

HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026

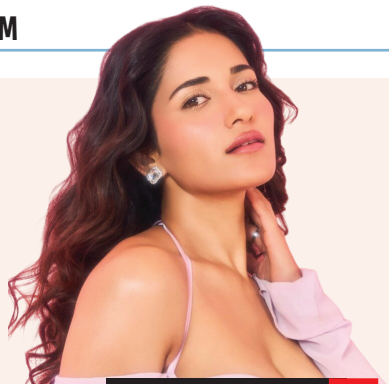
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TITANS EDGE TIGHT FINISH

STADIUM 11

RUHANI! CAPTIVATING CHARM



BOX-OFFICE 12

SHORT TAKES



Vizag-Bound LPG Tanker Safely Clears Hormuz Strait

MT Sarv Shakti, carrying 46.313 MT of LPG, safely sailed through the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday and is expected to arrive at Visakhapatnam on May 13th, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said on Sunday.

NEXT DOOR 05



The World's 2nd Biggest Coal Producer is India

India is the 2nd largest producer of coal, after China, it produces over 700 million metric tonnes of coal per year. The largest coal consumers are the electricity sector, steel industry, the sponge iron industry, and the cement industry.

OPINION 06



AI is helping you invest. But should you trust it?

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MONEY MATTER 09

Telangana Cabinet to Address Pensioner Grievances

HYDERABAD, MAY 3

The Telangana State Cabinet will meet on Monday. The meeting will be held on May 4 at 3 PM in the Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The Cabinet is expected to discuss the Tummidihatti barrage. Recently, in a review meeting, the Chief Minister decided to construct a barrage at Tummidihatti at a height of 150 meters as part of the Pranahita-Chevella project to divert water to Sripada Yellampalli.

Possibility of Key Decisions

Four routes have been proposed to transport water from Tummidihatti to Yellampalli. The Cabinet is likely to deliberate and take a decision on these proposals. It is also expected to discuss issues and demands of employees and pensioners. The government is planning to clear pending bills of employees and pensioners within 100 days, and a roadmap may be finalized in

Key decisions likely to be taken

State Cabinet to meet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

Meeting scheduled at 3 PM in the Secretariat



the meeting.

Discussions may also be held on pending Dearness Allowances (DAs) and cashless medical treatment schemes. Other issues likely to be taken up include the merger of RTC employees into the government, new Aasara pensions, welfare programs for Telangana movement activists, and the Indiramma insurance

scheme.

Key Decisions from Previous Meeting

In a recent Cabinet meeting, approval was given to appoint governing bodies for Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies through a nomination process. The Cabinet also decided to develop Gachibowli Stadium under

the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. Several important decisions regarding employee retirement benefits were also taken.

Delay in Cabinet Expansion

The reshuffle and expansion of the Telangana Cabinet may take some more time.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Daylight armed robbery in jewellery store



KARIMNAGAR

An armed robbery took place at PMJ Jewellers store in Jyotinagar area of Karimnagar district on Sunday, May 3, where five unidentified assailants de-camped with a substantial amount of jewellery. According to an employee of the store, one of the assailants first came into the store posing as a customer and asked to see a chain. Then four more people followed him inside and started beating the employee.

When the security guard came inside, two people produced guns, started firing and made off with nearly a kilogram of

jewellery from the display counters. According to local reports, at least four employees were injured in the firing and have been shifted to a hospital.

Police quickly reached the crime scene and are enquiring into the incident. Gun magazines and bullet cases were retrieved from the spot.

Security has been tightened at surrounding areas and search operations are underway at lodges, hotels and public places such as bus stands and railway stations. Police suspect the role of an interstate criminal gang from Uttar Pradesh or Bihar.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Heatwave Grips Telangana



HYDERABAD, MAY 3

Even as scorching temperatures continue to sweep across Telangana, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a heatwave alert for large parts of the state, while also forecasting light to moderate rainfall in some districts over the next two days.

According to the Hyderabad Meteorological Centre, isolated areas may witness thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds with speeds of 30-40 km/h through today and tomorrow. Similar conditions are expected to persist for the next couple of days, offering partial relief from the intense heat.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Police Will Definitely Apprehend the Culprits PMJ Jewelers Robbery case: Bandi Sanjay



KARIMNAGAR, MAY 3

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Sunday stated that miscreants barged into the PMJ Jewellery shop in Karimnagar under the pretext of purchasing gold and subsequently opened fire. "This is an unexpected incident. Just minutes before this event occurred, I had participated in a ground-breaking ceremony for various development works in this very area. The Police personnel were also present. Immediately upon receiving the information about the incident, the police began combing through Karimnagar.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Revanth Govt Accused of 'Betrayal' to 1.4 Million Students Over Fee Reimbursement Policy

HYDERABAD, MAY 3,

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K. T. Rama Rao has strongly condemned the Telangana Government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for what he termed as a "grave injustice" to nearly 14 lakh students from BC, SC, ST, and minority communities.

In a detailed letter addressed to the Chief Minister, KTR alleged that Government Order (GO 7) is a "dark and deliberate attempt" to dismantle the fee reimbursement scheme, which has been a crucial support system enabling access to higher education for economically weaker sections.

He stated that the move would effectively deprive lakhs of poor students of higher education opportunities and push



their future into uncertainty. KTR demanded the immediate withdrawal of GO 7 and called upon the Chief Minister to issue a public apology to the student community.

Highlighting the financial distress in the education sector, KTR pointed out that the state government has failed to clear fee reimbursement dues amounting to nearly ₹10,000 crore over the past two-and-a-half years. He noted that this has severely impacted over

2,500 educational institutions, with colleges struggling to function and students facing difficulties in accessing certificates and continuing their education.

He further criticised the government for misleading stakeholders through committees, token releases, and delayed assurances instead of addressing the core issue of pending dues. Recalling the origins of the scheme, KTR said that the fee reimbursement programme was introduced by former Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy and was effectively continued and strengthened in Telangana by K. Chandrashekar Rao to ensure inclusive access to education. He questioned the intent of the current government in weakening such a vital welfare initiative.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Hyderabad biryani prices set to rise

HYDERABAD, MAY 3

There is a bad news for biryani lovers from the Hyderabad city. Restaurant and biryani outlet owners are set to make an important decision regarding a potential increase in biryani prices.

Due to a recent rise in commercial gas prices, which have increased by almost ₹1,000, they are preparing to raise the price of biryani by as much as ₹50. If this occurs, it would certainly come as a surprise to those who love biryani.

Amidst the tensions between the United States and Iran, global nations are facing difficulties as gas and oil supplies have been disrupted.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

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No more rounds of govt offices Ponguleti vows direct solutions for citizens

HYDERABAD, MAY 3

Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the goal of the people's government is to eliminate the need for citizens to run around government offices for solutions. Instead, officials are reaching out directly to people, receiving petitions, and resolving issues on the spot.

The Minister participated in a Praja Darbar held at the Zilla Parishad High School premises in Khammam district on Sunday. Along with district collector Divakar T.S. and additional collector Dr. P. Sreeja, he directly received grievances from the public. The Minister emphasised that since the formation of the people's government, transparent governance has been taken to the doorstep of citizens, with every petition being carefully examined and acted upon promptly.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy assured



that in the Paleru constituency, where mandals are organised into clusters for these Praja Darbars, all legitimate applications will be addressed without any political bias. The government is making special efforts to resolve long-pending issues related to Sada Bainama, prohibited land lists, and land records, offering permanent solutions," he said.

The Minister stated that through

the 99-day Prajapalana progress plan, welfare schemes are being delivered more efficiently, stressing that ensuring justice to every eligible beneficiary is the government's responsibility without delay.

The Minister noted that most applications received in Praja Darbars are for Indiramma housing and criticised the previous government for the current situation.

He announced that funds for house construction are being directly credited to beneficiaries' accounts every Monday, and the second phase of Indiramma houses will be sanctioned by the end of May.

The Minister further stated that paddy and maize crops are being procured at Minimum Support Price, with payments credited to farmers' accounts within a week.

Elim MB Church Concludes 'Soldiers of Christ' Summer VBS with Spirit-Filled Closing Ceremony



MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, MAY 03

Elim MB Church, Balanagar, brought its annual Vacation Bible School 2026 to a joyful close on Sunday evening, marking the conclusion of this year's theme-based program, "Soldiers of Christ." The closing ceremony witnessed an atmosphere of devotion, celebration and spiritual enthusiasm as children, parents, church elders and members gathered to celebrate a meaningful season of faith formation.

What began nearly two decades ago as a traditional children's camp has grown into a significant community event, drawing participation from children, youth, adults and elders. Over the years, the VBS has evolved into a platform for biblical learning, fellowship, creativity and inter-generational bonding.

This year's theme, "Soldiers of Christ," brought fresh energy to the congregation throughout the program. The church premises

were transformed into a vibrant space of worship and learning, filled with music, choreography, storytelling and interactive activities designed to help participants understand and experience the message of Christ in a lively and memorable way.

Morning sessions set a spirited tone each day with high-energy songs, action-filled choreographies and engaging presentations. Biblical narratives were brought to life through live performances, immersive storytelling, hands-on art projects, competitive quizzes and classroom-based learning activities.

A notable highlight of VBS 2026 was the emphasis on inter-generational learning. Moving beyond the traditional children-only model, church committee elders actively participated in classroom activities alongside the youth, creating a meaningful bridge between generations.

"We experienced a beautiful bridge being built between gener-

ations," said VBS Superintendent Chaitanya Botti. "The participants relished the opportunity to 'Explore Christ Alive' through activities, choreography, immersive storytelling and music."

Pastor Rev. G. K. Prasad said the overwhelming response was the result of the church committee's dedication and meticulous planning. He appreciated the efforts of volunteers, teachers and organizers who worked together to make the event a success.

He added that through VBS 2026, Elim MB Church was able to provide local students with a purposeful and spiritually enriching summer break.

The program concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, recognizing the active participation and achievements of the children, followed by a love feast for all attendees. The evening ended on a note of gratitude, joy and renewed commitment to faith, leaving families with cherished memories of a summer centered on Christ.

Girl Defeats Brain Tumor with KTR's Help

Hyderabad, May 3: K. T. Rama Rao, working president of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), once again demonstrated his willingness to support people in distress. The assistance he provided six years ago to a critically ill young girl has now brought new light into her life.

In 2019, Sharanya, daughter of Narayana and Rajeshwari from Paradise Balaram, was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Her parents, who work in private jobs, were told that her treatment in private hospitals would cost around ₹20 lakh, leaving the family helpless. As her name was not covered under Aarogyasri, they struggled for nearly a week to secure admission at Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital.

At that critical moment, Sharanya's aunt Poojitha reached out to KTR through social media platform X (formerly Twitter). Responding im-



mediately, KTR deployed his team. Within half an hour, they received a reply, and the very next day—despite it being a Sunday—district officials reached the hospital and completed the admission process on his in-

structions.

With KTR's intervention, Sharanya received expensive treatment completely free of cost. She underwent stent placement and major surgery, followed by radiation therapy

costing around ₹3 lakh, all arranged under his supervision. From surgery to discharge, including tests like MRI scans, all expenses were covered by his team. "We didn't spend even a single rupee at the hospital," said her mother Rajeshwari emotionally.

Gratitude After Recovery

Having recovered from a life-threatening condition, Sharanya recently passed her Class 10 exams with 384 marks. Wishing to personally thank the person who saved her life, she met KTR today at his Nandnagar residence along with her family.

Her parents expressed heartfelt gratitude for not only saving their daughter's life but also ensuring she continued her education without losing an academic year. KTR wished Sharanya success in achieving greater heights in the future.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

Revant Govt Accused of 'Betrayal' to 1.4 Million Students..

FROM PAGE 1

KTR also expressed concern over the deteriorating condition of residential educational institutions and alleged administrative negligence in ensuring basic facilities for students. Warning of statewide protests, he stated that BRS will not remain a silent spectator if the government contemplates to undermine the future of

students. "If the student community is forced to take to the streets, the government will be held accountable for the consequences," he cautioned.

The BRS Working President reiterated the party's demand for the immediate release of pending dues and withdrawal of GO 7 in the interest of protecting the future of lakhs of students across Telangana.

Daylight armed robbery at Karimnagar..

FROM PAGE 1

The Karimnagar police have announced Rs 1 lakh reward for the people who would provide useful information about the dacoits involved in the robbery of PMJ jewellery shop in Jyothinagar here on Sunday.

In this regard, police have prepared pamphlets along with the photos of the accused. The pamphlets prepared in three languages namely Telugu, Hindi and English are being circulated on social media platforms.

"The individuals seen in these photos are involved in

a robbery at a gold shop in Karimnagar. If you have any information about them, please inform the police immediately. A reward of Rs 1 lakh will be given to anyone who provides useful information", the pamphlet said.

The phone numbers of SHO Karimnagar two town (8712670762), ACP Karimnagar town (8712670711) and SB control Karimnagar (8712670713) have also been published, requesting people to share information with the police by dialing the above-mentioned contact numbers.

Heatwave Grips Telangana

FROM PAGE 1

However, a heavy rain warning has been issued for Jayashankar Bhpupalpally, Mulugu, Warangal, and Hanumakonda districts, where thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and winds of up to 40–50 km/h are likely. Other districts may experience scattered showers with gusty winds. The IMD noted that temperatures are expected to remain steady for the next two days before gradually dipping by 2–3°C.

Heatwave Intensifies Across Region

The heatwave continues to tighten its grip, with temperatures rising steadily across Telangana and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. As many as 301 mandals in Telangana are under heatwave threat, putting nearly 16 million people at risk, according to the latest government report.

Temperatures have soared above 40°C in at least 17 districts of Andhra Pradesh. Nellore recorded 46.2°C, followed closely by Prakasam (46.1°C), Markapuram (45.7°C), Tirupati (45.6°C), Palnadu (44.2°C), and Bapatla (44°C).

Storm Disruptions in Mancherla

Meanwhile, sudden thunderstorms caused damage in parts of Mancherla district. Strong winds and heavy rain lashed Mandamarri and Ramakrishnapur towns, uprooting trees along coal belt roads and blowing away roof sheets of

several houses. The downpour disrupted normal life for nearly an hour.

Rising Heatstroke Concerns

Authorities warn that heatwaves are increasingly turning into a public health concern. Experts attribute the severity to environmental degradation, reduced green cover, and rising pollution levels. Data from the Telangana Development Planning Society and IMD, based on records from 2014 to 2025, classify six mandals as severe risk zones, 106 as high risk, and 189 as moderate risk areas.

A heatwave is declared when temperatures remain 4°C above normal for three consecutive days or exceed 45°C. Nalgonda district has reported the highest number of heatwave incidents in recent years, followed by vulnerable pockets in Mancherla, Jagtial, Peddapalli, Suryapet, and Karimnagar.

Heat Toll Mounts

The human cost of the extreme weather is mounting. Outdoor workers, farmers, and daily wage labourers remain the most vulnerable. Since 2014, heatwaves have claimed at least 100 lives annually, with many more hospitalised. This year too, fatalities have been reported from districts including Adilabad, Warangal, Karimnagar, Khammam, and Nalgonda, underscoring the growing severity of heat-related risks in the region.

Telangana Cabinet to Address Pensioner Grievances

FROM PAGE 1

The Congress high command is likely to focus on Telangana Cabinet expansion only after the results of Assembly elections in five states, especially after clarity on leadership in Kerala if the UDF secures a majority.

Although the high command may approve the Chief Minister's proposals, there is reportedly dissatisfaction with the functioning of some ministers, and changes may be suggested. There is a possibility of inducting two more ministers into the Cabinet, with one position likely to be allocated to a candidate from the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. Leaders like Balun Naik and Ramchandra Naik are said to be aspiring for ministerial positions.

Pending Selections

There is also a possibility of filling two Cabinet positions, including one reserved for STs. Ramchandra Naik was reportedly finalized for the Deputy Speaker post last year, but the selection has not yet taken place in the Assembly.

Although the office was prepared during previous Assembly sessions, the process was halted midway. It remains uncertain who will be chosen for the remaining position.

Likely Continuation as PCC President

From the erstwhile Nizamabad district, there is currently no representation in the Cabinet. Former minister and senior MLA Sudarshan Reddy is serving as an advisor on welfare and development schemes with Cabinet rank and attends meetings as a special invitee. Efforts have been ongoing to include him in the Cabinet, though approval was not granted earlier. There is also speculation about PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud being inducted into the Cabinet. However, Chief Minister Revant Reddy has stated in several meetings that under their joint leadership, the Congress will return to power, similar to the YSR–DS combination in the past. Considering these factors, Mahesh Kumar Goud is more likely to continue as PCC President.

Hyderabad biryani prices set to rise following hike in commercial gas

FROM PAGE 1

India, too, is grappling with a shortage of the oil and gas.

The gas shortage, in particular, is intensifying day by day. Against this backdrop, the Central government has already raised the gas prices.

Most recently—just two days ago—it was announced that the price of a commercial gas cylinder was hiked by approximately ₹1,000 in a single instance. Consequently, restaurant and hotel operators in Hyderabad are facing mounting difficulties.

On one hand, procuring the gas cylinders has become challenging while on the other, the drastic price hike has added to their operational burdens.

Until very recently, the price of a 19-kilogram commercial gas cylinder stood at around ₹2,400. The Central government has now abruptly increased the price of the



commercial gas cylinder by ₹1,000. Consequently, the price of a single commercial gas cylinder has currently reached Rs. 3,400.

Amidst the prevailing gas shortage, the cylinders are not available in the required quantities. As a result, many hotel and restaurant operators are resorting to purchasing them on the black market by paying an additional premium of Rs. 2,000.

This situation is leading to an increased financial bur-

den. Against this backdrop, it appears that the hotel and restaurant operators across the city are preparing to hike the prices of Biryani. Those, who frequent the restaurants and hotels to enjoy the Biryani, may now find themselves in a situation where they have to think twice before dining out. Meanwhile, there is immense demand for Irani Chai in Hyderabad; it is reported that the vendors are preparing to raise its prices as well.

Police Will Definitely Apprehend the Culprits PMJ Jewelers Robbery case: Bandi

FROM PAGE 1

I am confident that they will definitely apprehend the culprits," he said while speaking to media persons.

Upon learning of the shooting incident involving the miscreants targeting the staff at the PMJ Jewellery shop in Jyothinagar of Karimnagar, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar rushed to the site accompanied by City Mayor Kogalangi Srinivas, local Corporator Boinipally Praveen Kumar and others.

He examined the CCTV footage from the jewellery shop and questioned the staff regarding the shooting incident? He sought details to understand exactly what had transpired during the

incident? Subsequently, he spoke with the Police Commissioner and the local police force. Later, while addressing the media, he stated it was an unexpected incident and a truly unfortunate occurrence. He said that Based on the CCTV footage and the details provided by the staff, it appears that a total of five miscreants entered the jewelry shop with the intention of committing the robbery and opened fire. "Initially, one individual entered and asked to see a 20-gram gold chain. Shortly thereafter, two others arrived stating they wished to purchase gold ornaments and asking to view the merchandise. While the gold ornaments were being displayed,

two more individuals entered the shop. The miscreants were conversing in both Telugu and Hindi. Acting in unison, the five individuals brandished firearms, intimidated the staff and attempted to steal the jewelry.

They opened fire on the shop's Sales Manager and other staff members, who attempted to intervene. The staff members displayed immense courage and bravery in resisting the attackers. It was during this struggle that they sustained injuries. Doctors have currently stated that the victims were out of danger. Nevertheless, we are shifting the victims to Hyderabad to ensure they receive advanced medical treatment,"

Sanjay said.

He said that he was confident that the miscreants would be apprehended and added that the officials were currently scrutinizing the CCTV footage, specifically reviewing the visuals captured by the Command Control Room cameras. "A 'Clues Team' has arrived at the scene, and statements were recorded from the victims. It appears evident that the individuals forcibly entered the shop with the sole intention of committing the robbery. As the staff intervened, they abandoned one bag right there. The exact quantity of the gold and other jewelry stolen will be determined during the police investigation," he said.

Governor Inaugurates Free Modular Limb Fitment Camp by Narayan Seva Sansthan



815 Narayan Artificial Limbs Distributed to 745 Differently-abled Individuals; Emotional Moments Mark New Beginnings

HYDERABAD

A free modular artificial limb (limbs & calipers) distribution camp was grandly organized at the Exhibition Grounds in Hyderabad under the aegis of Narayan Seva Sansthan. The camp was inaugurated by Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla.

A total of 815 artificial limbs were distributed free of cost to

745 differently-abled individuals during the event. Emotional moments were witnessed as many beneficiaries walked, played, and performed daily activities independently for the first time with their new limbs.

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said

"The scenes witnessed today are a testament to humanity. The services rendered by Narayan Seva Sansthan stand as an example for the nation and the world."

AP Industries Minister T.G. Bharat said

"This initiative plays a cru-

cial role in bringing differently-abled individuals into the mainstream of society. It is not just service, but a movement that transforms lives."

Social worker Satya Bhushan Jain, Patron Alka Chaudhary, Trustee & Director Devendra Chaubisa, and PR Head Bhagwan Prasad Gaur traditionally welcomed the dignitaries.

Trustee & Director Devendra Chaubisa shared details, stating that over 1,000 differently-abled individuals had registered during a selection camp held on February 1, out of which 745 received services in this camp. A team of experts fitted advanced Narayan

modular artificial limbs and also provided training on their usage and maintenance. Free food, drinking water, and tea were arranged for all attendees. The vote of thanks was delivered by Patron Alka Chaudhary. Donors including Rahul Khanna, Mahendra Agarwal, Govind Rathi, Ashok Pamrecha, Mahendra Golcha of Vardhman Bank, and Prem Prakash Singhvi were honored at the event.

Narayan Seva Sansthan has been conducting service activities since 1985, providing free medical services to lakhs of people and artificial limbs to thousands so far.

Weekend-Special Drunk & Drive Checking's by Cyberabad Traffic Police

HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Traffic Police (CTP) has conducted a special drunk driving enforcement drive over the weekend, resulting in the apprehension of 283 offenders. The total cases booked 227 two wheelers, 9 three wheelers, 39 four wheelers and 8 heavy vehicles Based on the Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels, 222 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 36 mg/100 ml to 200 mg/100 ml, 33 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 201 mg/100 ml to 300 mg/100 ml and 28 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 301 mg/100 ml to 550 mg/100 ml All the offenders will be produced before the Court.

Cyberabad Police reiterate that driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious offence. If anyone is found to be driving in an inebriated condition and causes a fatal accident, such individuals will be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Culpable Homicide Not Amounting to Murder). The maximum punishment under this section is 10 years of imprisonment along with a fine. In the last Week (April 27 to May 2) a total 160 drunk driving cases were disposed in the courts, in which 12 persons got fine and social service, 148 persons got fine only.



"FADING EARTHEN LIVES..."

"The Disappearing 'Poor Man's Fridge'..."

Scorching summer heat... blazing sun... sweltering conditions... people struggle with thirst and discomfort. The wealthy turn to refrigerators for chilled water to quench their thirst. But poor and middle-class families depend on the humble clay pot. That's why the clay pot is often called the "poor man's fridge."

However, as the traditional potter community (Shalivahanas) who make these clay pots gradually disappear, the cool water they once provided is being replaced by the silent, unseen struggles and tears of their lives. This is a special report by journalist Bapanapalli Srinivas on the lives of potters and the fading relevance of the clay pot.

We often hear elders say, "The human body is made of earth." From birth to the final journey of life, clay plays an important role, symbolizing the deep connection between humans and earth. Despite such significance, this ancient occupation is fading away in today's modern age.

Since ancient times, humans have used earthenware in daily life. Potters used to make clay utensils for cooking, water storage, cooling drinking water, flower pots, and more. But in modern society, plastic and steel have replaced clay products in the market. As a result, the use of earthen pots has drastically declined, and their production has gradually reduced.

For some time, people bought clay pots only during the summer season. Potters would work hard with their entire families during summer and shift to other occupations during the rainy and winter seasons to sustain themselves.

Those who depended solely on this craft have been leading very modest lives.

But now, even that limited seasonal demand has collapsed. With refrigerators and packaged cooling water cans entering the market, the already declining demand for clay pots has nearly vanished. This has pushed the potters' livelihoods into uncertainty. While younger generations are moving toward other professions, those who have relied on this traditional craft for gener-



ations are facing severe hardships.

Potters are now urging the government to support and preserve their occupation. Since it is a labor-intensive craft, they request pensions for potters above 50 years of age, similar to benefits given to handloom workers. They also seek loans, electric potter's wheels, and rights to collect suitable clay from ponds. Additionally, they request land allocation to set up kilns and sheds for firing pots.

If the government extends support, this disappearing traditional craft may survive for some more time. Let us hope for initiatives that can bring light into the lives of the potter community.

— Bapanapalli Srinivas, Journalist

National Talent Award – 2026 received Dr Peruka Raju

HYDERABAD

Renowned national poet, writer, and polyglot Dr. Peruka Raju, widely recognized across the country, has been selected for the prestigious Nava Bharata & Kala Samskruthika National Talent Award for Translation Literature – 2026 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of literary translation.

This honor acknowledges his exceptional literary service in translating and promoting works across various Indian languages, enriched with strong social consciousness and a powerful creative



voice rooted in the Telugu language. The award was presented to Dr. Peruka Raju at a special Celebration held on Sunday at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad.

A proud son of Telangana, Dr. Raju is currently serving as a Junior Commissioned Officer in the

Indian Army under the Ministry of Defence. As a national poet, author, and multilingual scholar, he has earned widespread acclaim for bridging cultures and emotions across diverse Indian languages.

His poetic expressions, often referred to as "Raju Palukulu," have

captivated audiences with their depth and lyrical elegance.

Beyond literature, Dr. Raju is actively involved in social service. With a vision to uplift the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society, he founded the voluntary organization "MyGift," which is rendering services across the nation. His life philosophy, "Encouragement is the greatest gift," continues to inspire many.

Dr. Peruka Raju has received numerous prestigious honors and has firmly established himself as a prominent literary voice at the national level. His selection for this distinguished award has been

widely appreciated. His thirteenth publication, "Saagu," is a collection of translated stories from various Indian languages.

The event was graced by several eminent personalities including Dr. Ranjith (Director), Rajasekhar (Industrialist), Prithviraj (Actor), Daivajna Sharma, Bikka Nayak (Producer), Veera Boga Vasanta Rayalu, Chanakya (Actor), Ramesh, along with other film personalities, literary figures, artists, and youth. The cultural performances, especially by children, were a major highlight and received warm appreciation from the audience.

We will not allow CM to rest if he failed to continue fee reimbursement scheme: Krishnaiah

HYDERABAD

Rajya Sabha member and the President of the National BC Welfare Association R. Krishnaiah on Sunday warned that they would not let CM Revanth Reddy rest until the fee reimbursement scheme—introduced for the educational advancement of students—was continued without any changes.

He alleged that the state government was conspiring to scrap this scheme and stated that they would extend their protest movement down to the village level. Furthermore, he declared that in June, they would lay siege to the Chief Minister's residence with 500,000 students, and would also stage gheraos to prevent state ministers and MLAs from moving freely across the state. He made these remarks while addressing a gathering.

He participated as the chief guest at a meeting held in Basheerbagh under the aegis of various BC student, youth



and welfare associations. The meeting was presided over by the association's Executive President, Neela Venkatesh and the Youth Association President Jillavalli Anji.

Speaking on this occasion, R. Krishnaiah recalled that during former CM Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure as Chief Minister, he had undertaken a five-day hunger strike unto death to successfully secure the Fee Reimbursement Scheme. He noted that the subsequent Chief Ministers—K. Rosaiah and N. Kiran Kumar Reddy—had attempted to scrap this scheme but failed and added that KCR subsequently continued the scheme as before. However, he lashed out at CM Revanth Reddy, alleging that since becoming Chief Minister, he was conspiring to abolish the scheme—thereby preventing the poor students from pursuing their education—while simultaneously paying

thousands of crores of rupees to contractors.

He criticized the administration for failing to pay the fee reimbursements to the poor students even as they plunge the state into debt by borrowing lakhs of crores of rupees. He alleged that vast sums of money were being spent to fracture the BC movements and public agitations thereby driving the state to ruin. He claimed that while some leaders are left to travel in buses, others were unjustly and illegally amassing thousands of crores of rupees and looting hundreds of acres of land.

R. Krishnaiah warned that he would lodge a formal complaint with Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding these acts of corruption, irregularities and looting. He asserted that the education and healthcare must be provided free of cost. He demanded that the state government—upholding the rights enshrined in the Constitution—immediately clear the pending fee reimbursement dues and revoke Government Order (G.O.) No. 7.

"Congress is the Main Obstacle to the Country's Development"

- Teacher MLC Malka Komaraiah Criticizes Congress Party's Approach
- Nari Shakti Abhiyan media meeting organized by BJP Mahila Morcha at Peddapalli district party office on Sunday
- Teacher MLC Malka Komaraiah made interesting remarks during the event

HYDERABAD

Teacher MLC Malka Komaraiah stated that the Congress has become a hindrance to the country's development. Speaking as the chief guest at a media meeting organized by the district Mahila Morcha during his visit to Peddapalli on Sunday, he made these remarks.

He recalled that for the past 32 years, the BJP has been striving to provide 33% reservation for women in legislative bodies. He alleged that since the time of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Congress has consistently



opposed this bill. He said that Congress does not want women in the country to progress politically, and that is why it has repeatedly obstructed the Women's Reservation Bill whenever it was introduced in the Lok Sabha.

He further criticized the Congress alliance for blocking the Constituency Delimitation Bill, stating that the people of the country are observing their actions.

He added that while Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working towards mak-

ing India a leading nation in all sectors by 2047, the "deceptive Congress and its allies" are misleading both women and the public for political gain. He expressed confidence that the people will give a fitting response to such actions.

The event was attended by District President Karre Sanjeeva Reddy, State Media Representative Abhishek Jagini, Ramagundam candidate Kandula Sandhya Rani, and Nari Shakti Abhiyan District Convener Chiluka Bharati.



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SHORT TAKES

KTR Extends Best Wishes to Students Appearing for NEET



HYDERABAD: On the occasion of the NEET UG 2026 exam being conducted nationwide today (May 3), K. T. Rama Rao, the working president of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), conveyed his heartfelt wishes to students. Taking to social media, he encouraged aspirants and boosted their morale. He said that years of hard work and dedication have brought students to this stage and wished them success in the examination. KTR advised students not to feel anxious during the exam and to remain calm. "Have confidence in your preparation. Stay relaxed and give your best effort while writing the exam," he said in his message.

Joint Warangal District: Posters Released for "Rythu Sangrama Sadas" on May 6



WARANGAL

Wall posters for the "Rythu Sangrama Sadas" (Farmers' Struggle Meeting), scheduled to be held on May 6 at Hunter Road in Hanumakonda, were unveiled along with key leaders from the undivided Warangal district.

Speaking on the occasion, former State Corporation Chairman Dr. Kethireddy Vasudeva Reddy criticized the Congress government, stating that the "farmer declaration" has no direction and farmers are left without support.

He announced that K. T. Rama Rao, working president of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), will attend the

farmers' representatives' meeting in Warangal as the chief guest. He called upon thousands of farmer representatives from across the district to participate and make the event a success.

He alleged that it has been 30 months since Rahul Gandhi announced the Congress Farmers' Declaration on May 6, 2022, at the Arts & Science College grounds in Warangal ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, but the Congress government has failed to implement its promises.

According to him, the "Rythu Sangrama Sadas" is being organized to expose what he described as the Congress government's "betrayal" of farmers for not implementing the dec-

laration.

He further criticized that before elections, Congress had promised ₹15,000 annually under Rythu Bharosa, ₹15,000 per acre for tenant farmers, and ₹12,000 for agricultural laborers, but failed to deliver. He claimed that not only were promises ignored, but farmers are also struggling to sell their produce.

He asserted that as the main opposition, BRS will take responsibility to raise awareness among farmers and fight on their behalf.

Praising former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, he said that during the previous BRS government, schemes like Rythu Bandhu (financial

assistance of ₹10,000 per acre annually), Rythu Bima, and 24-hour free electricity significantly supported farmers. He added that under KCR's leadership, crops were procured fully from farmers.

In contrast, he alleged that under the current Congress government led by Revanth Reddy, farmers are facing difficulties, including lack of procurement and government negligence despite harsh summer conditions.

He also accused the Congress government of engaging in "diversion politics" out of fear of BRS, claiming that alternative events like "Rythu Melas" in Warangal are attempts to divert attention from the farmers' meeting.

"Farmers' Week Celebrations as Part of Praja Palana - Pragati Pranalika"

■ To be conducted across the state from May 4 to May 9

■ Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao to inaugurate the program tomorrow in Tandur

■ Minister Tummala to launch TG Organics App today

HYDERABAD

Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao announced that Farmers' Week celebrations will be conducted across the state from May 4 to May 9 as part of the Praja Palana - Pragati Pranalika initiative. He stated that the objective of this program is to directly engage with farmers and ensure that government schemes, technologies, and services reach every farmer through coordinated efforts of various departments.

The minister explained that the Farmers' Week has been designed as a doorstep initiative for farmers. Through the collective efforts of agriculture and allied departments, the program aims to build confidence among farmers ahead of the upcoming agricultural season. He directed officials to ensure proper coordination among departments and instructed district collectors, acting as nodal officers, to focus on the quality implementation of the programs.

The minister said that each day will be dedicated to a specific department. On the

first day, under the Agriculture Department, awareness will be created on soil health, balanced fertilizer usage, and natural farming. On the second day, the Horticulture Department will focus on crop diversification and micro-irrigation. On the third day, the Cooperation and Marketing Departments will provide information on market linkages and loan facilities.

On the fourth day, demonstrations on mechanization, drone usage, and solar energy solutions will be conducted. On the fifth day, the Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Departments will raise awareness on animal health and increasing fish production. On the final day, the Irrigation Department will provide guidance on pre-monsoon preparedness and water resource management.

The Farmers' Week will be inaugurated tomorrow (May 4) in Tandur by Minister Tummala. On this occasion, he will also launch the TG Organics app, aimed at establishing a strong system for marketing organic products under government supervision. He called upon public representatives, officials, and farmers across the state to participate in large numbers.

He added that modern technology demonstrations will be a major attraction of the celebrations and reaffirmed the government's commitment to farmers' welfare and agricultural development.

Brother of Lyricist Chandrabose Dies of Heart Attack

Grief in Challagari Village

JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY / CHITYAL :



The elder brother of noted film lyricist and Oscar award winner Chandrabose, Kanukuntla Rajender (60), passed away on Sunday due to a heart attack. His death has cast a pall of gloom over Challagari village in Chityal mandal of Jayashankar Bhupalpally district.

Rajender was one of the three sons of Kanukuntla Narasayya and Madhumamma from Challagari village, the others being Koti and Chandrabose. Rajender, the eldest, had previously worked as a conductor. He was also briefly associated with the Praja Rajyam Party in the past. Later, he stayed away from politics and was engaged in business activities.

His sudden demise has left family members and close associates in shock. Rajender had traveled on Saturday to meet a friend in Kalikiri mandal headquarters of Annamayya district. He stayed overnight at his friend's house, but on Sunday morning, he suddenly fell seriously ill. Complaining of chest pain, his

friends immediately rushed him to a nearby private hospital. While undergoing emergency treatment, his condition worsened, and despite doctors' efforts, he passed away.

Upon receiving the news, Chandrabose's family members were deeply grief-stricken. Film personalities and fans of Chandrabose have expressed their condolences. His death has brought deep sorrow to his native village, Challagari. It may be recalled that villagers had recently honored Chandrabose grandly in his native village after his Oscar win, and Rajender had played a key role in organizing that event. Known for taking care of matters related to his brother, Rajender's sudden death has left the family devastated. Funeral arrangements are being made, and the last rites will be conducted as per traditional customs.

BJP Terms PM Modi's Visit a 'Festival of Development'

NV Subhash, BJP, Chief Spokesperson and Media Incharge

HYDERABAD

The state unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has described the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Telangana as a "festival of development," expressing confidence that the occasion will energize party cadre and mark a significant milestone in the state's growth trajectory.

In an official statement, BJP Chief Spokesperson N V Subash said the Prime Minister's visit will witness the inauguration and foundation-laying of development projects worth ₹7,823 crore, aimed at accelerating Telangana's progress and positioning it among the top-performing states in the country.

Highlighting key initiatives, Subash stated that projects worth ₹1,695 crore focused on promoting the legacy of the erstwhile Kakatiya dynasty in Warangal district will be launched. He noted that the flagship PM MITRA Ka-



katia Mega Textile Park is set to be dedicated to the nation, which is expected to transform the region into a major textile hub.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate the AIIMS facility at Bibinagar, built at an estimated cost of ₹2,000 crore, offering world-class healthcare services. The hospital is expected to significantly benefit economically weaker sections by providing affordable and accessible treatment.

Further, Subash said that several major infrastructure projects undertaken over the past decade under the Central government will either be inaugurated or reviewed during the visit. These include

enhanced railway connectivity between Kazipet and Vijayawada, progress on the Mahabubnagar National Highway, the Malkapuram Petroleum Terminal, and the Sammakka-Sarakka Tribal University, among others.

He asserted that Telangana has witnessed unprecedented infrastructure development under the present Central government and urged all political parties to rise above differences and support initiatives that contribute to the state's growth. He also criticized what he termed as "misleading propaganda" by sections of the Opposition on issues such as delimitation and the Women's Reservation Bill.

The BJP has appealed to people from all walks of life, irrespective of political affiliations, to participate in the Prime Minister's visit on May 10, which will culminate in a massive public meeting at the Secunderabad Parade Grounds.

The party has called upon citizens across Telangana to attend the public meeting in large numbers and make the event a grand success.

Environmental Clearance for Innovative Ramagundam Coal Mine Project

- A unique integrated project designed to extract coal reserves from 2 opencast mines and 3 underground mines
- Innovative planning for maximum utilization of underground coal reserves
- Optimum utilization of 314.98 million tonnes of coal reserves
- Annual coal production target: 21 million tonnes
- Coal mining operations to continue for 25 years
- A project set to breathe new life into the Ramagundam Region

HYDERABAD (SINGARENI BHAVAN)

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has received a major boost as the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, has recently agreed to grant preliminary environmental clearance for the innovative Ramagundam Coal Mine Project, for which SCCL had been awaiting approval for a long time. SCCL management received official communication from the Ministry on Friday, and the formal clearance documents are expected within the next 10 days.

The successful clearance is the result of the efforts made under the guidance of SCCL Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti, along with the dedicated work of directors and officials.

SCCL management expressed happiness over receiving preliminary environmental clearance for this innovative project, which has been designed with the highest-ever annual coal production capacity in SCCL's history — 21 million tonnes per annum.

The project has been formulated to compensate for production loss from depleting old mines and to extract 314.98 million tonnes of recoverable coal reserves located within the limits of two opencast mines and three underground mines that already possess basic approvals.

The coal produced from this project will primarily be supplied to NTPC Ramagundam and other coal-based industries under fuel supply agreements.

Maximum Utilization of Nature's Valuable Coal Resources

The project aims to completely recover the remaining coal reserves in the closed GDK-10 Incline Mine and the soon-to-be-closed Vakilpalli Underground Mine by converting them into opencast mines. Along with this, SCCL has integrated the remaining coal reserves located in the boundary areas of:

Ramagundam Opencast Project-1 Expansion Phase-II

Ramagundam Opencast Project-2 Expansion

Adriyala Shaft Underground Expansion Project

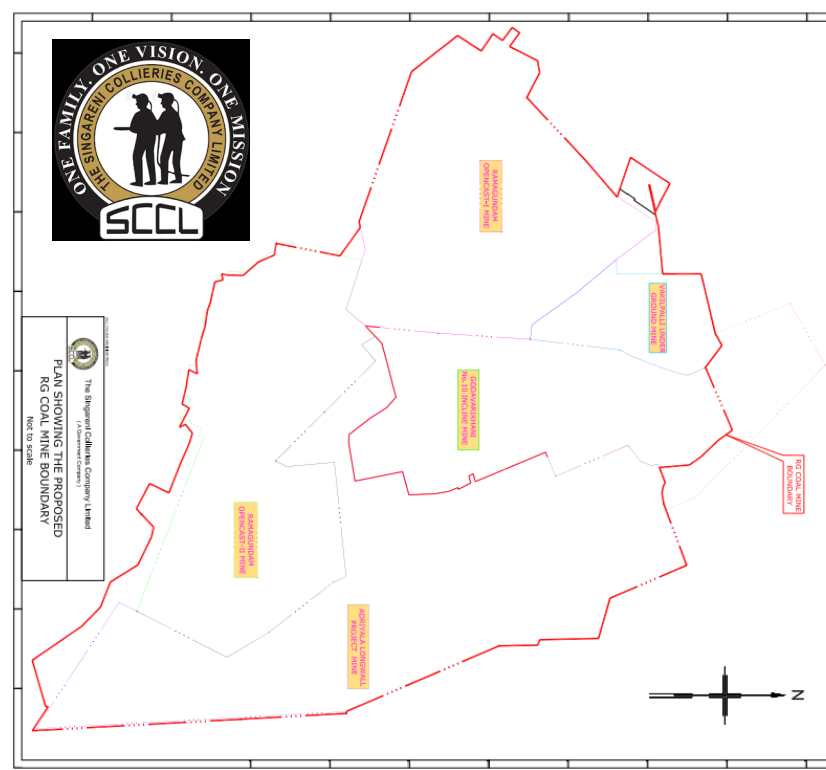
All these mining areas have been combined into one integrated and unique project named the Ramagundam Coal Mine Project.

The project has been designed to utilize the existing approvals efficiently and produce coal with minimum additional investment and without causing environmental disturbance.

Besides compensating for the declining production from old mines, this project is expected to extend the operational life of the Ramagundam Region by another 25 years.

Special Features of the Project

Generally, even after underground mining operations are completed, some coal



reserves remain unextracted within the mine.

In order to utilize these valuable natural coal resources instead of leaving them abandoned, SCCL has previously converted closed underground mine areas into opencast mines and successfully extracted coal.

Examples include

- Gautamkhani Opencast Mine in Kothagudem
- Manuguru Opencast Mine in Manuguru
- Several other opencast projects
- Recently approved VK Coal Mine in Kothagudem

Similarly, SCCL proposed opencast mining in:

The closed GDK-10 Incline Mine in RG-1 Area containing 56.79 million tonnes of residual coal

The Vakilpalli Underground Mine in RG-2 Area, where 28.99 million tonnes of coal will remain after closure

Additionally, the project includes extraction of:

- 25.98 million tonnes of coal left in the safety barrier zone between these mines and RG OC-1 Expansion Phase-II
- 3.90 million tonnes of nearby coal reserves

Remaining coal reserves at the boundary pillars of RG OC-2 Expansion Project and Adriyala Shaft Underground Expansion Project

Under this integrated project:

182.28 million tonnes of coal will be extracted through opencast mining

132.70 million tonnes will be extracted through underground mining

The average coal grade identified in the project area is G-10.

To facilitate mining in all five mine areas, SCCL decided to obtain certain additional clearances over and above the existing approvals, thereby shaping the project into a new integrated venture under the name Ramagundam Coal Mine.

How the Project Will Be Executed

Initially, the closed GDK-10 Incline Underground Mine will be converted into an opencast mine. Mining operations will continue from the existing OC-1 mine using the shovel-dumper method.

The overburden generated during mining will be dumped into the voids created after coal extraction in the existing RG OC-1 Expansion Phase-II quarry. It is estimated that coal extraction from the GDK-10 Incline area will take approximately 8 years.

Subsequently, the Vakilpalli Underground Mine will also be converted into an opencast mine. The overburden generated there will be dumped into the quarry void created after completion of mining in the GDK-10 area.

Thus, although the underground mines are being converted into opencast mines, the quarry voids created there will be scientifically backfilled using the overburden generated from the same mines themselves.

This can be considered a major environmentally sustainable initiative.

Mining operations in the other opencast mines forming part of the Ramagundam Coal Mine Project will also continue simultaneously.

The overall coal extraction will be carried out using:

- Longwall mining
- Continuous miners
- Bord & Pillar miners
- Road headers
- Shovel-dumper systems
- Project Requirements and Investment
- Total land required: 4,326.08 hectares
- SCCL employees to be engaged: 5,403
- Contract workers to be engaged: 600
- Total capital investment: ₹2,194.05 crore

A Boon for the Ramagundam Region

Several old mines across the three areas of the Ramagundam Region are gradually closing down. In this context, the RG Coal Mine Project is expected to become a major support system by:

Providing employment opportunities to workers from closing mines

Compensating for coal production losses

Sustaining economic activity in the region

Approximately 5,500 employees are expected to get employment opportunities under this project.

From a business perspective as well, the project is considered a significant opportunity for SCCL. For decades, SCCL has been supplying coal to NTPC Ramagundam, which remains SCCL's largest consumer.

With older mines closing, SCCL could have faced difficulties in supplying sufficient coal to NTPC. However, with the approval of the Ramagundam Coal Mine Project, SCCL's long-standing business relationship with NTPC is expected to continue without interruption.

Therefore, this new project can truly be described as a major boon for Singareni.

India Dismisses Nepal's Lipulekh Yatra Objection

NEW DELHI: (MAY 3)

India on Sunday trashed Nepal's objection to conduct of upcoming Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the decades-old route of Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and asserted that such "unilateral artificial enlargement" of territorial claims is "untenable". New Delhi's sharp reaction came hours after the Nepal foreign ministry issued a statement strongly objecting to India and China making preparations for the annual pilgrimage via Lipulekh Pass without consulting Kathmandu, which claims the region belongs to it. Last week, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced that the annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra will take place from June to August via two routes -- Lipulekh Pass and Nathu La in Sikkim.

UP Cleric Killed in Hit-and-Run; Hunt On for Driver in Saharanpur

SAHARANPUR (UP): (MAY 3)

A 35-year-old cleric was killed after being hit by an unidentified vehicle in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur district, police said on Sunday, adding that efforts are underway to trace the vehicle. According to police sources, the deceased, Tarvez, a resident of Khujnawar village, worked as a teacher at a madrasa and also led prayers at a mosque. Early on Sunday, he had gone to drop his nephews at Chhutmalpur. While returning, an unidentified vehicle hit him near a petrol pump on Kalsia Road. The driver fled the scene after the accident, police said.

YSRCP criticises CM Chandrababu Naidu for using 'derogatory' terms to describe party

AMARAVATI, MAY 3

YSR Congress Party on Sunday strongly criticised Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for terming YSRCP an 'axe party'. Hitting hard at CM Naidu's remarks, the opposition party turned into a 'golden goose' for him, and he has been digging away at people's welfare like a crowbar. Speaking to the media in Nellore on Sunday, former Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy lashed out at Chandrababu Naidu and TDP for calling the opposition an 'axe party' and said it is he who has been a symbol of a crowbar, churning out the



exchequer to benefit himself and his coterie. Chandrababu Naidu and other TDP leaders, while accusing YSRCP of practising politics of murder, have been calling the opposition party an 'axe party'. "Amaravati has become a golden goose for Chandrababu and his coterie as they have been digging out huge amounts from the exchequer through inflated contracts on one hand and depriving people of health, education, medical care, besides ditching farmers, women, youth and other sections of society," said Govardhan

Reddy. He alleged that state finances are being looted as the government is paying an exorbitant construction price of Rs 20,489 per sq ft in Amaravati. He remarked that this is unheard of anywhere in the country, as the standard rate is just around Rs 4,500 per sq ft. "The contracts were given to his favoured few who were given work during his earlier term, and the rates were increased manifold in an organised manner," he said. The former minister claimed that the Telangana Secretariat and the Parliament Bhavan were constructed at just a fraction of the cost being spent by Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati, which shows

the level of corruption. "From usurping the TDP and the Chief Minister's post from the party founder NTR, it has become a pattern for him to dig deep and change colours to further his political career, besides rampant corruption and manipulation, which has been his nature," he said. The YSRCP leader said that the Mahanadu being held here will have no impact on voters as they have decided to give YSRCP a clean sweep in the ensuing elections. "His calling YSRCP names has no impact as people have come to believe that they have been cheated once again, and Chandrababu Naidu has failed to implement his poll promises," he added.



"Benefit to Rural Andhra through the Innovative Ideas of Pawan Kalyan"

A sanitation revolution has been brought to villages with "Magic Drains". This is an effective solution to wastewater problems in villages. Saves 80% of construction costs compared to cement drains. Noted badminton player P. V. Sindhu

AMARAVATI, MAY 3:

Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Pawan Kalyan, has found an excellent solution in the form of Magic Drains. These drains, equipped with soak pits, make wastewater from households disappear within moments. Through three-layer filter beds, the water is purified and converted into groundwater. Magic Drains provide an effective solution to issues like water stagnation and foul odor. Compared to conventional cement drains, Magic Drains reduce construction costs by 80%. They not only protect the health of rural people but also improve sanitation. They enable people to lead healthier lives.

Renowned badminton player and Olympic medalist Mrs. P. V. Sindhu expressed her opinion that the Deputy Chief Minister of the state, Mr. Pawan Kalyan, is implementing revolutionary ideas to achieve the goal of a clean and healthy rural Andhra Pradesh. She described the "Magic Drains," which originated from his ideas, as a game-changer in solving sewage problems in villages. In a video message released expressing her views on his 20 months of governance, she expressed happiness over the implementation of innovative methods like Magic Drains. Speaking on the occasion, P. V. Sindhu said: "Although governance is new to him, Mr. Pawan Kalyan is exploring solutions to public problems through innovative programs. A majority of our country's population lives in rural areas. However, sanitation in villages remains a major challenge. Due to the lack of proper drainage systems, people often live in unhygienic conditions. For this problem, the Deputy Chief

For the development of Andhra Pradesh and its people, I hope that Mr. Pawan Kalyan will continue to undertake more such forward-looking innovative programs in the future. With the support of Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi and under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, I wish that rural Andhra Pradesh progresses in all sectors under the vision of Mr. Pawan Kalyan."

Centre releases over Rs 17,744 crore as wage payments under MGNREGA

NEW DELHI, MAY 3

The Centre has released over Rs 17,744 crore as the first instalment towards the wage component for workers through direct benefit transfer under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for 2026-27, a senior official confirmed. For FY27, Rs 30,000 crore has been allocated to MGNREGA to clear pending dues before shifting to the upcoming VB-GRAMIN initiative, which has a budget of Rs 95,692 crore. By March 11, 2026, over Rs 81,500 crore was released for the financial year 2025-26, including Rs 65,875 crore for wages and Rs 15,627 crore for material and administration costs. While employment saw a monthly dip in early



FY27, as many as 43 crore person-days were approved for May 2026, which is higher than 30 crore person-days for April. Funds are directly credited to worker accounts via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), ensuring transparency. The government is transitioning to the VB-GRAMIN initiative, which promises 125 days of employment and higher wages. A senior official said that Viksit Bharat - G RAM G is an "upgrade of MGNREGA", and the scheme balances the interests of both farmers and labourers by providing a statutory guarantee of 125 days of employment instead of 100 days, along with better wages, unemployment allowance and legal safeguards such as payment of interest in case of delays. The Central Government has made the largest-ever budgetary provision of Rs 95,692 crore for the Viksit Bharat - G RAM G scheme, representing the Centre's share alone, he added. The Central Government has released more than Rs 7.81 lakh crore over the 10 years from 2014-15 to 2024-25, under MGNREGA, which has resulted in the creation of 8.07 crore rural assets. This represents a sharp increase from the allocation of Rs 2.13 lakh crore in the previous decade (2006-07 to 2013-14), which resulted in the creation of 1.53 crore rural assets, according to an official statement. The number of person-days of employment created under the scheme has gone up by 82 per cent to 3,029 crores. The annual allocation for the scheme jumped from Rs 1,660 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 86,000 crore in the Budget for 2025-26. The work taken up under MGNREGA is related to agriculture and allied activities,

natural resource management and rural infrastructure. Various water-related works such as check dams, farm ponds, community ponds and irrigation open wells are taken up under the scheme. The Government's continued thrust on water conservation has yielded remarkable results, with a 35 per cent reduction in the number of water-stressed rural blocks from 2,264 to 1,456 in the last decade, the statement said. Another major success is in the form of Mission Amrit Sarovar, which has led to the creation of over 68,000 Amrit Sarovars in the country in Phase I. Currently, Phase II of Mission Amrit Sarovar has been rolled out with a renewed focus on water availability with community participation, Jan Bhagidari, at its core.

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Tamil Nadu at crucial political crossroads as state awaits verdict

CHENNAI, MAY 3

Tamil Nadu stands at a crucial political crossroads as the counting of votes for the 2026 Assembly elections will be taken up on Monday, with the ruling DMK seeking another term, the AIADMK-BJP alliance fighting to regain lost ground, and actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) emerging as the biggest new variable in the state's Dravidian political landscape. Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK), led by actor-politician Seeman, is also in the fray, leading to a tough four-cornered contest in the state. Polling was held on April 23 for all 234 Assembly constituencies, and the Election Commission has confirmed that 4.88 crore voters cast their ballots. Counting will be held on May 4. For Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, the election is a test of whether the DMK's welfare-heavy governance model, social justice plank and alliance management can withstand anti-incumbency. The DMK-led front has projected confidence, with Tamil Nadu Congress President K. Selvaperunthagai



claiming that the alliance could cross 200 seats. The AIADMK, led by Edappadi K. Palaniswami, has attempted to consolidate anti-DMK votes through its alliance with the BJP, PMK and AMMK. However, the presence of the BJP within the alliance has made the contest ideologically sharper, particularly in a state where Dravidian politics has traditionally resisted the BJP's national narrative. The most unpredictable factor is Vijay's TVK. Several exit polls have indicated a strong debut for the party, with one projection giving the TVK a surprisingly high tally, even as most polls placed the DMK ahead. Vijay has positioned his party as politically opposed to the DMK and ideologically opposed to the BJP,

making him a potential kingmaker if the verdict is fractured. The election has also brought security concerns to centre stage. The TVK has urged enhanced protection at counting centres after incidents targeting party offices, while the authorities have prepared security arrangements across counting locations. Beyond the immediate numbers, the verdict may decide whether Tamil Nadu continues with the familiar DMK-AIADMK bipolar order or enters a new phase of multi-cornered politics. A clear DMK victory would strengthen Stalin's leadership and reinforce the ruling alliance's dominance. An AIADMK-led comeback would revive Palaniswami's stature and validate his alliance strategy. A strong TVK performance, even without power, could reshape the state's political grammar ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. As Tamil Nadu waits for Monday's verdict, the central question is no longer only who forms the government, but whether the state's long-standing Dravidian political structure is about to be rewritten.

Karnataka MLA Ousted After Murder Conviction; Dharwad Seat Vacant

The Karnataka Assembly has disqualified Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni after his conviction in the Yogeshgouda Goudar murder case. The Dharwad seat is now vacant, and the disqualification will continue unless a court stays his conviction.



has fallen vacant as a result. CONVICTION AND SENTENCING Kulkarni was convicted on April 15 by a special court in Bengaluru in connection with the 2016 of Yogeshgouda Goudar, a BJP Zilla Panchayat member. The court found him guilty under multiple IPC provisions, including criminal conspiracy and murder. Two days later, on April 17, the court sentenced Kulkarni and 15 others to life imprisonment. He is currently serving his sentence in prison.

2016 MURDER CASE The case dates back to June 15, 2016, when Goudar was attacked and hacked to death by hired assailants inside a gym in Dharwad's Saptapur area. Kulkarni was a minister in the

state government at the time. Following sustained demands from Goudar's family and political leaders, the case was handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 2019 by the then BJP government. In its supplementary chargesheet filed in 2020, the CBI named Kulkarni as the "main conspirator," alleging that he viewed Goudar as a rising political rival and orchestrated the by hiring contract killers.

LEGAL BATTLES AND BAIL HISTORY

Kulkarni was arrested by the CBI in 2020 and later granted bail by the Supreme Court in August 2021, with conditions including a restriction on entering Dharwad district. However, in June 2025, the apex court cancelled his bail citing allegations of witness tampering and attempts to influence prosecution witnesses. His subsequent bail plea was rejected by the High Court in January 2026.

The Supreme Court granted him bail again on February 27, 2026, noting that examination of all witnesses in the trial had been completed.

Vizag-Bound LPG Tanker Safely Clears Hormuz Strait

NEW DELHI, MAY 3

MT Sarv Shakti, carrying 46,313 MT of LPG, safely sailed through the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday and is expected to arrive at Visakhapatnam on May 13 with the Indian cooking gas cargo, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said on Sunday. The Marshall Islands-flagged ship has 20 crew members onboard, of whom as many as 18 are Indians, a ministry statement said. The ship, carrying over 45,000 tonnes of LPG, was earlier tracked moving into the Gulf of Oman after passing near Iran's Larak and Qeshm islands on Saturday, according to ship-tracking data. Sarv Shakti, a very large gas carrier, has previously op-

erated on routes between the Persian Gulf and Indian ports. It was broadcasting its Indian destination and crew details, a safety protocol widely adopted by vessels navigating the region since the outbreak of conflict involving Iran.

The vessel's journey is significant as it represents the first known passage by an India-linked tanker since a US-led blockade targeting ships associated with Iran began weeks ago. The restrictions had effectively reduced tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz to near-zero levels, disrupting one of the world's most critical energy corridors. Sarv Shakti is also among the largest carriers to navigate the route since a brief and chaotic reopening of the strait last month, which was



quickly followed by renewed restrictions. Meanwhile, the ministry also said that all Indian seafarers in the Middle East are also reported safe, and no incident involving Indian-flagged vessels has been reported in the past 24 hours. It said it has put in place the necessary measures to safeguard Indian vessels and seafarers operating in the Gulf region. DG Shipping Control Room has handled 8,373 calls and more than 17,965 emails since activation. In the past 24 hours, 38 calls and 127 emails have been received. The Ministry, through the Directorate General of Shipping

(DG Shipping), has facilitated the safe repatriation of more than 2,953 Indian seafarers so far, including 31 in the last 24 hours from various locations across the Gulf region, the statement said. Port operations across India remain normal, with no congestion reported. The government is giving high priority to the welfare of Indian seafarers in the region. Indian missions are extending all assistance to them, including coordination with the local authorities and agencies, extending consular assistance, and assisting with requests to return to India, the statement said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) continues to monitor developments in the Gulf and West Asia region, with focused ef-

orts on ensuring the safety, security and welfare of the Indian community in the region.

It is in regular contact with state governments and Union Territory administrations for the sharing of information and better alignment of efforts. Indian embassies and consulates continue to operate round-the-clock helplines to provide timely assistance and are proactively assisting our citizens. They are also in close contact with the local governments, the statement said. Updated advisories are being issued, including information related to local government guidelines, flight and travel situations, consular services and various welfare measures being undertaken for the community, the statement added.

27 children among 58 hospitalised after eating roadside snack in Odisha

Fifty-eight people, including 27 children, were hospitalised after allegedly eating dahi-bara in Odisha's Jajpur district. The state has sent samples for testing and formed three teams to investigate the incident.

A total of 58 people, including 27 children, had to be hospitalised as they fell ill after allegedly consuming a local delicacy at a village in Odisha's Jajpur district, police have said. The incident occurred in Patapur village under the Dasarathapur block on Friday. They had eaten 'Cuttack Dahi-bara' from a local vendor, and soon after, complained of vomiting and fever, police said. They were admitted to the Dasarathapur Community Health Centre and Jajpur District Headquarters Hospital. Jajpur District Collector Ambar Kumar Kar said 21 people have been discharged from the hospi-

tal after treatment. Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling visited the District Headquarters Hospital in Jajpur and enquired about the condition of the people admitted there. "As many as 58 people, including 27 children, were admitted to the hospital. Preliminary reports suggest it was due to consumption of 'dahi-bara'. We have collected the food and water samples and sent those for testing," he told reporters. Later, in a post on X, he said, "Today, the Jajpur District Collector visited the District Headquarters Hospital, met with the patients undergoing treatment there, and inquired about their health condition." The state government has formed three independent teams to investigate the incident, the minister said. "The government is also taking necessary steps to ensure that the sick individuals under treatment receive the best possible medical care," Mahaling added.

Cong appoints DPCC vice presidents, general secretaries, forms political affairs panel

NEW DELHI: (May 3) The Congress on Sunday announced a fresh organisational rejig in its Delhi unit, appointing a new set of vice presidents and general secretaries, and constituting a 31-member Political Affairs Committee with immediate effect. In two separate statements issued by AICC general secretary K C Venugopal, the party said the appointments

to the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) were approved by the Congress president. Twelve leaders -- Surender Kumar, Hari Shankar Gupta, Bhisam Sharma, C P Mittal, Kamal Kant Sharma, Jagjivan Sharma, Abha Chaudhary, Tasveer Solanki, Mudit Aggarwal, Laxman Rawat, Ali Mehandi and Abdul Hannan -- have been named as vice presidents.

EDITORIAL

OPEN FORUM

COALITION ETIQUETTE AND
AMBITION: THE UDF'S PRE-ELECTION
TURMOIL IN KERALA

For several weeks, the Congress leadership in Kerala has been prematurely celebrating, essentially counting its chickens before they hatch. Senior figures within the party have been actively jockeying for the Chief Minister's chair, operating under the firm assumption that the United Democratic Front (UDF) is destined for victory in the Assembly elections scheduled for May 4. Just as the party high command attempted to suppress this unseemly public exhibition of personal ambition, its most critical coalition partner further complicated the situation. Panakkad Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal, the State president of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), stepped into the fray by publicly endorsing V.D. Satheesan for the Chief Minister's post. This endorsement relied on exit polls of questionable authority, as Thangal urged the Congress central leadership to allow perceived public sentiment to dictate the final selection.

The repercussions of this public stance were instantaneous and severe. Sectarian leaders, who have long been stoking anti-Muslim rhetoric, immediately seized the opportunity to claim that the Congress and the broader UDF are firmly within the IUML's stranglehold. This accusation is fueled by a historical narrative; the IUML's historically maximalist demands regarding seat sharing, cabinet positions, and specific portfolios have bolstered the impression of their dominance. These political maneuvers are at least partially responsible for the escalating tensions between the Muslim community and the Hindu and Christian communities—a social realignment that has significantly benefited the BJP's growth in the state. Whether the UDF has managed to prevent the total disintegration of its diverse social base in this election remains a major question. The IUML's recent public posturing serves as a sharp reminder of the behaviors the Front must avoid if it hopes to remain a viable political force amidst rapid social shifts.

The established conventions of coalition politics in Kerala are well-defined and have remained stable for many decades. It is extremely rare for a single party to achieve an absolute majority; instead, the various partners within a Front collectively secure the necessary numbers. Traditionally, the lead party—the Congress in the UDF or the CPI(M) in the Left Democratic Front (LDF)—first elects its own legislature party leader. That individual is subsequently accepted by the entire Front as the Chief Minister. There is virtually no historical record of a junior partner in either coalition breaking this decorum by interfering in the lead party's selection process.

Furthermore, neither major Front contested the current election with a formally declared chief ministerial candidate. Even the incumbent Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, was not officially named as the LDF's candidate for the top post during the campaign. In both political blocs, the Chief Minister typically emerges through a standardized two-step process that involves the newly elected MLAs and the central leadership of the respective lead party. In both the UDF and LDF, highly popular leaders have frequently missed out on the top position simply because the number of serious contenders always exceeds the single available post. The IUML would ultimately benefit its own interests, the integrity of coalition culture, and the delicate social fabric of Kerala much more effectively by respecting these long-standing boundaries. Simultaneously, the Congress high command must act to prove that political maneuvers intended to embarrass the party result in a cost rather than a reward.

“
The real test is not how fast we grow, but how well we endure. Sustainable progress demands more than momentum; it demands resilience, reform, and readiness for the storms ahead
”

Indian Economy in 2026-27: Riding the Growth Wave

In the first quarter of the 2026-27 financial year, the Indian economy is sending a mixed bag of signals. On one hand, the manufacturing and services sectors are expanding at a robust pace, with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) standing strong at 55.9 and 58.3, respectively. On the other hand, rising geopolitical tensions—especially the crisis in West Asia—have pushed raw material and fuel prices to a three-year high. When these two opposing trends collide, it brings us to a million-dollar question: is this growth built on solid ground, or is it just a temporary resilience against mounting pressures?

The Double-Edged Sword of PMI and Input Costs:

The PMI is generally seen as a key indicator of industrial expansion. However, in the current scenario, it is revealing more than just growth; it is exposing underlying pressures. The manufacturing sector is witnessing a rise in new orders and a steady expansion in employment, indicating that domestic demand is holding its ground. At the same time, input costs are increasing at a breakneck speed. The surge in raw material and fuel prices is directly hitting manufacturers. Because they cannot pass on the entire cost to the consumers, their profit margins are shrinking. In the long run, this could act as a wet blanket on investment sentiment.

The Cost-Driven Expansion in Services:

The services sector also shows strong growth, but the pinch of rising expenses is equally visible here. Rising costs in transportation, electricity, and operational management are pushing up the prices of services. While consumer demand was able to absorb this shock initially, prolonged price pressure could take a toll on household consumption. Therefore, the current growth looks more like an expansion bearing the heavy weight of costs rather than a smooth and natural progression.

Navigating the Inflationary Storm:

Inflation paints a similarly complex picture. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) has risen to 3.4 percent for three consecutive months, which is a clear warning sign. Food price volatility remains the main culprit behind this trend. While fluctuating prices of vegetables and cooking oil have an immediate impact, the real concern is the long-term threat posed by changing weather patterns. El Nino condi-

slowdown in demand in major markets like the US and Europe is dampening our export growth, which poses a long-term threat to industrial expansion and job creation. On the domestic front, the skills gap remains a major hurdle. Even as technology and automation advance rapidly, the workforce is slow to adapt. This limits not only overall productivity but also the creation of high-quality employment opportunities.

Balancing Growth and Monetary



tions and unpredictable monsoons could severely hurt agricultural productivity. If that happens, we might see food inflation spiral out of control. Therefore, viewing current inflation as a passing phase would be a misstep; we should treat it as a wake-up call highlighting the cracks in our supply chain.

The Multifaceted Challenges Ahead:

The challenges facing the Indian economy are coming from all directions. Globally, the surge in energy and metal prices is putting immense strain on the manufacturing sector. Simultaneously, a

Policy: When it comes to monetary policy, rising interest rates are essential to keep inflation in check. However, they are taking a heavy toll on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). As securing loans becomes an uphill task, these smaller firms are forced to put their expansion plans on the back burner. This could eventually impact the overall growth of the manufacturing sector. This creates a tight-roped walk for policymakers: while controlling inflation is critical, the economy also needs to encourage investment to keep the growth engine running.

Rebuilding for a Sustainable Future:

To overcome these hurdles, routine policy adjustments will not suffice. Strengthening the supply chains is the need of the hour. Reducing over-reliance on volatile raw material prices by boosting domestic production and developing alternative resources is crucial. Accelerating the transition towards renewable energy can also help cushion long-term cost pressures. Similarly, to keep food inflation under control, we must expand our storage capacity, build robust cold-chain networks, and fix supply chain bottlenecks.

Empowering the Workforce:

When it comes to skill development, a paradigm shift is required. Merely organizing basic training programs is no longer enough; we need to align these skills with the actual needs of the industry. The government and the private sector must work hand in hand to prepare the workforce for future demands. This is not just about securing jobs, but about driving productivity and staying competitive in the global arena.

The Final Test of Resilience:

Overall, while the Indian economy is showing promising signs, it is too early to say that this growth rests on a stable foundation. Rising input costs, global uncertainty, and agricultural inflation are raising serious questions about this stability. The real challenge before our policymakers is not just to sustain growth, but to make it resilient and all-inclusive. If we want to keep this momentum going, we must begin implementing structural reforms without delay. The Indian economy has proven its potential; whether we can translate this potential into sustainable progress is the true test that lies ahead.

J M R DUNGA

M.sc (Maths), M.sc (Physics)
Senior Teaching Faculty in Maths

LITERATURE ETERNAL — A CROWN OF FIRE AND QUIET



Before the first word learned its breath,
before the dark rehearsed its dawn,
a listening stirred within the void—
and from that listening rose a light
that took the shape of language.

We call it Literature.
It is the first threshold of beauty,
the last address of joy;
a garden where syllables flower into fragrance,
and meaning, like morning,
finds its way into the blood.

In the deep interior where silence has a pulse,
it quickens the nerve of knowing—
a lucid current through the chambers of being;

there the self beholds its own outline,
and life receives its luminous reply.
“Who are you?”—it asks, bright as a blade.
“You are the answer”—it returns, whole as a sky.

Thus the human is forged in utterance.
When truth takes the seat of speech
and poets lift their unborrowed voices,
empires unlearn their arrogance,
crowns grow light with shame;
for a single line, rightly kindled,
can outlive a century of power.

Letters become instruments of fire—
they cauterize falsehood,
they illumine the hidden fracture of things;

and the poet's breath, bannered with light,
disturbs the sleep of ages.

Literature is no servant of favor,
no pensioner of mercy;
it kneels to none, it bargains with none.
A free and fathomless sea of voices,
it breaks the outer chain
and reveals the inward expanse.

Like a tree that gives without ledger,
it unfurls forests of phrase,
bears fruit of ripened thought;
drink, and the thirst grows deeper into wisdom—

read, and the mind greens into consciousness.

From the thunder sealed in the past
to the tremor alive in the present,
it rises—a sun of the possible—
to suture the hours into meaning,
to teach time how to become.

As the shore steadies the unrest of waves,
so the word harbors the heart;
when feeling lifts as a white-winged song
within,

literature is not a grave—
but a breathing answer.
Between hush and herald
moves an undying resonance—
the sacred pulse of our becoming,
the indivisible witness of what we are
and what we may yet be:

Literature.

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

“Indian Coal Miners Day” on 04 May

The World's 2nd Biggest Coal Producer is India



“
Beneath the surface,
far from the light,
coal miners power a nation with grit, courage, and sacrifice
”

India is the 2nd largest producer of coal, after China, it produces over 700 million metric tonnes of coal per year. The largest coal consumers in the country are the electricity sector, the steel industry, the sponge iron industry, and the cement industry. Since India's coal is relatively poor average quality, we are importing high quality coal for our steel plants.

Indian Coal miners Day:

Indian Coal Miners Day in India is celebrated on 04 May to highlight the importance of the coal industry and the contribution of coal miners to the country's economy. Coal mining is one of the dangerous activities, and miners are overworked and underpaid in India also. This day is designed to raise awareness of the challenges that coal miners face every day and to honour the

memory of the miners who died in mining accidents or succumbed to diseases caused by long-term exposure to coal dust.

History of Coal Mining in India:

The history of coal mining dates back to ancient China and the Roman Empire, but it was during Industrial Revolution that coal production became really important, since people began using coal for power steaming engines, generate power, and heat buildings. In India in 1774, the East India Company started commercial exploitation of India's extensive coal reserves in Bengal. India produced 1 million metric tonnes of coal per year in 1850s, over 6 million metric tonnes in 1900, around 18 million metric tonnes in 1920, 30 million metric tonnes in after 1946, and 33 million metric

tonnes per year in mid-1950s. In 1970s, the GoI nationalised private coal mines, denationalisation of mines in India began in 2015. Now India ranked 3rd by anthracite and bituminous coal reserves and 5th by total coal reserves. Coal deposits are mainly found in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhatisgarh, West Bengal, MP, Telangana and Maharashtra.

Challenges Faced by Coal Miners:

Indian Coal Miners Day is a significant observance in India that acknowledges the hard work, dedication, and meaningful contributions of coal miners to the nation's economy and also energy sector. The common challenges of coal miners include respiratory hazards, risk of accidents due to landslides/explosions/machinery failures, long working hours in limited spaces, and

lack of adequate healthcare and safety provisions.

Let's recognise the contributions made by these unsung heroes whose tireless efforts keep the wheels of energy and industry turning in India. This day must remind the need to improve safety standards and ensure the well-being of those working in mines, a vital perilous industry.



DR BURRA
MADHUSUDHAN
REDDY
9949700037



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini being honoured with a Kirpan during the OBC rally at Rupnagar, Punjab on May 3, 2026

OBC Community of Punjab should unite

CHANDIGARH, MAY 3

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini called upon the OBC community in Punjab to unite, saying that their collective strength could ensure the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) forms the next government in the state. He said the BJP works with everyone and gives equal representation to all sections of society. Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini was addressing an OBC community Sammelan in Rupnagar, Punjab on Sunday. Raising questions over the special session of the Punjab Assembly called by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Labour Day, he said it made fun of workers and showed an anti-poor mindset. He said the people of Punjab, who had given a strong mandate to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the last election, now feel disappointed with the government's performance. Referring to the confidence motion brought in the Assembly, he said the Punjab Chief Minister should also list how many promises made during the last elections have been fulfilled so far. Addressing the large gathering, the Chief Minister said that such a huge participation of the OBC community shows that the OBC community is now aware of its rights, respect and future, and is becoming united. This unity and energy will bring social and political change in the coming time. He said the OBC community has a proud history and has contributed greatly to nation-building. However, it is unfortunate that for a long time, this community did not get the

respect and opportunities it deserved in Punjab. The Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that under the leadership of Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi, social justice has been implemented in both policy and intent. The Prime Minister himself belongs to the OBC community and has worked to bring backward and poor sections into the mainstream. He said the BJP has not treated OBCs as a vote bank but has empowered them by giving leadership roles. There are 27 OBC Ministers in the Union Cabinet and OBC Chief Ministers in five BJP-ruled states, which shows respect for the community, he added. He further said that the OBC Commission was given constitutional status under the leadership of the Prime Minister, which was a historic step. He added that 27 percent reservation has been provided to the OBC community in medical and higher education, increasing opportunities for youth. He appealed to the OBC community to unite and join the BJP, and to strengthen the party in Punjab. He urged them to prepare for the upcoming elections and spread awareness about the BJP at the grassroots level. He also accused the present Punjab government of injustice towards the OBC community and said people must raise their voice together to secure their rights. Rajya Sabha MP Sardar Satnam Singh Sandhu, Punjab BJP Working President, Sh. Ashwani Sharma, BJP Parliamentary Board member Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura, and other senior leaders were present during the Sammelan.



Speakers at National work shop on STREE in Delhi, Union Minister of State for Rural development (RD), Secretary Shailesh Kumar Singh and CEO EESL Akhilesh Kumar Dixit (File Photo)



Dr. Vibha Dhawan the DG, TERI is Unveiling a special report on the impact of Energy Efficiency in addressing Climate Change prepared by the Communication wing/ Adviser (Media & Government affairs)

STREE Goes National TERI Backs CESL Push

TERI Backs EESL for Climate Action	STREE Emerges as Women's Growth Engine	TERI Seeks Deeper EESL Partnership	Lauds CESL, MRD for STREE Success	Hails STREE Impact in AP, Bihar, MP	Calls for Nationwide STREE Expansion.
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NEW DELHI, MAY 3

In a significant boost to women-led development and sustainable mobility, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has announced its full support to scale up Convergence Energy Services Limited's (CESL) flagship STREE initiative—Sustainable Transport for Rural Entrepreneurs through Electric Bicycles—into a nationwide movement. The endorsement marks a major milestone for the programme, which is being implemented by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Ministry of Power. Speaking at a high-level event held at TERI's headquarters at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, Director General Vibha Dhawan lauded the proactive efforts of CESL, EESL, the Ministry of Power, and development partners in executing what is now being recognised as India's largest pilot project in electric micro-mobility for rural women. "STREE has demonstrated

how clean mobility solutions can directly enhance livelihoods while addressing climate challenges. TERI is committed to supporting its expansion into a national programme," she said. Currently operational across states including Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar, the initiative has already benefited nearly 1,800 women, primarily from Self-Help Groups (SHGs), by providing electric cargo bicycles to improve last-mile connectivity and income opportunities. The programme has delivered measurable economic gains. Beneficiaries have reported average monthly savings of approximately ₹1,351, while field data indicates strong income growth. In Kuppam (Andhra Pradesh), nearly 59% of participants recorded increased earnings, with average monthly gains of ₹4,601. In Bihar, more than 52% of women now depend on e-bicycles as their primary mode of transport, underscoring the initiative's transformative impact. Highlighting global trends, TERI noted that electric micro-mobility solu-

tions can increase women's incomes by 25–40%, further reinforcing the scalability and long-term viability of the STREE model. During the event, the TERI Director General also unveiled a special report by EESL's Media Adviser of Communications Wing on the role of energy efficiency in combating climate change. She emphasised that energy efficiency alone contributes over 40% of greenhouse gas emission reductions, positioning it as a cornerstone of India's climate strategy. Reaffirming TERI's commitment, Dr. Dhawan stated that the organisation will extend technical expertise, global best practices, and policy support to strengthen collaboration with key institutions such as Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), EESL, and CESL in advancing India's energy efficiency and sustainability goals. She further noted that the STREE initiative aligns closely with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi, particularly in promoting women-led development, green mobility, and a self-reliant rural econ-

omy. "As India moves towards cleaner mobility solutions, initiatives like STREE will play a crucial role in driving inclusive growth. We urge stakeholders across sectors to support and partner with CESL and EESL in expanding such impactful programmes," she added. With growing national recognition and institutional backing, STREE is now poised to emerge as a flagship model for integrating climate action with grassroots economic empowerment—placing rural women at the forefront of India's green transition. Under these circumstances Akhilesh Kumar Dixit CEO of CESL & EESL directed Sr. Executives Rajneesh Rana and Ritu Singh to prepare a comprehensive action plan for segregation of demand for the STREE program across the country. As part of our evidence-led strategy focused on addressing pollution at its source the TERI supported the State of Andhra Pradesh for providing policy advice on National Air quality standards and facilitated the establishment of Clean Air Zones Dr. Dhawan said.



RPF of NFR Conducts Multiple Rescue Operations Ensures Safety of Passengers and Minors

MALIGAON, 03 MAY, 2026:

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment towards passenger safety and humanitarian service through a series of successful rescue operations carried out across its jurisdiction in recent days. During the period from 24th April to 30th April 2026, RPF personnel rescued a significant number of vulnerable individuals, including runaway minors and distressed passengers, from various railway stations and trains. In one of the major operations, RPF personnel at Dibrugarh railway station rescued 12 minor boys from a train and ensured their safe handover to Childline authorities for proper care and protection. Similarly, multiple rescue operations were conducted at stations including Guwahati, Lumding, Kishanganj, Kokrajhar, Hasimara, Mariani and New Alipurduar, where several runaway minor boys and girls were traced and rescued. Notably, at Mariani railway station, RPF rescued 3 minor girls, while at Guwahati railway station, minors were safely re-

united with their families after timely intervention. In separate incidents, minors rescued at stations like Kishanganj, Lumding, Dimapur and Kokrajhar were handed over to Child Help Line and other authorized agencies for safe custody and rehabilitation. In addition to rescuing minors, RPF personnel also extended prompt assistance to passengers in distress. At New Jalpaiguri, a passenger suffering from breathing difficulties was immediately shifted to hospital for medical treatment. In other instances at Raiganjand Barsoi, injured passengers were provided timely medical aid after accidental falls, highlighting the alertness and responsiveness of RPF staff. These continuous efforts reflect the dedication of RPF personnel in safeguarding passengers, preventing human trafficking, and ensuring the well-being of vulnerable individuals across the NFR network. Northeast Frontier Railway remains committed to maintaining a safe, secure and passenger-friendly environment and appeals to the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to railway authorities.



Anti-poor BJP: AAP stages protests in Punjab over commercial cylinder price hike

A sharp price hike in commercial LPG cylinders has triggered protests across Punjab, with AAP leaders taking to the streets and launching a strong attack on the Centre over rising costs.

Party leaders and workers held demonstrations in several parts of the state, raising slogans and staging sit-ins against the Centre's decision. Party leaders and workers held demonstrations in several parts of the state, raising slogans and staging sit-ins against the Centre's decision. The Aam Aadmi Party launched protests across Punjab after a sharp increase of nearly Rs 1,000 in the price of commercial LPG cylinders, calling the move "anti-poor" and a fresh blow to people already facing rising costs. Party leaders and workers held demonstrations in several parts of the state, raising slogans and staging sit-ins against the Centre's decision. In a post on X, AAP Punjab said, "The 993 hike in the price of commercial

gas cylinders will shatter the already inflation-battered people. This decision has once again shown that the BJP's sole aim is to loot the poor." The party added that the protests were aimed at opposing what it called a "people-killing decision". Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema also attacked the Centre over the hike. "The BJP government's true face has now been completely exposed. By hiking the price of commercial cylinders by 993, an even heavier burden has been placed on the common people," he said. AAP said demonstrations were held across the state, including in Malerkotla, with leaders and supporters joining the protests. Calling it a "massive hike", the party said the increase would further strain households and businesses already dealing with inflation. The protests have added to the ongoing political tussle between the AAP and the BJP, with the Punjab ruling party accusing the Centre of ignoring public hardship.

Forces Seize Massive Maoist Explosives Cache in Dantewada

RAIPUR, MAY 3

In the aftermath of a large-scale surrender by Maoists in the Bastar division, security forces have intensified search operations across the region to uncover hidden dumps and contraband left behind by the insurgents. One such operation in Dantewada district has yielded a significant breakthrough, with a massive cache of explosives and materials recovered from the dense forest area of village Todma under Barsur Police Station limits. Acting on precise intelligence received on Saturday, a joint

team comprising a battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Dantewada Police launched a coordinated search in the forest terrain. The operation led to the discovery of a concealed stockpile of explosive devices and assorted contraband believed to have been hidden by Maoist cadres. The recovered materials include seventy-five electric detonators and a range of ammunition rounds such as 7.62 mm SLR, 5.56 mm INSAS, 7.62x39 mm, and 12-bore rounds, along with empty cartridge cases and .303 blank cartridges. Alongside



these, security forces seized 500 grams of explosives, gelatin sticks, safety fuse wire, and communication equipment, including DMR and wireless sets. A country-made muzzle-loading rifle, batteries, camera flashes, electric wires, urea powder, grenade pins, and various items of dai-

ly use were also recovered. In addition, Naxalite literature was seized, shedding light on the ideological material carried by the insurgents. The operation was conducted with precision and caution, ensuring the safety of personnel involved. By evening, all members of the search team had returned safely to base. Authorities have since initiated the legal process, preparing a detailed seizure panchnama and completing other formalities related to the recovered items. This recovery underscores the continuing efforts of security forces to dismantle

the remnants of Naxalite infrastructure in the Bastar division. The discovery of such a large cache highlights both the scale of resources previously mobilised by the insurgents and the importance of sustained, intelligence-driven operations in neutralising their influence. With the surrender of many cadres and the ongoing recovery of hidden stockpiles, officials believe the campaign against Left-Wing Extremism is entering a decisive phase, aiming to secure lasting peace and development in the affected regions.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2026 OBSERVED IN IMPHAL

IMPHAL, 3 MAY 2026

The Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Government of Manipur, in collaboration with the All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) and the Editors' Guild Manipur (EGM), is today observed World Press Freedom Day 2026 under the theme "Shaping a Future at Peace" at the DIPR Auditorium, DIPR Complex, Imphal. The observation was graced by the Director, IPR, Government of Manipur, Dr.Th. Charanjeet Singh; President, AMWJU, Asem Bhakta; and President, EGM, Khondra Khondram, as Presidium Members. Speaking on the occasion, Dr.Th. Charanjeet Singh highlighted the significance of World Press Freedom Day, stating that it serves as a reminder of the importance of press freedom and the need to

uphold and respect it. He also paid tribute to journalists and media personnel across the world who have lost their lives in the line of duty while defending press freedom. He emphasized that press freedom is a cornerstone of democracy, which rests on three pillars — the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary. He stated that these institutions function within the framework of the Constitution with defined powers, and when any of them oversteps or fails to act in the public interest, the press plays a crucial role in ensuring accountability and maintaining checks and balances. He further stated that while freedom of the press must be respected and protected, it is not absolute. The media must function within constitutional provisions. Referring to Article 19 of the Constitution of India, he noted that although freedom



of expression is guaranteed, it is subject to reasonable restrictions. He urged the media to act responsibly, keeping in mind national security, sovereignty, integrity, public order, morality, and decency, and to refrain from inciting violence or harming friendly relations. Dr.Th. Charanjeet Singh concluded by extending his greetings to the media fraternity on this important day and called for collective efforts to strengthen democracy and

build a progressive society through responsible journalism. Further addressing the function, President, Editors' Guild Manipur (EGM), Khondra Khondram stated that freedom of speech and expression is not unlimited and must be exercised with responsibility by the media fraternity. He emphasized that the primary duty of the press is to present truthful and accurate news to the public. He further underlined the crucial role of editors

ESCO, underscores the vital role of press freedom in promoting peace, particularly in conflict-affected regions like Manipur. He remarked that the theme "Shaping a Future at Peace" highlights that peace is built on trust, truth, and dialogue, which are upheld by a free and responsible press. He stressed that in times of conflict, misinformation and fear can spread rapidly, and therefore, journalism must focus on truth, unity, and responsible reporting rather than division. He further stated that journalists are not merely observers but play a key role in ensuring that all voices are heard with fairness and dignity. He called for the protection of journalists, promotion of ethical reporting, and encouragement of dialogue so that the media serves as a bridge in society. Concluding his address, Yumnam Rupachandra urged all stakeholders to support responsible journalism, stating that a well-informed society is essential for lasting peace. The observation was attended by senior journalists, editors, and officials of DIPR among others.

Punjab CM targets opposition; defends govt on sacrilege law, governance

HOSHIARPUR (PUNJAB): (May 3) Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday launched a sharp attack on opposition parties, accusing them of spreading "malicious propaganda" despite failing to curb the drug menace in the state or enact strict legislation against sacrilege. Addressing a 'Lok Milni' outreach programme at Ghogra village in Dasuya

assembly constituency here, the chief minister asserted that the newly-enacted Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026, has "closed the chapter" on sacrilege incidents by introducing stricter punishments including life imprisonment. He alleged that previous governments lacked the intent to bring such a law despite repeated incidents.

Police seize large quantity of narcotics in Southern Afghanistan

KABUL

Afghan counter-narcotics forces have seized a substantial quantity of narcotics and drug-processing materials during ongoing operations in southern Helmand province, the state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported on Sunday.

According to the report, authorities confiscated approximately 8,170 kg of heroin, along with materials used in the processing and production of illegal drugs. The seizure is part of continued efforts to combat drug trafficking and dismantle criminal networks involved in the production and distribution of narcotics, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Similarly, security forces confiscated 55 kg of methamphetamine in Nimroz province in western Afghanistan on Saturday.

Officials have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening counter-narcotics operations and preventing the spread of illegal drugs across the country.

On April 26, Ministry of Interior Affairs said that Afghan law enforcement authorities have arrested 80 individuals on charges of drug trafficking following a series of coordinated operations carried out across multiple provinces.

According to the ministry, counter-narcotics police conducted targeted raids in several regions, resulting in the seizure of significant quantities of illegal substances, including hashish, narcotic tablets, and materials used in the production of heroin.

Iran wants guarantees of non-aggression from US

TEHRAN

Iran wants guarantees of non-aggression and the withdrawal of US military forces from the areas surrounding it in its response to the United States' nine-point proposal, local media reported on Sunday.

Iran has delivered a response to the United States' nine-point proposal, focusing on the issue of an "end to the war", reported the semi-official news agency, Tasnim. In its nine-point proposal, the US had sought a two-month ceasefire, but Iran wanted the issues to be resolved in 30 days, and the focus should be on "ending the war" and not on extending the ceasefire.

The proposal Iran submitted to the US has 14 points, which include lifting the naval blockade, release of Iran's frozen assets, payment of compensation, removal of sanctions, and ending the war on all fronts, including Lebanon.

It also proposed a new mechanism for the Strait of Hormuz, along with guarantees of non-aggression and the withdrawal of US military forces from the areas surrounding Iran.

West Asia crisis sparks debate over Pakistan's 'double policy' approach: Report

NEW DELHI

The ongoing crisis in West Asia has triggered a wider geopolitical debate over Pakistan's role in the region, according to a report analysts and observers increasingly questioned what they describe as a "dual" or "double policy" approach in Islamabad's foreign engagements.

The debate gained traction after remarks by the External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who reportedly referred to Pakistan as a "broker" in the crisis, drawing sharp reactions and renewed scrutiny of Islamabad's diplomatic positioning, according to a report by Assahifa.

Experts cited in the report suggest that Pakistan has long attempted to project itself as a mediator in regional conflicts, including the current West Asia tensions.

However, this role is often interpreted not as neutral diplomacy but as a pragmatic strategy aimed at securing strategic and economic advantages amid internal vulnerabilities such as economic fragility



and reliance on international financial support.

Analysts argue that Islamabad's balancing act—maintaining ties with the US, China, and key Gulf nations—has constrained its strategic autonomy while enabling it to remain relevant in multiple geopolitical theatres.

This multi-alignment, while offering short-term leverage, has also led to perceptions of inconsistency in

its foreign policy.

In the context of the current crisis, Pakistan has reportedly offered to facilitate dialogue and act as a communication channel between Washington and Tehran.

While such efforts have been framed as mediation, some observers view them as an attempt to maintain influence without committing to any single side. The controversy has

been further fuelled by reports and claims surrounding oil shipments and maritime activity in the Strait of Hormuz, with some analysts suggesting that such developments contribute to perceptions of conflicting interests being pursued simultaneously. Observers also point to a divergence between Pakistan's public rhetoric and diplomatic actions.

While issuing strong statements condemning actions by Israel and expressing solidarity with Iran, Islamabad has simultaneously maintained engagement with Western powers, reinforcing the impression of "dual messaging".

This pattern, experts say, is not new but rooted in Pakistan's historical role as a strategic intermediary—ranging from its alliance with the US during the Cold War to its involvement in the post-9/11 war on terror. Such positioning has often enabled Islamabad to secure financial and strategic support while navigating competing global interests.

However, analysts caution that this approach carries risks, particularly in terms of

credibility. Engaging multiple sides simultaneously may undermine trust in Pakistan's role as a mediator, especially in a volatile and high-stakes environment like the West Asia.

The debate also reflects broader concerns about the sustainability of such a foreign policy model.

As geopolitical alignments in West Asia continue to evolve, experts argue that maintaining ambiguity may become increasingly difficult, forcing clearer strategic choices.

At the same time, Pakistan's nuclear capabilities and its position at the crossroads of major regional powers add to its strategic weight, even as questions persist about the long-term viability of its balancing strategy.

According to a report by Assahifa, the discussion surrounding Pakistan's role underscores a larger question confronting global diplomacy: whether countries can continue to straddle competing interests while retaining credibility, or whether shifting geopolitical realities will compel more defined alignments.

South Korean Finance chief calls for regional cooperation in tackling impact from Iran war

SEOUL

South Korean Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol on Sunday called for strengthening regional cooperation in responding to growing external economic uncertainty from the US-Israeli war against Iran, the country's Finance Ministry said.

Koo made the call during the 29th meeting of ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank governors held on Sunday in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, according to the Ministry.

ASEAN+3 involves member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its three Northeast Asian dialogue partners -- South Korea, Japan and China.

"The Middle East war has further expanded regional economic uncertainty," Koo said. "Against this backdrop, ASEAN+3 cooperation, which has served as a buttress during a regional crisis, is becoming increasingly important, as quoted by Yonhap news agency report.

The Finance Minister said the Middle East crisis poses a threat to the South Korean economy, highlighting the government's efforts to prop up the economy, including the creation of the 26.2 tril-



lion-won (\$17.7 billion) extra budget. Separately, Koo chaired a trilateral meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank governors from South Korea, China and Japan. He also called for stepped-up cooperation among the three nations in dealing with downside economic risks from the Iran war, according to the Ministry.

ASEAN+3 Finance and Central Bank deputies held a meeting last month where South Korea was represented by Moon Ji-sung, Deputy Minister for international economic affairs.

During the meeting, major economic organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), warned that the global economy faces significant downside risks due to rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

US Transportation Secy defends Trump as gas prices surge

WASHINGTON

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy on Sunday defended President Donald Trump's handling of the Iran conflict, even as surging fuel prices strain American households and deepen economic concerns.

In an interview to ABC News, Duffy acknowledged rising energy costs but expressed confidence that prices would fall once supply routes stabilise.

"Once the Strait opens, you'll see prices come down, come down immediately," Duffy said, referring to the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil transit chokepoint disrupted by the ongoing conflict.

India, Myanmar discuss strengthening naval cooperation, defence partnership

NAYPYIDAW

Indian Navy chief, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, met Myanmar Navy's Central Naval Command chief Rear Admiral Aung Aung Naing and Training Command chief, Rear Admiral Khun Aung Kyaw, Commander on Sunday, and discussed issues related to strengthening navy-to-navy cooperation, bolstering the existing defence partnership, and augmenting operational engagements, the Indian Navy said.

The two sides also spoke about issues related to enhancing training cooperation and future avenues of collaboration. Admiral Tripathi is currently on a four-day official visit to Myanmar. "During the ongoing visit to Myanmar, Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, CNS was received at the



Central Naval Command Headquarters, Yangon with a ceremonial Guard of Honour. CNS held discussions with RAdm Aung Aung Naing, Commander, Central Naval Command, Myanmar Navy, and RAdm Khun Aung Kyaw, Commander, Naval Training Command," an Indian Navy spokesperson said in a post on X.

"Issues related to strengthening Navy-to-Navy cooperation, bolstering existing defence partnership, augmenting operational engagements, maritime security, and promoting shared goals for a stable and secure maritime environment were discussed. Aspects related to enhancing training cooperation & future avenues of collaboration were deliberated, emphasising the commitment to enhancing interoperability, and training exchange programmes," the

spokesperson added.

Admiral Tripathi also visited the Naval Training Command in Myanmar, where he handed over various projects executed with Indian assistance. "At the Naval Training Command, CNS was briefed on Myanmar Navy's training infrastructure and ongoing initiatives between the two navies including the effectiveness of Mobile Training Team MTTs reaffirming India's commitment to capacity building and professional exchanges. CNS formally handed over various projects executed with Gol assistance, including the Containerised Small Arms Simulator and the Rigid Inflatable Boat, for augmentation of maritime security in the Bay of Bengal region, in keeping with the vision of MAHASAGAR," the spokesperson posted on X.

Nepal reiterates sovereignty claim over Lipulekh amid Kailash Mansarovar route concerns

KATHMANDU

The Nepal government has said it has raised concerns with both India and China over the use of the Lipulekh Pass -- a disputed territory claimed by both Nepal and India -- for the pilgrimage of Indian tourists to Kailash Mansarovar.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the government had once again conveyed its position and concerns to both India and China through diplomatic channels regarding the proposed pilgrimage route via Lipulekh.

Last week, China announced that it would facilitate the travel of 1,000 Indian pilgrims for



the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in 2026, marking a significant step in bilateral cooperation and religious exchange between the two countries.

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that

the pilgrimage would be conducted in batches through two established routes -- Lipulekh Pass and Sikkim's Nathu La Pass -- with 10 batches, each consisting of 50 pilgrims, using both routes. The Kailash Man-

sarovar Yatra, one of the most sacred pilgrimages for Hindus, Buddhists and Jains, is scheduled to take place between June and August 2026.

However, Nepal has long claimed the Lipulekh Pass territory and has argued that India and China cannot decide on the use of the territory without Nepal's consent. Lipulekh Pass is one of three points located in the Kalapani area.

In 2020, Nepal incorporated the territories of Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani into its official political map through a constitutional amendment. Although Nepal claims these territories as its own, India has maintained effective control over the areas

for decades. "Based on the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli, all territories east of the Mahakali River -- including Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani -- belong to Nepal," the Foreign Ministry said, adding that Kathmandu remains "fully clear and firm" on the matter.

The border dispute has remained one of the major irritants in Nepal-India relations.

The Foreign Ministry reiterated Nepal's firm position that Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani are integral parts of Nepal, following concerns raised in various media reports over the proposed Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage route to be operated by India and China through Lipulekh.

We have no nuclear negotiations, focused on ending the war: Iran



TEHRAN

Esmail Baqaei, the Foreign Ministry spokesperson, denied media claims about Iran's plan of suspension of Uranium enrichment, emphasising that Iran's plan is focused exclusively on ending the war, media reported on Sunday. He answered media questions about 15 years of suspension of Uranium enrichment as part of Iran's plan, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported. Baqaei said, "Look, what I can say is that our plan is exclusively focused on ending the war. There are absolutely no nuclear details in this plan."

He denied questions about Iran's commitment to mine clearance and the US' participation in mine clearance, saying that this is also something that is a figment of the imagination of some media outlets.

The Ministry spokesperson said, "Now we are focused on the details related to ending the war in the region, including Lebanon. The rest of the issues are said to be partly related to the history of negotia-

tions that we once held in the nuclear field. In the nuclear field, the name of which was also known, it was the nuclear negotiations, in the two previous rounds of negotiations, that led to the war between the Zionist regime and the US. Iran's 14-point plan focuses on ending the war, and the issues that foreign media mentioned are not in our plan."

While speaking about guarantees from the other party, the spokesperson added: "The guarantee is ourselves, our power, and the levers that we have at our disposal."

The 14-point proposal Iran submitted to the US includes guarantees of non-aggression and the withdrawal of US military forces from the areas surrounding Iran, lifting the naval blockade, release of Iran's frozen assets, payment of compensation, removal of sanctions, and ending the war on all fronts, including Lebanon. The spokesperson also added that the American side has responded to Iran's proposal and said that Iran's response will be presented after reviewing the US' response.

UN expert calls for release of detained journalists in Afghanistan

KABUL

UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan Richard Bennett has demanded immediate and unconditional release of detained journalists in Afghanistan, local media reported on Sunday.

In a statement marking World Press Freedom Day on Sunday, Bennett called on Taliban to ensure that journalists can do their work freely without fear of arrest, threats or harassment.

He stressed that press freedom has worsened significantly since Taliban seized power in Afghanistan, with independent reporting in-

creasingly restricted under a hostile environment, Afghanistan's leading news agency Khaama Press reported.

"At least 4 journalists and media workers continue to be detained in Afghanistan. I call for their release and the release of all other people arbitrarily detained in Afghanistan. No time is better than today for this, as 3 June is World Press Freedom Day," Bennett posted on X.

He stated that journalists now function under constant pressure and ordinary reporting can lead to reprisals, especially on issues related to women's rights and governance.

Bennett stated that people speaking to the media face in-

timidation, surveillance, and detention, further affecting the flow of reliable information.

Bennett further stated that female journalists in Afghanistan face compounded barriers, mobility restrictions, dress codes, and shrinking opportunities, resulting in many leaving their profession, Khaama Press reported.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan has been ranked 175th out of 180 nations in the 2026 World Press Freedom Index, according to data from Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

Afghanistan's overall score increased from 17.88 in 2025 to 19.51 in 2026, indicating better press freedom. Despite the slight improvement, Af-



ghanistan has been ranked among the worst-performing nations, Afghanistan-based Amu TV reported. RSF evalu-

ates press freedom on the basis of five indicators - political, economic, legislative, social and security -- each analysing

a different dimension of the media landscape. The political indicator, which analyses government influence over the media and editorial independence, ranked Afghanistan 158th in 2026, in comparison to 163rd in 2025.

The economic indicator, which assesses the financial condition for journalism including funding, advertising and sustainability of media houses, remained unchanged at 165th in both years.

The legislative indicator, which analyses laws and regulations impacting press freedom, ranked Afghanistan at 178th position in 2025 and 2026. The social indicator, which evaluates societal pres-

sures, discrimination and the ability of journalists to function freely within the cultural norms, ranked Afghanistan at 175th rank in 2025 and 2026.

The security indicator, which evaluates risks like violence, detention and threats against journalists ranked Afghanistan at 177th spot in 2026 in comparison to 175th in 2025.

RSF noted that the figures showcase that media environment has reshaped after Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, 2021.

It said, "The takeover sounded the death knell for press freedom," adding that media organisations now need to broadcast government-controlled information in an envi-

ronment "devoid of pluralism and dissenting voices."

According to the agency, 43 per cent of media houses closed within three months of Taliban's return to power. Over two-thirds of Afghanistan's roughly 12,000 journalists have left the field, Amu TV reported.

Women journalists have also been impacted, with eight out of 10 not working anymore. According to the RSF, the political and legal environment has increased control over the media in Afghanistan, with journalists receiving orders from several state bodies, including ministries, the intelligence service and institutions monitoring public conduct.



Medicover Hospitals Promotes Lung Health with "Breathe Easy, Run Free" 5K Launches Free Screening Package

HYDERABAD, MAY 3, 2026: Reinforcing its commitment to preventive healthcare, the Department of Pulmonology at Medicover Hospitals organized the "Breathe Easy, Run Free" 5K Run to raise awareness about lung health and the importance of early screening. The run commenced from the hospital premises, extended up to IKEA, and concluded back at the campus. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 250 individuals, including doctors, staff, fitness enthusiasts, and members of the public, reflecting strong community involvement. The highlight of the event was the unveiling of a **Free Lung Screening Package** (worth ₹2500) by Chief Guest Dr. Hariradhakrishna. The package includes Complete Blood Picture (CBP), Chest X-ray, Pulmonary Function Test (PFT), and a Pulmonologist consultation, aimed at promoting early diagnosis and timely intervention. Dr. Hariradhakrishna stated, "Rising pollution and changing lifestyles are significantly impacting lung health. Initiatives like this help create awareness and encourage preventive care." Dr. Raghukanth emphasized, "Nowadays, cold and cough are increasingly affecting people across all age groups. Though often neglected, they may indicate underlying respiratory issues. Regular screening and an active lifestyle are essential." Dr. Rajamanohar added, "Early detection through simple tests can prevent complications and improve outcomes." Dr. Meghana Subah said, "Preventive healthcare is crucial. We encourage everyone to utilize this free screening and prioritize their respiratory health." The event concluded on a positive note, highlighting Medicover Hospitals' dedication to community health and awareness.



Middle East crisis may spur India's capex boom: Morgan Stanley lifts investment outlook to 37.5% of GDP

Morgan Stanley remains positive on India's medium-term trajectory, with real GDP growth anchored at 6.5-7%.

While global investors remain nervous about oil prices and the Middle East conflict, Morgan Stanley is finding opportunity in the crisis for India. In its latest note, the brokerage has raised its forecast for India's investment rate. It now expects the investment-to-GDP ratio to reach 37.5% by FY30, up from 36.5% earlier. This implies an extra US\$800 billion in cumulative capital spending over the next five years. Nearly 60% of this fresh investment is likely to go into energy, data centres, and defence. This upgrade is significant for Indian equities. Higher capex should lift corporate profit share in GDP and support earnings growth of more than 15% CAGR over the next five years. Morgan Stanley believes this could take the market towards 10 times FY31 earnings.

Nestle India flags potential price hikes as West Asia war impacts costs

MUMBAI: Nestlé India flagged potential price increases if input costs remain elevated, even as it continues to prioritize volume-led growth. "We did see some commodity inflation like milk and wheat... The fuel part is a curveball," chairman and managing director Manish Tiwary told Mint. "Of course, if it persists, while we do want more volume-led growth, we might have to make some price adjustments," he added. Nestlé India, the maker of KitKat and Maggi, has leaned on volumes to drive growth, but Tiwary acknowledged that pricing could return to the mix depending on how commodity costs evolve. "So, from almost a complete volume-led growth, we could have some pricing (-led growth), depending on how the commodity and prices move," he said.

Delhi's non-GST revenue rises in FY26; boost in stamp, excise, vehicle tax collections

NEW DELHI: (May 3) Delhi government succeeded in increasing its non-GST revenue significantly, with stamp duty, excise and vehicle registration collections surpassing targets set in modified revised estimates in 2025-26, officials said on Sunday. According to the officials, the enhanced collection was achieved through targeted strategies and clearer policy directions over the last year. According to official figures, the budget estimates (BE) for stamp duty, excise and vehicle registration taxes were Rs 9,000 crore, 7,000 crore and Rs 3,700 crore respectively in 2025-26.

AI is helping you invest. But should you trust it?

From picking stocks to timing trades, AI is becoming your new investment guide. The real question is, should you trust it with your money?

Artificial intelligence has moved from being a novelty to a necessity in everyday life. We use it to write, edit, search, and create. It helps us save time, reduce effort, and make quicker decisions. Gradually, it has become a tool we depend on without thinking twice. Now, that same technology is being trusted with something far bigger; our money. People have started relying on AI to make decisions, whether it is picking a stock, understanding market trends, or figuring out when to buy and sell? At recent app launches and updates across India's fast-growing fintech space, one thing has become clear. Artificial intelligence is no longer just a feature inside financial apps, it is the main pitch. From stock suggestions and portfolio insights to some tools that claim to help users "time the market", AI is increasingly being positioned as a smarter way to invest. But when money is involved, the question becomes far more important than the technology itself, how much should you actually trust it?

AI IS NOW EVERYWHERE IN INVESTING
The use of AI in financial services is not new, but its role is expanding rapidly. According to Sebi's consultation paper on responsible usage of AI and machine learning, these systems are already being widely used across Indian securities markets — from



advisory and support services to surveillance, risk management, and even product recommendations. Better data, faster computing power, and advances in generative AI have pushed this adoption further. For platforms, the logic is simple. Markets move fast. Data is overwhelming. And retail investors need help navigating both. "AI helps us process large volumes of data quickly, identify patterns, and present information in a more usable way," said Navy Vijay Ramavat, Managing Director at Indira Securities. "It strengthens decision-making by reducing noise and improving efficiency."

THE BIG PROMISE: SMARTER INVESTING
For users, AI promises something very appealing, better decisions with less effort. Instead of tracking earnings reports, analysing charts, or reading research reports, investors can now rely on AI-powered tools to simplify the process. But even companies building these tools are careful about how far they take that promise. "AI does not replace that team, it amplifies what they can do," said Pranit Arora, Co-Founder and

CEO of Univest. "Every investment recommendation that reaches our users originates from a qualified, human research team." He added that AI is used to speed up analysis and filter information, but not to make final decisions. "AI at Univest is an analytical co-pilot, not an autonomous decision-maker."

CAN AI REALLY HELP YOU TIME THE MARKET?
One of the boldest claims being made today is that AI can help investors "time the market". But this is where experts draw a clear line. "I want to be very direct here: we do not claim to 'time the market'," Arora said. "Market timing is something even the most sophisticated institutional funds struggle with." Navy Vijay echoed a similar view. "Timing the market perfectly is a myth. No one can do it consistently," he said. What AI can do, according to both experts, is identify patterns and highlight possible opportunities — not predict exact outcomes.

HOW AI IS ACTUALLY BEING USED
Despite the hype, the reality is more measured.

At Univest, AI is used to: screen large sets of stocks.. analyse data across parameters.. generate internal "conviction scores" But the final call still rests with human analysts. At Indira Securities, the approach is even more conservative. "AI on our platform works as an assistive layer to simplify complex market information, not as a recommendation engine," Vijay said. In many cases, core tools are not AI-driven at all.

Instead, AI is used for: summarising market updates, organising data, and simplifying insights
THE REALITY CHECK: AI IS NOT ALWAYS RIGHT

Even as platforms highlight the benefits, they also acknowledge limitations. At Univest, Arora said the firm tracks performance closely. "Our advisory track record shows an approximately 86% accuracy rate," he said. That also means a portion of calls do not work out. "The 14% of calls that do not hit the target are equally important," he added. At Indira Securities, the approach is less about accuracy and more about context. "In markets, accuracy is never absolute," Vijay said. This highlights a key point, AI can improve decision-making, but it cannot eliminate risk.

THE RISK OF OVER-RELIANCE
One of the biggest concerns around AI in investing is not the technology itself, but how people use it. When recommendations become simple and easy to follow, there is a risk that users stop questioning them. This is exactly the kind of risk Sebi has flagged.

Small-cap stock under ₹50 hits upper circuit for twelve straight session. Do you own?

AVI Polymers stock has risen over 88% from an intraday low of ₹10.61 recorded on April 15. Here's what's behind the rally, along with the share price trend.



Small-cap stock under ₹50: AVI Polymers share price has been hitting upper circuit for twelve sessions straight. The stock has risen over 88% from an intraday low of ₹10.61 recorded on April 15, 2026, supported by exceptionally strong trading activity, with volumes exceeding 8.21 crore shares during the period.
What's behind the rally?
The strong rally in the AVI Polymers share price came after a significant development at the promoter level. On April 29, 2026, the company received formal communication from its Promoter and Promoter Group indicating their plan to acquire up to 5% of the company's paid-up equity share capital via open market purchases. This phased acquisition signals robust promoter confidence in the company's

growth outlook and valuation. At the same time, the company is steadily pivoting towards a technology-driven business model through its AI-focused subsidiaries. It has recently introduced KrishiBuddy, an AI-powered agritech platform, and is preparing to launch AVI Health AI, a digital health solution offering real-time wellness insights and AI-led diagnostics. These initiatives are expected to create new growth opportunities and strengthen long-term shareholder value. The proposed increase in promoter stake will be undertaken in accordance with applicable SEBI regulations. Additionally, the company successfully concluded its rights issue, raising ₹89.99

crore through the issuance of 8,99,95,400 equity shares priced at ₹10 each. The issue was fully subscribed, highlighting strong investor confidence. Supported by solid performance, AVI Polymers ended FY26 with its strongest balance sheet to date, with net worth rising to ₹115.99 crore and cash reserves at ₹16.60 crore, while remaining virtually debt-free—thereby enhancing its financial flexibility for future growth.

The company reported revenue of ₹312 crore, while its net profit jumped nearly 25-fold year-on-year to ₹20.32 crore, up from ₹ 0.81 crore in the previous year. It also reached a significant milestone by becoming almost debt-free, which has considerably enhanced its balance sheet strength and financial flexibility. Net worth increased to ₹115.99 crore, driven by a successful rights issue worth ₹89.99 crore.
On a sequential basis as well, operational performance remained strong. In Q4 FY26, revenue rose 13.6% quarter-on-quarter to ₹150.28 crore, while net profit climbed 46.1% to ₹10.24 crore, indicating solid execution and improving margins.
AVI Polymers share price trend
The small-cap stock has given significant gains despite weak market sentiments. AVI Polymers share price has delivered 62.49% returns in two weeks and 19% in a month. Also Read | How are Sensex and Nifty 50 likely to perform next week? Furthermore, the stock has doubled investors' money in just three months by soaring over 177.75%. Looking at the broader level, the small-cap stock has delivered multi-bagger returns of 241% in six months and 212% in a year.

Q4 results 2026: BHEL to Paytm among companies to declare Q4 earnings next week; check full list here

Q4 results 2026: Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL), Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M), Hero Motocorp, Bajaj Auto, and One 97 Communications (Paytm) are among the marquee companies to declare their Q4 results 2026 next week. **Q4 results 2026:** As the earnings season enters its fourth week, nearly 270 companies are set to announce their financial results for the quarter ending March 31, 2026.

Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL), Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M), Hero Motocorp, Bajaj Auto, and One 97 Communications (Paytm) are among the marquee companies to declare their Q4 results 2026 next week. "On the domestic front, the Q4 FY26 earnings season will gather pace, with several key

companies across sectors scheduled to report results," said Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking. The Indian stock market ended in a negative territory on Thursday, April 30. The 30-share Sensex dropped 583 points, or 0.75%, to close at 76,913.50, while the Nifty 50 slipped 180 points, or 0.74%, to settle at 23,997.55. Meanwhile, the BSE 150 Midcap and BSE 250 Smallcap indices declined by 1% and 0.50%, respectively.
L&T Q4 results preview
Brokerage firm Motilal Oswal expects L&T's consolidated revenue growth of 17% YoY, led by 19% YoY revenue growth for Core E&C. Meanwhile, the firm anticipates EBITDA margin to contract 30bp YoY to 9.6% for Core E&C to factor in the current disruption in work at some loca-

tions in the Middle East. "Key monitorables include execution of order book in the Middle East, potential to reconstruct post the war, ramp-up in domestic ordering, margin performance, and NWC. We cut our estimates to factor in the revised financials of IT subsidiaries, which are hit by AI-led disruptions," the firm said in a note.
M&M Q4 results preview
Brokerage firm Kotak Institutional Equities estimates M&M's to post a 22% YoY increase in revenues in 4QFY26, led by -18% yoy increase in automotive segment revenues, -20% yoy increase in volumes driven by LCV and SUV segments and 34% yoy increase in tractor segment revenues driven by 37% yoy increase in volumes. "We expect overall EBITDA margin to decline by 40 bps yoy,

UAE's OPEC Exit, Higher Oil Risks

STRATEGIC WARNING FOR INDIA

BY SHIVAJI SARKAR

None, not even US analysts, expected that a "non-descript war" with a small country like Iran could change the global energy scenario, that America is keen on monopolising. The US plans a conflict decades before as it had envisioned the 1969 Camp David accord with Egypt in a 1951 US congressional study. In 2026, its battle for supremacy is deeply hurt by Iranian strategies and devastation of the US assets in 13 the Gulf countries. Now the OPEC seems to be in crisis, if not collapsing. The United Arab Emirates has decided to leave from May 1 and the American dollar-sale accord with Saudi Arabia ended in 2024. The Saudis have shown inclination for trading in the Chinese Yuan and had expressed its desire to be part of BRICS, though stalled for now. India is the BRICS chairman for the current year. It means the US could lose in trillions of dollars of transactions and if its NATO allies reach a peace deal with Russia, not unexpected, the global power scenario may shift faster than imagined. For India, the UAE's decision to leave OPEC is not just a Gulf political story—it is about fuel prices, inflation, the rupee, and economic stability. As also having higher petroleum reserves. India imports nearly 85 percent of its crude oil needs. India purchased 245.3 million tonnes (MT) of crude in 2025-26 Finat 243.2 MT in 2024-25. Any rise in global oil prices directly raises petrol, diesel, transport costs, fertiliser prices, and food inflation. With Brent crude already crossing \$110 per barrel due to the US-Israel war on Iran and disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, the UAE's exit from OPEC adds another layer of uncertainty. At first glance, more oil from the UAE could help India by reducing prices. But in the short term, it may increase volatility because the move weakens OPEC's ability to manage supply and prices. For India, the real concern is not only oil availability but unstable and unpredictable pricing. Crucial international negotiations at diplomatic and commercial level decides the oil availability. India is left at it but in the conflict situation it calls for swift alternative action. The UAE, the fourth-largest producer in OPEC, has announced it will leave both OPEC and OPEC+ after nearly 60 years of membership. OPEC was formed in 1960 by Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and Venezuela to protect oil-exporting countries by controlling production and keeping prices stable. The UAE joined in 1967. For decades, OPEC had enormous power over the global oil market. That power scenario is changing. At one time, OPEC controlled more than 50 percent of global oil output. Today, its direct share has fallen to around 30 percent because of rising production from the United States, Brazil, and other independent producers. To recover influence, OPEC joined with Russia and others in 2016 to create OPEC+, controlling nearly half of world oil production. The UAE produces around 3.4 million barrels of oil per day and can increase output to nearly 5 million barrels per day after investing almost \$150 billion in expanding capacity. Abu Dhabi had long demanded a bigger production quota inside OPEC to match this capacity. Saudi Arabia resisted because it wanted tighter supply to keep oil prices high. The UAE wants to sell more oil while demand remains strong. Saudi Arabia prefers production discipline to defend prices. This difference became sharper after the Iran war damaged Gulf ener-



Iranian strikes hit UAE facilities like the Ruwais refinery and Fujairah export terminal. The Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly one-fourth of global oil moves, became a major risk zone. In such conditions, the UAE wanted flexibility, not restrictions. Outside OPEC, it can pump more oil and sell freely. The UAE is the biggest producer to leave in recent years. Angola exited in 2024, Ecuador in 2020, and Qatar in 2019, but none had the UAE's size or importance. Saudi Arabia will now have to do most of the work of balancing the market with major spare capacity—up to 12.5 million barrels per day—but it has kept production below 10 million to support prices. Iraq, the third-largest OPEC producer, says it has no plans to leave because it wants stable prices. Iran is also likely to stay because OPEC gives diplomatic weight beyond oil. The US is now OPEC's biggest rival. Once dependent on Gulf oil, America now produces nearly 20 percent of global oil through its shale boom and control now over Venezuela. Brazil and others are also expanding output. US President Donald Trump has repeatedly attacked OPEC, accusing it of keeping prices artificially high and harming consumers. He has demanded lower oil prices and even threatened tariffs and reduced military support for Gulf allies. Abu Dhabi has grown closer to the US and Israel in recent years. By leaving OPEC, it gets more freedom to align its oil policy with market demand and American strategic interests rather than Saudi priorities. The US is strengthening defence ties not only with Gulf states like the UAE but also with Indo-Pacific partners such as Indonesia to secure global trade routes. Indonesia matters because it sits near key maritime routes linking the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Stronger US-Indonesia military cooperation supports protection of shipping lanes, especially when the Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea face threats. For India, both routes are vital for oil imports. Greater strategic competition can turn energy routes into conflict zones. For India, the short-term pain is clear. Higher crude prices increase the import bill, weaken the rupee, and raise inflation. Every jump in oil prices affects transport, electricity, fertilisers, and household budgets. It also pressures government finances and the Reserve Bank of India. If the UAE increases output beyond former OPEC limits, more supply could soften global prices. Since the UAE is a low-cost producer, it can profit even at lower prices. This could reduce India's fuel costs and inflation pressure. Fujairah Port also gives strategic advantage because some exports can bypass the Strait of Hormuz, reducing shipping risks. Direct deals with the UAE may also improve pricing flexibility for India. Still, immediate relief should not be expected. War damage, shipping disruption, insurance costs, and tanker risks will keep markets nervous. The UAE cannot suddenly flood the world with cheap oil. OPEC is not collapsing, but its authority is weakening. Chinese role in Pakistan-US-Iran talks remains strong. India so far is a bystander amid more oil shocks.



The Death of the 'US Dream'!?

How the Freedom Caucus is Forcing India's Best Minds Out of America

For decades, the journey from India to the United States followed a script so reliable it was considered an economic law: excel in a local undergraduate program, secure an F-1 student visa for an American Master's, transition into the workforce via Optional Practical Training (OPT), and eventually land an H-1B specialty occupation visa. This pipeline has been the primary engine for the "Indian Dream," fueling the growth of Silicon Valley while allowing generations of Indian families in cities like Bengaluru and Gurugram to transform their social and economic standing.

However, as of 2026, that script is being aggressively shredded. A powerful shift in U.S. domestic politics, spearheaded by the House Freedom Caucus and codified in the "End H-1B Visa Abuse Act of 2026," is creating a new, harsher reality for Indian talent. The proposed changes are not mere tweaks to the system; they represent a fundamental effort to decouple American education from American employment.

The Legislative Hammer: The End H-1B Visa Abuse Act

centerpiece of this upheaval is a 71-page bill introduced by Representatives Eli Crane and Paul Gosar. This legislation targets every entry point currently used by Indian graduates to enter the American workforce.

1. The Death of Optional Practical Training (OPT)

The most immediate threat to students is the proposed elimination of OPT, including the critical STEM extension. Currently, OPT allows international graduates to work in their field for up to three years post-graduation. This program has been the essential "bridge" that allows students to gain the experience necessary to qualify for employer sponsorship. By seeking to end it, the bill effectively turns American universities into "export-only" educational institutions for foreign talent, where students are expected to leave immediately upon receiving their degrees.

2. A Drastic Quota Reduction and the \$200,000 Floor

The bill proposes slashing the H-1B annual cap from its current level of 85,000 (including the advanced degree exemption) to just 25,000. Furthermore, it replaces the current lottery system with a wage-based allocation that sets a mandatory minimum salary floor of \$200,000. This change would effectively bar entry-level and mid-career professionals—the demographic where the majority of Indian H-1B applicants fall—from the U.S. labor market. By setting the bar so high, the visa is transformed from a "specialty occupation" tool into an "executive-only" permit, making it mathematically impossible for most recent graduates to qualify.

Scrapping Dependent Visas and Green Card Paths

The legislation further proposes a ban on H-4 dependent employment, which currently allows the spouses of H-1B holders to work. Additionally, it seeks to prevent H-1B holders from ever transitioning to permanent residency (green cards), making the visa strictly temporary. This removes the "long-term settlement" incentive that has made the U.S. the top destination for Indian students for over thirty years.

The Driving Forces: Economic Nationalism and Constitutional Grievance

To understand why this is happening now, one must look at the motivations of the House Freedom Caucus—an invitation-only group of approximately 45 Republican lawmakers who have become the most organized restrictionist force in American politics. The 15.3% Competitive Edge: A major grievance driving this policy is that international students on OPT and their employers are exempt from Social Security and Medicare taxes. This provides companies with a 15.3% cost advantage when hiring a foreign graduate over an American citizen. Lawmakers argue that the U.S. government is effectively rewarding corporations for bypassing local labor.

Constitutional Legitimacy:

Legalist wings of the party, including Representatives Chip Roy and Harriet Hageman, argue that OPT was never explicitly approved by Congress. Instead, it grew through administrative interpretations during the Bush and Obama eras. They view the program as an "executive branch

mistake" that must be corrected to restore Congressional authority.

Anti-Corporatism:

In conservative districts across Texas, Arizona, and Tennessee, visa programs are increasingly seen not as "merit-based" tools, but as mechanisms for tech giants like Google and Amazon to suppress local wages. Because these lawmakers are funded by grassroots donors rather than Silicon Valley PACs, they are immune to corporate lobbying.

Impact on the Indian Student Community

For the thousands of Indian students currently enrolled or planning to enroll in U.S. universities, these changes represent an existential crisis.

Immediate Risk to the Pipeline

The "student-to-work" pipeline is now fraught with risk. Many families who have pledged ancestral property or taken massive loans to fund American education are facing the possibility that their children will have no legal way to work in the U.S. to pay back those debts.

The Pivot to Alternatives

Indian students are increasingly looking at Canada, the UK, and Australia, though these options are also narrowing:

Canada: Has introduced caps on student permits while maintaining some clear paths for in-demand skills.

UK: Has tightened post-study work routes, making long-term sponsorship difficult for everyone except those in highly technical or research roles.

Australia: Has raised salary thresholds, which helps specialized, high-paid workers but effectively blocks entry-level graduates.

The Silver Lining: Opportunity in Disguise?

While the short-term impact is painful, some analysts suggest these policies could inadvertently shift the center of global innovation toward India. As the U.S. door closes, multinational companies unable to bring

talent to America are rapidly expanding their Research and Development (R&D) centers in India. Silicon Valley branches in Bengaluru and Hyderabad are evolving from "back-office" support hubs into centers for advanced R&D. What the Freedom Caucus views as "protecting U.S. jobs" may actually be the catalyst for the "Great Reverse Brain Drain," keeping India's brightest minds at home or bringing them back sooner than planned.

A New Strategy for a New Era

The era of sending educated youth to the West as a primary national strategy appears to be ending. U.S. lawmakers now view these human and educational ties as a "dispensable luxury" rather than a strategic necessity. For Indian policymakers, institutions, and families, the

lesson of 2026 is clear: the dreams of Indian youth can no longer be outsourced to America. Success in the coming decade will require strengthening local opportunities, establishing international university branches within India, and recognizing that the political motives attached to a U.S. degree have fundamentally and permanently changed.

Navigating the Crossroads

The Post-MBBS Dilemma in India's Evolving Healthcare Landscape

For decades, the path following a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) in India was as linear as a heartbeat on a steady monitor: graduate, clear a harrowing entrance exam, and secure a postgraduate (PG) seat in a clinical specialty. However, as we move through 2026, the "standard" medical career path is undergoing a radical transformation. The surplus

of medical graduates, the rise of specialized technology, and shifting global economic policies—such as the tightening of U.S. visa regulations—have turned a once-straight road into a complex crossroads. For the modern Indian medical graduate, the question is no longer just "What branch should I take?" but rather, "Is a traditional clinical path still the best way to thrive?"

The Current Scenario A Competitive Bottleneck

The Indian medical education system has seen a massive expansion in the number of undergraduate seats over the last five years. While this was intended to solve the doctor-patient ratio, it has created a significant "bottleneck" at the postgraduate

level. Despite the increase in PG seats, the ratio of applicants to available positions remains skewed, leading to thousands of "drop-out years" where graduates spend 12 to 24 months in coaching centers rather than in clinics. Furthermore, the domestic job market for plain MBBS graduates has stagnated. In urban centers, hospitals in-

creasingly demand specialists (MD/MS) or even super-specialists (DM/MCh) for roles that were previously handled by general practitioners. This "specialization inflation" is forcing graduates to weigh three distinct paths: immediate clinical practice, higher studies, or the burgeoning field of research and non-traditional medical careers.

Option 1: The Clinical Job Market - Pragmatism vs. Stagnation

Entering the job market immediately after an internship is often seen as a temporary measure, yet it offers invaluable real-world experience.

The Rural Incentive: Under current government policies, many states offer significant salary incentives and "bonus marks" for PG entrance exams to those who serve in rural or tribal areas. For a student looking to build a financial cushion while gaining diverse clinical exposure, this is a highly pragmatic choice.

Urban Saturation: Conversely, in cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, or Delhi, an MBBS graduate often finds themselves in "Junior Resident" roles with high workloads and relatively stagnant pay. The lack of upward mobility without a PG degree remains the primary deterrent for this path.

The Private Sector: Emerging corporate hospital chains are beginning to hire MBBS doctors for administrative or "Clinical Associate" roles, focusing on management and insurance coordination rather than pure patient care.

Option 2: Higher Studies - The Traditional Gold Standard

Pursuing an MD or MS remains the most popular choice, but the "where" and "how" have changed significantly in 2026.

The Domestic Route: NEET-PG and NEXT

The transition to the National Exit Test (NEXT) has changed how students prepare. The focus has shifted from rote memorization to clinical application. While a PG degree ensures a higher salary and social standing, the mental health toll of the preparation period and the high fees in private institutions are significant hurdles.

The International Shift: Beyond the USA

In previous years, the U.S. was the "Holy Grail" for Indian doctors. However, current geopolitical shifts—specifically the

End H-1B Visa Abuse Act of 2026 and the proposed elimination of Optional Practical Training (OPT)—have cast a shadow over the American dream.

Visa Barriers: With proposed minimum salary floors for H-1B visas reaching \$200,000 and a move to make these visas strictly temporary with no path to a Green Card, the financial and legal risks of moving to the U.S. have skyrocketed.

Rising Alternatives: Indian graduates are increasingly looking toward the UK (PLAB/MRCP) and Germany, where the demand for doctors remains high and the immigration pathways are currently more predictable than the tightening U.S. system.

Option 3: Research and Non-Traditional Pathways - The New Frontier

Perhaps the most exciting de-

velopment in 2026 is the rise of "Physician-Scientists" and non-clinical medical careers.

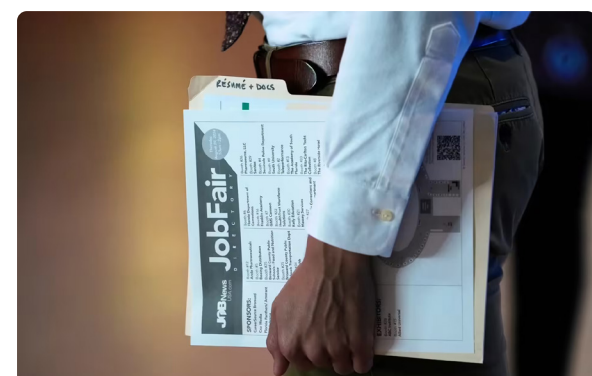
Research-Oriented Programs: With the growth of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India, pharmaceutical giants and biotech firms are scouting for Indian medical talent. Pursuing an M.Sc. or PhD in Molecular Medicine, Immunology, or Clinical Research is no longer a "backup

plan"—it is a lucrative career in drug development and genomic research. Medical Technology and AI: As AI-driven diagnostics become mainstream, there is a massive demand for doctors who understand data science. Dual-degree programs (MD-PhD or MBBS-MBA) are preparing graduates for roles in health-tech startups, hospital administration, and public health policy.



Public Health

The post-pandemic era has reinforced the importance of the Master of Public Health (MPH). This path offers opportunities with international bodies like the WHO, UNICEF, or national health missions, focusing on systemic change rather than individual patient care. In the current climate of 2026, the most successful Indian medical graduates are those who remain adaptable. If you are driven by direct patient care and have the endurance for rigorous exams, Higher Studies remains the definitive path, though one must now look toward Europe or domestic excellence rather than relying solely on the U.S. pipeline. However, for those wary of the clinical bottleneck, Research and Health-Tech offer a "Blue Ocean" of opportunity. The integration of medicine with technology is where the highest growth—and the most significant impact on the Indian economy—is likely to occur.



The "Gloom" of 2026 A Hostile Job Market

The U.S. technology sector, once an insatiable engine for hiring, has undergone a fundamental recalibration. In just the first three months of 2026, over 55,000 tech roles were eliminated globally, with nearly 80% of these cuts originating from U.S.-based headquarters.

The AI Pivot

Unlike earlier cycles driven by over-hiring or macro slowdowns, the 2026 layoffs are fueled by generative AI. Companies are shifting toward leaner, AI-driven models, making routine programming, software testing, and quality assurance roles—traditional entry points for many Indian techies—increasingly redundant.

Hiring Freezes

Major tech giants have moved beyond belt-tightening to structural shifts; Salesforce, for instance, implemented a full freeze on new software engineer hires.

The Squeeze on Visa Holders

Indian nationals, who receive roughly 72% of all H-1B visas, are disproportionately affected by these contractions. Estimates suggest that 30-40% of tech workers laid off in recent cycles were Indian professionals, many of whom face a brutal 60-day deadline to find new sponsorship or leave the

country. The disruption of this talent pipeline has profound implications for India's domestic economic health, which is deeply enmeshed with the U.S. tech ecosystem.

Software Export Pressure

The Indian IT services sector derives more than half of its export revenue from the U.S. market. New barriers, including a \$100,000 fee on new H-1B petitions implemented in late 2025, are driving up costs and squeezing profit margins for Indian outsourcing giants like TCS and Infosys.

Remittance Decline

While the direct impact on India's GDP is projected to be modest, slower remittance flows from high-earning techies in the U.S. could dampen domestic consumption.

Stagnation in Domestic Hiring

India's own IT services sector has seen an 80% decline in fresher hiring over the last three years, as companies struggle with AI-driven obsolescence and international trade uncertainty. One bright spot remains the growth of Global Capability Centres (GCCs)—the India-based offices of multinational giants like Google and Microsoft. These centers are expected to add over 1.2 lakh net new roles in 2026, offering a potential domestic haven for talent that can no longer migrate to Silicon Valley.



Gujarat Titans edge past Punjab Kings in last-over thriller

WRISTLING

'I am taking personal guarantee of her safety': WFI chief Sanjay Singh



NEW DELHI: Wrestling Federation of India president Sanjay Singh firmly addressed concerns raised by Vinesh Phogat over safety and fairness, assuring that the federation is taking full responsibility while ruling out any last-minute changes to the tournament venue. "If Vinesh is worried about her safety, let me assure her that I am taking personal guarantee of that. Also, we have UWW-approved referees who officiate and all trial bouts are recorded, so there is no chance of any bias," Singh told in a statement. "Do you think it is fair to change the venue and disturb the whole schedule when about 1500 wrestlers have entered the tournament and made their travel and stay arrangements and have not raised any objections regarding the venue and their safety. Why WFI should do it and put participating wrestlers to inconvenience."



AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Titans held their nerve in a tense finish to clinch a four-wicket victory over Punjab Kings, chasing down a 164-run target with just one ball to spare in a pulsating IPL 2026 encounter at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

The chase ebbed and flowed throughout before Washington Sundar's unbeaten 40 off 23 balls sealed the contest in dramatic fashion. With 11 required off the final over, Sundar kept his composure and finished the match with a premeditated scoop for six off Marcus Stoinis over deep backward square leg, capping off a nervy yet controlled chase.

GT's chase got off to a brisk start despite losing skipper Shubman Gill early to Arshdeep Singh. Sai Sudharsan then anchored the innings with a composed 57 off 41 deliveries, stitching together a crucial 50-run stand with Jos Buttler, who contributed 26. The pair ensured the Titans remained on track through the powerplay and into the middle overs.

However, Punjab Kings fought back through Vijaykumar Vyshak and Marcus Stoinis, picking up key wickets at regular intervals. Buttler's dismissal

triggered a mini-collapse, and when Sudharsan fell soon after reaching his half-century, the pressure shifted firmly onto the Titans. At 128/4 after 16 overs, the equation was still within reach but far from comfortable.

Washington Sundar then played a decisive hand, mixing calculated aggression with smart strike rotation. He found timely boundaries, including two fortuitous fours off Marco Jansen, and ensured the required rate never spiralled out of control. The dismissal of Rahul Tewatia and Jason Holder in the death overs kept Punjab Kings in the hunt, but Sundar found support in Arshad Khan, who contributed a handy unbeaten 8. Punjab Kings' bowlers, particularly Arshdeep Singh (2/24) and Vyshak (2/31), kept things tight and made Gujarat work hard for every run. Their disciplined lengths and variations nearly swung the game, especially in the closing overs, where the match went down to the wire.

Earlier in the game, GT delivered a disciplined bowling performance to restrict PBKS to 163/9 as Jason Holder starred with a superb 4/24, while Mohammed Siraj set the tone early with a fiery opening spell.

After being put in to bat, Punjab suffered an early collapse as Siraj

dismissed Priyansh Arya and Cooper Connolly in the first over. Kagiso Rabada compounded the pressure by removing Prabhsimran Singh, leaving PBKS struggling at 35/3 in the powerplay. Holder then struck crucial blows, dismissing Nehal Wadhwa and captain Shreyas Iyer to reduce Punjab to 47/5.

A spirited recovery followed through Suryansh Shedge and Marcus Stoinis, who stitched together a vital 79-run partnership for the sixth wicket. Shedge led the counterattack with a blistering 57 off 29 balls, including a 27-run over off Manav Suthar, while Stoinis contributed a steady 40.

Just as Punjab looked set for a strong finish, Gujarat hit back at the death. Rabada broke the stand by removing Shedge, and Holder returned to dismiss Stoinis and pick up another wicket in the same over. Despite a quick cameo from Marco Jansen, Punjab lost wickets regularly and fell short of a bigger total, settling for 163/9.

In the end, the match was decided by fine margins, with the home side holding their composure in crunch moments. Sundar's calm finish under pressure proved to be the difference, as the Titans secured a crucial win in a tightly contested encounter.



India's Shruti Ahlawat emerges champion in singles final of ITF W15

NEW DELHI

The ITF W15 New Delhi concluded successfully at the DLTA Stadium, marking a significant step in strengthening the ecosystem for women's tennis in India. Following a competitive week of high-quality matches, India's Shruti Ahlawat emerged as the singles champion, while Ksenia Laskutova & Ekaterina Yashina beat Arina Arifullina & Michika Ozeki (Jpn) with a scoreline of 6-4, 6-3, showcasing strong coordination and resilience under pressure.

The tournament, held from April 27 to May 3, featured 74 players, including 62 Indian athletes, competing for crucial world ranking points and a total prize purse of USD 15,000.

The doubles final, held on May 2, saw Ksenia Laskutova & Ekaterina Yashina beat Arina Arifullina & Michika Ozeki (Jpn) with a scoreline of 6-4, 6-3, showcasing strong coordination and resilience under pressure.

In the singles final on May 3, Shruti Ahlawat delivered an impressive performance against Polish girl Zuzanna Kolonus, winning 7-5, 6-2, 7-6 to claim the title. The tournament also highlighted

the depth of emerging Indian talent. Jensi Kanabar, aged 14, became the youngest Indian to reach the singles quarterfinals of a professional ITF women's tournament—an achievement that stood out during the week.

Other notable Indian participants included Zeel Desai, Akansha Dileep Nitture, and Sonal Patil, all of whom contributed to a strong home presence in the draw. The tournament also featured players from Russia, Japan, the United States, and Poland, adding to the competitive intensity and providing Indian players with valuable international exposure on home soil.

Sundar Mahalingam, president—strategy, HCL Group, said, "At HCL, we believe that when the right opportunities are created, human potential multiplies. Tournaments like the HCL ITF W15 are an important step in building those opportunities, enabling Indian players to compete, grow, and gain global exposure without the barriers of travel. We are encouraged by the level of talent and competitive-

ness we have witnessed here, and remain committed to strengthening the ecosystem for women's tennis in India."

HCL's earlier engagement in tennis (2014–2018) focused on grassroots development through the HCL Junior Tour and Masters, in partnership with AITA and MBTA, providing young players with competitive exposure and structured pathways.

The tournament was led by Vishal Uppal, captain of the Indian Billie Jean King Cup Team, who added, "Consistent access to international-level competition on home soil plays a critical role in accelerating player development. The HCL ITF W15 New Delhi has provided exactly that—a platform where Indian players can test themselves against global competition, gain confidence, and move forward in their professional journeys."

The ITF W15 New Delhi is part of the ITF Women's World Tennis Tour and continues to serve as a key platform for Indian players to earn ranking points and gain international exposure. Women's

IPL 2026

Ramakrishna Ghosh ruled out of season with fracture injury



NEW DELHI: Chennai Super Kings faced another injury setback in IPL 2026, as all-rounder Ramakrishna Ghosh will miss the rest of the season due to a fracture in his right foot. This injury occurred during their home match against the Mumbai Indians on May 2, which was also his IPL debut. The 28-year-old was injured under unfortunate circumstances, with the exact moment still unclear. Earlier in the game, Ghosh made a strong impression with a sharp diving catch to dismiss Will Jacks. However, he seemed to struggle physically after tumbling in his follow-through while bowling to Naman Dhir, which might have led to his injury. "Ramakrishna Ghosh sustained a fracture to his right foot during the CSK v MI match at Chepauk. He will take no further part in IPL 2026. Get well soon, Rambo," CSK said in a statement.

Narine completes 200 wickets, becomes first bowler to do so with single franchise

HYDERABAD

Sunil Narine scripted another landmark in an illustrious career by becoming only the third bowler to claim 200 wickets in the Indian Premier League, even as he played a pivotal role in Kolkata Knight Riders bowling out Sunrisers Hyderabad for 165 in 19 overs at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Sunday.

A mainstay of KKR since his debut in 2012, Narine became the first player in IPL history to reach the 200-wicket mark with a single franchise, further underlining his longevity and consistency. He is also the first overseas bowler to enter the elite club. The milestone came during a disciplined spell in which he returned figures of 2/31, including



the crucial wicket of Ishan Kishan that halted SRH's momentum.

SRH had started in explosive fashion after being put in to bat, with Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma dominating the powerplay. Head smashed a blistering 61 off 28 balls, while Kishan added a steady 42, propelling the hosts to 71/1 in six overs and putting KKR under early pressure. However, KKR

responded strongly through their spin-heavy attack. Varun Chakaravathy led the fightback with 3/36, triggering a collapse through the middle overs. Narine complemented him with tight lines and timely breakthroughs, as wickets fell in clusters and SRH lost their early advantage. Support came from Kartik Tyagi, who picked up two wickets, while Cameron Green, Vaibhav Arora and Anukul Roy chipped in with one each to wrap up the innings.

Over the years, Narine has been central to KKR's success, playing key roles in their title-winning campaigns in 2012, 2014 and 2024. His impact has also been recognised individually, earning him the MVP award in 2012 and 2018, as well as the Purple Cap in 2012.

Baranica Elangovan betters national pole vault record in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR

Tamil Nadu's Baranica Elangovan continued her remarkable run in the women's pole vault, breaking the national record for the second time in just over a month at the Bhubaneswar Indoor Stadium on Sunday.

The 29-year-old cleared 4.23m on her third attempt to surpass her previous mark of 4.22m, which she had set at the inaugural National Indoor Athletics Championships at the same venue in late March. The Indoor Stadium has clearly been a favourable arena for the vaulter, who has now made Bhubaneswar her training base after moving from Tamil Nadu.

"It was another good day for me," Baranica said after her record-setting effort, reflect-



ing on her consistent improvement in recent weeks.

In the men's heptathlon, Thowfeeq N of NCOE Trivandrum maintained his dominance to clinch the gold medal with a total of 5,350 points. Having taken the lead on Day One with 2,943

points, he stayed ahead of the competition to finish on top. Usaid Khan of the Army secured second place with 5,288 points, while Odisha's Jashbir Nayak finished third with 5,250 points. The men's U20 heptathlon title went to Tamil Nadu's Kirthik Vasan

S, who accumulated 4,609 points. Jinoy Jayan of NCOE Trivandrum (4,518 points) and Aryan Parkash of Madhya Pradesh (4,509 points) completed the podium. In the women's pentathlon, Odisha's Purnima Hembram emerged victorious with 3,835 points. Uttarakhand's Isha Chandra Prakash (3,671 points) and West Bengal's Bidisha Kundu (3,600 points) finished second and third respectively.

The women's U20 pentathlon saw Jaskiran Kaur of Uttarakhand claim the top spot with 3,272 points, followed by Haryana's Priya (3,133 points) and Punjab's Alfaz Kaur Grewal (3,066 points). In the women's pole vault, Nitika of Madhya Pradesh and Kerala's Blessy Kunjumon shared second place, both clearing 3.90m.

'Mindset is the same as before - become World Cup champion again'

NEW DELHI

India pacer Kranti Gaud has asserted that the national team will head into the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup with a singular, familiar objective: of becoming champions once again. India are yet to win a Women's T20 World Cup but go into the mega event, to be played from June 12 to July 5 in England, as current ODI World Cup champions.

India, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, had failed to make it to the knockout of the last edition in 2024 in the UAE, and their best finish in their history of being in the competition came as runners-up in the 2020 edition in Australia. "The mindset is the same as before - become the World Cup champion again and that's how we will approach it in the upcoming T20 World Cup," Kranti said exclusively to IANS on the sidelines of the 'Fan-catchstic Chapter 2' event on Sunday. The pacer highlighted the Women's Premier League

(WPL) as a vital bridge for domestic talent to come into the Indian team, citing the rapid rise of fellow pacer Nandni Sharma as a prime example.

"Yes, because it is a good platform for the players. For example, Nandni Sharma came to WPL and now she is with us in T20 World Cup. So, WPL is a very good opportunity and I would like to have more players participate in it," she added.

Reflecting on her own individual goals for the World Cup in England, a place where she made her T20I debut and picked a historic 6-52 in an ODI in Durham, Kranti said she remains focused on working on her strengths which have fetched her success so far.

"There is nothing like that. We are just running what is going on. We are doing to make our best even better. Yes, England has been very good for me. I took six wickets in an ODI game (in Durham). I came to know later that it was a world record at such a young age," she said.

Raghuvanshi's 59, Varun's three-for help KKR beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven-wicket

HYDERABAD

Angkrish Raghuvanshi played a fine knock of 59 runs as Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) chased down a small target of 166 runs in just 18.2 overs and won the match by seven wickets against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Sunday.

Earlier, Varun Chakaravathy picked three wickets and led a strong bowling effort as KKR bowled out SRH for 165 in 19 overs.

Chasing a modest total, KKR had a slow start with openers Ajinkya Rahane and Finn Allen taking time to assess the conditions, managing just 14 runs in the first two overs. Rahane broke the early pressure in the third over with a six off Eshan Malunga.

Allen then counter-attacked in the next over, taking on Pat Cummins with two sixes and two fours in a single over. However, his aggressive innings was cut short when he was caught at deep mid-wicket by Heinrich Klaasen. Allen, who replaced Tim Seifert in the playing XI, scored a quick 29 off 13 balls, including three



four and two sixes. After Allen's dismissal, Rahane took charge of anchoring the innings, while Raghuvanshi played freely at the other end. The youngster looked confident and attacked the bowlers, hitting two sixes off Eshan Malunga in the final over of the powerplay as KKR reached 71/1 after six overs.

The duo then stitched together a crucial partnership, rotating the strike well and picking up boundaries at regular intervals without taking unnecessary risks. Their steady ap-

proach kept the scoreboard moving as KKR reached 105/1 at the halfway mark of the chase.

Raghuvanshi showed great composure and maturity during his innings and brought up his half-century off 39 balls, guiding KKR closer to the target. SRH finally managed to break the 84-run stand in the 15th over when Sakib Hussain, introduced as an impact substitute, dismissed Rahane with a short delivery. The KKR skipper was caught at square leg by Smaran Ravichandran after scoring a steady 43 off 36 balls,

which included four boundaries and a six. Raghuvanshi's impressive innings came to an end in the 17th over when he attempted a big shot off Shivang Kumar but was dismissed for 59 off 47 balls. His knock was laced with five fours and two sixes.

Despite losing both set batters towards the end, KKR remained in control of the chase. Rinku Singh and Cameron Green applied the finishing touches, guiding the team home with 10 balls to spare and sealing an easy victory for Kolkata.

Batting first, SRH began aggressively with Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma attacking from the first over. Head dominated early, hitting multiple boundaries, while Abhishek supported him with quick runs. SRH raced to 71/1 in the powerplay, putting KKR under pressure. KKR got their first breakthrough when Kartik Tyagi dismissed Abhishek for 15. However, Head continued his attacking approach and brought up a quick fifty off just 22 balls. His innings came to an end at 61 off 28 balls when he was caught in the deep, giving KKR a much-needed breakthrough.

Indian Girls dominate day 1 with five convincing wins

TASHKENT

India's U-17 girls' boxers delivered a dominant start to their campaign at the Asian Boxing U17 Championships 2026, registering five impressive victories on Day 1 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Rakhi (48kg) led the charge with a commanding performance, defeating her Sri Lankan opponent via RSC in the very first round. Continuing the strong momentum, Ovi (50kg) secured a unanimous 5-0 victory over Iran, while Mamta (52kg) outclassed her Thai opponent with another clinical 5-0 win.

Lakshmi (54kg) added to India's winning streak with a dominant 5-0 decision against Korea, showcasing complete control throughout the bout. Navya (57kg) capped off a stellar day for the Indian contingent, sealing victory with an RSC in Round 1 against Vietnam. In the boys' category, Neela Narendra Kumar (46kg) impressed with a powerful showing.



Allu Arjun Is Now King of Bihar

The upcoming film "Raaka", starring Allu Arjun, is already creating a huge buzz even before its shooting is completed. The movie is getting massive attention, especially in North India. This shows how strong Allu Arjun's popularity has become after the success of his earlier films. After the blockbuster success of Pushpa: The Rise and Pushpa 2: The Rule, Allu Arjun gained a huge fan base in states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand. These films performed extremely well in the Hindi market and even reopened theatres in some areas. Because of this, expectations for Raaka are now very high. Reports say that distributors in Bihar are showing great interest in buying the rights for this film. There is strong competition among buyers, and many are ready to spend big money. This kind of demand is very rare, especially when the film is still under production. It clearly shows the growing

market power of Allu Arjun in the North belt.

The film is directed by Atlee, who is known for making commercial entertainers with strong mass appeal. His style, combined with Allu Arjun's energy, is expected to create a big impact at the box office. Because of this powerful combination, trade experts believe that the movie can earn more than ₹500 crore in the Hindi market alone. Raaka is being made on a large scale and will release in multiple languages, including Telugu and Hindi. The film is produced by Sun Pictures and is expected to hit theatres in 2027.

Swayambhu weighs June & July release options

Nikhil Siddharth's much-awaited film "Swayambhu" is unlikely to hit theaters this month, with the makers now targeting a release in June or early July. Although the film wrapped up its shoot some time ago, the team is yet to lock a firm release date due to various external factors, including a crowded release calendar. With "Peddi" already scheduled for June 4 and Akhil Akkineni's "Lenin" set for June 26, the available slots in June are limited, leaving mid-June as the only viable option. As a result, the makers are also considering an early July release as a safer alternative. Directed by Bharat Krishnamachari, "Swayambhu" is a period drama that features Nikhil Siddharth in the role of a warrior. The film stars Samyuktha and Nabha Natesh as the female leads. Meanwhile, the film's music is already generating buzz. The first single, "Ra Ra Dhevara," composed by Ravi Basrur, is trending on Spotify, crossing over 100K streams and gaining strong traction across playlists.

The team is expected to finalize and announce the release date soon.

Adarsha Kutumbam: Thaman begins work replacing Harshavardhan



Thaman has officially joined the team of "Adarsha Kutumbam," starring Venkatesh Daggubati and directed by Trivikram Srinivas. The film, also referred to as "AK47," now sees Thaman replacing Harshavardhan Rameshwar as the music composer.

Confirming the development, Thaman shared a picture with Trivikram on Instagram Stories and wrote, "Another chart-breaking journey of us started on this auspicious Chithra Pournami day. #AK47."

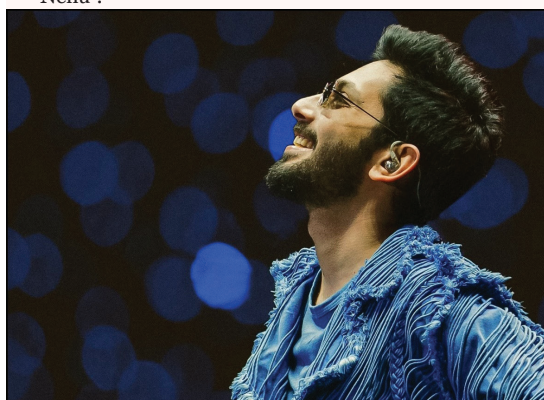
The reason behind Harshavardhan Rameshwar's exit from the project remains unclear. He was initially brought on board after

impressing Trivikram with his work on the Bollywood blockbuster "Animal." However, industry buzz suggests creative differences may have led to the change. Thaman and Trivikram have previously delivered successful albums together for films like "Aravindha Sametha," "Ala Vaikunthapurramloo," and "Guntur Kaaram," making this reunion noteworthy. "Adarsha Kutumbam Inti No. 47" features Venkatesh as a family man, with Srinidhi Shetty as the female lead. The film also stars Satya, Vennela Kishore, Brahmanandam, and Yogi Babu. It is being produced by S. Radha Krishna under the Haarika & Hassine Creations banner.

Anirudh for Balayya's next?

Anirudh Ravichander has not yet worked with a senior star in Telugu cinema, though he delivered blockbuster albums for legends like Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan in Tamil. Now, it looks like he might finally do it with Nandamuri Balakrishna. Director Koratala Siva recently announced his first collaboration with Balayya, and the film is set to go on floors soon. Meanwhile, strong buzz suggests that Koratala has approached Anirudh, after their successful association on "Devara".

Anirudh, currently the highest-paid music director in India, is busy with projects like The Paradise and Allu Arjun-Lokesh Kanagaraju's AA23. If he comes on board for Balayya's film, it will be a fresh and exciting combination. The film is said to be a political and social drama with strong action elements, with Koratala Siva reportedly returning to the space of "Bharat Ane Nenu".



Kajal Aggarwal joins NBK111, look test completed

Kajal Aggarwal continues to stay busy in her second innings, bagging multiple high-profile projects across industries. The latest addition to her lineup is Nandamuri Balakrishna's upcoming film, tentatively called NBK111. Kajal has been roped in as the female lead, marking her second collaboration with Balakrishna after "Bhagavanth Kesari." This time, however, she is said to have a full-length role. The film is being directed by Gopichand Malineni, and Kajal will be joining the shoot shortly. A look test for her role has already been completed. On the Bollywood front, Kajal has "The India Story" gearing up for release on July 24, co-starring Shreyas Talpade. She is also part of the much-anticipated epic "Ramayana," headlined by Ranbir Kapoor. With multiple big-ticket projects in hand, Kajal Aggarwal is clearly entering a packed and promising phase in her career once again.



Is Milky Beauty Tamannaah in Love Again?

Everyone knows about Tamannaah's past relationship. She was dating actor Vijay Varma for some time, but later they broke up. Now, it looks like she may have fallen in love again. Her recent statements are adding fuel to these rumours. Tamannaah has shared her thoughts on love in a different way. She says love is not a transaction. According to her, when we give love to someone, we should not expect it back in return. This part sounds simple, but what

she said next is creating buzz. She said a person can fall in love many times in life and it does not have to be limited to just one person. Tamannaah believes that once you are open to love, you can experience it again and again. These comments, coming after her breakup with Vijay Varma, are now going viral. She also said that relationships should not feel like a burden, but should help a person grow. This statement has also become a talking point. While Tamannaah is sharing such views on love, Vijay Varma is reportedly being seen with another woman, hinting that he may have moved on as well.



Ruhani's Captivating Charm

In this stunning photograph by @bharat_rawail, Ruhani Sharma captivates with effortless charm and poise. Wearing a vibrant striped crop top, her curly locks framing a confident gaze, the image radiates freshness and quiet strength — a true reflection of her versatile persona.

Born on September 18, 1994, in Solan, Himachal Pradesh, Ruhani began as

a model and Punjabi music video star before stepping into films. She made her acting debut with the Tamil movie Kadai's Bench Karthi (2017). Her breakthrough came with the Telugu romantic drama Chi La Sow (2018) opposite Sushanth, earning widespread acclaim for her natural performance.

She solidified her position in Tollywood with notable roles in HIT: The First Case

(2020) as Neha, Nootoka Jillala Andagadu (2021), and pan-Indian projects like Kamala (Malayalam debut, 2019). Recent films include Her: Chapter 1, Saindhav (2024), Blackout (2024), Sriranga Neethulu (2024), and Mask (2025). With her expressive screen presence and growing filmography across languages, Ruhani continues to shine as a promising talent in South Indian cinema.

Continuing the legacy of grandfather Akkineeni Nageswara Rao, his grandson, Nagarjun's son, Naga Chaitanya seems to be in a phase where he is quietly doing the best in everything he does, including roles, mindset, and even his space within the Annapurna Studios.

After years of being tagged as the "lover boy," Chay is now clearly pushing for a shift. In an interview given to Variety India, he spoke

about this briefly. His statement is simple: "I want to convince the audience that I can suit any kind of role." And that is visible in his choices. From Majili to Thandel, and now stepping into a mythological horror-thriller like Vrushakarma, the effort to break stereotypical image is very evident.



Chay's Golden Words On Dad, Cinema & Annapurna's Sound

