

Protest if Healthcare and Education...

FROM PAGE 1

Strong Remarks on Public Welfare

Kavitha asserted that she should be held accountable if she fails to deliver on the promises made to activists and families of martyrs. She emphasized that all commitments under her agenda were made after thorough evaluation of their feasibility.

Expressing concern over the financial burden on citizens, she noted that nearly 60% of household income in Telangana is spent on education and healthcare. She maintained that with strong political will, providing free access to these essential services is achievable. Citing earlier skepticism around initiatives such as Aarogyasri and free meals for students, she pointed out that these programs have since been successfully implemented.

Kavitha further stated that consultations with financial experts indicate that up to ₹1 lakh crore from government revenues could be allocated to priority welfare sectors. Criticizing the Congress government for what she described as an insensitive approach, she said that only compassionate, "mother-like governance" can truly safeguard public welfare. She also reiterated her party's resolve to unseat the current government within 1,000 days.

Clarification on Criticism of KCR

Responding to media queries, Kavitha clarified that her remarks were directed solely at KCR in his role as a political leader, not as her father. She stated that her criticism stems from ideological differences and affirmed that she will continue to question political decisions she considers flawed. She further alleged that several opportunities were missed even after the formation of Telangana. Raising concerns over governance, she criticized the handling of water resources and irrigation spending, and highlighted the issue of re-

peated examination paper leaks, which she said have adversely impacted unemployed youth.

Strategy behind party name

Kavitha explained that the party name change to Telangana Rakshana Sena was strategic, following conspiracies and confusion. She stated that multiple names were deliberately circulated as part of this strategy before finalizing the current one. She added that the eventual selection of "TRS" felt both appropriate and inevitable, describing it as a decision that aligned with the party's vision and purpose.

Response to Criticism

Kavitha responded to criticism from the Congress, BJP, and KTR, stating that such reactions are inevitable when a new political party emerges. She urged BJP leaders to prioritize Telangana's development and questioned the relevance of criticism that is not backed by meaningful action. She emphasized that in a democracy, the very existence of a political party represents a form of power, and added that its success ultimately depends on the sincerity, commitment, and credibility of its leadership.

Political Vision

Kavitha stated that her ultimate goal is achieving "Sarvodaya Telangana," emphasizing that her political mission is not directed against any particular party. Instead, she asserted that her fight is against individuals and forces that act against the interests of Telangana. She reiterated her independence, stating that she does not rely on any political backing and is fully prepared to face challenges on her own while continuing her efforts in public service.

Women Empowerment

Kavitha asserted that her party would set a benchmark in governance, stating that it would be run more effectively than traditionally male-led political formations.

Emphasizing her commitment to gender inclusion, she announced that 33% of party tickets would be reserved for women, irrespective of the status of the Women's Reservation Bill.

Alliances and National Issues

Kavitha stated that her party is open to pre-poll alliances with like-minded parties that share similar ideological principles, while firmly ruling out partnerships with those lacking such alignment. She also dismissed the possibility of post-poll alliances, expressing confidence that her party can secure a clear majority on its own.

On national issues, she advocated for equitable distribution of power among states, drawing a parallel with the U.S. Senate model. She also indicated that she would write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convey her views on delimitation and the need to safeguard state rights.

Appeal to Former Maoists

Kavitha urged former Maoists who have renounced violence to join the democratic mainstream, assuring that her party would welcome them. She emphasized the importance of inclusive political participation in strengthening democracy. She also announced plans to undertake issue-based padyatras and reaffirmed her commitment to advocating for the rights and welfare of journalists, minorities, and backward classes.

Confidence in Public Support

Kavitha expressed strong confidence that people would extend their support after observing her commitment, conduct, and sincerity in public life. She emphasized that trust would be earned through action rather than words.

Concluding her remarks, she reiterated that her party is firmly committed to implementing all the promises outlined in "Panchajanyam" upon coming to power.

New Osmania Hospital to be Ready by 2027: Raja Narasimha



FROM PAGE 1

"Once operational, the new complex is expected to significantly expand super speciality services, emergency care and access to advanced treatment," he said.

The Minister also highlighted parallel efforts to strengthen medical education, including the construction of modern hostels at Gandhi Medical College and Osmania Medical College. He reiterated that improving access to quality healthcare remains a key priority, with the new Osmania hospital set to be a landmark addition to the state's public health system.

BRS targets corporation polls

FROM PAGE 1

During the meeting, KTR addressed crucial topics such as bolstering the party's presence in the former district. Additionally, they discussed plans for upcoming party membership drives and the formation of committees to improve coordination among leaders. He outlined an action plan for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) initiative in the erstwhile district as well.

'Doctors must serve with the spirit of 'Service is the highest duty'



Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at the 175th Convocation of Osmania Medical College

HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla stated that the medical profession is not merely a means of livelihood, but a sacred commitment to serve humanity. He advised doctors to cultivate human values such as compassion and empathy along with knowledge and technical expertise. He emphasized that doctors should serve the people of the country with the spirit of "Service is the highest duty."



The Governor was speaking as the chief guest at the 175th convocation ceremony of Osmania Medical College in Hyderabad on Saturday evening. He praised Osmania Medical College as a prestigious institution with a long-standing legacy of producing skilled and dedicated doctors for the nation. He congratulated the graduating

students, stating that their success is the result of hard work and dedication.

In the context of the rapidly evolving healthcare sector, the Governor noted the growing importance of technology and research. However, he cautioned that while using modern tools, doctors must not forget humanity. He said that a patient's trust in a doctor is their greatest asset.

He also appreciated the role of the graduates' families and faculty members, stating that their sacrifices and guidance have helped shape these students into capable doctors.

The Governor called upon young doctors to serve with

ethical values in all areas—from rural healthcare to advanced research. He expressed hope that they would take the great legacy of Osmania Medical College to even greater heights and wished all graduates a bright future. Earlier, the Governor awarded degrees to the graduating medical students and congratulated them.

The event was attended by Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha, Governor's Special Chief Secretary M. Dana Kishore, Health University Vice Chancellor K. Ramesh Reddy, Director of Medical Education (DME) Narendra Kumar, Osmania Medical College Principal Raja Rao, and others.

Shiv Pratap Shukla, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Assures Action on Ex-Servicemen Welfare Issues

HYDERABAD

A delegation from the Telangana BJP Ex-Servicemen Cell met the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, at Raj Bhavan and submitted a memorandum highlighting key welfare issues concerning Ex-Servicemen (ESM) in the state.

The delegation was led by Lieutenant Colonel (Dr.) Sunkara Srinivasa Rao, PhD (Retd), Convenor of the Telangana BJP Ex-Servicemen Cell. Other members included Co-Convenor Subedar Major Rajender Singh (Retd), Subedar Major PSN Swamy (Retd), (Gen Secretary of ABPSSP Telangana), Subedar Neeraj Dubey (Retd) (Vice President Prant ABPSSP) and Havaldar Dubashi Sagar (Retd) (Vice President ABPSSP, Bhupalapally Dist).

During the meeting, the delegation raised several important issues, including:

- Delay in ex-gratia payments to families of martyrs and gallantry award recipients
- Need for establishment of a Sainik Corporation to create employment opportunities for



- Improper utilization of Armed Forces Flag Day funds
 - Requirement of an ECHS Polyclinic in LB Nagar/Kanchanbagh area
 - Pay disparities among Special Police Officers (SPOs)
 - Implementation of the Hon'ble High Court orders regarding 30% qualifying marks for ex-servicemen
- Additionally, the following key demands were presented:**
- Posting of ex-servicemen bank employees near their hometowns, instead of dis-

ance postings (200-300 km away), which are causing hardships for their Services

- Appointment of eligible ex-servicemen as permanent security personnel in banks
- Appointment of qualified ex-servicemen in Regional Sainik Welfare Officer (RSWO/ZSWO) posts instead of civilians
- Formation of District Ex-Servicemen Committees under the leadership of District Collectors, as per existing gov-

ernment orders

- Establishment of War Memorial at every District of Telangana to honor the sacrifices of martyrs and their dedicated services

The Hon'ble Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla Governor Telangana, paid attention on the relevant Issues of ESM and acknowledged that will be soon Taken to notice to the government for non implementation, they are significant and justified concerned to the welfare of ex-servicemen.

He also emphasized for timely and systematic action on these matters.

For further action, the Honourable Governor directed ADC, to examine the memorandum in detail and coordinate with the concerned authorities.

The delegation expressed confidence that with the Governor's intervention, these issues will be addressed effectively, strengthening the welfare and support system for ex-servicemen across the state.

"Amaravadi's meeting belongs to Andhra people!"

"Arya Vysya Mahasabha is an utter flop!"
"Boycott by Telangana leaders!"
- State Arya Vysya Association leader Mididuddi Shyam Sundar

HYDERABAD

State Arya Vysya Association leader Mididuddi Shyam Sundar alleged that the Telangana Arya Vysya Mahasabha continues to be dominated by Andhra leadership, and that the absence of Telangana Vysya leaders is the reason for this. He said that although Amaravadi Lakshminarayana took oath as the State Mahasabha President in Hyderabad on

Saturday, the event did not meet expectations and turned out to be an utter flop. He stated that the meeting was limited only to Andhra leaders and that no Telangana leaders attended. He issued a statement to this effect.

Shyam criticized that Telangana Arya Vysya leaders, prominent members, and public representatives collectively boycotted Amaravadi's swearing-in ceremony, thereby giving a strong message to his group. He pointed out that several prominent figures—including Vysya patriarch Ganji Rajamouli Gupta, MLC Boggarapu Dayanand, MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana, former MLA Ganesh Gupta, Vysya Corporation Chairper-

son Sujata, and former chairmen Koleti Damodar, Uppala Srinivas Gupta, and Bollam Sampath—did not attend the ceremony.

He added that even leaders entitled to protocol stayed away in protest against this "illegal election," which reflects the opposition toward Amaravadi's group. Shyam Sundar expressed anger, saying that the Telangana Vysya community has delivered a strong slap to the Amaravadi faction, which he claims has acted undemocratically for the past 11 years. He further criticized that those



who earlier opposed Andhra leaders are now seeking support from Andhra leaders like TG Venkatesh and Kanakaraju, calling it an example of double standards. He said it is ironic that Amaravadi, who once provoked regional sentiments over the Srisaalam Satram issue, is now relying on Andhra leaders for his position. He clarified that winning with a narrow technical majority of just 2-3 votes, backed by money and muscle power, is not a true victory, and said that the 520 votes he received represent integrity and honesty. He mocked the event as being conducted merely

with a handful of rice millers' leaders and warned that this "illegal position" will not last forever. He said they will soon fight the irregularities and injustices in the Vysya Mahasabha through the courts and ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

He concluded by stating that while some may become slaves for positions and business interests, the self-respecting Arya Vysya community will never tolerate injustice. He warned that by organizing a meeting with Andhra leaders under the name of the Telangana Arya Vysya Mahasabha, the Amaravadi faction has isolated itself, and said they will demonstrate their strength in the future.

Hydraa chief clears air on Bathukamma Kunta tank row, defends action

HYDERABAD

The controversy surrounding the Bathukamma Kunta tank in Amberpet here, took a fresh turn as Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRAA) Commissioner A.V. Ranganath issued a detailed clarification on Saturday, asserting that official records firmly establish the existence of the water body.

Referring to a petition filed by Edla Sudhakar Reddy in the Telangana High Court, the Commissioner said the claim that no tank existed at the site was contradicted by Survey of India records, which confirm a 10-acre tank at Bathukamma Kunta. He emphasized that the authorities are acting strictly in line with directions issued by the High Court's Division Bench, particularly concerning flood mitigation measures.

Ranganath questioned the legitimacy of ownership claims over tank land,

stating that converting a water body into cultivable land does not grant legal title. "A tank cannot become private property merely because it is filled and farmed", he remarked.

Addressing concerns about displaced residents, the Commissioner said proposals have been submitted to the state government to rehabilitate economically weaker families living in the area by providing double-bedroom housing. He added that the government has responded positively to the initiative.

The clarification comes amid criticism and speculation following HYDRAA's earlier demolition drives targeting encroachments on water bodies across the city. Allegations had surfaced that enforcement actions were selectively impacting the poor while sparing influential individuals. Ranganath's statement sought to counter these claims, reiterating that the agency's actions are guided by law and court orders.

INCOIS wins prestigious National Award for disaster management excellence

HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has been honoured with the Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2025 for its outstanding contribution to disaster management and early warning systems. The award, regarded as the highest national recognition in disaster management, was presented at the National Institute of Disaster Management in New Delhi by Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to INCOIS Director Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair. This award is a national honour announced annually on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose. INCOIS received a cash prize of Rs.51 lakh along with a certificate. The organisation was recognised for its advanced ocean forecasting systems and critical services, including Tsunami alerts, storm surge warnings and marine advisories.

TDP Activists Turn Chandrababu Naidu's 76th Birthday into a Grand Celebration

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders and supporters celebrated the 76th birthday of party national president and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu with devotion and enthusiasm at KPHB 114 Division near JNTUH Circle.

The celebrations began with party members paying floral tributes to the NTR statue. Supporters offered garlands and prayers before taking out a rally to Ramya Ground, where a cake-cutting ceremony was held in a festive atmosphere. The event drew a large gathering of party cadre and well-wishers, who came together to mark the occasion with joy and respect.

Following the cake-cutting ceremony, the celebrations continued with the bursting of crackers and distribution of sweets and buttermilk packets to attendees. In keeping with the festive spirit, mangoes and other refreshments were also shared near the Vinayak Temple. Later, party members assembled once again at the NTR statue in Vasanta Nagar, where a second cake-cutting ceremony was organized.



Several prominent district and division leaders took part in the programme, including district in-charge committee member Uppala Padma Chowdary, along with senior leaders Sheikh Sattar, Atluri Deepak, Shiva sathanarayana, Vasireddy Lakshminarayana, Kolluri Srinivas, Kakarla Gopikrishna, Chirumamilli Umamahesh, Subbarao, Jasti Ramadevi, Chandra Rao, Ramakrishna, Doppalapudi Madhan Mohan, Kishor Kor-

rapati, Cherukuri Ravi, Pavan Marny, Dorababu, Sambashiva Rao, Anand Rao, Kota, Kondla Rao, Vikram Singh, Sai, Manikantha Varma, Venkata, Raja, Kameswara Rao and others.

The birthday celebrations were held in a respectful and communal atmosphere, reflecting the strong support and admiration Chandrababu Naidu continues to enjoy among TDP members and supporters in the area.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER Notice No. ERS-SG-CN-2026-OT-03
E-TENDER Notice No. ERS-SG-CN-2026-OT-04

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy.Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Ernakulam, II Floor, Eastern Entry, Ernakulam Junction, Karshaka Road, Kochi - 682 012 invites e-tenders for the following work:

| Item No. | Name of the work | Approximate Cost of Work (₹) | Bid Security (₹) | Last Date of e-submission of Tender / Date of Opening of the Tender | Period of Completion (Months) |
|----------|--|------------------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Provision of Indoor and outdoor Signalling & Telecommunication arrangements at Thiruvananthapuram Central station, Signalling and interlocking arrangements at LC gates and Indoor and outdoor Signalling & Telecommunication alterations at Thiruvananthapuram South station to suit Twin single line between Thiruvananthapuram Central and Thiruvananthapuram South stations in connection with doubling of track between Thiruvananthapuram Central & Kanniyakumari stations, (Double packet system) | 34,16,00,479.19 | 68,32,00,000 | 21/05/2026 / 15.00 hrs | 6 (Six) Months |
| 2. | Re-routing of S&T cables and shifting of S&T assets in Shoranur Jn.-Vallathol Nagar section to facilitate Engineering works in connection with patch doubling of track between Shoranur Jn. - Vallathol Nagar stations, (Single Packet system) | 3,35,52,862.24 | 6,71,100,000 | 21/05/2026 / 15.00 hrs | 6 (Six) Months |

Note: 1. Value of tender inclusive of GST as per GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time for the supply and services by the tenderer.
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KTR pledges support to families of six Sircilla residents killed

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao has pledged his personal support to the families of those who lost their lives in an accident at Shamsabad on the Outer Ring Road (ORR). KT Rama Rao on Saturday visited Osmania General Hospital to offer his condolences to the grieving families. The BRS working president expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of six individuals from Sircilla in the devastating accident, stating that the premature deaths of these six, who were all from the same village, represent an irreplaceable loss. After the post-mortem examinations and necessary formalities were completed at Osmania Hospital, the six victims' bodies were taken by ambulance back to their hometown of Sircilla.

BRS MLA Vivekananda accuses Cong govt of 'Praja Palana deception'

HYDERABAD: BRS MLA KP Vivekananda on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, alleging that its "Praja Palana" (People's Administration) programme was misleading the public. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, he claimed that even after nearly 60 days of the 99-day programme, the government had failed to resolve key public issues. He accused the administration of inefficiency, alleging that no section of society had benefited and that the state was facing severe drinking water shortages. Vivekananda also criticised the implementation of the Indiramra Housing scheme, alleging irregularities in beneficiary selection. He contrasted the current governance with former Chief Minister KCR's tenure, highlighting initiatives like Pattana Pragathi (Urban Progress) and Palle Pragathi.

"Develop Warangal city into the second-largest city in the state"

WARANGAL

The Warangal City Comprehensive Development Action Committee Chairman, Professor Kurapati Venkata Narayana, expressed concern that Warangal city has been severely neglected both in the united Andhra Pradesh and in the separate Telangana state, as reflected in government statistics.

He participated as the chief guest and spoke at a roundtable meeting held on Saturday at the Mudiraj Bhavan, West Fort, Khila Warangal, under the chairmanship of Rayapuram Sambaiiah in Warangal district.

He said that institutions like the present-day National Institute of Technology (NIT) and Kakatiya Medical College were established under the leadership of then Lok Sabha members Itikala Madhusudhan Rao, M.S. Ralingam, and T.S. Murthy. He also noted that Kakatiya University was formed as a result of the sacrifices of Telangana martyrs.

He lamented that after that, no significant development was seen in Warangal city, and while cities like Khammam, Karimnagar, Siddipet, Sircilla, and Gajwel have been developing, Warangal has even faced destruction in the newly formed state.

He questioned whether Telangana development means only the development of Hyderabad and its surrounding areas, leaving the rest of the districts to merely feel satisfied.

He alleged that past rulers had promised to develop Warangal into a city like Dallas in the USA but instead



demolished the jail, encroached upon government lands, leased lands for 90 years, divided the district into six parts, and occupied parks, thereby destroying the city. He expressed concern that successive governments had betrayed the people of Warangal district. He said that over the past 30 years, the city has lost many employment opportunities. The Azam Jahi Mill was shut down, and industries like bidi and leather have disappeared. The prestigious Warangal Central Jail was demolished, and loans worth ₹1300 crore were taken by mortgaging assets. Unlike anywhere else in the state, the erstwhile unified Warangal district was split into six parts.

He said that Warangal, which once served as a capital for Telugu-speaking regions and has a 1300-year-old history of the Kakatiya dynasty, rich culture, and political awareness, has been deliberately weakened through conspiracies by rulers. He called upon the public, intellectuals, and

activists to unite and fight for the development of both the unified Warangal district and Warangal city. He said activists once hoped Warangal would grow into a major city alongside Hyderabad, similar to Pune, Nagpur, and Coimbatore in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

He added that people of Warangal district had supported the change of government by helping elect 10 out of 12 assembly constituencies, and therefore local leaders must work together for the development of the district and city.

He also stated that the ₹6000 crore development programs announced by the state government should be implemented immediately.

He demanded development of 43 merged villages in the city, early construction of the neglected Outer Ring Road and Inner Ring Road, completion of the underground drainage system, and restoration of institutions such as the Central Military School, Hyderabad-Warangal

Industrial Corridor, and Southern Regional Educational Research Institute. Speakers at the roundtable also resolved that the slow-moving Warangal bus stand construction, vegetable and fruit markets should be developed with proper infrastructure, a sports stadium should be built in East Warangal, skill development institutes, polytechnic colleges, and ITI colleges should be upgraded with infrastructure.

They also demanded development of poor residential areas, training for local employment in the Kakatiya Textile Park, and a special ₹1000 crore development grant for Kakatiya University similar to Osmania University. The meeting was attended by Rayapuram Sambaiiah, Achha Vinod Kumar, Enkanti Raju, Kumaraswamy, Nalaganti Chandramouli, Sayini Narendar, Soma Ramurthy, Nagavalli Sambaiiah, Rukmachari, Pallapu Sammayya, Kothapalli Srinivas, Somidi Srinivas, Dhanraj, Kotayya, Dayakar, and others.



"Good news for employees from the Chief Minister"

- **PRC (Pay Revision Commission) to be implemented soon; health cards from June 1**
- **6,000 crore to be released for pensioners within 100 days**
- **Remaining issues to be resolved in phases**
- **May 5 program has been cancelled**
- **TGE JAC Chairman V. Laxmi Reddy**
- **TGE JAC representatives express happiness over CM's assurances**

HYDERABAD

In the state, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has given good news to employees. He announced that the PRC report will be obtained and implemented soon, and that health cards will be introduced from June 1.

On Saturday, CM Revanth Reddy held a meeting with representatives of employee unions at his camp office. On this occasion, the CM made several assurances to employees. Notably, he stated that ₹6,000 crore would be released for pensioners within 100 days. He also promised that a Joint Staff Council would be held once every two months to resolve employee issues on a regular basis.

TGE JAC Chairman V. Laxmi Reddy expressed happiness over the CM's assurances. Earlier, around 45 issues were brought to the CM's attention by TGE JAC Chairman V. Laxmi Reddy, General Secretary Vodnala Ra-

jasekhar, and representatives of affiliated employee unions.

They explained the problems faced by employees, teachers, contingent workers, and pensioners in the state. The CM also discussed key employee issues, the financial burden on the government, and urgent concerns with officials from the Finance Department.

The CM stated that despite the financial burden, the government is committed to taking a positive decision on employee issues and has already begun efforts to address their legitimate demands. He assured that all employee issues would be resolved in order of priority.

TGE JAC Chairman V. Laxmi Reddy said the CM promised to take necessary steps to address all concerns. He and other union representatives expressed happiness that Deputy CM Bharti Vikramarka arranged a meeting with the CM the very next day, as promised. Laxmi Reddy also announced that the action program planned by TGE JAC on May 5 has been cancelled.

Those who attended the meeting included TGDCA General Secretary K. Ramakrishna, TGTA President S. Ramulu, SGTU President A. Venkatesham, TGRSA President Banala Ram Reddy, TEA President Dr. G. Nirmala, TGCPSP President L. Darshan Goud, and other representatives such as Katti Janardhan, SK Habeeb Mia, Ramesh Paka, V. Biksham, T. Pentayya, Rakkam Devika, S. Madhava Reddy, CH Ravi, M. Chandrasekhar, Avula Saidulu, Y. Kumar Swamy, V. Ramulu, and others.

"RTC staff must maintain a positive attitude towards passengers"

Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar

HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) officials and staff should adopt a positive attitude towards passengers, stated State Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar. On Saturday, during a Zoom meeting conducted with senior officials along with RTC MD Y. Nagi Reddy, the minister issued several key directives. He also held a detailed discussion on the issues raised by RTC workers' union leaders in the recent meeting with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

Be friendly with staff:

The minister advised that officials should not harass drivers, conductors, and other lower-level staff, but instead ensure a friendly working environment. He instructed that work should be carried out with warmth and cooperation, without rude behavior. He emphasized that everyone should work together as a team.

He also directed that grievance meetings must be conducted compulsorily on the second Tuesday of every month in all depots to directly hear and resolve staff issues.

Improve facilities by May 17:

Giving priority to workers' welfare, the minister instructed depot

managers to improve basic facilities in all depots and bus stations by May 17. He stressed that there should be no compromise on toilets, drinking water, greenery, and cleanliness.

He also stated that ticketing-related issues should be resolved amicably and warned against arguments with staff. Referring to the 'Mahalakshmi' scheme introduced on December 9, 2023, he noted that it is being implemented successfully. He directed depot managers to continuously coordinate with public representatives and bring RTC services closer to the people.

Resolve pending issues by

end of June: - MD Y. Nagi Reddy

Speaking in the meeting, TGSRTC Managing Director Y. Nagi Reddy instructed officials to resolve pending issues related to commercial shops in bus stands and other administrative matters by the end of June. He called for efforts to make the organization more profitable and service-oriented in the future.

The video conference was attended by Executive Directors CH Venkanna, Khuroo Shah Khan, Rajasekhar, Salomon, FA Vijayapushpa, CTM Sridevi, along with Heads of Departments, Regional Managers, and Depot Managers from various divisions.

BJP demands Cong govt to address problems of farmers immediately

HYDERABAD

BJP State President N Ramchander Rao today expressed concern that the condition of farmers was extremely critical in Telangana as they were not getting MSP rates for their products.

He was speaking to media in Ramayampet in Medak district. Rao said he has personally visited several paddy procurement centers and witnessed heaps of grain piling up and crops being damaged due to rains. The lifting of grain is being delayed because lorries and trucks are not available on time, he alleged. There were allegations that in some places, rice millers, middlemen, and certain officials were colluding to cause losses to farmers. The farmers were being forced to sell their produce at prices lower than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the central government. This was a total injustice. The government must intervene immediately to resolve these issues.

In addition to paddy farmers, maize farmers were also facing hardships. The government must purchase their crops as per the MSP, he asked adding that it was the government's responsibility to ensure justice for farmers. He demanded that the

government take immediate action on these agricultural grievances.

Giving details of proposed visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 10, BJP state chief said this marks Modi's first visit to the state after assuming office as Prime Minister for the third consecutive term and he will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate various developmental projects worth approximately Rs 7,823 crores.

Key projects include the launch of the Industrial City in Zaheerabad, the Textile Park in Warangal, and the PM Mitra Kakatiya MegaTextile Park. Additionally, programs for the development of railway stations in Hafeezpet and Jogulamba, along with national highway expansions, are being undertaken. In the coming phases, projects like the Warangal Coach Factory and Airport will also be brought into implementation, he said.

The situation of government employees in the state has become miserable. Issues such as salaries not being credited on the first of the month and delays in teachers' wages continue to persist. PRC (Pay Revision Commission) arrears since 2015 remain pending. Benefits meant for retired employees were also being delayed, Rao

said. It was unfortunate that there was no movement from the congress government until the High Court intervened and reprimanded them, ordering that dues be paid within four weeks. This clearly demonstrates the failure of the Congress administration, he said.

On the issue of RTC strike Rao asked Congress government must take a definitive decision regarding RTC employees. The promise to merge the RTC with the government must be implemented immediately and employees should be officially declared government staff rather than corporation personnel. Instead of making announcements and issuing statements, the government should focus execution of all pending demands of RTC employees, he said.

The government has yet to provide clarity on the implementation of the Six Guarantees promised during the elections and the citizens are still waiting for these promises to be honored, he said. Before commending the various programmes, BJP state president garlanded the portrait of revered deity "Bharat Mata" at Ramayampet along with party MP Raghunandan Rao and district party leaders and hoisted the BJP flag, a symbol of sacrifice, service and dedication.



Union Minister Kishan Reddy launches wall-writing campaign

ahead of PM Modi's Telangana visit

HYDERABAD

In view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Telangana, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy personally launched a wall-writing campaign at Himayat Nagar and Narayanaguda.

Key points from Kishan Reddy's media interaction

He announced that a massive public meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be held on the 10th of this month at Parade Grounds. He called upon people from all parts of Telangana to attend this large



gathering. He stated that in every Assembly constituency, hundreds of women are voluntarily coming forward and expressing support for the Bharatiya Janata Party. He added that people in Telangana are aspiring for a double-engine

government under the leadership of Narendra Modi in the coming days.

He said that the people of Telangana are seeking change and want liberation from family rule and corruption. According to him, there is a pro-BJP

wave visible everywhere as part of this sentiment.

He further claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has fought strongly against terrorism and curbed it in the country, and that the welfare schemes introduced by him have reached every household. He said that poor people are looking towards Modi, and expressed confidence that the BJP will come to power in the upcoming elections.

He urged party workers to work unitedly and strengthen the party at the grassroots level. Finally, he once again appealed for large public participation in the public meeting scheduled on the 10th.

Uttam Orders Statewide Tank Restoration Drive

* Immediate Committee Formation and Summer Desiltation Top Priority

HYDERABAD

Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy issued stern, time-bound directions to officials, emphasising that tank restoration cannot wait any longer.

Addressing a meeting of irrigation officials at Jal Soudha today, he declared the summer desiltation as an urgent statewide priority. Minister ordered works to begin immediately across all tanks - from village-level tanks to larger systems - without waiting for new guidelines.

Senior irrigation engineers, members of the Agricultural and Farmer Welfare Commission, and representatives from multiple departments attended the session, where the Minister made it clear that the formation of tank committees through

district administration would be the immediate priority.

"Committees must be formed without any delay, he directed. Each tank or cluster of local tanks should have a government-nominated committee with farmers forming the majority, along with local officials and other stakeholders. He wanted nominations finalised quickly on the basis of recommendations from the departments concerned with clear roles and rules defined through practical guidelines.

"Existing desiltation guidelines are already available. Follow them and start work," he said, adding that roughly two months of the summer window remain.

He questioned officials over the delay in processing the proposals though instructions were given to this effect about 1.5 months ago.

The stabilisation of tanks would include detailed issue identification and mapping of bund problems, sluice issues,

and tank-specific challenges, using existing departmental inventories as the base.

He stressed physical restoration of the tanks, starting with desiltation, followed by bund strengthening, sluice repairs, and catchment development. He also emphasised upstream interventions to reduce fresh silt inflow into the tanks.

He insisted on long-term measures for stabilisation through afforestation to prevent soil erosion.

The Minister cautioned against over-excavation that removes the critical soil layers and directed strict monitoring so that desiltation does not become source for unauthorised mining.

The Minister welcomed farmer-driven desiltation where in silt is lifted for fields on their own. He directed that the new committees be made functional and empowered.

Catchment protection, Full Tank Level (FTL) fixation, and anti-encroachment drives were

to run parallel to restoration works, involving the Irrigation, Revenue and Agriculture departments.

He praised commission report for its recommendations on committees, desiltation, and powers, saying the immediate focus would be on its actionable points while larger suggestions would be taken up later.

The minister praised the report and recommendations prepared by the Telangana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission chaired by M. Kodanda Reddy on the status and development of the minor irrigation tanks in the state.

The recommendations will be forwarded to the Chief Minister for further action, he said. The committee report focussed on the systemic issues pertaining to management of the minor irrigation tanks state wide.

He wanted steps for desiltation of Jurala project and Musci project by processing the proposals without delay.

UP politics heats up as SP chief, Deputy CMs spar online

LUCKNOW: (MAY 2)

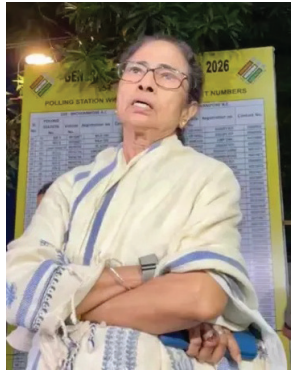
An exchange of words between Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak on social media has intensified the political atmosphere in the state. The war of words, which began around Buddha Purnima, continued through Saturday, with leaders trading barbs on platforms such as X and Facebook, pushing up the political temperature in Uttar Pradesh. During a visit to Kushinagar on Buddha Purnima, Maurya and Pathak shared a video from the premises of a Buddhist site. In the video, Pathak had said, "Today we had the good fortune of visiting the Mahaparinirvana site of Lord Buddha in Kushinagar."

Bengal: Mamata, Abhishek ask Trinamool agents to stay till results are declared

KOLKATA, MAY 2

Trinamool is going to win more than 200 seats in West Bengal Assembly polls, said Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee and the party's general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in a virtual meeting with counting agents. The meeting began at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. All the counting agents of Trinamool joined the meeting. Apart from that, all the candidates and the party's important leaders were present at this meeting. According to insiders in Trinamool Congress, Mamata and Abhishek told the party workers in the meeting that the Bharatiya Janata Party has been put ahead in the exit polls to boost the stock market. They

also said that the same approach was taken in the 2021 Assembly elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. According to Trinamool insiders, Abhishek also took a dig at the Bharatiya Janata Party over the exit polls. He said that the Bharatiya Janata Party is also not expecting to form the government in West Bengal. He also said that Mamata Banerjee has highlighted how the Bharatiya Janata Party has committed financial fraud by showing fake surveys. Predicting the party's possible results, Abhishek Banerjee claimed it will secure more seats in this election than in 2021, when it won 215 seats. The Trinamool insider claimed that, at the beginning of the meeting, Mamata congratulated the



party workers for the 'uncompromising fight'. She also spoke again about the 'atrocities' of the central forces on the party workers and supporters. She assured that the party will reward those who have endured the 'atrocities' of the central forces. In almost the same tone, Abhishek alleged that the Bharatiya Ja-

nata Party wanted to intimidate voters by using the central forces. He also accused the central forces of beating and abusing women and children. It is also learnt from Trinamool sources that Mamata and Abhishek have issued instructions to the counting agents on vote counting. They have been asked to inform the party's top leadership about every moment of the counting centre. If the Bharatiya Janata Party is ahead by a very small margin in any centre, they have been asked to request a recount. On Monday, the day of counting, the agents have been asked to reach the counting centre early in the morning. They have also been instructed not to go out until the counting is over. The Trinamool top leadership

has also instructed them to go to the counting centre in groups. The agents should go out in groups after receiving the certificate of the winning candidate. Trinamool has also appointed district observers to monitor the counting process. According to Trinamool sources, Abhishek also targeted the Election Commission in the meeting. He claimed Trinamool has had to fight with the central forces at the local level. Abhishek claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party will lose even after using all kinds of force.

In a warning tone, he said that the Trinamool Congress would take legal action against all the observers appointed by the Commission who committed 'unconstitutional' acts.



'Ponna Kaluva Utsavam' celebrated

Priests giving a shower to the deities of Sri Govindaraja and His consorts during the 'Ponna Kaluva Utsavam' in Tirupati on Friday. Priests giving a shower to the deities of Sri Govindaraja and His consorts during the 'Ponna Kaluva Utsavam' in Tirupati on Friday.

'Chitra Pournami, which fell on Friday this year. During the ritual, the deities were taken in a grand procession up to the Ponna Kaluva, located 5 km from the temple, braving the hot sun, as is the ancient practice. The deities were placed in the Mandapam filled with water and a celestial bath was given by the priests to the idols with a variety of aromatic products. Vettiver mats were hung on all the three sides of the Mandapam to provide respite from the heat. A number of devotees from Tiruchanur locality took part in the event.

Not luck, but struggle made B.S. Yediyurappa CM of Karnataka: B.Y. Vijayendra

No politics, only tribute to veteran leader, says State BJP chief on convention in Chitradurga on May 9



State BJP president B. Y. Vijayendra said that former Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa did not rise to power by chance, but through decades of sustained struggle for the welfare of the poor, farmers, and the downtrodden in Karnataka. Speaking to reporters in Mysuru on May 2, Mr Vijayendra remarked that while some leaders may have become the chief minister due to circumstances, Mr. Yediyurappa earned the position after spending nearly 45 years in the opposition. To honour his five-decade-long political journey and contributions, a grand convention has been organised in Chitradurga on May 9. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will participate in the event. Mr. Vijayendra, who visited Suttur Mutt to invite Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji to the convention (samavesh), said several seers and religious leaders from across Karnataka are expected to attend. He expects around 10 lakh people to participate in the convention celebrating Mr. Yediyurappa's 50 years in public life. Sharing the details, he said that Mr. Yediyurappa will arrive in Chitradurga at 5 p.m. on May 8. He will be accorded a grand welcome with a procession featuring over 25 folk and cultural troupes. "The procession will resemble a mini-Dasara, given the scale of participation," he added. The samavesh will be held around noon on May 9, with Mr. Shah and other senior BJP leaders in attendance. Mr. Vijayendra said people from regions rang-

ing from Chamarajanagar to Chikkodi (in Belagavi) and Bidar are expected to gather in large numbers. To a question, he clarified that the event is not politically motivated, noting that there are no immediate elections. "This is purely to honour Mr. Yediyurappa's lifelong service to the people," he said. Chitradurga was chosen as the venue for logistical convenience, and also at the request of BJP MP Govind Karjol.

By-poll results

Expressing confidence about BJP's prospects in the Bagalkot and Davanagere by-elections, Mr. Vijayendra claimed that even some Congress leaders privately admitted to him that the party is losing ground. He said the chief minister and the Congress government in Karnataka must introspect based on the results, alleging a lack of development, rising drug menace, and corruption. He criticised the government for neglecting governance, stating that internal power struggles and leaders focusing on their positions have affected development. He pointed to poor road conditions in Bengaluru and other parts of the State as examples of administrative failure. Mr. Vijayendra hinted that a change in leadership within the ruling Congress party appears imminent, citing recent statements by Congress leaders.

'Highly insulting': Priyanka Gandhi condemns Gujarat BJP chief's comments on Cong MP

NEW DELHI/
BANASKANTHA, MAY 2

Senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday condemned remarks made by the Gujarat Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Jagdish Vishwakarma against Banaskantha MP Geniben Thakor, calling them "shameful and insulting", as the political controversy continued to intensify. In a post on social media platform X, Priyanka Gandhi said, "The statement made by the Gujarat BJP President against senior Congress leader and MP Geetaben Thakor ji is extremely shameful and insulting." She also alleged that the



BJP's approach towards women in public life is contradictory, saying, "On the one hand, the BJP government humiliates women in Parliament by making baseless allegations, and on the other hand, its leaders insult women through indecent comments. The BJP always protects such individuals." Referring to the party's po-

litical messaging, the Congress leader added, "This is the true reality of the BJP's political 'Nari Vandan'. It is actually 'anti-women'." Addressing Thakor, Priyanka Gandhi said, "Geniben, I am aware of your struggle and I stand with you. We are all proud of your courage." The controversy originated from remarks made by BJP leader Vishwakarma during the Vijay Vishwas Sammelan held at Chadotar village in Palanpur of Banaskantha district on Thursday. While addressing BJP workers in Banaskantha district, the State BJP President said, "The sisters of Banaskantha will never forget the insult you have inflicted on 70 crore women of the coun-

try under the Nari Vandana Act. In the coming days, our mothers and sisters will give a befitting reply to it and snatch your seats from your stronghold and the pallu of your saree." The remarks have drawn political reactions amid the ongoing national discussion around women's reservation. The controversy comes in the backdrop of the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill, which failed to pass in the Lok Sabha on April 17. The Bill was introduced to expedite implementation of the 33 per cent women's reservation announced in 2023, with a proposed rollout by the 2029 general elections without awaiting a fresh census.

Nitin Gadkari slams caste politics over fuel prices, says they are same for all

At a Labour Day event in Nagpur, Nitin Gadkari said Hindus and Muslims pay the same price for gas, petrol and diesel. He used the remark to reject caste politics and call out leaders seeking tickets while raising caste slogans.



In a blunt and striking address during a Labour Day event in Maharashtra, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari pushed back against caste and religion-based narratives, saying access to essentials like fuel does not differ by faith. Speaking in Nagpur,

Gadkari made it clear that he distances himself from such divisions. "Outside, people may fight on caste lines, but I do not do that," he said, stressing that such issues bring little real benefit to society.

He added that leaders who raise slogans around caste often act differently behind closed doors. "Many leaders shout slogans about caste. Then they come to my house and whisper in my ear asking for tickets for their sons or wives," he said, calling them "hypocritical".

STRONG WARNING TO POLITICIANS

In one of the most force-

ful lines of his speech, Gadkari warned against continuing caste-based politics. "Whoever talks about caste, I will kick him hard," he said, drawing attention for the unusually direct tone.

His comments come in the backdrop of recent elections across several states, where Hindu-Muslim narratives and caste equations dominated campaign speeches and strategies. Gadkari's remarks stand out as a departure from that tone, focusing instead on uniform access to public goods and criticising political opportunism tied to identity-based appeals.

Jagan's aide gets bail after re-arrest for social media post against Andhra CM

AMARAVATI, MAY 1

A court in Guntur on Friday granted bail to former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's aide Pudi Srihari in a case relating to allegedly abusive social media post against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Srihari, who is YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) General Secretary (Media Department) and former Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) to Jagan Mohan Reddy, was re-arrested late on Thursday night hours after he was granted bail by a court in Kuppam town. A team from Kothapeta in Guntur district arrested him in Kuppam and brought him to Kothapeta police station, where a separate FIR was registered against him on the same allegations. This was the third time Srihari was arrested in two weeks. The police action evoked strong condemnation from the YSRCP, which accused the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led coalition government of politi-



cal vendetta. Tension prevailed at Guntur government hospital as police stopped YSRCP MLC Lella Appireddy from meeting Srihari, who was brought for check-up before his production in the court. The Guntur court later granted bail to Srihari, who is also a journalist. He alleged that the TDP-led coalition government is treating journalism as an 'organised crime'. Srihari said he never set foot in a police station or court but he has been arrested multiple times within two weeks. He added that he has done no wrong and therefore has no fear.

Addressing the media at the YSRCP office in Guntur along with party leaders, Srihari expressed deep anguish over the series of arrests and cases against him over the past two weeks, despite a spotless 26-year career in journalism. He said that portraying media coordination work as a criminal syndicate is alarming and dangerous for democratic functioning. YSRCP General Secretary (Legal), Ponnalolu Sudhakar Reddy, termed the incident a battle between constitutional values and misuse of power, questioning how a person can be arrested multiple

times for the same alleged offence. He said that courts have repeatedly rejected remand attempts and intervened against unconstitutional actions. Srihari was first arrested on April 15 in Vijayawada in the case registered against him over making objectionable social media posts with morphed images of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. He was subsequently shifted to Kuppam, where the case was registered against him and another YSRCP functionary Girish Kumar Reddy. Srihari was produced before the trial court on April 16. He was released after the court rejected the petition by the police to send him to judicial remand. Later, the Andhra Pradesh High Court suspended the order of the trial court. The Supreme Court refused to intervene in the High Court order. Kuppam police again arrested Srihari in Bengaluru on April 29. He was brought to Kuppam, where he was produced before a court on April 30.

RTGS Tech Powers Faster Policing

AMARAVATI:

The Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) is extending significant technological support to the police, enhancing their ability to solve cases efficiently. Recently, in five separate cases, the RTGS CCTV360 system played a vital role, making investigations easier and faster. RTGS CCTV360 was instrumental in tracing three missing women, including two minors. In another case, surveillance cameras under RTGS helped police swiftly apprehend a suspect involved in a murder and robbery in Tadepalligudem. The system also effectively tracked the movements of a motorcycle theft, leading to his arrest. To strengthen law enforcement and aid investigations, RTGS has established a dedicated CCTV360 surveillance system, which police are using efficiently across multiple cases.

RTGS CCTV360 provides crucial support in investigations Traces three missing women, including two minors Helps nab accused in a murder and robbery case Plays a key role in solving a vehicle theft case

missing on April 22 from Nandavaram police station limits in Kurnool district. Police sought RTGS assistance and uploaded her photo into the CCTV360 application. Using a time-sensitive digital search, RTGS identified her presence at a major junction in Vijayawada and sent real-time alerts. With coordination between Nandavaram and Vijayawada police, she was safely rescued and handed over to her parents.

2. Missing Girl from Nandyal Found in Ongole
A 16-year-old girl reported missing on April 25 from Gadivemula in Nandyal district was traced using RTGS. Police uploaded her photo and the motorcycle number she used. CCTV360 detected her at a key junction in Ongole on April 29. Real-time alerts enabled coordinated action by Nandyal and Ongole police, leading to her safe recovery.

3. Missing Woman Traced in Vijayawada
A 17-year-old girl went missing on April 22 from Nandavaram police station limits in Kurnool district. Police sought RTGS assistance and uploaded her photo into the CCTV360 application. Using a time-sensitive digital search, RTGS identified her presence at a major junction in Vijayawada and sent real-time alerts. With coordination between Nandavaram and Vijayawada police, she was safely rescued and handed over to her parents.

4. Breakthrough in Murder and Robbery Case
In a murder and robbery case registered on April 15 in Tadepalligudem, West Godavari district, RTGS CCTV360 proved crucial. Surveillance cameras captured suspicious movements of the near the crime scene, providing a golden lead. Police arrested the accused and recovered stolen gold ornaments and valuables. The footage will also serve as digital evidence.

5. Stolen Motorcycle Recovered
A motorcycle stolen in March under Polavaram police station limits in Eluru district was traced using RTGS surveillance. Based on the vehicle number, high-resolution images from the surveillance matrix tracked its movement. Alerts indicated its presence in Kadiyam police station limits, enabling police to arrest the and recover the vehicle.

Enhanced Coordination Among Police
RTGS CCTV technology is significantly improving coordination among police departments. By breaking geographical barriers between districts, the system tracks criminal movements across the state in real time and shares actionable intelligence with concerned police stations. This seamless coordination is helping police swiftly apprehend suspects and successfully crack cases.

EDITORIAL

OPEN FORUM

BRIDGING THE GAP:
THE EVOLUTION OF
INDIAN HEALTH CARE AND
THE ROAD AHEAD

The National Statistical Office recently concluded its 80th round of the household social consumption (health) survey, marking the first in-depth analysis of its kind since the global pandemic and the maturation of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) framework. Historical data from the preceding two surveys highlighted a stark reality where the vast majority of Indian citizens lacked any form of health insurance coverage. However, following the 2018 introduction of PMJAY, this latest 80th round indicates that insurance penetration has expanded approximately threefold, representing a growing portion of hospital-based health-care financing. Despite this expansion, actual hospitalization rates have failed to rebound to levels seen in 2014, suggesting that possession of an insurance card does not inherently ensure bed availability, and various hidden costs persist as barriers to entry. Because reimbursement rates under PMJAY and similar state-funded initiatives frequently fall below standard market pricing, private medical facilities often balance their books by charging patients independently for diagnostic tests and ancillary support services. Essentially, while government-backed insurance is facilitating private providers' entry into low-income markets without strict price regulations, the current hybrid system offers a patchwork safety net: insurance handles inpatient costs while the public infrastructure enhances financial security for families requiring primary medical attention. Furthermore, the Proportion of Population Reported Ailing has effectively doubled; while incidences of infectious diseases have fallen, non-communicable diseases are on the rise. Economic experts view this shift as an indication of increased care-seeking behavior, making a larger segment of the population finally 'visible' to the formal health-care economy.

Earlier survey rounds consistently identified out-of-pocket expenses (OOPE) as a primary catalyst for domestic poverty. In this 80th round, even though the mean OOPE has nearly doubled, the median OOPE has decreased to ₹11,285 per hospital stay and has reached near-zero levels for public outpatient services. The landscape of medical spending in India remains a combination of numerous low-cost consultations and a handful of high-stakes, expensive events like major surgeries or long-term chronic management. These diverging trends indicate that while primary and secondary care are becoming more economically accessible—largely due to the public sector absorbing those costs—the potential for specific medical crises to cause total financial ruin remains significant. A contributing factor is that the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AAM) network, intended to provide free diagnostics and medication, remains critically underfunded compared to the massive requirements of chronic disease management, an area currently dominated by the private sector. Consequently, the impoverished population holds nominal coverage but is frequently marginalized from its practical benefits, whereas the insured middle class continues to grapple with escalating catastrophic medical costs. Having made progress in shielding seekers from absolute poverty and reaching near-universal institutional births, the subsequent era of health-care reform must focus on bolstering the capacity of public sector hospitals to effectively challenge private dominance in high-level tertiary care.

Why ICU Practices Demand
Urgent Reform

When we reflect on the current state of healthcare in India, a deeply troubling and sensitive question arises: has medicine ceased to be a service and instead transformed into a harsh business—and at times, even a tragedy? This concern becomes particularly sharp in the context of Intensive Care Units (ICUs) in private hospitals. Numerous instances have surfaced where patients, despite being medically stable, continue to be kept in ICUs—not due to clinical necessity, but as part of an ongoing cycle of financial gain.

Such practices not only raise serious questions about the ethics and service-oriented spirit of medicine but also shake the very foundations of human compassion. In this context, the recent emphasis by the Supreme Court on the need for uniform ICU guidelines marks both an acknowledgment of the problem and a constructive step toward its resolution. The Court has clearly stated that patients who are medically stable or no longer require intensive monitoring or life-support systems should not be unnecessarily retained in ICUs. This directive is not merely administrative—it is grounded in deep ethical reasoning. It reminds us that the fundamental purpose of medicine is to preserve life and alleviate suffering, not to maximize profits.

In essence, the Supreme Court's guidelines reaffirm a simple yet crucial principle: an ICU is not meant for indefinite patient care. The directives specify that patients who no longer require external organ support or intensive monitoring should be discharged or shifted to appropriate wards. Equally significant is the Court's emphasis on the urgency of addressing this issue. While upholding the dignity and reputation of medical professionals, it also calls for accountability from healthcare institutions. Undoubtedly, modern healthcare has become expensive, and advanced facilities come at a high cost. However, the growing dominance of a profit-driven mindset over a service-oriented approach is deeply concerning. This shift has led to sev-

eral distortions and, at times, even cruelty within the system. Ideally, it should have been the responsibility of policymakers and administrators to regulate such practices. Unfortunately, the fact that judicial intervention has become necessary highlights a systemic failure.

The Supreme Court's recent call for standardized ICU guidelines offers a ray of hope for a system grappling with inconsistencies and ethical dilemmas. An ICU is a specialized facility intended exclusively for critically ill patients requiring constant monitoring and advanced medical support. However, when this facility

need and financial interest becomes blurred.

A deeper analysis reveals that this issue is not confined to hospitals or doctors alone—it is the result of a broader systemic failure. After independence, sectors like education and healthcare were entrusted to the state with the expectation that they would serve as models of public welfare. However, over time, economic liberalization and privatization have significantly altered their direction. Education has become an expensive enterprise, and healthcare, too, has gradually evolved into a profit-driven industry. It would not be

these directives pave the way for a more transparent, accountable, and equitable healthcare system. However, it is equally true that the success of any policy depends on its effective implementation. In India, it is often observed that well-intentioned policies remain confined to paper. If these guidelines are implemented half-heartedly, they will fail to achieve their intended purpose. Strong political will, adequate financial resources, and a robust administrative framework are essential for meaningful change. Above all, a humane perspective must remain at the core of this process.

Prolonged ICU stays are not just financially burdensome but also mentally distressing. Patients and their families live in an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear. Transferring patients to appropriate wards once they are stable not only reduces costs but also provides psychological relief. As India aspires to become a developed nation by 2047, it is imperative that our healthcare system evolves not only technologically but also ethically and humanely. The essence of medical care lies in compassion, service, and empathy. Without these, all progress remains incomplete. Ultimately, the ICU guidelines signify not just an administrative reform but a moral awakening. They compel us to reflect on whether we are truly building a healthcare system aligned with the values of humanity. If implemented with sincerity and integrity, this initiative can play a transformative role in making India's healthcare system more sensitive, transparent, and just.



becomes a tool for profit-making, it transforms into a symbol of inhumanity. For poor and middle-class families, ICU expenses are often unbearable—ranging from thousands to lakhs per day. If patients are unnecessarily kept in such units, it constitutes not just financial exploitation but also mental and social harassment. The situation becomes even more complex because the general public lacks in-depth knowledge of medical procedures. Families depend entirely on doctors and hospital management, and this dependence is often misused in the absence of transparency. Frequently, patients' families are not fully informed about the actual condition, and decisions to continue ICU care are presented as unquestionable truths. This creates an environment of opacity, where the line between genuine medical

an exaggeration to say that today, a form of "commercial competition" dominates the medical field, where patients are increasingly treated as customers. The rapid growth of large private hospitals equipped with advanced technologies is, in one sense, a positive development. However, when these facilities are used primarily for financial gain, it becomes a matter of concern. The expansion of healthcare infrastructure is welcome, but it must be accompanied by compassion, ethical conduct, and human sensitivity.

In this light, the Supreme Court's guidelines emerge as a beacon of hope. They not only aim to protect patients' rights but also strive to ensure institutional accountability. By focusing on aspects such as nurse-to-patient ratios, availability of specialists, infrastructure, and training,

“An ICU must serve life, not profit—care ends where exploitation begins.”



LALIT JARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

DAWN OF LITERATURE

A letter
not a flower, but the fragrance
that flowers it;
not a star, but the silence that shimmers
as light
not a river, but the resonance learning
to flow
not an ocean—
but the boundless breath from which all
oceans arise.
In one small sign—an infinity sealed
in one clear word—the world made to
wheel
in one fine line—the firmament leans;
in one living poem—life kindles its
unseen.
Feeling is not yet poetry,
and speech is only a shore.
But when a pulse becomes plural,
when a tremor turns choral,
when many hearts harbor one bright
accord—
there, literature is born.
Where language loosens into jasmine,
where song turns supple with scent,
where verse gathers light like a lamp in
the wind—
there, a people ripen;
there, a nation learns to begin.
A sound—
a stream that steadies the soul
a spark—
a star that startles the mind;
a sentence—
a singing that circles the whole:
thus meaning moves, thus the mortal
grows kind.
A bud of thought—
becomes bloom,
becomes balm, becomes bread
it breaks into fragrance,
it feeds what is said
from hush into hush
it hands on its honey,
till one life, well-lived,
becomes many made ready.
Time is a line the human hand
has drawn



literature
the river that laughs it gone.
Past, present, promise
in one breath blend,
and the word becomes now without end.
Like the mogra's memory of musk in the
night,
unchanged in its unseen,
unaging delight
so the letter travels, tireless and true,
bearing one ancient brightness ever
made new.
When the eye meets a word and wakes
into light,
when the tongue tastes a truth in the
turn of its flight,
when the heart breaks to color and
chords take wing
creation returns, remembering.
Then
a letter is no longer a mark, but a womb;
a word is no longer a sound, but a bloom
a line is no longer a limit, but room
and the human stands sudden,
a poem in plume.
The dawn of literature
is the instant a single syllable,
struck like a seed of sun,
splits into an endless universe of
becoming.

...: Dr. Peruka Raju ...
7810032847

Exit Polls 2026: 'Power Game' in 5 States
From Bengal to Kerala: In whose favor will the mandate go?

With the completion of the voting process in five crucial states/Union Territories (West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry) a significant chapter of the great festival of Indian democracy has concluded. The people's mandate is now secured within the EVMs, and the entire nation's gaze is fixed on the final results arriving on May 4. However, before the results, 'Exit Polls' from various survey agencies have intensified the stir in political corridors. These figures have created an atmosphere of celebration in some quarters while forcing a rethink of strategies in others. These exit polls not only indicate potential outcomes but also highlight the complexities of Indian democracy, regional political equations, and the shifting priorities of voters. Although a caution is always attached to exit polls—that they are mere estimates rather than final results—we can still attempt to understand political trends and the potential balance of power through these projections.

West Bengal: 'Khela' or 'Parivartan' (Change)?
The politics of West Bengal has always been highly significant at the national level, and the contest for the 294 seats in West Bengal has been the most interesting election this year. A majority of 148 seats is required here. Looking at the exit poll figures, Chanakya Strategies has given 150-160 seats to the BJP, 130-140 to the TMC, zero to the Congress, and 6-10 seats to others. Similarly, the exit polls of ABP News-CVoter, Matriz, Poll Diary, and PrajaPoll estimate 150-175, 146-161, 142-171, and 178-208 seats for the BJP respectively; 118-138, 125-140, 99-127, and 85-110 for the TMC; and 6-10, 6-10, 5-9, and 0-5 for others. Only the Peoples Pulse exit poll has emerged predicting a return to power for the TMC. In this exit poll, the TMC is estimated to get 117-187 seats, BJP 95-110, Congress 1-3, Left 0-1, and others zero. Except for Peoples Pulse, all exit polls in Bengal are pointing toward a regime change in the state. The BJP appears to be getting a clear majority here. Surveys like 'PrajaPoll' are even taking the BJP past the 200 mark. If these figures prove correct, it will be a major upheaval in the history of Indian politics. The BJP's

polarization and the slogan of 'Parivartan' (change) seem to be working at the ground level, while anti-incumbency and corruption allegations have become major challenges for the TMC.

Assam: BJP Preparing for a 'Hat-trick'
Voting for the 126 seats in Assam concluded on April 9. The majority mark here is 64. The leadership of Himanta Biswa Sarma, combined with a blend of development and identity politics, seems to be proving to be a 'winning formula' for the BJP. All exit polls in Assam are unanimously predicting a landslide victory for the BJP. Here, the BJP alliance not only appears successful in retaining power but its seats are also estimated to increase compared to the last time. The Congress alliance appears to be lagging significantly. According to exit polls, the BJP alliance is estimated to get between 68 and 100 seats, while the Congress alliance appears limited to 22-36 seats. This indicates that the BJP could return to power for the third consecutive time. In Assam, this trend can be considered a sign of political stability and organizational strength. Looking at the exit poll data, Chanakya Strategies gave BJP 88-98, Congress 22-32, others 3-5; Axis My India gave BJP 88-100, Congress 24-36, others 0; JVC gave BJP 88-101, Congress 23-33, others 2-5; P-Marq gave BJP 82-94, Congress 30-40, others 1-5; Matriz gave BJP 85-95, Congress 25-32, others 6-12; Peoples Pulse gave BJP 68-72, Congress 22-26, others 7-15; and Poll Diary gave BJP 86-101, Congress 15-26, and others 3-7 seats.

Kerala: A Blow to LDF, Return of UDF?
Voting for the 140 seats in Kerala also took place on April 9, and 71 seats are needed to gain the keys to power. It has been a tradition in Kerala for the government to change every five years, a trend the Left Democratic Front (LDF) broke in the last election; however, this time's exit polls indicate that the public is returning to the 'UDF' (Congress alliance). Pinarayi Vijayan's government is estimated to receive a significant blow. The exit polls appear relatively unanimous here, with the Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF appearing restricted to 49-65 seats, while the UDF shows a clear lead between 70-90 seats. If this estimate proves correct, the tradi-

tional tendency of regime change in Kerala may be established once again. In the exit polls, Axis My India gave UDF 78-90, LDF 49-62, BJP 0-3; Matriz gave UDF 75-85, LDF 60-65, and BJP 3-5; Peoples Pulse gave UDF 70-85 and LDF 55-65 seats.

Tamil Nadu: DMK Dominance in Dravidian Politics
Voting for the 234 seats in Tamil Nadu took place on April 23, and the majority mark here is 118. As usual, the contest in Tamil Nadu is between the two Dravidian giants. Here, the M.K. Stalin-led DMK alliance appears to be taking the lead. Although the AIADMK alliance is also seen giving a tough fight in some polls, the DMK currently appears close to the magic figure of a majority. Under the leadership of M.K. Stalin, the DMK alliance is estimated to get 122-160 seats, while the AIADMK alliance could remain between 65-110 seats. Here, the exit polls present a clear picture that the DMK alliance could return to power. Looking at the exit poll figures, Matriz gave DMK 122-132, AIADMK 87-100, and others 10-18; Chanakya Strategies gave DMK 145-160, AIADMK 50-65, and others 18-26; PrajaPoll gave DMK 148-168, AIADMK 61-81, and others 1-9; and Peoples Pulse gave the DMK alliance 125-145, AIADMK 65-80, and others 20-30 seats.

Puducherry: BJP's Hope in the Union Territory
For the 30 seats in Puducherry, the Axis My India poll gives a clear majority to the BJP alliance (16-20 seats), while the Congress alliance appears limited to 6-8 seats. This indicates that the BJP could strengthen its position in this small but strategically important Union Territory.

A Question of Caution and Credibility
Although exit polls present an exciting picture, a question mark always remains over their reliability. History bears witness that exit polls have collapsed completely on several occasions. In recent years, results in Haryana, Maharashtra (where the Mahayuti's margin of victory was much higher than the polls), and Jharkhand (where the NDA lost) have shown how difficult it is for survey agencies to catch the pulse of the 'silent voter.' These surveys also have their own limitations. In fact, exit

polls are based on a very small 'sample size.' In states with millions of voters, the opinions of a few thousand people cannot represent the entire state. Often, voters do not reveal their true inclination or feel pressure while exiting the polling booth. In today's era, exit polls have become more a part of entertainment than information. To capitalize on the curiosity of viewers before counting day, they are presented like a 'mega event.' Despite all these limitations, exit polls are not entirely meaningless. They reflect the thinking of a section of voters, provide strategic signals to political parties, and help in understanding social and regional trends. However, regarding them as the final truth can be dangerous.

The Test of Estimates and the Wait for the Mandate
Exit polls have made the electoral picture exciting this time. These exit polls have raised hopes for the BJP in Bengal and Assam, while providing a lifeline to opposition alliances in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. However, the true strength of Indian democracy is that the final decision is determined not by any estimate or survey, but by the actual votes of the electors. The mandate locked in the ballot box—the EVM—is the ultimate measure of truth. Exit polls only provide a glimpse, not the complete picture. Many times, these estimates have proven to be entirely different from the actual results. Therefore, the counting on May 4 will clarify whether the public prioritized development, leadership, or change. Until then, it is wise to consider these figures as mere trends, not results. The morning of May 4 will decide whose 'Khela' was successful and whose 'Hat-trick' remained incomplete.



YOGESH KUMAR GOVAL
senior journalist



Amit Shah: Tech like Cell Broadcast to boost disaster preparedness

NEW DELHI: (MAY 2)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said adoption of technologies like Cell Broadcast and CAP will significantly strengthen disaster preparedness, improve governance, and ensure timely and effective outreach to every citizen. Shah said this while conveying his best wishes on the launch of the cell broadcast alert system that would warn citizens about emergency and natural disasters in their areas, according to a statement issued by the government. Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the system on Saturday.



Wazirpur: Joint drive clears encroachments after HC order

NEW DELHI: (MAY 2)

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), along with four other agencies, carried out an anti-encroachment drive in the Wazirpur Industrial Area of north Delhi on Saturday to clear alleged encroachments over a main drain near the local fish market, officials said. They added that the joint action, undertaken in compliance with the directions of the Delhi High Court, involved the MCD, the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC), the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), the railways and the Irrigation and Flood Control (IFC) Department. According to officials, several jhuggis had allegedly been extended over the drain, obstructing its natural flow and affecting planned reconstruction work by the IFC Department.

Jharkhand: Husband, father-in-law among 3 held for woman's murder

HAZARIBAG: (MAY 2)

Three persons, including a man and his father, were arrested for allegedly murdering the man's wife in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district, police said on Saturday. Manju Devi (25) was shot dead near Kolay station within Keredari police station limits on April 26. A case was registered the next day based on a statement by her husband, Vikash Kumar Prajapati (25). "We arrested three persons, including the victim's husband and her father-in-law. During interrogation, they confessed to the crime," Hazaribag SP Aman Kumar said.

Mumbai-Pune Expressway connecting link now fully operational

An official of the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation said that the opening of the Mumbai-bound carriageway was delayed mainly due to the dismantling of the inauguration infrastructure and cleaning work



The Mumbai-bound carriageway of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway connecting link was opened to vehicular traffic on Saturday noon (May 2, 2026) after a delay caused by the dismantling of inauguration infrastructure and cleaning work, a day after the Pune section became operational.

The 13.3 km-long "missing link", which bypasses a section

of the Bor Ghat stretch of the expressway and cuts travel time between Mumbai and Pune by 25 to 30 minutes, was inaugurated a day earlier by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis in the presence of Deputy CMs Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar. The Pune-bound carriageway of the corridor was opened to traffic immediately; however, the Mumbai-bound section remained closed to traffic for several hours after the inauguration. An official of

the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation told PTI on Saturday (May 2, 2026) that the opening of the Mumbai-bound carriageway was delayed mainly due to the dismantling of the inauguration infrastructure and cleaning work. The removal of the stage and other decorations was completed in the morning. The work to load and transport the material slightly delayed the opening of the carriageway. Vehicular movement on the carriageway began after all the remaining material was cleared and road cleaning was completed, the official added. The expressway control room said that despite significant vehicular movement, the access-controlled highway has not witnessed any major traffic snarls since Friday evening (May 1, 2026), after the Pune-bound carriageway of the missing link was opened to traffic.

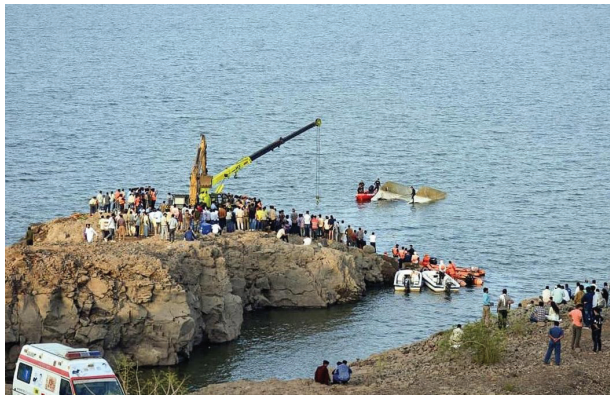
The Missing Link project connects Khopoli (in Raigad) on the Mumbai side to Kusaon near Lonavala in Pune district and is expected to make the expressway fully access-controlled, easing congestion in the ghat section.

Developed by the MSRDC and dubbed an "engineering marvel", the project includes two tunnels, two viaducts and a cable-stayed bridge over Tiger Valley. It bypasses the steep, accident-prone ghat section, where frequent traffic snarls are reported during weekends and on public holidays.

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Jabalpur cruise boat tragedy: Search operations expanded to trace four missing passengers

"The search radius has been expanded to 5 km in the backwaters of the Bargi Dam, located downstream of the Narmada river," area SDOP Anjul Ayank Mishra said



"Army divers and disaster response teams on Saturday (May 2, 2026) expanded their search at Bargi Dam in Madhya Pradesh to locate a man and three children still missing after the cruise boat tragedy that claimed nine lives two days ago," officials said. With 28 of the 41 identified passengers onboard the ill-fated cruise boat rescued safely, police are preparing to register an FIR in connection with the accident that occurred at the reservoir in Jabalpur district on Thursday evening (April 30,

2026)," they said. The search radius has been expanded to 5 km in the backwaters of the Bargi Dam, located downstream of the Narmada river, area sub-divisional officer of police (SDOP) Anjul Ayank Mishra told PTI. "Nine people drowned in the incident, while 28 were rescued, and efforts are ongoing to trace the missing persons," he said. According to the police, more than 200 rescuers, including around 20 Army divers airlifted from Agra, began the search operation at 5 a.m. on Saturday (May 2, 2026) to trace Kamraj, an employee of the Ordnance Factory in Khamaria, his son Tamil (5), Vijay Soni (6) and Mayuram

(5). Mr. Mishra said an inquest case has been registered and the post-mortem of nine deceased persons has been completed. "Our priority is to search for the missing persons. We will soon register an FIR," he said. Investigators have said CCTV footage near the boarding point showed 43 people heading towards the ill-fated boat, and the names of 41 persons, who boarded the vessel, have been ascertained so far. Collector Raghendra Singh confirmed that a search is under way for four missing persons. The rescue operation, being carried out by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and local divers, was briefly affected around 9 a.m. due to strong winds. The State government on Friday (May 1,

2026) ordered a probe into the incident and dismissed three crew members after survivors alleged negligence and safety lapses, including failure to provide life jackets. The government also banned the operation of similar vessels in the State. The boat, operated by the State Tourism Department, sank during a sudden storm around 6 p.m. on Thursday, and the wreckage was retrieved from the dam water on Friday, after the rescuers confirmed that there were no more bodies inside. Eyewitnesses said strong winds made the water choppy, prompting passengers to raise an alarm and ask the crew to steer the vessel towards the riverbank. A survivor alleged negligence by the crew and described a last-minute scramble for life jackets.

6,000+ Perform Bhujangasana, Set Asia Record as Yoga Mahotsav Marks 50-Day Countdown to IDY 2026

Hyderabad, the City of Pearls, witnessed a grand celebration of yoga as thousands of enthusiasts gathered for Yoga Mahotsav, marking the 50-day countdown to the International Day of Yoga 2026. The event, organised by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga under the Ministry of Ayush, was held at the serene spiritual centre, Kanha Shanti Vanam.



Over participants performed in unison at Kanha Shanti Vanam, setting a historic record and marking a significant milestone as the event entered the Asia Book of Records for the largest gathering performing the asana simultaneously. This reflects the spirit of collective participation and shared wellness promoted

through Yoga. The programme was graced by Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy. Addressing the gathering, Shri Reddy stated, "Yoga is not merely India's ancient heritage but a priceless gift to humanity. Today, leaders, professionals, and people across the world practice

Yoga and benefit from it." Highlighting the role of Yoga in nation-building, he said, "For India to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047, we must build a healthy, peaceful, and disciplined society. Yoga offers a practical and cost-effective solution to modern-day challenges such as stress, unhealthy lifestyles, and

pollution." He further added that Hyderabad, already recognised globally for innovation and technology, should also emerge as a global hub for Yoga and holistic wellness. Addressing the gathering, Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, stated, "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, yoga has evolved into a global movement for holistic well-being, promoting physical health, mental clarity, and emotional balance." Emphasising India's growing role in wellness and health tourism, he said that yoga has strengthened India's identity as a global centre for

Northeast Frontier Railway ties up with IIT Guwahati for real-time rail safety tech

MALIGAON, 02 MAY, 2026

In a significant step towards enhancing railway safety and adopting modern technology, Northeast Frontier Railway has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati for the development and deployment of a plug-and-play fleet-wide onboard vibration IMU-GPS event camera system. The system is designed as a plug-and-play on-board solution, allowing easy installation across locomotives and coaches without major modifications, thereby enabling fleet-wide deployment. It uses advanced Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) sensors along with GPS technology to continuously monitor track conditions with high accuracy. The system also incorporates event-based camera technology to detect and analyse track

abnormalities in real time. This will enable continuous mapping of track defects across the railway network and generate real-time alerts, allowing immediate response to potential safety risks. The collaboration aims to leverage the research expertise of Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati to develop a scalable and cost-effective solution. It will facilitate predictive and condition-based maintenance, reducing dependence on manual inspections and helping prevent failures before they occur. The initiative will improve operational efficiency, reliability and passenger safety, while supporting the broader vision of data-driven and technology-enabled infrastructure management. The project also promotes the development of indigenous technology through strong collaboration between Indian Railways and academic institutions.



Launch of Refrigerated CONCOR Container Rake - 'Aushadhi Express'

South Central Railway General Manager Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, along with Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) Chairman & Managing Director Shri Sanjay Swarup, flagged off the inaugural refrigerated container rake today, May 2, 2026, from the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Sanathnagar. The event was attended by South Central Railway PCOM Smt. K. Padmaja; PCCM Smt. E.T. Pandey; Secunderabad Divisional Railway Manager Shri R. Gopalakrishnan; senior railway officials of South Central Railway; and officials from CONCOR and Maersk, along with logistics partners and key stakeholders. Branded as the "Aushadhi Express," this refrigerated (reefer) container service is operated by CONCOR to Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT). The service is specifically designed for the safe transportation of life-saving medicines and other temperature-sensitive cargo. The advanced reefer containers are equipped with diesel power packs, ensuring continuous refrigeration throughout the journey. This refrigerated container service is a major step toward strengthening cold-chain connectivity and enhancing the

efficiency of India's pharmaceutical supply chain. The strategic partnership with Maersk Line, which provides high-quality reefer containers, will further boost the cold-chain logistics capabilities of ICD Sanathnagar. Hyderabad is one of India's largest pharmaceutical hubs and is often referred to as the "Pharma Capital of India." Key pharma zones in Hyderabad include Genome Valley (a major R&D hub in Turkapally), Jeedimetla Industrial Area, Patancheru (an industrial pharma zone), and Mucherla. The Hyderabad-JNPT corridor serves as a crucial route connecting Telangana's industrial regions to JNPT, one of India's busiest ports, thereby contributing to the region's socio-economic development. The dedicated reefer rake services introduced by Indian Railways will benefit exporters and domestic distributors by reducing transit time, lowering logistics costs, and improving supply chain reliability. With the growth in pharmaceutical exports and increasing quality requirements, the use of such reefer rakes reflects the rising demand for reliable cold-chain solutions in India. This initiative is expected to create new opportunities for exporters, improve price realization, and reduce wastage. It also aligns with the Government of India's vision under the PM Gati Shakti scheme, promoting efficient, sustainable, and environmentally friendly freight transportation systems.

Nayab Singh Saini orders no water shortage for drinking, irrigation in summer

Water Supply Must Be Ensured on Priority Basis Across the State: CM
Chief Minister reviews drinking water and irrigation water situation with officials of Public Health and Irrigation Departments

CHANDIGARH, MAY 2



Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that keeping in view the summer season, the supply of drinking water must be ensured on a priority basis in all parts of the state. All ponds, waterworks, and other reservoirs should be kept filled. The Chief Minister gave these directions on Saturday while reviewing the status of drinking water and agricultural irrigation water with officials of the Public Health Department, Irrigation Department, and other departments at the Civil Secretariat. He said that a meeting with the Ministry of Jal Shakti regarding Kishau and other water projects related to Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh would be held soon,

in which officials from these states would also participate. The Chief Minister said that considering the summer season, there should be no shortage of drinking water and irrigation water in rural and urban areas of the state. He said that all waterworks and ponds connected to canals for drinking water should be kept filled. In areas where water supply is tube well-based, if any tube well becomes non-functional, it should be repaired on priority. He also directed that if required, water should be supplied to people through tankers. During the meeting, officials informed the Chief Minister that the water situation in Bhakra Dam is quite good this year. At present, the water level in Bhakra Dam is 36 feet higher. Haryana has so far utilized only 75-76 percent of its allocated share of water from Bhakra Dam. The Chief Minister also reviewed the availability of water in rural waterworks. Officials informed that the state has 4,000 single-village based waterworks, while 2,500 waterworks cater to more than one village. They said that all these waterworks are connected to canals and currently have sufficient drinking water available. The Chief Minister also reviewed canal cleaning, repair, and reconstruction works and directed that all such works should be completed at a fast pace. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini also directed that works related to Chief Minister's announcements should be completed on priority. He said that he would soon review the progress of Chief Minister's announcements with the Additional Chief Secretaries. The Chief Minister said that works related to street lights and village peripheral roads

(phirnis) should also be completed on priority. Keeping in view the upcoming monsoon season, saplings should be planted along roads leading to villages and on village phirnis. Sarpanches should also be asked to provide a list of such places where plantation can be carried out. On this occasion, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Sh. Arun Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Sh. Anurag Agarwal, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department and Panchayats Department, Sh. Vijayendra Kumar, and Commissioner and Secretary, Public Health Department, J. Ganesan, along with officers of other departments, were also present.

Kiran Mugabasav Appointed to NSUI Central Election Authority

NEW DELHI



National Students' Union of India (NSUI) has appointed Kiran Mugabasav to its Central Election Authority (CEA) to oversee internal organizational elections. The appointment was made by Kanhaiya Kumar. Kiran Mugabasav, a senior leader from Hubli, previously served as NSUI Election Commissioner from 2016 to 2018 and is recognized as a disciplined party worker. Key Highlights of Kiran Mugabasav's Career: Organizational Leadership:

Currently serves as a member of the All India Congress Committee and as General Secretary of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee. Grassroots Impact: Built the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sangathan in Telangana and served as its National General Secretary. Dedicated Foot-March Activist: Completed the 3,570 km Bharat Jodo Yatra, the 600 km Sarvodaya Sankalp Padayatra, and the 600 km Lok Swaraj Padayatra.

200 militants killed in airstrikes: Malian army

BAMAKO

More than 200 attackers were killed in targeted airstrikes carried out by Malian armed forces on Friday morning, Mali's state television reported on Saturday.

The report, citing a statement from the General Staff of the Armed Forces, said the strikes targeted a large column of armed militants that had crossed from a neighbouring border area and was allegedly preparing fresh attacks.

According to an initial army assessment, four pickup trucks mounted with heavy weapons and more than 60 motorcycles were also destroyed in the operation, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Malian army said it would continue pursuing armed militant groups across the country. On April 26, the



Malian army stated that it had killed more than 100 terrorists in the western region of Koulikoro.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces said in the statement that during sweep operations following Saturday's terrorist attacks, Malian air assets detected a column of motorcycles moving toward a hideout west of the locality of Kolokani in the Koulikoro region. Airstrikes were then carried out against the target, killing more than 100 terrorists and destroying their logistics, according to the statement.

'Growing reach of political Islam triggers concerns over influence'

BRUSSELS

Political Islam in the United Kingdom is resurging not merely as an identity marker but as an instrument of political power, entrenched within institutional frameworks and supported by transnational networks. It has created an interconnected dynamic where geopolitical instability, ideological shifts, and migration flows overlap — "an evolution the West continues to underestimate by treating it as a series of isolated crises," a report said on Saturday.

Writing for 'European Times', Dimitra Staikou, a Greek lawyer, writer, and journalist, noted that in recent months, London has confronted a growing complex convergence of internal and external pressures. She stated



that counterterrorism probe connected to transnational networks, coupled with rising migration flows from countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh — underscored a reality that can no longer be viewed as fragmented.

Highlighting the UK's deeper structural challenge, Staikou stated that migration flows, geopolitical instability, and transnational networks are not

but unavoidable questions facing policymakers, Staikou asked, "How can institutions designed for a different geopolitical era adapt to a landscape defined by fluid networks and overlapping spheres of influence? To what extent can existing legal and administrative frameworks respond to challenges that do not fit neatly within traditional categories of domestic or foreign policy? And how can governments maintain a balance between humanitarian obligations and the need to preserve institutional stability?"

According to the expert, the stakes are particularly high for the UK, given its global connections and a central role in international political and economic systems, leaving it especially exposed to the effects of transnational dynamics.

'China's underwater drone operation in Indonesia sparks regional security concerns'

NAYPYIDAW

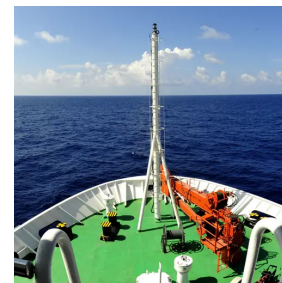
China's recent underwater drone activity in Indonesia's Lombok Strait is not merely a "technological curiosity" but a symbol of "covert ambition". The Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) relentless drive for surveillance and control risks destabilising the Indo-Pacific region, deepening mistrust among neighbours and unsettling strategic waters, a report has stated.

According to Myanmar's media outlet 'Mizzima News', the international community must acknowledge these actions as "calculated moves" to expand influence at the expense of sovereignty, trust, and peace.

"China's covert underwater drone operations in Indonesia's Lombok Strait reveal a calculated strategy of surveillance and power projection. This aggressive move by Beijing and the Communist Party is raising alarm across Southeast Asia, threatening regional trust, maritime sovereignty, and stability in one of the world's most strategic sea lanes," the report stated.

It stated that the discovery and capture of a Chinese underwater drone in Lombok Strait is not an isolated incident but rather part of a wider pattern of covert underwater surveillance.

"The Lombok Strait is one of the few deep-water passages connecting the Pacific and Indian Oceans, making it vital for submarine operations and global trade routes. By deploying Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs) in such sensitive corridors, China is signalling its intent to monitor, map, and potentially control maritime chokepoints critical to both regional and international security," the report noted.



Asserting that the Chinese government is pursuing a "multi-layered strategy of dominance", the report said, "China's covert deployment of Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs) reflects a calculated strategy to expand its influence and challenge regional security. These drones are designed for maritime intelligence gathering, enabling Beijing to collect hydrographic data, monitor naval movements, and identify vulnerabilities in neighbouring defences."

The report stressed that the covert deployment of surveillance drones in foreign waters reflects China's disregard for sovereignty and international norms. Such actions, it said, are not "defensive" but "offensive", aimed at intimidating neighbours and asserting control without open confrontation.

By denying involvement despite evidence linked to state-owned enterprises like China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation, it said, Beijing engages in strategic deception, eroding trust and weakening suspicion.

"This pattern reflects a broader tactic: covert expansion cloaked in denial. Whether through artificial islands in the South China Sea or drones in Indonesian waters, China's approach is to establish facts on the ground or under the sea before diplomatic protests can catch up," Mizzima News stated.

Iran executes two men convicted of spying for Israel's Mossad

TEHRAN

Iran on Saturday executed two men convicted of spying for Israel's intelligence agency Mossad, the Mizan news agency of the Iranian judiciary reported. The individuals, identified as Yaqoub Karimpour and Naser Bekrzadeh, were hanged following judicial proceedings and the upholding of their death sentences by the Supreme Court of Iran, the report said. It added that Karimpour had knowingly continued his "effective" cooperation with Mossad during the 40-day war involving Iran, the United States, and Israel, sending the country's sensitive information to a Mossad officer through the Telegram messaging platform, Xinhua news agency reported.

Women remain marginalised in Pakistan's political structure: Report

BRUSSELS

Pakistan's women parliamentarians encounter challenges that reflect a broader pattern of exclusion within the country's political system. Although legislative quotas have enhanced numerical representation, they have not significantly altered the distribution of power, a report stated this week.

According to European Times, the continued male dominance in leadership roles, alongside the restricted allocation of general seat tickets to Pakistani women, indicates that inclusion has been "managed rather than expanded".

"Political parties benefit from the presence and performance of women within legislative bodies while maintaining control over the pathways to power. This pattern extends beyond individual parties, sug-



gesting a systemic issue rather than an isolated practice. The structures that shape political participation continue to prioritise continuity over transformation, reinforcing existing hierarchies," the report mentioned.

The report highlighted another layer of complexity in the composition of Pakistan's Parliament, where women's

representation continues to rely on reserved quotas rather than electoral success in general seats. Citing a recent finding by the Pakistan-based civil society platform 'Free and Fair Election Network,' it stated that only one woman in the country's current Senate has been elected through a general constituency, with the rest entering through quota-based

allocations. The reliance on quotas, it said, has secured only a basic level of representation and placed women within a parallel track in the political system.

"While quotas provide access, they do not necessarily translate into political autonomy or leadership opportunities. The distinction between presence and power becomes particularly evident in leadership roles. Key positions within the Senate, including chairman and opposition leader, continue to be dominated by men. The absence of women from these roles underscores the limitations of quota-driven inclusion," it detailed.

The report noted that women legislators play an active role in Parliament, "contributing to debates, shaping policy discussions, and addressing national issues". However, they

remain largely excluded from the structures that define political leadership and electoral competition. "This contradiction is not merely symbolic. It has practical implications for governance, representation, and the functioning of democratic institutions. The exclusion of women from key decision-making roles limits the diversity of perspectives within political leadership and reinforces existing power imbalances," it stressed.

Highlighting the discrimination, the report said that the "barriers faced by women lawmakers are not incidental" but "embedded within the political framework" in Pakistan. "Access to power continues to be mediated by party structures, electoral practices, and institutional norms that have shown little inclination to evolve," it added.

US lawmakers move bill to evaluate Chinese atrocities in Tibet

WASHINGTON

US Senators Rick Scott and Jeff Merkley recently introduced the Tibet Atrocities Determination Act, which requires the Secretary of State to formally determine whether China's actions in Tibet constitute genocide or crimes against humanity.

According to an official statement, the legislation was introduced on April 29, coinciding with Martyrs' Day observed by the Tibetan Youth Congress to honour those who sacrificed their lives for Tibet's freedom.

"Communist China is committing genocide in Tibet. There is no way around it. The regime in Beijing has engaged in systematic killings, torture, forced sterilisation, forced displacement, government-sanctioned



kidnapping, and a myriad of other crimes against humanity in its oppression of the Tibetan people. This is par for the course for an evil regime that is simultaneously waging a genocide against the Uyghurs, suppress-

ing Christianity, and locking up political prisoners like my friend Jimmy Lai," said Senator Scott.

"The bloodshed needs to end, and China needs to be held accountable for all of it. I am glad

to be partnering with Senator Merkley on this effort to hold the Chinese government accountable," he added.

Highlighting the relentless atrocities against Tibetans, Senator Merkley said, "In the face of China's continued assault on Tibetans, escalating cultural erasure, child separation, surveillance, imprisonment, and torture, America can't stand silent. As the Chinese government continues to ignore the rights of the Tibetan people under international law, we must be clear that these crimes will not be ignored."

The statement also cited reports from the US State Department and human rights organisations alleging ongoing enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, torture, and

targeted repression of Tibetans, including the still-unresolved 1995 disappearance of the boy recognised by the Dalai Lama as the 11th Panchen Lama.

It added that several reports have also highlighted a widespread boarding school system that separates Tibetan children from their families, restricts Tibetan language and cultural education, and subjects students to political indoctrination and surveillance.

Given the growing body of evidence, the statement said, there is a compelling need to examine whether the Chinese Communist Party's policies meet the legal definition of genocide under the 1948 Genocide Convention or amount to crimes against humanity.

Progressive civic group holds protest rally outside US Embassy in South Korea

SEOUL

A progressive civic group held a protest rally outside the US Embassy in Seoul on Saturday, chanting slogans accusing the United States of interfering in South Korea's domestic affairs.

An estimated 500 protesters, according to police, gathered outside the US Embassy compound in central Gwanghwamun, holding placards condemning the US for undermining South Korea's sovereignty and interfering in its domestic affairs by requesting that Seoul lift an exit ban on Bang Si-hyuk, chairman of K-pop entertainment powerhouse Hybe.

They also charged that the US is "attacking" President Lee Jae Myung because Lee has refused to provide support for its war against Iran and is seeking an early transfer of war-



time operational control from the US, Yonhap News agency reported. They denounced Washington for restricting intelligence-sharing with Seoul on North Korea after taking issue with what it sees as Unification Minister Chung Dong-yong's unilateral disclosure of shared intelligence on an unidentified North Korean nuclear facility, as well as for nominating Michelle Park Steel, a conservative former Republi-

can lawmaker, as its new ambassador to South Korea.

The participants from the civic group, "Candlelight Action," had been marching from Jonggak Station before stopping in front of the embassy compound to stage the rally.

Police issued two warnings over loudspeakers, telling them to continue marching, and no clashes occurred as the protesters complied with police instructions.

EAM Jaishankar's Jamaica, Suriname and T&T visit to boost South-South cooperation

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar (EAM) will pay an official visit to Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago from May 2-10, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated on Saturday.

The MEA said these countries share a special connection with India owing to the presence of Girmitya communities.

'Girmityas' were Indian indentured labourers who left India in the mid to late 19th century to work in British colonies, where many eventually settled. The term 'Girmitya' is a mispronunciation of 'agreement', referring to the contract under which they migrated.

According to the statement, EAM will meet with the leadership of the three countries and hold discussions with



his counterparts covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest, during the visit.

"This visit of EAM is envisaged to continue the momentum of India's political engagements with Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago and boost our long-standing and friendly relations with these countries, reflecting mutual commitment to South-South cooperation and development", the MEA highlighted.

Pakistan: Rights body concerned over delay in hearing appeals of human rights lawyers

ISLAMABAD

The Human Rights Council of Pakistan (HRC-Pakistan) on Saturday called on the Pakistani government and the relevant judicial authorities to immediately safeguard the legal rights of human rights lawyers Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha, warning that prolonged delay in their appeals could undermine the right to a free trial and rule of law.

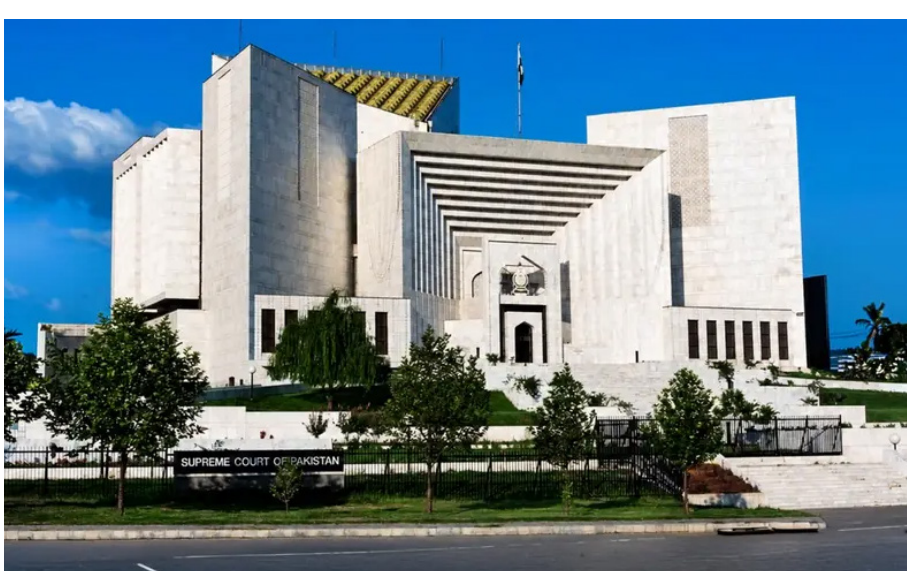
The remarks came after both Imaan and her husband, Hadi, on Thursday reportedly filed a petition in Pakistan's Supreme Court, requesting an early hearing of their appeals against their conviction under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) in the social media posts case.

The rights body expressed concern over the extraordinary delay in delivering jus-

tice to the two lawyers — "who have raised a powerful voice against human rights violations in Pakistan and for marginalised communities."

"It is regrettable that more than 100 days have passed since their sentencing, yet no bench has been constituted for hearings, nor has there been any progress on their appeals. It is the fundamental responsibility of the state under Article 10-A of the Constitution of Pakistan to grant every citizen the right to a 'fair trial'. Such treatment of human rights activists not only casts doubt on the rule of law but is tantamount to demoralising those who work for human rights," the HRC stated.

Emphasising that delay in justice is tantamount to denial of justice, the rights body called on the superior judiciary in Pakistan to take immediate notice of the matter,



constitute a regular bench to hear the appeals, and provide them with legal relief by fulfilling all the requirements of justice.

In the application filed in

the Supreme Court, Imaan and Hadi had requested the grant of leave to appeal against the Islamabad High Court (IHC) order issued on February 17. Although the IHC

in February had admitted the appeal against the trial court's judgment and issued notices on the application for the suspension plea, it did not grant a stay on the sentence.

In the fresh application filed in the Supreme Court, the human rights lawyers have requested for fixing the appeals preferably in the week starting on May 4.

The petitioners have requested the court to accept the appeals and the suspension of the sentence awarded to them through the impugned judgment until the disposal of the criminal appeal pending before the IHC, Pakistani daily Dawn reported.

In January, a session court in Islamabad sentenced Imaan and her husband, Hadi, to a combined 17 years in prison and fined each of them 36 million Pakistani rupees on multiple charges in a case linked to social media posts.

The arrest and conviction of the human rights lawyers by the Pakistani authorities have drawn widespread criticism all over the world.

IMF: Digital reforms boost MSME productivity

WASHINGTON: (May 2) India's digitalisation reforms in public administration have improved productivity in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in states that have embraced such changes, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a working paper. The authors compared the productivity of unincorporated manufacturing firms in states that have undertaken more digitalisation reforms with those having fewer such changes in public administration. "We find that states that undertake more public administration digitalisation experience higher productivity growth and lower productivity dispersion among firms," economists Somnath Sharma and Kenichi Ueda.

Finance Ministry notifies 100 pc FDI in insurance sector, amends FEMA Rules

NEW DELHI: (MAY 2)

The Finance Ministry on Saturday notified 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector under the automatic route. While 100 per cent foreign investment will be allowed in insurance companies and intermediaries, including brokers, under the automatic route, the cap is 20 per cent for Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), said the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026. The Parliament had passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (amendment of insurance laws) Bill, 2025, in December, 2025, paving the way for hiking the FDI cap in the insurance sector to 100 per cent under the automatic route, from 74 per cent earlier.

Not complying with trade deal: Trump hikes tariffs on cars, trucks from EU to 25%

The move comes months after Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen agreed to a new trade deal in July 2025, which set a 15 per cent tariff on most goods, including automobiles and auto parts.



US President Donald Trump on Friday announced that he would increase tariffs on cars and trucks from the European Union to 25 per cent starting next week, claiming the bloc was not complying with a trade deal agreed last year, though he did not specify his objections. He added that EU carmakers would avoid the tariffs altogether if they manufactured their vehicles in the United States. Trump, who

has frequently adjusted tariffs after returning to the White House in 2025, used the announcement to highlight his "Make in America" push, aimed at boosting domestic manufacturing by encouraging companies to set up production in the US. "Many automobile and truck plants are currently under construction, with over \$100 billion being invested — a record in the history of car and truck manufac-

turing. These plants, staffed with American workers, will be opening soon," he posted on Truth Social.

US-EU TRADE FRAMEWORK IN 2025

The move comes months after Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen agreed to a new trade deal in July 2025, which set a 15 per cent tariff on most goods, including automobiles and auto parts. Both

sides had also reiterated their commitment to preserving the trade framework, known as the Turnberry Agreement, named after Trump's golf course in Scotland. However, the deal's stability was thrown into question earlier this year when the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the president lacked the legal authority to declare an economic emergency and impose tariffs on EU goods. While the original agreement capped tariffs at 15 per cent, the ruling effectively lowered that ceiling to 10 per cent, prompting the Trump administration to explore alternative legal routes for imposing import taxes.

EU SLAMS TRUMP'S LATEST TARIFFS

Meanwhile, European Parliament trade committee chair Bernd Lange reacted to US

President Donald Trump's decision to raise tariffs on cars from the European Union, saying the move showed the United States to be an unreliable trading partner. "This latest move demonstrates just how unreliable the U.S. side is," Lange said. "This is no way to treat close partners. Now we can only respond with the utmost clarity and firmness, drawing on the strength of our position," he added. Lange described Trump's behaviour as "unacceptable," adding that the EU had been adhering to a framework trade deal struck last year. Donald Trump's latest move comes at a time when the EU is already under strain due to rising energy prices driven by the ongoing Middle East conflict, and is likely to deepen the widening rift between transatlantic partners.



48% of NSE firms have no women as key managers; women losing out on higher paid jobs: study

The study, conducted by the Udaiti Foundation, a non-profit organisation, found that women's representation in the formal workforce remained at 18%, a decrease of one percentile point compared to 2020-21.

Almost half of the 2,647 companies listed on the National Stock Exchange do not have any women in key managerial positions at all, according to an analysis of company submissions. On average, there were 0.64 women in these positions per company in 2024-25, with only 10% of firms listed on the NSE employing more than one woman in such leadership positions.

The study, conducted by the Udaiti Foundation, a non-profit organisation, found that women's representation in the formal workforce remained at 18%, a decrease of one percentile point compared to 2020-21. The situation is even worse among formal workers earning more than ₹18,000 per month — while women made up 21% of this group in 2020-21, their share had shrunk to just 12% in 2024-25. In contrast, the representation of women among lower-paid employees, as defined by the Code on Wages, rose from 19% to 23% over the same period, indicating that women are being shut out of higher-paying jobs in the formal sector, and shunted to lower-wage positions.

Air India to cut international flights till July amid fuel surge, airspace curbs

Air India will cut international flights from June to July as rising ATF prices, airspace restrictions, and longer routes make several operations unprofitable, CEO Campbell Wilson said.



Air India will reduce its international flight operations through June and July as a sharp rise in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices and ongoing airspace restrictions have made several routes unprofitable, according to an internal communication accessed by India Today. Air India CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson told staff that the airline has "no choice but to trim schedules in June and

July" amid mounting operational challenges. The airline has already reduced some flying in April and May due to the "massive rise in jet fuel prices," combined with airspace closures and longer flying routes. The move comes days after India's airline industry has sought urgent government intervention as a sharp rise in jet fuel prices begins to strain operations and push up costs. In a letter to the Civil Aviation

Ministry, the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), which represents carriers such as Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet, warned that the sector is facing "extreme stress" due to soaring aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices. The surge in ATF prices, driven by the broader impact of the Middle East war, along with adverse currency exchange rates and restricted airspace, has significantly affected Air India's in-

ternational operations. Many international routes have become unviable, forcing the airline to scale back services. Aviation fuel, which typically accounts for around 30-40% of airline costs, has now risen to as much as 55-60% of operating expenses, according to the industry. Airspace restrictions following the West Asia conflict have compelled Air India to take longer routes for several international destinations, leading to higher fuel burn and increased costs. Wilson described the situation as "extremely challenging" and said it has left the airline with limited options. While domestic flight profitability has also taken a hit, government intervention has helped reduce the



Finance Ministry notifies 100% FDI in insurance sector, amends FEMA Rules

The cap is 20% for Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) The FDI cap in the insurance sector was hiked to 100% under the automatic route from 74% earlier.

The Finance Ministry on Saturday (May 2, 2026) notified 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector under the automatic route. While 100% foreign investment will be allowed in insurance companies and intermediaries, including brokers, under the automatic route, the cap is 20% for Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), said the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-

debt Instruments) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026. The Parliament had passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (amendment of insurance laws) Bill, 2025, in December, 2025, paving the way for hiking the FDI cap in the insurance sector to 100% under the automatic route, from 74% earlier. Subsequently, after the President's assent, the Bill became law. Thereafter in February, 2026, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Commerce and Industry Ministry had notified 100% FDI in the insurance sector.

Apple Inc. beats estimates on strong iPhone momentum

Apple posted strong results for its quarterly earnings on Thursday, but investors' attention is also focused on the upcoming CEO change and the tech firm's artificial intelligence strategy.

Apple CEO Tim Cook announced earlier this month he will be stepping down from the role, with Apple's head of hardware engineering, John Ternus, assuming the role later this year.

The January-March results announced Thursday reflect the continued momentum of iPhone sales. Cook said in a statement that it was the company's best March quarter ever, with "double-digit growth across every geographic segment."

The company earned \$29.58 billion, or \$2.01 per share, in the January-March

period, up about 22% from the same period a year earlier.

Revenue rose about 17% to \$111.18 billion from \$95.36 billion a year earlier. iPhone sales made up the bulk of revenue, bringing in \$56.99 billion. The Cupertino, California company beat analyst expectations this quarter. Analysts surveyed by FactSet Research forecast earnings of \$1.95 per share on revenue of \$109.46 billion. In the previous quarter that ended in December, the company said it reached record-high iPhone sales, even though it still hasn't delivered on its long-promised revamp of Siri assistance with AI. iPhone achieved a March quarter revenue record, fueled by strong demand for the iPhone 17 lineup. This March, Apple introduced the new iPhone 17e and the MacBook Neo, an entry-level laptop, the compa-



ny's most aggressive attempts at moving into the affordable market. High demand has caused supply constraints, Cook said on a conference call with analysts Thursday. Those constraints have been driven by the availability of the advanced technology used to form what is essentially a device's brain. In the current quarter that runs through June, supply constraints will affect several Mac models, in part because the "custom-

er response to Mac Neo has just been off the charts" with higher-than-expected demand, Cook added. The company also saw higher memory costs in the recent quarter and expects "significantly higher" memory costs moving forward, Cook said, telling analysts that beyond the current quarter, "we believe memory costs will drive an increasing impact on our business, and we'll continue to evaluate this."

"Apple showed that even the best operators can't fully escape the memory squeeze," said Jake Behan, Direxion's head of capital markets, in a statement. "Tim Cook's warning of 'significantly higher' costs in the coming quarters tells you how real the AI-driven supply crunch has become for the entire industry."

Cook did follow up on the Siri promise, saying that Apple will bring "a more personalized Siri" to users this year, but did not elaborate on timing. He also teased new software and developer tools and AI advancements. Apple's systems deliver "intelligence that is fast, personal and private," Cook said. "This is not AI as a standalone feature, but AI is an essential, intuitive part of the experience across our devices." Cook has helmed Apple for 15 years, inheriting the CEO role from the late Steve

Jobs. During his tenure at the head of the company, the company's market value soared by more than \$3.6 trillion during an iPhone-fueled era of prosperity. Ternus will start as CEO on September 1, and Cook will remain involved with the Cupertino, California company as executive chairman. Ternus briefly joined a call with analysts after the results were posted Thursday, with Cook introducing him and emphasising the confidence he has in his successor. Cook said he and Ternus will be working together closely over the next few months to make the transition as smooth as possible. "This is the most exciting time in my 25 year career at Apple to be building products and services," Ternus said. "There are so many opportunities before us, and I couldn't be more optimistic about what's to come."

Spirit Airlines says it's going out of business after 34 years and is ending operations

The U.S. President floated the idea of a bailout last week after the airline found itself in bankruptcy proceedings for the second time in less than two years with jet fuel prices soaring because of the Iran war



Spirit Airlines, an impish startup that shook the industry with its irreverent ads and deep discount fares, announced on Saturday (May 2, 2026) that it has gone out of business after 34 years. The airlines said it had begun orderly wind-down of operations. It added all flights have been cancelled. Spirit Airlines said "Recent material increase in oil prices and other pressures on business have significantly impacted the financial outlook." "With no additional funding availa-

ble to company, Spirit had no choice but to begin this wind-down," added the statement. "We are proud of the impact of our ultra-low-cost model on the industry over the last 34 years and had hoped to serve our guests for many years to come," the announcement said. President Donald Trump said on Friday (May 1, 2026) that his administration had given the budget carrier a "final proposal" for a taxpay-

er-funded takeover to keep it from going under, but the absence of a deal put the airline's future in doubt. A person familiar with the matter said preparations were being made for a Saturday (May 2, 2026) shutdown. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to disclose confidential information. There was no immediate word from Spirit Airlines or the Trump admin-

istration. Mr. Trump floated the idea of a bailout last week after the airline found itself in bankruptcy proceedings for the second time in less than two years with jet fuel prices soaring because of the Iran war. About 17,000 jobs could be impacted by a shutdown, Spirit lawyer Marshall Huebner said.

Spirit has struggled financially since the COVID-19 pandemic, weighed down by rising operating costs and growing debt. By the time it filed for Chapter 11 protection in November 2024, Spirit had lost more than \$2.5 billion since the start of 2020. The budget carrier sought bankruptcy protection again in August 2025, when it reported having \$8.1 billion in debts and \$8.6 billion in assets, according to court filings.

RBI's new bad loan norms may have one time cost impact

A man walks past the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) logo outside its headquarters in Mumbai, India. Banks may incur higher costs in the short term in the transition to RBI's new framework on calculating provisions for bad loans, according to experts.



RBI introduced the expected credit loss (ECL) as a method to calculate the provisioning requirement of banks to account for losses. If the credit risk for a loan has increased significantly, the loss-allowance would be calculated on lifetime ECL and for no increase in credit risk, allowance shall be recognised on 12-month ECL, RBI directed, adding that the new norms kick in from April 2027. Further,

NPAs would be classified into three stages. The first stage is considered low or no credit risk where 12-month ECL is recognised and the other two are some and high credit risk, where lifetime ECL is recognised for provisions. "This was a much awaited change and comes in line with the IFRS-9 framework, which was introduced globally in 2008. This is akin to a forward looking model to determine the repayabil-

ity of a loan from the time it is originated," said Satyadarshi Kunal, Partner at Induslaw. He however said that the immediate impact would be a slight increase in cost if transitioning to the new method, and this may have to be transferred to the borrower. The new method, which mandates taking into account the expected credit loss to calculate provisions, is expected to hit the bank's common equity tier-1 by a net of 120 basis points in the short run, according to a statement by rating agency CRISIL. The overall increase in costs and provisions may also have a one time hit on bank's profit after tax but it is expected to be manageable, said Jatin Kalra, partner at Grant Thornton Bharat. "Banks which have a higher proportion of microfinance

and unsecured retail lending would have greater impact. The NPA classification is now borrower level and not account level according to the new rules, which means one bad loan for a customer, all of his or her loans would be considered NPA. The duration of non-repayment of a loan and NPA continues to be 90 days overdue. Moreover, once a customer is considered an NPA, he or she will have to repay all the liabilities to be upgraded back to standard assets. This will increase credit discipline of customers and does not likely to have any direct impact on the customer. The regulation comes at a time when the net NPA ratio is less than 1% for most major banks, signifying among the best asset quality standards for a bank.



Healthy diet, higher lung cancer risk?

Deciphering surprising link in new study

Contraceptives may explain lung cancer risk

Another interesting finding was that oral contraceptive use was notably higher than average among female participants in two groups. Around 11.4% of women in the U.S. report using oral contraceptives, which is significantly lower than the rate of the female study participants who took oral contraceptives. The EGFR and mixed mutation groups stood out, as around 77% of the women in these groups reported

ever taking oral contraceptives. Around 65% of the fusion-positive group reported taking them. As with the healthy eating pattern association, this does not show that oral contraceptives cause lung cancer, but it does open the door to another pathway to explore to figure out why young-onset lung cancer cases are increasing, particularly in women. Nieva also touched on why women seemed more affected. He said that the mutations

that contribute to young-onset lung cancer are more common in females. Notably, the "most common subtype, EGFR, more commonly expresses estrogen receptors, particularly in women." Nieva further talked about how chemicals that disrupt the endocrine system are used in pesticides. "In our study and for the U.S. on average, women seem to have much healthier diets than men, and this might mean greater relative exposure to any contaminants that may be in whole grains, fruits and vegetables," Nieva explained.

Exploring young-onset lung cancer

While lung cancer typically affects older adults who have a background of smoking, it can still affect younger adults, including nonsmokers. The average age of lung cancer diagnosis is 70, and when someone receives a diagnosis before the age of 50, it is referred to as "young-onset lung cancer." Newer studies found an increase in young-onset lung cancer incidence among nonsmokers, which prompted the researchers of the new study to further examine what may be behind this. The researchers analyzed data from the Epidemiology of Young Lung Cancer study, which is a nationwide observational study that examines factors linked to cancer mutations. The study

group included 187 patients with young-onset lung cancer, and women accounted for 78% of the cohort. The scientists grouped the participants based on the biological pathways driving their tumors: **the EGFR pathway group (73)**, **the fusion-positive group (82)**, and **the mixed mutations group (32)**. Next, the researchers gathered epidemiological survey data covering the year before diagnosis. This included information such as smoking history, oral contraceptive use, and demographics. They also reviewed dietary habits, which were assessed using food-frequency questionnaires. The researchers assessed overall diet quality using the Healthy Eating Index (HEI); higher scores indicated healthier diets.

Could pesticides explain the link between fruit, vegetables, and cancer?

The researchers reported that the majority of the participants of each group had never smoked. Prior smokers accounted for 32.9% of the EGFR pathway group, 13.4% of the fusion-positive group, and 21.9% of the mixed group. Of the nonsmokers with young-onset lung cancer, the researchers found a surprising association between dietary choices and risk. Using the HEI, researchers found that the EGFR and fusion-positive groups had higher-than-average food scores, around 65% for each group. Compared to the average U.S. adult's HEI of 57, this is roughly a 13% difference. All groups also consumed more servings of dark green vegetables, legumes, and whole grains compared to the average adult. While this association is surprising, it should not be interpreted to mean that healthy foods cause cancer. The researchers say this points to the need to learn more about the environmental factors involved in growing the food. Jorge Nieva, MD, a medical oncologist and lung cancer specialist with USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and lead author of the study, spoke with Medical News Today about the findings.

Proceed with care in interpreting these findings

David Yashar, MD, a hematologist-medical oncologist at MemorialCare Cancer Institute at Long Beach Medical Center, spoke with MNT about the study findings. "In general, these are fascinating findings; however, I think we must be careful in the way we analyze the data," said Yashar. Yashar said results do not suggest that fruits, vegetables, or whole grains alone increase lung cancer risk. "It may be the link between pesticides that they use in growing the pro-

duce and whole grains that is the cause for increased rates of lung cancer in non-smoking females," Yashar theorized. Yashar also pointed out that even if someone is concerned about the findings, practicing healthy eating habits is still crucial to overall health. "We know that a poorer diet leads to obesity, and this also has a negative impact not only on one's health, but also on the development of other cancers, such as breast cancer," shared Yashar.

Keto may work best for sending diabetes into remission

Here's why

Keto vs low-fat diet for beta-cell function

For this study, researchers recruited 51 adults between the ages of 55 and 62 with type 2 diabetes. Participants followed either the keto diet or a low-fat diet for 12 weeks. Scientists focused on how both diets impacted participants' proinsulin to C-peptide ratio. "Carbohydrate-restricted diets have been shown to elicit several beneficial effects in patients with type 2 diabetes, including lowering HbA1c, systolic blood pressure, and triglycerides," Marian Yurchishin, MS, pre-doctoral training fellow in the Department of Nutrition Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and lead author of this study, told Medical News Today. "By identifying its therapeutic effects, we want to show that a ketogenic diet could serve as a complementary aspect of lifestyle therapy which could contribute to better glycemic control as a result of improved beta-cell function," Yurchishin explained. "Other than bariatric surgery or large-volume intentional weight loss, interventions for improving beta-cell function in type 2 diabetes, particularly in the absence of weight loss, do not currently exist. Further, these therapies may not be feasible or sustainable for most individuals. While the potential to restore beta-cell function is possible in early disease states, effective therapies and useful markers for gauging effectiveness of treatments are not known," says Dr. Marian Yurchishin.

Following keto diet helps improve beta-cell function

At the study's conclusion, researchers found that while study participants both lost weight following either the keto or low-fat diet, those following keto experienced a decrease in the proportion of proinsulin secreted to a greater extent, a change that was associated with an improvement in beta-cell function. "The pancreas has to go through several steps to make insulin," Yurchishin explained. "When

Research next steps: Longer study duration, specify type of keto

MNT had the opportunity to speak with Pouya Shafipour, MD, a board-certified family and obesity medicine physician at Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, CA, about this study, who commented he was not surprised by its findings. "For early cases of diabetes, keto can do miracles if people adhere to it well, and if they're doing Mediterranean, higher fiber keto," Shafipour, who was not involved in this research, said. "But the biggest challenge with keto is that a lot of people do carnivore keto. They don't necessarily eat the right type of fat and protein, and also adhere to it. This study [...] is 12 weeks, and in 12 weeks it's easier to adhere to it," he pointed out. According to him, another big challenge is that "people go on keto for 2, 3 months, get results, and then they start getting bored of it." "We're living in a world that's just flooded with carbohydrates, and once you get out of it, it's hard to get back into a ketogenic state. It requires a lot of discipline,

beta cells are under significant stress, as seen in type 2 diabetes, they secrete a lot of proinsulin." "Proinsulin is a precursor to insulin, so elevated proinsulin levels indicate that beta-cells are overwhelmed and secreting 'unfinished' molecules as an attempt to keep up with the body's increasing demands for insulin," she continued. "A larger decrease in proinsulin suggests that the ketogenic diet reduced this stress and allowed beta-cells to work more efficiently, as evidenced by the improvements in beta-cell function."

a lot of saying no to a lot of temptations. So keto is fantastic and miraculous, it's just that adherence is a little bit challenging," said Shafipour. For the next steps in this research, Shafipour told us he would like to see a bit longer study duration and what type of specific keto diet participants are following. "Because keto to one person might mean just like the old school Atkins [diet], that you're eating a lot of bacon and cheese," he explained. "But now we found out that those inflammatory fats are not necessarily healthy, even though they cause weight loss, but they can increase tumor markers and inflammatory markers in the blood." "[With] longer study adherence — you follow patients six months to a year to see how much they can adhere, and then you measure their C-peptides, A1C, and pancreatic cell function. We want to make sure with diabetes management, we're not just managing the blood sugar, but we're preserving pancreatic cell function and we're actually reducing the IL6, the TNF alpha, all these inflammatory markers that are in the background destroying the body in a diabetic person," says Dr. Pouya Shafipour.



What might it be about the keto diet that would allow it to help improve beta-cell function?

"One process that may contribute to beta-cell failure is their loss of glucose sensing and glucose responsiveness, which is thought to result from the beta-cells' chronic exposure to glucose (e.g. glucose toxicity)," Yurchishin told us. "Removal of this exposure

via a carbohydrate restricted diet may therefore provide an environment for beta-cells to repair their secretory mechanisms, but more research is needed to identify the specific mechanisms behind this effect," she noted. "As beta-cells are responsible for secreting insulin in response to increases in blood glucose, restoration of their function allows these cells to produce adequate insulin to sustain adequate blood sugar levels," she added.

Tips for following the keto diet

For those who may want to give following the keto diet a shot, Monique Richard, MS, RDN, LDN, a registered dietitian nutritionist and owner of Nutrition-In-Sight, offered some expert tips. "It is most important to prioritize a way to look beyond initial outcomes and consider sustainability, access, nutritional adequacy, and impact on overall health, especially cardiovascular health, which is closely tied to, or increased, in those with type 2 diabetes," Richard said. "The research established so

far conveys that while low-carb and ketogenic diets may improve glycemic control in the short term, they may not be consistently superior over time compared to other balanced dietary patterns, or, not without their own side effects and shortfalls — i.e. gallbladder health, arterial inflammation, impact on liver function," she advised. While lowering carbs can help blood sugar levels, Richard said that how this is done and what they are replaced with matters just as much, if not more.

Some general recommendations for those interested in exploring the keto diet include:

Focusing on food quality, not just macros: Not all keto diets are created equal, Richard said. Replacing carbohydrates with highly processed meats, ultra-processed foods marketed as "keto-friendly," and saturated fats may negatively impact heart health, while emphasizing unsaturated fats (olive oil, nuts, seeds, avocado) and non-starchy vegetables supports better outcomes. Be strategic and mindful: It's not about restriction, elimination, or excess of one or more particular food groups or macros. Consider moderate carbohydrate reduction rather than extreme restriction: Even decreasing the frequency of refined carbohydrates, or portions consumed, in addition to the amount of added sugars can significantly improve glycemic control, Richard said. Keep the variety, hold the towering fat and protein stack: A double bacon cheese burger with extra bacon sans the bun is a lot for the digestive system to process, in addition to the excess sodium, preservatives, and lack of beneficial nutrients this combo contains, Richard explained. Restrictive and imbalanced diets can limit fiber, phytonutrients, and gut microbiome diversity which are all important for metabolic health. "The best nutrition plan is the one that works for your biology and your life," Richard added. "As with most things in nutrition, there is no one-size-fits-all approach. The goal isn't just to lower blood sugar — it's also to support long-term health, quality of life, and sustainable habits. If someone is considering a ketogenic approach, I always emphasize doing so with guidance from a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) and healthcare team, especially because medications often need to be adjusted," she advised.





Bowlers, Gaikwad, Kartik help CSK thrash MI by eight wickets



CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings produced a clinical all-round performance to outclass Mumbai Indians by eight wickets in their IPL 2026 clash at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Saturday. Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad and youngster Kartik Sharma struck unbeaten half-centuries to seal a comfortable chase in CSK's favour after Anshul Kamboj and Noor Ahmad had restricted MI to 159/7.

A target of 160 wasn't a massive one for CSK, and Gaikwad hit 67 not out off 48 balls, laced with five fours and two sixes, his second successive fifty. Kartik, meanwhile, registered his maiden IPL half-century in an unbeaten 40-ball vigil, hitting four boundaries and three sixes, as CSK wrapped up the chase with 11 balls remaining.

At the age of 20 years and 6 days, Kartik became the second youngest CSK batter to score an IPL fifty after Ayush Mhatre (17y 291d). The duo rotated strike wisely and punished the loose deliveries by sending them to the boundary ropes and kept the chase firmly under control through a 98-run stand off 75 balls for the third wicket.

Though Jasprit Bumrah and AM Ghazanfar took a scalp each, CSK were simply too composed in the chase to complete the double over MI and bring their campaign back on track. The eight-wicket win is CSK's biggest

victory against MI in the IPL, and this is the third time they have achieved a league double over their arch-rivals after 2014 and 2023. Right from the word go, CSK's chase was steady. Sanju Samson hit two boundaries and was even dropped by Ryan Rickelton before the latter took the former's catch off Bumrah. Gaikwad settled in quickly, working through the gaps and ensuring the scoreboard kept ticking. Urvil Patel's cameo of 24 off 12 balls, laced with two fours and as many sixes, injected momentum before being dismissed by Ghazanfar. Kartik then joined Gaikwad, and the duo stitched together a match-winning stand. Gaikwad's fluency stood out as he pierced the off-side field with precision, while Kartik showed maturity beyond his years by mixing caution with aggression.

Their partnership never allowed MI's bowlers to build pressure. By the half-way mark, CSK were well ahead of the required rate, and the chase became a formality. Together, they ensured CSK crossed the line with ease in the 18th over, with MI now clearly staring at an early exit from the competition.

Previously, Kamboj claimed 3-32 while Ahmad chipped in with 2-26 as CSK produced a disciplined bowling performance to restrict MI to a below-par total. On a two-paced pitch, CSK pulled things back after a brisk start from MI, who were 90/2 at the

halfway mark, but then faltered in the last ten overs, making 69/5.

CSK's pacers were clinical in bowling hard lengths and yorkers. For MI, Naman Dhir top-scored with 57 off 37 balls, but did get stuck in the later stages alongside Hardik Pandya, whose timing deserted him big time. From the word go, CSK were on the money, despite Shivam Dube being out of sorts in his fielding.

MI were jolted early when Will Jacks fell to Kamboj in the second over. Ryan Rickelton counter-attacked by smashing five to race to 37 before Noor Ahmad dismissed him in the seventh over. Dhir joined forces with Suryakumar Yadav to keep the scoreboard ticking before the latter perished to debutant Ramakrishna Ghosh for 21.

At 90/2 after 10 overs, MI looked set for a big total until CSK bounced back. Tilak Varma's scratchy stay ended on five against Noor, while Dhir's standout knock was cut short by Jamie Overton's sharp off-cutter and miscued to extra cover. Kamboj came in to remove Pandya and Robin Minz to complete a three-wicket haul.

Trent Boult struck a six late on, but MI's innings fizzled out, as Kamboj and Noor ensured MI managed to reach a total that looked underwhelming given the start they had in the first ten overs, which CSK easily surpassed, and gave lots of delight to their faithful fans.

Thomas & Uber Cup: India go down to France 0-3 in semis, settle for bronze

HORSENS (DENMARK)

Former winners India were stunned 0-3 by France in the semifinal of the Thomas Cup in a major upset in the tournament being held at Forum Horsens in Horsens, Denmark on Saturday night, bringing to a screeching halt their campaign in the men's team badminton competition.

While France made history by reaching their maiden Thomas Cup final, India will have to be content with a bronze medal. Ayush Shetty, playing the first singles in the absence of Lakshya Sen, who suffered an elbow injury in the quarterfinals, went down to World No. 4 Christo Popov 11-21, 9-21 in just 39 minutes as France surged to a 1-0 lead. Srikanth Kidambi put up a decent fight against World No.10 Alex Lanier but lost 16-21, 18-21 in 41 minutes.

In the third singles, HS Prannoy waged a tough battle with World No. 17 Toma Junior Popov, losing the first game 19-21 and the second 16-21 as France sealed a memorable victory. India's men have powered into the last four, secur-



ing a medal and reaching this stage for only the second time in the tournament's history, having famously lifted the title in 2022. Meanwhile, France had stunned 14-time champions Indonesia in the group stage and beat Japan 3-0 in the quarterfinals.

Their clash was expected to be a tough one, but it turned out to be a comprehensive victory for France, their first entry into the final of this competition. But just before the clash, India suffered a huge setback when Olympic Games semi-finalist Lakshya Sen had to withdraw from the last-four stage match because of an injury. Lakshya sustained an impact to his elbow following

an intense quarterfinal match that involved multiple dives, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) Honorary General Secretary, Sanjay Mishra, informed on Saturday. "Following a thorough evaluation by the team's medical staff, the decision has been taken as a precautionary measure to allow Lakshya adequate recovery time and ensure he is in optimal condition for the final, should India progress," he said. That setback virtually put paid to India's chances as they had to rework their team combination for the all-important clash, and in the end, that did not work despite the inform Ayush Shetty stepping into the role of the first singles player.

ISL 2025-26: Parthib Gogoi's late strike helps NorthEast United edge Inter Kashi

GUWAHATI

NorthEast United FC secured a dramatic 3-2 victory against Inter Kashi in Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26, with Parthib Gogoi's late strike sealing all three points in a pulsating contest at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium on Saturday.

Jithin MS had given the Highlanders the lead on the stroke of half-time, while Andy Rodriguez doubled the advantage from the penalty spot, before Inter Kashi staged a spirited comeback through Sergio Llamas and Mohammed Asif.

The result sees NorthEast United FC move up to 10th in the standings with 10 points from 11 matches, while Inter Kashi remain eighth with 11 points from 10 outings. Jairo Samperio was named the Man of the Match for his influential display, playing a



key role in two of the three goals. Inter Kashi made the brighter start, dominating possession in the opening exchanges and testing the NorthEast defence with a series of long-range efforts. Midfielders Asif and Tomba Singh both went close early on, while striker Alfred Planas Moya and full-back Rohit Danu combined well down the right, though the visitors lacked precision in the

final third. NorthEast United gradually grew into the contest, with Jairo Samperio emerging as a constant threat. The Spaniard came close on multiple occasions, striking the post in the 38th minute before being denied in a one-on-one by Inter Kashi keeper Shubham Dhas. Just as the first half appeared destined to end goalless, Jairo produced a brilliant run down the right.

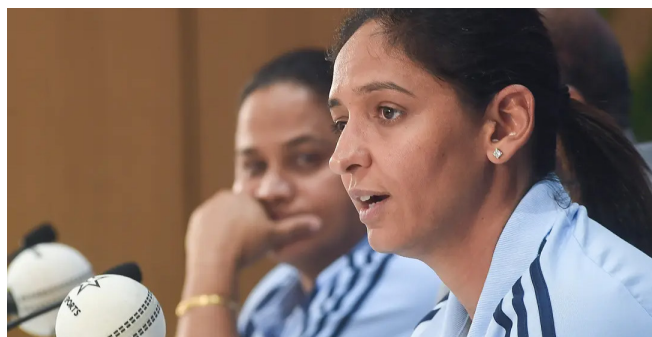
Harmanpreet admits Amanjot's absence from T20 WC a big blow, backs Bharti, Radha to come good

MUMBAI

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur conceded that Amanjot Kaur's absence due to a back injury has left a major void in the squad for the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup, to be played from June 12 to July 5 in England, but expressed confidence that Bharti Fulmali and Radha Yadav will step up with positive intent.

Seam-bowling all-rounder Amanjot has been sidelined for the next four to five months due to a back injury, which also kept her out of the 4-1 T20I series loss in South Africa last month. "Amanjot was our key player. Unfortunately, she is not available. She is away from cricket for the next four to five months now.

"In place of her, it was very difficult to find someone like her who can fulfil that place," said Harmanpreet in the press con-



ference after the squad, which will also play three T20Is against England from May 28 to June 2, was announced at the BCCI HQ.

Bharti, meanwhile, was retained in the side after getting two chances in South Africa, where she scored 40 and 2. Radha, meanwhile, had good all-round performances this year in various competitions and returns to the T20I set-up for the first time after last year's

series in England. Radha has played 89 T20Is and has taken 103 wickets since her debut in 2018, and is now set to play her fifth T20 World Cup. Her return to the squad has been delayed by injuries to Amanjot and Kashve Gautam, who will undergo surgery for a serious right knee injury.

"But still, we are trying - Bharti, whatever opportunity she got, she tried to prove herself. We

have got Radha back in the side because she is also an all-rounder who can contribute with bat, ball, and field.

"So, Amanjot's replacement was very hard to find. But now, like whatever players were available, we are trying to balance the team with them so that whenever we need somebody, they are ready for us," added Harmanpreet. The captain acknowledged the bowling unit's struggles in the recent series against South Africa, especially in the power-play, but stressed that one poor outing should not overshadow their overall record.

"In T20 format, with the runs being made, it's a hard job for bowlers. But still, they were trying their best. Unfortunately, this was the only series where our bowling didn't click much. But if I have to answer this, after the last T20 World Cup,

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T20 Mumbai League 2026: Parkar, Pawar, Musheer, and Arjun Tendulkar among top buys as auction witnesses fierce bids

MUMBAI

Aakash Parkar, Prasad Pawar, Musheer Khan, and Arjun Tendulkar emerged as the top buys as the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) successfully concluded on Saturday the player auction for the men's section of the highly anticipated fourth season of the T20 Mumbai League. Following the success of the inaugural Women's League auction earlier on Saturday, the men's franchisees battled it out on the bidding table to finalise their rosters, blending established international stars with the city's most promising emerging talent.

The Season 4 auction saw intense bidding wars, with all-rounder Akash Parkar becoming one of the most



valued acquisitions, going for ₹12 lakh. Wicketkeeper-batsman Prasad Pawar (₹11.50 lakh) and the versatile Musheer Khan (₹11 lakh) were secured by Arcs Andheri in a clear statement of intent. Shreyas, Surya, Rahane, Yashasvi, and Shardul among Icon Players Earlier, the league confirmed a power-packed list of Icon Players

who will lead their respective franchises. The roster features Indian internationals and Mumbai stalwarts, including Suryakumar Yadav (Triumph Knights Mumbai North East), Shreyas Iyer (SoBo Mumbai Falcons), Ajinkya Rahane (North Mumbai Panthers), Shivam Dube (Arcs Andheri), Yashasvi Jaiswal (Bandra Blasters), Shardul Thakur (Eagle

Thane Strikers), Sarfaraz Khan (Aakash Tigers), and Tushar Deshpande (MSC Maratha Royals).

The auction underscored the league's reputation as a launchpad for future stars. Arjun Tendulkar remained a key focus, joining Arcs Andheri for ₹10 lakh. On the other hand, young sensations Ayush Mhatre and Suryansh Shedge were retained by Triumph Knights to maintain their championship core.

Ajinkya Naik, President, MCA, said: "The T20 Mumbai League continues to grow as one of the most competitive domestic T20 platforms in the country. The intensity we witnessed at the auction reflects both the depth of talent in Mumbai and the confidence franchisees have in this ecosystem.

Indian 4x400m squad clocks season-best in first qualification round at World Athletics Relays

NEW DELHI

The Indian quartet of Dharmaveer Choudhary, Rajesh Ramesh, Vishal TK, and Manu T.S. clocked an impressive time of 3:00.32 seconds, a season best, in the men's 4x400m to finish fourth in their heat 3 on day one of World Athletics Relays at Gaborone's National Stadium on Saturday.

The top two teams in each heat advanced to the final round on Sunday and earned an automatic spot for the World Athletics Championships 2027 in Beijing.

Sunday will be the second qualifying round. The Indian men's 4x400m team, which finished overall 12th in the field today, has another chance to qual-

ify for the Worlds on Sunday. India's season-best time of 3:01.43 in the 4x400m relay was clocked earlier this season in Chandigarh. The national record of 2:59.05 was set at the 2023 Budapest World Athletics Championships in Hungary.

The national women's 4x100m team of Tamanna, Nithya Gandhi, Sudeshna S, and Sneha SS, with a time of 43.97 seconds, a season best, finished fifth in heat 1. The Indian women's team finished overall 13th.

The men's 4x100m squad also clocked a season-best time of 39.07 seconds. The members were Harsh Raut, Ragul Kumar, Animesh Kujur, and Gurinder Singh. The 4x400m mixed relay team of Theerthesh P

Shetty, Ansa Babu, Amoj Jacob, Rashdeep Kaur finished sixth in heat 1. The Indian team clocked 3:16.00 seconds, season best. The 4x100m mixed relay team didn't finish the race in the first qualification round on Saturday.

The national women's 4x100m relay team is grouped in heat 1. Other teams include Ireland, Australia, Canada, the USA, Poland, and Spain. India's season best time is 44.18 seconds. The Indian mixed 4x100m relay team is clubbed in heat 2. Paraguay, Belgium, Spain, China, the USA, France, and Poland are the other teams in the qualification round. India's season-best time of 42.30 seconds was clocked earlier this season during a domestic meet in Chandigarh.

Century Warriors dominate Jolly Friends; Phantom Stars register 2nd win

MUMBAI

Century Warriors delivered a commanding performance to defeat Jolly Friends Sporting Club 18-9, while defending champions Phantom Stars registered their second consecutive victory, overcoming NPV Smashers on Day 2 of the Butterfly Table Tennis Super League (TTSL) Maharashtra 2026. In another tie on Saturday, Mumbai Mozartt returned to winning ways with a 17-10 win over NPV Smashers.

TTSL is an initiative by Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) to strengthen grassroots talent development and elevate state-level competition nationwide. Butterfly TTSL Maharashtra will see eight teams battle for the title, with each tie featuring nine matches—six singles, two mixed doubles, and one men's doubles match.



Each match has three games; each game a player wins adds a point to their team's tally.

The tournament features eight teams: Ping Panthers, owned by Samir Raut and Nishad Naik; Bayside

Spinners TTC, owned by Rizwan Alani, Anil Bajaj, and Vishesh Sahgal; Century Warriors, owned by Sanjay Mehta, Prakash Punjabi, Raman Iyer, and Sandip Katiyar; Jolly Friends Sports Club, owned by Abhishek

Javeri; Mumbai Mozartt, owned by Ashish Shanker and Navin Ajwani; NPV Smashers, owned by Milan Chitalia; PBG Pune Jaguars, owned by Punit Balan; and Phantom Stars, owned by Antara Jaggi.

Century Warriors, last season's semifinalists, registered their authority early against Jolly Friends Sporting Club. Santosh Wakradkar set the tone with a dominant 3-0 win in the veterans' match over Gurucharan. Although Raegan Albuquerque brought Jolly Friends level with a strong showing in the men's singles, Century quickly took control of the tie.

With Naisha Rewaskar leading the charge in the junior girls' singles, while the doubles combinations across the U-13 and veterans categories secured convincing 3-0 wins, Century Warriors secured a dominant 18-9 result.



Tamannaah's Blue Swimsuit Raised

Temperature By Thousand

Tamannaah Bhatia is not just a superstar actress, she is now a serious businesswoman and brand builder too. In her stunning new photos, she is seen promoting her own jewellery brand in the most glamorous way possible. With a fresh summer vibe, tropical palms in the background, and a bold blue and white swimsuit, Tamannaah is making sure every single eye stays on the jewellery, and on her.

The jewellery itself is absolutely gorgeous, layered gold chains with a stunning diamond-encrusted dumbbell pendant, sparkling hoop earrings, and a chunky gold ring with blue nail art adding a playful pop of colour. Her wet hair, dewy glowing skin, and water droplets on her shoulders gave the entire shoot a fresh, sun-kissed, poolside summer energy that felt completely irresistible and luxurious. Tamannaah proves that she knows exactly how to sell a brand, with pure confidence, undeniable beauty, and effortless charm. These photos are not just jewellery promotion, they are a full fashion moment. She is levelling up in every direction and honestly, nobody is doing it better right now.



KRITI FOR VIJAY'S TELUGU EPIC?

In a casting coup that's lighting up Tollywood grapevines, Bollywood beauty Kriti Sanon is reportedly in talks for a massive pan-India Telugu project opposite Vijay Deverakonda. The ambitious venture, helmed by director Shouryuv of Hi Nanna fame, is buzzing with whispers of a mythological-universe saga packed with global flair. Sources close to the development reveal that Hollywood heavyweights—linked to blockbusters like House of the Dragon, Fallout, and Snowpiercer—are on board for the technical wizardry, promising visuals that could rival international epics. "It's a game-changer with a worldwide vision," an insider dished, fueling excitement in industry corridors. No official word yet from the Rowdy Boys star or Kriti, but online fandom is already abuzz over their potential chemistry. Vijay, eyeing a strong comeback post recent hiccups, could find the perfect foil in the Mimi actress. Talks are early-stage, with a formal announcement slated post-final casting lock-in. Stay tuned—this crazy combo might just deliver Tollywood's next big myth-buster!

SUKUMAR'S BIG CLAIM ON CHARAN'S PEDDI PERFORMANCE

After weeks of suspense and uncertainty, Ram Charan's long-awaited sports drama 'Peddi' has finally sealed an ideal release date today. The team has announced that the film will hit the screens on June 4, which is exactly just over a month to go.

While the announcement gave much relief to fans and trade circles, one big statement made during this event has immediately gained huge attention much more than the release date itself. It came from none other than Pushpa director Sukumar, who happens to be a protege and close mentor of Buchi Babu.

Sukumar revealed that he was blown away by Ram Charan's energy and agility in Rai Rai Raa Raa song. He further made a big statement that Charan has out-performed himself and delivered his best for Peddi. Sukumar admitted that Charan's performance in Peddi will be a

notch better than every other film including his own Rangasthalam.

There is no exaggeration in saying that Charan lived his 'Chitti Babu' character in Rangasthalam and nailed it with his best performance till date. It was like a tour-de-force for Charan's acting career and absolute masterclass on how to portray an emotionally charged character.

Going by the reports till now, Peddi is also going to be a challenging role for Ram Charan. So, if he can once again ace through such an author-backed role again with another stupendous performance, it will be a huge feat deserving high acclaim not just for Charan himself but for also Buchi Babu in bringing the best out of the actor.

If this big revelation from Sukumar turns out to be true, no doubt his student Buchi Babu will score a distinction for his directional skills. We have to wait for June 4 to witness these words.

Written and directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film has Ram Charan in the titular role, alongside Janhvi Kapoor and Jagapathi Babu in prominent roles. The project is backed by Vriddhi Cinemas, with music composed by A. R. Rahman.



Mahesh's Trekking for Varanasi

Superstar Mahesh Babu is currently busy preparing for his upcoming big film Varanasi. This movie is directed by famous filmmaker S. S. Rajamouli, who is known for making grand and visually rich films. Recently, Mahesh

Babu took a short break from shooting and traveled abroad alone. Usually, he goes on vacations with his family, so this solo trip surprised many fans. There were many rumors about why he went alone. However, Mahesh himself cleared all doubts by sharing updates on his social media. He revealed that he is currently in the Black Forest, a beautiful and famous forest area in Germany. This place is known for its mountains, lakes, riv-

ers, and peaceful natural beauty. It is also a popular tourist destination that attracts visitors throughout the year.

Mahesh Babu is not there for a holiday. He is doing trekking and intense physical training to prepare for his role in Varanasi. He shared photos with a well-known trainer and doctor named Harry, which quickly became viral on social media. His dedication shows how serious he is about giving his best performance in the film. Interestingly, this is not his first visit

to the Black Forest. Earlier in 2024, after the release of Guntur Kaaram, he visited the same place for trekking. Now, he has returned again for professional training, which clearly shows that the forest setting plays an important role in his upcoming film.



Trisha's Official Blast On Insta-What's Up?

While films with the likes of Maniratnam and Ajith have given a second break to Trisha in films, surely the biggest break came on social media these days, after people started connecting dots that she's the actress in question in the divorce case filed by TVK Chief and superstar Vijay's wife. And now, with the month of May starting, the actress posted a picture on Instagram, and captioned it, which is leading to lots of speculation now. "May(me) season has officially begun", wrote Tamil beauty Trisha Krishnan, sharing a picture of herself, where she's flaunting her flawless back in a backless top, at the age of 40. Many feel that, as her birthday is falling on May 4th, she posted that way. However, with the Tamil Nadu election results also to come up on May 4th, some are thinking that Trisha is indicating Vijay's victory in the elections. At the same time, after having lots of differences with the team of Suriya's Karuppu, the actress has acknowledged that she wasn't invited to the audio launch, and now feels happy that they started recognising her too. This is a satire, but then, the Suriya starrer is also hitting cinemas this month, only on May 14th.