

HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 VOL NO.17 ISSUE NO.:15 RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) PAGES:12 RS.1/-

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026

WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM



VIJAY SWORN-IN AS TAMIL NADU CM

CHENNAI, MAY 10

Chennai, May 10: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay was sworn-in as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister in Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai on Sunday (May 10, 2026) morning — a moment long awaited by several thousand fans and supporters. As Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new Chief Minister, emotionally-charged supporters cheered their 'Thalapathy' assuming Tamil Nadu's top political office. Several fans turned visibly emotional, with some shedding tears of joy as they witnessed the actor-turned-politician becoming the Chief Minister of the State. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was present on the stage. Dressed in a black blazer and black pants, Mr. Vijay wore his characteristic smile as he walked up to the podium to be administered the customary oath of office and secrecy. As he commenced uttering "C. Joseph Vijay ennum naan...", the crowd erupted in celebration, with whistle sounds filling the stadium with excitement and a sense of political arrival.

TVK contested in 233 constituencies without any allies and secured around 1.7 crore of the total 4.9 crore votes polled in the April 23 Assembly election. Over the five days after his party secured 108 of the 234 seats in the Assembly on May 4, Mr. Vijay managed to secure the support of the Congress, the Communist Party of India, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi, and the Indian Union Muslim League to form the government. On Saturday evening, the Governor appointed Mr. Vijay as the Chief Minister with a direction to seek the vote of confidence of the Assembly

Made with Flourish • Create interactive content

Mr. Vijay's political journey since 2024 is said to have prompted several young people and cinema fans to take greater interest in politics, with the TVK emerging as an alternative political platform for many in the State. At the same time, the two-year-old party's ideological positioning, organisational structure and the political acumen of many of its functionaries may still be evolving. For now, however, the TVK with Mr. Vijay as its face, seems to have sufficient electoral strength to keep both the AIADMK and the DMK out of power in Tamil Nadu.

Revanth Greets Vijay on Becoming TN CM
Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy congratulated Joseph C. Vijay on assuming office as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

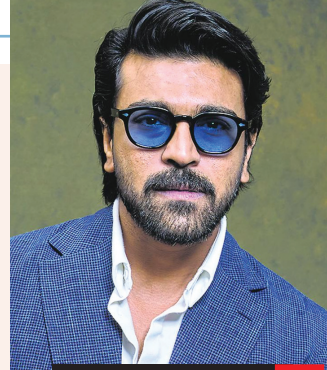
In a statement, Revanth Reddy expressed hope that Vijay would provide progressive governance and work for the welfare and development of Tamil Nadu. He also wished him a successful tenure and said his leadership would earn the trust and affection of the people.



RCB KNOCK OUT MI, CLIMB TO TOP SPOT

STADIUM 11

RAM CHARAN TAKES ALLU ARJUN ROUTE



BOX-OFFICE 12

Centre Will Stand With TG PM Modi at Major Project Launch Event

HYDERABAD, MAY 10

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated and laid foundation stones for several major infrastructure and industrial projects in Telangana during an event held at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) on Saturday. The projects, spanning highways, railways, industrial development, textiles, and energy sectors, are expected to significantly strengthen the state's economic and transport infrastructure.

Among the key announcements, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the four-lane Hyderabad-Panaji Economic Corridor (NH-167) project between Gudeballur and Mahabubnagar. The highway project is being developed at an estimated cost of ₹3,180 crore and is expected to improve connectivity and boost trade movement across the region.

He also laid the foundation stone for the development of the Zaheerabad Industrial Area with an investment of ₹2,360 crore, aimed at accelerating industrial growth and attracting investments into Telangana.

In the railway sector, Modi inaugurated completed sections of the Kazipet-Vijayawada Multi-Tracking Railway Project built at a cost of ₹1,250 crore. An advanced



bypass railway line at Kazipet, developed with an expenditure of ₹300 crore, was also dedicated to the nation to improve freight and passenger rail operations.

The Prime Minister further dedicated the PM MITRA Park at Warangal to the nation. Developed within the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park premises at an estimated cost of ₹1,700 crore, the textile park has been designed to international standards and is expected to generate large-scale employment opportunities for youth.

In the energy sector, Modi inaugurated

CM Urges Centre to Create Special Task Force for Metro City Projects

Hyderabad, May 10: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday urged the Central Government to establish a special single-window task force within the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for granting fast-track clearances to major infrastructure and development projects in key metropolitan cities across the country. The proposal was

made during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Telangana visit at the development projects inauguration event held in Hyderabad.

Revanth Reddy suggested that the proposed mechanism should focus on six major metro cities — Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Revanth directs officials to start intermediate admissions as usual this year

HYDERABAD, MAY 10

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed officials to conduct intermediate admissions as usual this year.

In view of the availability of limited time for admissions and the various technical hurdles currently impeding the process of merger of Intermediate education with the general school education system, the Chief Minister instructed that the admission process be initiated immediately to ensure that students do not face challenges.

The Telangana Education Commission had recommended the abolition of the Intermediate education system and replaced it with Class 11 and Class 12 grades - similar to the CBSE model.

The Commission emphasised that the new education system would significantly reduce the number of student dropouts. The majority of states were already implementing Class 11 and Class 12 grade structures. However, Telangana state is still practicing the old system of intermediate education as a separate entity. As a result, the majority of students who complete their education up to 10th grade in government schools are not enrolling in the separate colleges designated for Intermediate studies and instead they discontinue their education.

Against this backdrop, the Chief Minister suggested to integrate the Intermediate education into the regular school curriculum as classes 11 and 12, rather than maintaining it as a separate entity. The Telangana Education Commission also highlighted the importance of the merge of Intermediate education with school education. An announcement was also made of suspending admissions to the Intermediate course which created anxiety among students and their parents.

In light of present situation, the Chief Minister held a meeting with MP Vem Narendhar Reddy, Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, CM's Principal Secretary Seshadri, Special Secretary Ajith Reddy, Secretary Manik Raj, and Education department Commissioner Yogita Rana. In the meeting, Revanth Reddy reviewed several technical issues and challenges associated with the proposed merger and decided to postpone the process temporarily.

He directed officials to conduct extensive consultations with all stakeholders regarding the merger and also suggested that the committee constituted to formulate the Telangana Education Policy should study the issue and submit its recommendations. The Chief Minister clarified that a final decision would be taken only after holding a debate in the Legislative Assembly.

IAF's Surya Kiran to stage air show over Somnath Temple



HYDERABAD, MAY 10

The Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team will perform a special air show over the Somnath Temple on May 11 as part of the 'Somnath Amrut Mahotsav-2026', marking 75 years of the shrine's reconstruction, officials said on Sunday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend the celebrations, which will also feature religious rituals and a public address. Rehearsal sorties carried out on Sunday morning drew large crowds, with spectators gathering around the temple town to watch the pilots execute precision formations and close-range flying displays. A key highlight of the event will be indigenous smoke pods developed by the Air Force's Base Repair Depot in Nashik, which will emit saffron, white and green trails to recreate the Indian tricolour in the sky. An Indian Air Force Chetak helicopter will also shower flower petals over the temple during the ceremony.

"The aerobatic display will feature synchronised formations and daring aerial manoeuvres by pilots flying red-and-white Hawk Mk-132 aircraft. The 15-minute show would demonstrate the pilots' expertise in flying fighter aircraft at extremely close distances from one another," Wing Commander Janmeet Sharma said. The aircraft will take off from the Jamnagar

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Centre's development works are underway at 42 places in Telangana: Union Minister Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, May 10 (NSS): As part of his visit to Telangana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid foundation stones for development works and inaugurated several development projects from the HICC in the city.

Speaking on this occasion, Union Minister Kishan Reddy addressed a gathering. He stated that development projects worth ₹9,400 crore were inaugurated and had their foundation stones laid from the hands of the Prime Minister. He highlighted that while the Prime Minister inaugurated the PM

MITRA Park in Warangal, the foundation stone for an industrial zone was laid in Zaheerabad. He recalled that the Central Government had previously provided numerous infrastructure projects to foster the development of Telangana.

He informed that the development works were currently underway at 42 railway stations across the state of Telangana. He noted that the Secunderabad Railway Station was being modernized at a cost of ₹200 crores and was soon set to be transformed into a state-of-the-art facility, on par with the



standards of the Shamshabad Airport.

He revealed that the Central Government had granted approval for the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project three years ago and added that the construction work for the same was

set to commence shortly.

The Union Minister stated that while Telangana possessed only approximately 2,400 kilometers of National Highways until 2014, an additional 2,600 kilometers of the highways had been developed over the past 11 years.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy affirmed that infrastructure development in the Telangana state was progressing at a rapid pace under the aegis of the Central Government. He revealed that the Central Government had allocated

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

Bharathi CEMENT
SUPERIOR QUALITY. GUARANTEED.

ULTRAFAST
FAST SETTING CEMENT

3 TIMES BETTER

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING

Net Qty 50 kg
MRP ₹s
Inclusive of all taxes

Mercury set to soar as heatwave likely returns in Telangana

HYDERABAD

Telangana is bracing for a renewed heatwave, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad forecasts a significant temperature surge across the state starting this week.

While scattered thunderstorms provided a temporary break, the IMD's Sunday evening weather forecast warns of a 'gradual rise' in maximum temperatures by 2 degree Celsius to 3 degree Celsius over the next three to four days.

Isolated light to moderate rain and thunderstorms, accompanied by gusty winds of 30-40 kmph, will likely persist on Monday in districts including Adilabad, Hyderabad, Khammam, and Nalgonda. However, by Tuesday, dry weather is expected to prevail across the entire state, effectively ending the cooling effect of the recent rain.

The northern districts including Adilabad, Nirmal, and Nizamabad are expected to feel the brunt of the mercury, which is expected to range between 41



degree Celsius and 44 degree Celsius.

By the middle of the coming week, the high-temperature 'orange alert' zone is expected to expand southward and westward. Major centers including Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Vikarabad, and Mahabubnagar are projected to transition from the present 36 to 40 degree Celsius to the higher 41 degree Celsius and 44 degree Celsius range by

Wednesday.

Meanwhile, eastern districts like Bhadrachalam, Kothagudem and Mulugu are forecast to stay slightly cooler, maintaining temperatures between 36 and 40.

In the last 24 hours (till 8:30 am on Sunday), Adilabad recorded the state's highest temperature at 40.5 degree Celsius (1.6°C below normal), followed closely by Nizamabad at 40.4 while

Khammam and Nalgonda both reached the 40 degree Celsius.

In the capital, the GHMC area continued to witness a relatively low 36.4 degree Celsius at Begumpet, while Dundigudi recorded 37.6 and Medak witnessed 38 degree Celsius. As the dry spell takes hold on Tuesday, the maximum temperatures in Greater Hyderabad are expected to climb rapidly and range between 41 and 44 degree Celsius.

BRS chief KCR to chair key meeting at Erravelli on Tuesday



HYDERABAD

BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao will chair a key party meeting at his Erravelli residence at 2 pm on Tuesday.

The meeting will be attended by the party's working president KT Rama Rao, general secretaries, and Legislative Party deputy leaders in the Assembly and the Council.

The post-lunch meeting will take up discussions on party organisational structure, membership, appointment of party in-charges, constitution of party committees and overall party strengthening, among other key matters.

Paddy shifting stalls due to vehicle shortage in Karimnagar



KARIMNAGAR

Shifting of paddy to rice mills from procurement centres has been delayed due to various reasons. Subsequently, scores of packed paddy bags have appeared in procurement centres.

Shortfall of vehicles as well as delay in unloading of bags at rice mills are said to be the reasons for the present situation. However, farmers are worried about their produce in the wake of unseasonal rains.

Nearly 6.50 lakh metric tonnes of yield was expected as the paddy was cultivated in 2.75 lakh acres in the district in the Yasangi season. Expecting to procure 3.67 lakh metric tonnes, officials have opened 318 paddy purchasing centres

across the district. Right from the opening of centres to transporting the crop to rice mills staff has been deployed.

Initially, the government had decided to procure the paddy by following the new method of uploading track sheets immediately online and transporting the crop to rice mills in vehicles which have GPS facilities.

The government had decided to implement the system to check irregularities in procurement. However, it was withdrawn following strong resistance from the farming community.

Though the procurement was started finally, it was delayed due to shortage of hamalis and other reasons. Now, transportation has become a problem.

Shortfall of vehicles such as lorries and tractors is delaying the process.

Delay in unloading of paddy at rice mills is also worsening the situation further. It has taken one to two days to unload a lorry load of paddy at rice mills. So, the vehicles have to wait at rice mills till they are unloaded. As a result, the vehicles are unable to return back to PPCs immediately to pick up fresh loads.

Choppadandi MLA Medipalli Satyam, who found a number of packed paddy bags in PPCs during his visit to Gangadhara mandal on Saturday, spoke with the Collector Chitra Mishra over the phone and asked her to send lorries to shift packed paddy immediately.



Modi inaugurates Sindhu Hospital in Hyderabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Sindhu Hospital in Hyderabad on Sunday. Posting on X, the Prime Minister said, "It is a laudable effort to improve healthcare infrastructure in the city and surrounding areas. The emphasis on integrating latest technology and innovation by the hospital team is appreciable."

Telangana Electricity Employees Muslim Minority Association Opens TEEMMA Manzil in Hyderabad

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, MAY 10

Telangana Electricity Employees Muslim Minority Association (TEEMMA) inaugurated TEEMMA Manzil, the State Office Building, in Hyderabad today under the leadership of Jitesh V Patil, IAS, Chairman & Managing Director of TGSPDCL. The ceremony highlighted TEEMMA's ongoing commitment to employee welfare and communal harmony, with Patil expressing confidence that the new facility would serve as a hub for service, legal aid, and skill development for electricity employees and their families.

TEEMMA State President Md Mukhtar and General



Secretary Md. Akbar outlined the building's broader mission, describing it as more than an office and envisioning it as a facilitation center for addressing employee grievances, providing educational guidance, and supporting community service. They expressed

gratitude to TEEJAC leadership and senior TGSPDCL officers for their unwavering support and reaffirmed TEEMMA's dedication to strengthening unity among power sector employees.

A broad turnout marked the inauguration, with participation from TEEJAC Con-

venor, JAC leaders, senior TGSPDCL officials, retired employees, and a large contingent of staff from across Telangana, underscoring the collective backing for TEEMMA Manzil. The committee also extended heartfelt thanks to all donors and well-wishers who contribut-

New Era for Telangana Kamma Corporation

Bandi Ramesh's Chairmanship Brings Unity, Vision, and Momentum in Telangana Politics

Medchal-Malkajgiri, May 10, 2026:

Kukatpally Congress party In-charge Bandi Ramesh received warm congratulations as he steps into the role of Telangana Kamma Corporation Chairman. shawl and a floral garland, signifying the respect and support flowing from party ranks as he assumes the new responsibility. This moment was marked by a palpable sense of optimism as leaders and supporters welcomed him to the position. In a display of unity and readiness to drive development, KPHB Vice President Podugu Apparao



led the ceremonial welcome and presented the honors, underscoring the party's cohesive leadership behind Ramesh. The presence of senior figures, including

KPHB Division President Tammineni Praveen Kumar, Raju Mudiraj, Divya, Vijaya Lakshmi, Vanaja, and other prominent members, highlighted the broad backing

from regional units and the strength of the organization.

As leaders spoke of a forward-looking agenda, the article noted a focus on development initiatives, community outreach, and enhanced transparency in Kukatpally constituency operations under Ramesh's leadership. Observers described the moment as a testament to the party's organizational strength and a positive signal for the Telangana political landscape ahead of upcoming GHMC, CMC and MMC elections, reflecting widespread goodwill and momentum within the party.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

Centre Will Stand With TG

FROM PAGE 1

The Indian Oil Corporation's Greenfield POL Terminal at Malkapur in Hyderabad, constructed with an investment of ₹610 crore. Addressing the gathering at HICC, the Prime Minister reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to Telangana's development and stated that the Union Government was prepared to provide substantial support for the state's growth over the next decade.

Highlighting railway development, Modi said railway

allocations during the undivided Andhra Pradesh era never crossed ₹1,000 crore, whereas Telangana alone is now receiving ₹5,500 crore under the railway budget.

The Prime Minister noted that the Centre was investing lakhs of crores in highway infrastructure projects that would greatly benefit Telangana. He also praised Cyberabad for emerging as one of India's major employment hubs and stressed the importance of investments in cyber technology,

electricity, and electric vehicle sectors.

Speaking about the PM MITRA Textile Park in Warangal, Modi expressed confidence that the project would create extensive employment opportunities and strengthen Telangana's textile industry. During his speech, the Prime Minister also made light-hearted remarks directed at Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy while referring to Central fund allocations, drawing laughter from the audience.

"India can progress only when Telangana progresses," Modi said, assuring that the Centre would continue extending support to the state beyond political considerations.

Meanwhile, senior BJP leaders, including Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, BJP National Vice President D. K. Aruna, and other party leaders, arrived at the Parade Grounds public meeting venue ahead of the Prime Minister's address.

CM Urges Centre to Create Special ...

FROM PAGE 1

and Hyderabad — which he described as crucial drivers of India's economic growth. The Chief Minister stated that large-scale urban infrastructure projects in metropolitan cities often face delays due to multiple approval processes, and a dedicated single-window system under the PMO would help accelerate clearances and execution.

He emphasized that rapid development of mega cities is essential for creating employment opportunities for youth, attracting investments, strengthening urban infrastructure, and boosting the country's overall economic progress. According to the Chief Minister, faster approvals for nationally important projects would significantly enhance the growth potential of India's leading urban centres and contribute to long-term economic expansion.

IAF's Surya Kiran to stage air show...

FROM PAGE 1

Air Force Station and reach Somnath within about 18 minutes, covering roughly 182 kilometres, officials said. The team, led by Group Captain Ajay Dasharathi, comprises 13 pilots, while 25-30 Air Force personnel will handle operational aspects such as flight control, safety, bird hazard management and communication. Established in 1996, the Surya Kiran team has conducted over 800 air displays across India and abroad, representing the Indian Air Force in several countries including China, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. The Somnath Amrut Mahotsav commemorates 75 years since the temple's reconstruction and inauguration by India's first President, Rajendra Prasad. During his visit, Modi will hold a roadshow from the helipad to the statue of Veer Hamirji Gohil and participate in rituals such as 'abhishhek', 'dhwaj pooja' and 'maha pooja' at the temple, before addressing a public gathering at Sadbhavana Ground.

Centre's development works are underway at 42 places in Telangana: Union Minister Kishan Reddy

FROM PAGE 1

substantial funds for the construction of the National Highways in the state and added that several more key highway projects were being made available to the state.

Kishan Reddy remarked that while political differences are natural during election periods, there was a need for everyone to work together after the elections, keeping Tel-

angana's development as the primary objective. He called for a coordinated approach to state development that transcends political lines.

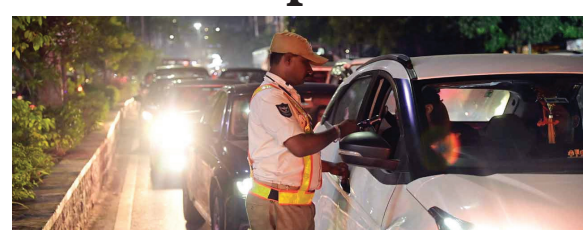
He commented that the Chief Minister's absence during the inauguration of the Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant as well as during the launch ceremony of the ₹13,000 crore NTPC power project had led to a somewhat awkward situation. Nevertheless, he clarified that regard-

less of which political party is in power at the state level be it the Communist Party, the Congress, or the BRS party the Central Government works for the development of the entire nation including Telangana without any discrimination.

Kishan Reddy emphasized that achieving the "Viksit Bharat - 2047" vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi requires the equitable development of all the

states across the country. He added that Telangana, too, must move forward in the collective effort to transform India into a developed nation. He clarified that the Central Government would extend its full cooperation in achieving that objective and added that under the leadership of PM Modi, they would continuously strive for the development of Telangana.

Cyberabad Traffic Police Nab 137 Drunk Drivers in Weekend Special Drive



HYDERABAD, MAY 10

The Cyberabad Traffic Police conducted a special weekend drunk-and-drive enforcement drive across Cyberabad limits, booking 137 offenders for driving under the influence of alcohol. According to police officials, the highest number of violations involved two-wheelers, with 113 cases registered. The drive also detected five three-wheeler drivers, 18 four-wheeler drivers, and one heavy vehicle driver operating vehicles in an inebriated condition.

Based on Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels, 105 offenders recorded BAC levels between 36 mg/100 ml and 200 mg/100 ml, while 18 offenders had BAC levels between 201 mg/100 ml and 300 mg/100 ml. Another 14 offenders were found with BAC levels ranging from 301 mg/100 ml to 550 mg/100 ml.

Police stated that all offenders would be produced before the court. The Cyberabad Police reiterated that drunk driving is a serious offence and warned that individuals causing fatal accidents while under the influence of alcohol would be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, relating to culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The offence carries a punishment of up to 10 years imprisonment along with a fine.

Meanwhile, police said that during the period from May 4 to May 9, a total of 198 drunk driving cases were disposed of in courts. Among them, four offenders received jail term along with fine, four others were awarded fine along with social service, while 190 offenders were penalised with fines only.

Samuhik Vivah Samagam (Mass Marriages) of Sikh Couples performed in a befitting manner

HYDERABAD

It was a dream come true for six Sikh couples who got married in a befitting manner without spending a penny that too in the presence of hundreds of Sikhs who came from parts of the state to bless the newlywed couples at Gurudwara Baram Bala, Sikh Chawniat, Kishanbagh, Hyderabad on Sunday.

What made the occasion especially emotional was the happiness seen on the faces of economically struggling parents, many of whom never imagined they would witness their sons and daughters getting married in such a dignified and traditional manner without spending a single rupee.

Held under the guidance of the Prabhndak Committee of Gurudwara Baram Bala, Sikh Chawniat, Kishanbagh, the ceremony brought together hundreds of members of the Sikh community from different parts of Telangana to bless the newlyweds. As many as six couples got married at "Samuhik Vivah Samagam" (Mass Marriages), thanks to



the Prabhndak Committee in cooperation with Sadh Sangat and Gurudwara Sahab Prabhndak Committees of Telangana state made the impossible dream come true for the new couples and their parents. Religious Heads from Sachkhand Sri Hazur Sahib, Nanded who were specially invited for the occasion blessed the couples.

Most of the brides and bridegrooms hailed from Hyderabad, Nizamabad, Maharashtra and nearby regions.

The Samuhik Vivah Samagam began in the morning, while the traditional Sikh marriage ceremony, Anand Karaj (Lawan

Phere), ie, solemnising of marriage as per the Sikh traditions was performed amid prayers and hymns in a deeply spiritual atmosphere.

The Prabhndak Committee President S. Chetan Singh Shikari, Secretary S. Rajbeer Singh, Chairman S. Harbans Singh and Advisor S. Iqbal Singh and others said the initiative was aimed at supporting families unable to afford extravagant weddings, which often cost several lakhs of rupees. They stated that this unique service is being provided by the Prabhndak Committee Gurudwara Sahab Barambala and Hyderabad Sikh

Gurudwaras keeping in view that many Sikh families who cannot afford to perform lavish marriages that requires heavy expenditure running into few lakhs of rupees.

The Prabhndak Committee made all arrangements including providing free accommodation facilities, Guru-ka-Langar (breakfast, lunch, dinner, tea and snacks etc) for last two-three days. Only Gurmukh and Amritdhari Sikhs were allowed for solemnising of the marriages.

The most heartening part was that all the Sikh Gurudwaras of Telangana extended wholehearted support for the successful conduct of these marriages. Various Gurudwara Committees, Telangana Sikh Society and individuals presented the required domestic articles to the newly married couples which will help in settling their lives. Devotees expressed happiness and complimented the Prabhndak Committee for the tireless service that they provided in solemnising the marriage of Sikhs who cannot afford luxurious marriages.

TS MESA Urdu Officers unit honours high-achieving students in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

The TS MESA Urdu Officers Unit held a distinguished felicitation ceremony at the Conference Hall of Raga Educational Academy in Moghalpura, Hyderabad, on Sunday to recognise students who excelled in their SSC and Intermediate examinations. Numerous students from various government schools and colleges throughout the city were present at the event.

During the ceremony, 50 exceptional students received certificates of appreciation and mementos from the Unit in acknowledgment of their academic achievements. Education professionals, lecturers, and academic specialists spoke to the attendees, encouraging them to pursue higher education with commitment and perseverance. Dr. Riyaz, the Chairman of the Library, attended as the chief guest at the event. The programme was also attended by Farooq Ahmed.

NTR Trust holds Thalassemia Run on necklace road

HYDERABAD

The 'NTR Trust Thalassemia Run,' organized under the aegis of the NTR Memorial Trust for children suffering from Thalassemia disease was held with great fanfare on Necklace Road in the city today. A large number of youth and members of the public participated in the 3K, 5K, and 10K run categories, which commenced at Jalavihar. The Managing Trustee of the NTR Memorial Trust Nara Bhuvaneshwari attended the event as the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhuvaneshwari emphasized the critical need to create awareness regarding Thalassemia. She noted that it was one of the dangerous diseases claiming the lives of children. She expressed deep anguish over the fact that the affected children were compelled to undergo painful medical treatments once every 15 days. She stated that approximately 12,000 children were born with Thalassemia in the country every year and added that



currently, there were over 1.5 lakh Thalassemia patients nationwide.

She mentioned that in the Telugu states alone, approximately 7,500 people were suffering from this disease. She further explained that the primary objective of this run was to foster greater awareness about the Thalassemia within society. She announced that the Thalassemia centers and blood banks would soon be established in Vijayawada and Anantapur districts of neighbouring Andhra Pradesh state. She concluded by stating that the ultimate goal of the NTR Trust was to bring smiles on

the faces of the children suffering from the Thalassemia.

Former Team India captain Mithali Raj, MLA Malla Reddy, Hyderabad CP Sajjanar, Hyderabad Collector Priyanka Ala, Cyberabad CP Ramesh, Bharat Biotech Joint Managing Director Suchitra Ella, film actress Manasa Varanasi and others participated in this event. Prominent figures from the film and political spheres, along with youth and the representatives of voluntary organizations also participated in the event in large numbers to express their support for the children suffering from the Thalassemia.

PV Rao was a guiding light of the oppressed: Mala Mahanadu

HYDERABAD

The 75th birth anniversary of the founding president of the Mala Mahanadu Pothula Vigneshwar Rao (P.V. Rao) was celebrated with great grandeur at Hyderguda based NSS in the city on Sunday. The National President of the Mala Mahanadu Dr. Pabbati Srikrishna participated in this event as the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that P.V. Rao was a revered figure for all the oppressed castes—a man of the stature of an IAS officer who dedicated his entire life to fighting tirelessly not only for the Mala community but also for the unity and political empowerment of SCs, STs, Adivasis, the poor and the BCs. He said that A pledge was taken to uphold and continue his ideals for following the path he laid out. He described P.V. Rao as a true heir to BR Ambedkar. He said that being an honest intellectual, P.V. Rao—who once served as the editor of the Andhra Pradesh government's official publication—had frequently engaged in discussions with MRPS leader Manda Krishna and BC leader R. Krishnaiah, advocating for the realization of political power by uniting all the castes under the banner of Ambedkar's ideology.

Dr. Pabbati lashed out by stating that if the Mala community and its representatives do not raise their voices in their own defense even now—recognizing that the Malas possess the power to completely bury the Congress party—they would face grave injustice. He accused CM Revanth Reddy—who he termed a "wicked individual"—of manipulating census figures and, even before the BJP could act, implementing SC categorization in Telangana in a manner that caused severe injustice to the 26 castes listed under Group 3 regarding roster points.

He stated that the Mala community public representatives, who fail to advocate for the rights of the Mala community, have no moral right to seek their votes in the upcoming elections. The event was attended by the organisation's Hyderabad President L. Girija Shankar, Vice President A.N. Vinay Kumar, Cantonment President Suresh Kumar, M.G. Vinay Kumar, Secunderabad Parliamentary President Sanki Prasad, Social Media Representative Arun Kumar, Monda Market President Ram Mohan, Bansilalpet General Secretary Sekhar, Indira Park leaders Sampath and Krishna among others.

Shabbir Ali plays key role in 10-acre Muslim graveyard land allotment in Kamareddy

HYDERABAD

Advisor to Telangana Government Mohammed Ali Shabbir played a key role in securing the allotment of 10 acres of land worth more than Rs. 20 crore for a Muslim burial ground in Kamareddy district, with the Telangana Government issuing an official Gazette notification for the allocation.

The land measuring Ac.10.00 guntas in Survey No. 325/61/2 at Kyasampally village in Kamareddy district was allotted to the Telangana Waqf Board for the burial of Muslim dead bodies. The notification was published in the Telangana Gazette dated April 16, 2026 under the provisions of the Waqf Act, 1995.

Sources said the initiative was part of efforts to ensure availability of adequate burial grounds for Muslims in every district of Telangana, beginning with Kamareddy, the hometown district of Mohammed Ali Shabbir.

Shabbir Ali has been associated with several major initiatives relating to minority welfare over the past three decades. He had the distinction of creating India's first Minority Welfare Department in united Andhra Pradesh in 1993 after becoming a Minister for the first time at the age of 32.

It was during 1993-94 that the then Andhra Pradesh Government introduced a separate mi-

nority welfare budget for the first time in history with an allocation of Rs. 2 crore. Over the years, the allocation witnessed a steady increase and the combined minority welfare budgets of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for 2026-27 now stand at nearly Rs. 7,000 crore.

Shabbir Ali also played a significant role in introducing four per cent reservation for Muslims in education and employment under the BC-E category, which has reportedly benefited nearly 22 lakh economically weaker Muslims.

Officials recalled that the first appointment letter issued to a Muslim candidate under the BC-E reservation category was given by the Genco Department, which was under the control of then Energy Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir during 2006-07.

During the Congress Government between 2004 and 2009, Shabbir Ali played a major role in establishing pre-matric and post-matric hostels, English-medium residential schools for minorities which later evolved into the Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS), and Muslim mass marriage schemes which later took shape as Shaadi Mubarak. The latest Gazette notification is being viewed as another significant step in the continuing expansion of minority welfare infrastructure in Telangana.



OUR CENSUS OUR DEVELOPMENT



Telangana

Houselisting & Housing Census
11th May to 9th June

What will you be asked?

Information of house:

- Building number
- Materials of the floor, walls & ceiling
- Ascertain use of the house- (Residential/Non-residential)
- Condition of the house

Others:

- Main cereal consumed
- Mobile number (Only for Census communication)

Basic information about the family:

- Number of family members
- Name, sex and caste of the head of the family (SC/ST or others)
- Ownership status of the house
- Number of rooms
- Number of married couples living in the house

Amenities:

- Source of drinking water
- Availability of drinking water source
- Main source of lighting
- Access to latrine
- Type of latrine
- Waste water outlet
- Bathroom facilities
- Kitchen and LPG/PNG connection
- Main fuel used for cooking

Assets:

- Radio/Transistor
- Television
- Access to internet
- Computer/Laptop
- Mobile phone /Telephone
- Two-wheeler/ Four-wheeler

» This stage lays the foundation for population enumeration

» All your information will remain completely confidential and secure

TOLL FREE - 1855

Let us fulfill our responsibility and participate in the Census

CensusIndia2027

CBC 19108/13/0084/2627

SHORT TAKES

Telangana defers merger of Intermediate with school education

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government has deferred a decision on the recommendation of the Education Commission to merge Intermediate education with the school education system. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday directed officials to conduct Intermediate admissions as usual for this academic year. In view of the availability of limited time for admissions and the various technical hurdles currently impeding the process of merger of Intermediate education with the general school education system, the Chief Minister instructed that the admission process be initiated immediately to ensure that students do not face challenges. The Telangana Education Commission had recommended the abolition of the Intermediate education system and replacing it with Class II and Class 12 grades - similar to the CBSE model. The commission emphasized that the new education system would significantly reduce the number of student dropouts. The majority of states were already implementing Class II and Class 12 grade structures. Telangana state was still practicing the old system of intermediate education as a separate entity. As a result, the majority of students who complete their education up to 10th grade in government schools are not enrolling in the separate colleges designated for Intermediate studies.

Modi Dedicates Key Railway Infrastructure Projects in Telangana to the Nation

Various Sections of Kazipet - Vijayawada Multi-tracking Project with combined length of 118 Kms and Kazipet Rail Under Rail Bypass

HYDERABAD

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India laid foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple developmental projects in Telangana State worth around Rs. 9,400 crores including Railway project viz. various sections of Kazipet - Vijayawada multi tracking project and Kazipet Rail Under Rail Bypass today i.e., 10th May, 2026 at a function held at HIC Centre, Gachibowli, Hyderabad.

Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, Hon'ble Governor, Telangana; Shri A. Revanth Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Telangana; Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal and Mines; Shri Bandi Sanjay, Hon'ble Minister of State of Home Affairs; Shri Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Hon'ble Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography, Govt. of Telangana and Shri Konda Vishveshwar Reddy, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Chevella also graced the occasion. Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR and other senior Railway officials were also present.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister highlighted Hyderabad's transformational significance as a centre of both national and global importance. Underscoring the region's pivotal role in driving rapid development for Telangana and the entire nation,

he outlined how multiple large-scale projects launched today will establish Telangana as a major manufacturing hub. Noting that these project inaugurations will generate thousands of new employment



opportunities while strengthening regional connectivity, the Prime Minister extended congratulations to Telangana's people for these projects.

Comparing Telangana's transformed railway investment profile with its pre-2014 baseline, the Prime Minister noted a dramatic escalation: while undivided Andhra Pradesh's railway budget stood at less than one thousand crore rupees prior to 2014, Telangana's current annual railway allocation exceeds five and a half thousand crore rupees.

Observing that approximately 50 thousand crore rupees of railway projects are under concurrent implementation, he highlighted the introduction of five Vande Bharat and six Amrit Bharat trains serving Telangana, exemplifying the transformation in modern rail transport. Referring to the dedication of select sections of the Kazipet-Vijayawada Multi-Tracking Project and also Kazipet Rail Under Rail Bypass, Shri Modi asserted, "These facilities will make travel eas-

ier and speed up transportation.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri A. Revanth Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Telangana stated that today is Vikas Utsav for the people of Telangana as various important developmental projects have been launched in the state. The Hon'ble Chief Minister said that the State Government will work together with centre towards the ambition of Viksit Bharat 2047.

During the welcome address, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister stated that multiple projects worth Rs. 9,400 crore pertaining to Roads and Railway sectors, textiles and logistics have been launched today by Hon'ble Prime Minister. He stated that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister various developmental projects are being undertaken in the state including Rail Manufacturing Unit at Warangal, redevelopment of 40 Amrit stations, major upgradation of Secunderabad Railway station etc.,. The Central government is fully committed to the overall development of Telangana, he added.

Salient Features of the Dedicated Projects:

Kazipet - Vijayawada Multi Tracking Project:

Kazipet - Vijayawada section is an important grand trunk route playing a vital role in connecting Northern and Southern parts of the country. Considering its importance, construction of third line along with electrification has been taken up on priority. Accordingly, the construction of third line along with electrification in the sections between Kazipet - Warangal, Nekkonda - Mahabubabad and Dornakal - Errupalem totalling to 118 kms were completed and commissioned. The approximate cost incurred for tripling of these sections is Rs. 1,243 Crores. The remaining sections between Kazipet - Vijayawada are already completed and dedicated to the nation except for the section between Dornakal - Mahabubabad in which works are in fast progress.

Benefits:

- Decongestion of the over-saturated Grand Trunk route connecting Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western parts of the country
- Increase in capacity and freight loading across the section
- Reduction in travel time and improved punctuality for long-distance trains

Kazipet Rail under Rail Bypass:

This Rail under Rail bypass is constructed for a distance of 21 Kms and the approximate cost incurred is Rs 292 Crs. Kazipet Junction is centrally located connecting Secunderabad direction on one side, Balharshah direction on one side and Vijayawada direction on other side. Construction of Rail under Rail Bypass has been taken up at this junction for smooth handling of both passenger and freight train services in all the three directions.



Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Meets NHA Chairman Santosh Kumar Yadav

HYDERABAD

State Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy held a special meeting on Sunday in Hyderabad with Santosh Kumar Yadav, Chairman of the National Highways Authority of India.

During the meeting, the Minister discussed several important NHA projects in Telangana, with special focus on the Regional Ring Road (RRR) and the expansion of the Hyderabad-Vijayawada National Highway (NH-65). Minister Komatireddy urged the NHA Chairman to expedite the 8-lane expansion works of the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway, which has earned the reputation of a "death road" due to frequent accidents.

The Minister also informed the Chairman that under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the State Government has decided to construct a 7.1-km double-decker elevated corridor from LB Nagar to Ha-

yathnagar on the lines of the Nagpur model. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) has already been submitted to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

The NHA Chairman reportedly informed the Minister that the tender process for both the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway expansion and the Regional Ring Road projects has been completed and arrangements are being made to commence works at the earliest.

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy also brought several ongoing and proposed NHA projects in Telangana to the Chairman's attention and requested speedy execution of projects that are expected to play a key role in the development of the state.

Also present during the meeting were Roads & Buildings Department Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, Special Secretary Pravinia, NHA Regional Officer Shiva Shankar, and R&B Chief Engineers Dharma Reddy and Rajeswar Reddy, among others.

Geetha Murthy attended Modi public Meeting



HYDERABAD: BJP State Vice President Jayashree, BJP National Council Member and former State President of BJP Mahila Morcha Geetha Murthy, Banda Karthika Reddy, Karanam Parinitha, and other leaders attended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting

'BJP will form next government in Telangana'

HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday addressed a large public meeting while launching various development projects in Hyderabad. There was enthusiasm among the people who attended the public meeting in large numbers.

The people present on this occasion gave their feedback while talking to IANS.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supporter Nageshwar Rao, who came to attend the public meeting, said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to Hyderabad today. In the coming times, the next government in Telangana will definitely be formed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)."

BJP worker Madhusudan said, "With the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the land of Telangana, our confidence has increased. The religious war has started from today. A double-engine government will soon be formed in Telangana. The BJP government will be formed in every state of India."



He added, "The people of Telangana welcomed the Prime Minister with great enthusiasm. Only Prime Minister Narendra Modi can develop Telangana. Trusting PM Modi, a large number of people attended the public meeting. Both Congress and the Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) are similar parties. Both the parties are family limited, parties of commission and corruption. To save Telangana,

the BRS and Congress will have to be defeated and the BJP will have to be brought in power in the state."

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several infrastructural and industrial projects worth about Rs 9,400 crore in Hyderabad. He flagged off several railway and logistics projects, including parts of the Kazipet-Vijayawada rail multi-tracking corridor, the Kazipet Rail Under Rail Bypass, and a new greenfield Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants (POL) terminal in Hyderabad.



Additionally, the Prime Minister inaugurated the Indus Hospital in Hyderabad. The hospital is a state-of-the-art multi-specialty quaternary care non-profit institution exclusively for cancer treatment.

PM Modi called it a commendable effort to improve the healthcare infrastructure in Hyderabad and surrounding areas. On this occasion, the Prime Minister said that our effort is to ensure that Hyderabad also progresses like developed India.

"This is the continued commitment of the Central government. For this purpose, I got the opportunity to lay the foundation stone of development projects worth thousands of crores of rupees."

GRAND CELEBRATION OF FARMERS' WEEK

Farmers' Welfare and Modern Agricultural Development are the Government's Goal

HYDERABAD

As part of the Telangana State Government's prestigious "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" 99-day program, the "Farmers' Week" celebrations conducted across the state from May 4 to 9 concluded successfully. Along with the Agriculture Department, allied departments including Horticulture, Sericulture, Electricity, Marketing, Cooperation, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Civil Supplies, and Irrigation coordinated to create large-scale awareness among farmers on modern cultivation methods, scientific farming, marketing, mechanization, animal husbandry, and irrigation practices.

Soil Health - The First Step Towards Scientific Farming

On May 4, the Farmers' Week programs were inaugurated at Tandur in Vikarabad district by the Honorable Agriculture Minister Shri Tummala Nageswara Rao. On the occasion, the "TG Organics" mobile app, developed by the Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Authority for the marketing of produce grown by organic farmers,



was launched by the Minister.

Across the state, 222,762 farmers, 5,850 officials, and 8,157 public representatives participated in the Farmers' Week celebrations.

A total of 14,565 soil samples were collected, and 20,734 soil analysis reports were distributed to farmers. Scientific awareness was created on the use of nano fertilizers, natural farming, and fine rice cultivation. Scientists advised farmers to cultivate high-demand fine rice varieties preferred by consumers and markets, including BPT 5204, RNR 15048, HMT, Jai Sriram, KJM-1638, WGL-44, WGL-962, and JGL-1798.

Boost to the Horticulture Sector with Modern Technology

house storage facilities, Minimum Support Price (MSP), and marketing opportunities to farmers.

Awareness on Mechanization and Solar Energy Usage

On May 7, demonstrations of modern agricultural machinery and drone technology were conducted. A total of 1,344 agricultural machines were displayed during these programs, and applications from 370 farmers for machinery purchases were received. Awareness was also created on the installation of solar power plants and subsidies under the PM Kusum Scheme.

Strengthening Telangana Agriculture

Through the Farmers' Week programs, the State Government aims to strengthen Telangana's agricultural sector by promoting scientific thinking among farmers, reducing cultivation costs, and increasing productivity and income.

Speaking at the Mega Farmers' Fair, Agriculture Minister Shri Tummala Nageswara Rao stated that the government would procure paddy, maize, and sorghum crops cultivated by farmers and support them. He encouraged farmers to shift towards alternative crops and cultivate high-income crops such as

oil palm, for which the government provides subsidies and procurement support.

He also advised farmers to cultivate pulses, vegetables, and flower crops instead of depending solely on paddy cultivation to achieve higher income. The Minister stated that arrangements had already been made to ensure timely availability of fertilizers and seeds for the upcoming monsoon season.

Exhibition stalls related to agriculture and allied sectors were also showcased during the event.

Along with Agriculture Minister Shri Tummala Nageswara Rao, Ministers Smt. Konda Surekha, MP Kavaya, MLA Srihari, Agriculture Secretary Shri K. Surendra Mohan, IAS, Agriculture Director Dr. B. Gopi, IAS, and other public representatives participated in the program.

Importance Given to Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, and Irrigation Sectors

On the fifth day of Farmers' Week, special awareness programs were conducted under the supervision of the Animal Husbandry Department.

Across the state, 593 artificial insemination camps were organized, and medical examinations were conducted for 35,336 livestock an-

imals.

Additionally, green fodder seeds were distributed to 2,654 farmers.

The Fisheries Department conducted awareness programs on increasing fish production and proper pond management practices.

Farmers were educated about summer livestock care, green fodder cultivation, integrated water usage, and crop planning based on water availability.

Under the Irrigation Department, awareness was created regarding the speedy repair of canals and desilting of tanks.

The importance of removing weeds, thorny bushes, and invasive plants from tank bunds and maintaining cleanliness in canals was explained. Farmers were informed

that the use of black soil from tanks improves soil fertility.

On May 9, Farmers' Week celebrations concluded successfully with awareness programs conducted by the Irrigation Department on balanced water usage and tank cleanliness.

These Farmers' Week programs are contributing to agricultural development by providing farmers with scientific awareness, modern technology, and financial assurance. The government believes that Telangana's agricultural sector will become stronger through farmers' welfare initiatives.

Dr. B. Gopi, IAS
Director of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Hyderabad, Telangana.





'Tipu Sultan circle' naming row sparks violence in AP's Kadapa

KADAPA:

Several persons, including Taluka CI Narasimha Raju, sustained injuries after members of two communities allegedly pelted stones at each other in the Almaspet area of Kadapa city on Saturday, forcing police to conduct a lathi-charge to restore order. Police said members of Hindu and Muslim groups gathered near a traffic circle in Almaspet and raised slogans against each other for several hours. As tension escalated in Almaspet, Kadapa police conducted a lathi-charge after members of two communities allegedly began pelting stones at each other.

The CI sustained head injuries in the violence and police shifted him to hospital. Several constables and members of both groups also suffered injuries. The clashes damaged police vehicles, while stones and water bottles littered roads. According to local sources, the dispute began over the naming of a newly modernised traffic circle. Muslim groups demanded that authorities name the junction "Tipu Sultan Circle". During the Assembly election campaign, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had announced the same, and the YSRCP-led civic body passed a resolution supporting proposal. However, municipal authorities never notified the name. BJP, RSS and VHP leaders opposed the proposal, intensifying tensions ahead of Hanuman Jayanthi celebrations.

A memorable evening that our family will always cherish: Chandrababu Naidu

HYDERABAD, MAY 10

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited his house in Hyderabad on Sunday, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said that it was a memorable evening that his family will always cherish. "It was an honour and a pleasure to host Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji at our residence today. His warmth, affection, and generous interaction made this occasion truly special for all of us. I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for his gracious gesture and for his constant encouragement and support towards the development journey of Andhra Pradesh," Naidu said in a post on X. PM Modi also shared his thoughts on X about the visit. "In Hyderabad, went to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Chandrababu Naidu Garu's residence and met him along with his family. It's always a delight to meet them



and exchange views on so many diverse topics." Chandrababu Naidu, his wife Bhuvanewari, their son and state minister Nara Lokesh, daughter-in-law Brahmini and grandson Devansh welcomed the PM and interacted with him. PM Modi also worshipped at the temple at Chandrababu Naidu's house. Earlier, the Prime Minister visited the house of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

"Went to the residence of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Pawan Kalyan Garu and met him as well as his family. Enquired about Pawan Kalyan Garu's well-being and wished him good health," PM Modi posted on X. Replying to the PM's tweet, Pawan Kalyan thanked him for his concern and warmth. "The memories you have given us will be cherished for the rest of our life," wrote the Jana Sena leader. The actor-politician called it a truly special, honoured and cherished occasion for him and his family. Pawan

Kalyan said he, along with his wife Anna Konidala, and their children Konidala Akira Nandan, Konidala Aadya, Konidala Polina Anjani, and Konidala Mark Shankar, had the great honour of welcoming the Prime Minister. "His gracious visit to personally enquire about my health reflects his warmth, affection, and humane leadership. Despite his hectic schedule and immense responsibilities, he took time to visit and extend his support, a gesture that I deeply value and cherish."

The Deputy CM wrote that on April 19, immediately after his surgery, PM Modi personally called him to enquire about his health and extended his heartfelt reassurance and support during a difficult time. "Now, during my recovery, his visit to my residence today is a gesture of immense kindness and care that I will always cherish. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji treats every individual like

family, always placing the well-being of people at the heart of his thoughts and actions, and this is what makes him truly exceptional. Even while carrying the enormous responsibility of leading the nation, his compassion, personal concern, and emotional connection with people remain truly inspiring. I am deeply touched by the Prime Minister's concern, his kind words, and the valuable time he spent with us. Beyond his exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to the nation's progress, it is his humility, compassion, and personal connect with people that continue to inspire millions across Bharat. His blessings, guidance, and affectionate support will always remain special to me. I convey my sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for this memorable visit and for his constant guidance and encouragement," he added.



Shameless, reckless: Congress torches PM Modi over call to cut fuel use

Congress attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his call to save fuel and defer gold purchases. The row sharpened the political contest over energy security and the West Asia crisis.

vices, carpooling, electric vehicles and railway parcel services while urging people to reduce consumption of edible oil and chemical fertilisers. According to the Prime Minister, the ongoing war and global supply-chain disruption have sharply increased the prices of petrol and fertilisers worldwide.

The Congress on Sunday launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his appeal urging people to save fuel and postpone gold purchases, accusing him of being "clueless" about protecting India's energy security amid the ongoing Iran-US war. The opposition party claimed it was unfair to push the burden of the global energy crisis onto ordinary citizens instead of preparing stronger safeguards to shield the economy from international disruptions. Congress general secretary K C Venugopal accused the Centre of failing to plan adequately despite the conflict continuing for months. "Three months into the Iran-US war and PM Modi is still clueless about ensuring India's energy security," Venugopal wrote on X. "It is shameless, reckless and downright immoral that the PM is pushing the common citizen into inconvenience, instead of building contingencies to ensure our economy is unaffected by this global crisis," he added.

"When there is pressure on the supply chain, difficulties increase despite various measures by the government to overcome the crisis," Modi said.

CONGRESS WARNS OF 'ECONOMIC CATASTROPHE'

Venugopal claimed the Centre's priorities were misplaced and warned of serious economic consequences if stronger contingency planning was not carried out immediately. "When elections and petty politics are the sole priority of the PM, the end result is an impending economic catastrophe," he said. He also demanded that the Centre ensure adequate fuel reserves and prevent hardship for citizens. "The PM and his government must make all necessary arrangements to ensure India has ample fuel reserves and no citizen faces any hardship as a result of their lack of planning," Venugopal said.

HARDEEP PURI DEFENDS CENTRE

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri defended the Prime Minister's appeal and said conserving fuel would help India navigate the global energy crisis caused by military conflict involving major energy-producing nations. "Measures such as these will help the nation conserve energy, save on the energy import bill and overcome the challenges arising out of the serious military conflict involving many energy producing nations," Puri wrote on X. The Union minister claimed India was among the few countries that had managed to maintain stable fuel supplies and avoid steep energy price hikes despite the global turmoil. "India is among very few countries which have not raised energy prices and has maintained steady supplies to citizens even as crises unfold in many parts of the world," he said.

PM MODI'S APPEAL DURING TELANGANA RALLY

The Congress criticism came hours after PM Modi, during a BJP rally in Hyderabad, Telangana, urged citizens to conserve petrol and diesel and revive Covid-era practices such as work from home, online meetings and video conferencing to help reduce fuel consumption and save foreign exchange.

"We developed work from home, virtual meetings and video conferencing during Corona. We got habituated to it. The need of the hour is to resume those methods," Modi said. The Prime Minister also asked citizens to postpone purchases of gold and foreign travel for one year, saying India must save foreign exchange amid the ongoing West Asia crisis. "We have to save foreign exchange by any means," he said. PM Modi also called for greater use of metro rail ser-

2 Indians asymptomatic, evacuated after Hantavirus scare on ship off Spain coast

A Dutch-flagged vessel carrying two Indian nationals triggered a health alert near Spain's Canary Islands after a Hantavirus scare, prompting emergency protocols, evacuation measures and quarantine arrangements involving multiple countries.

Two Indian nationals aboard a Dutch-flagged vessel caught in a Hantavirus scare near Spain's Canary Islands are healthy and asymptomatic, the Indian Embassy in Madrid said on Sunday, even as the crew members were evacuated to the Netherlands for quarantine. The vessel, MV Hondius, carrying around 150 people including two Indian nationals, ar-



rived in Spain amid concerns linked to a Hantavirus outbreak. According to the Indian Embassy, the ship anchored off the coast of Spain's Canary Islands as authorities initiated health safety procedures in coordination with World Health Organisation protocols and Spanish authorities. **CREW MEMBERS EVACUATED TO NETHERLANDS**

In a statement posted by India in Spain, the Embassy said the two Indian nationals were travelling as crew members on the vessel and had been moved to the Netherlands as part of precautionary health measures. "The two Indian nationals are healthy and

asymptomatic," the Embassy said. It added that, according to information shared by the Spanish National Centre for Emergency Monitoring and Coordination (CENEM), the Indian crew members had been evacuated to the Netherlands "where they will be quarantined as per relevant health safety protocol".

PASSENGERS DISEMBARKED UNDER WHO PROTOCOLS

The Embassy said passengers onboard the vessel disembarked in accordance with protocols established by the WHO and Spanish authorities after the ship anchored near the Canary Islands. "The passengers onboard disembarked from the ship in accordance with the protocol established by WHO and Spanish authori-

ties," the statement read.

No infections involving the two Indian nationals have been reported so far.

EMBASSY MONITORING SITUATION

The Indian Embassy in Madrid said officials were in constant touch with Spanish authorities and the Indian crew members to monitor the situation. "The Ambassador is in close contact with the Spanish authorities and the 2 Indian nationals and is regularly monitoring the situation to assure the well-being and safety of the Indian nationals," the statement said.

The development comes amid heightened global attention around infectious disease monitoring and maritime health protocols involving international vessels.

M. K. Stalin Rebutts Vijay Over ₹10 Lakh Crore Debt Claim

MK Stalin pushed back against Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's claim that Tamil Nadu was left with a Rs 10 lakh crore debt burden. He said the state's finances were already set out in the budget as Vijay promised a white paper and transparent governance.

After his swearing-in, Vijay has announced that he will release a white paper on the state's finances for the 2021-2026 period.

Former Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin, on Sunday, said that the Tamil Nadu's debt remains within "permissible limits," countering claims made earlier in the day by new Chief Minis-

ter C Joseph Vijay after his oath-taking ceremony.

Vijay had alleged that the previous government had left the state with a debt of Rs 10 lakh crore and an economic 'burden.' Responding in a post on X, Stalin said, "The debt level of Tamil Nadu is within the permitted limits," and cautioned against claims that the government has no funds.

Vijay swore in as the new CM of Tamil Nadu on Sunday morning. Stalin remarked that Vijay, who has recently taken charge, would gradually understand the complexities of governance.

He added that the state's financial position had already been clearly outlined



in the February budget, questioning whether the current leadership was unaware of it while making electoral promises. "Don't start saying right away that the government has no money. It does have it. What's needed is the will to give it to the people, and the

ability to govern," he said.

Stalin further remarked that Vijay, who has recently taken charge, would gradually understand the complexities of governance and the challenges of fulfilling poll promises. "I believe that, just like us, you too will surely learn soon the

nuances of how to fulfil the promises made to the people. Along with the people who voted for you, I too expect the same," read his tweet.

At the same time, the DMK chief extended his congratulations to Vijay on assuming office. "I extend my heartfelt wishes to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and leader of the victorious TVK on taking on this responsibility," he said.

Since his swearing-in, Vijay has made a series of announcements, including a key decision to release a white paper on the state's finances for the 2021-2026 period. He reiterated that his government would work hard to provide a transpar-

ent administration and fulfil every promise his party made in its manifesto.

Vijay's Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) surprised everyone in what was just their first ever election. Of the 234 seats, the party won 108. After 4 days of speculation of how they would match the majority figure of 117 MLAs (233 counted as Vijay contested from two), they formed a coalition govt. The Indian National Congress (INC), along with the Communist Party of India (CPI), Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM), Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) lent their support to TVK.

Registration for 'Mahila Samridhi Yojna' to begin from June: Delhi govt
NEW DELHI: (MAY 10)

The BJP-led Delhi government is likely to start registrations for the 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana' for providing Rs 2500 monthly to the eligible and needy women in the national capital from June, official sources said on Sunday. A registration portal for the scheme, one of the poll promises of BJP in the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections, has been readied and it is likely to start functioning from the first week of June, they said.

Vande Mataram: Vijay does one better than BJP

The Narendra Modi government's directive on the national song in February had triggered a major political row, with Opposition parties sharply criticising the move. At today's ceremony, Vande Mataram was sung before the national anthem in the presence of Rahul Gandhi and Vijay, who shared the stage together.

Months after the Centre issued fresh guidelines mandating the rendition of the full six-stanza version of Vande Mataram, the song was played in full at Vijay's swearing-in ceremony before the national anthem, in line with the Union Home Ministry's directive.

Interestingly, the song,



penned by renowned Bengali author Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1882, was not played at the Bengal Chief Minister's swearing-in ceremony on Saturday, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and several other Union ministers were present at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground. The Narendra Modi government's directive on the

national song in January had triggered a major political row, with Opposition parties led by the Indian National Congress sharply criticising the move. At today's ceremony, Vande Mataram was sung before the national anthem in the presence of Rahul Gandhi and Vijay, who shared the stage together. The state song Tamil Thai Valthu was played at the end, following

Vande Mataram and Jana Gana Mana, in that order. Following the election results in four states, including Bengal and Tamil Nadu, the Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a proposal to grant the national song Vande Mataram a status equal to the national anthem Jana Gana Mana. Back in February, then West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had called the directive an insult to Rabindranath Tagore, arguing that the national anthem, written by Tagore, should not be played after Vande Mataram. The

MHA directive, dated January 28, also notified that all the six stanzas that were part of the original Vande Mataram should be sung at official functions. This marked a departure from the practice of

singing only the two stanzas adopted by the Constituent Assembly in 1950.

The decision also did not go down well with the Congress, with the Grand Old Party saying the move went against a decision taken during its 1937 session on the advice of Rabindranath Tagore to remain sensitive to the sentiments of different communities and religions.

Amid the row, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said he found it "deeply ironic that those who today claim to be the guardians of nationalism have never sung 'Vande Mataram'..."

On the other hand, the BJP accused the Congress of "pandering to a communal agenda" in 1937 by adopting a shortened version of Vande Mataram.

Himanta Sarma's oath as Assam CM on May 12, PM Modi likely to attend

Himanta Biswa Sarma will be sworn in as Assam chief minister on 12 May in Guwahati. The ceremony follows the NDA's 102-seat victory and his unanimous election as alliance leader.

Himanta Biswa Sarma will be sworn in as the chief minister of Assam for the second straight term on the morning of 12th May. An official notice from the office of the Governor of Assam has exercised his power under Article 164(i) of the Indian Constitution to form the government. The oath taking ceremony is set for 11:40 AM at Guwahati's Veterinary College Field. "The Swearing-in Ceremony is scheduled to be held at 11:40 am on 12th May 2026 at Khanapara, Guwahati. Earlier today Dr @himantabiswa staked claim to form the next government," read a tweet from Assam CMO. This will be Sarma's 2nd consecutive term. This

confirms Sarma's return as the Chief Minister of Assam after the NDA alliance's strong victory in the April 2026 Assam Legislative Assembly elections, where the NDA won 102 of 126 seats. The decision comes after the senior leaders of BJP, headed by Union Minister JP Nadda, had elected Sarma as the leader of the BJP Legislative Party as well as the NDA alliance in Assam. After the meeting, also attended by the other alliances of NDA - Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodoland People's Front (BPF), a unanimous decision was taken regarding choosing the CM-elect. Nadda said eight proposals backing Sarma's name were moved by senior leaders, including Ranjeet Kumar Dass, Biswajit Daimary, Ajanta Neog, Rameswar Teli, Rajdeep Roy, Ashok Singhal, Pijush Hazarika and Chakradhar Gogoi. "Backed by the support of 102 MLAs, we have today submitted a proposal to the Governor under the leadership of Himanta Biswa Sarma.

EDITORIAL

HORMUZ AND HUBRIS: HOW TRUMP'S FAILED NAVAL OPERATION EXPOSED AMERICA'S LIMITS IN IRAN

When Donald Trump unveiled "Operation Project Freedom"—a military campaign designed to "shepherd" stranded commercial ships through the blockaded Strait of Hormuz—he accompanied the announcement with a stern ultimatum: any Iranian obstruction would be met with "uncompromising force." In the days leading up to this, the American president had repeatedly warned Tehran to lift its blockade on the vital maritime passage, which Iran had shuttered following the joint U.S.-Israeli military offensive launched on February 28. Facing a defiant Iranian regime that refused to capitulate, Trump initiated the naval operation to force the waterway open. Yet, the highly publicized campaign collapsed in just under 50 hours. Tehran retaliated swiftly, targeting two U.S. Navy destroyers operating within the strait and launching an assault on an Emirati-owned oil tanker off the coast of Oman. The United Arab Emirates, a pivotal strategic ally to both Washington and Jerusalem, reported experiencing two separate attacks. As the fragile ceasefire began to splinter under the weight of these escalating hostilities, Trump abruptly announced on Wednesday that he was putting the naval mission on hold, claiming the pause was "at the request of Pakistan." Despite Trump's persistent and grandiose assertions of American victory, the ground reality tells a starkly different story: the Strait of Hormuz remains firmly closed, and his highly touted intervention could not even survive three days. Not only did the United States fail to accomplish a single one of its stated goals during the 40-day conflict, but it is now deeply ensnared in a secondary crisis born directly from the war itself—the choking off of the world's most critical energy corridor. In stark contrast to Trump's erratic and often self-contradictory rhetoric since the outbreak of hostilities, Iran's geopolitical stance has remained remarkably steady. Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei reaffirmed last week that Tehran remains fully committed to defending its ballistic missile and nuclear infrastructure while maintaining its strategic grip on the Strait of Hormuz. The Iranian leadership seems entirely convinced that the conflict has bolstered their regional leverage and that they can comfortably play the long game. This stands in sharp contrast to Trump's series of strategic blunders. During the war's opening week, he boastfully declared that the U.S. would accept nothing less than Iran's "unconditional surrender." However, as the military campaign bogged down into a grueling stalemate, his rhetoric shifted toward negotiating a diplomatic resolution. While both nations consented to a temporary truce on April 8, the subsequent maritime blockade Washington imposed on Iranian ports on April 12 failed to yield any tangible concessions from Tehran. Despite his aggressive public posturing, Trump possesses very few leverage points in this grinding war of attrition. Should this standoff drag on, it threatens to inflict severe, long-term damage on both the American and global economies—a scenario that could ultimately derail Trump's own political survival. Conversely, if he chooses to escalate and restart active combat, Tehran is poised to strike back by targeting key Gulf Arab states, which would trigger a catastrophic shock to global markets. The reality is clear: America is not winning this conflict. No amount of bellicose social media posts or aggressive naval posturing will change that fundamental truth. If Washington hopes to prevent the global economy from tumbling off a cliff, it must set aside its bravado, acknowledge these hard limits, and actively seek a diplomatic settlement with Iran rooted in mutual compromises and balanced concessions.

Special on
National
Technology
Day
(May 11)

India Becoming a Technical Superpower in the Digital Age

National Technology Day is celebrated in India on May 11 to commemorate the nation's scientific progress. This is the historic date when, in the year 1998, India conducted successful nuclear tests on the soil of Pokhran, Rajasthan, introducing its scientific capability, strategic power, and technical self-reliance to the entire world. This achievement not only established India in the category of nuclear-weapon-state nations but also proved that despite limited resources, Indian scientists and engineers are capable of achieving world-class technical milestones. In honor of this proud achievement, the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced in 1999 that May 11 would be celebrated as 'National Technology Day.'

National Technology Day is a celebration of India's scientific consciousness, technical self-confidence, and culture of innovation. This year, it is being celebrated with the theme 'Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Development.' This theme emphasizes that the objective of technology should not just be development, but a balanced and ethical development whose benefits reach every section of society. Today's era is one of technology-based transformation. Modern achievements like Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Supercomputers, Space Science, Biotechnology, digital payment systems, and defense technology are rapidly changing human life. By making remarkable progress in all these fields, India has proved that it is not merely a consumer of technology but a nation moving toward global technical leadership.

The most significant foundation of National Technology Day is 'Operation Shakti', i.e., the Pokhran-II nuclear tests. India successfully completed three nuclear tests on May 11, 1998, and two on May 13. These tests made India the world's sixth nuclear power. The original name of this campaign was 'Operation Shakti-98'. In this, five nuclear devices were tested, from Shakti-1 to Shakti-5. Behind this success lay years of hard work by Indian

scientists and defense experts. The Pokhran test was not just a demonstration of military power but also a symbol of technical self-reliance. Despite international pressures and sanctions, India achieved this milestone based on indigenous scientific capability. This is why National Technology Day inspires us to strengthen the spirit of Self-Reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat). On this same day, India achieved several other important technical successes. On May 11, 1998, the successful test flight of the indigenous aircraft 'Hansa-3' took place, and the test of the 'Trishul' missile was also successful. These achievements made it clear that India is rapidly becoming self-reliant in the fields of defense, aviation, and space technology.

Today, the influence of India's technical power is visible all over the world. The digital revolution is the biggest example of this. Until a few years ago, banking and payment processes were complex and time-consuming, but today, transactions are possible in a few seconds through mobile phones. UPI developed by India has redefined digital payments at a global level. Many countries around the world are now showing interest in adopting the Indian digital payment model. Along with this, Aadhaar made the identification system digital and secure. It is the world's largest biometric identification system, which has connected millions of people to government schemes, banking services, and digital facilities. This technology is an excellent example of inclusive development because it ensured digital access even to rural and remote areas. India's space achievements also take the spirit of National Technology Day to new heights. Chandrayaan-3, operated by ISRO, created history by making a successful landing on the South Pole of the Moon. India became the fourth country in the world to do so. Before this, Mangalyaan had surprised the whole world by reaching Mars at a very low cost. These missions proved that India can achieve world-class scientific milestones even with limited resources.

Artificial Intelligence, or AI, is counted among the most transformative technologies in the world today. The theme for the year 2026 also places special emphasis on AI-based responsible innovation. AI is creating new possibilities in fields such as healthcare, education, agriculture, weather forecasting, and disaster management. During the Covid pandemic, technology played a vital role in saving human lives. Systems like vaccine research, digital health platforms, oxygen management, and online education proved that modern technology can be humanity's greatest ally in times of crisis. India has also made remarkable technical progress in the defense sector. The Akash missile developed by DRDO has become a symbol of India's modern security power. This missile is capable of destroying enemy fighter planes and missiles in the air. Additionally, indigenous drones, missile defense systems, and modern warfare techniques are establishing India as a global defense power.

Science and technology are not limited to laboratories; they are a means to improve general life. Today, digital education is reaching villages, farmers are using drones and AI-based agricultural techniques, health services are becoming available in remote areas through telemedicine, and e-governance has made administrative processes transparent. However, along with technical development, many challenges are also emerging. Issues such as cybersecurity, data privacy, digital inequality, and the ethical use of AI have become subjects of global concern today. If technology is not used responsibly, it can also increase problems like social inequality and unemployment. Technical progress should be such that it remains balanced with human values, ethics, and social justice.

India is moving rapidly today toward the goal of 'Self-Reliant India' and 'Developed India 2047.' Science and technology will play the most important role in achieving this goal. India is rapidly promoting investment and research in fields like semiconductor manufacturing,

green energy, quantum technology, 6G communication, space research, and biotechnology. The government is running various schemes to encourage young scientists and the startup culture. National Technology Day is also a day of inspiration for the younger generation. This day sends them the message that science and technology are not just careers but a means of nation-building. Science exhibitions, technical competitions, and innovation programs organized in schools and colleges develop a scientific temper in students. A scientific perspective in the new generation is absolutely essential to making India a global technical superpower in the future.

India's scientific journey is a story of continuous progress from 'Smiling Buddha' to 'Chandrayaan-3' and 'Digital India.' This journey is not just about achievements but also about confidence, self-reliance, and innovation. National Technology Day gives us an opportunity to think about how the right use of technology can be employed for the welfare of humanity, social equality, and sustainable development. Today, the need is for India not just to remain limited to becoming a technical power, but also to present an example of responsible, humane, and inclusive technical leadership. When science works for the benefit of humanity, when technology bridges the distance between village and city, and when the benefits of AI and the digital revolution reach the last person in society, only then will the true spirit of National Technology Day be realized. This very responsible innovation will prove to be the greatest power in making India a developed nation.



YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL
senior journalist



WHEN THE SEED OUT LIVES THE STORM

Pour all the rivers of heaven upon a wounded field—still, no seed becomes a forest overnight. For destiny does not flower at the speed of desire. It flowers slowly, through the sacred violence of waiting. Time—that ancient sculptor of invisible kingdoms—must first bury the seed inside the black cathedral of earth, where loneliness has no language except silence, and silence itself must learn how to bleed. There, beneath continents of darkness, the seed is mistaken for death. Ants arrive first, small prophets of ridicule, dragging whispsers across the soil: "It is finished." Birds descend with funeral-hungry wings, certain the fragile grain will become tomorrow's hunger. Even beasts, heavy with the arrogance of strength, trample the ground above it as though weakness deserves no resurrection. Yet the seed remains wordless. Because buried things understand a secret the world never learns: that not every silence is defeat. Some silences are becoming. So in the deep grammar of the dark, the seed studies suffering like scripture. It drinks grief as though sorrow itself were holy water. It learns that pain is not the grave of life, but the furnace where roots are taught how to reach eternity. And then—One storm-lit evening, when thunder tears open the iron ribs of heaven, when rain writes silver psalms across the exhausted spine of earth, the forgotten seed commits its beautiful rebellion. It splits itself open. Not in weakness—but in transformation. And suddenly, green fire ascends from the soil. Branches rise like choirs lifting their arms toward God. Leaves awaken as a thousand emerald tongues speaking fluently in the language of light. The same world that once rehearsed its burial now gathers beneath its shade in reverence. The ants that mocked its darkness

now pilgrimage across its roots. The birds that waited to devour it now cradle their young inside its breathing cathedral of branches. The beasts that crushed its beginning now sleep peacefully beneath the mercy of its shadow. Such is life. The world often throws stones at the very soul it will later build statues for. So do not exhaust your heart mourning those who abandoned your journey. And do not worship permanence in human hands. Even shadows—those faithful disciples of light—disappear the moment evening arrives. Do not wait for another soul to rescue you from your storms. Some oceans must be crossed alone. Become the courage your wounds keep praying for. Become the sunrise inside your own apocalypse. Become the wings that carry your shattered dreams beyond ruin. For lies may decorate themselves in gold and applause. Deception may rise like glittering towers above the crowd. Falsehood may wear crowns for a season. But truth—one unbearable truth—arrives like lightning through stained glass. And entire kingdoms of illusion collapse into dust at the sound of its footsteps. Therefore walk slowly, if slowness keeps you honest. For one exhausted step taken with integrity travels farther into eternity than a thousand victories dragged up by fraud. Life is not the art of conquering quickly. It is the sacred endurance of remaining whole while the storm tries to teach you how to break. The seed must first tear open its own body before it can touch the sun. And so must we. For every soul that longs for light must survive the unbearable burial of becoming. Because when Time—the final witness—closes the book of your days, it will not ask how loudly the world applauded your name, how vast your palaces were, or how much gold glittered in your hands. It will ask only this: When darkness buried you alive, did you still have the courage to grow toward the light?

... Dr. Peruka Raju ...
7810032847

Beyond Marks: The Greater Importance of Skills, Confidence, and Character

At present, the season of examinations is continuing across the state of Telangana. Board examinations, Intermediate examinations, entrance tests, and various competitive examinations have created an atmosphere of tension and expectation in almost every household. In the eyes of students there are dreams, in the hearts of parents there are anxieties, and among teachers there is a deep sense of responsibility. During such times, the most commonly heard questions are: "How many marks will you score?" and "What rank will you get?" Yet, the true measure of a student's future is not determined by marks alone. Hidden talents, confidence, personality, creativity, and the ability to think independently are equally important.

In today's society, the intense competition for marks is placing enormous mental pressure on students. A single examination is often treated as a final judgment on a student's entire life. As a result, many students fail to recognize their real potential and become confined only to textbooks. Some students possess exceptional talent in painting, music, literature, sports, science, or technology. Others may have leadership qualities or creative thinking abilities. Unfortunately, in the race for marks and ranks, many of these talents slowly fade into the background.

Every student learns differently. Not everyone thinks alike or understands subjects in the same manner. Some students memorize quickly, while others learn through observation, analysis, or practical experience. Understanding this diversity is one of the greatest responsibilities of parents and teachers. It is unfair to measure every child with the same standard. A student who struggles in mathematics today may become a celebrated writer tomorrow. Another student who appears average in academics may eventually emerge as a distinguished scientist or innovator.

At this stage, what students need the most is self-confidence. The belief that "I can do it" must grow stronger within them. Examinations are only one part of life; they are not life itself. Failure is



"THE NEIGHBOUR'S CHILD SCORED HIGHER MARKS" OR "YOUR FRIEND SECURED A BETTER RANK" CAN DEEPLY HURT A STUDENT'S CONFIDENCE. COMPARISONS RARELY INSPIRE; INSTEAD, THEY OFTEN CREATE DISCOURAGEMENT AND EMOTIONAL STRESS.

never final, and success is never permanent. Every experience teaches a lesson, and every attempt becomes a stepping stone toward growth and maturity.

Parents too must avoid placing unnecessary pressure on children. Comparisons such as "The neighbour's child scored higher marks" or "Your friend secured a better rank" can deeply hurt a student's confidence. Comparisons rarely inspire; instead, they often create discouragement and emotional stress. Parents should understand the unique abilities of their children, encourage them with positivity, and appreciate even their small efforts. More importantly, they should give children the courage to rise again after failure.

The role of teachers during examination periods is equally significant.

Teaching lessons alone is not enough; teachers must also strengthen the emotional resilience of students. They should understand the fears and anxieties students face and help them develop a positive outlook. Sometimes, a few encouraging words from a teacher can transform a student's entire life.

Students themselves must remember certain important truths. Success does not come merely through sleepless nights of continuous study. Proper planning, time management, rest, and healthy food are equally essential. It is also important to stay away from excessive distractions caused by mobile phones and social media. However, students should not immerse themselves completely in stress and pressure. They must spend some time on activities they enjoy, communicate with family members, and maintain healthy conversations with friends to keep their minds calm and balanced.

The modern world no longer values marks alone. Today, society gives greater importance to problem-solving ability, creativity, communication skills, leadership qualities, innovation, and practical knowledge. Therefore, students should aim not only for aca-

demix excellence but also for life skills that help them become responsible and capable individuals.

Examinations are merely milestones in the journey of life; they do not completely define our destination. True success lies in recognizing our inner potential and shaping it in a way that benefits society. Every student is unique, and within each one lies a special talent waiting to be discovered. Bringing out that talent is the collective responsibility of families, schools, and society.

During this examination season, one message must reach every student clearly: marks are important, but your skills, confidence, character, and individuality are far more important. If you believe in yourself, you can overcome any challenge. In the end, the real rank in life is determined not by numbers on a marksheet, but by the kind of human being you become.

CHITIKENA KIRAN KUMAR

Eminent Poet | Writer and Noted
Editorial Columnist
Member - International Benevolent
Research Forum

Think of WFH, saving petrol, not buying gold for a year: PM Modi amid oil crisis

As fears of a fuel price hike intensify amid the West Asia conflict, PM Narendra Modi urged Indians to cut petrol use, avoid foreign trips and even pause gold purchases for a year.

Amid the global oil shock triggered by the Middle East war, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to revive work-from-home practices, cut fuel consumption and even avoid buying gold for weddings for one year to help the country save foreign exchange. The remarks come against the backdrop of record-high fuel prices in many nations, from the US to neighbouring Pakistan, due to the Iran war fallout. Indians have been mostly cushioned from the blow, though this might change in the coming days. "During the Corona period, we adopted work from home, online meetings, video conferences and developed many such systems. We had also become accustomed to

them," he said. "Today, the need of the hour is that we restart those practices, as it would be in the national interest, and we must once again give them priority," he added. **PM LINKS FUEL SAVING TO NATIONAL INTEREST**

The Prime Minister's appeal come at a time when global crude oil prices have surged from nearly USD 70 per barrel to around USD 126 per barrel due to escalating tensions in West Asia and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil route. Without directly announcing a price increase, PM Modi repeatedly stressed the need to reduce petrol and diesel consumption. "Petrol-diesel has become so expensive across the world. It is the responsibility of all of us that the foreign exchange spent on purchasing petrol-diesel should also be saved by conserving petrol-diesel," he said.

In one of the most striking moments of the speech, the PM appealed to citizens to rethink discretionary spending



as the country faces economic pressure from rising global energy costs. "I would appeal to people not to buy gold for weddings for one year," he said.

PETROL, DIESEL PRICES MAY RISE BEFORE MAY 15

The Prime Minister's remarks came as government and industry sources indicated that fuel prices in India could soon see their first major revision in nearly four years. Sources told India Today TV that petrol and diesel prices are likely to be increased before May 15 as oil marketing companies battle massive under-recoveries caused by soaring

crude prices. According to sources, Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum are together facing losses of nearly 30,000 crore per month. At current global crude prices, the government and oil companies are effectively absorbing nearly 24 per litre on petrol and 30 per litre on diesel to shield consumers from the full impact of the crisis.

If approved, petrol and diesel prices could rise by around 4-5 per litre, while domestic LPG cylinders may become costlier by 40-50.

USE LESS EDIBLE OIL, CUT CHEMICAL FERTILISERS

ISERS' Expanding his appeal beyond fuel conservation, PM Modi also asked citizens to reduce edible oil consumption and urged farmers to cut dependence on chemical fertilisers imported from abroad.

"The same is true for edible oil. We have to spend foreign currency on its import," the Prime Minister said. "If every household reduces the use of edible oil, it is a huge contribution to patriotism. This will improve the health of the national treasury and the health of every family member." He also linked the global crisis to India's agricultural imports, saying the country spends heavily on fertilisers sourced from overseas. "Another sector that consumes foreign currency is our agriculture. We import chemical fertilisers in large quantities from abroad," he said. "We should reduce our consumption of chemical fertilisers by half and move towards natural farming. This way, we can save foreign currency and protect our farms

GLOBAL WAR, OIL SHOCK AND INDIA'S RESPONSE

The worsening energy crisis has been triggered by prolonged instability in the Middle East, which has disrupted shipping routes and raised fears over global crude supply.

Nearly 20 per cent of the world's oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz, where movement has remained heavily affected due to the conflict. While countries such as Bangladesh introduced fuel rationing and Sri Lanka reduced working days to manage the crisis, India has so far avoided shortages and long queues at petrol pumps. Officials said India responded by ramping up LPG production from 36,000 tonnes per day to 54,000 tonnes, diversifying crude imports from Russia, the US and West Africa, and pushing refineries to operate at more than 100 per cent capacity. The Centre also cut excise duties earlier to cushion consumers from rising international prices.



NFR Revises Timings of Over 80 Train Services to Improve Punctuality and Passenger Convenience

MALIGAON, 10 MAY, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has undertaken a major revision of train timings of several additional Mail/Express, Passenger, DMU and long-distance trains over its network with effect from 30th April 2026, till date. The revised timings have been introduced for over 80 train services, as part of ongoing efforts to improve punctuality, streamline train operations and provide greater convenience to passengers travelling across Assam, and other NE states, adjoining regions and beyond. The changes cover a large number of important trains operating to and from NFR. Among the prominent trains for which timings have been revised are 12087/12088 Naharlagun-Guwahati Shatabdi Express, 20501/20502 Anand Vihar-AgartalaTejas Rajdhani Express, 12423/12424 Dibrugarh -New Delhi Rajdhani Express, 15641/15642 Silchar-New Tinsukia Express, 15669/15670 Guwahati-DibrugarhExpress and

15675/15676 Guwahati-NJP Intercity Express. Revised timings have also been implemented at important stations including Guwahati, Kamakhya, Lumding, New Haflong, Badarpur, Dibrugarh, New Tinsukia, Rangia, Silchar and Agartala. Several Passenger and DMU services in Assam and Tripura have also been rescheduled to ensure better connectivity and smoother train movement across sections of the zone. The revised schedules are expected to reduce operational delays, improve sectional running time management and provide better punctuality for passengers travelling on both short-distance and long-distance services. The changes will also help in maintaining improved connections at major junctions and terminals while enhancing overall efficiency of train operations over Northeast Frontier Railway. Passengers are advised to verify the revised timings before commencing their journey through NTES, PRS enquiry systems or nearest railway stations.

Authorities advise caution for Char Dham pilgrims following orange alert

DEHRADUN: (MAY 10)

Authorities on Sunday urged Char Dham pilgrims and tourists to exercise extreme caution during their journey on May 12 and 13 following an 'orange alert' for adverse weather conditions. The alert predicts rain and inclement weather across various parts of Uttarakhand, especially in the high-altitude hilly regions during the 48-hour period. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted light to moderate rain, thunderstorms, and snowfall in areas across hilly districts.

Adani Group to create 120,000 new jobs in Madhya Pradesh: Pranav Adani

GUNA (MADHYA PRADESH), MAY 10

Adani Enterprises Director Pranav Adani said on Sunday that the Adani Group is poised to create 120,000 new jobs in Madhya Pradesh by 2030 across various sectors ranging from cement and mining to power.

He was addressing the gathering at the inauguration of Adani Group's new cement plant here in the presence of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

Pranav Adani highlighted that during the Global Investors Summit held in Bhopal last year, Group Chairman

Gautam Adani pledged an investment of Rs 110,000 crore for Madhya Pradesh.

"This investment is earmarked for sectors such as Hydro Pumped Storage, Cement, Mining, Smart Meters, and Thermal Energy. By the year 2030, this initiative will generate new employment opportunities for 120,000 people," he said. "Today's groundbreaking ceremony marks a firm step towards translating that very promise into reality on the ground. Our focus lies on providing the people of Guna District with new employment opportunities and ensuring they lead a life of dignity," Pranav Adani said. He underlined that



Madhya Pradesh has always been a state of great importance to the Adani Group which has also invested over Rs 4,000 crore in the Ametha and Kymor plants located in Katni District. Adani Power is currently supplying 1,200 megawatts of electricity to Madhya Pradesh. Further-

more, preparations are underway to generate an additional 5,600 megawatts of electricity. This will help meet the growing power requirements of Madhya Pradesh, he added.

Additionally, the Group has commissioned wind energy projects in Lahori, Dhar, Ratlam, and Ujjain. The foundation for a cement plant in Ujjain too, will be laid soon, he further stated.

Pranav Adani explained that the Adani Cement has a capacity of 109 MTPA, and is continuously expanding. The company's endeavor is to establish a production and supply network that ensures our cement reaches people quickly, keeps costs low, and

maintains consistent quality, he added.

He said that the Guna project will be completed in two phases, with an annual capacity of 40 lakh metric tonnes. The target is to commission Phase One by 2028. We will execute this project while keeping speed, quality, and the environment in mind. An investment of over Rs 1,060 crore will be made in this project. This is the largest investment in Guna to date.

The project will provide direct and indirect employment to approximately 1,500 people. In the times to come, this project will contribute over Rs 6,000 crore to the State treasury, he added.

MP Gets ₹4,080 Crore Boost for Rural Roads, Housing

BHOPAL, MAY 10

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, announced a massive package of development projects in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday, marking the "Silver Jubilee celebrations" of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Bherunda, Sehore district.

The state received approvals worth Rs 1,763 crore

under PMGSY-IV for rural roads, Rs 261.81 crore under PM-JANMAN projects, and Rs 2,055 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G). These announcements were made in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and other dignitaries, indicating a strong push for rural infrastructure and housing development. Shivraj Chouhan emphasised that roads are gateways to prosperity, education, healthcare and markets, and assured that all eligible roads in Madhya Pradesh meeting



PMGSY criteria would be sanctioned. He highlighted that 973 roads covering 2,117 km will be built un-

der PMGSY-IV, benefiting nearly 987 habitations. In Vidisha alone, 259 roads spanning 600 km have been approved, with projects worth over Rs 500 crore earmarked for the constituency. Under PM-JANMAN, 384 km of roads will be constructed, benefiting 168 habitations.

He also noted that Madhya Pradesh has been allocated Rs 830 crore out of the national PMGSY budget for 2026-27.

Handing over the sanction of Rs 2,055 crore under PMAY-G to Chief Minister

Mohan Yadav, Union Minister Chouhan assured that every poor family would be provided with a permanent house after physical verification. He also stressed the empowerment of women through the Lakhpati Didi campaign, promising to accelerate self-help group initiatives.

Addressing farmers, he pledged that no eligible farmer would face injustice in wheat procurement and assured resolution of pending verification issues.

The event carried a political undertone as Shivraj

Chouhan praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and criticised the Congress for neglecting rural development in the past.

Election results breakdown

He contrasted the dilapidated roads of earlier times with Madhya Pradesh's current status as a leader in rural road construction.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav lauded Shivraj Chouhan's efforts and reiterated the state government's commitment to fulfilling public demands in coordination with the Union government.

Main Construction of Ram Temple Completed

AYODHYA (UP): (MAY 10)

The main construction work of the Ram temple in Ayodhya has been completed, and work is currently underway for its boundary wall, a museum and other offices, a temple trust official said on Sunday. Chairman of the temple construction committee, Nripendra Mishra, said construction firms Larsen & Toubro and Tata Consultancy Services will withdraw from the temple premises by June 30 after completing their assigned work. However, a team from L&T will remain permanently deployed at the temple complex for maintenance purposes, he said.

Haryana Local Body, Panchayat Polls Conclude Peacefully and Transparently

CHANDIGARH, MAY 10

The general and by-elections for Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, Municipal Committees, and Panchayati Raj Institutions were held across the state by the Haryana State Election Commission were conducted in a peaceful, fair and transparent manner. State Election Commissioner Mr. Devinder Singh Kalyan stated that the Commission had made all necessary arrangements to ensure the transparency, fairness and credibility of the electoral process. State Election Commissioner Mr. Devinder Singh Kalyan inspected various polling stations in Panchkula during the election process, taking stock of the voting arrangements, security measures, and voter facilities. During

the inspection, he instructed officials to ensure that the voting process was conducted in a completely fair, peaceful, and transparent manner and to ensure that every voter exercises their franchise without any inconvenience. He further informed that under the Urban Local Body elections were held for the Municipal Corporations of Ambala, Panchkula, and Sonapat; the Municipal Council of Rewari; and the Municipal Committees of Dharuhera, Sampla, and Uklana. Additionally, by-elections for various wards across different urban local body areas in the state were also successfully concluded. Similarly, under the Panchayati Raj Institutions, general and by-elections were held in various districts for the posts of Zila Parishad members, Panchayat Sami-

ti members, Sarpanches and Panches. The State Election Commissioner stated that the Commission continuously monitored electoral process at every stage and the elections were successfully conducted through the efforts of the district administration, police administration, and concerned officials of the respective districts. During the polling, special arrangements were made at all polling stations regarding security, law and order, voter facilities and complete compliance with the Model Code of Conduct. He added that with the objective of ensuring free and fair voting, special surveillance was maintained at sensitive and hyper-sensitive polling stations. Micro-observers were appointed and monitoring mechanisms were also set up at

the polling stations. The State Election Commissioner stated that in order to uphold the integrity of the electoral process, necessary guidelines were issued regarding the verification of voter lists, the identification of eligible voters and the scrutiny of duplicate or suspicious entries. Complaints and objections received were resolved in accordance with the rules to ensure that the transparency and credibility of the election process was maintained. For the convenience of voters, essential amenities—including drinking water, seating arrangements, ramps and wheelchairs were made available at all polling stations. Special arrangements were also put in place for senior citizens, voters with disabilities and women. Expressing his gratitude to the voters of the state, the State

Election Commissioner remarked that the active participation of voters is paramount to strengthening democracy. He noted that the citizens of the state have demonstrated their commitment to the democratic values by casting their votes in a peaceful and enthusiastic atmosphere. Commending the officers, staff, police force, and personnel from other departments deployed for election duty, he stated that the successful conclusion of the electoral process was made possible through the cooperation and dedication of all involved. He also thanked the media for their support, through which the instructions and messages of the State Election Commission were conveyed to the voters from time to time during the elections.

Odisha: Former treasury staffer among six held in Rs 8.04 crore financial fraud

BHUBANESWAR, MAY 10

The Odisha Vigilance on Sunday arrested six persons, including the prime accused, in connection with a major fraud case involving the alleged misappropriation and embezzlement of government funds worth Rs 8.04 crore over the past several years. The prime accused, Santosh Kumar Panda, former Senior Assistant at the Sub-Treasury office in Chandbali in Bhadrak district, along with his associates Siba Shankar Samal, Deb Shankar Samal, Prafulla Kumar Rout, Sandip Kumar Mitra and Abhay Kumar Panda, was arrested for his alleged involvement in the large-scale financial fraud. The vigilance department in a press note stated that in a sig-

nificant crackdown on administrative corruption, the sleuths have arrested Panda, who is accused of masterminding a prolonged criminal conspiracy that resulted in the misappropriation of Rs 8,04,76,146 from the state exchequer between 2018 and 2023. The anti-corruption sleuths, during the investigation, found a sophisticated manipulation of the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS), exploiting the trust-based digital workflow between clerks and authorising officers. After a genuine Pension, Gratuity, or Commutation of Value of Pension (CVP) bill was processed and paid to a real pensioner, the prime accused allegedly waited for five to six months to avoid immediate detection.

Pak won't receive US favour by resolving West Asia conflict: Report

NEW DELHI

US President Donald Trump has honoured Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir rather than holding the country accountable for its protection of Osama Bin Laden, its sponsorship of the Taliban and the humiliation of the United States, Michael Rubin, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, wrote in The Sunday Guardian. "In doing so, President Trump has systematically shredded a quarter century effort to build a US-India partnership," he noted.

Rubin described Munir as an "unapologetic terror apologist" with both American and Indian blood on his hands.

Trump turned to Pakistan to mediate between the US and Iran on the West Asia conflict, effectively placing it on a "pedestal". Rubin reminds in The Sunday Guardian that President Trump had criticised Pakistan's "lies and deceit"



during his first term, and is now gushing about Pakistanis as "brilliant people".

He wrote that perhaps Pakistani authorities believe Trump will sell them advanced technology to combat India's military advantage, or perhaps Munir believes he can use the opportunity for "US mediation" on Kashmir to Pakistan's advantage. If Munir hopes to take advantage of the situation, then he is forgetting the

unhappy history of the US-Pakistan ties.

Rubin explains how United States and Pakistan never shared a common goal. "America sought to stop if not roll back Soviet expansion; Pakistan was more obsessed with India. Pakistani officials had a unique ability not only to start every single war with India, but to convince themselves and Pakistani society after they lost that Pakistan was the

victim from the start," he said.

Moreover, the writer reminds that neither President Lyndon Johnson nor Richard Nixon believed the Pakistani narrative and so the United States never really considered mobilising to help Pakistan against India, as Pakistani authorities demanded. This was true even under National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger whose "animosity" toward Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

was "unhinged".

Rubin called Pakistan "a criminal state" in The Sunday Guardian. He highlighted that even though nominally an ally, the United States has repeatedly sanctioned Pakistan over the past 50 years.

Notably, after Pakistan detonated its nuclear weapon in 1998, Glenn Amendment sanctions came into force and they remained on Pakistan until 2001, when President George W. Bush waived sanctions to again get Pakistani cooperation on Afghanistan.

Rubin mentioned that Asim Munir fails to remember that with US forces no longer in Afghanistan, the strategic need for Pakistan has again disappeared.

Perhaps, Munir is forgetting that whatever favour he believes Pakistan can accrue from America is meaningless because: "The United States uses Pakistan and then turns its back on the country as soon as Washington no longer needs its assistance".

First plane carrying hantavirus ship evacuees leaves Canary Islands

TENERIFE

The first plane carrying Spanish passengers evacuated from the Hantavirus-hit cruise ship MV Hondius departed from Spain's Canary Islands for Madrid on Sunday. Buses operated by Spain's Military Emergencies Unit transported the evacuees directly from the Port of Granadilla to the runway of Tenerife South Airport under the escort of the Spanish Civil Guard.

Under Spain's emergency deployment plan, the country's Military Emergencies Unit dispatched buses equipped with sanitary protection measures to assist with the transfers, while the Civil Guard participated in on-site security and coordination efforts. Health authorities, emergency services and police forces from the Canary Islands also took part in the joint operation. The group, consisting of 14 Spanish nationals – 13 passengers and one crew member – were the first to disembark from the vessel. They are being transferred to the Torrejon de Ardoz air base near Madrid before completing isolation procedures at the Gomez Ulla Central Defence Hospital, according to Spanish authorities.

Indonesia volcano eruption: Search and rescue operation ends

JAKARTA

The Indonesian National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) stated on Sunday that the joint Search And Rescue (SAR) team has concluded the search operation as all victims of the Mount Dukono eruption have been found. Abdul Muhari, Head of the BNPB Disaster Data, Information, and Communication Centre, said that the victims who were previously declared as missing have now been found, and the joint SAR team had found the one female Indonesian victim on Sunday.

"With the discovery of the other two victims, all victims previously declared missing have been found," Muhari stated, reported the National News Agency of Indonesia Antara. The two victims who were of foreign nations were identified as males aged 30 and 27, according to the report.

Due to the eruptive activity of Mount Dukono and the bodies being buried under a significant amount of volcanic material, the evacuation of the victims was delayed,

noted the report.

The remains were taken to Tobelo Regional Hospital for identification and further processing. Other than the three fatalities, 15 people were found safe, out of which seven were Singaporean nationals, and eight were Indonesian citizens. The report mentioned that regret was expressed by BNPB over the climbing activity despite the Mount Dukono hiking route being fully closed since April 17 by the Mount Dukono hiking route.

"We urge hiking operators and the public to help disseminate information about the route closure. Violations may result in sanctions under prevailing regulations to ensure public safety," Muhari said, noted the report.

BNPB also urged the public to comply with the Geological Agency recommendations on activity restrictions to prevent similar incidents, it added. Mount Dukono erupted at around 7:40 a.m. local time on Friday, sending a column of volcanic ash up to about 10 km into the sky.

Households in Pakistan exploit children, women as govt fails to enforce law

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is failing millions of domestic workers, as they face exploitation, abuse and economic insecurity due to the government's failure to enforce the law, leaving millions of people, including women and children, exploited and abused with a lack of legal protection, a report said.

According to the report, Punjab remains in a troubling situation despite the Domestic Workers Act in 2019, which is yet to be fully implemented.

"According to available data, Lahore division has the highest number of domestic workers (more than four million), followed by Rawalpindi (1.6 million), Faisalabad (1.4 million), Gujranwala (1.2 million), Multan (700,000), Sargodha (500,000), and Sahiwal and DG Khan divisions (around 200,000 each)," the report from The Express Tribune noted.

It highlighted that most of these workers are women and children, and girls make up a significant portion of child labour in this sector. The Domestic Workers Act in 2019 itself contains key contradictions, the report said. "It sets the minimum working age at 15 years, conflicting with constitutional provisions,

Pakistan's growing population pushing resources to limit: Report

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's population is continuing to expand at a rate that many systems cannot handle, which is pushing the country to its demographic threshold, according to a report.

The country's health leadership warned that Pakistan could soon become the world's fourth most populous nation, which received renewed attention to a challenge that is rarely addressed with the urgency it requires, a report by the Maldives Insight stated.

Pakistan is adding 6.2 million people every year, approximately, crossing a total population of 255 million, which makes it one of the most populous nations in the world.

The rate of growth is showing an accelerated momentum that continues, despite decades of sporadic attention, noted the report.



"The challenge is not confined to accommodating more people but extends to ensuring that the basic structures required for a functioning society—healthcare, education, housing, and employment—can keep pace," it added

It highlighted that an in-

creased demand is faced by the hospitals across Pakistan, already operating at limited resources and at capacity. With the number of patients rising, the demand and availability gap widens, which affects both access and quality of care.

The education sector also

shows a similar pattern; the schools in rural and urban areas struggle to accommodate growing numbers of students.

"Overcrowded classrooms and limited facilities have become common features of the system. At the same time, millions of children remain outside the formal education network, highlighting a disconnect between population growth and educational capacity," stated the report. It emphasises that these are not new problems, but the intensity of these problems has increased as the population continues to increase. The report highlighted that water scarcity emerged as a critical issue for cities, and they are expanding without planning or infrastructure development, and informal settlements without any basic services like sanitation and clean water.

According to current trends,

it is evident that job creation has not kept up with the pace of population growth, which is contributing to rising unemployment and underemployment among youth, it noted.

In many parts of Pakistan, access to family planning services is limited, and the reproductive choices are further influenced by social and cultural norms.

The report stressed that the environment for the population growth to continue at a high rate is created by an interplay between limited access, cultural norms and weak primary health care systems.

The scale of challenge is becoming increasingly apparent as projections point towards further growth, and the number continues to rise, and this is not just a demographic issue but "a defining factor in the country's broader trajectory", said the report.

Afghan police destroy nearly 400 acres of poppy fields

KABUL

Afghan police have destroyed nearly 400 acres of land cultivated with narcotic crops in northern Afghanistan's Baghlan province, the provincial police office said in a statement on Sunday.

According to the statement, the eradication operations were carried out across several districts of the province, adding that the poppy fields had been cleared as part of ongoing anti-narcotics efforts in the

province, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Last week, Afghan counter-narcotics forces 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 ille-



gal drugs. The seizure is part of continued efforts to combat drug trafficking and dismantle criminal networks involved in

the production and distribution of narcotics. On May 2, security forces confiscated 55 kg of methamphetamine in Nimroz province in western Afghanistan. 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 fol-

lowing 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. The statement added that the arrests are part of ongoing nationwide efforts to curb drug trafficking and dismantle distribution networks.

Moscow has no intention of going to war with Nato: Russia

BERLIN

Russian Ambassador to Germany Sergey Nechayev said that Russia does not want to fight Germany or Nato, but "Nuclear Umbrella" discussions could change strategic situations on the continent, a media outlet reported on Sunday.

Ambassador Nechayev, while speaking at the panel discussion "Peace through Dialogue" in Berlin, added that there has been much talk about a so-called joint "nuclear shield", and this could change the strategic situation on the continent.

He said, "We don't want a war with Nato, let alone a war with Germany."

At the same time, he noted that there has been frequent talk of a so-called joint "nuclear shield" lately.

"This is no joke," the diplomat stressed, reported Russia's state-owned news agency Tass.

Nechayev said that "if we're talking about expanding the nuclear threat, then a completely different strategic situ-



ation arises in Europe."

In that case, Russia would have to remind everyone of its nuclear doctrine, he emphasised. The Ambassador warned that "If we have to face such military attempts, then we will not be able to guarantee anything".

"Imagine an ordinary individual on the street. What is this person hearing, which signals is he receiving from Europe? That Russia is an enemy and an existential threat. That a war with Russia is inevitable. That a strategic defeat should be inflicted on Russia. That

Ukraine should be 'flooded' with weapons -- drones and long-range missile systems," he said on Friday in an interview with the Berliner Zeitung newspaper, Tass reported.

On Saturday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the country's soldiers are currently fighting an "aggressive force" backed by all of Nato in Ukraine.

Putin made the remarks during the annual Victory Day parade on Red Square in Moscow, marking the 81st anniversary of the victory in the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War.

'External strike' caused explosion on HMM vessel in Hormuz: South Korea

SEOUL

A South Korean investigation team has concluded that a strike by "unidentified airborne objects" caused the explosion and fire aboard a South Korean-operated vessel in the Strait of Hormuz last week, the country's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

"The investigation confirmed that unidentified airborne objects struck the stern of the HMM (vessel)," the Foreign Ministry said in a released statement.

The announcement follows an on-site investigation by a seven-member government team into the explosion and fire aboard the Panama-flagged cargo vessel Namu, operated by South Korean shipping firm HMM Company Limited, Yonhap news agency reported.

Two separate objects struck the vessel nearly one minute apart at 3:30 p.m. on May 4 (local time), and the hull plating was damaged all the way to the interior of the vessel, the Ministry spokesperson Park Il



said at a press briefing.

The engine room fire is believed to have been ignited by a first strike from an unidentified flying object, with the blaze rapidly escalating after a second impact, Park said, adding, "The cause of the fire is presumed to have been unrelated to the vessel's internal systems." "CCTV footage captured the unidentified flying objects, but there are limitations in determining their exact type, origin and physical

size," he said. "The likelihood of the objects being mines or torpedoes appears to be low."

US President Donald Trump earlier claimed Iran had "taken some shots" at the HMM vessel and other targets, but the Iranian Embassy in Seoul released an official statement saying the country "firmly and categorically" denies any involvement in the incident by its military.

Park said the country plans to conduct further analysis of

zens," Park added.

It is also carefully reviewing possible participation in US-led initiatives, including the Maritime Freedom Construct. Right after the announcement of the investigation results, Iranian Ambassador to South Korea Saeed Koozechi arrived at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul. "Iran is considered one of the relevant parties, and the Ambassador Koozechi visited the Ministry to receive an explanation of the investigation results," Park said.

"We are communicating with the relevant countries based on the facts confirmed so far and will take necessary follow-up measures."

The Namu, along with some 2,000 other vessels, has been stranded in the Strait of Hormuz amid the US-Israeli war against Iran that began in late February. There were 24 crew members on board, including six South Koreans, with no injuries or casualties reported. The vessel was towed from the site to a port in Dubai on Friday for inspection.

The vessel was towed from the site to a port in Dubai on Friday for inspection.

RBI, European Central Bank sign MoU to deepen cooperation

MUMBAI: (MAY 10)

Reserve Bank of India and European Central Bank on Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on mutual cooperation, a statement said. Sanjay Malhotra, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank (ECB), signed the MoU on cooperation in the field of central banking. "The MoU, which updates the previous MoU of 2015, provides a framework for a regular exchange of information, policy dialogue and technical cooperation between the two institutions in areas of mutual interest in the field of central banking," RBI said in the statement.

Balrampur Chini Mills Raises ₹450 Cr for UP Green Projects

NEW DELHI: (MAY 10)

Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd has raised Rs 450 crore equity fund mainly to set up a lactogypsum processing plant and also meet enhanced capex for poly lactic acid (PLA) facility in Uttar Pradesh. The company has ten sugar factories in UP having an aggregate sugarcane crushing capacity of 80,000 tonnes per day. It also has distillery and co-generation operations of 1,050 kilo litre per day and 175.7 MW, respectively. Kolkata-headquartered Balrampur Chini has diversified into bio-plastic business and is setting up a PLA manufacturing plant at Kumbhi in UP with a total annual capacity of 80,000 tonne.

Global jitters keep FPIs on edge, RS 14,231 crore pulled out in May

With this, the total outflow of Foreign Portfolio Investors from the equity market has crossed ₹2 lakh crore in 2026, which is higher than the ₹1.66 lakh crore pulled out during the entire 2025, according to data with NSDL



Foreign investors continued to pare their exposure to Indian equities, withdrawing ₹14,231 crore so far this month driven by persistent global macroeconomic uncertainties. With this, the total outflow of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) from the equity market has crossed ₹2 lakh crore in 2026, which is higher than the ₹1.66 lakh crore pulled out during the entire 2025, according to data with the NSDL.

FPIs were net sellers in all months of 2026, except February. They withdrew ₹35,962 crore in January before turning net buyers in February, when they invested ₹22,615 crore, the highest monthly inflow in 17 months. However, the trend reversed in March, when foreign investors pulled out a record ₹1.17 lakh crore. The selling continued in April with net outflow of ₹60,847 crore and extended into May with withdrawal of ₹14,231 crore so far. "The selling was largely driven by persistent global macroeconomic uncertainties, particularly concerns around inflation, interest rates and geopolitical risks, which continued to weigh on sentiment toward emerging markets," said Himanshu Srivastava, Principal - Manager Research at Morningstar Investment Research India.

He said uncertainty over the global interest rate trajectory remained a key factor influencing flows. Elevated crude oil prices and lingering geopolitical tensions, especially in West Asia, kept inflation concerns alive globally, prompting investors to reassess expectations of near-term rate cuts by major central banks.

As a result, global bond yields remained relatively firm, enhancing the attractiveness of developed-market fixed income assets and reducing risk appetite for emerging market equities, he added. Mr. Srivastava also noted that the Indian rupee remained under intermittent pressure, impacting dollar-adjusted returns for foreign investors. V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, said that despite the overall selling, FPIs had been selectively investing in sectors such as power, construction and capital goods. Another major trend was their increasing preference for mid-cap and select small-cap stocks with strong growth potential and healthy earnings performance, he said. According to Mr. Vijayakumar, currency depreciation and concerns over earnings growth in India had been key factors driving FPI outflows this year.

He added that stronger earnings growth expected in markets such as South Korea and Taiwan, supported by the artificial intelligence boom, was attracting FPI flows to these markets.



₹1,600-1,700 crore a day, ₹1 lakh crore in 10 weeks: Cost of insulating India from global energy shock

While countries from Japan to the United Kingdom have raised petrol and diesel prices by up to 30% since the start of the West Asia conflict, fuel prices in India continue at two-year-old levels

About ₹1,600-1,700 crore per day, over ₹1 lakh crore in 10 weeks. That's the cost that state-owned oil firms incur for insulating Indian consumers from the global energy shock but

ever-widening losses are now raising questions on how long they can continue bearing the cost without financially capitulating.

Since the war broke out in West Asia 10 weeks ago, state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) have ensured uninterrupted supplies of petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG at rates that are way below cost, unlike many global energy systems that imposed rationing or passed through steep price increases.

Centre operationalises Labour Codes, publishes Rules

Officials maintain the Rules have been published with 'minor amendments' to the draft rules pre-published in December 2025



In over 30 gazette notifications issued on Friday (May 8, 2026) and Saturday (May 9, 2026), the Union government fully operationalised the four Labour Codes. Officials maintained that the rules had been published with "minor amendments" to the draft rules pre-published in December 2025. The government had announced the implementation of the four Labour Codes from November 21, 2025. With the notification of the Rules, the Codes will replace 29 labour laws that governed provisions, including wages, social security, working hours, retirement benefits, and trade union rights.

Soon after the publication of Rules, members of 10 central trade unions (CTUs) held protests across the country, burning copies of it. The

ard, including food, clothing, housing, and any other factors considered appropriate by the Central government from time to time. The number of hours of work for a normal working day "for an employee whose wage period is on a daily basis" shall be eight hours. For other employees, the total number of weekly working hours shall not exceed 48 hours. The Rules mandate that every employer shall issue wage slips, electronically or in physical form, to the employees. The Rules for Code on Social Security changes 12 rules, including the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950 and the Employees' Provident Funds Appellate Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1997. The Code on Industrial Relations says where there is only one registered trade union operating in an industrial establishment having membership of not less than 30% of the total workers employed in the industrial establishment, the employer of such an industrial establishment shall

recognise such trade union as the sole negotiating union of the workers. Commenting on the Rule, senior leader of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions R. Karumalaiyan said the Union government had ignored the amendments moved by the CTUs. "We had submitted amendments seeking clarity on working hours, trade union rights, minimum wages, floor wages, and protection of social security. This government has ignored all our suggestions, forcing us to go on protests," Mr. Karumalaiyan said. The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) said in a statement that the Union government "deceptively waited" till the Assembly election in four States and a Union Territory were over before notifying the Rules. "Within just four days after the announcement of results, they have now operationalised the Labour Codes. This exposes the deceptive modus operandi of the BJP-led Union government," the CPI(M) said, urging States to reject the Rules.



Air India fired over 1,000 staff in 3 years for ethical breach, says airline CEO

Air India CEO also mentioned hundreds of staff who had misused the Employee Leisure Travel (ELT) system and added that such things should not happen.

Air India has terminated more than 1,000 staff in the last three years for ethical breaches, including those for misusing the employee leisure travel system, according to the airline's chief Campbell Wilson.

Flagger that hundreds of employees are terminated every year due to non-compliance, Wilson has also emphasised that the staff need to act in the right way even when others are not looking.

As Air India implements cost-saving measures amid significant financial headwinds, Wilson made the remarks during the town hall meeting with the staff on Friday, according to sources. Tata Group-owned Air India has around 24,000 employees now. The airline's CEO and MD said that over the past three years, "we have terminated more than 1,000 people for ethical breach" such as smuggling things off the plane and allowing excess baggage onto the aircraft without being

charged. He also mentioned hundreds of staff who had misused the Employee Leisure Travel (ELT) system and added that such things should not happen. Also read: Emirates CEO hits back at critics as employees get 20-week salary bonus In March, sources told PTI that the airline has detected large-scale discrepancies in the utilisation of its leisure travel policy, involving more than 4,000 employees and has initiated corrective actions, including imposing penalties on the erring staff. Air India has resorted to cost-cutting measures, including holding back annual increments for staff and asking them to cut discretionary spending as well as non-critical expenditures, warning of "tough times". Also read: Noida International Airport to open on June 15, IndiGo to kick start flight operations On Friday, Wilson told the staff it is going to be a "very, very difficult year" if things don't improve on the Middle East front. The Air India Group -- Air India and Air India Express -- is projected to have incurred more than ₹22,000 crore loss in the financial year ended March 2026.

How Iran war could create a 'fertiliser shock'

Summary

- The potential closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran could trigger a global fertiliser shock, severely impacting food security.
- This vital shipping route is crucial for transporting nitrogen fertilisers, essential for modern agriculture.
- Disruptions could lead to skyrocketing prices, reduced crop yields, and increased food insecurity.

Tehran is moving to restrict — or effectively close — the Strait of Hormuz to shipping, as part of the latest escalation in the war involving Iran.

Markets have reacted to the global impact of closing this incredibly busy shipping channel, focusing on the risk to oil and gas flows, the prospect of higher crude prices and the inflationary pressures that would follow. That concern is justified. But it captures only part of the story. A sustained disruption of traffic through Hormuz would not simply constitute an energy crisis. It would also represent a fertiliser shock (where prices go up dramatically and supply goes down) — and, by extension, a direct risk to global food security. Modern agriculture runs not only on sunlight and soil, but on natural gas. When German



chemists Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch developed their nitrogen fixation method in the early 20th century, they did more than just manufacture ammonia at scale. They launched a global chemical revolution that remains a cornerstone of modern civilisation and agriculture. Through this process, methane is transformed into ammonia, and ammonia into nitrogen fertilisers such as urea — the most widely used nitrogen fertiliser. Those fertilisers allow crops to reach the yields on which today's global population depends. Without it, harvests of wheat, maize

and rice would fall dramatically. Around a third of globally traded urea passes through the Strait of Hormuz. The Persian Gulf sits at the centre of this system for two structural reasons. First, it offers access to some of the world's cheapest natural gas, essential for ammonia production. Second, over decades, vast capital investments have built ammonia and urea capacity in countries within the region, including Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. This is aimed at the export market. A significant share of globally traded nitrogen fertiliser — and the liquefied natural gas (LNG) that powers fertiliser

plants elsewhere — must therefore travel through the Strait of Hormuz. A closure of the Strait would threaten not only oil and gas exports but also the physical flow of nitrogen-based fertilisers and what is needed to make them. The immediate effect would be delays to shipments of ammonia, urea and LNG. They could be stopped completely or become prohibitively expensive through higher freight and insurance costs. But the deeper impact would unfold in the months ahead at farms around the world. In the northern hemisphere, fertiliser purchases accelerate before planting seasons.



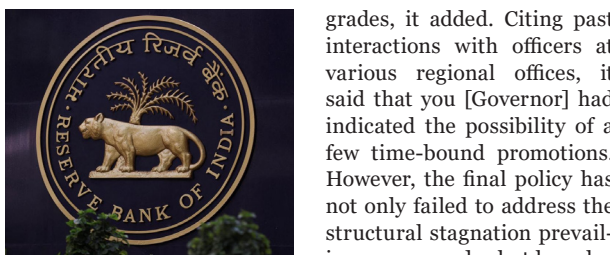
India Opens EU Seafood Market Amid US Tariff Pressure

MUMBAI: (MAY 10)

India actively negotiated with the European Union to open its market for seafood exports, helping the country overcome challenges arising from steep US tariffs, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday. Addressing reporters here, he said the government anticipated disruptions and acted swiftly to secure alternative markets for Indian exporters. "Our government works 24 hours. Often, even before a problem arises, we begin planning and action," he said.

RBI officers seek Governor's intervention to correct promotion policy

RBI officers across various regional offices and the central bank's headquarters in Mumbai staged protests on May 8 against recent policy changes that link promotions to vacancy availability



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officers' union has written a letter to RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, seeking his intervention to correct the promotion policy and restore a time-bound system. RBI officers across various regional offices and the central bank's headquarters in Mumbai staged protests on Friday (May 8, 2026) against recent policy changes that link promotions to vacancy availability, replacing the earlier time-bound promotion system. Reserve Bank of India

Officers' Association (R BIOA), in a letter dated May 8, expressed disappointment and anguish over the decision of the central bank to proceed with the revised promotion policy without adequately considering the serious concerns, objections, and constructive suggestions repeatedly placed by the association on behalf of the officer community. The revised policy, in its present form, has caused widespread dissatisfaction, frustration and demoralisation among officers across cadres and grades, it added. Citing past interactions with officers at various regional offices, it said that you [Governor] had indicated the possibility of a few time-bound promotions. However, the final policy has not only failed to address the structural stagnation prevailing across grades but has also disregarded the core concerns repeatedly highlighted by the association, it pointed out. According to an estimate, about 8,000 officers working at the RBI are going to be impacted by the change in the promotion policy. Stagnation is rising across the various levels, leading to frustration, particularly among younger officers, who are now confronted with the prospect of remaining in the same grade for prolonged periods without meaningful progression, it said. "We earnestly request

the top management to reconsider the matter urgently and initiate a comprehensive review of the revised promotion policy in consultation with RBIOA so as to arrive at a fair, balanced and sustainable framework for career progression of officers," it noted. The association demanded that the newly issued promotion policy be immediately kept in abeyance and reviewed comprehensively in consultation with RBIOA through a structured and meaningful consultation mechanism. It also demanded that the assured, time-bound promotions may be introduced across all cadres from Grade A to Grade E, ensuring fair and predictable career progression for officers.

The principle of 'One Grade, One Allowance' may be introduced across grades by removing the existing condition of a minimum of five years' service in a grade for eligibility to facilities, allowances and entitlements attached to that grade, it said. The letter further said that the association submits that the above measures are not merely matters of financial benefit but are essential for restoring morale, institutional trust and long-term organisational commitment among officers. A motivated and professionally secure officer community remains indispensable to preserving the excellence, independence and effectiveness of the Reserve Bank of India, it added. It is to be noted that the officers of another financial sector regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), had also staged a protest in 2024 to press for wage-related issues.

Modi government is working on FTA utilization plan

The Indian government is working on a strategy to maximize the benefits of free trade agreements (FTAs) signed with developed countries, including the UK, EU, US, UAE and Australia. Since 2021, India has signed FTAs with Mauritius, Australia, UAE, Oman, New Zealand, EFTA (European Free Trade Association), EU, UK, and US. These pacts cover 38 countries with a combined import value of about \$12 trillion.

Duty-free market access in FTA partner countries

The main Indian sectors that have gained duty-free market access in these FTA partner countries are agriculture, textiles and apparel, gems and jewelry, leather and leather goods, engineering, electronics, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has been holding meetings with industry bodies, exporters, and officials to improve the use of these pacts. He has suggested businesses leverage these agreements to boost exports and domestic manufacturing.

Roadmap for obtaining

approvals for agricultural, fisheries products

The government is taking several steps to facilitate the utilization of FTAs. This includes holding review meetings with key officers chief negotiators assessing progress India's free trade acts. A roadmap for obtaining approvals for Indian agricultural and fisheries products across global markets is also being prepared. The commerce ministry has involved Indian missions abroad in this exercise along with all line ministries.

Indian missions abroad tasked with ensuring FTA awareness

Indian missions abroad are responsible for ensuring FTA awareness in importing countries, gathering market intelligence on new opportunities, and expediting resolution of non-tariff barriers. The line ministries are also responsible for ensuring sufficient production, alignment with global standards, and focus on trade facilitation. This entire exercise is crucial as India aims to increase goods and services exports to \$2 trillion in the coming years.

Bridging the Gap

The Ultimate Guide to Integrated Degree and PG Courses in India After 10th Class

For generations, the academic trajectory for students in India has been rigidly linear: clear the Class 10 board exams, spend two years in senior secondary school (Class 11 and 12/Intermediate), clear a highly competitive national or state entrance test, and then grind through three to four years of a bachelor's degree—often followed by another two years for a postgraduate degree. However, a quiet structural revolution is unfolding across the Indian higher education landscape. To combat rote learning, reduce academic stress, and build direct pipelines to industry-ready careers, several pioneering institutions

in India offer Integrated Degree and Postgraduate (PG) Programs directly after the 10th class. By bypassing the traditional Class 11 and 12 schooling system, these comprehensive programs merge foundational, undergraduate, and sometimes postgraduate curricula into a single, cohesive academic journey. This feature article provides an exhaustive exploration of the integrated pathways available after Class 10 in India, detailing their unique specializations, structural advantages, career prospects, financial investment, and the top institutions leading this transformation.

The Landscape of Integrated Pathways After 10th Class

When we speak of "integrated" programs commencing immediately after Class 10, they generally fall into two structural models:

Integrated B.Tech Programs (6-Year Dual Pathway): These programs combine a 2-year Pre-University Course (PUC) or Diploma with a 4-year Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) degree under one academic umbrella. Integrated Diploma-to-Degree (D2D) Pathways (6-Year Integrated B.Tech/B.E.): This model seamlessly bridges a 3-year polytechnic en-

gineering diploma with a 3-year bachelor's degree, bypassing the need to sit for lateral entry exams or change institutions. While fully integrated Master's programs (such as an integrated B.Tech + M.Tech or BBA + MBA starting immediately after Class 10) are rare, the 6-year integrated B.Tech model acts as a highly specialized foundational launcher. It allows students to transition directly into PG programs or enter the workforce at an accelerated pace with a highly technical background.

Conclusion

Designing the Modern ProfessionalThe traditional educational conveyor belt is no longer the only—or necessarily the best—route to a successful career in a rapidly evolving technological economy. Integrated programs starting after the 10th class offer an intelligent, streamlined, and highly practical alternative. By consolidating six crucial years of foundational and professional learning

under one academic roof, these courses create confident, highly skilled, and industry-ready professionals. Whether through highly subsidized state models like RGUKT or modern, tech-forward private campuses like MIT-WPU, graduating with a prestigious engineering degree while your peers are just beginning their college applications is a powerful head-start. For the focused 15-year-old ready to build the future, the integrated degree pathway is a journey worth taking.



1. Key Program Specialities

Integrated programs after the 10th class are heavily oriented toward engineering, technology, and applied sciences. Because these programs are hosted on university campuses rather than traditional schools, they offer cutting-edge specializations tailored to the demands of "Industry 4.0."

2. Structural Advantages of the Integrated Route

Choosing to step off the traditional high school treadmill after Class 10 to join an integrated university program offers distinct strategic advantages: Elimination of Entrance Exam Stress: The traditional route forces students into a high-pressure pressure cooker, balancing board exams with rigorous coaching for JEE Main, JEE Advanced, or state-level engineering tests. Integrated programs select students primarily on their Class 10 board merit, securing their seat all the way to a B.Tech degree.

Continuity of Curriculum: In a traditional setup, the leap from Class 10 science to Class 11 physics, chemistry, and math is notoriously steep and disjointed. Integrated programs design a gradual, logically scaffolded 6-year syllabus.

Foundational sciences smoothly transition into applied engineering principles without redundant or overlapping topics. Early Exposure to University Infrastructure: While peers in Class 11 and 12 are confined to standard school classrooms, integrated students gain immediate access to state-of-the-art university chemistry labs, mechanical workshops, supercomputing facilities, and campus libraries. Practical and Hands-On Learning: These programs prioritize "learning-by-doing" much earlier. Students are introduced to coding, workshop practices, graphic communication, and minor projects as early as age 16, fostering an engineering mindset ahead of their peers. Financial and Time Security: By committing to a single institution, students save significant amounts of money otherwise spent on coaching centers. Furthermore, the administrative transition from the foundational phase to the degree phase is entirely seamless.

3. Career Opportunities
Placements Graduates of 6-year integrated engineering programs enjoy equal, and often superior, market standing compared to traditional 4-year B.Tech graduates. Because they spend six years within a technical, hands-on university eco-

system, they possess highly polished practical skills.

Key Employer Roles
Software & IT Sector: Associate Software Engineer, Data Analyst, Cloud Consultant, Cybersecurity Analyst, and Full-Stack Developer at firms like Infosys, TCS, Wipro, and Cognizant.

Automotive & Manufacturing: Design Engineer, Robotics Specialist, Smart Factory Planner, and Quality Control Executive at giants like Tata Motors, Mahindra, and Reliance Industries.

Infrastructure & Energy: Project Engineer, HVAC Consultant, and Grid Operations Analyst in real estate, construction, and green energy firms.

Higher Education Pathways

Because these programs award UGC-recognized and AICTE-approved B.Tech degrees, graduates are fully eligible to: Attempt the GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering) to secure admissions into M.Tech programs at premier IITs and IISc. Pursue an MBA from top-tier business schools (IIMs) to bridge their technical prowess with managerial acumen. Apply for international Master of Science (MS) and Ph.D. programs abroad, leveraging their extensive project portfolios and early research work.

4. Fee Structure

The cost of pursuing an integrated degree varies significantly depending on whether the institution is state-run (highly subsidized) or a private university. Government-Sponsored Universities (e.g., RGUKT): These programs are designed to uplift meritorious rural students. The tuition fee is highly subsidized, typically ranging between ₹36,000 to ₹40,000 per year for the initial Pre-University phase, and slightly higher for the B.Tech phase. Government fee-reimbursement schemes often render these programs virtually free for eligible lower-income and reserved-category students. Private Universities (e.g., MIT-WPU, Techno India): These institutions offer premium infrastructure, global tie-ups, and specialized industry placements. The annual tuition fee generally ranges from ₹1,500,000 to ₹2,50,000 per year, depending on the specialization (computer science and AI streams command a premium). Most private universities offer robust merit scholarships based on Class 10 Board percentages.

5. List of Prominent

Colleges and Universities Offering Integrated Programs After 10th

Several highly reputed public and private institutions across India have pioneered dedicated pathways for Class 10 graduates:

A. Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) - AP & Telangana

Often referred to as the "IIIT model for rural youth," RGUKT is a benchmark government initiative offering a 6-Year Integrated B.Tech program. Campuses: Basar (Telangana), Nuzvid, RK Valley (Idupulapaya), Ongole, and Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh). Admission Process: 100% based on Class 10 (SSC) merit GPA. Local government school students receive "deprivation points" (a 0.4 GPA bonus) to level the playing field. No entrance exam is required. Specialties: Core branches like CSE, ECE, Civil, Mechanical, Chemical, and Metallurgical Engineering.

B. MIT World Peace University (MIT-WPU), Pune
A top-tier private university in Western India, MIT-WPU offers a highly sought-after 6-Year

Integrated B.Tech (Diploma + Degree). Specialties: Computer Science Engineering, CSE (with specialization in AI and Data Science), and Mechanical Engineering. Key Features: Curricula mapped directly to Industry 4.0 requirements, smart manufacturing workshops, mandatory industrial internships, and a unique emphasis on peace and ethics studies.

C. Techno India University, Kolkata

A prominent private technical university in Eastern India that offers a seamless integration of secondary, diploma, and degree modules. Specialties: Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, and Computer Science Engineering. Key Features: Strong regional placement ties, hands-on laboratory work, and streamlined progression from foundational technical concepts to advanced engineering research.

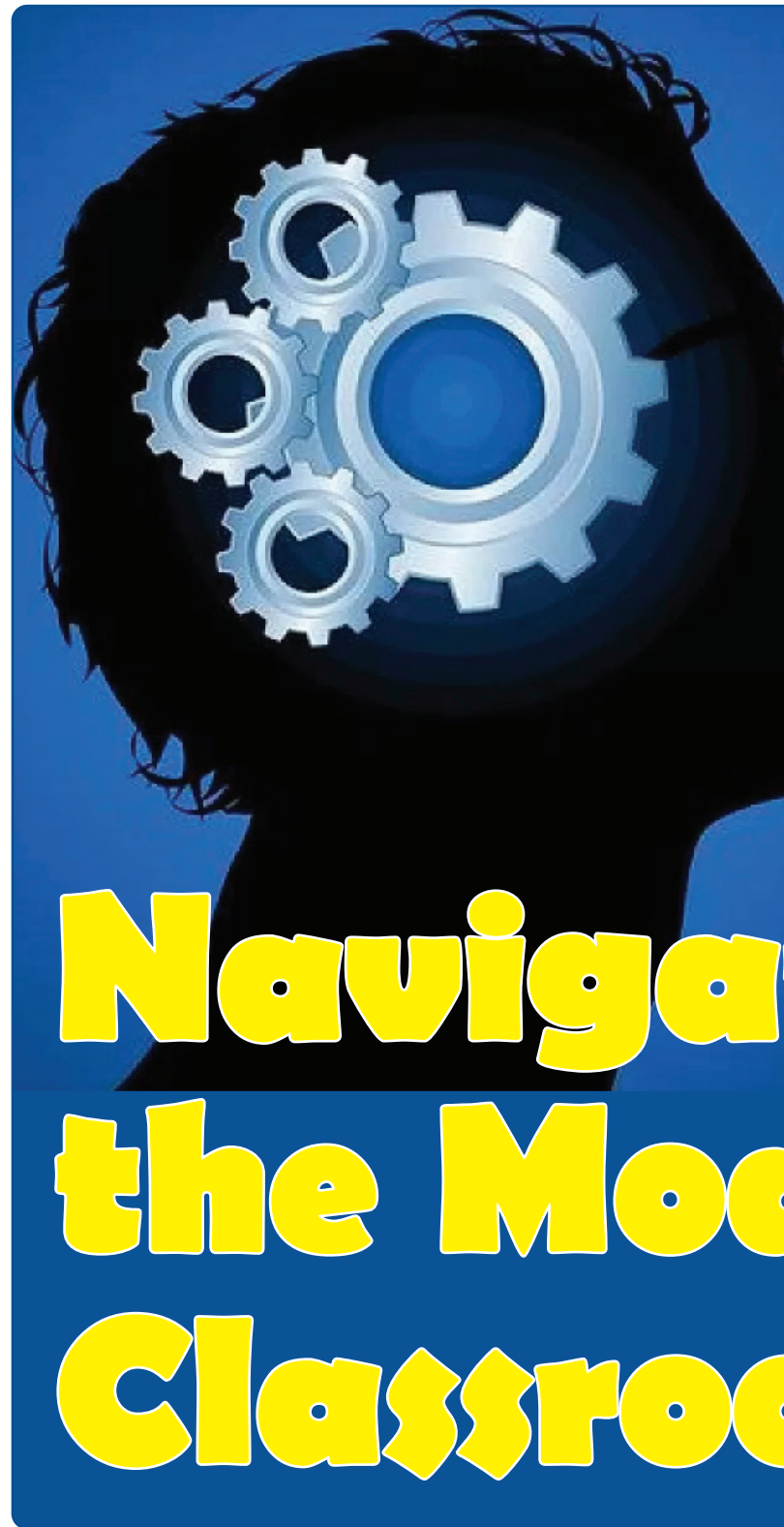
D. Central Universities and State Polytechnics (D2D Pathways)

Various state-level technical universities across India facilitate a structural Diploma-to-Degree (D2D) transfer, enabling students who complete a 3-year polytechnic diploma after Class 10 to transition directly into the

2nd year of a B.Tech program via lateral entry, preserving the 6-year total timeline.

Is an Integrated Course Right For You?

The integrated pathway after Class 10 is an exceptional match for students who meet the following profile: The Ideal Candidate Profile Clarity of Interest: You already have a strong inclination toward mathematics, coding, machines, or general engineering and sciences. Desire for Practical Learning: You prefer spending time in labs, building physical prototypes, or coding over memorizing theoretical concepts for highly structured, competitive exams. Stress Mitigation: You want to secure a pathway to a professional degree early on, bypassing the psychological pressure of the JEE/Intermediate system. Conversely, if you are still undecided between science, commerce, and the humanities, or if your heart is set on pursuing traditional medicine (MBBS), pure sciences research, or the civil services (UPSC) right after school, the traditional Class 11 and 12 schooling system remains the more flexible route.



The landscape of school education in India has undergone a massive paradigm shift. Gone are the days when a child's academic journey was defined solely by the neighborhood school affiliated with the local state board. Today, urban Indian parents are presented with a bewildering array of educational acronyms—CBSE, ICSE, IB, and

SSC. Among these, the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) and the International Baccalaureate (IB) have emerged as premium educational pathways. While both promise to nurture global, intellectually resilient citizens, they operate on completely different philosophical and pedagogical wavelengths. The structural and

philosophical differences between the ICSE and IB patterns, clarifies their legal validity within the Indian higher education system, analyzes why high-end "corporate" schools overwhelmingly champion these boards over standard state or central curriculums, and highlights the distinct advantages they offer to modern learners.

1. Demystifying the Curriculums: ICSE vs. IB

To make an informed choice, one must first peel back the layers of how both of these boards structure their classrooms, syllabi, and evaluation systems.

The ICSE Pattern: Academic Rigor and Language Mastery
The ICSE (conducted by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, or CISCE) is an offshoot of the Cambridge School Certificate examination system introduced during the British era.

The Philosophy: Content-heavy, highly structured, and deeply detailed. ICSE believes in academic exhaustive depth. It does not treat subjects lightly; instead, it demands comprehensive theoretical and practical mastery. Curriculum Focus: Extremely strong focus on English language, literature, humanities, and arts, alongside a robust science and mathematics syllabus. Unlike other Indian boards where English is treated merely as a functional subject, the ICSE curriculum treats English as an art form, testing advanced grammar, literary analysis, and expressive writing. Assessment Style: A balanced combination of detailed annual written examinations and extensive internal project work (such as laboratory practicals, field reports, and project files).

2. The IB Pattern:

Inquiry-Based Global Education
Founded in 1968 in Geneva, Switzerland, the International Baccalaureate (IB) is a non-prof-

essional educational foundation. It is not tied to any single country's national agenda. The Philosophy: Student-centric, inquiry-driven, and completely non-traditional. IB does not ask students to memorize facts; it teaches them how to learn, analyze, and research. The Structure: The IB pathway is divided into three main continuous stages: the Primary Years Programme (PYP) for kindergarten to Class 5, the Middle Years Programme (MYP) for Classes 6 to 10, and the Diploma Programme (DP) for Classes 11 and 12. Curriculum Focus: Highly flexible and interdisciplinary. Instead of rigid streams (like MPC or BiPC), students choose one subject from six diverse groups (ranging from sciences and mathematics to individuals & societies and the arts). At the core of the IB Diploma are three mandatory components:

Theory of Knowledge (TOK): A course exploring the nature, origin, and limits of human knowledge.

Extended Essay (EE): An independent, university-level 4,000-word research paper on a topic of the student's choice. Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS): A framework requiring students to engage in sports, creative arts, and community service.

Assessment Style: No rote exams. Students are continuously assessed throughout the year via research portfolios, essays, oral presentations, collaborative projects, and reflective journals.

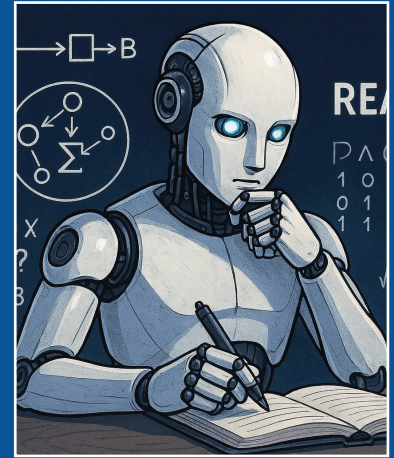
3. Validity in India: Are ICSE

and IB Recognised?

A common anxiety among Indian parents is whether these advanced boards hold legal validity for local college admissions and competitive national exams. The simple answer is: Yes, both are 100% valid in India.

ICSE/ISC Validity: The ICSE is an officially recognized national board in India, completely on par with CBSE. Its Class 10 (ICSE) and Class 12 (ISC) certificates are accepted by every single university, college, and professional institute across the country.

IB Validity: The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) formally recognizes the IB Diploma (granted after Class 12) as equivalent to the Class 12 / Intermediate certificate of Indian boards. Students graduating with an IB Diploma can seamlessly apply to local colleges (like Delhi University, Mumbai University, or private universities) using an equivalence certificate issued by the AIU.



Navigating the Modern Classroom



Overton, Urvil help CSK register third straight win, move to fifth spot



It's been a while since we chased 200, so good to chase it, says Gaikwad

CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) skipper Rituraj Gaikwad expressed delight after his side pulled off a rare 200-plus chase, saying he was pleased to hunt down 204 after beating Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) by five wickets in a high-scoring Indian Premier League (IPL) clash at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday.

Sunday's victory, led by Urvil Patel's record 13-ball fifty, marked CSK's first successful pursuit of a score above 180 since 2019 and lifted them to fifth spot on the points table, after completing the chase with four balls to spare. "Yes (got too close), but at the end, chasing 200, when you start the innings, it will always go to the 18th or the 19th or the 20th over. We started really well in the Power-play, but it was a bit tacky for a new batter to just go in and play the shots. "But it's important that we get the job done. It's been a while since we chased 200, so good to chase it," Gaikwad

said after the match ended, in the post-match presentation ceremony.

He also praised his bowlers, led by Jamie Overton's threefer, for pulling things back after LSG's flying start, with Josh Inglis hitting a blistering 85, and revealed that a crucial message from Sanju Samson during the first strategic time-out helped galvanise the team. "But after the first time-out, Sanju just came in, and he said, if we have it in us, we have to make a comeback here and try and restrict them as low as possible. So whatever around 220, it was still fine. So I think that just pumped us, everyone. And after that, it was just about getting those wickets, slowly getting into the game."

"So I think everyone was eager to make a comeback after the first time-out, and I feel that's the commitment or that determination really changed the course of the game. It was just about getting your bowlers right, how you can attack from one end, how you can be defensive from one end.

CRICKET

Shahbaz Ahmed bags 12.20 lakh bid for Bengal T20



KOLKATA: Shahbaz Ahmed (112.2L), Abishek Porel (10.40L), and Mukesh Kumar (9.60L) emerged among the top picks as the Bengal T20 League successfully concluded its first-ever Men's Player Auction, as all eight franchises built their squads through strategic bidding ahead of the upcoming season. During the auction, the teams strategically assembled their squads for the new edition of the league, while top star Akash Deep (13L) is still available to be picked as he is currently in rehab, and will participate based on his fitness.

Indian Athletics Series

Sreeshankar stamps his authority in men's long jump



CHENNAI: Asian Games silver medalist in men's long jump, Murali Sreeshankar, stamped his authority during the sixth leg of the Indian Athletics Series, recording a jump of 8.04m to win the men's long jump title at Chennai's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Sunday. Of the six legal attempts, the star long jumper from Kerala had three legal jumps. His second jump was 7.90m, while his fourth attempt was 8.04m. He dug deep in his last and final attempt to further improve his performance, but settled for 7.97m.



CHENNAI

Urvil Patel hammered a breath-taking 65, including hitting the joint fastest fifty in Indian Premier League (IPL) history in just 13 balls, as Chennai Super Kings defeated Lucknow Super Giants by five wickets to notch their third successive win in Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026.

Sunday's game also marked the first instance since 2019 that CSK successfully chased a target in excess of 180, as they moved to fifth spot in the IPL 2026 points table and pushed LSG towards elimination from the competition.

Inserted into batting first on a red-soil pitch, LSG rode on Josh Inglis's blistering 85 off just 33 balls to pile up 91 runs in the Power-play before CSK bowlers, led by Jamie Overton's 3-36, pulled things back to restrict them to 203/8.

In reply, CSK's chase began brisk-

ly with Sanju Samson and skipper Rituraj Gaikwad adding quick runs at the top. But once Samson fell to Digvesh Rathi, Urvil turned the contest on its head with a ferocious ball-striking assault to get his fifty in 13 balls, as CSK stormed to 97 in their own powerplay.

By hitting the fastest fifty hit by a CSK batter, also his maiden IPL half-century, Urvil also equalled Yashasvi Jaiswal's record for the fastest fifty in IPL history, coming in the 2023 season, and eventually finished with 65 off 23 balls, including eight sixes and two fours, coming at a strike-rate of 282.61.

By the time Urvil departed after being dropped on 62 by Rathi, the rest of CSK's chase was seemingly a straightforward one. But LSG clawed back through Shahbaz Ahmed's double strike and Rathi's dismissal of Dewald Brevis. By the time Avesh Khan removed Kartik Sharma, LSG

tightened the equation and raised hopes of a turnaround.

But Prashant Veer (18 not out) and Shivam Dube (15 not out) hung around to complete the chase with four balls to spare, including the latter hitting consecutive sixes. It also helped that LSG's fielding let them down, as two catches of Veer were grassed under pressure by Rathi and Nicholas Pooran.

CSK's uphill chase began with intent as Rituraj Gaikwad and Sanju Samson hit eight boundaries collectively in 3.3 overs. But Rathi had Samson dismissed when he tried to pull off a quicker delivery, and was left to see his stumps being castled. His fall brought Urvil to the crease, and for the next few minutes, 32,000 odd fans at Chepauk were left spell-bound.

Walking in after Samson's dismissal, Urvil tore into the LSG attack with his quick pick-up of lengths and

India ready to face China in quarterfinal with World Cup dreams on line

SUZHOU (CHINA)

No Indian women's team has ever stood one win away from qualifying for a FIFA World Cup on merit. On Monday, India's U-17 women's national team will step into the biggest match of its history when they face hosts China in the quarter-finals of the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup 2026 at the Suzhou Sports Centre Stadium in Suzhou, China. Victory for the

Young Tigresses will seal their place in the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup Morocco 2026. Though India have played the U17 men's and women's World Cups as hosts in 2017 and 2022, respectively, the nation has never reached the world's biggest stage through qualification. For the last two weeks, the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup had almost carried a homely rhythm for the Young Tigresses. Based at the Suzhou

Taimei Xiangguli Hotel, the team trained and played all their matches at the nearby Suzhou Taihu Football Sports Centre, a compact venue housing eight pitches – three match pitches and five training grounds – all within walking distance of the team hotel. Now, however, the tournament takes on a different scale. India's quarter-final against China will be played nearly 25 kilometres away.

Krunal's 73, Bhuv's ice-cool finish help RCB knock MI out in Raipur thriller

RAIPUR

Royal Challengers Bengaluru held their nerve in a pulsating last-ball thriller to knock Mumbai Indians out of the tournament with a dramatic two-wicket victory in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium on Sunday. Chasing 167 on a surface that had troubled batters all evening, RCB rode on Krunal Pandya's fighting 73 and an astonishing late cameo from Bhuvneshwar Kumar to seal the contest on the final delivery.

The chase began chaotically. Deepak Chahar struck a massive early blow by dismissing Virat Kohli for the golden duck in the very first over, while Devdutt Padikkal also fell cheaply as Mumbai reduced RCB to 24/2. Corbin Bosch then joined the party by removing captain Rajat Patidar, leaving RCB wobbling at 47/3 at the end of the powerplay.

At that stage, Mumbai appeared firmly in control. Jasprit Bumrah was probing relentlessly, Bosch was extracting awkward bounce, and the sluggish surface made strokeplay difficult. Jacob Bethell attempted to stabilise the innings with a patient 27, but it was Krunal Pandya who transformed the chase.

Krunal initially absorbed pressure before gradually taking control against the spinners. He used the angles smartly, swept aggressively against Will Jacks and AM Ghazanfar, and repeatedly targeted the straight boundary. His clean six over wide long-on off Ghazanfar brought up a crucial fifty-run stand with Bethell and shifted the momentum back toward RCB.

Even as wickets continued to tumble around him, Krunal kept the chase alive. He battled visible cramps during the closing stages, repeatedly dropping to the turf between deliveries, yet con-



tinued to attack. His calculated assault against Bosch and Ghazanfar ensured RCB remained within touching distance of the target.

Mumbai, however, kept responding. Bosch produced a sensational spell (4-26), including a wicket maiden that removed Bethell before later dismissing Jitesh Sharma and Tim David off successive deliveries. Bumrah's penultimate over was equally exceptional, conceding just three runs and leaving RCB needing 15 off the final six balls.

What followed was pure chaos.

Raj Bawa began the final over with a wide and then overstepped, handing Romario Shepherd a free hit. But just when the equation seemed to tilt toward Bengaluru, Bawa dismissed Shepherd at the backward point to leave RCB staring at defeat. That brought Bhuvneshwar Kumar to the crease.

Earlier in the evening, Bhuvneshwar had delivered a masterclass with the

ball on a tricky surface, dismissing Rishi Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav with clever changes in length and pace. Now, with the bat, he produced the decisive moment of the night.

After surviving a wide bouncer, Bhuvneshwar launched Bawa over deep cover for a stunning six that completely changed the equation. Calm under immense pressure, he then nudged a single to leave two needed off the final ball.

Rasikh Salam Dar drilled the last delivery back past the bowler and sprinted back desperately for the second run, diving home to complete a memorable win as RCB players erupted in celebration.

For Mumbai, the defeat ended their campaign despite strong performances from Bosch, Chahar, and Bumrah. For Bengaluru, it was a victory defined by resilience, Krunal's courage in the middle overs, and Bhuvneshwar's nerveless finish, delivering one of the matches of the season.

Italian Open: Elena Rybakina powers past Eala to reach last 16

ROME

Elena Rybakina continued her strong 2026 campaign with a straight-sets victory over Alexandra Eala to book a place in the Round of 16 of the Italian Open on Sunday. The former Rome champion secured a 6-4, 6-3 win at the Foro Italico to reach the last 16 in the Italian capital for the fourth time in five appearances and continue her consistent run at WTA 1000 events this season.

Rybakina's superior power from the baseline proved decisive in her first career meeting against the rising Filipina star. The world No. 2 repeatedly dictated rallies with her heavy forehand and sharp serving, forcing Eala deep behind the baseline and stretching her across the court throughout the contest.

The Kazakh player was partic-



ularly dominant off the forehand wing in the opening set, producing a stream of clean winners to take control of the match early. Several of her most damaging shots came down the line, including a series of aggressive winners that prevented Eala from settling into long rallies.

After taking the opening set, Rybakina immediately grabbed

momentum in the second with an early service break. Her ability to attack Eala's second serve became a major factor as the match progressed, with the former Wimbledon champion consistently stepping inside the baseline to punish shorter deliveries.

Eala showed resilience despite the defeat and handled the windy conditions well for large periods

of the match. The young Filipina briefly threatened a comeback midway through the second set after putting together a strong run of points, but Rybakina responded quickly to regain control and maintain her advantage.

A key moment arrived late in the second set when Eala missed an opportunity at the net that could have created break-point chances. Rybakina capitalised immediately afterwards, holding serve before sealing victory with another powerful forehand winner into the open court.

The win further strengthened Rybakina's position as one of the standout performers on the women's tour this season. She now leads the WTA Tour in main-draw victories in 2026 with 29 wins and has become the only player to reach the Round of 16 at all six WTA 1000 tournaments this year.

ISL 2025-26: NorthEast United emphatically cruise past Chennaiyin at home

GUWAHATI

NorthEast United FC delivered a commanding performance to register a 4-1 victory against Chennaiyin FC in Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on Sunday.

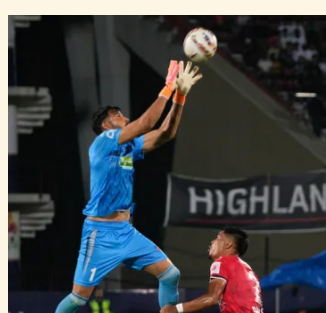
Jairo Samperio starred with a first-half brace, while an own goal and a late strike from Lalbiakdika sealed an emphatic win for the Highlanders. Jairo Samperio, who opened his Indian Super League account and added a second before

half-time, was named Player of the Match for his decisive contribution. The result sees NorthEast United FC climb to ninth in the standings with 13 points from 12 matches, while Chennaiyin FC remain 13th with nine points from as many games, hovering just above the relegation zone.

The match began at a brisk pace, with NorthEast earning back-to-back corners early on before Chennaiyin attempted to break on the counter. However, it was the hosts who struck first in the fifth minute through a well-orchestrated move.

Goalkeeper Gurmeet Singh initiated the attack with a composed pass out from the back, and a swift transition saw Jithin MS deliver a precise cross into the box for Jairo Samperio, who calmly finished to put the Highlanders 1-0 up.

NorthEast continued to threaten, with Tondonba Singh and Thoi Singh Huidrom, both attempting efforts from distance, while Chennaiyin gradually grew into the contest through spells of possession. Despite controlling large parts of the midfield, the visitors struggled to create clear-cut opportunities,



with Gurmeet Singh largely untroubled. At the other end, NorthEast looked more incisive. Jairo and Andy Rodriguez forced saves

from Mohammad Nawaz midway through the half, while Daniel Chima Chukwu came closest for Chennaiyin, only to be denied by Gurmeet.

The hosts doubled their lead on the stroke of half-time. A defensive lapse from left back Mandar Rao Dessai allowed Jairo to capitalise, as he collected the loose ball and finished clinically into the far corner to make it 2-0 at the break.

The Marina Machans emerged with renewed intent in the second half, with Lalrinliana Hnamte and Farukh Choudhary showing

urgency in midfield. The visitors created a flurry of chances around the hour mark, but Gurmeet stood firm, making crucial saves to deny both Daniel Chima and Irfan Yadwad. As the game opened up, NorthEast capitalised once again in the 70th minute. A slick team move involving Macarton Nickson and Jithin MS led to a dangerous cutback, and in an attempt to intercept, Chennaiyin defender Lalrinliana R inadvertently turned the ball into his own net, extending the lead to 3-0. Chennaiyin managed to pull one back in the 81st min-

ute when Lalrinliana redeemed himself with a well-taken finish following a smart build-up involving Alberto Noguera. However, any hopes of a comeback were short-lived. NorthEast wrapped up the contest in the 90th minute when substitute Lalbiakdika capitalised on a goalkeeping error, as Nawaz failed to deal with a powerful shot at the near post, allowing the ball to roll into the net. In a match where every goal scorer registered their first goal of the Indian Super League, NorthEast United FC produced a clinical display.



RAM CHARAN TAKES ALLU ARJUN ROUTE

Ram Charan has returned to Hyderabad after his recent trip abroad and is now gearing up to kick-start promotions for Peddi in a big way. The actor is expected to dedicate the next few weeks entirely to the film's promotional campaign. As part of the strategy, the makers have reportedly planned the trailer launch event in Madhya Pradesh on May 16. This will mark the first major promotional event attended by Ram Charan for the film. The move is said to be inspired by the aggressive North India promotional model successfully adopted for Pushpa 2: The Rule, starring Allu Arjun. Despite receiving limited support from the Hindi belt for films like Acharya and Game Changer, Ram Charan is reportedly confident that Peddi has the potential to connect strongly with North Indian audiences. The team is therefore planning motivational events across key Hindi-pre-release event is also being the last week of May. With makers are preparing an campaign.

Sara Ali Khan exudes sophistication and confidence in this striking studio portrait. Sara Ali Khan exudes sophistication and confidence in this striking studio portrait. Wearing a chic off-white textured blazer over a shimmering high-neck top paired with a matching mini skirt and sparkling

Sara Ali Khan Stuns in Elegant Power Dressing

heels, she poses with poise, casting a strong shadow that highlights her commanding screen presence. Daughter of Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, Sara made her Bollywood debut in 2018 with Kedarnath opposite Sushant Singh Rajput, earning critical acclaim for her performance as a strong-willed Muslim girl in a cross-community love story. She quickly became a bankable star with her role in Simmba (2018) alongside Ranveer Singh.



Michael Crosses \$500 Million, \$1 Billion Unlikely?



The Michael Jackson biopic, Michael, has now officially crossed the \$500 million mark at the global box office this Friday, achieving a major commercial milestone despite facing mixed reactions from audiences and critics. The film opened with massive hype and strong advance bookings worldwide, leading many trade analysts to predict a potential \$1 billion run during its initial days. However, the momentum has slowed considerably over the last few weeks. While the film still enjoys decent craze among fans and action movie lovers, the overall reception has not been as strong as expected. Mixed word-of-mouth, criticism towards the screenplay, and uneven emotional depth appear to have affected its long-term box-office growth. Industry experts now feel that reaching the \$1 billion milestone looks extremely difficult unless the film witnesses an unexpected surge in international markets. The early excitement surrounding the movie has gradually reduced, and occupancy levels in several regions have started dropping steadily. Even so, crossing the \$500 million mark remains a significant achievement and proves the film's strong opening pull across global markets. The makers are expected to celebrate the milestone soon, while trade circles continue to closely watch whether Michael can regain momentum during the coming weekends.

Renée Zellweger Joins Cast of A Woman in the Sun



Black Bear, Artists Equity and Big Picture Co. are collaborating on the upcoming feature film A Woman in the Sun, starring Oscar winners Renée Zellweger and Sissy Spacek alongside Mia Threapleton. Written and directed by Julia Cox, the film follows Claire Keating, a Nantucket bartender whose life changes after her mother falls ill and her daughter returns home, forcing her to confront her past and future. Production is scheduled to begin in September, with the project set to be introduced to international buyers during the Cannes Film Festival. Zellweger praised Cox's screenplay as "a storytelling treasure," while Ben Affleck, CEO of Artists Equity, described the film as a moving exploration of family relationships and praised Cox's transition from writer to director. Black Bear CEO Teddy Schwarzman also expressed confidence in Cox, saying the film would showcase powerful performances from Zellweger, Spacek, and Threapleton. The project marks the first feature from Big Picture Co.'s slate to move into production.

Ram Ready with a SURPRISE



Ram Pothineni is one actor who always believes in giving his best even if it takes more time. Throughout his career, Ram has been known for his energy. He may not release films very quickly but whenever he comes back, he tries to offer something fresh and entertaining for the audience. Now, the actor is once again creating curiosity with his next project. According to the latest industry buzz, Ram is planning something very special for his upcoming movie. Reports suggest that he is getting ready to make his debut as a director. The official announcement about the project is expected to happen on May 15, and fans are already excited about this surprising update. The movie is likely to be produced by Ram's brother Krishna Chaitanya under their home banner. While the makers have not yet revealed details about the story, cast, or genre, sources say Ram has been working on the script for a long time. He reportedly wants to present himself in a completely new role and show his creative side beyond acting. Many actors dream of becoming filmmakers, but not everyone takes the risk. Ram seems ready to accept that challenge.

Shreya Says Numbers Are Taking Over Music



Five-time National Award-winning playback singer Shreya Ghoshal has opened up about the growing challenges of creating meaningful music in an era dominated by streaming platforms, digital impressions, algorithms, and social media influence. Speaking to IANS during her trans-continental travel for live shows, the veteran singer said that the increasing focus on numbers, followers, and streaming data often makes it difficult for artists to remain connected to the true essence of their craft. "I feel that where there is just so much distraction of numbers, followers, algorithms and streams, it becomes a little difficult for you to stay very focused, and closer to what you are trying to do. I feel very lucky in that way that when I came, all these things were not there. Purely, the love of music was with people," Ghoshal said. Reflecting on the changing landscape of the music industry, she noted that while digital platforms have made it easier for artists to reach audiences across the globe, they have also created immense pressure on musicians to constantly reinvent themselves and maintain public engagement. "And from there, people pulled me forward. Although the plat-

forms, which are available to you right now, give you the medium to reach the audience. You have to constantly innovate. So, I salute the younger generation, who are making it today because to do good music, and at the same time, connect with the audiences, and to keep working on their craft is very difficult in today's world," she added. The singer also spoke about the never-ending process of learning that shapes an artist's journey and praised young musicians for their creativity and individuality. According to her, the newer generation possesses a natural ability to absorb influences and adapt to changing trends while still staying passionate about music. "I am sure this passion is there in many artists. It is not like it is exclusive to only me or a few. I see a lot of young singers and composers, people who are creating music, they are very passionate about what they are doing. I must say that they are very creative. And they are not trying to follow someone blindly," she said. Ghoshal further explained that passion for music is nurtured through experiences, surroundings, mentors, and inspirations gathered over time. She said every artist's journey is shaped by the people they listen to and admire. "The passion is cultivated through a lot of things. People who you have listened to, your surroundings, who have been your teachers in real life or people who you have listened to the most, and found inspiration in their journey," she shared. The celebrated singer also revealed that she continues to learn from everyone around her, regardless of age or experience. She emphasized that growth as an artist never truly stops. "I have also done that same thing. I have taken that inspiration from so many people whom I have met and followed. Even today when I meet people who are my contemporaries, my seniors or even younger ones. I learn something from them at all times. The learning never stops. It's not always hard work, it has to be something special," she said.